

21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2017,

Hello All,

This is the second newsletter of the British Stunt Register. We are intending to put out regular Newsletters every 2 months and in a similar way to the previous versions, with useful links and general information on the template, in addition to updates. However, if there is info of interest or some dramatic event, we may well put out an extra Newsletter to keep everyone up to date.

Well, the good news is we are now in Pinewood Studios. Following the setting up of our bank account with Metro Bank, three weeks ago, we signed the lease for the office and as of Nov 1st, we have a working office in the studios.

Of course, there was the usual business of getting a dedicated computer, office furniture, printers, broadband and thus an office email facility and so forth, but we're there now and the contact details will be at the bottom of the Newsletter.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to introduce our Office Coordinator Emma Rogers. Emma will be manning the office Tuesdays. Wednesday and Thursdays 9am until 5pm and she'll be putting together the administrative programs we need to run the BSR in this 21<sup>st</sup> century!

The committee is meeting every week to finalise important aspects of the constitution, rules of the Register, application forms and all the other paraphernalia of putting together the British Stunt Register whilst working our way through the minefield of legal requirements, not the least of which is needing to make sure we are abiding with all the rules about data protection and so forth.

We've purchased an ID card machine and every member will be issued with a British Stunt Register identification card, with their photo, membership number, grade (colour coded for Full, Intermediate and Probationary) and expiry date.

We are starting at 001...this means we will have 007 and we have decided to auction this off to the highest bidder and half of the money will go to charity. This is a unique opportunity for someone to be 007 for the life of their BSR membership! Information will go out to you all shortly with details of how to start the online bidding war!

The BSR website is almost ready for access, and again, we'll be putting out information on that, which is applicable to everyone and in the meantime a holding page is in place.

We've had a couple of people resign from the committee principally for the reason of time and family commitments as we're meeting almost every week and we need to be quorate to vote which means we need at least 50% there. Not easy with work commitments!

As a point of information, the committee now consists of

Jim Dowdall (chair)

Abbi Collins (vice chair)

Sarah Franzl (treasurer)

Paul Herbert

Greg Powell

Jonathan Cohen

Andy Wareham

George Kirby  
Tony Christian  
Andy Merchant  
James Cox  
Roy Taylor  
Bill Davey.

We're also finalising the layout for the British Stunt Register directory book. Some people have asked 'why do we need this if we're on the Spotlight page?' Well the BSR book is a book! And so many production companies and producers/production managers and casting agents still prefer to have a hard copy directory they can flick through rather than the soulless process of clicking on a computer. But more importantly, there is a prestige and an element of something special about 'being in the book'. And entry to the BSR stunt book is included in your membership fee so it costs you nothing extra. (Whereas the old Spotlight book cost in the region of nearly £300 - for 2 years - and that was at least 6 years ago!) Kate Poynton at Spotlight is only accepting applications from former JISC and BSR members. Your payments for this were due I believe on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November or they would be taken down. At present, there are no contact details included on the page until you've paid, so do so asap!

As a point of interest reference the Spotlight site, Paul Bickers wanted to access the site and phoned Spotlight to find out how this was done. He was told that in order to access the Spotlight he would need to pay £55 per month! Admittedly this gives you access to the entire actors Spotlight section as well, but any casting agent, production manager, first assistant director etc. wishing to access our site will have to pay the £55 for one month's use. The BSR book will be distributed to production companies and industry professionals, making it easily accessible to all and is free of charge!

We're also having an '*honorary membership*' category for people like Jackie Chan who expressed an interest in being an 'honorary' member of the old Register. We ran the idea past Equity previously and they rejected it out of hand and said they would 'have to go through the same process as any new applicant'... But we feel that inviting people like Jackie Chan, Tom Cruise, Pierce Brosnan, and other well known 'action' actors who've worked with British Stunt crews, onto the British Stunt Register purely as honorary members could only help to enhance our profile globally.

Since I wrote this, Greg has approached Jackie Chan who has accepted the invitation and his endorsement will feature in the front of the BSR stunt book.

As soon as membership application forms have been finalised, we'll get them out to you and once you've paid your sub, we'll be issuing cards which I would urge you to carry with you at all times.

Could performers waiting to upgrade please email Emma within the next 7 days on [upgrades@thebritishstuntregister.com](mailto:upgrades@thebritishstuntregister.com) to let us know your name and prospective upgrade level as we will be setting a date for an upgrade meeting as soon as possible and if you are successful, your new level will appear in our stunt book. We are also planning a new applicants' meeting for the same reason. We ask that you present your documentation in an organised and easy to navigate manner, and that everything is legible and in the correct date order, to reduce the time it will take us to check it. If you are in any doubt and need

advice, contact Donna Williams (Intermediate) or Nick Daines (Full), theirs was a joy to behold!

We will be sending out new application and upgrade templates and details of how applications should be filled in at a later date but that's way down the list of priorities at this moment in time, so please use the old version or contact the office for more information. As was mentioned at the JISC/Equity 'adios' meeting, new applicants for the British Stunt Register will need to retrieve their application documents from Equity asap, if you haven't already done so.

The old JISC log book will be recognised for upgrades and we'll be emailing everyone a template for the BSR version for future use. You should then purchase a ring binder and log your dates and details as before. It is still vitally important to maintain a record of the stunt, the date, the coordinator and whether it was a featured stunt. The BSR log sheet will differ only slightly from the original JISC log books and again, it is one of those items that you should carry with you at all times and get signed on the day.

For future upgrades, we'll need to see that those log books have been filled in correctly. If they're not, we won't have the time to go backwards and forwards trying to interpret the dates or the fact that the coordinator didn't sign the sheet etc. we'll just have to reject the application for upgrade straight away and you'll need to reapply for the next applicants/upgrade meeting.

On the lighter side, if you have an interesting bit of news, which might be applicable to everyone (new equipment, changes in Studio rules, Health and Safety info and suchlike) then please email [newsletter@thebritishstuntregister.com](mailto:newsletter@thebritishstuntregister.com) or if you would like to make any suggestions to our committee with new ideas, then it's: [committee@thebritishstuntregister.com](mailto:committee@thebritishstuntregister.com).

If it's something of interest to one and all, we'll include it in the next newsletter and any suggestions and ideas will be discussed at our next committee meeting. I've had several calls from some 'old and bold' members offering support and labour if required to help the process along and it's encouraging that these older members, although not working so much these days, are keen to maintain and expand the profile of the stunt community to maintain our good name within the industry.

Again, once we are up and running, we'll be getting BSR t-shirts/hats and so forth printed and available with either 'member' written on them or plain ones to be sold as publicity PR items or for coordinators to print the name of their film on the BSR t-shirt if they so wish.

We have now had a couple of meetings with reference to setting up a stunt orientated Health and Safety course and a stunt orientated first aid course sometime early in the new year. I've also talked to three of the larger film armoury companies about putting together a 'firearms on set' course, to cover period as well as modern weapons. I had a meeting with a company called London Motorsport Showroom recently. They supply Nomex overalls and motor racing stuff like helmets and Hans devices. They have kindly agreed to give 10% discount to BSR members. I also had a meeting with Jonny Barden at Drift Limits and he has also agreed to give 10% discount to BSR members. I'll be doing a lot

more of this sort of approach to get discounts from clothing and outdoor footwear companies in the future and we are also looking at discounted rates in restaurants and hotels, so watch this space!

Election of a new committee will happen after our AGM in October. These elections would be open to replace 50% of the committee to start with as we feel it would be counter productive to stand down the entire committee at this still early stage. We also intend to reduce the committee to 12 people which experience has taught us over many years of doing this, is about the right number to get things done.

We're still feeling our way into the different world of managing ourselves as an organisation, which is both challenging and exciting. We can't do this without the help of you the members. I'm not just talking about the subscriptions, I'm talking about the sense of community and sticking together, which is required to make the BSR the success it will be. The old system was the envy of many stunt communities around the world and we want to make that system even better by making the BSR into an organisation that is not only even more world class, but is put there by the confidence, enthusiasm and expertise of its membership. And that's you!

It's your Register. Stand by.

All the best,

Jim Dowdall (Chair) and the members of the Committee,  
(the working party is now no longer...we are now a committee)

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continued...

A recent piece of very sad news.... is that a well known British cameraman Mark Milsome has just been killed filming in Africa for Netflix/BBC.

Unconfirmed reports are saying that a car stunt turnover went wrong and the car hit the camera.

The stunt team were South African locals and it is going to be interesting to see if this was yet another example of budget over safety. And it was a BBC production whose health and safety department are in the vanguard of promoting said health and safety for their contractors and employees.

I'd worked many times with Mark Milsome over the years from camera loader to director of photography and I shall be sending condolences to his family on behalf of the BSR.

Mark was a true gentleman and I shall miss not seeing him around the circuit!

<https://www.screendaily.com/news/uk-camera-operator-dies-filming-stunt-scene-on-bbc/netflix-drama/5124338.article>