

CLUB MEETINGS

There was a reasonable turnout for the club meeting at the beginning of April with just over 50 popping along. A small raffle raised around £40 and thank you to everyone who donated prizes. The next club meeting on 1 May is at the same time as the talk by Dr John Bevan and is £5 to club members (all proceeds going to Charity).

STOP PRESS

Many congratulations to Stuart and Tara on the birth of Jessica on 29 April 2008. Mother and baby (8lb 2oz) are doing well – Stuart is nursing a hangover! Well done to both of you.

Another good month of training activities. Many congratulations to everyone who successfully qualified on the following courses.

Open Water

Hannah Jones, Roy Goring, Andrew Leadbetter, Nicola Martin, Mark Collier, Adam Tyler, Ben Leibbrandt, Martin Curry, Ross Clarke, George Cowdry, Scott Robinson, Thomas Hone, Jamie Temple, Simon Bird, Dan Crocoran

Advanced Open Water

Rebecca Ogilvie, Roy Goring, Steve Pearce, Robert Southwell

Scientific Diving Techniques

Steve Moody, Sam Nelson, David Clayton, Alex Morris,

Nitrox

Andi Davies, Phil Smith

Trimix Gas Blender

Stuart Queen

SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES



We ran the first of 3 Scientific Diving Techniques programmes during April. This course was written for the university to form a module of the Year 2 marine biology course. However, over the past couple of years, students on engineering, sports science and environmental sciences have joined the course as their respective departments at the uni included it in their programme. The course is unique as far as we know – during the theory weekend, we look at the skills, paperwork and knowledge required to run a commercial dive task under the Scientific and Inshore Approved Codes of Practice. This includes advanced oxygen training, underwater engineering techniques and equipment and a whole range of other subjects. During the second weekend the candidates undertake 4 tasks, involving simple construction and underwater dexterity, an underwater

“archaeological” survey, a construction and buoyancy task and a search task. They then write a report which is submitted as part of their work for the semester. The students had an interesting time during the first course of the season.



Driving snow descended on Horsea and while it kept quite a few people away and improved visibility, it made the conditions a little hard. Alex and Dave, both Engineering students didn't quite grasp the complexity of the construction task on land so ended up with a simpler version underwater – only to be outdone by the sports technology and environmental science team of Steve and Sam!



The students all enjoyed the programme and commented that the tasks were actually great fun and brought home a lot of key points about running a dive in the commercial / scientific environment. There are only 2 other places running this programme with instructors trained by us – West Wales Diving (who are hoping to offer it to local universities) and Caretta Diving in Turkey who are going to translate the programme and use it to teach university students as part of a project.

WHY NOT JOIN THE SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES COURSE?



Looking for something different – why not join one of the scientific courses. If any club members think they might be

interested in having a go at this course – and you don't have to write a report – there are spaces on the last course of the year; dates are 31 May, 1/7/8 June. It is unique, it is great fun and you can be one of only a few people to own the certification. Not only that but you will learn a whole load of new skills. Give me a call if you want more information.

CLUB FORUM

The club forum has not been used much in the past however, it is good to see some of the new members getting on there. Why not have a look. It is for members only, and it is a great way to find buddies, plan dives and generally chat. It is in the members section of the web site,. Go to <http://diveclub.tritonscuba.co.uk> If you need a password and login let me know. Or you can log onto the facebook site – search for “Triton Divers”

CLUB TRIP TO PORTLAND



Around 18 had originally booked up for this weekend – some were doing one day, some two days, so it was a bit confusing but eventually everyone got there. Those that drove down on Friday arrived to find the renovations were running a bit behind schedule, the kitchen was still under construction and the dive centre was still on the drawing board (with planned completion being in time for the May bank holiday weekend). However a quick tour around, the pub, come dive center, come bed and breakfast to be, revealed what a great place this will be when it is finished. It will have its own slip way for the ribs, a fully equipped dive centre, a café with both wet and dry areas, a pub and accommodation all in the same place What more could a diver wish for?



Those that were staying at the pub started to settle in for the night and the rest of us set off to Portland Bill to find our accommodation. We were staying in F&B's new bunk house accommodation. Now

this turned out to be a completely new experience! It was some kind of MOD building right at the far end of the Bill by the coast guard station and light house, no windows, but when we got inside we found it to be basic but comfortable with a large kitchen, male and female toilets and showers and six bunk rooms each sleeping four to eight people in bunk beds! To our great delight there was also a pub 50 meters down the road that did good home cooked food and a fine line in real ales.

Saturday morning dawned and by 7.30am we were all away from the bunk house and making our way down to the Breakwater Hotel for their full English Breakfast (those at the pub had to put up with cereal due to the lack of kitchen!). By the time those travelling down on Saturday arrived the sun was shining and after a quick bit of paperwork we split into two groups based on experience. The more experienced group went off for a drift at Grove and the less experienced went just outside the harbour and dived the wreck of the dredger. Derek went to sleep! Ah, bless him!



On arriving back Donk disappeared off in his van to see Mrs Donk who was at the Ferrybridge and didn't return for the rest of the day. The only problem was he had Debbie's clothes in his van and all Debbie was left with was her wet suit! By now the sun had gone, the wind was up to force 4 and we had rain, snow and hailstones at various times. Renaming ourselves the "Intrepids" we headed off for our second dive with one group doing a drift at the Cannon Ball and the other diving on the wreck of the Countess of Erne inside the harbour. That evening those staying at the Ferrybridge came up to the Bill and we all had dinner and a beer or two and in the morning we all met up again for breakfast at the Breakwater Hotel.



By Sunday the Sun was back although a few people had decided to call it a day fearing the worst from the weather. Dives were on the wreck of the Binnenedik and the landing craft inside the harbour, both of which were good.

Thanks to Jules for this report.

Comment: For a few club members it was an excellent new adventure, having previously only been in lakes. Dale's new centre is not quite finished but getting there. Give it a couple of weeks and it will be a really great place to go.

STILL SPACE ON AUGUST AND NOVEMBER IDC

We still have some spaces on our IDCs in August and November. The one at the end of May is full now but if you are interested in the other courses give us a call for prices and dates.

LAMBY SAVED BY 80 YEAR OLD LADY

Roughly toughy club member Simon Lamb was saved by the quick thinking of an 80 year old customer this month. Lamby (slightly hungover from a night on the pop for Ian's birthday) slipped while handling a sharp instrument and plunged a knife deep into his hand.



The huge blade of the Stanley knife narrowly missed several major arteries some were only several inches away!. Going into a state of hypovolemic shock at seeing slightly more blood than an average nose bleed, Lamby fainted on the customers kitchen floor. Thankfully the quick thinking old lady phoned for an ambulance. The Paramedics duly arrived with blue lights and sirens, causing chaos to traffic flow in the city centre. Had it not been for her quick thinking action, Lamby could very easily of bled to death in a matter of weeks. A Hospital spokesman made the following statement:

"This was one of the closest calls we have ever seen. If he hadn't got those 2 stitches in, in the nick of time he might very well have lost a thimble full of blood by now. He owes that lady big time. He's a very lucky boy".

GUNWHARF 5 AND 6 JULY

Another date for your diaries. Once again we have been asked if we will run some try dives at Gunwharf and we have agreed. So once again there is an opportunity to jump into the loch for those of you that fancy it. To remind you of what happened last time



.....ah yes Ruth couldn't pick up her twin set! Anyway, we will be running try dives again, there will be a few beers and parties going on over the weekend and if you would like to help out we would love to see you, so let us know.

NEW EQUIPMENT JUST IN

A couple of new things just into the dive centre.....Scubapro have launched the T-Sport plus. This has some new colours and an integrated weight system. It is hard wearing and well built like the rest of the Scubapro range. For a limited period we are offering this BCD to club members for just £225, RRP for this jacket is £279.



And, for the ladies (Timeeeeeee) they have just introduced the new Bella BCD (above). Loads of comfort and features, the RRP of this BCD is £350 – we have it on offer for club members at just £299 on all orders taken before the end of May.

INTERSPIRO



We are now dealers for Interspiro so can offer a range of their equipment including the "Divator" full face mask. The masks come complete with an oral nasal demand valve and are probably one of the best full face systems on the market. The other good news is that we will show you how to use it for free if you buy one. Can't be fairer than that.

SUMMER BALL

The summer ball is on 2 August in the Royal Beach. At the moment we have 35 places already booked. Tickets are now available, so if you want another fun evening get you names down. Ticket are £15 for club members and £35 for guests, which includes the 3 course meal, wine, and dancin' into the early hours

NEXT MONTH

Liveaboard Report - We give you the full lowdown from the Liveaboard trip – yes, 20 club members are off to do the Northern Red Sea wrecks and we will let you know how they get on.

More BBC Work – In May we will be teaching an open water course on camera for Childrens BBC and later in the year we will be going back to the Bahamas with the film crew to finish off the programme.

The best training - from the premier dive centre in Portsmouth