



# The Urge to Submerge



The Newsletter of Triton Divers

December 2006

## NEXT CLUB MEETING 11 JANUARY 2007

The next club meeting is on Thursday 11 January next year in the Coast bar of the Royal Beach hotel. **NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND THURSDAY IN JANUARY, NOT THE FIRST.** We will be having our favourite Steak and Ale Pie and Mustard Mash with vegetables, and there is a veggie option. Please let us know as usual if you are coming.

### Christmas Presents you Don't Want

Just to remind you, the raffle for the next club meeting will be the opportunity to get rid of anything you might have been given but do not want. For example, last years calendar, that box of mint flavoured Turkish delight, coffee chocolate liquors. You know the sort of thing. Please wrap it up and make it anonymous ..... and we suggest you don't put something in the raffle that someone else in the club might have given you.... Especially if they are easily offended.

### SKIING TRIP – FEBRUARY HALF TERM



I am going skiing over the school half term. Yes I know, a busy time of year and more expensive, but also a time when if you want to go with family you can do. Half term dates are 17 – 24 February. The plan is to go to somewhere that has easy skiing and boarding and plenty of other things to do .... and is not too expensive. I would estimate the travel and accommodation package to be around £550, plus ski pass and equipment hire on top (another £250 ish). If you would like to join me, let me know as soon as possible as I am going to be booking early in January.

### CLUB FORUMS

The club forums in the members area of the website are a great way to find out what is going on as well as allowing you to find new dive buddies, sell and buy gear or even drum up a bit of business for yourself. There is a business link that is there for you to advertise your skills. To get the most out of the forums you need to log onto them every so often to find out what is going on. So if you haven't done so, why not log on and introduce yourself and have a look around. It is members only so you don't have to be shy about sticking on a post. If you cannot get onto the forum then let us know and we will check your nickname and password.

### MEMBERS AREA CALENDAR

As well as the forum being useful, another thing to look at is the calendar in the members area. Details of club nights, courses, functions, charity events and trips are all now published on the calendar so if you need information you can get it there.

### RAINBOW CENTRE CHRISTMAS PARTY



For the second year running we have sponsored the Christmas party at the Rainbow Centre. This year we gave them £600 from our charity fund to pay for the presents for the children and the party itself. Mike (Donk) and Tina stood in for Santa and his Elf (busy at the time apparently) and Katie scrubbed up well in a little fairy outfit.

### ANOTHER £558 RAISED FROM THE LONDON MARATHON

Apparently the money keeps rolling in from the London marathon. In addition to the initial £600, a further £558 has been added via various donation websites. Thanks to everyone who has donated.

### SPRING BALL – 24 MARCH 2007

Bookings are already being taken for the Spring Ball and 55 have already put their names down. It will be at the Queen's Hotel on March 24<sup>th</sup> so if you would like to come please drop payment into the shop (£10 members, £30 guests) before we run out of places!

### CAPTION COMPETITION

Now we don't usually do it, but thought we needed a caption competition to one photo in particular. Katie and Chris are doing something, not quite sure, but what are they saying ..... Answers to me please to be published in the next newsletter. There will be a prize for the winning caption



### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP 25 JANUARY 2006

I will be running another underwater photography workshop for those of you who would like to know more about digital underwater cameras and photography. The course includes classroom work and a pool training session and will take place from 5.30pm to about 9.30 pm on 25 January at the dive centre. The workshop is only available to club members and the cost is £30. If you need a camera these are available for hire.

### DECEMBER COURSE SUCCESSSES

Well done to the following who have completed courses with us in December.

#### Open Water Referral

Janet Mackey, Mark Stuart

#### Open Water

Mick Jenkins, Jo Beddows

#### Advanced Open Water

Mark Rapp, David Rous, James Brockwell

#### Dry Suit

Vicki Harry, Mark Rapp

#### Nitrox

David Rous, Nigel Clay

#### EFR

Nigel Clay, Mark Ridgeway, Catherine Chapman, Tim Gray, Marie Erol, Lisa Gray

#### Evolution CCR

Felipe Meza

#### DAN O2

Paul Dowding, Nigel Clay, Andrew Humphrys, Chris Syme

#### DAN Advanced O2

Paul Dowding

#### DAN Instructor

Paul Dowding

### DIVES COMING UP

With storms and gales blowing across the channel and up the Solent for the best part of a month now and more to come, there is no point at all in going off the IOW to dive. Inland diving is still good fun though and we have the following couple of dates planned. An instructor will be available on all of these dates so a great opportunity to gain some experience as well.

**20 January – Vobster Quay.** Depart at around 8.00 am. A good inland site for any level of diver.

**10/11 February – Gildenburgh Lake.** "Gildy" lake is located just outside of Peterborough and is a really nice site. There is plenty to see underwater including a huge pike, and boats, planes, trucks and buses, all of which have been put in the lake as attractions. For more details see the next page.

### PORTLAND WEEKEND 17/18 MARCH 07



We are also planning another weekend in Portland in March. The diving will depend on weather, but there are plenty of boats so something for everyone no matter what your level. Cost is around £15 – 20 a dive and £25 for the night in a hotel. If you would like to come, let me know and I will book it up

## CHRISTMAS BALL 2006



The Christmas Ball was another outstanding success. There was great food, free wine a disco and a jazz band as 130 club members and guests enjoyed the evening at the Royal Beach. This year one notable absence was Kevan and as a result the dance floor was full from the word go. But apart from that it was pretty much business as usual as Triton Divers enjoyed themselves to the full ..... as you can see below.....mmmm worrying!



During pre-dinner drinks and the meal Steve Mackey and his Jazz band supplied a touch of class to proceedings, followed by a more traditional knees up to a good old fashioned disco for the rest of the night. Not quite sure who was the last one standing, but due to the large number that were actually staying in the hotel for the night merriment went on until well into the early hours .... And we raised lots for charity. The raffle raised £800 initially and then Alan from Solent Divers who won the top prize of a digital camera, decided to put the prize back in for auction. This was followed by Matt from Scubapro, who donated a Mk25 S600 regulator. We added the triple gauge, closely followed again by Matt, who added the AAS making it a complete set. A prize worth in the region of £600, during the bidding it made a further £400 bringing the grand total raised on the night to £1400. Many thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets. Loads of pictures from the night have been published in the Gallery on the website and feel free to download, or print them off if you wish.

### FOUND – PAIR OF BLACK SHOES

Can anyone solve the mystery? A pair of brand new black shoes have been found in the dive centre. Male, size 10, made by a company called Westwind. Does anyone claim them? If not we will let them go to a charity shop.

### OTHER COURSES COMING UP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR .....

**EFR** – 20 January, 17 February, 17 March, 14 April

**DAN OXYGEN PROVIDER** – 21 January, 18 February, 18 March, 15 April

**RESCUE DIVER** - 27/28 January, 24/25 February, 24/25 March, 21/22 April

## GILDENBURGH LAKE TRIP DETAILS



We will be departing from the Dive Centre at 7.30 on 10 February getting to Gildenburgh for about 10.30. We will have a dive before lunch then another after lunch. That evening will be in a local B&B (so if you want to go I need to know **as soon as possible** so that I can book the accommodation). The following day we will have 2 dives before returning home. The cost of the B&B is about £20 - 30 a head and entrance fees are £10 a day, so not including food, petrol or beer it will be a reasonably cheap weekend. To find out a bit more about the lake you can go to their website. A site map can be found at <http://www.divein.co.uk/lakeplan.htm> Alternatively there is a report in the holidays section of the website from a few years ago on <http://www.tritonscuba.co.uk/2003-trip-reports.html>

Water temperature is about 4 degrees so if you are planning to go we would recommend a Drysuit and there are plenty of opportunities to get that course between now and then

### COURSES AND WORKSHOPS COMING UP IN 2007

We have a full programme of courses and workshops planned for 2007 and these are all published on the calendar in the members area. Simply log on for details. We are also running a few courses specifically at reduced prices for club members who want to get involved and improve their skills:

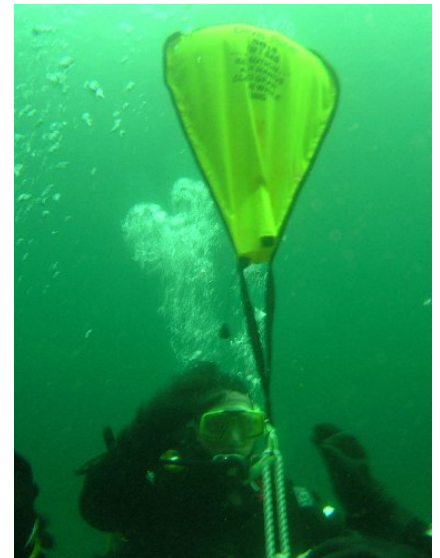


**WRECK DIVER COURSE** - Learn how to dive wrecks safely. Get to grips with wreck reels and safe penetration (oooh!). Learn how to map your own wreck. During this 2 day programme you will dive on 4 different wrecks. The course is being run over the 2 club weekends (10/11 February at Gildenburgh and 17/18 March at Portland). Some of the wrecks we will be diving are deeper than 18m for this programme and so the minimum requirement is Advanced Open Water. The cost of the course is normally £170. However, over these club weekends we will be putting it on as a special for club members for £120. In addition to this you will need to pay any boat, site entry and accommodation charges. There are only a limited number of spaces available so if you want to go let me know as soon as possible.

## COURSES COMING UP .... CONTINUED



**DRYSUIT** – Fed up with getting cold, or not diving until the water warms up. Then get into a Drysuit. Includes a Drysuit orientation (at the Wednesday evening session) in the pool and 2 open water dives on the following Saturday. Dates of the 2 Drysuit courses at the beginning of the year are 31 Jan/3 February and 28 Feb/3 March. The price of the course is going to be reduced to £85 on these dates.



**SEARCH AND RECOVERY** – This fun course covers a whole range of search techniques as well as how to rig lift bags and calculate air requirements. 4 dives in total. We are running this course over the weekend of 7/8 April. Normal price for the course is £170 but for this weekend we will be having a special price for club members of £120. This **includes** lake entry fees! Only 8 spaces available so let me know if you want a space.

### BUOYANCY WORKSHOP

Having trouble with your buoyancy? Want a few pointers? We are running a buoyancy workshop for club members on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March where we will be running a load of skill sessions aimed at improving your buoyancy. The cost is £25 per person which includes your entry fees. Club members only.

### EQUIPMENT SPECIALITY WORKSHOP

The last workshop was a great success so we are running another on 25 February 2007. This is a one-day programme that looks at all sorts of equipment maintenance and husbandry issues. Cost of the workshop is £25 per head. Club members only.