



# The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

February 2008

## CLUB MEETING DATES

There is no club meeting in March due to the Spring Ball, which is on 15 March at the Royal Beach. So, the next "normal" club meeting is on 3 April. Please let us know if you are coming.

The last club night was good fun with about 60 members and guests turning up (and quite a few going on afterwards)! The raffle raised £60 for charity.

**We have made a busy start to the season with two open water courses finishing and one starting this month. Many congratulations to all our students who passed courses with us in February.**

### Open Water

Michael Ryan, James Ames, Craig Mitchell, Nathan Gollins, Darren Vale, Ben Stone, Gareth Clifford, Sam Woolner, Andrew Wibroe, Joanna Deeks, Luke Osborne, David Johnson

### Nitrox

Andrew Manning, Katie Burt

### DM

Zara Dyer

## NEWLY QUALIFIED DIVEMASTER



Many congratulations to Zara Dyer, our newest qualified divemaster. Zara will be working as a divemaster for us during the season as and when she can.

## NEW EQUIPMENT

You can tell that we have a new season about to start with plenty of new equipment being launched, or in the pipeline. Oceanic are about to launch a new range of suits to take over from the award winning shadow. We expect these in at the time of the dive show. The colours are going to be a bit more bright, but the quality build of the suit and range of sizes will remain. Scubapro have been hard at it as well and introduced some wonderful new masks that are selling like hotcakes.

The "Spectra" shown in the picture is proving to be very popular, as is the slightly smaller "Marin". Both of these have a new styling, thinner straps and a metallic sheen to the rim giving it a very nice look and feel. They come in a range of different colours as well so there is something to suit

everyone. If you are looking for a new mask why not come and have a look at these. We have a full range in the centre.



Scubapro have also introduced something new for younger people – the "Scout" mask.



This is designed for smaller faces and children and has a revolutionary nose pocket with an incredible soft silicon, making pinching the smallest of noses easy.

The introduction of new products has not stopped there and Scubapro have also brought in a range of new designs for their popular Everflex suit range. Previously available in 5mm (and not a lot of good for UK waters, they have introduced a 7mm steamer, which is going to be accompanied by a 5mm hooded overvest in the very near future. The material used in these suits is a little more expensive but with its close fitting properties it is going to make any of us with the odd lump or bump in the wrong place a damn site warmer!

Scubapro have also brought out a new BCD knife as well. The "White Tip" has fittings for hoses and the pocket of a BCD. It is 304-grade stainless, has a serrated edge as well as conventional, one handed locking sheath and feels really good. We like it.



All of these items and more, are in stock in the centre so there is plenty of exciting stuff

to come and have a look at. Talking of which, what are you doing on the weekend of 8/9 March? Dive Show Weekend!

## DIVE SHOW WEEKEND SALE 8/9 MARCH

As normal we will be holding our usual Dive Show Weekend Sale. This year we are making life simple. Everything will be on offer at 20% below retail price. This includes items that we have to order if we run out. To get this incredible price deal all you have to do, is come along to the centre with a copy of this newsletter. So save time and money, forget about struggling with the crowds at the Excel Centre and pop along to see us. As normal there will be a few eats and the odd glass of hooch going around, so you can expect a bit of a social event.

## CLUB PRESENTATION EVENING WITH DR JOHN BEVAN 1 MAY 2008



We have organized another "presentation" evening for 1 May 2008. The next guest speaker will be none other than Dr John Bevan. John is a well known diving expert and has given presentations on many topics to some distinguished audiences, so we are very grateful that he has agreed to join us. He has a PhD in the Development of Diving Equipment and is the founding Chairman of the Historical Diving Society. As well as doing mad things like experimental dives to 450 metres!!!! ....



.... he is also qualified commercial diver, BSAC First Class Diver, and has even clocked up 100 hours in a submersible. His book, "The Infernal Diver" which I commend to you if you have even a remote interest in the history of diving, is just that .... the definitive History of Diving, covering its development over the years since John and Charles Deane invented the first diving

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helmet. The title of his presentation on the 1st May could not be more relevant and is going to be "The History of Diving in the Solent" and he assures me that he will be covering the Mary Rose, the Royal George and much more. It will be another cracking evening and after the talk we will have a meal and the opportunity to socialise over a couple of drinks. This will take the place of the normal club night for May. The cost of the evening will be £5 for club members and £11 for guests (to cover food). Once again all the proceeds will go to charity.

There is a ticket application form at the back of the newsletter. Please let us know how many places you want – should be an excellent evening and we look forward to seeing you all once again.

### COME AND MEET SOME OF THE LOCALS IN PORTLAND 12-13 APRIL



Join us for a weekend outing to Portland on 12/13 April, where the vis is a bit better and the beer is cheap! Get the regs out, get some clean air in the cylinders and come with us. We will be diving with Fathom and Blues (who have moved, more details when you let us know you are coming). The plan is to dive on 2 days (but you can just do one if you want) Accommodation in the breakwater hotel is around £25 per person per night and diving is £16 for a local dive and £26 for one further away. If you want to join us, we need the money for any accommodation and diving up front please as we are committed once we tell the guys in Portland. Let us know if you want local or advanced dives so we can book the boats.

### WELL DONE PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY DIVERS

We wanted to say well done to the team from Portsmouth University Divers (the PADI club based at the uni) who completed a relay underwater marathon a few days ago. The team swam the distance of 26 and a bit miles at Victoria pool. We were pleased help out by providing all the air and cylinders for the event which raised several hundred pounds for charity. Well done guys

### SPORT RELIEF – STILL TIME TO DONATE

**SPORT  
RELIEF**

I have to say, the support has not been brilliant for this one although there are 11 going around at the moment! We are going to be jogging around Mountbatten Centre for the Sport Relief mile – in Scuba Gear. So please please please sponsor us – jut a few a pennies will do – by logging on to <http://www.mysportrelief.com/TeamPage.aspx?teamID=31682&LangPref=en-CA>

Every little helps.

### SPRING BALL - 15 MARCH

The Spring Ball is once again a sell out with 120 members and guests attending. In order to prevent the mad panics of people who end up phoning through on the Saturday to find out what time it starts ... to remind you .... It is cocktails at 7.00 pm for those that want them and dinner will be served at 8.00pm. We have got the jazz band back again by popular demand to play during the meal. And for the benefit of a few, (Michael Gear and Jules spring to mind), it's in The ROYAL BEACH HOTEL.

### ANOTHER AWARD

We just seem to be hauling in the accolades at the moment ... this time it was the annual dealer awards presented by Oceanic. This year the event was a bit different. We were invited to Belgium by the team at Oceanic along with around 10 other dive centres for the annual seminar and dealer awards bash. And once again we won an award (getting to be a regular thing now!) as one of the top Oceanic Dealers in the UK. Previously the function has been held at a swish hotel in Taunton, but this year for a change, they decided to take the top dealers to Belgium and combine it with a tour of the region and some of the battlefields and cemeteries. Being ex-military this had a certain appeal and we went to several cemeteries and some impressive monuments.



I was honoured to be asked to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate on the Sunday evening at the last post ceremony. The ceremony has been held every evening at the same time since around 1926 (with just a few years break for another German invasion in the 40s). One of the buglers has been doing it for 50 years. It was a memorable occasion for me and everyone there. With the ceremony over it was down to the festivities and Belgian beer!. Many thanks to John for organising the event and to Kelvin and the rest of "team" Oceanic for being such great hosts.

### ANOTHER ONE – AND IT'S FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING.

I know, I know, far too much mutual back slapping going on – but why not. For the second year running PADI have given me a Course Director Gold Award. The email from PADI read as follows:

"Based on your Instructor Development Course and Instructor Level continuing

education productivity, you've achieved the **Gold** Course Director level for 2008. By doing so you've become one of less than 80 Course Directors worldwide to earn this level of recognition in the Frequent Trainer Programme". Naturally I assumed this would mean a great deal of savings on my registration fees and material purchases etc etc ..... Well not exactly but I did get a tiny gold sticker to put on my Certification card! Yipee ....

### INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSES



DO YOU WANT TO MEET THE CHALLENGE? Or do you even want to be able to put your thumb up in a very cheesy manner! If you love diving and you have the qualifications and experience, why not teach others at the same time! Teaching scuba diving is extremely rewarding and a good way to earn money while you do something you love. We have 3 Instructor Development Courses running this year, but they are filling up fast:

- IDC 1/08 24 May – 1 June
- IDC 2/08 2 – 10 August
- IDC 3/08 1 – 9 November

To find out more about our excellent instructor educational packages and the opportunities that it will give you, give me a call in the centre. Live the dream – just like Rosey!

### TALKING OF A CHEESY THUMBS UP ...

And to follow on from last months photo, here is me in some ninja kit giving a similar gesture. As a caption competition possibility how about: "So when did the horns start to grow out of your head?"



### EFR INSTRUCTORS COURSE

Want to be a first aid instructor? I have space on an Emergency First response Instructors course on 9 April. If you would like to teach first aid at your workplace and potentially earn money doing so, then give me a call at the dive centre.

### NEXT MONTH .....

**Portland Trip** - full report from the trip  
**Spring Ball** – Pictures and report  
**Scientific Diving Speciality Course**  
**Trips for 2008** – A list of trips coming up

**better training ... better equipment ... better value ... more fun!**



# THE HISTORY OF DIVING IN THE SOLENT

**AN EVENING WITH DR JOHN BEVAN  
AT THE ROYAL BEACH HOTEL  
1 MAY 2008**

Dr John Bevan has very kindly agreed to give a presentation on 1 May to divers in the Portsmouth and Southsea area. His presentation is entitled "The History of Diving in the Solent". John is the founding Chairman of the Historical Diving Society And the author of "The Infernal Diver" a definitive history of the development of "standard" diving as seen through the lives of Charles and John Deane. John has a wealth of knowledge and experience of diving and regularly speaks to audiences on diving topics. He has been a diver for more than 33 years and gained his PhD in the development of diving equipment in 1990. Previously to this he gained an MSc in the Neurology of Deep Diving, something that he might have found very useful when he was undertaking a Royal Navy experimental dive to 450m! No, that is not a typing error.

John spent 6 years as a diving research scientist and has clocked up over 100 hours on submersibles. He is a BSAC First Class Diver, Saturation Life-Support Supervisor and all round fountain of knowledge. As well "The Infernal Diver", John has also written the "Professional Divers Handbook", which covers diver tasks, equipment and techniques for commercial divers.

The event will cost £5 to Triton Club members and £11 for non-club members and guests. The evening will include a nice meal within the cost, and all proceeds from the evening will be given to charity.

The presentation has the makings of being another excellent function and I look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget, numbers are limited to 120, so if you would like to go please let me know as soon as possible.

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From: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to book \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the John Bevan presentation.  
(Triton members £5, guest and non-club members £11)

I enclose a cheque/cash for \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cheques payable to Triton Divers)

NAMES OF PEOPLE ATTENDING	



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