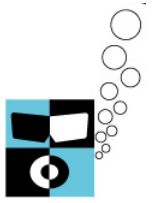




The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

January 2008

CLUB MEETING DATES

The next meeting is on 7 February in the Coast Bar. We have around 50 names so far, so if you are intending to come along please let us know so we can get enough food. The meal will be a chicken curry with a tree hugger option.

[If you want come you need to let us know.](#) The event starts at 7.00 pm.

[Many congratulations to all our students who passed courses with us in January.](#)

Open Water

Rikkie Close, Alex Benfield, Julian Heelis, Tina Ide

Drysuit

Tiphanie May, George Mason, Kevin Lam

Nitrox

Ken Winkley

DM

Ruth Sims

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE PREMIER DIVE CENTRE IN PORTSMOUTH – AND NOW ITS OFFICIAL!



WINNER OF THE BEST SMALL BUSINESS AWARD 2008

We always like to let you know how we are getting on without harping on about this that and the other too much. However, on this occasion we are blowing a bit of smoke up our own bum and we think we deserve to – well its nice to be told you're the best!

Triton Scuba were honoured at the end of January when we were selected by a panel of judges and grabbed the top prize -

The Small Business of the Year Award.



We were entered for the award a few years ago, as well as for the Community Contribution award. On that occasion we made the short list of finalists in both categories, making the final 7 in each category. We thought that was pretty good but we never thought we might get the judges decision and come first! Last year we gave the whole thing a miss to concentrate on other things but this year we once again found ourselves selected and on the shortlist. The awards, sponsored by The News, Business Link and a host of other large organizations, took place at the Guildhall on 24 January. We had to book at the last minute as some of the work we were doing outside of Portsmouth meant that only Ian was going to be around. Anyway with a bit of a hot shoe shuffle on the staffing we made it for the occasion.



It was a pretty grand do, with around 500 people from some well known organizations in the room. Guest speaker was, "they think its all over - it is now" footballer Sir Geoff Hurst, who entertained diners with anecdotes and stories from 1966. I just wish I could remember what they were! There were hundreds of nominations for lots of different categories and we had to wait until nearly the very end of the evening until they got to ours – a reverse order thing. The highly commended and runner up prizes were announced and I think that we were probably hoping for something like that - so a bit disappointing when we didn't get it. We never believed we would win when you think we are really a small company in comparison to some of the heavyweights who were also in the running. When they called out Triton Scuba, I have to confess to being speechless (not often I know). Bill, Ian and myself, to lots of applause and cheers wound our way through the tables to go on stage. Not sure who had imported the "rent a fan-club"

crowd but we seemed to be a popular choice – who were those people?



During the presentation speech, BBC presenter Sally Taylor said that the award recognized our success over the year in a number of our business ventures, but importantly to us she also mentioned the huge amount of work we have done for charity and within the community over the years. Things like try dives for schools, sponsored events and so on.

These accolades only happen because of you and with your help. So, we we would like to thank all our customers, friends and staff who have helped us continue to be the Premier Dive Centre in Portsmouth and now the Best Small Business. Watch this space for even more success during 2008.

NEW SCUBAPRO EQUIPMENT THE GALILEO TERRA



To follow on from the Galileo Sol, Uwatec have just launched the new TERRA. This is in stock now. Galileo Terra Core Features:

- Navigational system with digital compass
- Extra large dot-matrix screen available in 3 display modes
- Clear text, multi-language alarm
- Graphic data displays for tissue loading, dive profiles, deco stops
- Personalization

PORTSMOUTH'S PREMIER DIVE CENTRE AND NOW ... WINNER OF THE BEST SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2008

- Profile Dependent Intermediate Stop (PDIS) optimises your dive in complete security. Available as the first software upgrade patch for the Galileo sol, PDIS is available as standard on the Galileo terra and offers an additional series of stops calculated on your dive profile
- Gauge mode rated to 330m
- User changeable battery

This is a fantastic computer that normally retails at £469. As a special promotion offer to all **club members** and existing Triton customers we are offering this computer for a limited time and while stock lasts at an **incredible £100 off**. Yes, you can buy the Terra for **£369**. Call the dive centre for more details.

BBC FILM SHOOT

It was a cold day with a bitter easterly wind – however, the plan was that I would be watching from a nice warm heated van No unfortunately that wasn't the plan, but it was still a good day. Ian and I had spent the night in Coalville (tumble weed central) on a tip top secret business expansion meeting that we cant tell you about.



But anyway it meant that we got to Stoney Cove nice and early. The BBC film crew came up from Bristol in what was supposed to be a "minibus", and a huge coach and the whole entourage arrived just before lunch. They were tucking into bacon and egg butties before you could sputter "eh yup, tint hafe cold up ere tinitit" at which point the coach driver announced it was law that he have 8 hours undisturbed rest as he was taking them back and promptly kicked them all out of the coach, shut the door and went to sleep. By this time it was 11.00 am! The crew consisted of Mike the graphics man, Elly the production coordinator (Elly buys the food, we like Elly!), Mike Pitts who you know all about, John the support diver and lighting, Assistant Producer (sorry cant

remember your name), Neil the Producer and the main man and a few others who had all decided to come and see what life was like north of Watford.



I gave a site and safety briefing and then it was into the "pub" to set up cameras and go through the story boards – these are the pictures that explain the shots that are required. Then it was on with the gear, come up with a plan to run the dive and jump in so we could show the divers the sites we had decided on just before Christmas. These were ideal for what they wanted to achieve. We then set up the gear and waited until dark. The first time we set off the flare, the reaction from the crew was good which I was pleased about as the only alternative would have been a torch or a couple of light sticks!



We took some shots in the shallows and then headed off to the ledge. Ian, who had managed to escape the dive in the afternoon, got his comupence as the "gopher" diver, ferrying kit and flares back and forward to the crew underwater. Neil and I listened intently for John in his wonderful Belfast accent to say "Con youi send doinw anudder floire please". We understood that, but anything else he said was guesswork!



After about 10 flares we had a break to see what we had got, warm up (importantly) and at the same time

take some surface shots of the diver. That worked really well just wish that Jonathan had put his regulator in. We finally finished at about 9.30 in the evening, the crew having been in the water for 1 hour 40 minutes in total in the dark. In 5 degrees that is a good effort, so think about that when you think about all the exotic locations they get to. We then grabbed some food and drove back, eyes like Scammel wheel nuts, on a very empty road. We never got to see the finished product and will have to wait like you, until it is released in 2009. However, it was a great opportunity for us to do more media work. Current projects we are involved in include a programme about one-man torpedo subs (Chariots), a Channel 4 game show and potentially a programme fillming in the Med in a few months. So plenty more to tell you about in the future.

NEWLY QUALIFIED DIVEMASTER

I am very pleased to let you know that Ruth Sims has **finally** finished her DM training after a great deal of perseverance and effort. Yes I know it is hard to get it finished when you spend all your time in the office! Anyway, so as well as seeing her beavering away in the centre you might also see her on the odd dive site helping students. Rumour has it that she has not volunteered for any boat diving courses as you can see:



CALL THE FASHION POLICE! MAN IN POSSESSION OF AN OFFENSIVE SUIT



We have to be honest we nearly missed it!!!! Last month we wrote about the last dive of the year and published a photograph of some of the cub members who were at Vobster. However, after close scrutiny by one of the members it was

The best training - from the premier dive centre in Portsmouth

brought to my attention that a fashion faux pas of shocking proportions had been committed and we nearly missed it. Alex Wilmott, what were you thinking?

....ANY MORE OUT THERE?

Alex's fashion extremism has given us an idea – if any other club members have pictures of fellow divers who are wearing something inexplicable then we want to know. Having looked through a few of my old albums I found some real corkers so I know that you lot must have some. Here is one I found of me in Cyprus in 1984 – yes I was diving then – in fact I was teaching!!!! What is remarkable is how I have not changed a bit – don't look any older or fatter after all these years. And look at the ABLJ and the Speedo action!



So, get looking and send them in. Big John, I know you have some good ones. If they are good, or even better, if they are bad, I will publish them in the newsletter. No anonymous photos please – this is a serious newsletter and we intend to name and shame! All submissions considered unless they are of me. Ed.

MIKE PITTS PRESENTATION EVENING



There were well over 100 club members and guest at the Mike Pitts presentation "Making Blue Movies" at the beginning of January. We have run quite a few of these presentation evenings now, and while other clubs try to emulate what we do, they never

quite manage it. This one was as good as the rest we have organized. Mike spoke for about an hour, covering TV commercial work, how he spent 3 weeks in Cuba and 3 weeks in Alaska filming a 30 second Bulmer's Cider advert, how he sat in the Amazon as small eel like fish tried to find a way under his skin yuk makes you cringe that one How he rescued a seal in Midway Island and managed to capture that bait-ball sequence for Blue Planet. It was a fascinating hour followed by another great meal. We are still making a few enquiries for our next presentation – cant tell you yet, a big tip top secret. However, if it falls through I have an Uncle from Yorkshire who caught 5 mackerel on one rod once – I can get him down for a chat. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported us, especially those divers from other clubs; Cockleshell Divers, Southsea Club, Hampshire Police and Portsmouth East. The night raised around £400 for charity and we are going to be donating it to a marine conservation charity in due course.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 2008 GETS UNDERWAY



The weather isn't great but the training programme is well underway. January saw a few students trickle (oops sorry) through on drysuit and open water training courses. It was good to see Tiphanie May (pictured above), who joined us last September. Tiphanie is our first customer from the Falkland Islands and successfully completed her drysuit course with Kelvin and George.

SPECIAL CHARITY EVENT



I know that the Spring Ball is on 15 March, but we have a great opportunity to do something for charity on 16 March **and** blow out the cobwebs at the same time.

On the weekend of 15-16 March there are going to be a whole series of events in support of Sport Relief – a kind of slightly more energetic and less funny version of Comic Relief. The events include running events of various distances. We have entered a team into the one mile run on **16th March at 11.00 am** and would like to invite as many of you as possible to join us. It costs £5 to take part and you can do so by going to:

<http://www.sportrelief.com/portsmouth-mountbatten-centre-mile>

Register for the race - it only costs £5. Once you have done this you can join the team and start helping us reach the team total of £1000 by getting sponsorship. To do this, just go to the "Join a Team" page and type in TEAM TRITON. The only stipulation – you have to wear Scuba Gear for the run. That gives you some idea of how seriously we are taking it. If you cant be bothered to get up a bit early and walk / jog / stagger / or run a mile, then why not sponsor us by going to the Team Triton team page.

Come on, as a club we have a fantastic record of raising money and doing things for the community – well here is something different that won't take long and doesn't need you to training to racing snake standards.

SPRING BALL - 15 MARCH TICKETS ARE SELLING WELL



We have already sold over 80 tickets to the spring ball on 15 March so we expect it to be another great night out. If you have put your name down for tickets can you let us have payment as soon as possible so that we can send out the menu choice forms. To remind you, the cost of the evening is £15 for club members and £35 for guests. This includes 3 course meal, ½ bottle of wine, jazz band, disco and late bar. The cut off date to confirm your tickets is going to have to be 22 February, so make sure you get your money in by then. If you have not put your names down and want to go, then let us know as soon as possible. If you haven't been before it is well worth it – they are brilliant evenings and excellent value.

The best training - from the premier dive centre in Portsmouth