

CLUB MEETINGS

It was a full house at the last club meeting which also saw members from other clubs there as we had a guest speaker in. The next meeting is going to be 5 June. The food will be our first BBQ of the year so fingers crossed for a bit of good weather. Even if not, the chef puts up a cover so we can still have the BBQ. Please let us know if you are coming, more so than normal, as we need to get the right numbers for food. Normal place and time, Coast Bar at the Royal beach, 7.30 pm.

Its been a really busy month of courses. Many congratulations to everyone who successfully qualified on the following courses.

Open Water

Ross James, Murray Williams, Claire Hooley, Katarzyna Ostrowska, Tom Fieldhouse

Advanced Open Water

Ben Leibbrandt, Carl Halsey, James Ayling, Marie Marshall

Rescue Diver

Kirsty Greenwood, Emma Ross, Helen Cushion, Mark Dobbyn

Scientific Diving Techniques

Daniel Backhurst, Zoe Brown, Ben Conway, Eleanor Carr, Lizzie Denyer, Craig Churchley, Paul Fullbrook, Daniel Frost, Alastair Berry, Mark Shaw,

Wreck Diver

Simon Lamb, Noel Se

Deep Diver

Pete Hulme, Nigel Cogger, Paul Nixon, Camilla Robins, Noel Se

Nitrox

Steven Pearce, Rebecca Ogilvie, Roy Goring

EFR

Becca Wilson, Iain Andrews, Andy Hathaway, Phil Knowles, Tim Gort, Zara Dyer

Assistant Instructors

Becca Wilson, James Copley, Iain Andrews, Andy Hathaway, Phil Knowles, Tim Gort

EFR Instructors

Becca Wilson, Iain Andrews, Andy Hathaway, Phil Knowles, Tim Gort, Zara Dyer

Staff Instructor

Timeeeeeeeeeeeee

SMB WORKSHOP

We ran the first of our popular training workshops this month. The workshops are run for club members and provide the opportunity to hone skills and learn new ones under the guidance of an instructor or DM, without having to go to the expense of going on a course. 10 club members joined the SMB workshop at Horsea and spent the day learning about different reels, buoys and techniques. It was a good opportunity to get together and go for a dive as well. We will be running another SMB workshop later in the year hopefully so anyone who

could make the last one, watch out for dates.



While we are on the subject of workshops, we have decided (by popular request) to run another one

BUOYANCY CONTROL WORKSHOP 15 JUNE

Are you fed up with poor buoyancy control. Do you need a few tips on fine tuning your buoyancy? Do you want to float effortlessly at which ever depth you choose without flapping your arms around! Want to look like this



Well you could always enroll onto a peak performance buoyancy course, alternatively, as a club member you can come along to a free buoyancy control workshop on 15 June. Under the guidance of an instructor you will practice a range of skills that will help you to improve your buoyancy control and there will be someone on hand to give you some handy hints and advice. Spaces are limited to 10 and the cost is £15 entry to Horsea lake. If you want to join the workshop let us know Quickly we suggest, as we expect this one to be popular.

SOUTHSEA SHOW IS BACK 1 - 3 AUGUST

After a year of absence we are glad to report that the Southsea show is back this year. It is going to be bigger and better. The organizers have renamed it Portsmouth and Southsea show (name change will obviously make all the difference!) and it comes with a weekend of evening entertainment as well. And we are going to be there! Once again we will be putting up our marquee and try dive pool.



The weekend is going to be really busy – we have the summer ball, an IDC and the show going on. The show is really good fun as anyone who has helped out before will tell you. There is plenty of food, (BBQs on the Friday and Sunday nights) copious amounts of vino and lots of giggles. We need volunteers so if you would like to help out on any of the 3 days of the show we would love to have you along, so give us a call.

JOHN BEVAN EVENING

It's Timeeeeeeee.



The month got off to a cracking start with a club night combined with an evening presentation by Dr John Bevan. It was another excellent function and presentation. Numbers were slightly down for one reason and another but there were still over 70 people there. We held the presentation in the Victory room of the Royal Beach - a new facility and very well decked out. John spoke on the history of diving in the area and it went down extremely well. We also raised quite a bit for charity had have donated £200 to the Historical Diving Society. It was very nice to see members from Southsea SAC, Portsmouth East, Cockleshell, and Portsmouth Univ Divers as well as our own club members.

BBC WORK

Not much to report yet – we are going back to the Bahamas in July and have trained James (who is featuring on "Inside Life") to dive. The beeb will be filming him doing the Open Water course with us on 12 June so more to follow on this one.

SUMMER BALL

Another reminder, the summer ball is on 2nd August in the Royal Beach. Tickets are now available at £15 for club members and £35 for guests, which includes the 3 course meal, wine, and disco. Give us a call if you want to go.

EGYPT TOUR REPORT 10 – 17 MAY



Day 1 - Saw us all arrive on time at Triton to be greeted with smoked salmon sandwiches and bucks fizz, which just helped to dull the hangovers from the 'pre-holiday' drinks the night before. So ramming nearly all of the suitcase into the trailer, and the rest in the minibus we set off for Gatwick. After all meeting up we proceeded to check in. Donk, being the slightly built chap that he is booked a seat with extra room, only to be told that as Mrs. Donk was on medication he couldn't have it (well done Tina for telling the check in girl!). After passing through security without too much hassle, except to Mike Gear nearly being stripped searched, Chris found that the duty free shop had a special offer on for 2 litres of gin for only £15. A very upset Chris had to be dragged away protesting that '2 litres will never last, we'll have to smuggle some more in'. Simon by now was starting to regret staying out till 4.30 the night before as the bucks fizz was starting to wear off, so decided that the best course of action would be to get stuck in at the bar.

Onto the plane after a couple of beers at which point Donk found out that he had the smallest leg room on the plane ... thanks to his missus.



For those of you that have sampled the delight that is Sharm international airport you will be pleased to hear that is still the same and there are still huge queues to get through passport control. However it now comes complete with 5 (rather than the previous 3) people making sure that you've got you visa and stamp before you can get your bags. On the way to the boat there were at least another 3 passport checks and several baggage checks. The boat is very nice, almost like a gin palace, at which suggestion Chris decided to make himself a large one. After checking out the certifications and logbooks, it was time to retire to the cocktail deck, where Chris was

now on his 3rd. A few beers and everyone was off to bed, ready for the ungodly hour of 7 o'clock dive brief. This is supposed to be a holiday don't you know.

Day 2 saw us at the "Alternatives" for a quick check out dive followed by the "Carnatic", a superb dive. The wreck lies on its port side, the deck has rotted away and the superstructure is visible allowing access to the inner parts of the ship. There is loads of life on the wreck now, and Donk



nearly became a permanent fixture; after having a personal tour by one of the guides, Donk managed to get stuck in the doorway of the engine room. Third dive of the day was the Kimon M, another great dive. It is quite broken up, but has some good life on it. Simon was really looking forward to it, but found it quite hard to descend unfortunately. Apparently weightbelts can be useful in this respect. Buddy checks who needs 'em?

Day 3 started with an early morning dive on the Chrisoula K. However, the rest of the morning was a bit chaotic after one of the boat boys was pulled from the water where he had been snorkelling. He was not breathing and showed no signs of circulation. Myself, Jules, Chris and Noel worked on him for 20 minutes, giving him O2 and CPR at which point he started to breath again on his own. The boat headed back to Travco to meet up with an EMS Rescue RIB. The last we heard he was in intensive care in Sharm, but was, thankfully alive. After restocking with O2 we headed back to Gubal Island, stopping on the way at the Dunraven, which is an old wreck with a lovely swim through.



In the evening we did a night dive on the "Barge". Not much to it as wrecks go, but it always has surprises, especially at night – this time it was a big photogenic octopus. After being thoroughly briefed on how to find the barge, Chris and Emma jumped in, only to find that Chris and his mask had parted company. After putting on his spare they went looking for it under the boat. Chris being not the best at navigating (he couldn't find the boat from the platform in Horsea) went off in totally the wrong direction. As well as the "occy" a monster Moray eel and hunting Lion fish were all seen on the wreck, so a nice end to the day.

The next day we did the now famous Rosalie Möller (twice) and then popped back to Abu Nuhas to do the Giannis D All excellent dives. In the evening having been practicing for the last day with his compass on the boat, Chris announced that he would show everybody the way to the reef on the night dive! With some trepidation the group set off. Apparently there should have been a wall at about 8 meters, but all that Chris and Lamby found were some small coral outcrops on a nice sandy bottom. Chris has had his DM cert revoked and is now booked on the next Navigation speciality!!



The toll of getting up early and going to bed last was starting to show, with most retiring by 10. Lamby announced that he was getting worried that he wouldn't have enough time to finish all of his vodka so started with utmost urgency to put that straight.



Day 5 started with a reef dive, then the wreck of the Ulysses and then ... Thistlegorm. The majority had never dived 'The Wreck' before, so it was with great excitement that we made our way down the mooring line to the bow. After a quick look into Hold 1 and 2 we proceeded to the Captains cabin. Pete decided on the way that he didn't need all of his weight and dropped a pouch. Thinking that his buoyancy was just rubbish he proceeded into the cabin closely followed by Simon huffing and puffing carrying an extra 6 kilos. After dragging Pete off the ceiling and refitting his weights, Simon decided to leave with the guide as he'd sucked his air down to 80 bar. I led the dive over to the ammunition and back over the superstructure to the shotline. During the ascent line the current had picked up and we "flag poled" doing a safety stop – except Mike, who decided to let go!



We were lucky enough to do a night dive on the Thistlegorm and it took on a whole new feel, covered in Lion fish, Scorpion fish, Slipper Lobsters and the biggest Giant

The best training - from the premier dive centre in Portsmouth

Moray that anyone had ever seen. Chris swore that 'it was going to have my arm off and that he needed a gin to get over the trauma!



Day 6 and another 2 excellent dives on the Thistlegorm before heading off to Shag rock to dive the Kingston. This is an open wreck with only the ribs of the boat remaining, but what a beautiful dive. After exploring the site and being attacked by the hoards of Surgeon fish that were nesting on it, we drifted along the most pristine reef I've seen for a long time. At the end of the dive we were treated to a pod of 5 dolphins for nearly 10 minutes, coming within touching distance. Pete for the first time on the trip was speechless, declaring that he was quitting diving as nothing would ever beat this days diving and he wanted to quit while ahead.



Day 7 and we had steamed back towards Ras Mohamed to dive Shark and Yolanda. For those of you that have dived this site you will know that it can either be a superb drift or a fight against some wicked currents. It was the later. Silvi, the guide, assured us that 'zer is no current, it eez calm'. He's now booked on the PADI "How to recognise a current" distinctive speciality course I'm writing!! So we saw Satellite reef half of Yolanda, and then Satellite reef again. Nice big morays, some puffer fish and scorpion fish made up for the fight though.

The last dive of the trip was a lovely little drift dive Ras Ghaziani. Samhe got the current right this time, and it was a great way end what was some superb diving.



Once we'd disembarked and had our passports and luggage checked again, (twice) we made our way to our hotel. I'd phoned ahead and booked the roof of the Camel Bar for 20 of us for some beer and food.

On the last day we lounged by the pool for most of the day. Tina and Donk returned

with another suitcase full of Egyptian memorabilia and several market traders retired to the Seychelles on the profits. Before getting on the plane we even had time to watch Pompey win the FA cup and Phil amused the hotel staff with some very dubious celebrations.



Another good Triton trip – absolutely! As you would expect from the best dive club in the South. Going again? Yep, next year, same time (ish) boat is booked but this time we are heading deep South to see some more wrecks, reefs and sharks. Book early. (Thanks to Ian for this report)

EGYPT COURSES

An advantage of going on a liveboard is that it is really easy to do some speciality courses. As it was a wreck fest it would have been rude not to do a wreck speciality course and with the deep blue depths of the Red Sea one step away, it was a great opportunity to run a Deep Course. So in between the gin drinking and lazing around in the Jacuzzi a few club members took advantage of the opportunity. Well done to everyone who passed.



SCIENTIFIC DIVING TECHNIQUES

We already have our first 4 non-students signed up for this unique distinctive speciality course which is being run at the beginning of June. It is the last one of the year so if you fancy it give us a call in the dive centre.

GUNWHARF 5 AND 6 JULY



We mentioned it last month. We need a few volunteers to help run the try dives at Gunwharf. If you can help out please let me know. As normal we will ply you with food and wine for the duration! If you would like to dive the lock over this time give me a call.

NEW STAFF

If you have been in recently you might have noticed that the dive centre is very busy. And as we diversify into new and exciting ventures we have taken on new staff to help us run them. The latest member of the Triton Team is Zara. You may remember her from a couple of months ago when we published that she had passed her DM course. Well she has just completed her first aid instructor course and is going to be running that side of life as well as our eCommerce interests. In August she will also be on our IDC so she can teach the diving courses as well. So you know who she is when you pop in next time, here is a recent photo.



NEW STAFF INSTRUCTOR, ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS AND EFR INSTRUCTORS

The end of the month has seen Timeeee become a Staff Instructor, 6 people start their IDC and at the half way stage of the 10 day programme it is all going really well. All 6 have successfully passed their Assistant Instructors course, and 5 of the group have also undertaken their EFR Instructor Training course.



The course finishes at the beginning of next month and we will let you know how they all get on in the next newsletter.

NEXT MONTH – LOADS OF STUFF COMING UP

Malta Report – The second trip of the year heads off to Malta – we will tell you how it goes.

BBC Filming – Unless it gets put back again!

Buoyancy Control Workshop – pictures and stories from our first workshop of this kind.

IDC and IE – We will let you know how everyone gets on at the Instructors exam.

The best training - from the premier dive centre in Portsmouth