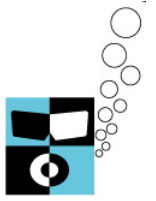




# The Urge to Submerge



Triton Divers Newsletter

May 2007

## CLUB MEETING DATES

The next club meeting will be on **Thursday 7 June**. Same place same time. The menu for the evening is going to be a good old fashioned barbeque with plenty to eat. There will be some veggie burgers for the tree huggers. Please let me know if you are coming and bringing a guest. (£5 for guests please). Also .....

### DISCOUNT IN PRICES AT COAST BAR

Just to let you know that we have had a word with the management at the Coast Bar and they have agreed to a 20% discount in prices at the bar on club nights. So now you can have a lot of fun and pay less!

### RIB DIVES COMING UP



We have "teamed up" with our good friend Jed Keemar who is now running his RIB on a commercial basis. Jed has been diving in the area for a long time and knows the wrecks and sites. His boat has all the latest electronics to make sure that you get onto the wreck. The good news is that you can get out on one decent dive without having to pay too much. Dives are only £25 and will be running at weekends and during some evenings throughout the summer. The boat leaves from Eastney Cruising Association club so book in at the dive centres for more details. A couple of dates on the programme:

**Thursday 31st May** - Landing Craft and Bracklesham Bay drift (12m) leaving 1830.

**Monday 4th June** - Polo (30m) leaving 1800.

**Tuesday 5th June** - Highland Brigade (30m) leaving 1800.

**Tuesday 12th June** - Louis (18m) leaving 1730.

**Wednesday 13th June** - Landing Craft (12m) leaving 1830.

### TUESDAY POOL SESSIONS

The Tuesday evening pool session is free to club members. However, if you do not use it we will cancel the booking. So why not pop down and practice some skills or just have a dip. It's free to club member which goes to show we are definitely the best value for money dive centre and dive club in Portsmouth

### THE SUMMER BALL - 14 JULY

The Summer Ball is now fully booked and there is a waiting list. A menu has been included with this newsletter, if you have your names down. **Can you please let us have payment (£10 for members and £30 for guests) and your menu choices by 1 July 07.** If we do not get them by this time we will assume you are not coming and allocate your place to someone on the waiting list.

## COURSE SUCCESSES FOR MAY 2007 - JUST A BIT OF A BUSY MONTH!

### Open Water Referral

Shaun O'Brien

### Open Water

Ben Conway, Heather Buttivant, Zoe Brown, Daniel Backhurst, Owen Wilkie, David McHattie, Joshua Smith, Alexander Colborn, Paul Williams, Matt Tucker, Harvey Cable, Robert Lowe, Nasreen Ullah, Martin Callow, Leigh Burne, Mark Budman

### Advanced Open Water

Matthew Smith, Nigel Gower, Angus Wood, Julie Dickson, Steve Lawrence, Ursula Trolan, Lovat Lawson

### Nitrox

Michael Gear, Lovat Lawson, Simon Bates, Duncan DePledge

### Scientific Diving Techniques

Katie Hocking, Bryony Marchant, Will Ward, David Ronchetti, Adam Hamilton, Rob Talbot, Claudia Groom, Jason Clarke, John Whale, Russell Sinclair, Claire McCulloch, Amy Green, Owen Flowers, Kevin Payne, Richard Bray, Andrew Clarke, Michael Barber

### EFR

Kate Hocking, Will Ward, Dave Ronchetti, Rob Talbot, Russel Sinclair, Adam Hamilton, Bryony Marchant, Philip Duncalfe, Dontella Palmisano, Mark Smith, Michael Gear, Owen Flowers, Kevin Payne, Richard Bray, Phil Ross, Neil Holden

### RYA LEVEL 2 POWERBOAT

Richard Buswell, Greg Duncan, Nigel Powell, Kevin Pullen, Peter Molloy, David Thumwood, Nicholas Thumwood, Mark Brimecome

### POWERBOAT TRAINING COURSES



Don't forget that we are now running powerboat courses throughout the summer. Club members get a discount on course prices so why not give us a call if you fancy learning how to handle a boat properly.

### AUGUST IDC

There are currently 8 candidates on the August IDC so still a couple (literally) of spaces left. So if you are a DM and thinking about taking the plunge to become an open water instructor, let me know. Dates are 4 - 12 August with options on completing some of the AI sections in July.

### BBC PROGRAMME BAHAMAS REPORT

The first part of the project has been completed and I have now returned from a visit to the Bahamas to look at the wrecks and the potential dive sites. It started off well with agreements from the port authority (who

let you sink it) and the tourist board (who let you film it) all being fairly easy ..... and not the administrative hurdle expected. Even managed to sort out explosives and special effects, accommodation, discounts on internal flights etc etc. We had a couple of boats to look at.



The Abaco Wreck

Boat option number 1 was based in Abaco, about 150 miles from Nassau. The first lesson learned - always put a scale in a picture. The boat that we thought was a small one was actually huge - and a big problem to get it cleaned. The dive site in Abaco was also an issue. It faces the Atlantic swells and the full force of hurricanes so the site had to be protected. On the day we dived there were 10 ft swells being blown in by a strong wind so it gave an impression of what it might be like in a big storm. The site at Manjack Cay had plenty of life with huge grouper, Caribbean Reef sharks and Nurse sharks cruising around, but the current was a concern as we struggled to fin against it.



A cruising reef shark on Abaco

Getting the boat into a small space between 2 reefs was also going to be difficult as it was not the 200m gap I had been told about but nearer to 50m! So it was back to Nassau to meet up Stuart Cove for option number 2. We were met at their impressive dock and whisked off to Golden Cay on our own boat to look at a potential site.

### Stuart Cove's inlet



Gentle currents, some good coral life and plenty of protection from storms and the Hurricanes. This looked like the spot. But what about the boat? They had found an old tug located by the cruise ships and the company that owned the land were dying to get rid of it. Made of steel it has loads of character and with a bit of "tarting up" should be just what we need. All we have to do now is get it cleaned, cut some holes in it – and make sure we can get it to float for long enough to set up for filming.



**The Tug on Nassau**

The first filming session will be in August at which point I will be returning with a 6 man crew to film the sinking and the first colonization of the wreck. Until then, I will let you have updates on the progress of the wreck as I get them.

#### **THE WATERFRONT FESTIVAL GUNWHARF QUAYS 15 – 24 JUNE**

We could still do with a few volunteers to help out with this. Wine and food a plenty is promised. Also, don't forget that there is the opportunity to dive the lock and join an exclusive group. Money raised is going to charity for this one so come and have a dip. The dive will cost £20 and there are 4 dates available – 16/17/23/24 June.

#### **DADS AND LADS AT CITY BOYS SCHOOL**



We have been involved with City Boys School before; several months ago we did some try dives for them. This time it was slightly different. An initiative by the school, "Dads and Lads", gets the boys involved in activities that they can bring their Dad's along to. So when teacher Helen "Melons" (Advanced Open Water Diver and Club Member) suggested we do a Discover Scuba Diving session involving the Dads we were only too happy to help out. Young and old enjoyed the dive at the Springfield pool and a couple have signed up for Open Water courses in the summer. We will be doing more activities like this during the summer.

#### **MORE ENHAM SUCCESS**



We are developing a good relationship with Enham Alamein. We have run 2 extremely successful try dive sessions so far and, at the end of May, 2 of their learners, Paul Williams and Martin Callow completed an Open Water course. They would be the first to admit that they found some of the academics a bit tough on occasions, but with some excellent instruction, some perseverance and hard work on their part, they succeeded in passing. Four members of the Enham staff have also booked onto courses in the summer in order to be able to dive regularly with the learners as more and more go through the training. We look forward to more "teaming up" with Enham in the future.

#### **FREE TRY DIVES FOR PORTSMOUTH LEISURE**

Half term comes along and once again we are pleased to be running 2 sessions for kids on behalf of Portsmouth Leisure. If you have kids who want to join in, give us a call.

#### **SCIENTIFIC DIVING SPECIALITY**

The last of the Scientific Techniques speciality courses took place this month making 24 successful students altogether. The courses were all great fun as well as providing valuable credits towards their university courses. There are plenty of photos on the gallery but I just had to publish this particular one of a plastic pipe cube constructed by Claudia Groom and her team. She assures me it was a cube on the bottom. Yes, we believe you Claudia. .... Well done to all of you who took the programme and good luck in the rest of your degree courses.



**Claudia and her "Pablo Picasso" Cube**

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#### **A SECOND ENHAM VISIT**



10 Learners from the Enham E2E programme in Farnborough came down for a visit in the middle of the month. After a presentation about the history of diving the youngsters had a good try dive session. We hope that some of them will go on to complete the open water course later in the year.

#### **TRITON BECOMES AN ADVANCED POWERBOAT CENTRE**

We have just had another RYA Centre inspection, which needless to say we passed with flying colours. However, now that we have a "night capable" boat, we have also been awarded Advanced Powerboat Centre status. This means that we can teach the intermediate and advanced powerboat courses. Give us a call to find out more.

#### **CHARITY DONATIONS**

Just to let you know we gave out £3000 to charity during May. The handouts went to: RNLI - £500  
Project AWARE - £500  
The Rainbow Centre - £1000  
Rowans Hospice - £1000  
Many thanks to all club members for your generosity in donating prizes, buying raffle tickets and generally helping out in fund raising events. Goes to show – you are definitely the most generous dive club in Portsmouth.

#### **GOOD CAUSES**

Talking of good causes we have been supporting the Rainbow Centre and Rowans for several years now and have raised a substantial amount of money for both of them thanks to your generosity. We have been thinking about having a change and "sharing the love" to some other worthy causes. Being the "premier" dive centre in the South of England we think that we should still give some to lifeboats and marine conservation. But we wondered what you thought. Are there any other good causes out there that we should be involved in. Let us know by logging onto the club member's forum and having your say.

#### **MARITIME PROJECT STARTS TO GET FUNDING**

For some time now we have been working on a Maritime Project. The programme is aimed at getting youngsters interested in the opportunities that the sea and the maritime "industry" can offer. We have applied for several grants to support the project and hope to get a lottery bid soon, but we have already managed to get funding from local community chest grants. So over the next few months you will see us taking even more youngsters on diving training and powerboat programmes.

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