



The Urge to Submerge



The Newsletter of Triton Divers

November 2005 Edition

NEXT CLUB MEETING 5 JANUARY 2006

The next monthly meeting will be in 2006 as we have the Christmas Ball on 10 December. So the next "normal" - if we can call them that - meeting, will be on 5 January 2006 at the Coast Bar, Royal Beach Hotel. **Please let us know if you will be coming.**

HALLOWEEN



Maz - you are one scary witch!

What an amazing party we had! The Halloween party on Friday 28th October was one of the best functions of the year with loads of members dressing up in fancy dress for the occasion. We counted 85 in total, which is a good turnout especially for a Friday night function. Many, many thanks to everyone who helped get the Coast bar prepared and looking suitably scary. Many thanks as well to Chris and Debs, who carried on the motion at their private abode for the after party. Having a fridge solely designated for the storage of cold beer has to be the way ahead! There are loads of photos on the website gallery and feel free to download and print them off to your hearts content if you wish. If you did not manage to get to the party make sure you get your name down for the next one.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Christmas Party is fast approaching and is set to be the biggest Triton social event yet! With 130 or so Triton Divers and friends now coming, there are no spaces left! If you have put your name down to come but have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible as we have a long list of reserves! **If we do not receive payment by the end of November, your seat will be offered to those on the reserve list!** A reminder too that this event will be held at the **Queens Hotel.**

PORTLAND TRIP

The Portland Trip at the end of this month is now full. There will be a report to follow in the next newsletter! We will be organising another weekend during December, dates to be confirmed. There are plenty of wrecks both in and out of the harbour, with depths varying between 20-50 metres. The cost of this weekend will be about £80 per person, including accommodation Friday and Saturday night and 2 dives a day.

MALDIVES LIVEBOARD



We have 15 spaces on a liveboard in the Maldives from 26 March - 3 April (actually flight arrives back in UK on 4 April). Cost of this package is £1100. The price includes flights, transfers, diving, accommodation and food. The boat is the M/Y Fathima. If you are interested in going contact the dive centre as soon as possible as this is expected to fill up very quickly. For more details about the boat go to www.fathima.info. In order to secure a space you will need to pay a deposit of £110.

DIVES COMING UP

SWANAGE PIER - 18th December

Fancy a pre-Christmas dip? Swanage pier is a great shore dive with lots of marine life to see such as anemones, hydroids and tunicates attached to the pier frame. The dive is easy to navigate and the shallow depths mean a longer dive time! You will need to get to the site early as it is hugely popular with divers. There is a cost for parking on the pier, and the Triton van will again be available for transport.

FUJI CAMERA STROBE NOW AVAILABLE



Fuji have at last produced a strobe unit for the Finepix 810 camera. Normally strobes come out at more expensive than the cameras but the RRP on this unit is only £159, less club discount of course. We are taking orders if anyone wants one.

COURSE SUCCESS

As usual we have had a very busy month with lots of divers attending courses. Congratulations to all

Open Water

Bev Garland, Daniel Smith, Danielle Gardner, Bryony Marchant, Isabel Noble, Lee Brown, William Ward, David Edwards, Christopher Berry

Advanced Open Water

Monika Siwek, David Thorne, Lee Shepherd, Daniel Bryant, Adrian Payne.

Rescue Diver

Paul Reilly, Hannah Reilly, Katie Hocking.

Emergency First Response

Gary Young, Nadia Chambers, Paul Reilly, Hanah Reilly, Katie Hocking,

Drysuit Speciality

Adrian Payne, Peter Brookes

Nitrox Speciality

Ruth Sims, Jamie Atrill, Catriona Sutherland, Sarah Stock

IANTD Advanced Nitrox

Mike Haw

IANTD Tech Diver

Kevin Staniland

EFR Instructor

Al Pearson, Jugsy Unsing, Mick Stewart, Mark Smith

MFA Care Initiator

Al Pearson, Jugsy Unsing, Mick Stewart, Mark Smith

CLUB POOL SESSIONS

Following the mention of Wednesday pool nights in the October newsletter, we have unfortunately had to cancel some of the sessions due to the fact that nobody has been booking to go! For the time being, club members are welcome to use Eastney pool on Thursday nights, provided that there is space. Please contact the centre if you wish to book for a Thursday night.

WOOLWICH PAYMENTS

If you pay your standing order through the Woolwich, we would be grateful if you could contact Bill at the centre, as we are trying to match up the reference numbers for payments with names! Thanks.

CLOTHING CLEARANCE

We are having a clearance sale on all dive wear in stock! There are ranges for both men and women including vests, T-shirts, fleeces and shorts by IQ, Fourth Element and Seadog. Prices start from just £10 for vest tops and £12 for T-shirts! Savings of up to 70% RRP.



Valentine Ball

The Triton Divers Valentine Ball will be held at the Royal Beach Hotel on Saturday 11th February 2006. Spaces at Triton social events have been filling up fast, so reserve your seats as soon as possible if you would like to attend. The cost for members will be £10, and for non-members £30, which includes a 3-course meal, wine and entertainment. It is not necessarily a romantic affair (unless you want it to be) so even if you don't have a valentine why not come along for another fun evening.



AMAZING CHRISTMAS OFFERS!



FUJI Finepix F810 with underwater housing ONLY £399.95!

Get your hands on this fantastic camera! Use it at your Christmas party as well as underwater... State of the art digital technology, 6.3 million effective pixels providing a maximum image size of an amazingly high resolution of 12.3 million recording pixels. 2.1inch widescreen LCD, better graphics interface, wide-angle 4x optical zoom complete with 40 metre full function underwater housing. **Price includes a massive 256MB memory card!**



Oceanic Flexia Drysuit + Storm Undersuit ONLY £475.00!

Save over £200 RRP! With the cold weather setting in for the next 6 months or so, get yourself kitted out in a drysuit and undersuit and stay warm year round! The Flexia drysuit features Oceanic's unique Bias Stretch Technology (B.S.T) offering maximum comfort and unrivalled flexibility. The storm undersuit features 3 layers, a windproof and breathable outer shell, a soft inner double fleece and a thinsulate thermal layer. This offer will only be available while stocks last so pop into the centre soon!

2006 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

We are planning a spectacular holiday schedule for 2006 with **8 trips abroad!** There will be something for everyone with dates year-round. The schedule will be published shortly and will be available online or from the centre.

MASTER SCUBA DIVER ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Master Scuba Diver is PADI's highest recreational diving certification. This is where the best of the best come to play because the dive possibilities are endless. To become a Master Scuba Diver you must log 50 dives and complete the following:

- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver (Or Have a Qualifying Certification From Another Training Organization)
- PADI Rescue Diver (Or Have a Qualifying Certification From Another Training Organization)
- Five PADI Specialty Diver courses

No one said prestige was easy to come by, but it is certainly well worth it. As a Master Scuba Diver your experience will open a new level of confidence whether you're diving local wrecks, quarries, reefs or exploring exciting dive environments around the world.

Achieving recognition as a 'black belt' of recreational scuba diving is amongst the most sought after diving accolades. If you choose to commit to the highest non-professional diver certification available through PADI, we will recognise your efforts by entering you into a monthly draw to win exciting **Master Scuba Diver prizes**. We will also enter you into a **Grand Prize Draw to win a 'scubalicious' diving holiday to Egypt**. To ensure you do not miss out on this fantastic offer, make sure that you forward your application, together with the downloadable voucher featured on this page, by the end of December 2006.

If you would like to accept the challenge, we are offering a special package of 5 PADI Speciality Courses from a choice of 15 with a 20% discount!

WRAYSBURY REPORT BY GARY COURT

Sunday morning soon came around, and yes you guessed it, it was raining (surprise, surprise) but it didn't dampen our spirits! 3 divers – Dave Withers, Adam Taylor and myself set out in the red bus. Despite the rain we were all looking forward to diving a new site, Wraysbury in Middlesex. After an easy trip up the A3 then a quick trip on the M25 we arrived at Wraysbury. On being told where to park the bus, we jumped out for a bacon buttie and a quick reekie of the lake. We soon decided which wrecks to visit and started to set up the kit. It didn't take us long before we were in the water and doing a weight check. We descended to a platform at about 6m to re-group and adjust kit where needed. The viz was less than good – almost no vis at all! The first wreck was a VW camper van, after a look around and a visit to 3 more wrecks, it was time to make our way to the surface. Time to get air fills and a post dive de-brief, a cup of tea and another bacon buttie, it was time to get back in the water. With one or two weight adjustments, it was back into the blue. The viz was less than on the 1st dive and made it hard work, the call for the compass was needed, but this didn't go without a hitch (more compass work needed by all)! In brief, Wraysbury was hard work and on a personal note I won't be rushing back! Just like to thank Triton for the use of the red bus. Looking forward to the next dive... Gary.

Thanks Gary for that report – the PADI Underwater Navigator Speciality is available when you want it!

DAHAB TRIP REPORT 13 – 20 NOVEMBER

Was this the third or the fourth time I had been to Egypt this year? It all blurs into one – hardly surprising when you consider that as a club we have had 6 trips (or was it 7?) this year. Anyway, we kind of like Dahab because of its relaxed atmosphere, superb diving and the friends we have made there. So we went back again. 25 of us this time - so over 100 club members have sampled the Egyptian delights in the last year. We left on 2 flights on the Sunday morning. Have to say, will go on Sundays in future – Gatwick is far less crowded, as was Sharm airport on the way back. The journey was pretty uneventful and by 9.00 in the evening everyone was in their rooms and the first bottle of Sakara was slipping down nicely. The old hands who had been before were off down the beach bars, but the new guys and the "couldn't be bothereds" stayed for the night – and most of the week in fact – in Totas bar. The first diving day was the usual mayhem issuing gear, weights, paperwork etc. The tech divers waited until last but it didn't matter – the best thing about Dahab is that you are on a relaxed timetable. Want another cup of coffee before you go diving – no problem. Brett managed to complete quite a few courses while he was there so thanks to him - 3 nitrox and a couple of advanced, as well as a Discover Scuba Diver. Even Filip – honorary club member and not very good kite surfer - tried his hand underwater and has now booked onto a course. The Tech divers dressed in black as much as possible and managed to look cool.... most of the time. Well it is the most important rule of diving after all. Two boats went to Gabr el Bint towards the end of the week – the first group saw the dolphins again... the second group didn't. Guess which one I was with. Catriona freaked herself out with a few big swells off the beach on the first day (not exactly pool like conditions Brett eh) ... then did the same again in the middle of the week as she tried to pass what appeared to be (or at least sounded like) a flock of seagulls through her intestinal tract. Other highlights included Ryan managing to weigh himself down with twin 12s and 2 x 12ltr stages on his back, on the beach. Priceless; oh for a camera at the right time ...as was his method of donning fins which consisted of turning upside down and sticking his feet in the air. Ryan.... try to remember the most important rule in scuba diving. And of course there were those who just couldn't resist the lure of Sharm. Jonathan feigned decompression sickness in order to get there for a few nights, Jim decided to leave his luggage behind just so he could get to have another night in Sharm and Dan and Fillip – well they just got a taxi. All the diving was once again quite superb as was the social life. We had some great diving, ate well, drank well and didn't spend too much money; now you might understand why we all love Dahab. Well done to all the guys who passed courses, (names are on the front page) especially the Tech guys, Kevin, Donk, Dan and Mini Me, and a particularly big slap on the back, once he gets off his arse, to Ryan for his week long "tanks on legs" impression and perseverance with some pretty demanding diving. Bet you wish you had worn a wetsuit for those long deco dives! Finally many thanks to my good mate Ed and all his team at Poseidon. Everyone loved it and we'll definitely be back next year. Photos are available on the website Gallery.