

CLUB MEETINGS

There is no club meeting in November as we will be having the Halloween party on 1 November in the Royal Beach. We have sold over 100 tickets, so this looks like being the best Halloween party we have ever had. It is now full – the venue cannot take anymore and there are no “tickets on the door” **Please bring your tickets with you.** There is no club meeting in December either due to the Christmas Ball so, the next “normal” club meeting will be in the Coast Bar on 6 January 2009 (blimey that year has gone quickly!). As usual, please let us know if you are coming.

TRAINING

Things generally start to slow down a little bit in October, but here at Triton there is still plenty happening on the training front. Many congratulations to everyone who successfully qualified on the following training programmes.

Open Water

Sian Patrick, Ryan Lloyd-Davis, Leslie Heaton, Rajesh Singh, Peter Barnes, Tasha Moore, Dave Standley, David Woods, Laura Pickstock

Advanced Open Water

Robert Witham, Stuart Poulding, Thomas Ruddell, Paul Newton

Rescue Diver

Brett Amm, Kat Palimisano

Enriched Air Nitrox

Brett Amm, Pauline Kenny, Paul Newton, Robert Witham

BARGAIN OFFER KINETIX FINS



Not sure why, but Scubapro have just lowered the price of the Kinetix Fin. This fin was highly rated during a diving magazine test, getting 5 stars out of 5. Normally these fins cost £60 but we have a load for sale at £30 for club members while stocks last. So, if you are looking for a new pair of fins, or want to upgrade, why not come and grab a pair of Kinetix at half price.

TONY GROOM PRESENTATION AND CLUB NIGHT



The October Club night was combined with a presentation by Tony Groom and was a great success. For those of you that missed it, Tony is an ex-Navy Clearance Diver who served in the Falklands and many other places around the world before becoming a commercial diver and now an author. His first book “Diver” is selling well. We were Tony’s biggest audience to date by a long way – but then I think we were only his second ever presentation, so he can be forgiven for being a bit nervous. However, his presentation was excellent and he had the audience of 60 or more enthralled with anecdotes and “funnies”. Unfortunately, after about an hour, the food came out so I was forced to cut the presentation short before he got on to his life as a commercial diver. An indication of how much the evening was enjoyed by club members were the number of requests I had to get him back and finish off the presentation. I will see what I can do about that. What I didn’t know at the time, was that Tony’s website was so entertaining. Go to www.deep-sea-diving.com and there are loads of stories and pictures – kept me going for a while. I thoroughly recommend you have a browse and you can buy a signed copy of his book and a DVD if you have not already done so. From everyone at the club, many thanks Tony, and we wish you every success with the continued sales of the book and good luck at the Dive Show where you are going to be talking to an even bigger audience.

DIVING IN PORTLAND



A few of us decided to nip down to Portland for a few dives on the RIB in October. It now has grab handles all the way along it, making it easier to get in and out and we have to say, we love this boat. The wide design gives far more room than more traditional boats and the twin engines are really quiet. Our intention is to have a weekend club trip every month going out on the boat so if you want to go put your name down. In addition there are going to be 2 Wednesday trips every month. Details will be emailed and posted on facebook.

THE JOHN DORY



I have not really seen many of these, but interestingly, the ones that I have seen have all been in wrecks inside Portland Harbour. The first time was memorable as it was also the time I turned my first underwater camera into a very expensive spirit level. On that occasion the fish was sitting motionless inside the Countess of Erne. During the last trip to Portland, one of these little critters hung around the Landing Craft having his photograph taken for ages.



The John Dory has been held in almost mythological status for thousands of years, mainly because of its strange appearance. It has lots of long spines, a flat body and an unusual spot on its side. Legend has it that this is the thumb print of St Peter. It also

has sharp scales around the gills (not quite visible on this photograph). Nobody is quite sure where it's name comes from with Wikipedia suggesting everything from the name of a hero in a ballad to a derivation of the french word for yellow. Whatever the origins it is without a doubt one of our most peculiar species. The John Dory is widespread around the coastal waters of the UK, but it is on the endangered species, so although it doesn't move very fast, grows to an average of 6 lb and apparently makes very tasty eating don't think about grabbing it and taking it home. Instead, if you do see one, tell us where and take a photograph of it and we can try and set up a database of where these weird but wonderful creatures can be found.

GREAT SOUTH RUN



Once again, lots of club members put on their running shoes, and pounded the streets of Southsea and Portsmouth in this year's Great South run. The weather was absolutely diabolical it has to be said. The rain came down constantly and the wind was just right to smack you in the face over the last two mile stretch down the seafront – nice! But it was still well supported and everyone did well. It was nice to see so many club members running (including a large section of the Lamby clan) as well as a few ex-club members. Many thanks to everyone who supported, sponsored and otherwise encouraged. And a huge thanks to Sue, for keeping all our warm things nice and dry for when we finished. Big kiss

FACEBOOK GROUP

For a while now the club has had a facebook group. It is another means of communication and as the popularity of the traditional forum wanes, we are expecting it to become more popular. If you are on facebook, why not ask to join the Triton Group. It is a great opportunity to post videos and photos, contact other club members and generally get involved in what the club is doing.

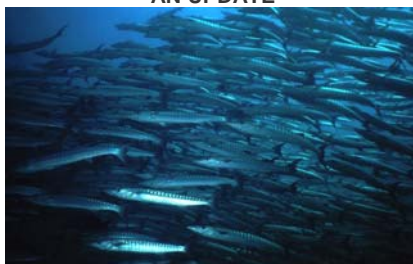
CHRISTMAS BALL



The Christmas Ball is pretty full and we have had nearly all the menu returns. Unfortunately some of you sent in the form to tell us what you wanted to eat, but forgot to enclose the cheque to pay for it. We will contact you in due course but if you know

that you haven't sent the money can you please do so. Those of you who have requested accommodation, we have booked your rooms. Please note that you have to pay the hotel directly.

BORNEO 2008 AN UPDATE



14 of you have already booked for this trip and I know that many of you are still interested so I thought I would let you have the latest update in terms of package details and prices. As a result of an horrendous journey back from Galapagos (I think I mentioned that!) I have included an overnight stop in Kuala Lumpur both ways. This has effectively extended the trip by a day. Here is the final package that we have sorted out with Dive Worldwide:

BORNEO ITINERARY

29 Aug Depart on MH003 at 1200 from London arriving in KL at 0725 next day

30 Aug 1 night (24 hours) in KL (hotel cost is still to be confirmed but in region of £45)

31 Aug Depart on MH080 at 0900 from KL arriving to Kota Kinabalu at 1135

31 Aug Then take MH2137 from Kota Kinabalu at 1315 arriving in Tawau at 1400. From there we will take a bus and a ferry (about 1 hour 45 minutes) to Mabul Island



Upon arrival in the resort there will be a short briefing and then you check into your rooms. We then have 3 boat dives a day (except on the last day which is two due to flight restrictions) and as many shore dives as you can manage. All meals are included at the resort.

10 Sep Back on the ferry and the bus to Tawau airport. Depart on MH 2134 from Tawau at 1440 arriving in Kota Kinabalu at 1530. We then take flight MH709 from Kota Kinabalu at 1840 arriving in KL at 2105. As it is late at night we will check

into a hotel closer to the airport for the night. (again price to be confirmed)

11 Sep Depart on MH004 from Kuala Lumpur at 1005, arriving in London the same day at 1605.

Those of you who have already paid deposits, the cost has not changed except for the addition of the hotel in KL. For new bookings there has been an increase as the seats on the flight are getting booked. The total cost of the package, for as long as the flight seats at the new rate are available is:

Diver in twin shared room twin £2109
Non diver in a twin £1886
Diver in a single room £2614
Non diver single £2279

This is because the "S" class tickets are no longer available and we are now onto "B" class – whatever that means.



Like I said the only additional costs will be around £90-100 for the two nights accommodation in KL on the way there and back, transfers to that hotel, and drink in the resort.

ADD ON PACKAGES

A few of you asked about these and we have sorted them out with Dive Worldwide. There are 2 "add on" packages on offer, a 7 day tour (which is £700 per person) and you would get back on 17 September, and a 2 day, one night tour at around £200 per person to Sepilok, which can be bolted onto the end and means you return on 12 September. I have all the details of these. So it is looking good for next year. Remember that at the moment I only have 20 bed spaces booked in the resort so if you want to go please let me know as soon as possible.

COMING IN NEXT MONTHS NEWSLETTER

The Marathon de Sables – I am undertaking the toughest endurance race on foot. Find out just how mad I am and exactly what I am going to be doing for charity.

Instructor Development Course Report – We have our third IDC of the year starting at the beginning of November – we will let you know how the candidates get on.

Halloween – All the news and photos from the biggest Halloween party we have ever had.

The best training - from the premier dive centre in Portsmouth