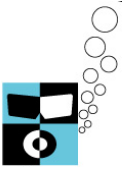




The Urge to Submerge



The Newsletter of Triton Divers

October 2006 Edition

NEXT CLUB MEETING 11 JANUARY 2007

It seems like a long way off but the next "normal" club meeting is on Thursday 11 January next year in the Coast bar of the Royal Beach hotel. With a Halloween party and the Christmas Ball taking place at end of October and December the next opportunity for a get together after that will be in January. **NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND THURSDAY IN JANUARY, NOT THE FIRST.** Although there is plenty of time to do so, please let us know as usual if you are coming.

CLUB DONATION TO Mt MAYON APPEAL

In the last newsletter we mentioned an appeal by Noel Se in support of the Mt Mayon disaster in the Philippines. Many thanks to all of you who helped raise £100 at the last club night. We had added a further £100 from the charity fund. Noel has asked us to pass on his thanks and gratitude to everyone in the club who donated money. No problem Noel.

PORTLAND WEEKEND



Several members of the club joined forces with the university dive club for a trip to Portland over the weekend 21/22 October. With the seas around the Solent getting rougher and the viz virtually at zero it was great to have a few metres of viz in the harbour. We dived the Dredger, Countess, Bombard unit and the Landing craft. The weekend was great fun and also great value at £15 a dive with Fathom and Blues and £20 a night for accommodation. Highlights apart from the diving – Monika doing the penguin dance, Louise feeding the fish with her breakfast ... (photographic evidence below)



.... Felipe popping up by the Hood when we weren't supposed to be there and the pungent smell of curry on the Sunday morning. We will hopefully be running a few more trips to Portland over the winter so keep your eye on the website for details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL GILL

Some of you may know Mick – he is the skipper of Buccaneer when Pete is away. Well we thought he should learn how to dive given that he is driving a dive boat, so he joined us on one of the courses and is now an Open Water Diver. Well done Mick.

THE GREAT SOUTH RUN 22 OCTOBER 2006



5 club members completed the Great South Run on Sunday 22 October, raising loads of money for the Lifeboats. Well done to Andi, the Rt Hon, Trina and Wyndham on completing the challenge. Many thanks to those of you who braved the appalling weather conditions to come out and support us as we ran around the course. It was appreciated and does help as you try to drag your carcass around the course.



Total money either collected or pledged so far is around **£800**. Can I ask those of you who have promised sponsorship to get your money to the runners as soon as possible so that we don't have to chase it up and we can get it to the RNLI as quickly as possible.

TRY DIVES FOR ENHAM ALAMEIN



Enham Alamein is a charity organization that provides adults with disabilities opportunities to make choices for a fulfilling life. For some time we have been working with them to see how we can help; clearly the first aid and diving training opportunities that we could offer were just the sort of thing they were looking for. So, it was great news that we finally managed to "team up" with them and get 9 young adults into the water for a try dive this month. None of them had ever tried anything like scuba diving and they were quite simply raving about it. We hope to develop this relationship with Enham over time.

OCTOBER COURSE SUCCESSSES

Well done to the following who have completed courses with us in October.

Open Water Referral

Doug Innes, Josh Richardson

Open Water

Simon Bates, Paul Murray, Paul Alison, Paul Waghorn, Pete Yeomans, Danielle Moore, James Moore, Michael Gill, Vicki Sillince

Advanced Open Water

Pete Yeomans, Simon Bates, Kevin Piotrowicz

Rescue Diver

Gary Young, James Oliver, James Spiers, Martin Spiers

Nitrox

Terry Oliver

Drysuit

Barry Fradgely, Nigel Clay

EFR

David Ray (secondary care), James Oliver, Chris Symes, Georgina Lewis, Martin Spiers

EFR Care for Children

Tina Haw, Paul Kimbley, Alex Morris

EFR Instructor



Ian Rose, Paul Kimbley, Alex Morris, Tina Haw, Jenny Long

Dive Show Weekend

The big sale over the last dive show weekend was a great success with lots of club members picking up a bargain as well as a sausage roll or two. In fact, it was such a success that we have decided to run another sale weekend on **16 and 17 December**. This sale will be for club members only and will be a good opportunity to pick up those last minute purchases for Christmas.

WATCH OUT FOR 2007 HOLIDAY DETAILS IN NOVEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Watch out for the plans for next years club trips in the November edition of the newsletter. I am popping off to the DEMA show in Orlando at the beginning of November (I know, but someone has to do it) and have arranged to meet a few people from some of the resorts that we are planning to go to. Hopefully I will be able to "team up" with one or 2 in order to get the best prices. The plan at the moment is to try to arrange the following Dahab, Liveaboard in Red Sea, Ireland, and for the big one, either Belize or Mexico both of which have plenty to do for non-divers as well as divers. No doubt there will be a few short trips thrown in as well.

Gozo Trip Report



The club trip to Gozo was from 1 – 8 October yes Ben and Emma, I said the 1st October. Ok I promise not to mention the fact that they turned up to leave a day early anymore. Anyway, 18 club members and a couple of hangers on from Glasgow sampled the diving delights of this magical island for a week. We flew BA as the timings were a bit more sociable and arrived in Malta mid afternoon. A white knuckle minibus ride to the harbour saw us onto the ferry and across the short stretch of water to Gozo. The first day of diving was in Hondoq, a local site just to make sure every ones buoyancy was ok and to dust out any cobwebs. However on the second day we were straight into it with a day on the boat diving off Comino Island. 38 dive tanks, 19 sets of gear, 21 people and a very small boat. The logistics were interesting but it worked. Dive 3 of the holiday and we were straight into our first cavern dive, with a lovely descent through a chimney and under the peninsula, into clear blue seas. Day 2 and the juices were already flowing. Our dive guide, the lovely Sharon (a midwife by night and a dive guide by day – not sure when she got time to sleep) assured us that it was going to get even



better. Marine life was not brilliant, even though Lou tried her hardest at attracting them by regurgitating her breakfast on the dive boat but the topography made up for it on every dive. As we went on throughout the week we were constantly treated to wonderful swim throughs, arches and caverns on every dive. The images in the gallery do not really show the amazing blue colours that greeted us as we came through each of the tunnels. Evenings were taking a pretty familiar pattern by this time - finish diving, wash kit, go to shop, buy alcohol, shower, sit by pool and drink alcohol, walk to restaurant, eat, drink more, order sambuka's, set light to it, order more sambuka, continue the motion until your head hurts or you burn your finger! .. and so on



...Gozo continued

Day 3 was a treat. A bit of a drive to the inland sea, an inland "lake" fed by a crack in the rock (words fail, see the pictures). The deep blue going through the crack was incredible.



On the far side in 30m we watched Tuna feeding on a bait ball - see there are fish in the med! After lunch it was over the other side of the hill to the famous blue hole. Getting in was a bit interesting, especially without booties on, but it is a lovely dive and well worth the effort

Day 4 and we went to the North of the island at the same time as the wind shifted from that direction. The first dive site was too rough for us to go in, but we amused ourselves for a good 30 minutes watching some brave (or was it foolhardy) divers negotiate some precarious rocks and plunge into surf that was quite scary. The whole gang hung



around on the off chance of a bit of carnage and splattering on the cliffs, but it didn't happen. With mutterings of "barking mad" and "you wouldn't get me doing that" ... etc etc we then went to the next site, climbed down loads of rickety and dangerous steps with heavy gear on and jumped into water which was absolutely teeming with nasty little jellyfish which gave a painful sting. It was worth the pain however to have the opportunity to dive into Cathedral cave, a huge cavern into which we surfaced.



As a result of some pretty incredible storms we abandoned Gozo on the last day of diving and took to the boat again. First off was the wreck of the Rosie; fantastic viz plenty to see – a really nice dive. Then it was back over to Comino for another 2 cavern dives to finish off the week. All in all, Gozo turned out to be a fantastic trip. Only a couple of people on the trip had been before but we all agreed that the diving was excellent, the accommodation superb, and entertainment while quiet, was good and well priced. The bottom line – yes we would all go again. Many thanks to everyone at Blue Waters Dive Centre, especially Rick and Sharon for their guiding and making it so enjoyable. More photos are available on the website gallery.

HALLOWEEN PARTY 28 OCTOBER



It was another classic event! The Halloween party attracted a whole range of characters; everyone from Jigsaw, (as in the film SAW), Batman, a Roman Centurion and even a panto horse! The Coast bar was transformed in the afternoon by Donk, Tina and Mel and many thanks to them for all their efforts. Also thanks to Maz for the loan of many of the decorations. With the help of some firemen who dropped by to say hello, Katie actually managed to mount the panto horse (and danced with Kevan even though she said she wouldn't), however, one of the scariest moments of the whole night was Kevan trying to teach Donk (not dressed in drag for a change) how to dance.



Photographs from the event have been published in the gallery on the website so feel free to download them if you want copies. Any other club members who have pictures (especially the embarrassing ones) they might want to publish let me have them and I will stick them up.

CHRISTMAS BALL 2 DECEMBER

The Christmas ball is taking place in the Royal Beach Hotel on 2 December. At the moment it is fully subscribed and there is a waiting list of people who want to go but at the moment do not have a space. The majority of club members have yet to pay for the function. Cost is **ONLY £10** for club members and £35 for guests. Can you please let us have payment by either cash or cheque payable to "Triton Divers" by 14 November. If we do not receive payment by this time we will assume that you are no longer able to go to the ball and your place will be given to one of the reserves.