



The Urge to Submerge



The Newsletter of Triton Divers

May 2006 Edition

NEXT CLUB MEETING

1 JUNE 2006

The next club meeting is on 1 June in the Coast Bar of the Royal Beach Hotel. Menu for the night is Steak and Ale pie with veg. **Please let us know if you will be coming.** Veggie meals are available but we need to pre book so again, let us know.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMBO

After attending the digital underwater photography (DUP) instructors course we thought that there were a couple of problems with it and we put these to PADI. For example, how was it possible to undertake dive 1 of the photography course after the skills of Open Water course dive 4 had been completed, when it was not allowed to add the photography dive after completing the skills in any of the adventure dives. Well PADI listened to what we said and there have been some amendments made. Dive 1 of the DUP course can now be combined with any of the adventure dives. Dive 2 can then be completed as an adventure dive in its own right. This means that you can combine the DUP course with the Advanced Open Water. We also suggested to PADI that a specific liability release form that covers taking photographs in public places is produced. They have taken this on board and a form will be disseminated in due course.

BIG CHANGES TO NITROX COURSE SAVES YOU MONEY – NOW ONLY £75



Nitrox is great stuff and now it is even easier to get your nitrox certification. PADI have looked at the course and decided that the qualifying dives are no longer required. Instead a pre-dive and post dive simulation exercise is required where students demonstrate the ability to analyse gases, plan enriched air dives and calculate oxygen uptake. What does this mean to you? Well basically, having taken out the diving element, it reduces our costs significantly and we are in a position to reduce the price of the course. The nitrox course now costs **only** £95 to non-club members and an incredible **£75** to club members. For details about undertaking the nitrox training package call the dive centre.

PADI AWARDS

Many congratulations to our Tony Medley who was recently given a Bronze award by PADI for achieving a large number of certifications over the past year. And while we are in the mood for blowing smoke up various bottoms, just thought I would let you know that yours truly also got a certificate for certifying over 100 students last year as well and on top of that a silver sticker (gasp in shock and awe) for over 50 instructor level certifications.

RUNNING FOR THE RNLI



A team of 7 runners from the club are going to be running the Great South Run for the RNLI in October. Brett Maton, Catriona Sutherland, James Douglas, Chris Gambs, Wyndham Lucas, Andrea Davies and yours truly are going to be putting our best foot forward so show your support by sponsoring us and cheering on the day. More details on the run later and you never know, there may even be a report from Brett on how his training is going if he can find his running shoes.

TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT



Myself and Ian went back to school at the end of the month. However, it was not to learn on this occasion. We made a visit to Wimborne School in Southsea to introduce Water Watch week and talk about marine conservation. Many thanks to club member Carolyn Butler, who kindly invited us along as a way of introducing water watch week. The school intends to get up to some activities in support of the event after half term.

£1500 TOWARDS OUR CHARITIES



We have been raising a lot of money for charity so far this year and handed some of it over this month. All 3 of our charities received cheques for £500. Pictured above is a cheque for £500 which was donated to Project AWARE. Cheques of £500 were also sent to Rowans Hospice and the Rainbow Centre.

COURSE SUCCESS

Well done to the following who have completed courses:

Open Water

Amy Green, Chris Sergeant, Germano Soru, Sam Bonnick, Robert Taylor, Daniel Llewelyn, Conor Brown, Stephanie Bray, Baran Geyik, Onur Goktan, George Miller, Joe Seabrook, Nicola Gray, Graham Tullet, Stephen Jay, Laurence Wheeler, Ian Hamilton, Luke Sibley, Russell Sinclair, Claire McCulloch

Advanced Open Water

James Narine, Gary McLelland, Adam Threadingham, Alex Prew, John Fleetham, Robert Talbot, Jason Clarke

Drysuit Speciality

Richard Pyle, Vera Ray, David Ray

Nitrox Speciality

John Fleetham

DPV Speciality

Steve Smith

Scientific Diving Techniques

Robert Davey, Adam Threadingham, James Narine, Gary McLelland, James Coriette, David Tanner

Medic First Aid

Kevin Nelson, Kim Jones, Emma Shepherd

First Aid at Work

Pete Hulme, Mandy Cox, John Marchant, Ian Brown, Martin Walsh

FAW Instructors

Ian Brown, Mandy Cox, Martin Walsh

NORMANDY TRIP

There are still a couple of spaces on the Normandy trip in August. Last call before we let the spaces go out to non-club members. To remind you the cost of the trip is £500, which includes all diving, accommodation, breakfast, lunch and air fills.

BOAT BOOKINGS

Please note that we only charge you what we get charged for spaces on boats. We would therefore appreciate payment by cash or cheque. Payments for boats by card will incur a fee of £2.00. Can you also please remember that boat spaces must be paid for at the time of booking and that if you are unable to go it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

DIVES COMING UP

10 June - Rifle Wreck 32m
24 June - UB81 30m
25 June - Highland Brigade 23 – 28m
15 July - Mulberry Harbour 12m
29 July - Luis 16m



Bib around the Luis

TRITON BLOG

They seem to be all the rage, so we thought we should have one! I'm talking about a Blog. Short for Web Log (so I'm told – as you know I am a computer luddite), it is essentially a diary that people can contribute to. We have set one up with a link from the website and a few people have been asked to be contributors. The Blog will archive news items and is easier to use than changing the latest news section of the site every time something happens. The other aspect is that we can easily post blog news from anywhere in the world so you can get all the latest as soon as it happens. Ruth has posted some notes from Dahab to let us know what is going on. As it develops we hope the Blog will become quite amusing as well as informative so, why not take a look.

WATER WATCH WEEK AND DIVE WEEKEND 17/18 JUNE 2006



Some of the helpers in 2005

We have got together with Blue Reef Aquarium to promote our water watch week project. At the same time we will have a stand promoting diving over the weekend of 17/18 June. We did this last year and it was a great success with lots of children finding out a bit more about the underwater environment and diving in general. If you would like to help man the stand on 17/18 June, even if it is only for an hour or so it would be appreciated. All you have to do is talk to children about what it is like being underwater, how the equipment works, and how they can become divers when they are old enough. Everyone who helped out last year enjoyed themselves, so if you would like to lend a hand please let me know. Refreshments and transport provided.

CLUB TRIP TO DAHAB 21 – 28 MAY

We arrived in Dahab at about 9pm. We were all staying at the Coral Coast Hotel which is at the northern end of Dahab. The restaurant and grounds of the hotel are very nice and we spent quite a few evenings sat out on the terrace. However on the first night we headed straight for our normal stomping ground of Totas. All of us that had been before agreed that it felt like we'd never left.

We took the first day nice and easy but I think from then on most people did three dives a day; so most evenings ended in a few quiet drinks because everyone was so tired. Diving was once again superb and the relaxed atmosphere of the place makes it a fantastic place for a holiday break (which is why we have been going back for 4 years now)

DAHAB TRIP CONTINUED

On the Thursday we went out in one of the boats to Gabr el Bint. We had three lovely dives on a flat calm sea including one on the pristine coral of Gabel Soraya. After three more dives on Friday, we ate in the restaurant - lovely food, which set us up nicely for the last three dives on Saturday. These were repetitions of our favourite dives; Canyon, Bells to Blue Hole and then Eel Gardens – but with a twist, we swam to Lighthouse – unfortunately against a bit of current, so it turned into a bit of a forced march led by ex-marine Mark from Poseidon. Well worth it though as an Eagle Ray swam past. Saturday night's BBQ was a quieter affair than usual, but we made up for it in Tota's later. All in all another fantastic holiday even if Dahab is a little quieter than usual. Apart from shrapnel marks in the pavement there's not much evidence left of any bomb damage and everyone seems to be carrying on with life as usual. Many thanks to the Poseidon Team, I'm sure we'll see you all again soon.

SURFACE MARKER BUOY WORKSHOP 11 JUNE 2006



The SMB workshops are very popular with club members and we have been asked about putting on another one. The date will be Sunday 11 June. The purpose of the programme is to introduce divers to the equipment, procedures for using SMBs, and maintenance and selection of equipment. It is also an opportunity to use a wide range of reels and bags before you buy one. The cost to club members? It is **free**. All you have to do is pay for your entry fee into Horsea and hire gear if you need it. There are 8 spaces available on the workshop so if you would like to go, please let me know in the shop asp.

HALF TERM TRY DIVES

We have always enjoyed giving some time towards promoting scuba diving to youngsters and normally we do this at half term. This time it was some of the lads from City Boys schools who took advantage of the opportunity to try scuba diving. The school booked Springfield pool for 4 hours and we did the rest.

All the boys enjoyed the experience and we look forward to seeing as many of them as possible on Open Water courses in due course.



DIVING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME HORSEA - 10 JUNE 2006

We mentioned last month that we were introducing a Diver Experience programme for club members. The first date for this will be 10 June. The purpose of the programme is to allow newly qualified (or slightly rusty divers) the opportunity to gain experience in a familiar environment under the guidance of a qualified instructor. The instructor will be on hand to offer tips help and advice as well as guide you around the lake to sites that you may well not have seen yet. There are 8 spaces available and the cost is £31, which covers entry fees and equipment. If you would like to go please let me know in the dive centre.

UNIQUE DISTINCTIVE SPECIALITY COURSE GAINS APPROVAL



May saw a new course being put into the Triton programme. The Scientific Diving Techniques course was written by us and is designed to give people an insight into some of scientific and commercial diving techniques in use. The 4-day course is mainly aimed at university students who may well be working in water or with other divers, such as in marine biology, environmental science and marine engineering. While not a commercial course, it does allow students to understand the difficulties involved including the legislation, logistics and communication problems associated with commercial diving operations. Underwater survey, construction techniques and multiple lift bag operations are just some of the subject covered. Many congratulations to the first 6 students to gain this unique qualification.

SOUTHSEA SHOW – 4/5/6 AUGUST 2006



We will once again be exhibiting at the Southsea Show and conducting try dives in our heated swimming pool. The weekend is always good fun and we rely heavily on volunteers. So, if you are free on any of the days, or you are able to help during the build up and break down stages (2 – 8 August) can you let us know. We can promise a lot of fun, plenty of parties, food and drink provided and a great foam party and barbeque on the last evening.