

# The Hyperbaric Times

## A Message From The Editor

Welcome to new issue of the Hyperbaric Times.

We have a full packed edition with stories and dive reports.

You will find a list on the various social events that have so far been arranged for this year. If there is anything that you would like to see happen that doesn't appear on the list then let Irina know and she'll see what she can do about arranging it.

Can I bring to your attention to the published AGM agenda and the proposed constitutional changes on pages 10 to 13

Finally, the Diving Schedule has recently been updated so take a look at it to see what's on offer. If you're interested in joining one of the dives then contact either Mike Wade (Orientation Dives) or Morag Ward (Club Dives) to check availability. Even if the dive is full it's still worth contacting them as spaces often become available nearer the time and a reserve list is always held.

Happy diving.

Caroline



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The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are personal and should not be taken as representative of The Diving Club or its Committee, unless specifically stipulated to do so.

## Monterey, California US of A

I was fortunate enough to negotiate some time off during a business trip to Silicon Valley this April and drove down to Monterey with a 'trunk' full of dive kit – still wet from Swanage the previous weekend.

Monterey is known as one of the best dive locations in the US for marine life. It's famous for sea lions, otters and whales plus the massively tall kelp forests. The kelp can grow to 175 ft high at a rate of 1 – 2 ft per day.

It also seems to be star fish and nudibranch city.

I had arranged 2 guided dives with the Monterey Bay Dive Company <http://www.mbdscuba.com/>. A one-on-one guided dive was \$89 plus tanks, air and weights. The whole thing came to \$125 plus a \$10 entrance fee for one of the dives as it was from Point Lobos which is a State reserve. With the current exchange rate that's about £65 all in.



So, my dive guide and I are heading south for the short drive to Point Lobos which is on the south side of the peninsula and technically in Carmel (the posh end). It was then that I realized that in reconfiguring my regs for a single tank setup I had forgotten one of the inflator hoses – well, I don't often dive a single tank with a dry suit these days. No problem, I'll use the one inflator for my suit and I'll manually inflate the BC. My dive guide was starting to get nervous!

Point Lobos is a great location and we went to a cove called Whalers Cove which had a rather macabre past up until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Shore diving is hard work! Much easier to jump off a boat and down to a wreck. In Whalers Cove there is a large surge which made entering down the small, greasy slipway a real matter of timing. The surge rose about 4 feet and if it caught you it would take you a good 30 feet sideways. Potential for great embarrassment!

We got in the water, 9°C, and started a 200 yard swim to the mouth of the cove. This was hard work. The surge was bad enough but floating kelp didn't help. The kelp gets dislodged in the winter and we had to break through remnants floating on the surface. They can really wrap you up.

Underwater the surge persisted and made photography a little tricky. I managed to get some nice shots of Nudibranchs though. The water was a little murky but plenty of light and a pleasant change from the previous weekend in Swanage. There is a form of sunflower starfish with 24 legs which grow pretty large. I saw 2 of them over 2 ft across but they can grow to well over 1m.

The dive ended sooner than planned when my rented fin decided to slip its strap under my heel and take my drysuit boot with it. No option than to surface and sort it out. Not much point in going back down so another surface swim through the kelp back to the exit.



Unfortunately it was too early in the season for the kelp forests but the odd strand that had survived the winter gave me an impression of just how impressive it would be in peak season. Around July/August I think.

Dive 2 was off the beach back in Monterey, opposite the dive centre. We kitted up in the carpark and walked the 100 yards across the sand to the water. Another surface swim!

At the appropriate moment my guide indicated to descend and we dropped to the seabed at around 13m (similar to dive 1) where there were a few rocks and not much else. We then found a pipeline which was obviously the route to the giant anemones we were going to see. Saw some very large and spectacular Nudibranchs along the way. The anemones were indeed giants. A bit like plumrose anemones but pure white, about 2 – 3ft high with a trunk about 6 inches across. My little point-and-shoot camera just couldn't capture them – couldn't get them all in shot when close up and couldn't see them from far way due to the viz.

If you are around San Francisco I would recommend a trip down to Monterey. About 125 miles down highway 101. If you can get a dive that's great, otherwise there is a fantastic aquarium, fisherman's warf and scenic drives. If you're into motorbikes, there is also the Laguna Seca raceway on the outskirts that hold Moto GP and American Superbikes around June. I did it last year – awesome!

Monterey turned out to be a lesson in shore diving; long surface swims, strong surge and untangling yourself from the kelp – but well worth it. Need to do it again in the summer. Must sort out another 'business trip'!

By Nigel Stephenson



### 'We Been Divin' – Jamaica 2007

What has happened to our summer this year? We had reservations about booking a holiday in Jamaica for this time of year, it being their rainy season and yet we had two weeks of fantastic hot, sunny weather and we came home to dreadfully wet monsoon type rain! Oh to be divin in Jamaica and enjoying all their rum!

We booked the Royal Decameron Hotel at Runaway Bay, solely because we enjoyed diving with 'Jamaqua, We Be Divin' so much in 2004, not realising that they had moved five minutes up the road to Club Ambience. But this is 'no problem, Jamaica' and they arranged free, daily pickup from outside the security gate.

If ever anyone is staying in the Runaway Bay area of Jamaica, seek out these guys – you won't be disappointed! They are as friendly and knowledgeable as ever and will arrange the diving to suit your requirements. Our daughter, Kirsty, did her junior scuba with them in 2004 and they offer all the Padi courses. This year, Chris did Research Diver whilst I redid my Peak Performance Buoyancy. Dives are conducted in the mornings before the swell gets up, it can be very windy in the afternoon. Each day they offer a deep dive, followed by a shallow dive. Sometimes the boat stays out for the surface interval and at other times it returns for lesser qualified divers, or those just wanting a shallow dive. Pool sessions are then conducted in the afternoon. Often we would arrive at the dive centre and be given the choice of dive sites to visit.

Fruity and me on the Spanish Anchor dive.





The dives we went on were all very varied. My favourite being Spanish Anchor. An ancient anchor lies at 15 metres on top of a wall and its chain hangs over the wall and goes down to approximately 60 metres. The wall contains many huge barrel and cone sponges

We dived on a couple of wrecks, one of which being the Reggae Queen which is a 30 metre tugboat which was sunk to 18 metres as an artificial reef. There are a couple of interesting planes nearby, as well as a beautiful reef.



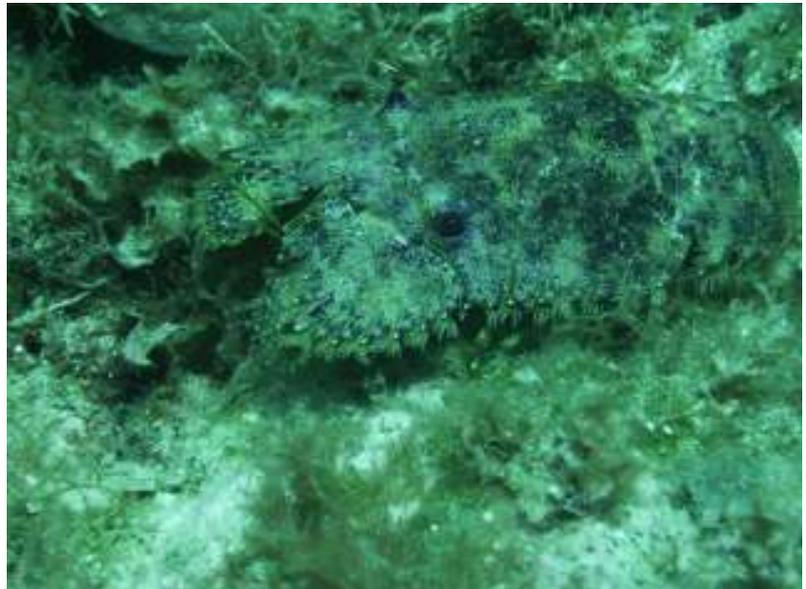
Huge Puffa fish by the bow of the Reggae Queen.

We enjoyed some shallow dives to 'The Garden', 'Silver Spray' and 'Pocket's Reef'. On these shallower dives we saw an abundance of pretty reef fish: Red Snappers, Sergeant Major Blue and Yellow Headed Wrasse, Spotted Drums, Fairy Baslets, Black Hamlets, Pipe and Trumpet fish, Squirrel Fish, Blue Chromis munching on jellyfish, French Angel Fish, Rock Hinds, Squid, Crabs, Lobster, a Flying Gunard, Peacock Flounders, some beautiful Banded Coral Shrimps and many more. Below are some of the best pictures



I read a letter to 'Diver' magazine on the plane out entitled 'weight a minute' which stressed the importance of proper weight checks and the failure of many dive centres to carry these out. I have been unhappy with my weighting for a while now and am aware, being that I only dive once a year that I should be asking for a weight check before I dive. It is embarrassing, however, to ask for this whilst keeping others waiting and many dive centres just add extra weight in order to ensure you sink rather than keep others waiting. This is ludicrous, however, as all that happens is that you end up drinking loads of air, tiring yourself out and having to surface early. Fruity, the instructor, who took us allowed plenty of time for new people to do a weight check and ensured their buoyancy was correct over sand before venturing on the reef. I found this attitude very refreshing. He also dives in a really relaxed manner, giving people the chance to really look at the reef and not rushing them or adopting the intimidating attitude that I have found with many dive centres where you feel you just have to keep up with those at the front. We are all taught in Padi Open Water to dive properly weighted and within our limitations but I believe on many dives this just doesn't happen. Fruity has a very professional attitude and makes every dive safe and enjoyable

Whilst diving we also saw our first Eagle Ray, although unfortunately it was way off in the distance. When diving there are always a few things you can't identify and this trip was no different. Here are two mystery photos which we would love feedback on. The first is what Fruity called a 'Lobster Mother' but he said this was a local name. I thought it looked a bit like a woodlouse! Can anyone identify it for us?



I wonder if anyone can settle an argument on this second photo? Chris said he thought this was an 'Arrow Crab' coming out of a sponge, whereas, I think it looks like some kind of shrimp.

Please email any suggestions to: [sunseekers@hotmail.com](mailto:sunseekers@hotmail.com) thank you

As well as recommending the diving, I would also thoroughly recommend visiting Jamaica. It is such a beautiful place and the people are so friendly. Although this was our third trip to Jamaica there was still plenty to do. It is such a large island and I still feel like we have only just scratched the surface. This time we did the ATV trip at Chukka Grove which was both scary and lots of fun. This was the first time I had ever driven an ATV, let alone off-road up steep mountain tracks strewn with boulders. We also did a cycle tour in the Blue Mountains to see how the famous Blue Mountain Coffee is made. This trip ended with a swim under one of the waterfalls. Other trips you can go on are: the Bob Marley tour; rafting, kayaking or tubing down the rapids; Dunn's River Falls; and a trip to Negril part of which includes watching the famous cliff divers at Rick's Café.

However, the best part of the whole holiday was the diving! Fruity and 'We Be Divin' really made the holiday special and we are very grateful to them for all they did. If you would like to dive with these guys you can find them on the internet at [www.jamaqua.com](http://www.jamaqua.com) They are only a small operation these days, as they have scaled down because the owners hope to retire in a few years time, but in some ways this makes them an even better option as they give the personal touch!

By Chris and Ingrid Wallace



# Notice of The Diving Club Annual General Meeting

The 2007 Annual General Meeting of

The Diving Club

Will be held at The Black Boy

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October, starting 7:30 pm

If you wish to include an agenda item, please submit to the Club by Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. Discussion may take place on items not appearing on the agenda but no business other than that concerned with items on the agenda shall be transacted.

The agenda shall be published in The Hyperbaric Times issue immediately prior to the AGM.

The Diving Club, Reading

**AGM 1st October 2007, 20:45hrs**

**Venue: The Black Boy Pub**

## **AGENDA**

**1 Acceptance of Minutes of the last AGM**

**2 Matter Arising from the minutes**

**3 End of year statements**

President

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Orientation Dive Organiser

Club Dive Organiser

Membership

Social

Webmaster

Publicity

**4 Proposed Changes to the Constitution**

**5 Agenda items raised by the membership\***

**6 Election of new Committee\*\***

\* Members wishing to add agenda items may do so by communicating them in writing to the Secretary no later than Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 17:00hrs. Any items submitted will be published on the club website prior to the AGM and added to the agenda for the meeting.

\*\* Each year the committee steps down and all posts are open for election with the exception of the President. The Secretary will be distributing nomination forms. Please feel free to contact any committee member if you wish to discuss any of the roles. It is important that the committee represents the whole membership and spectrum of diving; nominations are encouraged from anyone willing to commit time to contribute to the success of the club. Any member with 6 months membership may be nominated (12 months for the position of Chairman).

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DIVING CLUB CONSTITUTION

### Key to reading proposed changes:

The extracts below reference sections of the full constitution, available from the club website.

**Text that is proposed to be changed is prefixed with a sequence number and the words 'ORIGINAL TEXT', and is in a Bold Times Roman font. Underlined sections aid identification of specific changes.**

*Proposed replacement (new) text is prefixed with the words PROPOSED TEXT and highlighted in italics. Underlined sections aid identification of specific changes.*

Following the proposed text in Arial font and prefixed with the words 'REASON FOR CHANGE' is information outlining the primary reason for the change.

### Section 3: Membership

#### 3.2 Eligibility and Rights

All members whose subscriptions are paid up, and honorary members may:

##### 1. ORIGINAL TEXT: Participate in any Club organised diving or social event

**PROPOSED TEXT:** *Participate in any Club organised diving or social event subject to the conditions set out in the 'Guidelines for Club Dives' and 'Children and Young People Guidelines' as agreed by the committee and published on the Club website;*

REASON FOR CHANGE: Ensure the club operates in the best interests and safety of individual members and tracks latest best practice in these areas on an ongoing basis.

##### 2. ORIGINAL TEXT: Receive the monthly Club newsletter, The Hyperbaric Times;

*PROPOSED TEXT: Receive the Club newsletter, The Hyperbaric Times;*

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club members.

##### 3. NEW TEXT: Gain access to the 'Members' area of the Club website

### Section 4: Subscriptions and Payments

**d) 4. ORIGINAL TEXT: A deposit is required to book a place on a dive or social event and shall be non refundable. Full payment is required one month prior to the dive or social event. In the event that the member cancels a diving place, the member is responsible for full payment or to find a replacement diver of a similar or higher experience/qualification.**

**PROPOSED TEXT:** *Full, non refundable payment is required at time of booking for club organised dives and social events unless otherwise stated by the organiser of the activity. In the event that the member cancels a diving or social event place, or is unable to attend, the member remains responsible for full payment.*

REASON FOR CHANGE: provides flexibility for the club committee in the running of events including payment structures. Intent is to minimise financial risk to the club where appropriate and increase availability on future dives.

### Section 6: Guests

**5. ORIGINAL TEXT: Guests are entitled to accompany Members on diving trips and social events provided appropriate fees have been paid in advance of the event. Members shall have exclusive access to club dives for a period of 6 weeks after the dive is advertised provided the dive is organised more than six weeks in advance.**

**PROPOSED TEXT:** *At the discretion of the organiser, guests are entitled to accompany Members on diving trips and social events provided appropriate fees have been paid in full at time of booking and in advance of the event.*

REASON FOR CHANGE: ensure priority of club members to club activities whilst maintaining flexibility for members to invite guests on an occasional basis.

## Section 9: Election to Management of the Club

Nominations for election must be provided in writing to the Club Secretary not less than 14 days prior to the date of the AGM:

**6 ORIGINAL TEXT:** The nomination list shall be posted on the notice board seven calendar days before the AGM of the Club;

**PROPOSED TEXT:** The nomination list shall be posted on the Club website seven calendar days before the AGM of the Club;

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for contacting club members.

**d) 7 ORIGINAL TEXT:** All election results shall be notified to Club Members not more than 28 days following the AGM by publication in The Hyperbaric Times and on the Club notice board.

**PROPOSED TEXT:** All election results shall be notified to Club Members not more than 28 days following the AGM by publication in The Hyperbaric Times and/or on the Club website

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club members.

## Section 11: Meetings

### 11.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**8 ORIGINAL TEXT:** Notice of the AGM shall be given in The Hyperbaric Times at least two months in advance of the AGM.

**PROPOSED TEXT:** Notice of the AGM shall be given on the Club website and members notified by email at least two months in advance of the AGM.

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club members.

**9 ORIGINAL TEXT:** Items for the agenda shall be submitted to the Club Secretary with at least 5 days notice before the copy date of The Hyperbaric Times prior to the AGM. Discussion may take place on items not appearing on the agenda but no business other than that concerned with items on the agenda shall be transacted.

**PROPOSED TEXT:** Items for the agenda shall be submitted to the Club Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM. Discussion may take place on items not appearing on the agenda but no business other than that concerned with items on the agenda shall be transacted.

REASON FOR CHANGE: Leverage electronic media to remove the restriction of linkage to HBT publication and establish a more specific and more easily conveyed 'due by' date.

**10 ORIGINAL TEXT:** The agenda shall be published in The Hyperbaric Times issue immediately prior to the AGM.

**PROPOSED TEXT:** The agenda shall be published on the Club website and notified to members by email at least 7 days prior to the AGM.

REASON FOR CHANGE: Leverage electronic media to remove the restriction of linkage to HBT publication and establish a more specific and more easily conveyed 'due by' date.

### 11.3 Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM)

The Committee may summon an EGM at any time.

**11 ORIGINAL TEXT:** Any member of the club may summon an EGM and shall do so on a written request to the Club Secretary signed by not less than 20 members. Not less than 28 calendar day's notice of such a meeting shall be given. The reason for the meeting and agenda should appear on the notice board 21 days before the meeting.

**PROPOSED TEXT:** Any member of the club may summon an EGM and shall do so on a written request to the Club Secretary signed by not less than 20 members. Not less than 28 calendar day's notice of such a meeting shall be given. The reason for the meeting and agenda should appear on the Club website 21 days before the meeting

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club

members.

## 11.4 Minutes

**12 ORIGINAL TEXT:** Minutes shall be kept of all Committee meetings and a summary published in The Hyperbaric Times..

*PROPOSED TEXT:* Minutes shall be kept of all Committee meetings and a summary published on the Club website.

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club members.

**13 ORIGINAL TEXT:** Minutes shall be kept of Annual and Emergency General Meetings and a summary published in The Hyperbaric Times.

*PROPOSED TEXT:* Minutes shall be kept of Annual and Emergency General Meetings and a summary published on the Club website.

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club members.

## Section 12: Safety

The club is committed to the safety of its members and guests. To ensure that safety is practiced, Dive Organisers expect that:

**14 ORIGINAL TEXT:** There will be no solo diving;

*PROPOSED DELETION:* Delete this text

REASON FOR CHANGE: Believed to be contrary to a policy of members diving to their certification level, which may now include this certification.

*15 NEW TEXT:* All diving is carried out in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Club Dives' as published on the club website.

REASON FOR CHANGE: Ensure the club operates in the best interests and safety of individual members and tracks latest best practice in these areas on an ongoing basis.

## Section 13: Constitution

**16 ORIGINAL TEXT:** No alterations shall be made to the Constitution except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose and after a notice of the proposed alterations has been posted on the Club notice board for a period of not less than 28 calendar days and after a notice of the proposed alterations has been posted in one Hyperbaric Times.

*PROPOSED TEXT:* No alterations shall be made to the Constitution except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose and after a notice of the proposed alterations has been posted on the Club website for a period of not less than 28 calendar days and after a notice of the proposed alterations has been communicated to members by email.

REASON FOR CHANGE: practicality and emergence of electronic media as a means for communicating with club members.

## Social Events Calendar

Here is the list of up coming events:

6<sup>th</sup> August Black Boy food night

19<sup>th</sup> August National Maritime Museum in London

For all social events please see the website for more details or contact Irina

Irina  
social@thedivingclub.co.uk

## Diving Schedule 2006

Start Date	Days	Venue	Free Spaces	Description
<a href="#">04/08/07</a>	2	<a href="#">Swanage (OW)</a>	1 sun	<b>Location:</b> Swanage <b>Boat:</b> <a href="#">Swanage Diver</a> <b>Cost:</b> £45 per day <b>Diving:</b> Maximum Depth 18m
<a href="#">25/08/07</a>	3	<a href="#">Manacles (AOW+)</a>	FULL	<b>Location:</b> Manacles <b>Boat:</b> <a href="#">Cornish Pussy</a>
<a href="#">08/09/07</a>	2	<a href="#">Technical Diving weekend - Portland (AOW++)</a>	6	<b>Location:</b> Portland <b>Boat:</b> Goose ( <a href="http://www.divedorset.com">www.divedorset.com</a> )
<a href="#">15/09/07</a>	1	<a href="#">International Cleanup Dive</a>	TBA	International Cleanup Day Details to be announced, but basically we will be jumping in a river or lake and collecting rubbish. Hopefully this will be local to Reading.
<a href="#">22/09/07</a>	2	<a href="#">Brighton (AOW)</a>	FULL	<b>Location:</b> Brighton <b>Boat:</b> <a href="#">Spartacat</a>
<a href="#">29/09/07</a>	2	<a href="#">Weymouth (OW)</a>	1 sun	<b>Location:</b> Weymouth <b>Boat:</b> <a href="#">Tango</a>

Please read 'Guidelines for club dives' on the website or contact the Dive Organiser for a copy

Attendance on club dives is dependent on individual's qualifications and experience

For latest information on spaces please check the website

For further information please contact the Dive Organisers:

Club Dives: Morag Ward      07904 207306  
Orientation Dives: Mike Wade

[diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk)  
[diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk)

## Membership Matters!

### Membership Matters!

We've reached the year end and by now you should have had your renewal details via email. Many have already rejoined. Thank you for doing so. Paper copies will arrive later in the month as a gentle reminder. Don't forget you do need to be renewed to partake in the AGM on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October

We do now have the facility for new members to join online. Follow the link on the right hand side of the home page, any problems do contact me on any of the details listed below.

Members who have joined in the last month are: Daniel Wheeler, Damon Legg, Katy Denyer and Danielle Hardy.

If you see any of these folks in the pub or on a dive, please make them feel welcome.

We are now at a total of **184** members.

If you have not received an email notification of this newsletter, please let either myself or Caroline Kennedy (Publicity Officer) know – there may be a mistake with your e-mail address.

If your contact details have changed in anyway, don't forget to let us know. You can also change your email address via the website.

Please make a note – the contact info for the membership secretary is:

Clare Selwyn

Home address:           14, The Mews  
                          Bramley  
                          Tadley  
                          Hampshire  
                          RG26 5QX

Tel:                     01256 882119

E-mail:               [membership@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@thedivingclub.co.uk)

Your Club Website is: <http://www.thedivingclub.co.uk>

**THE DIVING CLUB**

**We're on the web:  
www.thedivingclub.co.uk**

**Divestyle  
Mike's Waterfront Warehouse  
Maiden Lane Shopping Centre  
Lower Earley  
Reading  
Berks  
RG6 3HD**

**Tel: 0118 926 2288  
Fax: 0118 926 9616  
Website: www.divestyle.co.uk**

## The Diving Club Committee Members - Contact Details

**President**

Peter Wright  
E: president@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Chairman**

Nigel Stephenson  
E: chairman@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Treasurer**

Matt Cook  
E: treasurer@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Club Secretary**

Bryan Johnston  
E: secretary@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Orientation Dive Organiser**

Mike Wade  
E: diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Club Dive Organiser**

Morag Ward  
E: diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Social Secretary**

Irina Wade  
E: social@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Membership Secretary**

Clare Selwyn  
E: membership@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Publicity Officer**

Caroline Kennedy  
E: publicity@thedivingclub.co.uk

**Webmaster**

Roger Selwyn  
E: webmaster@thedivingclub.co.uk