

**The
Diving
Club**



The Hyperbaric Times

Issue 105

July 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Message	1
Test drive on the SeaDoo	3
Swanage Diver	4
SETT diving	5
Michelle Mary, Littlehampton	6
Recent Qualifiers	7
Membership Matters	9

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

Special points of interest:

- Copy to be received by 30/07 for inclusion in the August 2004 issue (out 04/08/04)
- We 're back!!!
- Articles wanted urgently
- 111

A Message From the Editor

Editorial

Hello,
I'm back again.

For those of you who haven't been down to the Maiden Over recently, the AGM is going to be held there on Wednesday 1st September - so get it in your diary now.

The delay in releasing the latest issue of the HT has largely been due to a lack of content. Although the club's dives have been spectacularly successful - due very much to the efforts of Morag, there has been little in the way of literary output from them. I don't know if this is a result of a move away from the *literati* joining the club, a groundswell of shyness or just common or garden inertia.

The HT relies heavily on input from you, the members, so please do put electronic pen to paper and describe your feelings and enjoyment of the dives. Equally, if you had problems or did not have a good time, let us know.

The only other way I can fill the HT is by trawling through the diving sections on the Internet and plagiarising

- sorry, reporting any articles I find there. This is useful input for the newsletter and I have done it before, but nothing beats real local input.

Nicky has put together a flyer and menu for the Club Christmas Do - which is being held at the Holiday Inn Caversham on Saturday 18th December. These will be sent out to you imminently by e-mail - if you don't have e-mail, please phone a committee member for details. Please do support this event - and don't forget, it fills up quickly so book now!

We have decided this month to put a "Recent Qualifiers" section in the HT. This lists those people - not just members - who have recently passed the qualifying requirements for PADI training at a range of levels. This time we only have PADI details from DiveStyle, but if you qualified with another agency and want to see your name in print, then send me the details as we will probably be running this feature quarterly.

Until next (much sooner) time, dive safely!

Peter Winn

The Diving Club *Dives 2004*

Date	Location	Boat	Max Depth	Cost Per day	Spaces	Level
24/25 July	Looe	Looe Divers*	25-30	£35 inc air fills)	6	C
31 July /1 Aug	Farne Islands	Sovereign II	20-40m	£27 +£20 B&B pppn	FULL	C
14 August	Swanage	N/A	Pier		Unltd	All
15 August	Swanage	Swanage Diver*	18m	£32	7	O
12 Sept	Poole	Big Dinghy	18m	£35	FULL	O
18/19 Sept	Lymington	New Dawn Diver	20-40m	£40	1	C
25/26 Sept	Plymouth	Ceeking	20-40m	£100 all inc	FULL	C
23/24 Oct	Weymouth	Tango*	18m	£39	6	All

* Two cylinders needed

A supplement (£1.50-£2.00 per dive) is added to provide a subsidised place for the Diveleader on Orientation Dives

Non Club members will be asked to pay a £5 supplement per day

When a dive is shown as full, there will be a reserve list in case of cancellations

The information regarding numbers is NOT up to date

For further information please contact

Morag Ward 07904 207306

email diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk

Test Drive on the SeaDoo

Sunday 21 March, a mild blue sky day with just a slight breeze. Not the gusts that caused white horses the day before thankfully. Instructor Dave Cock and I turned up at Stoney for a day's bimbles, clad as always in our neoprene suits and twin 12's.

Once we had agreed on our dive plan and separation procedure, we got in the water with our sexy new SeaDoo GTI's. You've got to admit, they are a damn sight better to look at than those orange coloured converted torpedoes you see around. The plan was to stay at the 7m level and go around the edge to the Galleon and then on a bit if we weren't too cold.

The SeaDoo's require both hands on to operate. Both sides of the grips have a trigger which you must press together to activate the motor, if you let go of either one, the motor stops. This acts like a dead man switch which gives you, the rider, the chance to equalise your ears or check your air etc *without* losing control. Performance wise, they pulled me along at pace equal to a quick brisk walk. Pretty impressive bearing in mind what kit I was wearing and this wasn't even the top of the line model! On land, it sounds like a hedge trimmer. Hmm. Underwater, a nice whirring purring sound. Much better.

We got round to the Galleon in about 12 minutes, buzzing fellow divers on the way. We hardly used any air and were not cold in the slightest. I had imagined we would be slightly chilly from the water speeding over us. Onwards we went, keeping the wall on our left. It wasn't long till we saw the dark abyss that passes for the 36m pit come up on our right. Once we got to the far side, we dropped down to 22m and followed the edge around to the blow off preventer. No performance issues from the dpv at depth.

Up the wall we went, simply keeping hold of the dpv in hand while using the other to dump air, check the computer and curse at your buddy for drifting away. Once back at the novice ledge off we went again, flying through the Viscount, under the tails of the Nautilus and loop the loop through the archways underneath the pub!

I'll admit, they're not big and maybe not an essential bit of dive kit but they ARE extremely good fun to dive with and would make light work of getting around a large wreck or reef. Hmm, dpv'ing around the Kyarra or the Thistlegorm? - gotta be done!

Don't just take my word for it. There's a great picture of the GTI on the April edition of Dive magazine and a positive review on page 73.



Ok, not an inwater pose but it gives you an idea of its size!

If you fancy earning your pilot's wings, there are DPV courses available.

Happy diving

Gary

My version of the weekend on 17 & 18th April 2004 on the Swanage diver*

Weekend plan was - wreck dives in the mornings on Kyarra and Betsyanna (originally called Ashington) and drift dives in the afternoon around "Old Harry's Rocks" (big guy Harry!!)

Sat am - Kyarra (10C)

The weather was fine, the viz ~3m and a reasonable tour of the wreck by most. As you got closer to the bow the current became stronger, some divers turned back and some forged ahead. On approaching the bow I saw Jim hovering above a hole of the wreck and asked where his buddy was, he pointed indignantly down the hole where his buddy Keith (free-loader with us) was foraging for articles and recovered ... wait for it ... a rubber teat. Jim found a decanter top and duly lost it by the end of the day. Clare has her picture taken on the Kyarra. Hopefully, we will get to see that.

Sat pm - Drift

We opted for the gentle shallower drift of 11-18m at ~3knots near Old Harry's Rocks. Whilst drifting with a viz ~2m, spotting a dying dogfish, a live and kicking dogfish, cuttlefish, dead mans fingers, etc. Prior to the dive, I lost the buckle on my wrist computer, nowhere to be found.

Captains log (Peter Williams) - posed a question for us all to find out what cuttlefish eat and if we were to ask a fisherman/fishmonger we would be laughed at! Richard with his iPAQ, justifiably rejected the notion of searching for an answer on the internet. Are there any sad divers in the club who know the answer?

Sun am - Betsyanna (10C)

The weather was deteriorating, the swell was increasing, the viz ~0.5m. This dive was more interesting for some (read on) with some divers pulling out, but, enjoying the action! We had extra company on the boat, the skippers dog, who hassled the divers to throw his sponge for him to retrieve, yes, you guessed it, Alyson managed to throw the sponge into the sea, fortunately the dog didn't see where it went and didn't jump in.

The shot was cast, 3 divers at the ready on the transom gate, wait for the shout *GO*, I heard a shout, I relayed that to the other two divers in front of me and we all jumped in. As I jumped in, the dog was swimming back to the boat. The initial shout was not *GO*, but, *OH NO*, or something similar. We find the shot, but, not the wreck, Jim dredges the shot towards the wreck (guess work), after about 3m decides to leave it, we pressed on a further 2m stumbling across the wreck. It is there honest (trust me). The viz was so bad we aborted the dive. On the boat we have our first "chucker"

Andy and Keith had a little fun at the bottom of the shot line, Andy's reg goes into free-flow, switches his to his pony another free-flow (bugger), tries whacking the reg to make it work and in the process, biting off the mouth-piece. Keith claims "star-buddy award" for the weekend with his quick response and alleviates the problem with his octopus and controlled ascent.

The weather is turning bad, rain lashing and while Roger and Clare search for the wreck (without luck) more chuckers on board (including me). Reasonable excuses for the chuckers (I think not) - having a Chinese the night before (no not Suzy Wong) and a full English breakfast, chucking because someone else chucked, but, the best one was caused by "twatting the Adam's apple with a neck seal"

Buckle for wrist computer found in the boots of my dry-suit, how strange is that!!

Sun pm - Drift

Opting for a similar drift dive around Old Harry's Rocks. This time, we are down to 3 divers - Roger, Alyson and me. The viz ~1m. Roger gets 5.9 (tariff 3.2) points for his boat entry, eg, falling in side-wards without regulator. Didn't see a thing!

Well, who knows what cuttlefish eat? (Who cares)

Divers: Andy Neatham, Keith Peake, Richard Allen, Roger & Clare Selwyn, Kevin Tanner, Alyson King, Jim Taylor, me(***Ron Spillman**), Keith a freeloader(Sat am) and a seadog.

UK Diving in May, in clear, blue water, in a shortie!!!

On 23rd May, the club organised a trip to the Submarine Escape Training Tank (SETT). This is a 30m tank used to train submariners in the art of getting out of a sinking sub in a hurry. If you can imagine a tall tube, about 5m in diameter, 30m high, filled with warm water, surrounded by a square building, that is the SETT.



Gosport, from the window at the top of the SETT

The numbers on this day out were limited to 14, and its popularity meant that this was one of the first dives to be fully booked and paid for. It is the kind of dive you only do once, although there were one or two who had wanted a second go following a club trip a couple of years ago.

We had a briefing on the building, including, as it is a military operation, no-go areas. We then had to sign our lives away (I even had to sign the club away!) declaring ourselves medically fit, and releasing both Horsea Island Diving Centre and the owners of the SETT from liability should we end up with a problem. Thankfully, there is a lift to help in getting all the kit up to the 10th floor. Nobody fancied helping Jim up all those stairs with his twin-set!

The 14 of us buddied up almost organised the order we would dive. No giant strides in, just a gentle slide off the side. Even so, the water level had dropped by about 6 inches by the time the last pair got in. We were allowed 15 minutes of bottom time, determined from the time we left the surface until the time we started our ascent. Anyone overstaying that would be reminded of the time limit by having the lights turned out. The thought of being left in the dark focused peoples minds!

As one pair began their ascent, the next pair started their descent. Surprisingly, it all worked like clockwork. No wonder, the guys from Horsea do 4 sessions every weekend.... They say practice makes perfect!

Those of us left at the surface waiting our turn had a few laughs, usually at the expense of those who were submerged (or trying to submerge!), took a few photos, and gazed down the tube with the help of Perspex boxes. From my own point of view, it has to have been the strangest dive I have ever done. No fish, No wreck, Perfect viz, and it is a bit odd to see ordinary offices on a dive, including desks, chairs, hats and coats. What is even odder is seeing buses go past when you computer tells you that you are at 20 odd meters.



Acrobatics at 27m

After we had packed up, got dressed and loaded the cars, we all went to the Submarine Museum which is just next door. Reduced entry (only £3) was included. After a short video which explained how submarines use buoyancy to control depth, we were given a guided tour of a submarine, HMS Alliance by someone who used to work on one very similar. If anyone feels claustrophobic diving, then being cooped up in one of those cigar tubes would drive you mad. A look at the rest of the museum followed, including

the first submarine, Holland I and many artefacts rescued from submarines over many years and several conflicts, accidents and wars.



Gareth, on a safety stop

After an obligatory stop in the souvenir shop, it was time to go home, all agreeing that it was a fabulous way to spend a Sunday.

Morag Ward : Dive Organiser : June 2004

Orientation Diving 2004

22 May 2004 - Michelle Mary, Littlehampton

The May Orientation dive was held on 22 May. We had booked the hardboard Michelle Mary, which is based in Littlehampton. The boat is really geared up for divers, with plenty of kitting up space and a skipper who knows his way around the waters. The boat has a lift, which makes it easy to get off and on. Being Orientation, the planned dive depths were set at a maximum of 18m, so that any divers who were qualified at Open Water level would still be comfortable. As it turned out, all the divers were at least Advanced Open Water, although several had not dived in a while, or had little experience of UK diving.

We slipped the harbour at about 10.30, with the first dive planned at slack, about 11.45, which was a very wrecked wreck, the Indiana. She lies in about 10m off the coast of Brighton and is a haven for marine life. The plankton bloom meant that viz was down to about 5m, but the sunny weather gave good light penetration. The less experienced were buddied with those who were at least DM, so that assistance and advice can be provided where necessary. We finished the dive with as many divers as we started with, which is always a good sign!

It was a two cylinder day, so the surface interval was spent drinking tea (kindly provided by the skipper) and eating a light lunch. A bit of a swell meant that some of that lunch was then fed to the fishes and the seasick pills were passed round.

By 2pm, we were ready for the next dive, which was to be a scenic drift in about a 1 knot current. 3 divers decided not to dive, but the remaining 9 had a dive which was reminiscent of a fairground ride. With viz at around 3m, it was important to stick close to your buddy. This proved difficult sometimes, as the current would take you straight into large rocks - you could either go over them or round them and there often wasn't much time to choose which it would be. In the first few minutes of the dive, my buddies and I counted at least 4 dogfish, unless it was the same one 4 times! Other buddy pairs reported cuttlefish, lobsters, crabs and a whole host of different fishes.

We returned to Littlehampton by about 3.30, with everyone agreeing that the diving had been good, and it had generally been another good days club diving.

The support for Orientation diving has been great this year, so far all dives have been full. The June Orientation is in Portland, and is fully booked already. The July dive is a weekend at Selsey, on Dive Eclipse. All dives for that weekend are, as always, planned for a maximum of 18m There are still a couple of spaces available, so if you want to join us, drop an email to me at : diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk

There are also spaces available on the 15th August dive, Swanage Diver, and 12th September, Big Dinghy.

For those of you with a bit more experience, or if you want to do more challenging diving, the next club dive is on 26/27 June, on Big Dinghy, in Poole. There are several places left, if you want to join in on that dive, please email me. We also have space on the Farnes trip in July, and the Lyminster trip in September.

Recent Qualifiers

At a recent committee meeting, it was suggested that recognition of achievement may be a little lacking in the club. With this in mind, DiveStyle have provided us with the names of recently qualified divers in various PADI courses - Congratulations to you all!

Gary wanted me to point out that he supplied the list - so I assume the naming embellishments are his. He also wanted me to apologise if he forgot anyone - if he did, let me know and we'll rectify the mistake. Also, if you don't want this sort of recognition, please let us know - but, failing that we'll repeat this probably quarterly.

Peter Winn

Open Water

James Kyd, Paul Day, Ceri Rees, Karen Smith, Neil Chipperfield, Kevin Simons, Ryan Niemandt Sharon Webb, Christine Clarkson, Jamie Cripps, Tim Mauchline, Alice Mauchline, Sarah Gill, Robert Gill, Nigel Phillips, Adam Johns, Jennifer Nowecki, Brian Muncey, Mark Goold, Caroline Steel, Paul Harwood, Eric Flower, Sarah Reyland, Jonathan Howard

Advanced Open Water

Paul Mann, Tony Rokins, Richard Burfield, Ashley Wingrove, Alison Andrews, Simon Andrews, Ian Sutcliffe, Nicolas Jahier, Andy Gill

Rescue Diver

Will Tabner, Angela Symons, Paul Symons, Nikki "voice of an angel" Smith, Lesley "Me? Bossy?" Avann, Michael Hoolihan, Alyson King

Diver Propulsion Vehicle Diver

Ian Slater, Steven Woolley, Terry Scovell, Sean Berry, Ian Gibson, Kevin Allum, Kevin Tanner Roger Selwyn, David "don't leave me!" Capel

Wreck Diver

Tim Burge, James Barrett, Paul Rowse, Roger Selwyn, Clare Selwyn

Deep Diver

Tim Burge, James Barrett, Clare Selwyn, Roger Selwyn

Drysuit Diver

Richard Scarlett, Alyson "yet another holiday" King, Simon Lamb, Roger Selwyn, Paul Rowse

Enriched Air

Tim Burge, Ashley Wingrove, Simon Andrews, Alison Andrews, Ian Sutcliffe, Andy Gill, Paul Rowse, Clare Selwyn, Roger Selwyn

Underwater Navigator

Scott Auld, Steve Phealan, Ashley Dart, Sheila Debney, Andy Bridge, Steve Wright

DAN O2 Provider

Adrian Elsey, Nicki Smith, Lesley Avann

Emergency First Response

Chris Miller, Jane Wilkinson, Jo Philips, Sean Barrett, Shaun Davis, Lesley Avann, Nicki Smith

DiveStyle Training Courses

COURSE	DATE
Open Water - Windsor	Theory 16/8 & 06/09
Open Water - Reading	Theory 16/8 & 06/09
OW Dives Wraysbury (for students from 06 & 07/07)	21 & 22/08
OW Intensive	07 & 08/08
Advanced OW	24 & 25/07
Specialties	
PPB & Drysuit	24 & 25 ⁰⁷ 1
Deep & Wreck Specs.	24 & 25/07

Full course details are now available on the DiveStyle web site
www.divestyle.co.uk

Certain Speciality courses such as Dry Suit Diver and Peak Performance
Buoyancy can be run on
demand. Just call 0118 926 2288 for full details.

Membership Matters!

Your Membership Matters!

Hello fellow Divers, Members etc etc.....

Please welcome another fourteen new members to the diving club during April 2004 - June 2004:

Stephen West, Jackie Chappell, Peter Winyard

Holly Young, Julia Scholtens

Mike and Jennie Swensson, Sean Barrett

James Kyd, Sharon and Rebecca Webb

Steve Farmer, Robert Robinson, Martin Day.

Also, earlier in the year

Adrian Elsey and James Barrett.

Membership is now running at 156.

Membership

To rejoin the club, please complete the membership form (and complete the section pertaining to Jun'04 - Sep '05) found on the website and or ask a committee member at club night on Wednesday evening.

For those of you who are still not receiving notification of the HBT by e-mail, please send a separate e-mail to myself and Peter Winn (Publicity Officer) - there may be a mistake with your e-mail address.

If you have changed your e-mail address, don't forget to let us know.

Nicola

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

Nicola Wright

Home address 25, Chaucer Way, Wokingham, Berks, RG41 3BG

Phone No. 07900 258110

e-mail membership@thedivingclub.co.uk

Your Club Web site is www.thedivingclub.co.uk

The general e-mail address for The Diving Club is info@thedivingclub.co.uk

Nicola Wright



embership

Forms can also be found at the shop 'DiveStyle', Mikes Waterfront Warehouse, Maiden Lane Shopping Centre, Lower Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 3HD.



We're on the Web
www.thedivingclub.co.uk

DiveStyle
 Mikes Waterfront Warehouse
 Maiden Lane Shopping Centre
 Lower Earley
 Reading, Berks
 RG6 3HD
 Tel: 0118 926 2288
 Fax: 0118 926 9616
www.divestyle.co.uk



The Diving Club is a chapter of the PADI Diving Society and aims to allow newly qualified divers and existing members a forum to meet and dive with other divers. We are a PADI orientated group, which accepts divers from any diver-training agency (ie BSAC, SAA, NAUI, IANTD etc). We have close ties to DiveStyle, who conduct all our training and offer us use of their pool sessions for equipment testing.

The Diving Club - Committee Members



President	Peter Wright	0118 926 2288	07768 726599	president@thedivingclub.co.uk
Chairman	Andy Neatham			chairman@thedivingclub.co.uk
Treasurer	Nick Hill			treasurer@thedivingclub.co.uk
Club Secretary	Brenda Taylor	0118 9775748		secretary@thedivingclub.co.uk
Orientation Dive organiser	Morag Ward		07904 207306	diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk
Club Dive organiser				diveadvanced@thedivingclub.co.uk
Social secretary	Nicki Smith		07786 985434	social@thedivingclub.co.uk
Membership secretary	Nicola Wright	0118 977 3802		membership@thedivingclub.co.uk
Publicity Officer	Peter Winn	01344 455280	07971 024307	publicity@thedivingclub.co.uk
Webmaster	Grant Gibson			webmaster@thedivingclub.co.uk