

The Diving Club



The Hyperbaric Times

Issue 109

March 2005

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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:

- It's back again - and nearly on time!
- Copy to be received by 01/04 for inclusion in the April 2005 issue (out 06/04/05)
- Please start sending in reports, comments, articles etc

A Message From the Editor



Still snowed under, but I'm getting nearer to releasing the HT on time - next month I might actually make it!

The diving season is now well under way and we have several reports in this HT to prove it. Many thanks for these - keep them coming in.

I've been trawling the internet recently for some articles to have in hand for "fill-in's" in slack months and came across a couple of items which I thought may be of interest to you.

The first was a brief article in "International Labmate". Now, I know it sounds like a scientist's girlie mag, but it is a real, advertiser's magazine advertising equipment etc. They also include a couple of articles each issue and in this one was something about the Southampton Oceanography Centre. Two guys from there were invited by the Royal Navy to take part in an ocean bottom survey of the Indian Ocean seaquake region. Apparently it is the first time a major survey has been carried out so soon after a large

quake. They show images of the seabed in the area of overlap of the Indian and Burman tectonic plates and apparently there is an area where a ridge about 1500m high has been pushed up (higher than Ben Nevis!). There are also clear images of areas where unstable blocks have collapsed producing landslides several kilometres across. It really does show the scale of the cataclysm that caused the Tsunami that so devastated the area. For those of you who want to see more of this, the URL is <http://www.soc.soton.ac.uk/>.

The second item I found was a website created by Jean, the mother of Kirsty MacColl who was killed so tragically in a protected diving only area of Cozumel. She and her sons were run down by a powerboat which was illegally travelling through the reserve. Kirsty was killed and her sons suffered injuries. The website offers supporters the chance to support the campaign (by contributions or e-mail support) to gain justice for her daughter's death and raise awareness of this type of problem.

Peter Winn

Editor

3rd Annual Cold Water Weekend 26 -27 Feb

We certainly managed to pick a cold weekend to do our annual cold-water weekend trip up to Stoney Cove.

It was certainly a big contrast for me as the weekend before I had been enjoying air temperatures of 32 C and water temps of 22 c in sunny Sharm.

I had fully expected the weather at Stoney to force us to abandon the weekend but with daily phone calls to the dive centre I was persuaded that it probably wasn't as bad there as it was locally.

Remembering Peter Wright's advice from last year I brought all my dive gear into the hotel room on Friday night just so it wouldn't have any chance to freeze up in my car overnight. In fact I think it was more likely to melt, as it was so hot in the room.

All settled into my room, Will and I went to the bar to start the weekend off in true dive club fashion.

After a while the brave few started turning up, Anne-Marie, Donald, Frankie, Dan, Nigel. We might have a few brave souls in the water over the weekend after all.

An early start on Saturday morning meant we were able to get into the bottom car park - no kit lugging around thank goodness. We were greeted by Clare and Roger- early risers as ever and Steve Leaver and Andy Judge.

By around 9am pretty well everybody who had said they were coming was there and thus to the dive plan. Frankie and Dan decided to do their own thing, with the rest deciding to have a group dive.

While we were planning our buddy groups there was suddenly a big hullabaloo - a diver had just shot to the surface seemingly run out of air at 20m with a first stage free flow. On the advice from those on the shore she abandoned her weight belt and also all the rest of her kit. A salvage dive could be in order here we all thought! The dive centre's rescue boat was with her really quickly - very reassuring to know they react so quickly. She was brought onto the boat and seemed fine.

Nigel and I decided that we would have an easy first dive - along the shelf to The Nautilus and then to The Wessex helicopter along to the road and back to the quayside. This was quite a good first cold water dive vis was about 3 - 4m so quite comfortable - a bit cold on the face but fun nonetheless.

Clare, Roger, Will, Tim and John decided on something a bit more adventurous - full on exploration of the Stanegarh.

The second dive on Saturday saw us all pretty well diving in one group. Along the shelf to The Nautilus, a quick swim through the blockhouse and then alongside the ledge at about 15m. We turned round after about 20 minutes and headed back. -Job done. All of us had done two dives and nobody had had a free flow.

The big issue later in the day was who to support in the Six Nations - Wales or France - best result would have been for them both to lose but unfortunately impossible as they were playing each other.

On Saturday evening the hardy divers and the guys who had been doing their Advanced, Nitrox, Drysuit and other qualifications joined us for a few beers and dinner. We even picked up a stray en route - Carl had decided to join us before visiting his parents on Sunday.

Sunday morning was the usual crack of dawn start in order to get into the bottom car park again. I definitely had second thoughts as I scraped feet of ice off the car - too late now.

On Sunday we split into two groups one group decided to see if they could find the Minis that had been sunk after being used in Scrapheap Challenge - go to the Stanegarh and then head, oh dear, Dan was convinced they were just off the bow and Roger was convinced that they were off the stern. I never did find out which way they went but whichever way it was the Minis weren't there.

Will, Tim, Nigel and myself decided on the standard Nautilus, Wessex, Stanegarh, Viscount route for our first dive.

Our second dive on Sunday was a repeat of the second on Saturday. A good fun dive, lots of fish, and good vis.

Thanks to everybody for turning up and making a good weekend to kick off the club's diving season.

Andrew
Orientation Dive Organiser

I scraped feet of ice off the car ...

Divers:

Andrew Askwith

Dan Cocks

Will Tabner

Frankie Farren,

John Campbell

Roger Selwyn

Tim Burge

Clare Selwyn

Nigel Stephenson

Gary Palmer

Dave Capel

Nikki Smith (non-diving diver)



Tim



Will, Nikki and John



Dan, Frankie and Clare

Big Dinghy Poole 12th March

It's official; this is the start of the Club's diving season. All the signs for the day were good, a civilised tide, and a 10.30 departure from Poole Quay; even easier and what is more the sun is shining.

By 9.30 almost everybody had arrived so we thought we would have a coffee in the Thistle Hotel - this is almost like being on holiday.

Our boat arrives just before 10 as promised and we are all loaded on and ready to go shortly before 10.30.

Our plan is to do a first dive on the Valentine Tanks - hopefully this year I won't miss the shot line and will actually see them.

Will and Nigel enter the water first to tie the shot line to the tank. They seem to have been down there for ages we all thought they are just enjoying their dive before the rest of us stir up the vis. Up comes the marker buoy - next buddy pair in Alyson & Dan. All looks OK, finally it's Clare myself and Richard's turn drop in swim to the marker buoy - I thought this was supposed to be slack water or am I really that unfit? OK, ready to descend - where are Alyson and Dan. They seemed to have missed the buoy, there is no chance of them surface swimming to it and none at all of them finding the tanks once they are under the water. John, our boat skipper, comes alongside them and tows them along to the buoy. All of us are ready and now we can descend.

A few early season buoyancy problems with some of us so I decide to queue barge and just pull myself down the shot line to wait for Clare and Richard at the bottom.

It was a good thing that Will and Nigel were already down there otherwise I probably wouldn't have stopped until I had hit my head on the tank. The tank was much smaller than I had imagined it would be and also in much better condition - after all it has been sitting on the seabed for 60 years now. Despite stirring up the vis it soon settles allowing quite a good inspection. I could easily make out the tracks and some of the guide wheels and the barrel and the turret. I would have liked a bit longer down there to see if I could see the propeller, it will just have to wait for next time.

Our second dive was originally planned for a drift on the Fleur De Lys fishing vessel but due to quite strong tides and not so great vis we decided to head further inshore so we ended up, on the recommendation of John, diving on Bournemouth Rocks, which are apparently the remains of a petrified forest. As the buddy pairs seemed to survive each other on the first dive we just kept them the same for the second.

In order to help us, John, our skipper, dropped a shot line for us to descend down. Clare, Richard and I were again the last three in the water. I agreed to descend to the bottom first, deploy my DSMB and wait for Clare and Richard. As the current was running a bit and the vis was still not really brilliant Clare decided to tie the three of us together - something about a buddy line - or was this really an excuse for tying people up?

I am not sure about seeing trees all I saw was some rocks and lots of anenomes. The fun really began when we decided to give up swimming into the current. Trying to turn round while holding your reel in one hand, holding onto your buddy with the other and not get yourself tangled up was a task too much. Clare firstly had to disentangle my line from my cylinder and me and then I had to disentangle her. Job done, we then enjoyed a drift for a few minutes before starting our ascent.

(Continued on page 7)

Guidelines for Club Dives

1. Dives booked by the club will be published on a schedule which will be available on the club website, the notice boards, and from committee members on request. It may also be possible to obtain a copy from DiveStyle.
2. Bookings for dives will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.
3. When you register your interest in attending a dive with the DIVE ORGANISER whether by phone, e-mail or face-to-face, a deposit is must be paid within 2 weeks, either by post or to a committee member on a club night. Deposits should not be left at the shop in the hope that the dive organiser will collect them (unless this has been arranged).
4. Any diver who does not pay a deposit within two weeks of booking may forfeit the space unless (s)he has notified the dive organiser of the reason for the delay.
5. Once a deposit is paid to secure the space, the diver is obliged to pay the remaining balance by the due date. If the diver is subsequently unable to dive for any reason, they will only be released from their obligation if another diver fills the space.
6. When all the spaces available on a dive (usually 12, but sometimes 10) are full, a reserve list of those interested will be kept. Those on the reserve list will be approached should a space arise. If they still wish to go on the dive, they will be expected to pay a deposit to secure their space.
7. For whole weekend trips, accommodation is the responsibility of the diver unless indicated otherwise on the dive schedule.
8. The balance of the dive and any accommodation cost is payable one month before the date of the dive. Any balance not paid by that date may result in the diver forfeiting his/her space on the dive.
9. For boat/shore dives, check with the dive organiser the day before by phone to ensure that there are no adverse weather conditions which may prevent the dive from going ahead. The dive organiser will not contact divers unless there has been a change to previously given advice.
10. If a dive is cancelled due to adverse weather, refunds will be made in accordance with the contract the club has made with the boat skipper. Normally, this will either be a refund, or the option of attending a rescheduled dive.
11. On Orientation Dives, some spaces will be reserved for experienced divers for safety and organisational factors. Those spaces will be offered to: Instructors, Divemasters and Divemaster trainees. Any diver accepting one of the supervision spaces will be expected to participate in all planned dives unless there are exceptional circumstances (eg injury).
12. On Orientation Dives, the Dive Supervisor will assign buddy teams appropriate to training and experience to ensure safety. Individual requests will be taken into account. For Club diving, the dive supervisor will, where appropriate, assign divers without 'natural buddies' in the interests of safety.

The supply of equipment for dives is the responsibility of the diver.

The Diving Club, Reading 2005

Well Done Oceanic

It's not very often that we are genuinely surprised about good customer service these days but I was so amazed by Oceanic the other day that I thought I would just share my surprise with everyone.

While I was diving in Sharm a few weeks ago the low battery warning light on my computer started showing.

As this is supposed to be changeable yourself I thought I ought to play safe and change it. Following the instructions I changed the battery without any real problems.

The next morning as I jumped into the water the display on the computer completely disappeared - oops.

I decided to continue the dive as it was planned to be a shallow dive and I had a dive timer and depth gauge.

Later on, upon inspection, I realised I had completely flooded the battery compartment.

On returning home I contacted Oceanic and sent my computer off to them for inspection and hopefully repair.

Two days later I received a parcel from Oceanic - must be my computer back - not repairable I thought.

I was right on one score - my computer was not repairable but - Oceanic had just sent me a replacement computer free of charge.

Thanks Oceanic.

By Andrew Askwith

... with welcome tea or coffee ...

(Continued from page 4)

Once we were back on board John supplied us with welcome tea or coffee and then the short journey back to the harbour to unload our kit.

We missed out on the usual pub /log book signing as some of the guys were diving again on Sunday so needed to go off to have their cylinders refilled.

I had a fantastic day and would highly recommend Big Dinghy (our boat for the day) and the sites we dived on. Thanks to the other divers for coming along and helping to make it a great day.

Andrew Askwith

Dive Organiser.

Divers:

Andrew Askwith, Will Tabner, Clare Selwyn, Alyson King, Nigel Stephenson, Dan Cocks, Richard Scarlett

Passengers:

Donald Aitken



Alyson & Clare



Will & Nigel



Richard



Dan

For Sale



1 dry suit Oceanic Flexia ladies size 16/18, height 5'5", size 7 boots, 2 ½ years old but hardly used, shoulder dump and cuff dump installed comes with bag and low pressure inflator. Excellent condition Price £295 ono was £640 when new. Selling due to purchase of neoprene dry suit.



1 weazle extreme undersuit size medium long, very cosy has breast pocket, comes in a crush bag for easy storage, hardly used £75 ono £120 when new. Selling due to purchase of neoprene dry suit. Machine washable.



1 Northern Diver Flectalon undersuit size M/L 2 hip pockets, very warm and comfortable, used 3 times. £95 ono was £120 when new last LIDS. Selling due to purchase of neoprene dry suit. Machine washable.

Contact Brenda Taylor 0118 9654600 (day time) 01256 333205 eves

email taylormbren@aol.com

Club Diving

Date	Location	Details	Max Depth	Cost	Spaces	Level
28 th March	Portland	Fathom & Blues	18m	£37	8	O
9/10 April	Swanage	Swanage Diver	35m	£35 per day	7	C
24th April	Poole	Big Dinghy*	18m	£37	Full	O
7/8 th May	Eastbourne	Sussex*	20-30m	£32 per day	1	C
28/29/30 May	Pembroke	Pembroke Dive Charters*	20-30m	TBA (approx £120)	4	C
4/5th June	Selsey	Dive Eclipse	18m	£37 per day	2	O
11/12 June	Poole	Big Dinghy*	20-30 m	£35 per day	10	C
2/3/4 July	Farnes	Sovereign II *	20-30m	£152(incl 3 nights b&b)	Full	C
17th July	Poole	Big Dinghy*	18m	£37	10	O
7th August	Swanage	Swanage Diver	18m	£35	11	O
13/14 Aug	Plymouth	Ceeking*	20-30m	£105 (incl b&b)	6	C
3-9 Sept	Scapa	John L	40m	£320 (inc b&b)	5	C**
24/25 Sept	Swanage	Swanage Diver	35m	£35 per day	12	C
22/23rd Oct	Weymouth	Tango	18m	£39 per day (tbc)	11	O

*Two cylinders needed

A supplement (approx £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.

Attendance on club dives is dependent on individuals training and experience.

Please read 'Guidelines for Club Dives' on the website or contact the Dive Organiser for a copy.

For further information please contact:

Morag Ward 07904 207306 or Andrew Askwith 07789 900423

Email diveorientation@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk

School Training Programme

Date	Course	Location	Date	Course	Location
Wed 23rd Mar	Rescue Diver Practice	Reading	Sat/Sun 7th/8th May	Open Water Qualifying Dives	Wraysbury
Tue 29th Mar	Rescue Diver Theory	Windsor	Sat/Sun 14th/15th May	Speciality Course Week-end	Stoney Cove
Wed 30th Mar	Rescue Diver Practice	Reading	Sat/Sun 21st/22nd May	Advanced Course	Stoney Cove
Sat/Sun 2nd/3rd April	Confined open water course	Lambrook Haileybury			
Sat/Sun 16th/17th April	Advanced Course	Stoney Cove			
Sat/Sun 23rd/24th April	Confined open water course	Downe House			

Full course details are available on the DiveStyle website
www.divestyle.co.uk

Certain speciality courses such as Drysuit Diver and Peak Performance Buoyancy can be run on demand
 Just call 0118 926 2288 for full details



We're on the Web
www.thedivingclub-reading.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

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 . 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 (eg 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
 . and practice sessions when space permits.
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The Diving Club - Committee Members (at the moment!)



President	Peter Wright	0118 926 2288	07768 726599	president@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Chairman	Roy Stevenson			chairman@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Treasurer (temp)	Nick Thompson			treasurer@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Club Secretary	Alyson King			secretary@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Orientation Dive organiser	Andrew Askwith			diveorientation@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Club Dive organiser	Morag Ward		07904 207306	diveadvanced@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Social secretary	Position vacant			social@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Membership secretary	Clare Selwyn			membership@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Publicity Officer	Peter Winn	01344 455280	07971 024307	publicity@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk
Webmaster	Roger Selwyn			webmaster@thedivingclub-reading.co.uk