

The Hyperbaric Times

A Message From The Editor

Welcome to new issue of the Hyperbaric Times.

Page 2 has a report on the Cold Water Weekend and page 3 has the results of the Photo Competition for 2008.

On page 4 you will find the social events that have so far been arranged for the rest of 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.

Finally, the Diving Schedule has recently been updated so take a look at it to see what's on offer. You'll find it on pages 5 and 6. If you're interested in joining one of the dives then contact either Mike Wade (Orientation Dives) or Bryan Johnston (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.

Cold Water Weekend 23/24 February 2008

Over the past few years, the club has traditionally run a Cold Water weekend towards the end of February. We did the same this year, and anticipated a similar level of attendance given the comments of previous years. It was a little disappointing, then, to have only 10 divers on each day. However, we all had a great time. We had persuaded Carl to lend us the little red van so that we had a base in the bottom car park, which we thought would make it easier for people, and save silly early starts. I arrived at Stoney at about 8.30 to find just about everyone we were expecting there already drinking the site dry of tea.

Most people had sorted out who was diving with who, and we had a couple of new divers who were quite happy diving on the 6m shelf to acclimatise themselves to the chilly water. I dived with Dan and Martin – taking in the Hydrobox for our first dive. We resolved a minor kit issue or two and all in all had a nice dive.

Dave ‘The Dry Suit’ Dommet christened his new dry suit and declared it toasty warm, and much better than the wet suit he has been diving in for years. No doubt a couple more die – hard wetsuit wearers will be following suit! Just about everyone went in for a second dive. Dan and I decided to see how it would be carrying 2 stages – heavy. The majority of the group, though, went for a search of the Stanegarh and the helicopter. By all accounts, they found the heli, but the Stanegarh appeared to have reduced to the size and shape of a mini. Note: a compass with a reasonably accurate bearing helps divers, even in Stoney.

We had planned to go for a curry in the village after diving, but with one thing and another, decided to stick with the Mill. Given the standard of food, and the service we received, we will stick with the original plan in future!

On Sunday morning, we had a few different faces, and everyone got into the water. The cold had taken its toll on one of the Rebreathers, so they planned to do a shallow, short dive, and took one of the new divers with them.

Dan wanted to practice some line laying, and after discovering that there was indeed a mini in the vicinity of the Stanegarh, we set out to find it. It is about 40m in the opposite direction from the helicopter. Dan laid the line, then left it behind as we explored a little further. I thought he had taken a bearing, so when we turned, I expected to find the mini quite close. Oh dear. 5 minutes later, we found the drop off to the deep end and followed it back to the road. We later decided our second dive would be a dive to recover the reel.

On the final dive of the weekend, Dan and I went with Dave ‘The Dry Suit’ Dommet and Chris on a little tour. Helicopter, Stanegarh, Mini, Stanegarh, Bus, Road, Surface. We had an excellent dive. I have proof that Dave dived in a dry suit!

All in all it was a great weekend. In terms of divers, it was a little disappointing that more didn't come. In previous years, we have run a ‘diving in cold water’ theory evening, but this year we didn't, which may account for the low numbers or there may have been a perception that the weekend was for experienced divers. All the dives that the club runs in inland sites are suitable for all levels - even the most novice - divers. If there is call for it next year, we will put on an evening to answer any questions about diving in cold water and I will look forward to seeing more of you there next February!

Morag Ward



Photo Competition 2008

This year's photo competition was yet again a bubbling success for the Club and more importantly its members, particularly those who attended – numbering about 45 plus or minus a few lost buddies carrying out an obligatory search and safety stop at the bar. This year saw a change with an additional category of 'Club Dive' and a simplified voting system (well it was simple until someone turned the lights out and I placed a tick onto a beer matt). The pics are located in the Public area of the Club web site. The voting revealed an interesting result in the Aquatic Life category; here it was a close run for 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. However, the first place for Aquatic Life was tied between Jane and Chris, which was quickly solved by hijacking a member of the pub's bar staff who was given a heart rendering decision to make – "Pick one!"

So what about the results?

| Category | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Wreck Dive | Morag Ward | Roger Selwyn = Andy Neatham | | |
| Diver | Shireen Walker | Roger Selwyn | Morag Ward | |
| Aquatic Life | Jane Wilkinson | Chris Wallace | Yodthida Thanakarnpanich = Morag Ward | |
| UK Diving | Morag Ward | Jane Wilkinson | Irina Wade | |
| Club Diving | Morag Ward | Jane Wilkinson | Anne Marie Neatham | |

Well done to all winners and runners up but also to all members submitting their pics, although one photograph was unclassified as it contained two Trimis divers with a large helicopter in the background. Quite what this whirly-bird device was doing when the image was captured is anyone's guess! It cannot go unnoticed that our Chairman, Morag, carried off 3 firsts and 2 thirds – it has left some of us wondering whether a new vocation in life has presented itself!

Lastly, a special thanks to Peter Wright, Divestyle, who provided some of the items for the raffle that raised £40 towards Club funds. The depths our members will go to is inspiring so let's see what surfaces next year. It only remains to sign off until next year's Photo Competition, so to all divers, "Get snapping pics!"

Malcolm Dubber
Membership Secretary

Social Events Calendar

Here is the list of up coming events:

7th April 2008

Monthly Club Meeting at the Black Boy in Shinfield

Address: Shinfield Road, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 9BP

Time: From 8.30

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

Irina

social@thedivingclub.co.uk

Diving Schedule 2008 continued

| Start Date | Days | Venue | Free Spaces | Description |
|-----------------|------|--|-------------|--|
| <u>05/04/08</u> | 2 | <u>Swanage (AOW)</u> | 0/1 | Swanage Boat: <u>Swanage Diver or Smooth Hound</u> Cost: £40 per day Diving: Boat diving. Depths to 25/30m |
| <u>05/04/08</u> | 1 | <u>Chepstow (EXP)</u> | 6 | Chepstow NDAC Cost: Entry (TBC) Diving: Inland site. |
| <u>19/04/08</u> | 2 | <u>Orientation Dive - Weymouth (OW)</u> | FULL | Weymouth Boat: Tango of Weymouth Cost: £40 per day Diving: Boat diving. Depths to 18m. |
| <u>19/04/08</u> | 2 | <u>Technical Dive - Weymouth (AOW++)</u> | 7 | Weymouth Boat: Scimitar Cost: £50 per day Diving: Boat diving. Depths to 45/50m. Specific dives to be confirmed. |
| <u>26/04/08</u> | 1 | <u>Brighton (AOW+)</u> | 1 | Brighton Boat: <u>Brighton Diver</u> Cost: £40 Diving: Boat diving. Depths to 40m. |
| <u>03/05/08</u> | 3 | <u>Babbacombe Bay (All cert levels)</u> | Unlimited | Babbacombe Bay Location: Babbacombe Bay |
| <u>04/05/08</u> | 1 | <u>Babbacombe Orientation Boat (OW)</u> | 9 | Babbacombe Orientation Boat Diving Boat: Teign Diving Cost: £45 per day (to be confirmed) Diving: Boat diving. Depths to 18m. |
| <u>05/05/08</u> | 1 | <u>Babbacombe AOW Boat (AOW)</u> | 12 | Babbacombe Orientation Boat Diving Boat: Teign Diving Cost: £40 per day (to be confirmed) Diving: Boat diving. Depths to 30m. |
| <u>17/05/08</u> | 2 | <u>Technical Dive - Brighton (AOW++)</u> | 4 | Brighton Boat: <u>Brighton Diver</u> Cost: £50 per day |
| <u>24/05/08</u> | 3 | <u>Manacles (AOW)</u> | 2 | Manacles, Cornwall Boat: <u>Celtic Cat</u> Cost: £219 per person (3 days diving + B&B accommodation) |
| <u>31/05/08</u> | 2 | <u>Portsmouth (AOW+)</u> | 9/10 | Portsmouth Boat: <u>Wight Diver</u> Cost: £40 per day |

Diving Schedule 2008 continued

| Start Date | Days | Venue | Free Spaces | Description |
|-----------------|------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| <u>07/06/08</u> | 8 | <u>Scapa Flow (AOW+)</u> | FULL | Location: Scapa Flow Boat: MV Valkyrie |
| <u>27/06/08</u> | 1 | <u>Portsmouth - Moldavia (AOW++)</u> | 2 | Portsmouth Boat: <u>Wightdiver</u> Cost: £50 per day |
| <u>12/07/08</u> | 2 | <u>Plymouth (AOW+)</u> | 10 | Plymouth Boat: <u>Cee King</u> Cost: £118 (diving & accommodation) |
| <u>26/07/08</u> | 3 | <u>Farnes (AOW)</u> | 4 | Farnes Boat: <u>Glad Tidings VII</u> Cost: £35 per day (must book all three days) |
| <u>23/08/08</u> | 3 | <u>Plymouth (Tech dive) (AOW++)</u> | 12 | Plymouth Boat: <u>Seeker</u> Cost: £45 per day |

THE DIVING CLUB

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

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