



Worcester Divers News

January 2014

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New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the club:

Saira Beebeejaun and her daughter Azi - new trainees who found out about the club from our stand at the Dive Show

Chairman's Chat

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and looking forward to the 2014 diving season. There is quite a lot of news to report on what has happened over the last few weeks and plans for this year. The committee are focussing on addressing points raised at the AGM and other issues for the club. One of these is encouraging more members to come diving. So we are offering all members 2 FREE vouchers for club RIB trips this year. This will hopefully encourage new members to give RIB trips a go and longer term members to come back to RIB diving if they haven't been for a while. As a regular RIB diver I can't think of a better way to spend a weekend - out in a boat with my dive buddies having fun - and it doesn't cost as much as you might think. However, for dive trips to happen we also need organisers so do please think about whether you can organise one.

The committee is also investing in the club's assets so we will soon be purchasing new O2 kit and upgrading the website. We are also planning training courses for members to learn new skills and progress in their diving grades.

So as you can see the committee has been quite busy!

Happy diving !

Janet Yates, Club Chairman

Club News

The club has been making a splash in the Worcester Evening News with 2 articles - both making the front page. Just before Christmas you may have spotted a 'Scuba Santa' staring out at you from the news stand. This is club member Josh Yates who was photographed whilst taking part in the Scuba Santa dive at Chepstow. We then had a further coverage on page 3 with more photos and a feature about the Scuba Santa event at Chepstow. Thanks to Claire Snead for getting such good coverage - it all helps in promoting the club.



Club member Trevor Rees was also featured in the paper following his success of achieving highly commended in the British Wildlife Photography Awards. In the article Trevor described the techniques and equipment he uses to achieve such award winning photographs and where he enjoys diving. There were some great photos depicting underwater life from around the British Coast (although one from Iceland may have crept in!) showing what fantastic diving we have. Well done to Trevor on achieving the award and the newspaper feature.



We also had a fun Christmas event at Bowl Extreme, Worcester on Thursday 12th December. Over 20 members + family joined in for a game of bowling before tucking in to a meal. We rounded off the evening with another game of bowling before heading home.

Diving

On Sunday 15th December 11 members of the club braved the chilly depths (well the water temperature was actually quite pleasant) for the Scuba Santa event at Chepstow. We had quite a laugh struggling to get into our Santa Suits most of us ripping our trousers in the process. We managed to stop laughing long enough to enjoy the dive. It was also Dawn and Les's first dive in their new dive suits - it's okay next time you don't need the red suit. A big thank you to Claire Snead for organising the dive and helping us to raise almost £180 for the RNLI and DDRC.



Diving

Winter Dives

If you fancy a dip over winter then Mark Sherwood is running a dive trip on 8th & 9th February. Please contact Mark Sherwood for further information

Dive Planning

The meeting was held on Tuesday 14th January. Unfortunately only 6 members attended, 4 of who have already planned trips on the calendar. We booked some additional dates such as open water and boat dives for the trainees, Easter and May Bank Holiday. This means there are still plenty of gaps on the dive calendar and do need members to come forward and volunteer to run trips. It could be a shore dive, RIB dive or hard boat. If you are concerned about trying to fill a hard boat then why not look at the shuttle options and only book the places required. Both Plymouth and Swanage run shuttle services. It could be wreck or reef diving, shallow or deep, a day or weekend. Don't worry if you haven't run a trip before as help is on hand. We can train you and buddy you up with an experienced dive organiser. One of the advantages of course of running a trip is you get to dive the sites you want and are guaranteed a place. If you would like to organise a trip or discuss some ideas please contact Mark.

Dive Vouchers

All members are being offered 2 FREE vouchers for diving on the club RIB saving you £20. You will still need to pay fuel, towing and other dive group charges. The vouchers are valid until end of this year and can be redeemed by handing to the dive manager. Vouchers can be collected from Mark at the pool on Thursday nights.

Training

Thank you to those members who responded to the survey about skill development courses. Although we didn't get many responses, the committee have taken the decision to try and run the following courses in the club this year:

- Oxygen administration
- Practical Rescue Management
- Dive Planning and Marshalling
- Boat Handling
- Lifesaver
- Accelerated Decompression

The Oxygen Administration course is planned for Saturday 22nd February and the Practical Rescue Management for Saturday 15th March. Mark will issue details soon.

Social News

There are few social activities planned and ideas but we could do with more!

February

Evesham Club Dinner & Dance - Saturday 8th February

We have received an invite from our fellow divers in the Evesham Club to join them for their annual dinner and dance. The event takes place at Worcester County Cricket Club starting at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets cost £32 for a 3 course meal + disco.

It would be good if we could make up a table of Worcester Club members+partners. If you are interested please can you let me know by Monday 20th January so I can confirm numbers.

March

Anita Sherwood will be running a caving trip on Sunday 2nd March. Details to follow.

April

Doug Allan - Wednesday 23rd April

Doug Allan is a renowned underwater cameraman who has been involved in well known programmes such as Blue Planet, Planet Earth and Ocean Giants. He will be giving a talk at Malvern Theatre on the topic 'In the Company of Giants'. Tickets cost £15.68 and the evening starts at 7.45pm. If you are interested in coming please can you let me know (+ money) by the end of January.

Pool Sessions

As we all know the pool has been closed since late December because of heating problems. We understand the new pump has been installed and they are now waiting for the water to reach the correct temperature. All being well we should be able to use it from Thursday 23rd January but will confirm to members once we know for definite.

Club Promotion

Steve Fulcher is sorting out the new club website. We have purchased a new software package which will be easier to use than the existing version and enable us to have more features. Steve has asked if members can let him have photos (you will also need to Steve permission for him to put them on the website) and any ideas for what you would like to Steve. Please contact Steve on steve.fulcher@exac-one.co.uk if you can help.

Simon has set up a facebook group for the club which you are welcome to join.

Finally last year Mark produced some new flyers for the club. It would be helpful if members could take a few and distribute them - friends, work colleagues, notice boards etc.

