



Worcester Divers News

January 2015

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to 2015 and hope you all had a good Christmas.

Although we are now in our quieter season there has still be plenty going on since the last newsletter in October. We had our club AGM on 21st October and I am pleased to welcome 2 new members to the committee - Matt Coles and Saira Beebejaun. Matt and Saira joined the club last year so it is good to see new members getting involved. I would also like to thank Vince, Tony and Andy who were members of the committee last year and have stood down. We are still short of a social secretary and equipment officers, so if anyone is prepared to do either of these, please let me know.

There has been some diving - open water training dives and the Christmas Dive (although only 3 of us managed to brave the cold for this one!). We have also had a couple of social events, which were great fun.

If you do have anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter or wish to have a chat about matters to do the club then please contact me.

Happy diving!

Janet Yates, Club Chairman

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Club News

Here is a round- up of what has been happening in the club:

The AGM was held on Tuesday 21st October. There was plenty of positive news - increase in membership from 44 to 52; 54 enquiries; increase in diving; purchase of new equipment; and a new club website. The following members were appointed to the committee:

Chairman - Janet Yates

Diving Officer - Mark Sherwood

Secretary - Steve Fulcher

Treasurer - Simon Yates

Training Officer - Dave Rees

Membership Secretary - Colin Stuart

Boat Officer - Chris Redman

General Members - Matt Coles (club publicity); Saira Beebejaun (assisting Mark with equipment)

Congratulations to the following members who received club awards:

Yesford Trophy (most logged dives) - Anita Sherwood

Dave Dearing Cup (best newcomer) - Andrezj Oleksiewicz and Saira Beebeejaun

John Brookes Trophy (outstanding commitment to the club) - Steve Fulcher

The Wakey Trophy for the best organised/most adventurous diving trip - Claire Snead for trip to Anglesey

Octopush Cup - Ollie Walker

Green Bucket Award - Dave Rees

We finished the evening with a slide show and meal.

Qualifications

Congratulations to the following members who have been progressing with their qualifications:

Martin Large - completing his Ocean Diver qualification

Andrezj Oleksiewicz - completing his Sports Diver qualification

Scuba Magazine

You may have noticed that we have 3 club members featured in this months Scuba magazine. Anita Sherwood had a very informative article on diving out of Rock in North Cornwall. Charles Erb and Trevor Rees have started a regular column

Diving

It has been great to see so many members braving the winter weather to participate in training and diving in late November/early December. However it was a shame the Christmas Dive only turned out to be 3 members - surprisingly it was quite pleasant in the water and we only really felt cold when we got back home!

A dive with a difference was the dry dive at Midland Dive Chamber just before Christmas. It was an amazing experience - very informative and lots of fun. The evening started with a quick change into our hospital scrubs, a presentation about the work of the chamber and safety briefing. The dry dive to 50m was unlike anything experienced before - rapid clearing of ears to discover we had only gone down 2m!, exploding ping pong balls, inability to whistle beyond 14m and lots of squeaky voices. At 50m there was much laughing while we tried to complete a simple alphabet challenge. We ascended to 12m, at which point we put on oxygen masks for series of stops on our way back up to the surface. Following the dive we had an information session about how they operate the chamber before heading home. Thank you to Steve Fulcher for organising this - would definitely recommend it to other members.



Diving

Dive Vouchers

The committee decided to retain the offer of Dive Vouchers for another year. Members are entitled to 2 vouchers each (worth £10/voucher). Each voucher covers 1 days diving from the club RIB although you will still need to pay fuel, towing and other dive group charges. Mark has circulated the standard template for the voucher - you will need to add your name, print them off and then hand them to the Dive Manger / organiser of the club RIB trip. The vouchers are valid until end of this year.

Dive Calendar

Mark has recently circulated the latest copy of the dive calendar, following the dive planning meeting last month. You will notice there are still quite a few gaps so it would be good if a few other members could volunteer to organise 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.

There are a couple of trips coming up in the next few weeks for those members who fancy taking a winter dip:

14th & 15th February TBA Contact Anita Sherwood

14th & 15th March TBA Contact Chris Redman

Please contact Mark Sherwood if you are thinking or organising a trip

Training

Ocean Diver

We are planning to start another Ocean Dive course on 5th February (subject to numbers). If you of anyone who might be interested in learning to dive please contact Dave Rees ASAP.

Skill Development Course

Simon has recently circulated details of 2 courses - First Aid (31st January) and Boat Handling (Theory 28th Feb, Practical 7th & 8th March). There are still plenty of places on the First Aid course - we haven't run a course for several years so would definitely recommend it to newer members and even older ones, who might want a refresher. Contact Simon if you would like to attend.

Social News

The main social activities have been the games night in the pool on Thursday 4th December and Christmas Bowling the following week.

The games night was a great laugh and have no idea how Mark comes up with so many crazy ideas. I think the 2 funniest games were the sack race and 3 legged race. For the sack race we had to climb into a dustbin bag underwater which proved quite a challenge (especially when I found myself upside down trying to climb back inside the bag!). The 3 legged race involved each pair putting on a pair of tights between them - it was so funny watching Andrezej and JC trying to do this - I'm sure us ladies did have an advantage with this one. Thank you to Mark for organising such a fun evening.

On the following Thursday, 25 members and families attended the annual Christmas social at Bowl Extreme for 2 games of bowling and a meal. Again a very enjoyable evening.

Sadly the events calendar is a bit empty, so if you fancy organising something please let me know.



Social Media

Matt Coles has kindly offered to look after the club's social media. We currently have a Worcester Divers Facebook page and a Worcester Divers Closed group. It is good when updates go on the Facebook page as this directly links to the front page of the club website. However we are considering stopping the closed group to ensure that any updates only go onto the Facebook page, because this then helps to promote the club.

Matt has also set up a twitter account (@worcesterdivers). Alternatively you can access by going to <http://www.twitter.com/worcesterdivers>. So if you are a regular user of twitter please start following!

Pool News

As you are aware the club is back at the pool on Thursday nights. So if you fancy shedding a few of those Christmas pounds or testing out kit, why not come along!