



Worcester Divers News

July 2014

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New Members

I would like to welcome:

- Rob Martin and Tom Fulcher who have recently joined and embarking on their Ocean Diver training
- Lee Cookson who has re-joined the club

Chairman's Chat

A few months have past since the last newsletter and what a lovely summer we are having. The season's diving is well underway but inevitably we have lost some trips to bad weather. This always seems such a shame especially with the effort that goes into organising the trips and the limited opportunities to go diving. However I know those members who have had managed go diving have had a good time.

One of the pleasures this year is seeing the number of new members progressing onto RIB diving. This is often a challenge for the club - relatively easy to arrange open water dives at inland sites but incorporating trainees into RIB trips, with all the other factors to consider, is a different matter. Therefore I would like to give particular thanks to the instructors/experienced divers who have willingly taken trainees on their first RIB dives and hopefully inspired them to keep diving with the club.

We do still of course have another 3 months of diving ahead of us, before Autumn sets in. However, sadly quite a few gaps in the calendar. So it would be great if more members could volunteer to organise trips - look out in the 'Diving' section for a few ideas.

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 contact me

Happy diving!

Janet Yates, Club Chairman

Club News

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

Qualifications

Congratulations to the following members on achieving Ocean Diver:

Andrezj Oleksiewicz, Saira and Azura Beebjaun,

Shirin Woodhall, Diane Gray, Anna Coles, Matt Coles (PADI crossovers to Ocean Diver)

Please remember, if you have completed a qualification, then your record book and card application form needs to be signed by the DO for you to get your qualification card from BSAC.

Equipment

If you have been to the tunnel recently you might have noticed we now have a new system for booking out club equipment. With so much kit out on loan it was proving difficult to keep track of what was where. All items of kit are listed on the 3 boards, so members only need write their name against what they have borrowed. Thank you to Mark for sorting this out.

Inevitably with the boat being used, some minor repairs will be required. Chris Redman is currently sorting out these out, although is still operating fine. If anything does arise on a club trip please can you ensure it is reported to the committee so repairs can be sorted.

Cycle Ride and Barbecue

Several members of the club and their families met up for a cycle ride and barbecue in the Forest of Dean on Saturday 12th July. Despite it being a really hot day they all had an enjoyable time. Thanks to Claire Snead for organising.

Club RIB

With the club RIB being used it is inevitable that minor repairs will be required. Thanks to Chris who has been making sure the repairs are sorted.

**Diving**

The diving season is well underway - at the July committee meeting Mark reported there are 221 logs dives so far this year. Trips have included Falmouth at Easter, Plymouth, Padstow, Salcombe, Anglesey, Stoney Cove and Cromhall. The following trips are planned for the coming months:

16th - 18th August Padstow Min Ocean Diver

30th & 31st August Weymouth Hard boat trip on Tango - this trip is full

27th & 28th Sept Babbacombe/Brixham Any grade

There are still a few gaps in the dive calendar and it would be good to have some volunteers to organise trips. This particularly applies to September - sometimes this can be best time of year for diving as the water is warmer and viz is generally good. For some members though, the idea of taking the RIB away can be daunting especially if you have not towed it before. However there are alternatives such as the shore diving which Diane has kindly offered to organise. A good reference source is Anita's book 'Top 100 British Shore Dives' which gives plenty of information on sites, places to stay and getting air fills. If you haven't got a copy then ask around as quite a few members do.

Diving

Another good option is booking spaces on the shuttle boats - you book as many or as few spaces required so no worry about trying to fill a boat. Possible options for shuttle boats are:

Swanage: www.diversdownswanage.co.uk
www.kyarra.com

Porthkerris: www.porthkerris.com

Plymouth: www.discoverydivers.org
www.divingplymouth.com
www.plymouthdivingcentre.co.uk

www.aquanauts.co.uk
www.plymouthdiving.co.uk
www.southwestdiving.co.uk

Some of the Plymouth ones might be charter only but worth checking to see if there are any spaces

One club member who recently organised her further club dive is Claire Snead. She arranged the trip with Rhosneigr club on the Isle of Anglesey having got to know at the Dive Show last year. Here is Claire's account of the trip:

I met Kerry 'Kez' Jones at the NEC Dive Show and she extended an invitation to go diving with the Rhosneigr Divers. I liked the sound of diving off Anglesey and so I decided to give it a go. First step - get approval at the January planning meeting, where a few of the Worcester crew expressed an interest, and then set a date. Next step - contact the Rhosneigr Divers and see what they could offer. Having befriended the Rhosneigr Divers on Facebook I could see that they dive regularly and that Andy Easter was the man to help me plan the dives. We had Plans A, B and C depending on the weather and because of Andy's local knowledge and experience; I was more than happy to go along with his recommendations. I made a few enquiries about accommodation and found out that Rhosneigr Divers members JJ and Claire Summerfield own a lovely campsite where they store the boat and have a compressor! Claire was also able to help me with hotel accommodation for those of us who didn't want to camp.

Prior to the trip I checked the contact details for the local coastguard at HolyHead, checked the tide times (we got Neaps!), the Met. Office weather and even the surfers wave heights for the weekend; also I made sure that I had emergency contact details for everyone which I gave to Andy...so far so good.

Andy was kind enough to meet us on Friday night and so we were able to finalise all the plans, boat launch, times etc. On Saturday we did three dives, two in Rhosneigr Bay - Rhoscolyn Beacon and the Norman Court and one at Ty Croes - The Kyle Prince.

The vis was good but the seals on the rocks didn't come in to play. There was plenty to see and the diving was really enjoyable with lots of crab, lobsters, dog fish, star fish and a very entertaining blenny on the Norman Court.

All the dives were worthwhile although on the third Hannah and I failed to find the wreck!! There was also a lot of talk about the amount of exposed brass...

Great evening meal at the SandyMount Club and a relatively early night for all.

Diving

Sunday we completed two more dives - Rhoscolyn Chasms and later the Euphraties in Ty Croes Bay. Pictures are on Worcester Divers website - thanks for the support from Simon, Steve, Robin and John - it was good to have such an experienced team for my first trip.

Thanks also to the team at Rhosneigr who made this trip possible. I'm now thinking about planning another expedition north!



Training

Ocean Diver If you have been to the pool recently you will notice we have 2 new Ocean Divers in training. We have also had a few enquiries so there is a chance more new trainees will be looking to start the course.

Sports Diver John Carmichael has been very busy training up the sports diver, the majority of whom started this year as either new divers/PADI cross-over. There has been a busy lecture programme and a few trips to Cromhall and Stony Cove.

Dive Leader Mark Sherwood and Simon Yates are running the Dive Leader programme. The lectures have been completed and the practical exercises will be taking place over the next few months.

Social News

Although there has been some good diving taking place, unfortunately not so busy on the social scene apart from the cycle road and barbecue. It would be good to have a few dates in the diary, especially for when there is less diving in the Autumn. So if you think you could organise a social event please let me know.