



Worcester Divers News

November 2013

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New Members

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

Diane Grey - PADI diver who is undertaking training for sports diver

Miles Jenkins - new trainee

Andrzej Oleksiewicz - new trainee

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the first edition of the NEW Worcester Divers Newsletter. As the new club Chairman I've been giving some thought as to how to improve communication in the club. I know plenty of e mails are circulated and we do send out the minutes which help keep members informed of what the committee have been discussing. But I don't really feel these do justice to everything that is happening in the club. So I've decided to re-introduce a club newsletter, which is something we had a few years ago. The idea of the newsletter is to share news with members such as who has joined the club, passed a qualification, what's happening with diving. But this is also your newsletter. So, for example, it could include dive trip reports, or maybe a newer member may wish to share their experience of their first open water dive or perhaps you have some kit to sell. Of course details of dive trips and other club information will still be circulated by e mail but by also having a newsletter I'm hoping members will realise how much is going on and that we really are a busy club with plenty of opportunity to get involved.

Happy diving!

Janet Yates, Club Chairman

Club News - AGM

The AGM was held on Tuesday 29th October and attended by 17 members. The most noticeable points in the reports are the significant drop in reported club diving - 157 dives, down from 379 in the previous year. This in turn has had a noticeable impact on club income from dive trips. There was a discussion about what could be done to encourage more organisers and members to come diving. These included purchasing equipment which will enhance members diving and subsidising trips.

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

Equipment Officer - Vince Norris

Boat Officer - Chris Redman

General Members - Andy Davis, Tony Griffin

Congratulations to the following members who received club awards:

Yesford Trophy (most logged dives) - Anita Sherwood

Dave Dearing Cup (best newcomer) - Vince and Jake Norris

John Brookes Trophy (outstanding commitment to the club) - Simon and Janet Yates

Octopush Cup - Paul Cooper

We finished the evening with a slide show and meal.

Club News - Dive Show

On Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October the club had a pod at the NEC Dive Show. This was part of the BSAC Showcase and an ideal way to meet other clubs and promote Worcester Divers. We had a reasonable number of enquiries over the weekend, mainly from PADI divers who were looking to do more UK diving and join a club. A big thank you to Mark Sherwood, who put together an excellent display, and the members who helped out on the stand over the weekend. You might even spot a few of them in the photo in this month's Scuba magazine!



Anita, Mark, Claire, Dave and Simon in the Worcester Dive Pod

Diving

Although the summer is now behind, this doesn't mean that diving stops for the hardy members who like to keep diving over the winter. The following trips are planned over the next couple of months:

- Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th December - Newquay, Cornwall. Sports Diver minimum. Contact Mark Sherwood for further information
- Sunday 15th December - Santa Scuba Dive at Chepstow. This is a fundraising event in aid of RNLI and DDRC and as you probably guessed we have to dress up as Santa. So far 12 members have booked. If you are interested in coming please contact Claire Snead



- Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th January - dive site TBC. Contact Mark Sherwood

AND DON'T FORGET - DIVE PLANNING MEETING ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY

Training

Training is an important aspect of the club - we all started as novices and worked our way up to achieve the qualification level which enables us to do the diving we want, organise dive trips or train new divers. The committee have identified two aspects of club training for which we need some input from members:

Skill Development Courses

The committee would like to put together a programme of skill development courses over winter. These are ideal for newer members who may wish to gain a qualification in a diving related topic or to contribute to their next grade and more experienced members who may wish to learn a new skill to enhance their diving. The following skill development courses are being proposed:

1. Lifesaving - these would take place over several Thursday evenings in the pool
2. Oxygen Administration (min. grade - Ocean Diver)
3. First Aid (open to any grade)
4. Practical Rescue Management (min. grade - Sports Diver)
5. Advanced Lifesaving skills - open water (Open to anyone with a lifesaver award).
6. Boat Handling (open to any grade)
7. Dive Planning (min. grade - Sports Diver with 20+ dives)
8. Accelerated Decompression (min. grade - Sports Diver who has completed the 2007 syllabus (with nitrox content) and has been endorsed as a Nitrox Diver, plus 20 additional dives including depth experience to 30m)
9. Twin set course (min. grade - Sports Diver with 20+ dives and depth experience to 35m)

However before the committee starts putting together the calendar of courses we need to know how many members are interested. Therefore, if you are interested in any of the courses, please complete the enclosed spreadsheet and return it to me by **Friday 6th December**.

Instructors

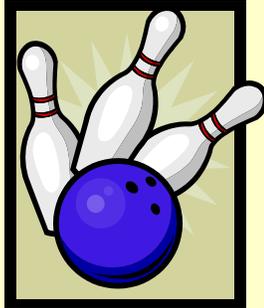
Mark has already been in contact with instructors to find out who would be able to help out with training. It would be helpful if instructors could also let him know whether they are able to instruct on any of the above Skill Development courses.

It would also be useful to hear from any other members who are interested in assisting with instructing - maybe you are thinking about becoming an instructor or are an experienced diver who doesn't mind helping with open water exercises. If so, please could you let Mark know.

If any members are thinking about becoming an instructor then help is available. The club will pay the course fee (agreed for courses until March 2014) and mentoring is available from more experienced instructors.

Social News

There are still a few places left for the club's Christmas social which takes place on Thursday 12th December. We will be going bowling at Bowl Extreme, Worcester. Cost is £16.90 or £17.90 for the main meal + 2 games of bowling. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to come



Next Year's Social Calendar



Unfortunately there isn't anything booked so far. So if any members fancy organising a social event, maybe a trip, meet for a meal, day's walk then the committee would be pleased to hear from you!

Club Promotion

One of the most important forms of promotion for the club is our website www.worcesterdivers.com. Most enquiries come via the website and it is where you will find the dive calendar and a host of useful information, such as resources to organise a dive. Whilst the website content is good the problem we have is that it was designed using HTML code which limits what can be displayed and edited. We need to find a more user friendly software option so it can be re-designed and updated by a club member. Steve and Colin have started investigating the options. However we are really looking for 1 or 2 club members to take on the role of webmaster to oversee the design and keep the website updated. So if you have web design experience or fancy taking on this role please let me know.

The club also has its own facebook page (Worcester Divers). Why not take a look and start posting your diving news and photos.

Pool Sessions

The last pool session before Christmas is Thursday 5th December and we start back on Thursday 2nd January. It would be good to see a few more members at the pool as currently the club is paying more to hire it than we receive from pool fees. It only costs £3 per session which is cheaper than public sessions at many pools. So why not come along for a swim, go snorkelling, play Octopush or test out your dive kit and help club funds in the process.

And Finally ...

I hope you have found this newsletter of interest and a good way of catching up on club news. If you have anything would like to contribute for the next newsletter please could I have this by Wednesday 11th December

Janet