



## December '08 news

Hi All,

I hadn't intended to do another one of these quite so soon but hey-ho... a few things have been happening club wise that you might like to know about & Mrs. F. has given me some time off from shelf fixing & decorating so, just to keep everyone in touch:-

### **“U” Turn as Janet Yates changes date for Porthkerris trip!**

Hopefully, you've all received a copy of the 2009 Diving calendar by now, if not, it is posted on the [website](#) or contact me for a copy. One change is that Janet's Porthkerris trip is now rescheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August. This means that Dave Webster's West Wales trip will now go ahead on the original scheduled dates of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July. I should point out that West Wales is intended for Dive Leader & above, whereas Porthkerris is open to experienced Sports Divers.

### **It's Christmasssssss!!**

In case you haven't noticed, the Christmas season is closing in fast and if you haven't done so yet, contact Andy Davis or Elke Eldredge to get your tickets for the curry & skittles Christmas party evening on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Andy & Steve do the DOC!**

Yes we did, and a jolly good conference it was too. Once all the announcements & boring stuff was out of the way, we were treated to several talks including one by Gary Caldwell about marine algae. Now you might not think this to be the most riveting subject to listen to but how wrong you'd be. It turns out that many simple algae's contain some of the most toxic & lethal chemicals know to man, some of which can literally turn you inside out within 24 hours – puts a Friday night biryani into perspective. Other entertaining talks included one by Tony Groom, the Navy clearance diver who has published a book about his diving career & also one given by Marguerite St. Leger-Dowse from the Diving Disease & Research Centre in Plymouth. DDRC are constantly involved in investigating



hyperbaric medicine & treatment, and are currently researching the health of the diving nation (cough, cough) but they need copious amounts of data to do this with. So they have devised a simple questionnaire which is totally anonymous, for divers to complete & return. I would urge all members to take part as any research which is diving related can only be beneficial to us. The form can be downloaded [here](#) – print it off, fill it in & post it - it'll take you a whole 5 mins to do & cost you a phenomenal 24 pee for a stamp. Go to the [DDRC website](#) for more info.

Other news items were announced at the DOC and some additional courses being introduced include Photography Workshop & Wreck Identification. Significant to budding tekies are changes to the “Advanced Nitrox” course now to be called (more appropriately) “Accelerated Decompression Procedure” and also the introduction next year of the “Sports Mixed Gas” course to replace the already outdated ERD course. We will be able to run some of these new courses within the club so let Andy know if there are any you are particularly interested in. Further info can be found in the December issue 53 NDC e-bulletin which should be available from the [BS-AC website](#).

## “You can breathe for free!!” says Seastyle

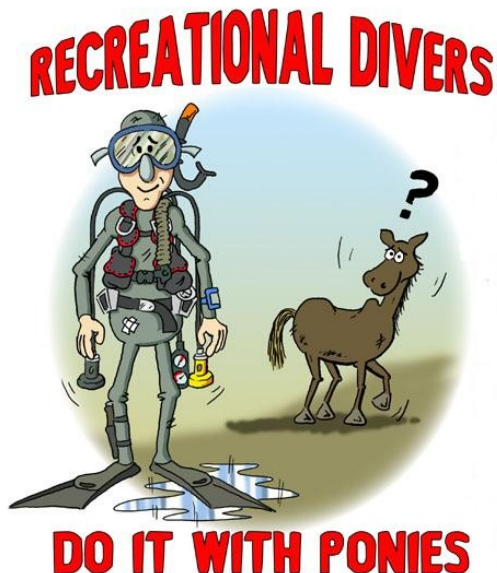
Yes, it’s true, Christmas really has come early. For an unspecified limited period, Elwyn is offering free air fills!! I haven’t heard if there are any strings attached – I don’t think there are so get down there for your free fill(s). *Has anyone actually seen Elwyn since this inception or is he still recovering?*

And whilst we’re on the subject, Dive 90 are now able to carry out cylinder testing in house, thus greatly reducing their turnaround for this service. As you’ll know, most shops send the cylinders away for testing with a turnaround of anything up to 3 weeks, but now at least if you do happen to forget 3 days before ropes off (it has been known) you may be able to go to Dive 90 to get you out of trouble.



## Kit for sale as ex members give up

Dave Rees is in contact with a couple of past members who unfortunately have had to give up diving. The silver lining is that they have various bits of kit for sale including BC’s & dry-suits, some of it very little used. Could be ideal for any new members so contact Dave if interested.



## Worcester registers for “Club of the Year” award

OK, well I haven’t actually done so as yet, but I have every intention to. So what does it involve? Well, all we need to do is what we already do; go diving - lots, keep progressing with the training - lots & get lots of new members - lots. This, we (I) have to record between Jan. & Oct. ‘09 & submit to BS-AC. We’re then assessed and win the prize – job done. 1<sup>st</sup> prize this year was 5 full sets of kit, seconds was 5 dive computers so well worth doing. Oh, it does mean I have to submit all members e-mail addresses to BS-AC as part of

the registration process so if anybody's got a problem with that, we can't enter & we won't be able to win so it'll be your fault – but we won't hold it against you so let me know if you really don't want me to let them have your e-mail address.

## Club goes to Stoney Cove for a dive...

Sorry, but it's the most exciting bit of actual diving news I've got at the moment. It'll all kick off next year but for now, Stoney on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. & it's expected to be well attended. Contact Andy for arrangements.

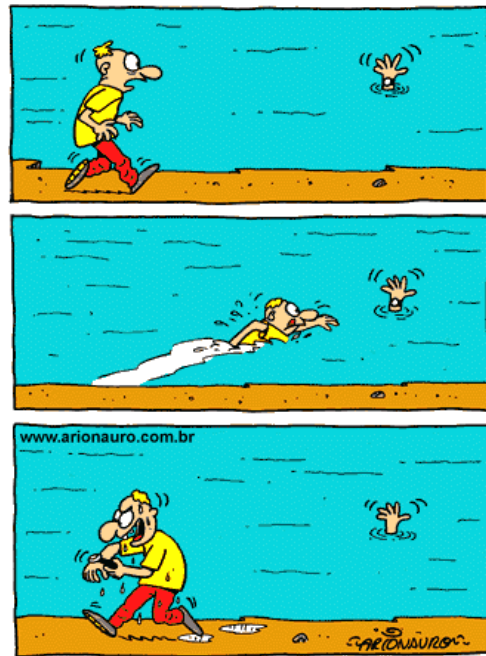
Congrats go to Peter Mynette on passing his Sports Diver qually recently at Cromhall. It was truly an unforgettable day signified by the character building minus 20C wind chill coupled with the fact that we were the only two idiots in the water. Anyway, well done Peter & enjoy your Xmas turkey above the Thistlegorm.

## New member's initiative

Looking ahead we'll be starting an Ocean diver course in February & need to get some new members enrolled in readiness for this so if anyone knows someone who knows anybody who wants to learn to dive, now's the time to get them primed to join up.

## Life Saver award coming soon...

We'll be running the Lifesaver course in the New Year. The course is open to all; Ocean Divers & above and includes, as you might expect, valuable training on rescues, safety, resuscitation etc. with specific emphasis on diving. The course is covered over 8 Thursday nights and will commence early January next year. Cost will be in the region of £20.00 pp. If you haven't yet done this course, you really ought to - & if you have, you're welcome to join in as a refresher – it's a lot of fun & I guarantee you'll learn some new skills... and you never know when you might need them. See either me or Andy at the pool/pub if interested.



Many thanks to all who have provided me with news snippets & announcements, please keep them coming in readiness for the next missive. Also club photos are needed for the website, anything relevant to the club is good but particularly embarrassing ones will of course be automatically selected.

Safe Diving  
Steve