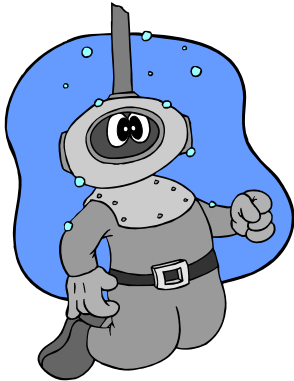


Worcester Divers News Winter '09



Hello fellow bubbleheads,

A very belated & credit crunching Happy New Year to you all.

Well, I've managed to skive a day off work due to the snow & have just shovelled about 4 tonnes of the stuff off the drive again, whilst muttering unrepeatables about global warming under my breath, so now I'm thinking it's about time I got round to putting together some club news in an interesting & informative manner... but until I do, here's the latest newsletter.

Being a responsible DO I guess ought to kick off by suggesting that now is the time of year to think about digging the kit out & checking it over in the pool in readiness for some shake-down dives.

At the risk of preaching to the converted; reg servicing, dry-suit seals, zips & valves, (and check suit for mice - you know who you are), computer batteries, BC's, torches, reels, SMB's, cameras, it all needs testing out in the safe confines of the pool after a long layoff.

Check your regs are good for cold water use if diving at this time of year. Even if they are you can still have problems; When you launch an SMB or share your air through an octopus, or even blast some air into your suit or BC, it puts additional demand on the regs & creates higher airflow. More airflow means faster chilling, add some extra cold water & you could find yourself enshrouded in more bubbles than a shampoo factory with a contents gauge plummeting faster than the stock market on black Tuesday. The ideal is to use a separate air source (pony, twin-set) for air sharing/SMB's but other tips are to make sure your octopus is pointing mouthpiece down when you stride in & don't breathe from the regs before you enter cold water.

And whilst I'm in my pulpit, are your skills up to date? Have you practiced a CBL or AS lately? Could you assemble the O2 kit & administer it in an emergency? Is your buoyancy as good as it could be? These winter months are the ideal time to get some practice in at the pool & hone your skills - or if you're interested in doing any SDC's or advancing your qualification in readiness for the coming year speak to Andy Davis.



"Don't call a plumber just yet. It's been a long winter and I'd like to get a little diving in."

OK, so that's enough of the sermon, what else?...

Kit news

The boat & trailer is now back in the bat-cave after having its winter service and is all ready for the coming coastal raids. Oil & plugs changed, fresh filters, brakes serviced, new tow bar, and a shiny brand new prop - let's see if we can actually get it in the sea before pranging it this time eh!

The old chart plotter & sonar has finally upped stumps & gone off to the pavilion, so the wise elders (committee) are currently researching the best options on a suitable replacement. We should have this sorted over the next month so I'll bring you news of it as it happens.

We're currently doing the annual club kit audit which involves much frantic scratching of heads before chasing round with e-mails to try & find who's got what, where & what state it's in. Gavin's on the case so if you have got any club diving kit, particularly if you no longer need it, please contact him.



Calendar

The new diving season is looming and we've got loads of trips on offer, so take a look at the [calendar](#) on the [club's website](#) & get your name down on any you fancy. There's something for all experience levels including trips to Penzance, Farne Isles, West Wales, Lyme Bay, Mull, and of course that old favourite – Plymouth. There's also a week long tour of Scotland

in June, which I'm sure will offer a huge range of diving from lochs to coast, wrecks & reefs.

Andy D's Red Sea trip in March & Steve P's Scillies trip in September are both pretty well full now but check with them just in case, there may be some reserve places.

Even with all the trips being planned, there are still some weekends available so if you really can't find anything that you like the look of, organise a trip yourself. Anyone can arrange a trip; you don't need to be qualified though you will need qualified people to look after the diving. Let me know if you're new to it & want to get something together.

Not a lot of people know that...

'The emperor penguin has been recorded at depths of 565 metres, hunting for fish!'

Wow! Do you reckon it was narked?



Conservation Info.

In July last year, scallop dredging was banned by the Government in the Lyme Bay area extending to sixty square miles. Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) is researching the impact this has on the area over the next three years and invites divers who dive in the Lyme Bay area to help with this by filling in a simple on-line form available on their [website](#). The area is still open to diving as normal and diver caught scalloping is still permitted – just as long as you're not dragging a demersal trawl behind you.

After much procrastination, the long awaited Marine Bill, or to give it its proper title "The Marine and Coastal Access Bill" now seems to be a thing of reality & is currently in the legislative phase for Mr. Brown & his mates to hammer out. What impact this will have on us as divers is yet to be seen; only good we hope. The optimist's thinking is that it will ultimately create more marine reserves around our coast with a "no take" policy enforced, aiding recovery of fish stocks & marine life. The cynics may claim it's just more red tape & a threat to an already struggling fishing industry. Maybe they're both right, feel free to put your POV forward if you feel strongly enough about it.

If you are a keen scalloper, I note that Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee is applying for a ban on *all* scallop removal in outer parts of the Fal & Halford Special Area of Conservation (SAC)... so its Lyme Bay here we come then.



"Some people save stamps or coins.
I save whales."

I've done a quick Google which has revealed that the UK is in fact littered with these SAC's which you'll find on land as well as water; [click here](#) for a current list of the marine ones (in XL).

It might be worth looking at this list when planning a trip as some sites may need consideration as part of a dive plan if you want to avoid rapped knuckles (or worse).

More info is available on the [JNCC website](#) and the [MCS website](#)

Useful websites

<http://www.ukdiving.co.uk/index.php> -

Loads of info on wrecks, places to dive, forums, find a buddy, classifieds, photography... some of it is actually quite useful. Take a look some time if you haven't already, the wreck database is worth linking to.

Do you have a favourite diving website that you use? If so, let me know & I can include a link in future issues.



Congratulations

The latest well done goes to Dave Brace & Steve Eldredge for attending the Instructors Foundation Course & becoming Assistant Diving Instructors (ADI's), and also to Velma Johnson & Sarah McKerracher on passing their Ocean Diver qualification.

Diving

Being a dive club, we do actually go diving now & again.



Sherwood & Chris Redman last month; Water temperature was a balmy - I mean *barmy* one degree & there was even a thin layer of ice in places. The flip side to the cold was that the underwater vis was superb. Thanks to Mark for these shots

The hardier members of the club have accumulated over 70 dives so far this year which is encouraging for our 'Branch of the Year' stats. Recent dives include an intrepid foray into the River Lune (or is that Loon) in Lancashire by Mark & Anita



Other recent dives include two Stoney open water training days in Jan. & also a three way bimble at Chepstow - well it's all character building isn't it?

Togs

You may have noticed some members showing off the latest line in Worcester Divers threads. If you haven't got yours yet, speak to Elke Eldredge to place your orders, there's a full range available in all sizes, sweat shirts, tees, hats, jackets, even bright orange hoodys (the ultimate fashion statement) all bearing the unique Worcester Divers logo.

Kit for sale.

Oceanic Flexia Dry Suit + Hood + Carry Bag (condition – mint) Size – L/Tall, Boot – XL	£ 350.00
SeaQuest Pro QD – BCD – Size XL	£ 195.00
Typhoon Under suit - XL	£ 70.00
Sub Aquion Under suit – XL	£ 70.00
Scubapro Boots – L	£ 10.00
Gloves – L	£ 10.00
Apex REG – set (complete all hoses – mint condition)	£ 350.00
Apexs 1 st stage (AP0595C-1) DIN fitting,	
Apexs 2 nd stage ATX100, Apex Octo ATX50	
+ Depth & Air gauge	
Apex Quatum Dive Computer	£ 100.00
Faber 12.2L Steel Cylinder 232Bar (In test)	£ 100.00
One pair Open Water fins	£ 20.00

If you are interested in any of the above please contact Paul Winkworth at -
pwinkworth@worcestershire.gov.uk
Mob : 07882 842144

Coming up...

Dive Leader theory on 15th Feb

Open water training on the 28th Feb

RIB Trip to Penzance on 7th March

Red Sea live-aboard on 13th March

London International Dive Show (LIDS) 28th & 29th March

Gemma's charity Spring Ball – 28th March

Lifesaver course continues

The Octopush guys have been challenged to a friendly against the Tewkesbury players – date TBA, probably sometime in March.

And finally...

Please let me have your dive logs as soon as you can after diving.

And please let me have any trip reports, info snippets, photos (I particularly need photos) for the next newsletter.

Safe bubbling

Steve