



# TFI STRATFORD BSAC

*motto:*

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

## JULY 2015

Any problems, suggestions or articles for TFI call Chris Prichard on 01386 462443

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**ATTACHED TO YOUR EMAIL is  
your:**

- **2015 Dive Calendar**

**The Report on trip to Isles of  
Scilly is coming to you attached  
to a separate email.**

### Chairman's Report

At last, some positive news from the leisure centre, the pool will re-open at the beginning of July. The first Thursday we can swim again will be 16th July so then we can get back to our normal way of life and recruit a few new members.

We have also been approached by Wellesbourne Lions to do safety cover at Hampton Lucy weir for the raft race. We used to do this regularly but this the first time we have been approached for several years. We always had a great day out with a barbecue in the field and a few beers.

Everyone is welcome to come to that, bring your dry-suit, it's on Sunday 26th July from around 9.00am.

We have what we grandly call a storage cupboard at the Football Club, it's more of a Hobbit Hole but we can now keep equipment together and won't need to go chasing round the county to find where books, training manuals and the projector are. Prich is donating a library which will also be kept there along with copies of Geoff's charts. There will be a list of these in TFI and anyone will be able to borrow them.

And finally, congratulations to Prich, Wellsy and the rest of the group for their marathon trip from Lands End to John'o'Groats. The blog from Andy Gravenor was brilliant, it sounded like an episode from 'Last of the Summer Wine', and I can't believe they actually cycled all that way. I hope you are all finally managing to sit down again and the blisters are abating.

Hilary Wilson

### **FROM THE TRAINING POOL**

Dive Leader and Sports Diver Theory lessons continue in the next few weeks.

Ocean Diver Lessons will start soon so watch out for emails from me

Miles Howarth  
Training Officer

## **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Lying in bed drinking morning coffee:

Prich: *It's a lovely day with almost a perfectly clear blue sky and you can clearly over to The Malverns.*

Jackie: *That solitary cloud is a strange shape it's so long and slim.*

Prich: *It looks like a pipe fish or a trumpet fish.*

Jackie: *Definitely not a pipe fish because that has a much more concave face.*

Prich: *What was in that coffee?*

## **DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Peter Neal has gone off for some routine surgery which took place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. First reports are that he survived and is very perky and expects to be out of hospital in a day or two.

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## **RED SEA TRIP June 2015**

Hilary, Miles and I have just returned from a MARVELLOUS week in the Red Sea. Organised by Hilary, who usually arranges holidays for a cast of thousands, this was a last minute, hastily arranged trip as they had "some business" to attend to and asked me to come along too. Well, I'm no trouble am I!!!

We stayed at The Ghazala Beach Hotel, which is our new favourite hotel in Na'ama Bay, Sharm, being only a five minute walk along the level beach- front path from The Red Sea College, which itself is only a ten minute walk from the harbour; All very handy.

We enjoyed 6 days boat diving, with 3 dives a day, each about an hour long.

Although, not as well travelled as some of you, in my opinion you can't beat the Red Sea for the sheer variety of sites available. A couple of days we dived the reefs in The Straits of Tiran; Then another day down to Ras Mohammad on the tip of the Sinai Peninsula to dive Shark/ Yolanda. Other days we stayed on the "local" sites. We eschewed the early start necessary to go to the wreck of The Thistlegorm; having dived it a few times before we decided sleep was more important.

Amazingly, it seems most of the dive guides at The Red Sea College are currently Russian girls; in previous years there had been a mix of nationalities with many being British. It elapsed that we had a succession of these Russian guides during the trip and I found that their rather severe expressions and direct manner belied the fact that they were in fact very friendly and helpful and gave excellent briefings. Once they realised that we were actually quite good divers they let us just get on with it. Thus, the three of us tended to bring up the rear in a loose buddy trio pottering hither and thither enjoying the multifarious marine life in the balmy 26 degrees water.

YES, WE SAW MANTAS. N.B. plural, though never more than one at once.

(Different dives so not the same one!) One came up the reef towards us and skimmed above our heads so we saw its undercarriage in great detail; startled by bubbles it then turned tail and headed up towards the surface. Other notables were large Porcupine Puffer Fish; Turtles; Eagle Rays; Crocodile Fish; a Stingray; Napoleonfish

and on one dive, two juveniles being shepherded by their watchful parents; several Morays both static and free swimming including the one that Hilary encountered scrobbling about in the sand eventually emerging with a fish in its mouth; Scorpion Fish Etc etc.

Out of the 18 dives, my favourite dive this time was surprisingly Ras Katy. Usually done as a wall dive, this time, Hannah our dive guide, took us along the wall and down to 27 metres then across the plateau to the very end. As we hung there at the outermost point we were surrounded by a shoal of turquoise Trigger Fish mingling with a shoal of yellow Banner Fish; quite mesmerising. Near the end of this dive the three of us spent a good 10 minutes watching and following an Eagle Ray as it snuffled about in the sand with its “beak”. We were able to get so close without disturbing it that we could clearly see how flexible this proboscis was, more like a shovel!

On a personal note, I was pleased that my new hip coped brilliantly with the three dives a day regime. My other hip, formerly and formally known as “my good hip” only gave me occasional jip.

Post diving we would habitually repair to the dive centre for Mojitos in their courtyard followed later by pre- prandial G & Ts on our patio in front of our adjacent rooms. As the hotel backs onto the beach- front path we were close to the vast array of restaurants, particularly Tam Tam, which over the years has become a favourite. All in all a brilliant holiday; good diving and good company;



Sally Richards

## Membership Directory

Can ALL members PLEASE log into the directory <https://members.stratforddivers.co.uk> and update/amend/enter your details, or as much as it will allow.

As the membership renewals are due in a couple of months this directory will help me and only very limited info is available for everyone to see the rest is for membership use and some of the committee.

To satisfy yourself as to what little detail everyone/you can see, look at mine for example.

I NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS, PLEASE.....and it will 'cost' no more than 5-10 minutes of your time and all from the comfort of your chair, so sit down with a cup of coffee/tea and Just Do It....please!

Please log in to the directory, then click on **My Profile** at the top right then you will see several tabs, click on **Edit** and then simply enter as many details as you can/are allowed on that page.....when you finish click **SAVE** at the bottom and then log out, EASY, DONE and THANK YOU.

*N.B. if you need/want to reset a password, it will automatically be emailed to you and you only have 10 minutes to use it, when it arrives but this should also be instant (ish).*

Pete Talbot Membership Secretary

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## TRY A DIVES

### SPECIAL RATES FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**Speak to Angie Deaves to arrange one.**

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## **Babbacombe Weekend**

It was a beautiful weekend of calm seas and sunshine, excellent company and some tasty food and dancing until late. 11 divers and 6 non-divers braved the depths in Babbacombe Bay and all arrived home safely. We stayed in the updated and very comfortable Holiday park apartments.

The tides were with us, so entry from the shore, slip and steps was easy. On Saturday morning, we arrived at 8.30 in Babbacombe Bay car park and parked on the promenade, which is a special concession from Wayne the cafe owner who kept us fed and watered. We set up and the first divers were in the water by 11.00 - just a bit of faffing about!! Peter Neal was dive marshall - so no problems there.



Some ocean divers had their first sea dive, which was completed without any major disasters, and we saw the cuttlefish - big, beautiful and shimmering in the sunlit water. The three of them hovered gently besides us, more interested in each other than the divers. The seal was around the



harbour dipping and diving and some wonderful shots were had.

We dived in the bay and around the corner towards the cave - it was an excellent weekend for the newcomers.

In the evening we dined, wine and danced - one comment 'However I think we should all be awarded with the "dance

like nobody is watching" award', especially after Paul Nash, Laura and Tony Callow had their depth charge!!



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Normally this section of TFI is reserved for tales of how good it was back then or how tough the divers were doing hour long dives in 3mm wet suits in Stoney in January and such rubbish.

This month it is to report that Martyn Freeman has passed away at the age of 55.



Martyn was a keen member in the 1990's and one of the best Diving Officers we have had, full of enthusiasm for challenging diving but also caring for the less experienced and avoiding risk whenever possible.

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## DIVE TRIPS

### OMAN

I am already thinking about holidays in 2016 and, as some of you already know, I would like to do a liveaboard trip to Oman in early 2016. We went on this trip 2 years ago and I loved it, there is only one boat there so we were the only divers and it is humpback whale migration time so we heard whales almost every dive, saw them on the surface and dived with them at the end of the week. There was masses of fish life with plenty of variety of rays, no sharks that we saw, and a couple of wrecks and it was the easiest week's diving I have ever done.

I have made preliminary enquiries and the total cost is likely to be somewhere between £1800 and £2000 per person. We get a 6% discount as a BSAC club. I know Sally will be a definite "yes" but could the rest of you give me an idea if you are interested so that I know which way to take this. We can either have a few of us on the boat or we can take over the whole boat with up to 24 divers.

I know it's a lot more than the Red Sea but it is nice to have a change once in a while.

Regards, Hilary

### PLYMOUTH

Plymouth with Nick Todd-Jones on 23rd – 26th July

Please note that these dates are correct and this trip is for 4 days and **does** overlap the weekend in Pembroke.

### PORTHKERRIS

Mark Jeffrey is running a weekend diving at Porthkerris on 14th - 16th August 2015. We will be staying in a Log cabin and diving from hard boats. More details to follow.

Mark's phone numbers are : 01386 701 053 or 07850 700231

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FOR SALE

I have a Custom Diver TDB dual bladder wing with tec harness in excellent condition for sale. As I have 5 BCD's / wings you'll appreciate that it has not had much wear.

New price would be £590 and I'm asking £300.

Snap it up now before I put it on e-bay.

Peter Neal

WANTED

Badminton Players for the Wilmcote/Diving Club Badminton Group. Tuesday evenings at 9.00 - 10.00 Stratford Leisure Centre.

Not serious, just a good friendly knock around of pairs and singles. See Geoff Russell (01789 552614. 07836 503082)



Stratford BSAC 0730 Committee 2014

Chairman: Hilary Wilson 07779 287558  
Diving Officer: Peter Neal 07967 656462  
Training Officer: Miles Howarth 07779 287558  
Secretary: Lynne McCarthy 07775 940000  
Equipment Officer: Jay Scott 07976 283702  
Treasurer: Geoff Russell (01789 552614)  
Membership Secretary Pete Talbot 07958 447544  
Recruitment: Angie Deaves 07792 775971  
Events: Emma Hardman 07740 355836

**SUGGESTIONS OR PROBLEMS? THEN CALL ONE OF US**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES 2013**

**To the Stratford Branch**, all Members pay an annual subscription of £118 towards costs of the Branch.  
**To BSAC**, Members pay an annual subscription of £56.50 that covers BSAC costs, their monthly 'Scuba' magazine and their third party insurance. Both of the above are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year.

**New members** are required to pay a full annual subscription for both of the above when they join. In their second year they pay pro-rata to bring them to the next 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Hire of kit** for a new trainee is £60 for a period of for four months. Thereafter it is £30 per month.

**Pool Sessions** - £3 for all Members  
**Try a Dive** £15 a session. £10 of this is refundable when you join the club.

**Training Books** vary but typically the cost for an Ocean Diver is £45.

**The Club has 2 boats** (RIB's) and the Committee believes that Members should contribute towards the cost of running these boats in proportion to how often they dive from them. This is paid for by a compulsory Annual Boat Levy of £30 payable along with your Annual Subscription by all Members in their second year onwards If you do minimal diving from the Club boats during the year you will receive a full or part refund of your Boat Levy. Non members diving from Club RIBs will pay £10 per dive.

**Members towing RIB's** get a minimum of 60 pence per mile

**CLUB DIVING STANDARDS**

All Members are expected to dive in accordance with the guidelines of the BSAC as published from time to time.

No dives should be organised without the prior approval of the Diving Officer who will provide you with a Diving Log which is to be completed with details of the dive and returned to him.

On the reverse side of the Diving Log is a list of the main BSAC guidelines that the Committee wishes to emphasise at this time.

You are reminded that the depth limits for qualified divers is as follows:

Ocean Divers – 20 metres

Sports Divers – 35 metres

All other qualified divers – 50 metres

Members who ignore any of these guidelines do so entirely at their own risk.

You are also reminded of the following:

- Members are strongly recommended to use Delayed Surface Marker Buoys which can be filled by means other than purged air from a mouthpiece.
- Sports Divers and above are recommended to carry their own independent source of back-up air in a second cylinder (twin or pony)

These extracts are not exhaustive and so if you have any queries you should clear these with the Diving Officer before diving.

The Diving Officer for 2015 is Peter Neal and his contact number is shown above.