



# TFI STRATFORD BSAC

*motto:*

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

## CHRISTMAS 2015

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

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[And attached to your email is  
the 2016 Dive Calendar](#)

### Chairman's Report

Another Club year has started, Emma has stepped down from the committee and the new members are shown along with their pictures on pages 9 to 13.

We had a great Christmas party and presentation evening at the Welcombe Hotel on 5th December. The three principle trophies were awarded to:

Diver of the Year	Jay Scott
Wettest Diver	Sally Richards
Novice Diver of the Year	Paul Nash

The remaining awards and all the photos are shown on page 4

The Christmas card collection has raised £275 and counting which is the highest ever. It is going to the DDRC this year so thanks to all those who have donated.

I hope you all have a great Christmas, a Happy New Year and plenty of safe diving.

Hilary

### **FROM THE TRAINING POOL**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 8.00a.m.** There was a big training session at Stoney Cove for Sports Divers and Diver Leader practical exercises with a total of 17 Club Members attending and 18 Lessons being signed off plus Andy Watson completing his Sports Diver Qualification.

As most of you know, I have changed my role and I am looking forward to the next year as your Training Officer. So if you have any questions or requests about any aspect of your training, please ask me.

As I write this we are busy in the pool with twelve Ocean Diver trainees, several of which are nearing the completion of their courses at Stoney Cove.

We have two members who are working their way to a Dive Leader qualification and one about to start the Advanced Diver course.

After Christmas, Chris Prichard (with help from Peter Talbot) will be running another Life Saving course and as we were not able to run this last year I expect as many of you as possible to take part.

At some time fairly soon I (with help from Lynne Bunker) will be organizing an Oxygen Administration Refresher, and as usual I expect most of you will want to make sure that your skills are well honed before the season.

Peter Neal Training Officer.

## QUOTES OF THE MONTH

At Stoney Cove on 2<sup>nd</sup> October:

Pete Talbot:- *"That cider tastes awful but at least it's better than giving Ellen mouth to mouth for two hours"*

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Pete Talbot:- *"Who is he?(referring to a diver in the water about 5 metres away). Surely he's not Ellen is he? Oh dear he is isn't he"*

Or

Russell Thompson in The Red Sea:- *"Did you see that Tiger Shark"*

Everybody Else:- *"He should have gone to Spec Savers"*

## DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT

There have been three successful trips to Stoney since the start of the diving year.

Now is the time to start filling up the calendar for the forthcoming year. Please let me know if you are planning any trips, whether in this country or abroad so I can get them on the calendar. There are still plenty of spaces and, for all those who have never planned a trip before, please ask any of the older members if you need any help or advice.

It was lovely to see you all at the dinner dance having a great night and congratulations to all those who won awards.

Happy diving  
Miles

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### **A REPEAT OF AN ARTICLE WHICH WAS INCLUDED EARLIER BUT WE MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR REPEATING IT.**

#### **AFTER MUCH INVESTIGATION AND DISCUSSION WE BELIEVE THE LAWS REGARDING TOWING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CLUB BOATS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**

All drivers who passed their tests after 1<sup>st</sup> January 1997 will need to take the +E test to be able to tow either of the boats.

Both trailers have a PLATED weight of 2200 KG. Therefore any towing vehicle MUST have a GVW (Kerbside) weight of 2200 KG or more.

Hornet weighs 1650 KG. Portia weighs 1600 KG. Your handbook stipulates the actual weight that you can tow. Therefore your handbook must stipulate that you can tow in excess of these weights.

Please bear in mind that any kit in the boat must be added to these weights and should still be within your handbook recommendations.

Whilst we have checked the current laws, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that your vehicle is legally capable of towing the trailers and that your insurance covers you to tow the boats.

Neither the club nor any member of the committee will be responsible in any way if you tow uninsured or illegally, nor will they be liable to cover any costs you may incur.

Hilary Wilson

## **'Blue bastard': newly recognised fish is blue when adult and 'a bastard to catch'**

Queensland scientist Jeff Johnson, who identified species from photos, formally christens combative reef fish *Plectorhinchus caeruleonothus* - – a direct Latin translation of the colloquial name anglers bestowed on a fish famously difficult to land.



The blue bastard's 12 dorsal spines make it utterly different from a sweetlips species it had previously been confused with.

The "blue bastard", an elusive and uniquely combative reef fish from northern Australia, long known only in fishing folklore, has been recognised officially by science.

Due to being native to murky far-northern reef waters swimming with sharks and crocodiles, it had proven understandably elusive, he said.

He used photos from fly fisherman Ben Bright to show that the blue bastard's 12 dorsal spines make it utterly different from a sweetlips species it had previously been confused with. The blue bastard is distinctive in that it changes colour from yellow, dark and light stripes as a juvenile, to a silvery blue in adulthood, when it can grow up to a metre in length.

But it was the adult males' propensity for "serious combat" through locking jaws and grappling at the water's surface, in a spectacle dubbed "kissing" by anglers, that really sets the fish apart from related species, Johnson said.

"I've spoken to a few of the guys and they say they often engage in these episodes and they're pretty serious about it too," he said.

"One fish will see another one approaching in the distance and he'll just make a beeline for the other guy and they'll go at it hammer and tongs."

Johnson worked with geneticist Jessica Worthington Wilmer, using DNA sequence codes to describe this newest member of the sweetlips family, after analysing comparable specimens from Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere.

-OoO-

## AWARD WINNERS AT THE ANNUAL DINNER



Diver of the Year



Wettest Diver



Novice of the Year



For Re-organising  
the Club Website



Diving Un-Zipped



Best Trip



The Jacques Cousteau  
Book for Old Divers

The Golden Scallop was won by Pete Talbot and fortunately we have no picture.  
The Diver Steering Wheel was won by Russell Thompson

-oOo-



## DIVERS TRAINING DAY AT STONEY

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October Peter Neal organised a day at Stoney Cove for all potential Dive Leaders to finish off their skill lessons. 17 members were there and we signed off 18 Dive Leader lessons plus Andy Watson completing his Sports Diver. Here's a flavour of the day:-



As usual the Talbot boys are able to give some very witty but useless advice.



The Old Folk pacing themselves.

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## Legends of The Deep

Deep Sea Sharks – Megamouth - only known about for 30 years only 50 seen most of them dead.

They grow to 5 metres

### ***Megachasma pelagios*** Megamouth shark



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## Club Events

Hi Everyone, as you may be aware, this year I have switched roles and have relinquished Recruiting and taken on "Eventing".

So for the forthcoming year , with the exception of the usual suspects - Christmas and the River Festival , we have a bit of a blank canvas .

I need YOUR help please , to bring your ideas , however silly , or non dive related and turn them into events . We can arrange days or evenings out and don't need to be restricted to Thursdays or the Football Club - the world is your oyster .

For those of you who often think ...."why don't we do so and so ?"or " it would be a good idea to do XYZ" NOW is the your opportunity . Please let me have any thoughts so we can get our heads together and bring about the club you want to happen !!

If it's dive related even better ...and of course can include actual diving events and we can co-op lots of others in too!!

I may have some ideas but this is your chance and the more involved the better. This is our club and to get the best out of it , your input is needed !

I am adhering to the first rule of diving ....and am waiting, (breathing normally) in anticipation for the flood of interested responses .

Cheers all and here's to a good year !

Angie Deaves

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The following club members have donated to the Christmas card collection the money that they would have spent on cards to other members. They all wish their friends in the club a Happy Christmas, Great New Year and Safe Diving in 2016.

Richard & Penny Wells,	Becky and Dirk,
Prich and Jackie,	Pete and Debs Talbot,
Geoff and Jules,	Clive and Alijs,
Keith and Jeannie,	Lynne and Jay,
Sally and John,	David and Jo,
Graham and Caroline,	Robert and Marie,
Andy,	Jon and Amanda,
Ellen and Daniel,	Paul Nash,
Mark and Helen,	Miles and Hilary
Nigel and Mel,	Peter Neal.

The money raised (£275 or more) will be going to the DDRC in Plymouth. They were a superb organisation and did a great job for Peter but I would hope that we won't be using them again anytime soon.

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## ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### **Closing Date for Entries is Thursday January 14th.**

The Festive Break is rapidly approaching so what better time to sit down with mince pies and a glass of mulled wine and sort through your photos to enter our Annual Photo Competition. Please give your photos to either me (Sally) or Hilary by January 14th. You can enter as many photos as you like. Entry is free.

Rules and Regs:-

- Photos must have been taken in 2015
- Photos must be no bigger than 8" by 6"
- Photos need not have been taken underwater, but if out of the water they must have diving or dive trip relevance, so snaps of your dog wearing a sombrero will not do, no matter how jauntily he's wearing it.
- Photo shopping and technical meddling is allowed.
- Please do not write your name or initials on the back. Instead put your photos into an envelope, folder etc which has your name on it.
- Bribing the judges is allowed and positively encouraged.

Hilary and I plus an "outside expert" will judge the entries. **There will be a Presentation Night in February (date TBA) at which prizes will be awarded in several categories.** These categories will be decided according to what photos are submitted. Plus, ALL the photos entered will be on display so that all of you there can choose your favourite three from all the photos entered.

**The Winner of this "People's vote" will be awarded The Best In Show Trophy.** Democracy in Action! As usual, Prich will set a ferociously fiendish quiz for all to enter during the evening and he will award a prize or prizes.

So, no time to lose, you Go-Proers and Nikoners etc. Now's the time to show off.

Sally Richards

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# **TRY A DIVES**

## **SPECIAL RATES FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Speak to Lynne Bunker to arrange one.**

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### **LETTER FROM JOHN DAFFERN**

Dear Prich

May I take advantage of some space in your admirable organ to pass on my congratulations to John (Manfish) Arthur and Sally (Mermaid) Richards on their millennial dives?

...and in a completely separate vein the following turned up in the latest DAN magazine:

Wearing a wedding ring is clearly a statement, yes, but, Ladies and Gentlemen, do you really need to wear a ring while scuba diving? Read our story and think about it.

It was around Christmas time, the Holiday season 2014/2015, when DAN Europe were reported two similar cases. Two DAN members in different places of the world – the Maldives and Brazil – almost lost their ring fingers while diving.

Who wouldn't hold on to some railing on a shaky boat because another boat passed by too close or sea conditions were a bit rough? That's what the men did while getting ready for the giant stride to start their dives. However, watch out for screws, hooks or other tiny metal pieces sticking out of such a railing! For example, hurricane cover screws can be quite deceitful. If a wedding ring gets caught on it, holding the weight of the diver, his equipment as well as the force of the jump, is just impossible. A little finger cannot withstand for long and will momentarily be parted of the rest of the body. This happened to both men.

While one of the divers dove into the water beneath him his finger stayed hanging on the screw, attached by the ring. An awkward scene but good in a way, because the crew could collect the finger – or what was left of it. They then saved it on some ice for re-attachment to the hand.

In the other men's case the finger was ripped off and fell in the sea! Fortunately, his wife recovered it – she was already in the water.

In both cases, it truly was a shock for everyone and very painful for the victims. However, the boat's crew was extremely helpful, called EMS immediately and gave first aid to stop the bleeding and calm down the men.

In one of the cases, they were able to call a helicopter – because, luckily, the victim's friend was a pilot – so, he was quickly evacuated to a clinic in Sao Paolo, including his finger. The other member in the Maldives was brought by boat to the nearest clinic in Male but had to be further evacuated to Singapore for sophisticated hand surgery. Reconnecting nerves, tendons, muscles, bones, cartilage, blood vessels, and skin is a very sophisticated task while trying to keep full functionality. It is a miracle when you see it – a miracle that took 7 hours in the operating theatre to happen.

After an injury and surgery like this, it is no surprise that there is necrosis, dying surrounding tissue, during the wound healing process. The Brazilian doctors fought it off by hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBOT) in a recompression chamber. HBOT chamber sessions are also being successfully used for effective wound healing in bacterial streptococcal or staphylococcal skin infections and diabetic foot disease. Thus, recompression chambers are not only good for treating decompression symptoms.



Not only surgery was extensive but also recovery took an extremely long time – and it still does. Eight months later, the one man's finger has not regained full sensitivity yet. Six more months of physiotherapy are still in front of him.

The costs for evacuation, hand surgery, hospitalizing and hyperbaric treatment amounted in one case to around 100.000 EUR.

We at DAN Europe thought this was a story to share. You may spare yourself a lot of trouble when you consider leaving your jewellery, especially rings but also earrings and piercings, at home before you go diving.

Kind regards  
John Daffern

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## **CLUB A.G.M.**

The Club AGM was held on Thursday 19th November and the following were elected as Committee Members for the next year.

Peter Neal – Training Officer



Miles Howarth - Diving Officer



Geoff Russell –Treasurer



Lynne Bunker - Recruitment



Angie Deaves – Social Events



Slaay Richards - Secretary



Pete Talbot – Membership Secretary



Jay Scott –Equipment



And Hilary as Chairman



-oOo-

And finally at the Annual Dinner Thaetra announced her engagement to her man Fraser



## FOR SALE

Hello everyone,

I think I should sell my diving kit. I have a good range of quality kit ranging from various cylinders, torches, reels , lots of bits and pieces, D rings , wings and even my computer. If you are interested come and have a look.

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 2016**

Chairman: Hilary Wilson 07779 287558  
Training Officer: Peter Neal 07967 656462  
Diving Officer: Miles Howarth 07779 287558  
Recruitment: Lynne McCarthy 07775 940000  
Equipment Officer: Jay Scott 07976 283702  
Treasurer: Geoff Russell (01789 552614)  
Membership Secretary Pete Talbot 07958 447544  
Events: Angie Deaves 07792 775971  
Secretary: Sally Richards 01789 773668

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

**MEMBERSHIP FEES 2016**

**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 2016 is Miles Howarth and his contact number is shown above.