



TFI STRATFORD BSAC

motto:

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

JUNE 2016

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

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And attached to your email are:

The 2016 Dive Calendar

Portia at Salcombe Information Pack

Murder Mystery Night – full details

Chairman's Report

I hope you all saw the report in SCUBA magazine about Mark Jeffrey, our "blind" diver, and perhaps heard the interview on the local radio. Well done for getting the coverage and hopefully getting the club some local advertising!

Pool storage has now been finished so we now have the kit in a secure cage at the side of the pool, ably organised by Jay with input from Stan and Miles, thanks go to all of you for your efforts.

Portia has now been moved to Salcombe at Lincombe Marina. Details are in the newsletter so if you want to organise a trip from there go ahead and get your buddies lined up and get the OK from Miles. Russell Thompson has already put a couple of weekends on the dive calendar, so lease let him know if you want to join either of the trips.....contd on page 3

Hilary

FROM THE TRAINING POOL

On a very hot day at Stoney Cove Jaimie Wolstencroft had his first very successful dives in open water with Mark Jeffrey. He's since had two more and he will be ready for the briney. George and John Karwacki dived with Lynne and Hoppo and enjoyed themselves.

We have had four of our assistant instructors take a further step to becoming O.W.I.s and I shall be looking forward to making use of their new skills because the club has about ten novice divers who need instructors to take them on their first dives in Stoney Cove or the sea. Will all instructors let me know (a.s.a.p.) if you are willing and can help in the next few weeks. This is very important as these 'new bloods' are the future of this club. At the moment this responsibility is being on the shoulders of very few of the club's instructors.

I would like to congratulate those who have passed the Life Saver course and a thank you to Angie, Rebecca, Harders, Pete T and Prich for running this course .

Lastly congratulations to Emily for passing her Ocean Diver theory test.
Peter Neal (T.O.)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"After all these years at long last I discovered how to make 17 people happy at the same time.

Simply win the wooden spoon for last place in the Clay Pigeon Shoot with a score that is a mere fraction of the person in 17th place and everybody is laughing"

.....Prich

DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT

At last the diving season is here and there are a few trips coming up. Now would be a good time to check all your equipment making sure it is all fully serviced and in good working order. I would strongly recommend that you take a trip to Stoney to make sure there are no leaks in your dry-suits, cracks in hoses, etc so that when you are kitted up on the boat, you do not let your dive buddy down and have the disappointment of missing out on your dives due to equipment failure.

Happy diving,

Miles

-oOo-

At last, confirmation of 'Murphy's Law'. (according to Pete Talbot)

Murphy drops some buttered toast on the kitchen floor and it lands butter-side-up. He looks down in astonishment, for he knows it's a law of the universe that buttered toast always falls butter-down. So he rushes round to the Parish to fetch Father Flanagan.

He tells the Priest that a miracle has occurred in his kitchen. He won't say what it is, but asks Father Flanagan to come and see it with his own eyes.

He leads Father Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor.

"Well," says the Priest, "it's pretty obvious. Someone has dropped some buttered toast on the floor and then, for some reason, they flipped it over so that the butter was on top."

"No, Father, I dropped it and it landed like that" exclaimed Murphy.

"Oh my Lord," says Father Flanagan, "Dropped toast never falls with the butter side up. It's a miracle but wait... it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll have to report this matter to the Bishop, and, he'll have to deal with it. He'll send some people round to interview you, take photos, etc."

A thorough investigation is conducted, not only by the Archdiocese but by scientists sent over from the Curia in Rome. No expense is spared. There is great excitement in the town as everyone knows that a miracle will bring in much needed tourism revenue.

Then, after 8 long weeks and with great fanfare, the Bishop announces the final ruling..

"It is certain that some kind of an extraordinary event took place in Murphy's kitchen, quite outside the natural laws of the universe. Yet the Holy See must be very cautious before ruling a miracle. All other explanations must be ruled out."

"Unfortunately, in this case, it has been declared 'No Miracle', because they think.... .

Murphy may have buttered the toast on the wrong side !"

Chairmans report continued

The Clay Pigeon shoot was well attended with 18 members turning up on the day and congratulations go to this year's winner - Jay Scott who gets his name on our brand new trophy but he may not do so well next year when a new rule will be introduced to prevent hot shots using their own gun! Many thanks go to Richard Talbot for organising a great day.

The Photographic competition had several new contributors which we are really pleased about, so all photographers, please take loads of photos ready for next year's competition, the more the merrier.

The Murder Mystery is now re-scheduled for 8th October, more details to follow and tickets will be on sale around June onwards.

Babbacombe towards the end and plenty more weekends available to book. Just contact Miles about any trips you would like to do.

Hilary

-oOo-

[Sharm el Sheik: still a great dive destination](#)

30 May 2016 News, Trip reports

by *Chris Hastie*

A May trip to Sharm el Sheikh seems to have become part of the annual routine for Sophie and I in recent years and we decided that this year should be no exception. With no direct flights from the UK at the moment it's not as easy to get to as it has been in the past, but it proved to be well worth effort.



As usual we dived with and stayed at [Oonas Dive Club](#). Oonas looked after us fantastically, from the moment Ahmed met us up at the airport to the moment he dropped us off again. More by luck than judgment we happened to pick a week when a small group of British divers had made the effort to get to Oonas, so there was a great crowd around to share the diving with and liven up the obligatory après dive beers.

We were treated to some fantastic diving during the week. As you might expect, the dive sites were much quieter than usual (except on one morning, when it seemed as if every diver in Sharm had dropped on to Shark Reef). A warm spring meant the water

temperatures were about 3° higher than when we there last year, and some of the later season arrivals were starting to appear already. As well as all the usual suspects we saw huge shoals of snapper on Shark, a manta in the the Gardens, and snorkeled with a young whale shark one lunchtime.

It's really worth making the effort to get out to Sharm el Sheikh. There are few Europeans visiting at the moment and though there are still Egyptian and Saudi tourists neither the numbers nor spending power of these more local visitors are anywhere near enough to make up for the loss of European trade. The dive centres, hotels and restaurants all appreciate everyone who does get out there and make them very welcome, and the diving is as good as ever, if not better. Here's a video of some of our highlights:

Practicalities: getting there Although there are no direct flights from the UK there are still a few ways to get to Sharm el Sheikh

Pegasus, via Istanbul We flew with **Pegasus** via Istanbul. Pegasus fly from Gatwick and Stansted. It seems cheaper to book direct on the Pegasus website than to use brokers like Sky Scanner. Layovers in Istanbul can be quite lengthy, but as a Pegasus passenger for 48 Turkish Lira (about £11) you can access the LGM Lounge and slump in comfy chairs whilst helping yourself to food and drink.

Egyptair, via Cairo Most people that we met had flown via Cairo on Egyptair. Egyptair fly from Heathrow and Manchester.

Via Milan with Meridiana A more complex route that one friend has used is to fly from Milan with **Meridiana**. Meridiana have two flights a week from Milan, and several budget airlines fly to Milan from the UK, including FlyBe from Birmingham. Unfortunately you can't book this as a through flight, but will have to make two separate bookings. A night in a hotel in Milan may be needed too.

Via Hurghada There are still direct flights from the UK to Hurghada, and three flights a week from Hurghada to Sharm el Sheik on Egyptair (Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday). I haven't met anyone who's done this, but it should be possible. Again, you'll need to book each leg separately

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MORE FROM PETE TALBOT

Well, ha ha ha wasn't it so very funny when Jon Arthur says to me at the pool....."you're a bit keen, taking a cylinder for test 12 months early and Andy Marks didn't notice until the pillar valve was off. Ha ha ha again, as that'll cost ya" and Jay Scott chuckled along like an old hen and made one or two derogatory remarks about me!

I was gutted at wasting £?????, for an unnecessary test and today I went to collect it.....BUT it wasn't my cylinder.....it was a club cylinder, that our vigilant Equipment Officer (A.K.A. Jay Scott) had asked me to take into Andy Marks!!!!!!! Oh how I chuckled and I still am.....ha ha ha!

-oOo-

CALLING ALL PROSPECTIVE SPORTS DIVERS

If you have missed any of the Sports Diver lectures, please let me know which and I will try to arrange for a repeat. You should all read through all the notes and the text book you have and when you are happy all that knowledge is packed away safely in your heads I will give you the test papers that you all will pass.

Peter Neal

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ADVICE TO ALL NOVICES

This is how to give the OK signal
Courtesy of William Hardman



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EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The club compressor is serviced by Bauer in Ross on Wye and the club gets its "air purity" testing done which is a 3 monthly requirement.

This test takes 20 mins to complete and tests the following-
Oil mist, CO, CO2, H2O

I had an air test mid April which failed with high CO2 and H2O this resulted in purchasing a new filter and the suction inlet head for the compressor being raised higher when in use.

As a precaution, all the club cylinders have been emptied just in case and re-filled with the new cartridge filter. Incidentally, a new filter is required about every 25 hours depending on how many cylinders are filled and what size they are, and I am keeping a maintenance record.

Club fills are £3-00 per cylinder if anyone needs it.

Regards

Jay Scott

-oOo-

Hi Everyone ,

I hope you are all enjoying the start of the season and have got the kit out of the shed .

Well here are a few other things going on :

Chamber Visit - I have 7 of you interested and will organise a date for the visit in June . Anyone else interested please let me know a.s.a.p. and can everyone please indicate your preference for a Wednesday night - clearly the more available dates the better chance I have of getting you all on the night out .

Club BBQ and River festival - 2/3 July . The Festival takes place over these two days and we are going to hold our Club BBQ on the Saturday evening. Hilary is in charge of organising the BBQ this year, we have the use of the rowing club balcony and, if it's wet, the club house. They have had a major refurbishment and tell us that we will be amazed and impressed at the new facilities!!

At the moment the plans are we can barbecue our own food or get pulled pork baps from Stan Russell. Bring your own drinks or you can buy there. Music courtesy of the River Festival.

It would help if I had some ideas of numbers so, if you can let Hilary know that would be a great help and she can arrange strawberries and cream / puddings for everyone. This has always been a great informal evening in a beautiful spot so please try to get there, you'll have a great time!!!

If anyone has any other ideas for the evening please let me and Hilary know as we will be very happy to have your input. Weather permitting I will be diving on Lundy so Hilary will be in charge on the night.

Don't forget we also have the stand at the Festival and so Lynne will be looking for volunteers .

Video Night - to be arranged , thanks to Bondy

Also the following are in the planning stage : **a comedy club night , beach clean up** (in support of the MCS) and for the slightly bonkers among you a **zip wire day** in North Wales ...more info to follow .

The Christmas Party is booked for the 10th December so save the date!!

Lots to look forward toplease if anyone wants to arrange an event please let me know .

Happy diving to all !!
Angie

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TRY A DIVES

SPECIAL RATES FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Speak to Lynne Bunker to arrange one.

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CLUB WEBSITE UPDATE

Mr Talbot has penned a report on the shoot: <http://wp.me/p5r4LV-IA>

I've finally managed to get all the winning photos together:
<http://wp.me/p5r4LV-IS>

There are also a few new events—a couple of RIB trips in Salcombe, the River festival and the Lions Raft Race.

If you're organising a trip please either send me the details, or better still, ask me to set you up so that you can put details on the website yourself. Having all our events on the website doesn't just help members find out about them, it also helps give the impression of an active club to potential new members. But I can't publish stuff I don't know about, and I don't have time to chase people. So please help me out by sending me the details.

Cheers
Chris

EVERYBODY IS HAPPY AT STONEY AFTER THE DIVES

**Jamie Wolstencroft and Anthony Stoodley relax after their dives in Stoney.
(Andy Bacon is the diver cut in half at far left)**



BSAC new training concerning In Water Rescue Breaths

This is a summary of changes to BSAC Guidelines for In-water Rescue - the full document is attached to your email

BSAC now recommends the following in-water rescue sequence:

- Give one minute of rescue breaths (10 RBs)
- If no spontaneous breathing returns

Then either

- Tow the victim to shore as quickly as possible without further RB

Or

- Continue on the spot with approximately 10 RBs per minute until support from rescue boat or helicopter arrives to take over the resuscitation. This decision will depend on the local situation, such as sea conditions, distance to shore, and availability of rescue boat or rescue helicopter.
- In either case, when reaching shore, or having access to the boat or helicopter, the casualty should be promptly de-kitted and landed as quickly as possible without further rescue breaths.

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THIS YEAR'S DIVE TRIPS

LUNDY

I am organising a trip to Lundy and have quite a bit of interest but wonder is anyone else would like to join?

I have 2 dates either 25/26th June or 2/3rd July (River Festival dates) currently and I will run the trip whichever dates fill up first .

The plan will be 2 dives per day and 1 night camping on Lundy and the cost will be £160 . If you want to stay over on Friday night in Ilfracombe rather than the red eye travel down then I would recommend that .

This will be a hard boat trip , with a lift not ladder and you need to have a minimum of 20 dives and have dived this season .

If you are interested please get in let me know , as this is first come ,first served .

Any questions please give me a call (after 5.15 please)

Happy diving !! Angie

HOPE COVE

With Geoff Russell and the two Club RIBs from 14th to 24th July. Book your place with Geoff. RIBS – open to Ocean Divers and above - come for the whole trip or just a few days.

Geoff Russell 01789 552614 07836 503082

SALCOMBE

Russ Thompson is planning two weekends:

June 11th / 12th - Six Sports Divers or experienced Ocean Divers or above

July 2nd & 3rd which can be 10 Sports Divers or experienced Ocean Divers off 2 boats

THAILAND

17th - 25th November - liveaboard, - speak to Hilary Wilson.

PEMBROKE

As some of you know I run a dive trip to Pembroke.

We dive in the Pembrokeshire marine nature reserve.

This year's trip is on 14th, 15th and 16th July. There are a few places left, so if you are interested contact me a.s.a.p.

Peter Neal <http://www.dive-in2-pembrokeshire.com/>

MEXICO

Since sending out an initial e-mail to you in October, I now have more details

The date will be February 28th to March 9th/10th 2017.

The Dive Centre is called Underworld Tulum.

This trip is specifically to dive in the Cenotes, which are a series of underwater caverns and caves (fresh water) which open up periodically into open bodies of water where the cave roofs have collapsed, giving beautiful lighting effects. March is the best time to go as it is sunny but less humid and seldom rains. The diving requires good buoyancy and trim as some passages are quite narrow and changes in depth are fairly frequent, **so minimum Diver Grade is Sports Diver** with a good number of dives logged.

We have 5 days diving in the Cenotes.

Accommodation. We will be staying at The Dive Centre in their self catering apartments, (2 people per apartment). Restaurants and shops are within walking distance.

On our non diving days, we can go on excursions which the Dive Centre can arrange for us e.g. visit The Mayan Ruins.

There is also the opportunity to have another day of diving at the coast, but this doesn't replace any of the 5 days in the Cenotes.

Flights. We will be flying from Gatwick direct to Cancun. (probably Virgin Atlantic) (about 11 hours). The Dive Centre pick us up at the Airport and transfer us to their place.

I have already got 5 definites :- Me(!), Hilary, Miles, Peter Talbot and Jon Arthur.

The cost including flights, diving and accommodation will be about £1600

Have a look at their website www.underworldtulum.com and the August edition of SCUBA has an article featuring them entitled Mayan Magic.

Please let me know asap if you are interested.

Regards, Sally

-oOo-

OTHER DIVE LOCATIONS

If you don't like any of the above locations and fancy diving somewhere else then why not organise a trip?

Not experienced enough? Nonsense!!!

Ask Miles and he will get one or two of the experienced divers to give you a hand.

You'll soon learn and have a lot of fun as well.

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 1st 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 1st 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.