



TFI STRATFORD BSAC

motto:

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

FEBRUARY 2017

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

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Attached to your email are:

[Diving Calendar 2017](#)

[Books in Club Library](#)

[Charts in Club Library](#)

Chairmans Bit

A belated Happy New Year to you all and the very best of wishes for safe diving during 2017.

Already this year, I have tried to lead by example by being among the hardy few that frequent Stoney Cove during the winter weeks.....although this is not for the uninitiated as it very cold and not without the risks of cold water diving, so take care and heed all of the warnings.

My most recent dive was not without incident but thankfully the 'Safety Committee' were not required however the Evesham branch of Pest Control did need to be called out, to deal with a diving related incident at a undisclosed address! Prior to kitting up a small hole was discovered in the wrist of a drysuit but this was repaired with a couple of patches and blackwitch glue. So the dive was saved and now we are all ready to go. The dive was already planned and agreed, so we all kit up, get down to the 'bus stop', do the buddy checks and the 4 of us enter the water when it is clear that all is not well and someone is already getting wet.....so back out he gets and Sally leads the dive with Scarpy and I.

Contd on page 4

FROM THE TRAINING POOL

The training day at Stoney Cove that we planned for potential Ocean Divers earlier this month was postponed as it was exceptionally cold that weekend. This is now scheduled for Sunday March 19th. Hope that's a bit warmer and we get plenty of skill lessons completed.

Hilary Wilson
Training Officer

DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT

There isn't much to say this month as it is winter and only a few real die-hards are diving in Stoney. The most noticeable of these was Sally's "mince-pie" dive at Stoney, but the planned training dive scheduled for 12th February has had to be cancelled due to a severe weather forecast but has been re-arranged for 19th March. The 2 RIBs are being serviced ready for the summer. The dive calendar is slowly being filled up with various trips, but there are still weekends available to book the RIBs out. All we need now is a bit of sunshine.

Miles Howarth

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CHRISTMAS CARD DONATIONS

As you will know, members are encouraged not to send each other Christmas Cards but to donate the money to a collection that we make for charity. This last Christmas the donations from members in lieu of cards raised £266 which will be split between the two charities , the DDRC at Plymouth and the Marine Conservation Society.

Many thanks members who contributed and especially to Ellen Noakes for organising this.

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ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

As you all know the entry date for this annual competition has gone.

However it is not too late to bribe the judges as they have not yet decided upon the winners.

You have until the end of the month to buy me red wine.

Hilary and I plus an "outside expert" will judge the entries.

The Presentation Night will be Thursday April 6th at the football club after the pool session 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 dastardly difficult quiz** for all to enter during the Presentation Night and he will award a prize for the Winner.

Regards,

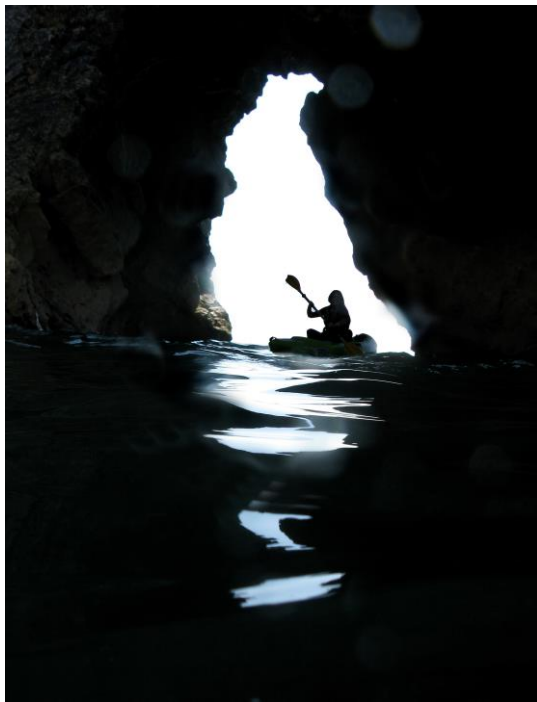
Sally Richards

And here are a few samples from last year to whet your appetite:

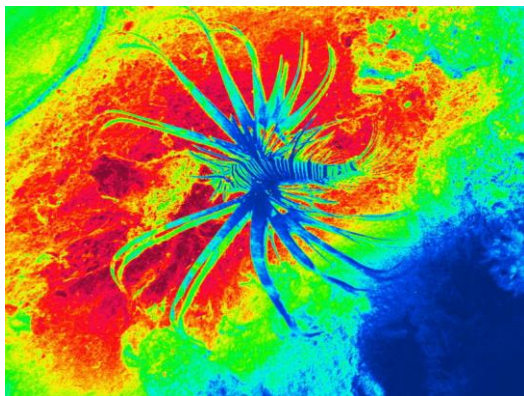


People under Water -

Dai



Above Water - Keith



Arty - Geoff

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This was a fantastically clear viz dive with maybe 15- 20 pike clearly hunting the small perch.....a good dive and some brilliant navigation by Sally.
When we return to the cars, cold but happy, there is Paul all dressed and warm with his drysuit hanging inside-out over his car.....the small hole that we repaired was only the start of it, mice had chewed not only the wrist but the seams over the arms and most of the way through the neoprene in the other arm.
Expensive!.....Watch where you leave your kit!!!!

We already have a couple new members, either signed up or about to and no doubt you'll see some new faces at the pool and club, so let's make them very welcome and take a few minutes to say hello, as the club can be daunting for a couple of weeks when you don't know anyone.

Hilary is getting a training schedule organized for those that are working towards Ocean Diver or Sports Diver and as has already been said the training day at Stoney Cove is now on Sunday 19th March.. Please let Hilary know if you can't make that date and also contact her if you are unsure about anything to do with your training.

Just a reminder that you must have any dive authorised by the Diving Officer - Miles Howarth. However in his absence (numerous holidays) please contact Geoff Russell for authorisation.

Finally, don't forget that diving to the maximum depth allowed by your qualification is permitted ONLY AFTER your respective dive qualification has been achieved e.g. an Ocean Diver may only dive to their permitted maximum depth of 20M AFTER he / she has been signed as a Qualified Ocean Diver. Until then they are building up to that maximum in a series of steps.

Similarly with Sports divers and their permitted maximum of 35 metres.

Pete

The guy in charge of chairs!

---OOO---

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT

It's nearly time that time again!

(A tad later this year, as yet again I've been overruled by a higher power! Not naming names but it was the Chairman – sorry Dad but you always told me to tell the truth.

Right on to business..

The event will be held at Warwick adventure sports.

On SATURDAY APRIL 29TH 10AM START!! finishing around 1.00 pm then off to the Saxon Mill for a beverage.

It's 30 shots across a range of talent suitable targets for a cost of £40. This shall also include a small club contribution and for some prizes, and also the chance to enter the hall of fame on our prestigious trophy, or the hall of shame on the wooden spoon.

Contd.....

The clay shoot has become a yearly event enjoyed by many and raises some good money for our beloved club!!

Attendance is mandatory!! However the ability to shoot is not!!

I will begin collecting payments in March.

Thanks see you all there and happy shooting!!

Richard Talbot

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BARGAIN BUDDY BCD'S

For reasons too complicated to bother you with we have been given the opportunity to buy 2 new Buddy BCDs direct from the manufacturer, AP Valves, at a Discount price of £270 each. Normal Price would be £400.

As many of you know, a lot of us have Buddy BCDs and a lot of our Club BCDs used for training are Buddy. They are very popular.

We only have the opportunity to purchase 2 at this price so it would be first come first served.

If you are interested, please contact Geoff Russell ruscon@ntlworld.com who is liaising with AP valves over this. Please don't contact the Company yourselves about this as it would cause chaos and confusion.

Regards, Sally

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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 CLOTHING

We now have a range of clothing available bearing our Club Logo



that includes fleeces, sweatshirts, polo shirts in many colours and a rather natty hat. We are selling these garments to you at cost i.e. this is not a fundraising exercise but an exercise in unity and togetherness!

The catalogue is available to view on Thursday Nights at the Football Club - Just ask Sally

Small print: Money up front at time of ordering please.

Regards, Sally

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CLUB LIBRARY

Just a reminder that the Club has a library of diving books and charts which are available for all Members to use. A list of the books and a list of the charts is attached to this email.

DIVE TRIPS



Weymouth Weekend September 16th/17th 2017

As it was so enjoyable this year (2016) I have decided to run it again in 2017. This time it doesn't coincide with the Seafood Festival, but I can assure seafood lovers that there is never a shortage of seafood in Weymouth.

Tango has a Diver Lift and loo. Accommodation on board (£10/night just bed no breakfast) or you can B&B within walking distance.

Two days diving, two dives per day. Cost £90.

I have booked the whole boat and paid the deposit. 12 divers maximum.

Minimum Diver Grade is Sports Diver with at least 20 UK Sea Dives. Max. Depth @ 30M.

Please contact me if you are interested. I will need a deposit of £60 to secure your place. sallyrichards.myzen@outlook.com or 07533 246585.

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MEXICO

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.

This trip which is organised by Sally Richards is FULL – well done again Sally. So there will only be a chance for you to go if there is a last minute drop-out.

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.

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SKITTLES NIGHT

Geoff organised an excellent evening of skittle with lots of fun, plenty to sup and wonderful food.

Those of you that missed it should get your name down for next year.

Geoff, many thanks and only two minor complaints: Pete Talbot's Team won the Team Competition and Russell Thompson won the Singles Competition!

Stratford BSAC 0730 Committee 2017

Chairman :Pete Talbot 07958 447544
Training Officer: Hilary Wilson 07779 287558
Diving Officer: Miles Howarth 07779 287558
Recruitment: Lynne McCarthy 07775 940000
Equipment Officer: Peter Scapellino 077087 25050
Treasurer: Geoff Russell (01789 552614)
Membership Secretary Paul Nash 07966 401610
Events: Angie Deaves 07792 775971
Secretary: Sally Richards 01789 773668

SUGGESTIONS OR PROBLEMS? THEN CALL ONE OF US

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017

To the Stratford Branch, all Members pay an annual subscription of £120 towards costs of the Branch.

To BSAC, Members pay an annual subscription of £57.50 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 £60 which includes Sports Diver Books.

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 50% of the fuel price e.g.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 2017 is Miles Howarth and his contact number is shown above.