



TFI STRATFORD BSAC

motto:

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

CHRISTMAS 2014

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**
- **An article on the Club
published in some
local magazines**
- **BSAC Safe Diving
Guidelines
Letters O - S**

DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT

As some of you know, over the last few weeks I have been acting as a stand in Training Officer. I am pleased to let you all know that I can now vacate that role and tell you that Miles Howarth will be taking up that position after Christmas, and that he will be assisted by Jon Hardman. I would ask, and I'm sure that you will all give Miles your support in, what is a demanding position.

In the New Year we will be running several courses including; Dive Leader, Boat Handling and an Oxygen Administration Refresher. If you are interested in any of these or any other course, let Miles, Jon or myself know. Hopefully, everyone will do the O2 refresher.

I am still waiting for more of you to step up and volunteer to run a trip. At the moment the trips on the calendar are all being run by the same "old" people. Please contact me sooner rather than later or your chosen weekend may have gone.

There has been a nationwide increase in the number of diving incidents. Please read the extract from Scuba magazine shown on page

And finally, I remind you all about having your kit, and in particular, regulator serviced when diving in cold water this winter.

Peter Neal
Diving Officer

FROM THE TRAINING POOL

As you know I have stood down from being Training Officer and I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in any way with training while I was in post. And wish everyone a happy Christmas.

Peter Virgo

I would like to say, well done to

- Lynne McCarthy who has qualified as a Sports Diver.
- Sophie Hastie, Chris Hastie, and Andy Watson who passed their Sports Diver Theory
- Ian "Hoppo" Hopkins and Peter and Richard Talbot on becoming Assistant Instructors.

Peter Neal

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“ Prich, which photo of me is most flattering?” – Pete Talbot

CHRISTMAS DIVE

Hello everyone,

Due to unprecedented popular demand, Jon Arthur is organising a post Christmas dip on Saturday 27th December at Stoney Cove. Anyone who would like to join him please phone him on 07754 753 203 or Peter Neal by e-mail .

Book early to avoid disappointment .

HAPPY CHRISTMAS !

-OoO-

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The new committee is in place and I would like to thank the retiring members for their hard work, David for his commitment over the last three years, Thaedra who has had to juggle full time work with children as well as being secretary and John Simpson who is taking a break from diving and has been re-building a house. I hope he finds time to re-join us next year.

Some of the titles of the committee members have changed this time and the new committee that you elected at the AGM to run the Club in the coming year is as follows:

Peter Neal – Diving Officer



Miles Howarth - Training Officer

(Peter Virgo had intended to carry on as Training Officer but has decided to step down. He has done a great job during his time on the committee, managing very efficiently to organise the training for a larger influx of new members this year)



Geoff Russell –Treasurer



Lynne Mc Carthy– Secretary



Angie Deaves – Recruitment



Emma Hardman – Events



Pete Talbot – Membership Secretary



But see pages 8 and 9

Jay Scott - equipment



And finally, me as Chairman



Finally we will be holding pool sessions as usual during the renovations at the Leisure Centre.

Hilary Wilson

Stratford BSAC New Website

As you must be aware from all of the emails that you have received Chris Hastie has done an outstanding job in updating our Website and Membership Lists. Any queries please direct them to Chris who will be more than happy to help.

Also a message from Lynne in connection with this :-
“If there is anyone who has not received a password to please make contact with me to ensure that their details are correct. “ It may be worth mentioning also that we will be in the temporary pool when we return on 8th January 2015!

-OoO-

MODESTY

When I asked the new committee for photos of themselves to include in this issue,
Pete Talbot sent to me four pictures of himself.
Each one he claimed as a better likeness with fewer grey hairs.
Here are the other three

:





Personally I don't think this is Pete. This chap's got his buoyancy under good control.

-oOo-

A PLEA FROM JAY SCOTT

"Can anyone wishing to borrow pool diving equipment on a Thursday inform me before the Thursday by text or e-mail please. Then I should have your kit ready for you when you arrive. Many thanks." Scotty

-000-

The following article appeared in the last edition of Scuba. I think that all members should read it and live by it. Peter Neal Diving Officer

Fatalities prompt safety advice

After recent diving incidents over the summer, BSAC is encouraging divers to 'dive safe' at all times.

While current evidence shows that there is no clear reason or trend to account for the recent diving fatalities, they are a tragic reminder of the potential dangers of scuba diving and the importance of 'dive safe'.

As the sport's UK governing body, BSAC has reiterated its safe diving guidance to all divers. BSAC Chairman Eugene Farrell said that while diving fatalities in the UK are low, the loss of any diver is acutely felt within the community.

"Diving fatalities often involve multiple factors rather than a single trigger or cause. As divers we can all take the some simple steps to minimise any risk and to ensure the safe enjoyment of our sport."

How to stay safe – BSAC's essential guide to safe diving

- Follow your training and adhere to depth and other limits in line with your diving qualification
- Keep in practice and refresh skills following any break from diving
- Gain new skills and experience progressively – practice in controlled conditions before using in open water
- Maintain your equipment, have it serviced regularly and check for faults
- Follow 'Safe Diving' and use common sense
- Consider the use of checklists, especially for complex dives and equipment such as rebreathers
- Plan and prepare for every dive and follow the plan
- Look after your personal fitness and ensure that you are up to the physical demands of the planned dive
- Be prepared to cancel or terminate a dive if you feel unhappy about conditions or problems arising
- Use an appropriate gas, especially for deeper diving, to minimise the effects of narcosis

BSAC has a comprehensive A-Z guide to Safe Diving which is available for all divers to download from

www.bsac.com/safediving



ANNUAL(RUBY ANNIVERSARY) DINNER AND AWARDS

Many thanks to Hilary Wilson who again organised a successful and enjoyable Dinner.

The Top Three Awards for 2014 were made to:

Diver of the Year – Keith Bond
Wettest Diver – Peter Neal
Novice of the Year – Lynne McCarthy

The other awards, some of which are serious and some less serious and so nobody wants to win them:

Driver of the Year – Mohammed (driver on Red Sea Trip that nobody wants to ride with again)

The Golden Weight – Miles Howarth for diving in so many suits and not knowing how much weight he needed in any of them.

The Endeavour Award went to Angie Deaves for her work on recruitment.

The Expedition Award- Richard Wells

The Cousteau Award – Jeannie Parnham

And finally Andy Bacon was presented with the mouse that had chewed his neck seal.

-oOo-

Red Sea Trip 2014

Friday 5th September eventually arrived and a very early start for 22 (plus 1) of our members heading off to our awaited trip to the Red Sea. We were collected from various points locally from around 4 am, and set off in a couple of minibuses towards Gatwick! I think most of us tried to catch up on a little sleep in the way down there, as it was a rather rude hour to have be up and about!! We arrived after a slightly delayed Easyjet flight to Hurghada, and then had about a 3 hour transfer to Port Ghalib. A very quick boarding of the Emperor Elite followed at around 2230 and then time to eat. I think we all needed it by then! We met one of our dive guides and the expected paperwork and explanations sorted, and we stayed in port that night.

We had a breakfast before we set off for Abu Dabbab 3. It was obvious why breakfast was cleared away first as the sea was a little choppy to say the least, but we had nice calm conditions, clear waters and quite an array of marine life. Crocodile fish, parrot fish, lion fish to name a few and stunning corals. This was my first adventure into the sea, having recently become an Ocean Diver. What a luxury to be able to make use of ladders back onto the boat! Our second dive site was Sha'ab Marsa Alam, another shallow dive of around 13m, this time through a small cavern into a lagoon – stunning! This site was also our first night dive of the trip. We saw a cucumber worm, very pretty, and a parrot fish with its protective bubble.

Day 3 was spent at Fury Shoals, firstly Sha'ab Claudia, then Sha'ab Abu Galawa Soygayar, then Sha'ab Abu Galawa Kebir, which was also the site of our second night dive. We encountered stunning scenery, a couple of small wrecks and moray eels.

Day 4 was my turn to be holed up having succumbed to the dreaded bug that succeeded in affecting around 18 of us. Although I did managed to go snorkelling with the dolphins in Dolphin Cove – just! Two passed by very close and there was a large pod out there, but I am assured they were not being particularly interactive on this occasion. Hmm nothing to do with the other groups who got there before us? Or maybe it was the annoying buzz from the Zodiacs that kept them away?

Day 5 and Day 6 were spent at Daedalus. Some of this was at deeper depths to see some reef sharks, barracuda, wrasse, and scorpion fish. The north side provided some more challenging diving conditions due to the current, and some churning sensations were experienced in the upper 4m. Daedalus would not have been complete without a visit to the lighthouse. Normally there is merchandise, however, the cupboard was bare! It was amazing to see how basically these guys live.

The south side was particularly beautiful, and some areas around 5m I could have stayed for hours!

Day 7 we went to Elphinstone (South), lots of fish seen including blue cleaner fish in action, larger fish in the deeper water and smaller ones in the shallows. Abu Dabbab 2 was next, with fantastic scenery finishing in a cavern, which was just amazing. Our final dive was at Marsa Shoona, and seagrass. Turtles were seen and a nursery area on a small coral outcrop. Sadly the dugoons were elusive!



The evenings were spent in good company, with a few drinks enjoyed. Jay gets the gold star for greeting everyone coming back from a night dive with a warming alcoholic beverage! Miles is sent to the naughty corner for his incessant mission to paint as many folks as possible with nail varnish, whilst humming 'there may be trouble ahead' and grinning very mischievously! His targets were those who happened to nod off in the heat of the day! The last evening was spent making our own entertainment with a kind of fancy dress and other frivolities.



The final day was another early start and transfer to Hurghada (around 3 hours). Just after our stop, the coach developed a flat tyre. We were stranded for about 90 minutes. Some of us went paddling in the nearby sea, some tried in vain to get the wheel off, as the driver did not seem to have the tools or know what to do. Others found the remaining wine supplies – mentioning no names Geoff!!

There were a few shenanigans at the airport, but the rest of the trip home was uneventful!

Hilary did a wonderful job in organising everything, and everyone one! A huge thanks for that. It is fair to say that this trip will be remembered for the enormous amount of toilet paper that we must have gone through, and also that we probably managed to empty the pharmacies of all supplies of Imodium! That part was just unfortunate, however it is fair to say that we all enjoyed our trip. For me it was a great experience, a fantastic opportunity, and now I have to get used to the cooler UK seas!! Ho hum back to reality!!

Lynne McCarthy

NOTHING TO DO WITH DIVING BUT.....

There's an old riddle. You have to choose between two politicians and vote one into office. Candidate A sleeps until midday most days, is a heavy drinker, and was twice evicted from office. Candidate B is a war hero; he doesn't smoke and is a vegetarian. So who do you choose?

Most of you would choose candidate B, and based on the way the information was presented to you, that would appear to be the sound choice.

What if I now told you that candidate A was Winston Churchill, and candidate B was Adolf Hitler!

Submitted by Pete Talbot

Two women were sitting next to each other in a bar. After a while, one looks at the other and says, "I can't help but think, from listening to you, that you're from Ireland..."

The other woman responds proudly, "Yes, I sure am!"

The first one says, "So am I! And whereabouts in Ireland are ya from?"

The other woman answers, "I'm from Dublin, I am."

The first one responds, "So am I!! And what street did you live on in Dublin?"

The other woman says, "A lovely little area. It was in the west end. I lived on Warbury Street in the old central part of town."

The first one says, "Faith, and it's a small world. So did I! So did I! And what school did ya go to?"

The other woman answers, "Well now, I went to Holy Heart of Mary, of course..."

The first one gets really excited and says, "And so did I! Tell me, what year did you graduate?"

The other woman answers, "Well now, let's see. I graduated in 1964."

The first woman exclaims, "The Good Lord must be smiling down upon us! I can hardly believe our good luck at winding up the same pub tonight! Can you believe it? I graduated from Holy Heart of Mary in 1964 meself!

About this time, Michael walks in the bar, sits down, and orders a beer.

Brian, the bartender, walks over to Michael shaking his head and mutters, it's going to be a long night tonight".

Michael asks, "Why do you say that, Brian?"

Brian answers, "The Murphy twins are pissed again".

A man received the following text from his neighbour:

"I am so sorry Bob. I've been riddled with guilt and I have to confess. I have been helping myself to your wife, day and night when you're not around. In fact, more than you. I do not get it at home, but that's no excuse. I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apology with my promise that it won't, ever happen again.

The man, anguished and betrayed, went into his bedroom, grabbed his gun, and, without a word, shot his wife and killed her.

A few moments later, a second text came in:

"Bloody auto spell! I meant 'wifi' not 'wife'".

TRY A DIVES

SPECIAL RATES FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Speak to Angie Deaves to arrange one.

-oOo-

SALE OF KIT

There will be a sale of diving kit in early February at the football club. If you wish to sell anything please send details to Chris Prichard

FOR SALE

Oceanic dry suit for sale. Ideal for any new diver wanting to get started at a reasonable price of £60. Size- fits 5'10" tall 12 -14 stone man. Call Ben Trowman on 01386 859475

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)

MOVING HEAVY LOADS?

John Simpson is willing to use his 4 Wheel Dive and Trailer to help any Members who need to move heavy loads.

Call John on 07976 849670

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 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 70 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.