



# TFI STRATFORD BSAC

*motto:*

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

## FEBRUARY 2014

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

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**ATTACHED TO YOUR EMAIL**  
**is your:**

**2014 Dive Calendar**

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On a personal note, having escaped as usual after the New Year to my international headquarters in Gozo, the weather there was as bad as it was here, just slightly warmer. So I did not even get one dive in. I am telling you this so that you may all sympathise with me next time you see me.

Our first event of the year was the Moroccan night on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, organised by Geoff. It was a great success and made remarkable by the number of club members who could, (or in most cases thought they could), belly dance. It was nice to see so many of the newer members there, having a good time. In this context, all most all events such as these seem to be organised by older members; people who have been around for ten years or more and are beginning to smell a bit. We badly need the new generation to start moving forward to organise events like this. So, any volunteers? Anyone with an idea, please have a chat with me.

Continued on page 2

### FROM THE TRAINING POOL

Hi, One of the essentials for anyone wants to learn to cox the club boats is having a VHF marine radio licence certificate. Stratford on Avon College is running a course on the 8th March the cost is £70 plus about £40 Certification fee. If you are interested book soon as if they don't get enough numbers they will not run the course.

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## **QUOTES OF THE MONTH**

Prich at side of small pool, *"Would someone mind giving me a lift to the football club?"*

Rebecca *"I'll take one of the Oxygen Kits"*

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT CONTD**

On the same note, the committee were discussing the BBQ the other night and it was pointed out that, with a couple of notable exceptions, it was the same hard core who always gave up most of the Saturday to erect the marquee etc and the following Sunday to take everything down and to clean up. This year we thought that, as a change, we might simply bring our own food and drink to the boat club, light a fire, listen to the music from the riverside festival (which will be on the same evening) and leave it at that. UNLESS, anyone would like to take over the organisation of the BBQ, in which case we would be delighted and give you all the guidance and help you would like.

DAVID WILLIAMS  
CHAIRMAN

### **DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the stunning 80% of the club that have, either recently completed the O2 Administration Course or the O2 Refresher. The other instructors and I that ran the courses realized that when we had our pre course practices that most of us are fairly rusty. So, it is my intention to run a slightly changed refresher annually.

It's reassuring to know, that if the "\*\*\*\* hits the fan" I shall be in good hands! I would also like, on behalf of the Club, to thank all of the instructors for all their hard work organizing and running the courses.

The dive calendar is filling, but there are still plenty of weekends that I'm sure club members would like to be away diving. So, if anyone feels that they could run a trip for a day or two (or even a week), please let me know. If you haven't run a dive excursion before and feel that you might need some guidance, myself or a senior diver will be very happy to assist.

A while ago two club members attended a one day introduction to foreshore and underwater archaeology course run by the Nautical Archaeology Society. It was a very interesting and informative day. If other club members were interested, a similar day could be organized. This could lead to our club adopting a wreck which could be surveyed in detail. Let me know if you are interested. In a similar vein, if anyone has an interest in some diving related further education, this can also be organized.

Finally, may I encourage anyone that doesn't have a VHF Marine Radio Licence to take up the offer in Pete Virgo's Report on page 1.

PETER NEAL  
DIVING OFFICER

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#### **TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT CONT'D**

First I'd like to join in with Peter Neal and give a big thanks to all of the Instructors who helped run the Oxygen Administration Course. It was good to see such large numbers taking part. I hope everybody enjoyed it and learned something. We hope to do something similar next year.

The next training event is the Ocean Diver lectures which are beginning 20<sup>th</sup> February to be followed by the Sports Diver lectures.

Peter Virgo  
TRAINING OFFICER

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#### **EMAILED CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Thanks to those of you that sent emailed Christmas cards to fellow members and kindly donated the money saved to the RNLI. Here is the reply that I received from them

***“On behalf of the Royal Lifeboat Institution may I thank you for the very generous donation of £140 received from the Stratford upon Avon club.*”**

*Please convey the thanks of the RNLI to all members concerned for their kind support which is most sincerely appreciated.*

*Please accept this letter as our official receipt and, on behalf of all our life boat crews, may I offer my renewed thanks for your support and interest in the lifeboat service”*

Hilary Wilson

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### Stratford BSAC New Website

As you may be aware we have a new site [www.stratforddivers.co.uk](http://www.stratforddivers.co.uk) and its looking great.

As well as some nice shiny new pictures and write ups, there is also a member login page where you can log in to get club information such as TFI or club members information

To access the member page you need to Login with the following:

Username : manta

Password : fathom9

If you wish to add to the website with either a calendar entry (for all those forthcoming trips) or to add to the photo gallery entries (for all those trips just finished , especially inspiring marine shots or plain old sill ones!) then all you need to do is contact either Angie or Jon Hardman and we will do the necessary . Please note that we will only be updating the site every fortnight so please don't request instant updates.

I hope you all enjoy the new site and please don't forget that we do have a Facebook page for write ups, comments and general interaction. We want to attract new blood to the club so post your pictures on there too!!

Any questions please contact Angie or Jon or one of the committee.

Happy diving!  
Angie Deaves

## Einstein's Theory of Relativity

Put your hand on a hot stove and a second feels like an hour  
Put your hands on a hot woman and an hour feels like a second  
(N.B. Albert had never heard of political correctness)

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## FROM JAY SCOTT EQUIPMENT OFFICER

Due to a lot of club weights going missing we are in desperate need of lead!! Preferably not from the church roof but any bits and pieces, especially when diving you might come across some fishing weights- May I have them please and they will be melted down to make our own?

At the pool the old wooden cupboard has been replaced with a new metal cage which I must thank Stan Russell for making, much appreciated mate even after a lot of changes!!!! This cage will house the new stab jackets, the regs which are currently in test for open water use and a "letterbox system" for all the fins. It will be a lot easier to locate the size of fins you require instead of trying to hunt the other fin size you need.

Many thanks  
Jay Scott

## ABOUT YOUR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Everybody needs friends. a crew, a gang. a band of brothers (and sisters) they can rely on, speak to with complete freedom, chew the fat over with.

And if you consider the job of the Diving Officer – in a club of strong-willed, opinionated members getting together to do a potentially risky sport – on purpose – no one needs friends more than a DO.

Take a look at the Club bye-laws.

The Diving Officer gets his authority from the National Diving Officer of BSAC and is personally responsible for all the diving and the training which goes on in our Club. "and for the safe conduct thereof." His decisions "in respect of all diving and training" are final.

These are not just words. Picture an exuberant bunch of you and your friends in the course of a real-life diving day in British conditions – and then picture Peter Neal (our new DO) accounting for the behaviour of each and every one of you in a court of law or at (god forbid) an inquest – or, much worse, trying to account for an incident, insignificant or major – to YOUR family.

Bottom line: that is how serious it is.

So a few years back our club established The Safety Committee. It's just the DO and two other divers. They are the official "friends" to the DO in the best sense of the word.

Consider those club regulations again.

Not only can the DO speak completely freely to his Safety Committee but this Committee "will investigate all disciplinary matters and diving incidents" and may "review any dive or expedition that it thinks fit with a view to improving safety."

It also takes the long view and looks at new equipment and new protocols and advises the Club Committee of its recommendations.

The "who" of the Safety Committee is up to the Diving Officer in any given year.

Since last AGM Peter has asked Jon Hardman and me to serve for this year.

In general we work with Peter and he then reports any Safety Committee business to you – the members – via the committee. But we are all divers and mates together so if you have concerns, talk to the DO or to one of us. We also – obviously – TRY and work as openly as possible.

In the end, we absolutely rely on each other. Because we dive recreationally as a Club we each have a DUTY OF CARE to each other, especially toward younger, less experienced divers. The Safety Committee's brief is to work with the Diving Officer to prop up that duty.

So, ours is a serious job but, we hope, not always a solemn one. The aim ALWAYS is to be constructive, learning from any mishaps how we can all dive more beautifully and SAFELY.

You can follow anything the Safety Committee is up to on its new blog (follow the link on the Club website)

Rebecca Waters

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## ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

This won an award in 2012 for Best Seaside Picture



Now you have less than 7 days left to submit your entries to the 2013 Photography Competition. Please ensure all entries are given to either Hilary or Sally by Thursday Feb 27th)

So come on, GIVE US YOUR PHOTOS !!!!!

You can enter as many photos as you like.

Prizes are awarded in loads of categories that the judges decide upon according to what photos are submitted.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27th.**

Please give your photos to either Sally or Hilary by then.

There will be an Awards Presentation Night on March 13th where ALL the photos will be on view, the winners will be announced and prizes awarded in all categories.

The evening will culminate in **THE PEOPLE'S VOTE**, where all of you who are present can choose your favourite three from ALL the photos and the Winner will be awarded **BEST IN SHOW**.

There are few rules but these are they:-

- Photos must have been taken in 2013
- Photos must be maximum of 8" by 6"
- Photo shopping or technical meddling **is** allowed.
- Photos not taken underwater must have some diving or dive trip relevance, so snaps of your cat in a party frock won't do.
- Bribing the judges **is** allowed and positively encouraged.
- Please **do not** write your name or initials on the back of the photo. Just put them all into an envelope, folder etc which has your name on it and give to Sally or Hilary by 27th February.

And as another reminder of the excellent standard of photos, here is last year's overall winner from David Williams



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## **HEADS UP – REMINDERS FROM THE DIVING OFFICER**

I have reviewed diving over the past year with the Safety Committee and looked at the club dive logs.

Discipline has sometimes been a bit loose around the edges. But where things have gone wrong we need only to have OBSERVED AND ACTED ACCORDING TO ALREADY EXISTING BSAC RULES AND PROTOCOLS.

So, with the new season approaching here are some reminders from me:

Diving in our club is BUDDY DIVING and never solo diving.

Divers may only dive to the depth for which they are qualified. This is tried and tested, guys. It is NOT “health and safety gone mad.”

(And, by the way, by diving deeper than your training allows you nullify your BSAC insurance. Got it?

And when you are abroad diving deeper than your travel insurance permits invalidates that as well – and could trigger costs which don’t bear thinking about.)

Using air (21%) dives must not be deeper than 50 metres.

Divers must surface with their reserve INTACT. This is, typically, 70 bar for a standard 232 cylinder.

Senior divers do – whether they want the job or not – act as role models in a Club. Be mindful: you should dive by example.

In respect of new divers. We tend to train divers up to Ocean Diver qualification at Stoney Cove. This has been the pattern in recent years. But on their initial open water dives in the sea, they ARE STILL TRAINEES. It should go without saying: the dive site should be right for them. But there is more, much more involved: the senior diver taking them in has an absolute responsibility for their safety which includes continuing to monitor their depths, times, and air as well as buoyancy and trim.

It follows then that, when taking new divers into the sea for their first few salty dives, the more experienced diver must focus just on that new diver. And, sad

to say, that means no other fun stuff: no photography, scalloping or hitting things with hammers.

And despite all of the above you can still have marvellous fun.  
Good luck

Peter Neal  
DIVING OFFICER

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### **NOTHING TO DO WITH DIVING BUT I COULD NOT RESIST THIS.....**

An old Irish farmer's dog goes missing and he's inconsolable. His wife says "Why don't you put an advert in the paper?" He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing. "What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks. "Here boy" he replies

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### **TRY A DIVES**

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

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

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### **DIVERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO TIE 3 OR 4 KNOTS**

Have you always struggled?

If you go to the link below you can see the knot being tied as slowly as you wish and you can repeat it at the press of a button.

So why not learn how to tie a bowline, a round turn and two half hitches, a fisherman's bend or hitch (also known as anchor bend or hitch ) and a figure of eight knot by going to:-

<http://www.animatedknots.com/knotlist.php?LogoImage=LogoGrog.jpg&Web site=www.animatedknots.com>

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## **DIVE TRIPS / HOLIDAYS**

Have a look at the Dive Calendar which is attached to your email. There are lots of dive weekends and weeks of diving and, at this moment, there are vacancies on most of them

You can choose from:

Teignmouth

Grenada

Pembrokeshire

Plymouth

Anglesey

Isles of Scilly

Lyme Regis

Hope Cove

Porthkerris

Red Sea

Or if you don't fancy any of those you can always organise a trip to somewhere else on one of the free dates.

Or if that doesn't appeal how about this link sent to me by  
**Barbara Burger** (The Not So Quiet American)

" I have a friend whose parents own a time share on **Maui**. The resort is called Maui Schooner which is in Kihei, Maui and it's a 2 bedroom flat on the beach. They are looking for someone to rent the place the week of May18th through 25<sup>th</sup> at the bargain price of \$1200 for the week. Since it's a time share there is no guarantee the rooms will face the sea but the complex is on the beach in a beautiful area with lots of amenities. Yes, they'll rent to divers or non-divers alike. If someone is interested have them look at the attached website <http://www.mauischooner.com/gallery> and then get back to me via Prich and I'll put them in contact with the owners."

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### **THE BAD OLD DAYS**

The following is an article submitted by Keith Bond concerning something they got up to in 19.....

## We Made A Yellow Submarine



**We were involved in the Warwick Lion's Club water carnival at St. Nicholas' Park. (early 70's) The dive club was asked to put on something spectacular, so we built a submarine - yellow of course.**

It actually worked. It comprised of two oil drums, one at the front and one at the rear, two dive cylinders, ballast taps, frame and two divers in full rig.

You can see me in the picture at the controls.

On the day of the carnival we settled on the bottom in a deep part of the river. The object was, at a timed moment to raise to the surface to the tune of yellow submarine. It had to be timed as we could not here the commentary.

It was a two man sub, one diver controlling the rear drum and one the front, I was on the front. So we sat there to the given time. The audience was fired up, the music playing – it was our moment.

We opened the cylinder taps to let air into the oil drums in unison, but not quite. I opened mine too fast and the front of the sub surfaced first. John, who was on the back, realising the rear needed more air, opened his more.... I thought "too much air at the front" so closed mine down. Next thing was John was on the surface and I was down again. It was like a bucking bronco, but we got it right in the end, the audience was in stitches and so were all the dive club members - fun was had by all.

Keith



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

**Custom Diver TDB dual bladder wing with tec**

harness in excellent condition for sale. New price would be £590 and I'm asking £300. Snap it up now before I put it on e-bay. Peter Neal

**2 x 7 litre cylinders 300 bar each**

These are manifolded and have banding's with them Jay 07976 283702

Cylinders are NOT in test

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 2013

Chairman: David Williams 07768 255712  
Diving Officer: Peter Neal 07967 656462  
Training Officer: Peter Virgo 07925 579632  
Secretary: Thaedra Thruston (01527 853363)  
Equipment Officer: Jay Scott 07976 283702  
Treasurer: Geoff Russell (01789 552614)  
Publicity and Membership Renewals: Hilary Wilson 07779 287558  
Recruitment: Angie Deaves 07792 775971  
Boats & Trailers John Simpson 07976 849670

**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 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 2014 is Peter Neal and his contact number is shown above.