



# TFI STRATFORD BSAC

*motto:*

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

## NOVEMBER 2016

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

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### Chairman's Report

Christmas is nearly here, where do the years go? Winter is the time for the social calendar to be filled, we have the Christmas dinner very soon and hopefully our trip to Aladdins later on. Angie is organising other social events so keep an eye on her e-mails for information.

There will also be an auction of diving kit in January which will include surplus club equipment as well as member's kit that they wish to get rid of. Please speak to Prich if you wish to sell anything. By the time you read this, the AGM will be over and Peter Talbot will be the new Chairman, so I would just like to record my thanks to the previous committee for all their work and support over the last years, and especially to Jay Scott and Peter Neal who are stepping down this time.

Hope you all have a very happy Christmas,

Hilary

### FROM THE TRAINING POOL

Since last November we have produced nine Ocean Divers and three (so far) have progressed to become Sports Divers. Well dne everyone.

A special well done to our younger members, Anthony Stoodly and Ben Steed, both have the makings of very good divers. Jaimie Wolstoncroft should be mentioned. He's a little older but I think I can still class him as one of the younger members.

Four of our Assistant Instructors have been on the O.W.I. Course and I am now hoping that they will take the O.W.I. Exams and become fully qualified.

Many thanks to Prich, Angie, Rete T and Brett for running the Life Saving Course. Congratulations to all of you that passed.

Continued on page 8

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Vastly Experienced Diver Jon Arthur was heard to ask :

“What **deepness** do we have on this dive?”

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

We have come to the end of another year of British diving, only Thailand and a few Stoney Cove trips to go now before Christmas.

I am pleased to say there have been no reportable incidents this year, I think proof that our training is of a very high standard.

There are plenty of spaces to fill in next year's dive calendar so please let me know if you intend to organise a trip. If you are uncertain how to do them, there are plenty of older experienced divers only too pleased to give you a hand.

Please see my article on Delayed Surface Marker Buoys on page 8.

Miles Howarth

-oOo-

### **NEW CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The new members of your Committee as elected at the AGM are shown on pages 4-8. They can all be contacted directly via email or 'phone and the contact details are on the club website/directory and on the pen-ultimate page of this newsletter.

Many thanks to Peter Neal (Training) and Jay Scott (Equipment) who are standing down from the Committee and who have served the club well over many years.

Several questions were raised under Any Other Business at the AGM last night and one was:- 'Where do you see the club in 12 months?'

On reflection, I would ask you all similar questions:-

Where would you like to see the club in the future?

What does it look like?

How do we get there?

In other words, it is your Club, where do you want your Committee to take it?

You will note that I am a great believer of.....'don't tell me what the problem is, tell me how to solve it'

So talk to me, email me, especially the newer and or younger members.

Kind regards

Pete Talbot

# *Dinner Dance*

*Saturday 10th December*

*The Stratford Hotel, Arden Street,  
Stratford Upon Avon*

*£32.50 per person*

*Please contact Angie*

*This years theme is  
"Into the Blue"*



Call Angie Deaves on 07792 775971 to book your dinner.

-oOo-

## **TRY A DIVES**

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

Speak to Lynne Bunker to arrange one.

-oOo-

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

The Club AGM was held on Thursday 10th November and the following were elected as Committee Members for the next year:-

Miles Howarth - Diving Officer



Geoff Russell –Treasurer



Paul Nash – Membership Secretary



Lynne Bunker - Recruitment





Angie Deaves – Social Events



Sally Richards - Secretary



Pete Talbot – Chairman



Pete Scapelino –Equipment



And Hilary Wilson as Training Officer



### Training Officer's Report continued from page 1

Last weekend six divers went to Dosthill Quarry to improve their buoyancy and trim. I'm very pleased to say that they all acquitted themselves as I would have expected and gained three Gold standard, and three people getting the top Black standard. Well done all of you.

At the moment we have six new members in the pool, and by spring when the water is a little warmer they will complete the Ocean diver course.

Thank you to all the trainees, and their instructors , who gave up their time to make everything happen.

Special thanks to Robert Muntz and David Williams who have done the bulk of the open water training at Stoney Cove .

We need more O.W.I.s who are willing to take pupils to Stoney and the sea if the club is to progress.

Peter Neal  
Retiring Training Officer

-oOo-



## DELAYED SURFACE MARKER BUOYS

As Diving Officer, it has been brought to my attention that some buddy pairs are diving with only one D.S.M.B between them.

This is unacceptable because British waters are not renowned for good visibility and it is not unusual for a pair of divers to become separated. If this occurs and you only have one DSMB it leaves one of the pair having to surface without a D.S.M.B.

This makes it very difficult for our dive boat skipper to spot you when you surface. More importantly, because there is a lot of boat traffic around our coast there is the real danger of being hit by some other boat. The skipper of which stands little or no chance of seeing your black head bobbing about on the surface.

Propellers make a real mess of divers.

You only need to deploy one D.S.M.B per pair of divers but, for your own safety, everyone should carry a D.S.M.B at all times in case you get separated. That way you have every chance of being safe and of getting picked up, especially if you have drifted away from the main group.

As a club, our aim is to make diving as safe as possible so:

**BE SAFE AND BE SEEN AT SEA.**

Miles Howarth

## 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.**

As I am now seeing adverts for Christmas stuff all over the place I feel it's not too early to suggest to you that instead of running the risk of getting some horrible tat from your relatives, you pick yourself a Club Garment from our extensive range, then get the money back from aforementioned relative(s). All garments feature our Club Logo and prices range from £5.40 for one of the hats up to £25.80 for one of the sweatshirts, with other sweatshirts, hoodies, fleeces, polo shirts and T shirts at prices in between. All are offered to you at Cost Price i.e. the Club are not making any monetary gain from your loyalty. I have the Catalogue and will be delighted to show it to you any Thursday Night at the Football Club.

So far 41 garments have been purchased since sales began at the end of August.

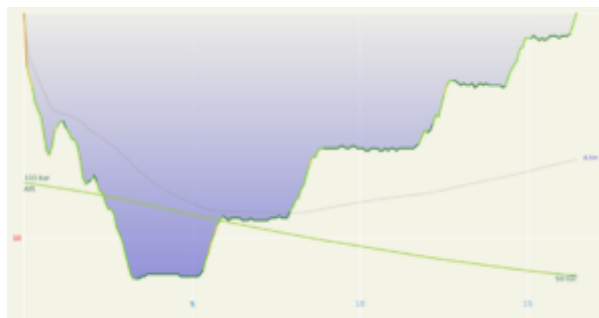
So, this year don't let Great Aunt Bertha buy you socks again, you know she'd rather buy you something that you want!!

Regards, Sally

## Buoyancy and trim workshop by Lynne Bunker

On a fairly cold Saturday, six intrepid members of our club set off early to be at [Dosthill Quarry](#) for an 8:30 start. Dosthill proved much quicker to get to than originally thought, and the earlier than planned for arrival gave us a chance to have a quick look at the diving site that lay ahead. It reminded me a little of Cromhall (portalos) but a lot more compact! Having been on previous BSAC courses where you are lucky to get 15 minutes to eat and get ready to dive, we proceeded to assemble our kit, however we were treated to 30 minutes to eat and 30 minutes to be ready to dive—wow!

The day started with some lectures at the nearby Church Hall, complete with outside (cold) loos, but the ample teas and coffees helped! Before long we were heading off to do some diving. We were in groups of 3, with surface support too.



A profile from the day

The first dive enabled everyone's current weight to be checked out and various exercises were undertaken, before moving onto a shotline, and undergoing exercises and stops commencing from around 15m, and various stops on the way up. Individual advice was given, particularly in relation to shedding ankle weights.

After a bit of a break it was assessment time, so in we went again, this time to 12m. Various stops later and assessments complete... time for the results. Between us, we saw our club proud, with Gold ( $\pm 50$  cm, the standard expected for Dive Leaders and Open Water Instructors) being awarded to Paul Nash, Dan Rowe and Jamie Wolstencroft, and Black (the highest standard,  $\pm 30$ cm, expected for Advanced and technical divers) awarded to Lynne Bunker, Chris Hastie and Sophie Hastie. I think it is fair to say that we all enjoyed ourselves and learnt a lot from the course.

This course is essential for anyone considering any technical diving, but aimed at all levels. It is really good to provide a focus for buoyancy and trim, in a great environment. It is one of those courses that every diver should make the effort to attend. The next one is 10 December (same night as our Dinner), but we were away in good time and home by 16:15!

As tasked by the course instructors I will be going to Stoney Cove on Sunday 4 December, so that those who were on the course can practice what has been suggested, but also other club members who wish to explore their buoyancy/trim have the opportunity to do so, after all, it is this effort that makes us better divers. Please let me know if you want to come

# THE BAD OLD DAYS

I'm extremely sad to tell you that a long time former member "Doc" George Sykes passed away in early November. Doc George was an excellent diver, good company and one of the nicest men you could wish to meet. Left to right he is shown below with:

Ian Dyche, Doc George, Ian Ratcliffe, The Yank, Prich and Sallie Crook.



# DIVE TRIPS

## WEYMOUTH

The Weymouth Trip next year was to have been on July 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>. I booked the Hard Boat on that date knowing that it clashed with The River Festival but confident that enough people would be able to man the Stand. However, last night at the AGM it was announced that there are plans afoot to resurrect the Summer BBQ to its former glory on July 1<sup>st</sup>. As the BBQ requires the help and support of everyone in the Club if it is to be a success I felt it necessary to try and change the date of The Weymouth Trip. The Weymouth Trip will now be on the weekend of September 16/17<sup>th</sup>.

I will send a Flyer out for this Trip shortly, but briefly:-

Hard Boat Tango. 2 days diving, 2 dives per day. Cost for 4 dives £90.

Minimum Diver Grade Sports Diver. I will need a deposit of £60 to secure your place.

Regards, Sally Richards

## MEXICO

**The date will be February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 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 drop-out.

-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.

-OoO-



## 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**

**THE  
ANORAK  
PAGE**

### 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 2017 is Miles Howarth and his contact number is shown above.