



TFI STRATFORD BSAC

motto:

'HE OR SHE WHO DARES FIN'S'

CHRISTMAS 2017

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

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Also attached to your email is a file with reports on dive trips to Hope Cove and Weymouth

Chairman's Bit

I originally wrote my bit for TFI well before the Christmas Dinner Party but it hasn't gone to press because, unfortunately some of my Committee colleagues have been pre-occupied with other issues.

So, now I'm simply saying that I hope you all enjoyed the Dinner and didn't hear me ordering Cointreau with crushed ice because that's a sure sign that I've 'relaxed' far too much.

If you're diving throughout the coming months as a few 'hardened fools' are, me included, then take extra care.....you are all aware of the added risks.

Have a fantastic Christmas, New Year and safe diving.....finally, of course I hope for world peace.

Congratulations to Emma and Jon Hardman on the birth of daughter Matilda.

Pete Talbot

FROM THE TRAINING POOL

The Ocean Divers' Theory Course is nearing an end, with the group almost ready to go to Stoney Cove for their first dives.

The Dive Leader Course is underway and lectures are arranged throughout January and into February. Several skills have already been signed off in Stoney Cove

DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT

Not much to report this time as the British diving season has come to a close. I have noticed that several times dives have been arranged but logs haven't been handed in so could I remind all of you to please get these to me promptly after the dives.

I would also much prefer paper format as this makes it much easier to collate the numbers throughout the year.

Next year's Dive Calendar is already started so if you would like to organise a trip please let me know so I can update the information.

Happy diving

Miles Howarth

-oOo-

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Only a small contribution from the Equipment Cupboard

Firstly, a quick thank you to all those who have let us have or borrow fins for the scout season. We have had a plethora of tiny feet requiring fins so your generosity has saved the day.

Fins, masks and snorkels - The club expects that basic items of equipment like fins, masks and snorkels are purchased within the first few weeks of starting the ocean diving syllabus. These items are available to borrow short term but please try to buy your own and remember to bring them to the pool. There are plenty for sale on EBay as well as at the dive shops in the area or online. I would encourage you to speak to your instructor for advice on what to buy before spending lots of cash.

Servicing - For those members that borrow cylinders, BCDs or regs from the club, please check service dates on your equipment and let the equipment officer know if your equipment needs service. We do monitor service dates as well but two sets of eyes are better than one.

Kind Regards
Alastair

CLUB A.G.M.

The Club AGM was held in November and the following were elected as Committee Members for the next year:-

Miles Howarth - Diving Officer



Simon Steed –Treasurer



Ellen Noakes – Membership Secretary

Picture to come next issue.

Lynne Bunker - Recruitment



Angie Deaves – Social Events



Sally Richards - Secretary



Pete Talbot – Chairman



Alastair Manning –Equipment



and Hilary Wilson as Training Officer



-oOo-

DID YOU SEE??????????????

Did you see Monsters of the Deep in October? No not Blue Planet 2. This was a month before that and the programme I watched showed dolphins in shallow bays slapping the sand bottom with their tails to disturb silt and reduce visibility. This is clever on its own but they do this and create a silt wall in a “v/” shape so that when the tide recedes the fish travelling out with the tide swim into the “v” and seek to escape. Their method of escape is to swim to the surface and leap out of the water over “the wall” of silt.

The only down side of this escape is that the dolphins are on the surface on the opposite side of the wall with their mouths wide open.

And if you think that is clever, there were several dolphins each creating their own silt wall side by side across the full width of the bay.

Also on the same programme there were groups of humpback whales co-operating with each other and creating large circles of bubbles whilst a member of their group below their target emits a whistle at 180 decibels which drives the herring to the surface within the bubble circle. The whales then feed on the “trapped” herring eating up to half a ton in a day EACH. Remember they typically weigh 25 – 30 metric tonnes.

Wonderful filming too.

**We have a range of clothing available bearing
our Club Logo.**



**The range includes T-shirts, polo shirts,
sweatshirts, hoodies, fleeces, hats, in many
colours and sizes.**

**We are selling these garments to you at cost i.e.
this is not a fundraising exercise but an exercise
in**

UNITY and TOGETHERNESS!

**This catalogue is available to view on Thursday
Nights at the Football Club.**

Just ask Sally Richards

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

**We can now get the LOGO added to any garment so if
nothing in the catalogue appeals, bring along your favourite
WASHED garment and our Logo can be added for £6.**

GEOFF RUSSELL IS STANDING DOWN FROM THE COMMITTEE AFTER COUNTLESS YEARS

His goodbye words are as follows:

Thank you for the opportunity to give some parting comments

Basically they are as my Treasurers' report with a little more as follows

"As you are aware after 5 years of being your club Treasurer I am standing down this year. I think I have served you well, I hope you agree. It is with some sadness that I leave the committee which in my 36 years I have been in the club I think probably over 25 years of which I have served on the Committee. My principle reason for stepping down is that in order to provide succession and continued success for the Club it is essential that new and younger members take the helm.

It has been a privilege and honour to serve the club as a general member and in various roles including Equipment's Officer, Chairman and Treasurer.

I have received tremendous satisfaction from working toward and achieving Advanced Instructor status and training many of the club members whom I now regard as good friends. I would urge you all to continue your Instructor progression, as it gives so much satisfaction and reward to not only other divers but oneself.

I wish the new Treasurer every success and remember I am always here to help and give advice to any member whether it be Committee or general membership.

Wishing you all enjoyable and safe Diving"

Geoff Russell

-oOo-

Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean – September 16th 2017

It was quite a sunny day, when Jay Scott and Lynne Bunker met up with 15 other volunteers at the Salcombe Harbour Office for a briefing, and task allocation, as we were to take part in our first Beach Clean.



It was to be Scoble Beach, which we were a little puzzled by it's location, but a short launch later and we were being landed (in some cases quite unceremoniously) onto some quite slippery rocks, more or less adjacent to Whitestrand. After about 10 minutes of careful progress we arrived on the beach area and split off into our groups. Jay disappeared off into the distance busy finding batteries etc, whilst I had the sometimes complex task of cataloguing the finds of my group. We were all surprised at how many categories were available, which became more evident as to why when we saw the summaries. We were all absolutely shocked by how much plastics we found, and in this case parts of water balloons which had been the result of the town regatta, and indeed, the evidence we found has been used to try to influence next year's. Unfortunately, British weather being just that, it started to rain, and we all started to get cold, but it was as we had finished, so another 10 minutes of slippery rocks and journey back, we went with vouchers in hand, for hot drinks at Salcombe Coffee. We met some lovely people, all very concerned about Marine life and the effects of plastic, there was a good sense of camaraderie, and we all left feeling quite pleased with our achievements. As a bonus, I have been told of some potential dive sites, and what needs to happen to allow these, but there are interesting underwater areas and some congers, and a little known about artificial reef –and this in the Harbour?! Would we do another? You bet your bottom dollar!

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NOTHING TO DO WITH DIVING BUT.....

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time.

To check it out, she went to the Wall, and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray, and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

"Pardon me Sir, I'm Rebecca Smith from CNN. What's your name?"

"Morris Feinberg," he replied.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Wailing Wall to pray?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims."

"I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop."

"I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults, and to love their fellow man."

"And how do you feel Sir, after doing this for 60 years?"

"It's like talking to a f.....g brick wall."

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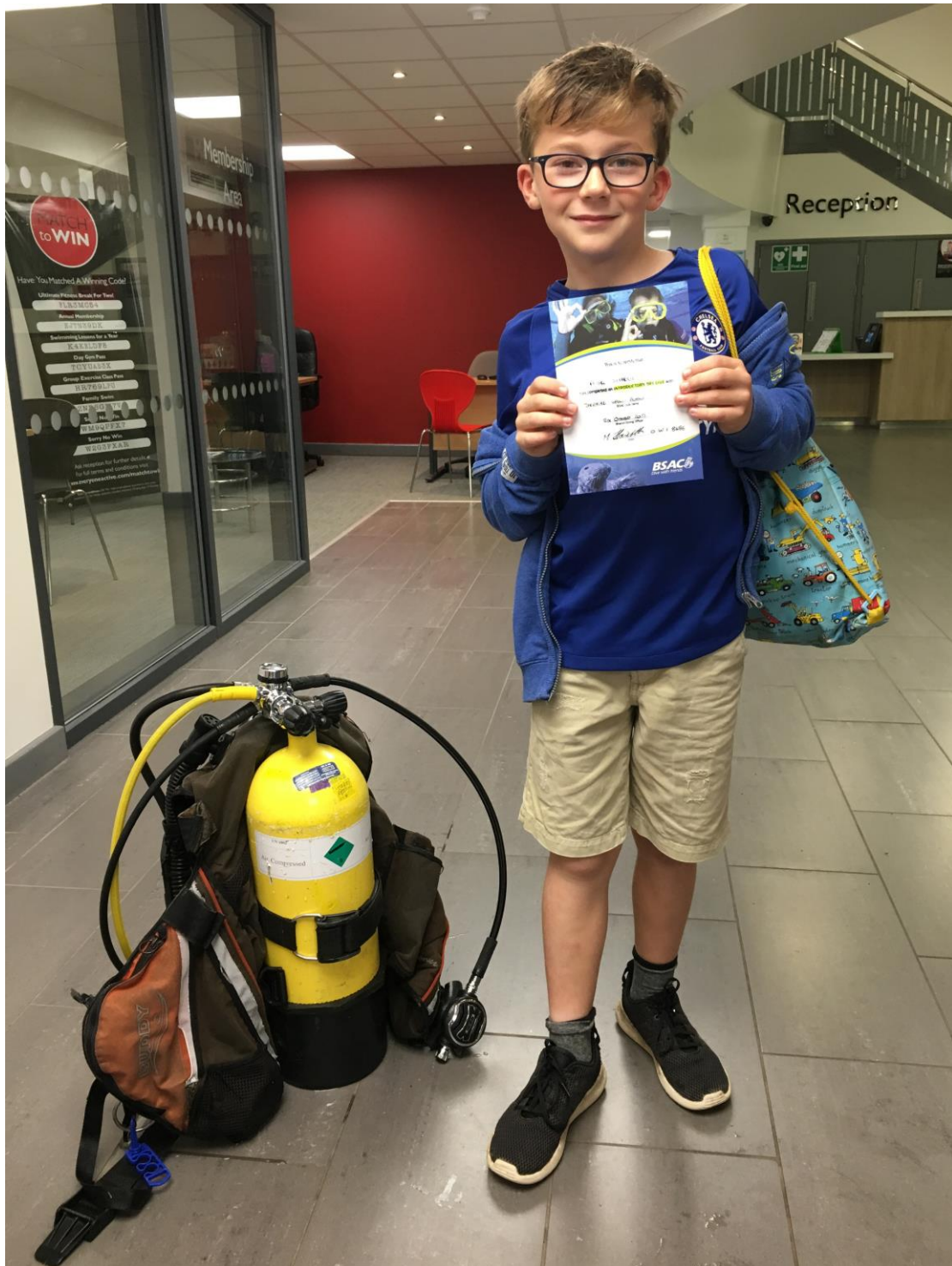
KIT

A friend of Chris Hastie's mine recently bought a Cressi 7mm wetsuit on ebay, which unfortunately turns out to be too big for her. Before she spends money on the postage to return it, is anyone interested? Excellent condition, hardly worn. Size is described as S/3, which she assumed meant small, but now thinks it means medium, short. She'd like to cover her costs of £70, and is in Coventry.

If anyone's interested let Chris know and I'll put you in touch.

-oOo-

ANDRE, SON OF MARK JEFFREY, DOING HIS T.A.D. IN PREPARATION FOR HIS PADI BUBBLE COURSE WHILST ON HOLIDAY



ANDY BACON DECIDED TO SWITCH TO THE SKY FOR A DIVE WITH HIS DAUGHTER HOLLY

But who looks the most relaxed??????????????



-oOo-
TRY A DIVES

DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE OR A FRIEND WHO MIGHT LIKE A TRY A DIVE?

How about giving one as a Christmas or Birthday Gift?

Speak to Lynne Bunker to arrange one.

Stratford BSAC 0730 Committee 2018

Chairman :Pete Talbot 07958 447544
Training Officer: Hilary Wilson 07779 287558
Diving Officer: Miles Howarth 07779 287558
Recruitment: Lynne McCarthy 07775 940000
Equipment Officer: Alastair Manning
Treasurer: Geoff Russell Simon Steed
Membership Secretary: Ellen Noakes
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 five months.

Thereafter it is £45 for 3 months.

Pool Sessions - £3 for all Members

Try a Dive £20 a session.

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.