



The Dive Club Newsletter

February 2009

Spring Edition

Don't miss the club night at the Black Boy Pub, Shinfield.

Wed 4th February from 7:30 pm

Be there and support your dive club

Need to go diving then come along to one of the many events planned for this year

News update



Happy New Year, a little belated and maybe some of you are wondering what to feel happy about, doom and gloom, it's been cold and wet and now SNOW.

Well there was definitely something in the air last year (or maybe they've been adding it to the water) but you lot are a romantic bunch of souls after all. Simon started the trend with THE proposal this time last year (got a date yet?). Then Dave G and Leslie tied the knot in September. And now we have a backlog of congratulations to bestow. Raise a glass (and buy a hat) for Nick and Nicole, Andy and Becs, and Rob H (Mr Badger-top himself) and Liz.

And there are lots of other good things to look forward to: plenty of planned club dives (see the diary page later), including our opening dive of the season is NOT at Stoney but somewhere hopefully warmer.

And if everything goes according to plan Adrian and I can give up the day job later in the year and disappear to a little tropical paradise. Hope you'll all come and see us, although not necessarily all at the same time, as we are likely to be living in abject poverty in a very small shack...



Club Nights

Join us on the first Wednesday in every month for a mix of chatting, eating & drinking from 7:30pm.

This week's February club meeting, traditionally the official kickoff meeting for the club is on the 4th February at our usual venue, the Black Boy. There is a free buffet for club members (£5 payable for non-club members) in the restaurant area at the back.



Can you all please remember to bring along your cheque books as membership renewals are due on the night plus the diving list for the coming year will also be announced so deposits will be taken for any dives you wish to book on.

SHOWTIME



I'm afraid you've just missed The Wedding Show held at Tatton Park (Cheshire) last weekend and even worse The Wedding Show Live (due next weekend in Nottingham) has been cancelled. However looking on the web I can see you could go to some kind of

wedding exhibition nearly every weekend from now until your chosen date. You'll need to check out all those essential things (Accessories & Tiaras, Bridalwear, Cakes & Chocolate Fountains, Catering & Marquees, Directories & Guides, Entertainment, Favours, Floristry, Gift Lists, Health & Beauty, Honeymoons & Destination Weddings, Jewellers, Menswear, Occasion Wear, Photography, Stationery, Transport, Venues, Venue Decoration, Videography, Unusual Extras. Wedding Planners etc) Still want to do it?

But good news you're not too late for L.I.D.S.

London International Dive Show, ExCeL, London - 28/29 March 2009

It's a great opportunity to get kitted up and genned up for the year ahead. In the main hall, expect as many as 250 stands reflecting everything from equipment and travel to training, clothing and many diver services.

Show Features at LIDS 2009 will include:

- New dive gear for 2009 – on display, and to buy
- Latest diving holidays – in UK, Red Sea, Caribbean and worldwide
- Beginner try-dive and Technical pools
- Expert training advice – including BSAC World and PADI Village
- British Isles Experience – showcasing the best in diving around our shores
- Historical Diving display
- More than 25 free-to-enter seminars
- Hottest diving leisurewear, books and accessories

There will also be a number of presentations; speakers include:

- **John Bantin** – DIVER magazine's road tester
- **Marcus Greatwood** – British Free-diver
- **Monty Halls** – of *Great Ocean Adventures* TV series and *Swimming with Giants* film fame
- **John Kean** - author of the comprehensive book *Thistlethorn* and dive guide/instructor in Sharm
- **Richard Peirce** - Chairman of the Shark Trust and founder of the Shark Conservation Society

And a Digital Underwater Photography clinic with Photoshop guru Saeed Rashid, leading underwater photographer Alex Mustard, and camera expert Paul Duxfield

Go to <http://www.diveshows.co.uk/index.shtml> for all the details

Just one small appeal on behalf of our local dive gear shops. They may not be exhibiting at the show but the chances are they will have special showtime offers. Please support them if you can.



WINNERS

If you can remember back to November Club Evening you will recall it was the photo competition. We had the most fantastic display both of underwater shots and one with a watery theme. Everyone should be proud of their work and we extend a big thank you to everyone for taking part and helping make it a great evening; especially Maria Munn for helping with the judging.

I'm afraid I don't have a copy of Stuart Yeoman's winner of the above-water category, a magical scene of elephants crossing the river at sunset, but I can show you the other winners.

Maria selected her overall favourite - this turtle by Nick Flynn



And by the voting assembly Stig walked away with the best underwater image of these nudibranch



Nathan O'Hare's anemone clown fish came a close runner-up



Volunteers are always welcome to organise more dives wherever you'd like to go. If you are unsure about how to go about it please contact us for hints & tips.

Dive Diary 2009

Club Members will be automatically emailed details of planned dive events.

NOTE: £25 deposit required unless otherwise stated the balance due must be paid 1 month before the event. **Any dives booked must be paid for in full and refunds will not normally be given unless replacements are found to fill the booked places.** In the event of a cancellation it is the responsibility of the person who booked the diving to find a replacement, If they cannot then they are responsible for the full cost of the event

27th-31st March – Malta

All levels. Please see Katie or Rob Randall for details

18th April – Poole

Planned depths around 25 metres for advanced divers £50 for the day.

5 spaces

16th May – Brighton

Planned depths around 20 metres for advanced divers £50 for the day.

4 spaces

16th May – Brighton

Planned depths around 30 metres for advanced divers £50 for the day.

6 spaces

13th & 14th June – Weymouth

All levels. £82 for the weekend's diving

10 Spaces

8th & 9th August – Lundy Island

We reach this magical island by boat from Ilfracombe. Experienced divers only. £117 for the weekend's diving.

1 spaces

15th August – Swanage

Planned depths around 28 metres for advanced divers £40 for the day.

6 spaces

15th August – Swanage

Planned depths around 36 metres for advanced divers £40 for the day.

6 spaces

19th and 20th September – Weymouth

All levels. £82 for the weekend's diving

10 Spaces

To be confirmed: Littlehampton and Isle of Wight

All the above costs are for 2 dives a day. Dives are from hard boats, going out all day so 2 tanks will be required.

If you have an article or story which you want to tell, why not send your article to the Editor of The Dive Club Newsletter

Articles are always needed, long or short!!

The Club Rules

Club rules for 2009 has now been finalized as follows:

1. Membership fee for 2008 is £30 payable in January and will be subject to review in November each year. Members will be notified of any increase in fees a month before the due payment date.
2. For members joining between 1st September and December in any club year, their membership will expire on the 31st December in the following year.
3. The club committee will be made up of:
 - a) Chairperson - Simon Holmes
 - b) Secretary - Katie Parkhouse
 - c) Social Secretary - Vacant
 - d) Event coordinators - Vacant
4. Non-members attending club events will be charged a nominal £10 fee per event.
5. Members benefits include:
 - a) organised dives
 - b) social activities
 - c) newsletter

The rules are subject to review on a regular basis. Any changes will be notified to members in writing.

Equipment Hire

As of January 2008 The Dive School will NO longer be in a position to hire kit, the logistics of hiring the kit are not compatible with our other business activities and the hire fees do not cover the servicing and repair fees.

Kit will be provided to students undertaking courses with The Dive School.

The Dive School

Courses 2009



DATES OF OUR FORTHCOMING **PADI** COURSES:

PADI Open Water Referral - 5 weeks @ Pool Tuesday evenings

Classroom @ 6:30pm Pool @ 8:30 pm

20th Jan - 17th Feb
24th Feb - 24th Mar
31st Mar - 28th Apr
5th May - 2nd Jun
9th Jun - 7th Jul
14th Jul - 11th Aug
18th Aug - 15th Sep
22nd Sep - 20th Oct
27th Oct - 24th Nov

PADI Open Water Referral - Intensive weekends

21 st /22 nd Feb	27 th /28 th Jun	27 th /28 th Oct
21 st /22 nd Mar	25 th /26 th Jul	21 st /22 nd Nov
25 th /26 th Apr	22 nd /23 rd Aug	
23 rd /24 th May	21 st /22 nd Sep	

Open Water Qualifying Dive Weekends

21st/22nd Mar - Specialties Weekend
9th/10th May
20th/21st Jun

Dates for other open water courses to be confirmed including Advanced Open Water, Specialties and Rescue Diver Weekends.

There are over 20 PADI Specialty courses and it's not practical for us to run some of them. The most popular ones include Deep, Enriched Air, Dry Suit, Equipment, Wreck and Dan 02 Provider but please contact Simon or Katie on 0118 976 2900 or info@thediveschool.co.uk if there is something you are interested in for further details.

Contact Information

If you have any contributions to The Dive Club newsletter or suggestions for future events, please forward your suggestions to Simon or Katie at The Dive School (thediveschool@hotmail.com), or telephone them on 0118 976 2900.

thediveschool@hotmail.com

We're on the Web!

www.thediveschool.co.uk

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