

CLUB NEWS

My favourite diving accessory

by Ben Fraser

SCUBA diving, being what it is, involves water. When I was training the one thing I hated was the fact that I kept getting wet and that wasn't because of a leaky dry suit but because I was using a wetsuit.

I like to stay warm, I like to stay dry and I like my possessions to do the same. Which is why I love using a dry bag. If anyone is getting on a boat, especially RIBs, I strongly advise they take a dry bag. Shove all your tat in it (lunch, keys, phones etc) and it keeps everything in one place and, most importantly, it keeps it dry. I used one for the first time for the entire Farnes Isles trip, luckily someone in the club lent one to me. I should really go and buy one really, Christmas present, anyone? they cost around £10.



When all else fails.... PLAN!

by Wayne Allen

The sound of Mull is one of the great diving locations in the UK, although its a bit of a hike to get there (12 hours) and they don't have many cash machines, let alone dive shops when you need one - so when my dive computer failed on the second day of a weeks diving in Mull, I was a little stuck.

No spare, no diving shop and a week of 25-35 m wrecks to dive, meant I had to move onto plan B...the BSAC '88 decompression tables. We all possibly look at tables with a little distain, but with a little planning in advance the dives on tables were not that much different to the dives we were planning on our computers. The key word here is "planning". Knowing what surface intervals we needed, and knowing what depth and times was no different to using a computer (you **do** plan your dives before you get in the water **don't you?**), we just lost the convenience of a timer ticking down, and then telling us how many minutes of no-deco time, or deco, we had left.

We managed broadly the same dives as those diving on computers, had the same surface intervals, and had at least the same amount of enjoyment and I even had time to get some great pictures!! Real diving under tables as opposed to training was not only possible it was relatively simple it just required a little thought - we managed relatively deep and adventurous diving (for a SD) with planned deco and without excessive stop times, all on a step of BSAC '88 tables.

It all comes down to the mantra (ed: not MANTA) - "Plan the dive and dive the plan".... and bring spares.

In the Diary:

29 November	BBSAC Annual General Meeting
2 December	Buoyancy & Trim Workshop
9 December	Wraysbury Diving
20 December	BBSAC Christmas Party
19 January	O ₂ admin Course
20 January	Practical Rescue Management
10 February	Wraysbury Diving

Regular Thursday Training	
Ocean Diver	7:00 - 8:15 pm
Pool training/use	8:30 - 9:45 pm
Sports Diver	8:30 - 9:30 pm
Dive leader	9:30 - 10:30 pm

AND THE WINNER IS....

by James Clark & Katie Bunt

This year the club had held their **first annual Photography Competition**. There were three categories for entry: **Overseas**, **UK & Humorous**. We received many entries from enthusiastic members of the club. Congratulations to our winners of each category and those awarded the runner-up prizes.

Overseas

Winner: **Cheryl Barker**
Runner-up: **Craig Barker**

UK

Winner: **Steve White**
Runner-up: **Caz Allen**

Humorous

Winner: **Paula Cheung**
Runner-up: **Steve White**

The category winners and runner-up pictures will be on display in the Club hut after the announcement of the finalists at the AGM

A big thanks to everyone who entered the first photography competition. We'll be holding another one next year so keep snapping those great photos!



Fluke One - Craig Barker

Dive Leader Training

by Stu Bailes

Coming from a military background my diving career to date has been very disjointed. I have managed to progress through the levels quite quickly, however in the main I have not had much time to go diving. The main issue that stops me diving is the amount of time I tend to spend in the desert where there is a distinct lack of water. I have however, been lucky and dived two of the world's best wrecks, the Zenobia in Cyprus and more recently the Thistlegorm in Egyptian Red Sea; so what I lack in numbers I make up for in the quality of dives.

A few years ago I managed to get on a military run Dive Leader (DL) course, this was run in accordance with BSAC rules but both the theory and open water dives are condensed into a week long course, the only thing not covered is the organisation of a dive trip. Soon after the course finished it was off to the desert again.

Upon return I moved to Northwood and decided to resurrect my DL training and to assist me in this aim I



It's Thataway! - Steve White

joined BBSAC. Due to the amount of time that had passed since my original DL course I opted to go through the lessons with the other club members who were also working towards their DL qualification. So far, the lessons have been very well

taught and even though I have previously done them I am still learning new things every time.

The lessons focused on Dive Management; including how to get to sites (charts and navigation) and what to do once there (shot deployment and diver management). We have also had courses on oxygen administration and, probably the best course, Practical Rescue Management (PRM). This will ensure we know what to do in the event that something goes wrong.

The main difference between DL and other courses is that you learn firstly how to be an example to other divers and secondly dive management, not only whilst divers are in the water but for the duration of a trip.

The Dive Manager is not only responsible for safety (although this is their primary role) but they will also ensure that they have organised all the dive admin right down to ensuring that divers are fed and have a bed for the night.

To ensure we were up to the required standard we were all asked to organise a number of club trips, to places including Portland, Swanage and the Sound of Mull.

So what have I learnt? Hopefully this became apparent in October, when 6 BBSAC divers set off to the Sound of Mull to carry out a week of wreck diving. It was a great trip and, I think, everyone enjoyed both the diving and the "après-dive"! If all divers had a bed for the night; were fed, the diving ran safely and everyone had a great time then hopefully I will have learnt something and take a step closer to my DL qualification.

[Ed: Stu passed the assessment and is now a qualified Dive Leader, well done Stu!]

NEW Branch Handbook

by James Clark

Available from December 2012 is the new BBSAC Branch Handbook; crammed with information about diver training, organising trips, launching and recovering a boat and other useful advice on how the club works. It's been written by The Diving Officer with the help of all the current committee and instructors.

Get your hands on a copy and let us know what you think!



Does my nose look BIG in this? - Paula Cheung

Christmas PARTY!

by Felicity Bobin

Thursday 20th of December is the last club night of this year so we should make it a special one! It is a busy time of year so the Christmas party has been kept cheap and cheerful. There will be some festive hot mulled wine, minced pies and some tunes in the background. So please come along to support your dive club and have a diver's mini Christmas celebration.



Felicity and Simon show off their find following a litter-pick in Kimmeridge Bay. Every little helps to protect our fragile seas from pollution, well done!

BSAC
Dive with friends