

The Seahorse Dive Club Newsletter



December 2004



Dear Club Member,

The year is drawing to a close and now is the time to start planning for next years diving. Mark has been talking with John Walker regarding chartering the hard boat Miss Patie and we now have some dates; see the 'UK UK Diving' section in this letter. We are also starting to think about trips abroad; see the 'Dive trips abroad' section, so please let us know if you have any preferences on destinations or types of diving.

We would like to announce the launch of the new Seahorse Dive Club website; see 'Latest News' below. As Mike stood down last month as webmaster, it was felt that this would be a good time to have a revamp and include some new features and pages into the site. We have tried to give the website a new look and we hope you like it. But please contact us if something is not right or you would like something adding or removing.

Finally, as this is the last planned Newsletter for 2004 we would like to wish all club members, families and friends a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Safe diving to all,

Steve Cain

Contact: Steve Cain stevecain@tiscali.co.uk

Malcolm Cole malcolm.cole@btinternet.com

Latest News

As mentioned in November's Newsletter, Mike has been busy with work commitments and had to hand over the Newsletter and Website editing to Malcolm and myself. Reluctantly, for the same reasons Mike has also decided to stand down from the club committee. We would like to thank Mike for all the hard work and hours he has put in over the years as Webmaster, Newsletter editor and his roles on the Committee. Cheers Mike!

I have been busy on the new club website and it is now up and running. There is still work to be done and this will be an ongoing process. Some pages may not be complete yet, so please bear with us. Mike's old website will still be on-line for a while yet and so both webs will run in parallel. The new website is at the usual URL: www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/ and the old web at: www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/index2.htm

We had several new members join the club during November, please welcome Andrew James, Andrew Collett, Luke Shipway, Mark Shipway, Suzanne Shipway, Jason Costello, Mike Smith and Dave Moore it's great to have you 'on board'. All the best for some great diving, both home and abroad.

Saturday pool and social times are likely to be on the move again. North Wiltshire Leisure are cutting back to save money and so they want to close the Lime Kiln Leisure Centre earlier at week-ends. Our new times have yet to be finalised but when we have them they will be announced on the web-site and in this newsletter. Please check the website before setting off on Saturday evenings. At least this should free up your Saturday evenings a bit.

I have now received our Divers Gold cards. These cards give emergency contact details for divers requiring medical treatment following a dive. I will be distributing these cards on Saturday evenings at the Lime Kiln pool.

UK Diving

We now have provisional dates for next years diving in the UK. Mark has arranged with John Walker Hard boat diving on the Miss Patie. Together with RIB diving the plans are:

A joint Seahorse and BSAC week-end in April. Seahorse members will be given preference for places.

A long week-end for 16th to 19th of June. Hard boat on the Saturday and Sunday with RIB diving on the Friday and Monday.

A long week-end for 16th to 18th September. Hard boat on the Saturday and Sunday and RIB diving on the Monday. Further dates are being considered.

There have been several trips to Vobster recently. Mark has been running dive courses there and many club members have reported some good diving. Vobster Quay is improving on its facilities and submerged attractions and is showing promising signs as a developing dive centre.

The new Vobster website can be found at:
<http://www.vobsterquay.co.uk/>



Dive trips abroad

Jason is looking into a combined shore and Liveboard trip for next October to Thailand. Jason has come up with the following package:

5 day Liveboard to the Similan Islands
3 or 4 days diving in Pattaya
Total price: £1280 to include diving, flights and accommodation

If interested then contact:

Jason on 01793 347998, e-mail elephantman@hotmail.com

or Mark on 01793 731843, e-mail whitehorsediving@tiscali.co.uk

Several members have suggested diving the Scilly Isles in July, prior to the school holidays. Malcolm is looking into costs for this and if you are interested then please drop Malcolm an e-mail (e-mail addresse at the end of this letter). Other suggestions include Manado, Indonesia early next year and Lundy island in the summer.

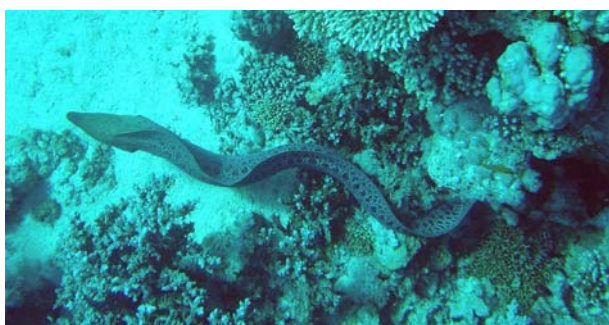
Does anyone fancy doing a Photography / Videography Liveaboard next year? Linda Dunk is running a photographic course in the Maldives next August. It's a Liveaboard trip with unlimited diving, Nitrox and Linda will be there to give advice. See: <http://www.lindadunk.com/>

Len Deeley is running similar trips to the Red Sea, including the Brothers, Daedalus and Elphinstone. He also is planning one to Sudan. See: <http://www.imagine-photography.co.uk/>

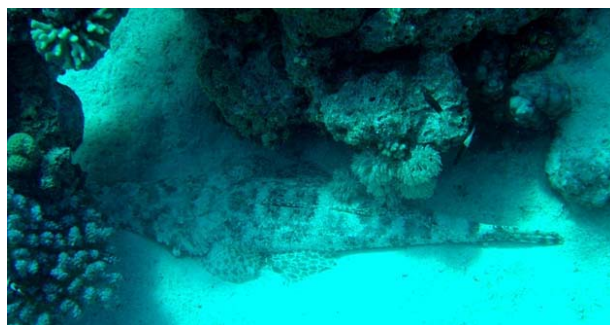
We are also looking for a cheap break for next spring, Spain has been suggested as a possibility. Late last year I looked into L'Estartit and the Medes group of islands. This is a protected nature reserve and offers some of the best diving in the Mediterranean. The number of divers is restricted within this reserve so a trip here needs to be planned well in advance. Let us know if this 'rocks your boat'. Take a look at: <http://www.rei-del-mar.com/>

The above are only ideas and I suggest that we organise a meet soon to discuss options, anyone recommend a good pub locally? Some trips may require advance planning so let's get together sooner rather than later.

Meanwhile, Phil Green has just returned from a Liveaboard trip to the Wrecks and Reefs of the northern Red Sea. Here are some pictures that Phil brought back. I trust the trip was good Phil.



Giant moray eel



crocodilefish

Courses and Training

For those members who have not yet done a dry-suit course why not give this a thought. Now that the diving season is quiet this is a good time for getting ready for next year's home diving. It takes only 1 day, involves 2 dives and is one of the most beneficial speciality courses you can take. Mark is planning a Dry-suit course for December or January so contact him to register your interest.

Open Water and Advanced Open Water courses will be run on demand between now and the end of March; again, Mark Horton is your point of contact if you are interested in these or any speciality courses. Mark's number is 01793 731843.

Jason will be running another EFR course on 15th January and starting Nitrox courses in 2005. Contact Jason on 01793 347998, e-mail elephantman@hotmail.com
Whitehorse Divers is at: <http://www.againstthewind.org.uk/whitehorse/index.htm>

Social

A Skittles night is always popular and we are planning one for January. We will keep you informed of dates, venues and prices.

Mark Hampshire organised a Paintball day for Saturday 27th November.

For sale

Club clothing is now available. We can now offer a range of Polo shirts, Fleecees, and Caps with the club logo tactfully embroidered on them.

Contact Malcolm Cole malcolm.cole@btinternet.com for prices and to order. They really are very good quality. We expect to see more items from a new supplier soon; with the same quality of course.

Links

Some useful Links and contact numbers:

Seahorse Dive Club: <http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/>

White Horse Divers: <http://www.againstthewind.org.uk/whitehorse/index.htm> Tel: 01793 731843

Website of the month: <http://www.ukdivers.com>

Contributions are always welcome, if you have something you want including in the next newsletter then please send it to: stevecain@tiscali.co.uk OR malcolm.cole@btinternet.com

Please send pictures as JPEGs or TIFFs and any text as .txt or .doc.

Remember, this is your club, your Newsletter.

Get involved!

This Newsletter is published on the first day of every month.
Please submit any content you want considering for publication by the 21st of the month preceding the publication date.