

The Seahorse Dive Club Newsletter

June 2005

Dear Club Member,

The UK diving scene is now getting up to speed with trips having been made to Lyme Regis and South Wales. Mark now has his second RIB (the Sea Horse) seaworthy and is ready to deploy it wherever it is required.

Plans for the long diving weekend for the 11th – 13th June at Lyme Regis are now complete and it promises be a great event. All the clubs RIBs are ready to go and we also will be using John Walker's Miss Pattie. Most of the clubs diving members have signed up, but if you are one of the few who haven't then it's not too late, give Mark Horton a bell and let him know you want to join.

On a more sombre note 2 divers recently died at Whitsand bay, Plymouth whilst diving the James Eagan Layne shipwreck. This wreck lies in relatively shallow water at just over 20 metres and is one of the most popular UK wreck dives. Yet one of the divers lost his life after allegedly running out of air whilst returning to the wreck to retrieve an SMB reel. See the article at: <http://www.divernet.com/news/stories/240505layne.shtml>

Remember to check your air regularly and leave sufficient to get back to the surface and have a reserve. Keep safety our number one priority.

Here's to great diving and a safe weekend for all.

I have also included a new section in this newsletter concerning the marine environment and conservation. We as divers are in the unique position to witness firsthand the state of UK waters and any damage being caused. See the Environmental section later in this newsletter of how you can help.

Dive safely,

Steve

Contact: Steve Cain stevecain_diving@tiscali.co.uk Malcolm Cole malcolm.cole@btinternet.com

Latest news

Dave Hall has been investigating diving activities in Cornwall in particular at Polkerris and diving with Basking sharks. Unfortunately it is too late to arrange anything for this year.

We are instead looking towards next year and Dave is currently looking to arrange a trip to dive with the sharks for next June. We will give more details here and on the website when we have any.

Diving UK

Lyme Regis

Mark made the first RIB dive of the season in Lyme bay along with Claire Osmond, Steve Waggott and Pete Dunn. They dived the Heroine, which lies in approximately 29 metres and they witnessed superb visibility. The sea and air temperatures were low but a great day was had by all.

Diving at Lyme took place over the long weekend of 29th April to 2nd May. Mark had completed the refurbishments to the Sea Horse RIB and it was taken to sea on the Saturday; the sea trials went OK. This now brings the number of RIBs available for club use up to 3. A dive was made on the Baygitano in the afternoon. A boat handling course was run on the Sunday and the Baygitano was dived again in the afternoon. On the Monday the Moidort was dived prior to heading back home in the afternoon. Those present over the weekend included Mark Horton, Dave Hall, Ian Roriston, Malcolm Cole, Graham Skeats, Phil Green, Alex Green, Pete Dunn, Emma Moore, Sam McCormick and Marcus Sanderson. They had a good weekend.

Hard boat diving on Miss Pattie took place on Sunday 24th April at Lyme Regis. The first dive was on the Gibel Haman and a second dive was made on the West Tennants reef. Wrasse and dogfish were seen and loads of scallops collected by all divers. Pete did an impromptu demonstration of how to drop a mobile phone into 4 metres of water and then required Tony's twin-set to retrieve it, much to the delight of the growing onlooking crowd. Nice one Pete; anyone get a photo?

Pembroke weekend

The weekend of 7th & 8th May saw a club diving trip out of Neyland, Pembrokeshire. Those present from the club included: Emma Moore, Malcolm Cole, Paul Cole, Marcus Sanderson, and Graham Morrison. They dived with the Dive Pembroke Diving Centre on their hard boat the Predator and RIB Dragonhawk. The first day they dived the Behar; a cable laying ship sunk during WWII and the Dakotian wreck. On day two they visited Skomer Island and dived with the seals there.



You can read up on all the reports here: <http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/divinguk.htm#>

We have the long diving weekend coming soon; the response has been excellent and we have approximately 25 names so far. This promises to be a superb weekend and we hope to have all 3 RIBs and John Walkers Miss Pattie available. The dates are 11th to 13th June and if you have not got your name down then you need to be quick – you know who to call.

Dive trips abroad

Last month I announced that Jason will be organising a trip to Thailand for next October. Further details of the trip are shown below. This will be either a 1 week or a 2 week trip, depending on what people want:

1 week trip £350 +cost of flight (flight approx£530)

- 1 night accommodation in Manila.
- All transfers between hotels airport etc return flight with extra luggage allowance from Manila to Coron.
- 5 days diving (3 air dives per day).
- Day-time meal with 2 soft drinks and 2 beers provided on boat all dive equipment provided.
- 6 night accommodation at Seadive resort.

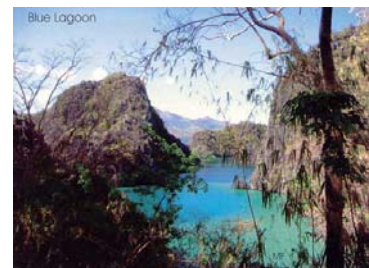
2 weeks trip £540+cost of flight (flight approx £530)

- 1 night accommodation in Manila.
- All transfers between hotels airport etc return flight with extra luggage allowance from manila to Coron.
- 10 days diving (3 air dives per day).
- Day-time meal with 2 soft drinks and 2 beers provided on boat all dive equipment provided.
- 11 night accommodation at Seadive resort.

If you are interested then contact Jason on: 01793 347998 or elephantmann@hotmail.com

Check out the SeaDive resort at: www.seadiveresort.com for further details.

Latest update: The final arrangements are now being made and Jason will be booking the internal flights shortly. Those interested need to contact Jason before Saturday 11th June to confirm their interest. Current plans are for a 1 week trip; however those wishing to stay on longer can do so and arrange a later return flight. A deposit of £80 will be required before the end of June with the balance payable nearer the departure date. Flights to the Philippines are yet to be arranged.



Courses and Training

Mark will be completed an OW course at Stoney Cove on the 3rd of June and Open Water dives were conducted on Sunday April 8th at Vobster.

Mark Cain successfully passed his OW course and several other trainees completed their first 2 OW dives. Mark and Suzie Shipway went along to further their Advanced course and during UW Navigation exercises Mark experienced a regulator failure. He was at a depth of 19 metres inflating his SMB from his octopus when it froze leaving him with a free-flowing regulator and his air rapidly falling. Fortunately he safely recovered from the problem and continued the dive with a fresh tank. The water temperature was around 6 degrees C and this proves just how easily freezing temperatures can be reached when compressed air free-flows. A large chunk of ice was recovered from his regulator.

Other courses such as Advanced OW, Dry-Suit, Nitrox, EFR/Rescue diver and Refresher courses can be arranged as required. Call Mark or Jason.

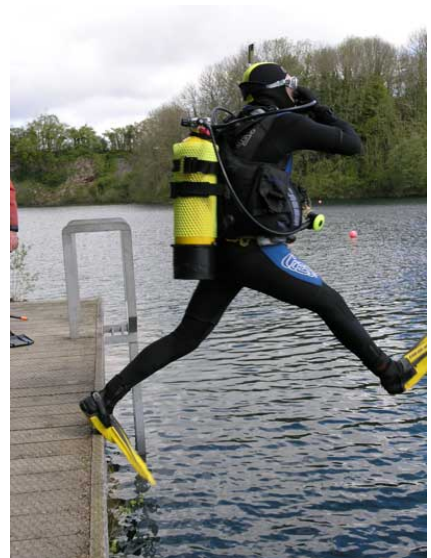
Some photos from an Open Water course at Vobster on 8th May



Mark & Mark



Safety stop



Giant stride entry

Jason can be contacted on: 01793 347998 or elephantmann@hotmail.com

Mark can be reached on: 01793 731843

Whitehorse Divers is at: <http://www.againstthewind.org.uk/whitehorse/index.htm>

Social

Non-diving social activities will recommence later in the year after the end of the diving season.

Environmental

Some disturbing news has been announced on the Bite-Back website. The oceanic whitetip shark is coming closer to extinction, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico with populations down to just 1% of figures recorded in 1950.

See their report at: <http://www.bite-back.com/news/index.htm>

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (UK office based in Chippenham) is active in the protection of whales and dolphins in UK waters. Their website not only gives information on their campaigns but also some interesting information on the species found in UK waters. Did you know that it is possible to sight the blue whale in our waters? You would have to be very lucky to sight one, but it is not impossible.

Take a look at: <http://www.wdcs.org/dan/publishing.nsf/allweb/A59B71D6C8A9EB17802568F800443577>

If you come across a stranded, injured or dead marine animal in the UK useful contact information and what to do can be found on the WDCS website at:

<http://www.wdcs.org/dan/publishing.nsf/allweb/79DE8444170E292E8025690600316980>

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.net/>

Contributions are always welcome, if you have something you want including in the next newsletter then please send it to: stevecain_diving@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.