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Editors note

First of all, a belated happy New Year to all, here is the first newsletter of 2007 and my apologies for the delay in getting this out to you. I was hoping to include the UK diving schedule in this newsletter, but at the time of writing I did not have the dates from Mark. However, I will publish the agenda on the website as soon as I have it. Keep an eye on the Diving UK webpage.

As you will be aware, Gareth has had to step down as the Newsletter editor due to family and work commitments and I am back in the editors chair. I would like to thank Gareth for the hard work and time he spent on the Newsletters.

The big topic of the past few weeks has been the decision of NWLL to close down the Lime Kiln sports centre which meant the loss of the pool and clubroom. However, thanks to the quick reactions of Mark Horton, we were very quickly relocated to the Ridgeway Leisure Centre in Wroughton.

I look forward to receiving any dive trip reports, photos or anything you would like publishing either in this newsletter or on the club website. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable diving season for 2007.

General Interest

Ridgeway pool

The club has now been operating from its new venue, the Ridgeway Leisure Centre in Wroughton for several weeks now and is proving to be ideal for our needs. The pool size is very similar to the Lime Kiln's but the general impression is that it is much cleaner and tidier. The pool is 3 metres at the deep end and this section appears to be longer than the pool at the Lime Kiln. The poolside area for changing and dive kit is much smaller though, so more care is needed when manoeuvring dive kit around to ensure you don't damage other people's kit. The clubroom is also much smaller and there won't be the possibility of having a bar there as we did previously. However, arrangements have been made for beers and cokes to be brought weekly in a cool box, so you won't miss out on the drinks.

The club recently featured in an article in the Swindon Evening advertiser. The photograph to the right was taken on the night. See the link on our website at: <http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/news.htm>



View of the pool at the centre



A recent photograph at the pool

AGM date

The AGM has been set for Wednesday 21st March at 21:00hrs. The location will be the Ridgeway Leisure Centre in Wroughton. This is your opportunity to vote for committee members or stand for election yourself. If you wish to be considered for a position you need to send an e-mail to the current committee detailing the position you wish to stand for:

committee@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Social evening

Mark Horton has arranged a club social evening with a meal and live entertainment. The date will be Friday 16th March and the venue will be the Bassett Down Golf Club. More details are on the club website at:

<http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/news.htm>

Please get in touch with Dave Hall ASAP as he needs to know how many are going. Dave's telephone number is 01793 763801 or you can contact him by e-mail at:

deputychair@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

LIDS 2007

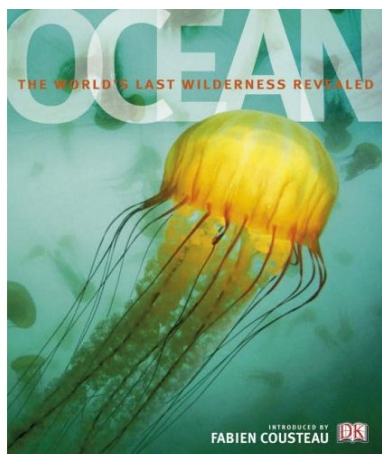
Don't forget to mark your calendars for the forthcoming LIDS 2007. This will be held in the ExCel centre in London's docklands on 10th and 11th March. Tickets can be purchased by clicking here:

<http://www.diveshows.co.uk/events/lids2007/index.shtml>

or by telephoning: 020 8943 4288

Recommended book

I wanted to include a book in this issue as I recently came across one that I thought would be of interest to club members.



Published by Dorling Kindersley and authored by Fabien Cousteau (grandson of the late Jacques-Yves Cousteau) this is a book packed from cover to cover with facts, figures and superb photographs of the world's oceans flora and fauna. I try not to blatantly advertise products as I like to keep the web and newsletters as commercial free as possible, but this I think is an exception.

A fascinating book and can be purchased from Amazon for around £15. ISBN: 1405312920

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Ocean-Robert-Dinwiddie/dp/1405312920/sr=1-1/qid=1169589319/ref=sr_1_1/203-6016859-0705515?ie=UTF8&s=books

Recommended website

Although this website has been listed on the club's Links page for some time (under the name of Gavin Newman) you may not be aware of the activities of this company. Amongst their many DVD and video productions they produce a DVD of the exploration of the Wookey Hole Caves in Somerset and it is quite a breathtaking film. This really does push diving to the limits:

<http://www.wookeyfilm.com/>

Sorry, I am plugging again aren't I? 😊

Diving

Shore based diving

Claire is investigating shore diving for the coming year. If you know of any good UK shore based sites that would be suitable can you drop Claire an e-mail? claire@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

RIB Status

Mark has fitted a brand new engine to the White Horse RIB and he reports that both this and the Seahorse RIB will be fully seaworthy by the start of the diving season. Despite the theft and damage to Dave and Ian's Wild Pig RIB, Dave reports that he expects the boat to be repaired and fully functional by the Spring also.

Overseas reports

Tony and Ryan Curtis went to Hurgada just before Christmas on a

Day Boat based package. Ryan took his Junior Advanced OW course (less his navigation speciality) and Tony completed his TDI Nitrox course. You can read up on their adventures in Tony's excellent write-up at:

http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/trip_reports/TC_Hurgada_2006.pdf

Phil Green dived in Grenada with Dive Grenada last November. Amongst the star attractions of Phil's trip was a bull shark. His report appears on the club website at:

<http://www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk/travel.htm#grenada>

Graham and Lesley Skeats will be flying off to Thailand by the time you read this. I hope to have a report and photos from their trip on the website when they return.

I will be diving the southern Egyptian Red Sea sites and down towards Sudan at the end of February. I will put a report and photos on the web around mid March.

Courses & Training

Congratulations go to Chris Irvine who recently passed his Dan Oxygen Provider course and who also gained his EFR certificate, well done Chris. Which brings me nicely to the subject of Rescue Diver courses, EFR and refresher training. Are you a Rescue Diver or above? if so, is your EFR certification in date? With the UK diving at a low at the moment now is the perfect time to get up to date with your certificates. Are you an Advanced Open Water diver? then how about taking the next step and learning how to administer First Aid and learning how to be able to rescue yourself or your buddy? The club encourages all its diving members to aim for a minimum of Rescue Diver level. One day you or you buddy may owe your life to you becoming Rescue qualified. Contact Mark Horton, Mike Scott or Claire or Coen Klomp for further details. It is quite a strenuous course but there is a real sense of achievement after passing it.

If you would like to arrange or discuss any courses or further training then get in touch with one of the club's instructors. Contact e-mail addresses are at the end of this newsletter.

Other news

Shark Trust

I have been approached by the Shark Trust's regional secretary for this area, Mark Bradfield, with an offer from him to give the club a talk about the trust's activities. The Shark Trust concentrates on promoting "the study, management and conservation of sharks, skates, rays and chimeras". If you would like to attend a talk from Mark then please drop me an e-mail to register your interest. The talk would take only 30 or 40 mins and I thought it could be arranged to be held on one of our weekly club sessions at the Ridgeway Leisure Centre on a Wednesday evening. A donation would be appreciated and perhaps if we could gather a small group together we could all "chip in" a couple of pounds each, it's all for a good cause. The Shark Trust's website is at:

<http://www.sharktrust.org/default.asp>

Please take a look at the website and drop me a mail here if you are interested:

media@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Committee

The committee meets every month to discuss club issues and plan forthcoming events. Suggestions from club members for possible club activities, diving or social, is strongly encouraged. If you have an idea for something you think would be of interest to other club members please get in touch with your committee representative, Lesley Skeats. Lesley can be e-mailed here:

lesley@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Your input

Once again, I need your stories, reports, photographs etc. to be able to keep the website and newsletters going. Also, I would appreciate any suggestions, hints, tips on how these can be improved. The more you send

me the easier it is for me to produce the letters. Mail me at:

media@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Thanks, and don't forget to keep an eye out for the latest news on the club website.

Cheers,

Steve

Contacts

Club website: www.seahorsediveclub.co.uk

White Horse Diving website: <http://www.againstthewind.org.uk/whitehorse/index.htm>

Newsletter editor (Steve Cain): media@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Website issues (Steve Cain): media@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Members committee representative (Lesley Skeats): memberships@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

UK Diving coordinator: (Mark Horton) diving@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

UK dive trips and trips abroad: (Phil Green) deputydiving@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Your instructors:

Mark Horton: diving@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Mike Scott: mike@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Claire Klomp: claire@seahorsediveclub.co.uk

Coen Klomp: coen@seahorsediveclub.co.uk