

DT² NEWS BULLETIN

JUNE 2012

General Team News

Founder Members

Ten persons have been successfully appointed as founder members of DT Dive Team. They are: Alun Newsome; Caron Jones; Helen Disney; Jack Jones; Jacob Layfield; Gareth May; Andrew Beynon; Rosetta Messaggero; Mark George and Corinne Clemens.

Committee

A committee has been formed to lead the club in its first year as follows: Team Leader (Chair/DO): Alun Newsome; Secretary: Caron Jones; Treasurer: Helen Disney; Expedition Officer/Sub DO: Jack Jones

BSAC Branch Status

DT Dive Team has been granted BSAC Branch status. We are now recognised as BSAC Branch number 2491.

Website and Documents

All documents, provided in the Welcome Pack have now been made available at the team website for hard copy. We are investigating a dynamic form which can be completed on the website by any member to propose and plan/manage diving. Information to the public is limited, however a <150 word summary of each team member, plus a library photo is included. If you wish to change/amend these prior to the website becoming advertised and "live" please contact us ASAP.

Email Forwarding and Communications

Each team member has a personal email address which forwards to their on-file email address in the format firstname@dtdiveteam.com e.g. if you want to email Alun then alun@dtdiveteam.com will forward to Alun's personal email address. Test yours out today! (It may take a while to receive if it's your first email to the forwarder). In addition a "duty" telephone (07974 642281) will act as an "on-call" for the team.

Finance

A bank account has been founded with HSBC on behalf of "DT Dive Team". Current balance is £100.00 from subscriptions. Investigations are underway to determine what funding is appropriate to bid for in order to acquire club kit for team members and training.

BSAC Branch Common Renewal Date

We have set a common branch renewal date of May 1st 2013. This will be further explained for each member when BSAC membership is due, however it will bring everyone in line to renew all team BSAC memberships on May 1st each year.

Diving News

Inaugural Dive Trip

First Dive Trip is proposed for July 1st 2012

Diving/Boat Itinerary

A Diving/Boat Itinerary has been proposed and planned for over the summer. Check the website/twitter for more details.

Team Training Schedule 2012/2013

Diver Training

- Sports Diver Practical (Summer 2012)
- Dive Leader Theory (Winter 2012)
- Advanced Diver (Jul 2012)

SDCs

- Boat Handling (Jul 2012)
- Underwater Photography (Aug 2012)
- Search & Recovery (Sep 2012)

Winter SDCs

- Chartwork & Position Fixing (Nov 2012)
- Oxygen Administration (Jan 2013)
- First Aid Course (Feb 2013)
- Dive Planning & Management (Mar 2013)

Other Training

- Bauer Compressor Course (Jun 2012)
- SMB Workshop (Oct 2012)
- Rescue/Advanced Lifesaver (Oct 2012)
- Rebreather Orientation



Bauer Service Technician Course – June 2012

Opportunity to learn about compressor servicing and maintenance suitable for all team members. Contact training@dtdiveteam.com for further information.

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JULY 2012

Diving News

First Dive Activities of DT Dive Team!

A dive was conducted on Sunday 1st July at Martin's Haven, Pembrokeshire. Featured as one of the UK's Top 100 shore dives, Martin's Haven proved to be an easy 'introductory' dive with only a short walk down the pebbly beach into the water. After a short surface swim, we descended down into a forest of deep-red kelp, which was gently swaying along with the current. As we descended deeper, and moved further away from the shore, the kelp forest was left behind to reveal an expanse of sand where the movement in the water column was far less noticeable. Unfortunately, the visibility was relatively poor, and the underwater world appeared to be suffering with a severe deficit of exciting sea-life (only one spider crab spotted on the whole dive!). However, it was a great start to the diving season with everyone enjoying the day! (CJ)

Compressor Service Technician Course

Jack and I attended a Bauer Service Technician course on Thursday 28th June at Bauer Kompressern's UK South centre at Ross on Wye. With the intention of being able to independently service, troubleshoot and maintain the Bauer Junior ii, the day's training was focused on servicing, field stripping and testing my own compressor. Despite the hefty price tag of training for the day, the relationship formed with Bauer UK and savings to be made on servicing in the future made the day wholly worthwhile. The compressor now has a test certificate, proving air of a suitable standard was observed. The compressor will likely make many appearances on our club trips in the near future. (AN)

Upcoming Courses

SMB 'Workshop Day'

15th July 2012 NDAChepstow

Open to all Sports Trainees, this day will take you from zero to hero in the world of big red sausages. We will aim to meet the SO competencies for the dSMB dives and have some fun learning dSMB techniques throughout the day. **£15* per person** to cover instructor expenses (*Based on 4 divers, calculated and payable on the day)

Boat Handling Course

21st and 22nd July 2012 Milford Haven, Pembs

Open to all members of the club, this weekend course will put you through some challenging experiences, being given the opportunity to learn and practice basic and intermediate boat handling techniques suitable for helming RIBs during diving activities.

General Team News

DT Dive Team First Meeting

Success! All ten of us had the chance to hear from Team Leader, Secretary, Treasurer and Expo/Assistant DO about the key components of the diving year ahead.

Fun Objectives and Targets for the team

Team Leader has outlined some ambitious objectives to October 2012 including increasing the number of qualified sports divers and dive leaders, and increasing the number of boat handlers

Website

Website still requires bios from Mark, Helen and Jacob – please email a short description to info@dtdiveteam.com as soon as possible!

Grants

A Sports Wales grant has been applied for to the value £9800. In addition we are seeking funding from the Carmarthenshire rural development council. We will keep you informed of developments and outcomes of applications as they happen.

T-Shirts and Stickers

Andy has kindly produced a polo shirt design for the club. Available at £10 each please get in touch if you are interested. He has also kindly produced a range of 'bumper stickers' for the club. These will prove useful in raising the club's profile. Huge thanks to Andy for taking this initiative and producing top quality stuff!

Boat Moving...

In preparation for the Boat Handling Course the RIB Predator Cymru is currently being serviced and outfitted for the summers diving and will be based in Pembs Soon!



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AUGUST 2012

Diving News

Boat Handling SDC – 21st and 22nd July 2012

Owing to the glorious weather, we decided to complete the classroom elements of the Boat Handling course intensively, allowing us to spend the rest of the course on the water! In order to gain the necessary experience, each candidate had to accumulate two hours of boat operation by the end of the course. The practical components were split into two main sections; high and low speed manoeuvres which took place in Milford Haven Marina and the Milford Shelf. On the second day, the objective was to apply the lessons learned on the previous day and make the course more relevant to us as divers. We made use of the on-board technology such as the GPS, echo sounder and VHF radio, thereby, enabling us to navigate our way safely to Watwick bay. Here, we carried out key skills such as diver recovery, anchor and shot deployment and retrieval. The Boat Handling SDC was very intense, enjoyable and informative; the knowledge learned on the course will inevitably help us both as divers and boat handlers. The course is also gateway to several other opportunities, such as the Cox'n award, Chartwork and Position Fixing SDC and the Outboard Engine and Boat Maintenance SDC. (JJ)

First boat dive by DT Dive Team

On Thursday 26th July, the team (Andy, Rosetta, Jack and Alun) had their first boat dive of the season at Watwick Bay. With the help of Meryn and Caron, the kit was loaded onto the RIB before ropes away at 10 am. As we set off on our way, we were very fortunate to spot a seal pop its head up from under the water! When we got to Watwick Bay, the first boat dive was conducted by Alun, Rosetta and myself (Andy) while Jack took the helm. After descending down the shot line we got to about 8 metres; the visibility was good. We spent about 28 minutes under the water, exploring the site and came across some hermit crabs, spider crabs and sea anenomes. We sent up a dSMB and made our ascent to the surface. The RIB came to picks us up and we unloaded our kit and ourselves onboard – I looked like a beached whale trying to get back on! The second dive was conducted by Alun and Jack, while I took charge of the RIB. We all worked as a good team and it was a very nice first boat dive – luckily no one fed the fish! (AB)

General Team News

Two New Members!

Welcome to our newest members, Meryn and Tarn Whitehead!

Diving Statistics

The team has surpassed 10 hours underwater and have logged almost 40 successful dives!

Training News

Congratulations to Mark, Andy, Gareth and Jack for completing their Boat Handling SDC! Jack has now also completed his Charkwork and Position Fixing course and has achieved Nitrox Gas Blending status. The SMB and Navigation workshops were a success and were found to be very enjoyable by those who participated!

Upcoming Courses/Diving

Sports Diver Intensive Weekend – 22nd and 23rd September 2012 @Vobster

This weekend will give you the opportunity to sit the Sports Diver theory test, complete SO3 and SO5 and complete any outstanding Sports Diver dives. Contact Jack@dtdiveteam.com for more info.

DT Dive Team Diving

As many members are away on holiday or committed elsewhere throughout August, any upcoming dives will be given with four days' notice.



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SEPTEMBER 2012

Diving News

St Brides Bay – 26th August 2012

A beautiful sunny Sunday morning saw five club members take to the water at St Brides Bay (along with every other dive club in the locality!). The water was warm and the visibility good. A swim through the kelp didn't reveal a lot of marine life – just a few shrimp (small ones), wrasse and a shore crab. The dive was relaxing and enjoyed by all; it was just what the less experienced members of the club needed to get back into the water and re-ignite their enthusiasm for diving. (HD)

Xlendi (Malta) – 27th August 2012

We (Rosetta and Mark) dived with Utina Dive College, Xlendi. Due to a wind change, we had to drive to our dive site as shore diving in Xlendi was not possible. We drove to one site but it was full of divers – leaving us no room to park! Luckily, the second site, Xatt L-Ahmar Reef, was much better. We parked the truck and kitted up in full wet suits – mine was 5 mm (the air temperature was 42°C)! From the car park we walked down to the edge of the rock where there was a ladder and a short wall. We walked down the ladder and into the sea, which, at 29°C, was like a Jacuzzi but without the bubbles! Mark and our instructor signalled and descended – well, Mark and the instructor did, I stayed on the surface! Having emptied all of the air from my BCD, my instructor gave me all of his weights (leaving him with none!) and I sunk like a lead balloon! It turned out that Mark had taken my weights by mistake! We slowly swam around the reef (max depth 8.5 m) and saw tuna, bream, sea urchins, wrasse, a colourful worm with lots of legs, red scorpion fish and many more. By the end of the dive, the wind had changed again causing the sea to become very rough. We fought with the waves to climb the ladder before struggling up the rock back to the truck. It was a lovely experience of diving in warm water, in a super hot climate! (RM)

General Team News

Grant and Finance updates

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded £6,190 from Sports Wales! These funds have been spent on the purchase of equipment to allow diver training and improve access to the sport of SCUBA diving through try dives and similar events. In line with the grant, the club has purchased: 6 sets of SCUBA equipment (Buddy Commando BCDs, Apex Regulators and 12L Cylinders), Emergency Oxygen Administration Kit; 18' x 48" Inflatable Heated Pool; BSAC SDC Packs for Oxygen Administration and First Aid training. This equipment will enable us to begin Ocean Diver Training and run a number of events through the remainder of the 2012/2013 season!

Membership

DT Dive Team regrets to inform the rejection of an application for membership. Reference R01(JT): the applicant was rejected on medical grounds and has been invited to re-apply once healed.

Upcoming Courses/Diving

27th September – Try Dives and Club Night at Narberth Pool, Pembs

28th September – Try dives will be held at Dyffryn Taf school, Whitland. 4 Volunteers are needed to help out with this day. The proceeds from the day will go towards paying for pool hire at Narberth pool through the autumn and spring.

Autumn 2012 – We're taking bookings for 10 spaces on a BSAC Ocean Diver course starting October 4th.

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OCTOBER 2012

Diving News

Sports Diver Training – Vobster Quay (22nd–23rd September 2012)

The weekend began by covering some essential rescue skills – we learned how to help an unconscious buddy to safety. After lots of towing, we each had a fun dive to refresh ourselves with the dive site. This helped with another element of the weekend – the assessed led dive! We also did a basic skills review and a simulated decompression dive. We all passed the practical side of the Sports Diver course. It was a brilliant weekend for all! The weather was on and off; it was a sunny Saturday and a rainy Sunday, but that didn't put us off. I think that everybody experienced something new i.e. leading or being led by someone new. All of our dives went well and to a maximum depth of 20 metres. (GM)

Fun Diving at NDAC, Chepstow (28th September 2012)

On a wet Friday morning, four DT² members travelled up to NDAC for a fun dive. When we arrived, the sun came out and it was looking good. Mark, Andy, Caron and Alun kitted up and boarded the bus down to the water. After doing a buddy check, we all entered the water and swam over to the shot line. Alun and Caron descended first, followed by Mark and Andy.

At around 20 meters we lined up on the top of what is left of a BA146 aircraft. We all did a gas check before making our way north passed the Wessex helicopter and diving bell. We moved up and over the bolder field (which passed through a thermocline) and arrived at the troop carrier. Caron and Alun then went off to explore as Andy and Mark made their way back to the land rover to surface.

After a service interval, Mark and Andy went for a short dive to practice some navigation, as Alun had a tear in his dry suit cuff, and was not keen on flooding his dry suit! (MG)

General Team News

New Sports Divers!

Congratulations to Mark, Andy, Rosetta, Gareth and Caron who have all completed their BSAC Sports Diver qualification!

Try Dive Success!

The try dive event held at Narberth swimming pool on the 27th September proved to be a success. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions and technical difficulties meant that the original try dive event, due to be held at Dyffryn Taf School, had to be cancelled. However, despite this, 15 pupils of the school had a great underwater experience! Thanks to all who helped out and made the night run very smoothly.

Club merchandise

DT Dive Team t-shirts and hoodies are available from the club priced at £10 and £15. Email info@dtdiveteam to place an order.

Upcoming Courses/Diving

DIVE 2012 – NEC, Birmingham (27th–28th October 2012)

DT Dive Team will be making a visit to DIVE 2012! It should be a great weekend with lots to do. There will be opportunities to catch some interesting diving presentations, visit exhibitions and try/buy new kit! Alun will also be collecting his BSAC First Class Diver award at this event!

Ocean Diver and Dive Leader Training (2012 –2013)

Ocean Diver and Dive Leader Training is now underway. 8 Ocean Diver trainees, 1 Sports Crossover and 4 Dive Leader trainees have enrolled for Autumn training!

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Training News

First Aid and Oxygen Administration SDCs – Stradey Park Hotel (21st October 2012)

The club conducted a First Aid and Oxygen Administration Course to enable club members to effectively respond to emergencies as required. While the heat was sweltering on the rooftop room of the Stradey Park hotel, we worked very hard to learn the skills involved with oxygen administration as well as elements of rescue management. Pushing our limits in BLS algorithms, and using Little Anne's and training equipment kindly borrowed from the British Red Cross in Carmarthen, we received a great opportunity to experience practical drills and theory training. The First Aid Course was equally thrilling with everyone having lots of hands-on experience (and even some blindfold work!). Two great courses that have afforded us the competence and confidence to take on diving accidents and emergencies with greater skill and understanding. (CC)

Instructor Foundation Course – Cardiff (17th–18th November 2012)

The Instructor Foundation Course (IFC) is a two day course where the essential elements of instruction are taught. On day 1, we learned all about the diving instructor and how people learn; this led us onto how to plan, prepare and present theory and practical lessons. During the afternoon, we had a two hour pool session. We were all split into smaller groups of 4 and put with an instructor trainer. This gave us a chance to see how our instructor instructed and also allowed us to refresh on our own skills too. In our small groups, we spent the remainder of the day planning our own theory and practical sessions for the next day (our homework was to prepare for our lessons!). On day 2, we each gave a 20 minute practical lesson and a 10 minute theory lesson to our small groups, under the supervision of our instructors. It was a great opportunity to put all our knowledge into practice! After this, we learned about instructing in open water. In our groups, we each planned an open water lesson, which we then presented to the remaining 30 people! The IFC was an excellent and valuable course – a very fun, but intense, experience! (CJ and AB)

General Team News

Two new Assistant Instructors!

Well done to Andy and Caron for completing their IFC in Cardiff!

DT Dive Team Christmas Dinner

The first DT Dive Team Christmas Dinner is in the planning stages. We will send out an email in due course confirming when and where these festivities will be held!

New Intake – January 2013

The club is actively seeking new trainees for January 2013. If you know anyone who is interested in learning to dive, please get them to email info@dtdiveteam.com as soon as possible to reserve their space on the next course.

Upcoming Courses/Diving

BSAC Dive Leader Training

The 1st and 2nd December marks the start of Dive Leader training! The four candidates will be undertaking the Dive Leadership elements of the Dive Leader course over these two days at the NDAC in Chepstow.

BSAC Boat Handling Course (January 2013)

The BSAC Boat Handling course aims to provide a strong footing in how to handle and manage boating activities for diving. The course is open to full club members and Ocean Diver trainees. You need no previous experience and you don't have to be a qualified diver to attend. The course costs £90 and is limited to four spaces. Please email alun@dtdiveteam.com to express an interest. Exact dates are currently TBC.

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DECEMBER 2012



Diving News

Fun Diving at NDAC, Chepstow (20th November 2012)

On the 20th November, 3 DT Dive Team members battled the rain, wind and traffic to dive at the NDAC in Chepstow. When we arrived at NDAC we had a big breakfast to set us up for the dive! Our dive plan was to have fun! We got on the rickety bus down to the pontoon, kitted up, buddy checked and entered the water. We dived to no more than 20 metres and we dived for approximately 35 minutes. The vis was actually good despite the conditions. We swam along the wall to the tunnels, plane, Stalwart and Troop Carrier and had a good look around. The water was a bit cold but not too bad, although the fish were nowhere to be seen (too cold for them!). Andy took some pictures and filmed part of the dive. Caron and Andy sent up their dSMBs from the 9m platform before we did our 3 min stop and slowly began our ascent. A great dive and we all enjoyed. Andy and Caron went in for a second dive while I thawed out in the coffee shop. (RM)

Dive Leader Leadership Weekend – NDAC, Chepstow (1st–2nd December 2012)

The objective for the 1st day was to observe the role of a Dive Leader. Alun began the day with a day brief and outlined the time schedule we would follow. The itinerary for the day would be a morning of wall diving and an afternoon of fun diving. We were split into buddy pairs; one pair would be diving with Alun and the other would be providing surface support. On this dive we saw zebra muscles, huge pike, overhangs and even some dead fish! Towards the end of the dive, we observed a mid-water dSMB deployment. We had a fun dive in the afternoon before returning to the Huntsman for our theory (DT8) and planning session. We had a specification to follow; each dive would need an objective; we had to make sure that we could fit 4 dives in too! For the 2nd day, we had to execute the plan we made the night before, each taking it in turn to be the in-water Dive Leader and on-surface Dive Manager. The day brief, to which we all contributed, outlined that each of us would be leading one dive of varying conditions. For our led dives we all gave a dive brief (covering SEEDS). I led the first dive (Deep), followed by Mark (Wall). After lunch, Andy (Wreck) and Caron (Fish) led their dives. We also had the opportunity to deploy a dSMB while hovering. We were conscious of time, making sure that the time schedule was followed – we were almost an hour ahead of schedule at the end of the day! After diving, Alun reviewed the weekend from the warmth of the Café. The weekend was a great experience and gave us a flavour of what to expect as a Dive Leader (GM)

General Team News

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas to all DT Dive Team Members and Trainees! We hope you have a happy holiday – wishing you all the best for 2013!

Ocean Diver Training...

Ocean Diver theory and pool training will be coming to a close on 13th December! Hope you've all enjoyed! Roll on open water training in the New Year!

Upcoming Courses/Diving

Boxing Day Dip

DT Dive Team will be participating in the Tenby Boxing Day Dip 2012. All monies raised will in aid of the club. Don't forget, prizes will be awarded for the most money raised, best costume and longest duration in the sea! We look forward to seeing you at North Beach at 11am!

BSAC Dive Leader Training

On Saturday 12th January 2013, the four Dive Leader trainees will be participating in a Lift and Shift day. This will likely be held in West Wales (weather dependent). Keep an eye out on your emails, as plans will be confirmed a week prior to this.



Dive Leader Training at NDAC 2/12/12

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JANUARY 2013

Diving News

Tenby Boxing Day Dip – 26th December 2012

Five intrepid club members gathered eagerly on a squally, rainy, windy, cold Boxing Day at Tenby's North Beach. Congregating beneath the BSAC and Welsh flags, which offered little protection from the elements, we donned outfits and prepared for the crazy-ness to follow. Entering a roped off pen, dressed as manta rays, Neptune and athletic swimmers we eagerly awaited our cue to dash to the water. Around seven minutes earlier than expected, the crowd of "dippers" all began their way hurriedly towards the water. Reaching a jogging pace the DT Dive Team five (no affiliation to the famous five) made their way into the water. A warm relief from the surface conditions, we each duly "dipped" ourselves until we could no longer feel or move our body parts. Matthew deserves a huge mention for swimming out to the safety Kayakers, showing true defiance of the cold and conditions and earning himself the prize of a day's free RIB diving in 2013. Best outfit was awarded to Alun and top fundraiser went to Corinne (who raised in excess of £65) – both of whom donated their prizes back to the club to a total value of £75.00. Huge thanks goes to all those who attended, supported and contributed to the event, which raised in excess of £200 for the club. (AN)

Dive Leader Training: Lift and Shift – 13th January 2013

On a cold January morning, a Lift and Shift training exercise was conducted at Martins Haven. The Lift and Shift element taught us the skills required to reposition a shot weight and, how to recover a shot weight to the surface. The day began with a dry run; we familiarised ourselves with the assembly of a shot line and the procedures involved with lift bag use. Once this was complete, we were ready to dive; Andy and Gareth dived first followed by Caron and Mark. After a short surface swim, we released the shot weight onto a sandy area before descending down the shot line. Once at the bottom, we watched Alun give a demonstration on fixing and inflating the lift bag before taking it in turn to each have a go. It was important to achieve the correct level of lift, by using controlled inflation, to ensure that the weight could be moved but also to ensure that the weight did not uncontrollably ascend. However, once lift was achieved, it was easy to swim with, and reposition, the shot weight. The next step involved recovering the shot weight; as with repositioning, controlled inflation was used so that the weight could be easily lifted to the surface. Despite the temperature and poor visibility, the Lift and Shift day proved to be a fun and valuable experience. (CJ)

General Team News

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year from DT Dive Team! Let 2013 be filled with training, diving and fun!

Egypt Diving!

On the 4th January, Caron and Alun set sail on MY Blue Melody for a week of fantastic diving in the Red Sea! A full report coming soon.



Sea life on the wreck of the Salem Express

Upcoming Courses/Diving

New Ocean Diver Trainees

Saturday 19th January saw the start of a new Ocean Diver Course at Narberth Pool. Welcome to the new two Ocean Diver Trainees Austyn Ebsworth and Jack Coleman!

Dive Leader Training

The Rescue Management weekend will be held at NDAC from the 8th – 10th February.

Ocean Diver Open Water Training

The Ocean Diver open Water weekends will take place at Vobster Quay on 16th/17th and 23rd/24th March.

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FEBRUARY 2013

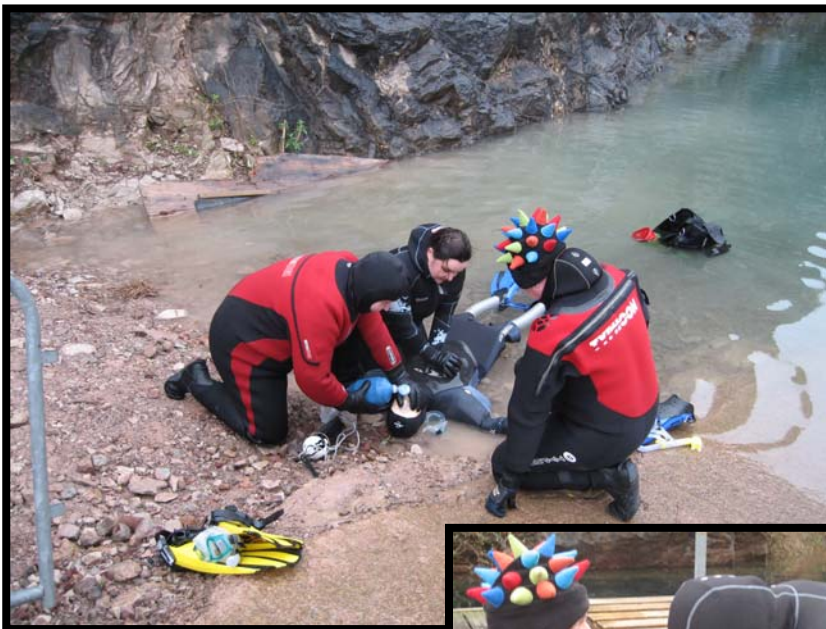
Diving News

NDAC, Chepstow – 3rd February 2013

On the 3rd February, Rosetta and Andy did some fun, but cold diving at NDAChepstow. We entered the water via the platform and descended down onto the Land Rover, passed the Stalwart to the APV and back again (passing some fish on our way). We noticed that the water was much deeper than usual (by an extra 4 metres)! Our dive lasted 30 minutes and we reached a maximum depth of 20.2 metres. A very enjoyable but chilly dive! (AB)

Dive Leader Training: Rescue Management Weekend 2013

The three Dive Leader trainees (with the help of “Rescue Keith”, a mannequin used to recreate an unconscious casualty) undertook a Rescue Management Weekend at NDAC on 8th, 9th and 10th February. Rescue scenarios were set up and enjoyed by all. A valuable weekend! A full report has been prepared by Andrew Beynon and will feature in the DT Dive Team Annual Report.



Top: Mark, Caron and Andy performing BLS on “Rescue Keith”

Bottom : Andy and Caron during a “broken arm” scenario

General Team News

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting has been scheduled to take place on 28th March 2013 at Pembrokeshire Yacht Club. The meeting will begin at 7pm. All are encouraged to attend. Please can members confirm their attendance or by emailing info@dtdiveteam.com as soon as possible.

Dive Season Begins!

Following the AGM there will be a shift from training activities to club diving activities for the summer season. We are currently developing a schedule of activities and will keep you posted!

Upcoming Courses/Diving

First Boat Dive of the Year!

Boat Diving has been scheduled from Milford Haven on Friday 29th March 2013 for those who are Sports Diver+ grade. Please email us to register your interest.

Busy March Ahead!

The club will be concluding Ocean Diver Open Water Training Activities over the weekend of 16th/17th March and 23rd/24th March, thanks to all who volunteered to participate, assist and manage these events. Formal Dive Leader training sessions will also draw to a close on 10th March following a final planning and assessment day at Pembrokeshire Yacht Club. Roll on April!

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MARCH 2013

Diving News

Dive Leader (10th March'13)

Sunday the 10th March saw the Dive Leader trainees head off to Pembrokeshire Yacht club to complete the final theory lessons...and of course the dreaded theory test! The morning was made up of the last lessons of theory and some much needed revision. This was followed by the assessment paper, which we were all looking forward too!! After our lunch break we then started on chart work and planning exercises. The day was really interesting (but long). Myself (MG), Andy and Caron now have planning and lots of diving to do before we are fully signed off as Dive Leaders. (MG)

Ocean Diver Open Water Weekend A (16th-17th March'13)

Our first dive on our open water weekend was one of the most challenging things we've done. Striding off the platform into the deep, dark unknown each of us felt a mix of nerves, excitement and fear. The water temperature for the weekend was around 5°C, a fact that was lost in the numbing pain of the cold water. Once we were over the initial shock of open water, we all settled into a routine of diving, followed by thawing in the steaming Vobster showers. The weekend was a mix of excitement and fun and all trainees relished the opportunity and independence offered in watching Wales beat England 30-3 to take the grand slam in the pub near the Travelodge, followed by a Chinese meal on the Saturday night. A great weekend all round! (EI, RR, SB, HT, CY)

Ocean Diver Open Water Weekend B (23rd-24th March'13)

Over this weekend, we have learned about how the water temperature affects breathing and control of the muscles. Despite the water being very cold, in hindsight, we are glad we did it. Having dive leaders dedicated enough to perform interpersonally was perfect for us as we had the opportunity to express our feelings throughout not only the dives, but also each day. We were treated as adults and had respected returned to us. Going over skills and buoyancy controls helped a great deal with control, as well as movement underwater. This added to the enjoyment of the dives as we could experience the novelty of the quarry underwater without stress. For every dive, we went to different sites that included a boat, car and aircraft. Seeing these wrecks was weird but very interesting and enjoyable. (JC, JB, MP, DL)

General Team News

AGM (28th March'13)

The AGM will be held in Pembrokeshire Yacht Club on Thursday 28th March at 7:30pm. All are welcome! It will be a great night with lots of reflection on our previous year of diving activities and an opportunity for Ocean Divers to collect any Duke of Edinburgh, GCSE PE and QRB evidence of qualification. We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday!



Cyrus, Hannah and Sam at Vobster Quay



Jack and Matthew kitting up