

RATAE SAC



Newsletter June 2003

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The diving season has really kicked in; with many Club members at least getting into Stoney.

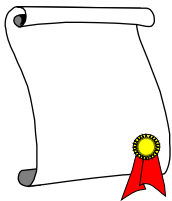
Surface temperatures are about 10° at present, so no excuses!

Thursday Evenings

Time is running out for the new trainees to pass their pool assessment before moving on to the real thing. July 3rd is the last Thursday evening, so for those that want to go Open Water this summer aim to turn up at the pool each week.

RNLI Safety at Sea Day

The club are planning a day at Vobster Quay (near Bath) on the 28th June. This day will give us the opportunity to learn about what the RNLI do, practice rescue scenarios, and dive somewhere that isn't Stoney Cove. Vobster has a few things of interest; including a tunnel which was part of the quarry, the usual bits of scrap and a large boat. Let Bryan Spence know of your interest.



QUALIFICATIONS

Some of these have been announced already, but here is a summary of all the training activities of the last quarter. Ocean Divers: Theory; Jo Tanner, Scott Wheatley, Lynn Wright, Richard Muddimer. Pool assessment: Jo, Scott and Lynn. Open water: Lynn and Scott have had some open water dives. Alex Kirk passed his Ocean Diver (at the Great Barrier Reef!). Sport Diver: Alison Ball fully passed SD. Dive Leaders: Theory: Catherine Spence, Graham Stanbridge, Ted Tibenham, and Rob Cuss. Bryan Spence has completed the Chartwork and Positions SDC.

TRIPS UPDATE



SCAPA FLOW

The Scapa trip has been cancelled. We will try again for 2005 perhaps!

HOLIDAY

Ideas have come forward for the next Ratae holiday. Tenerife is one option, which Michael Mildenhall is looking into.

VOBSTER QUAY

Club trip to Somerset(?) for the RNLI day.

PLYMOUTH

Before the next newsletter comes out the club will be off to Plymouth. This is an excellent trip, but is full of the same old faces. So Mark Hessey has suggested we run this trip twice a year

in future, if you are interested let Mark know. Plymouth offers some excellent diving, with the James Egan Layne one of the more famous dives. This WW2 American supply ship lies upright with its bow at only 10 metres or so.

PEMBROKE

2nd weekend in August primarily for the Combined Nitrox course. Contact Martin Crookes.

STONEY COVE DIVING



Diving activity at Stoney is becoming regular now. Ask around as many people are going down there. The BBQ should be there on the first and third Thursday of each month.

The club expands

As well as a lot of new faces to the club, Carol gave birth to a Daughter, Eleanor, in April. Congratulations to the happy new parents from all at Ratae.

Peter Ridge Tribute

As many of you already know, Peter passed away in May following a long illness. The following tribute to Peter has been made by Mark Hessey:

" Peter Ridge joined Ratae Divers in 1993, being one of the second tranche of people to join what was then a very new club with about 10 members. He was a very competent sports diver and dived at places such as St. Abbs, Plymouth and off the South Coast. More than a diver the people who knew Peter admired him for his perseverance and his ability to get on with everyone. Although not tall in

stature and softly spoken he did not suffer fools gladly and would get the best out of the people around him with a few well chosen words.

In addition to being a diver he was also a pilot and had successfully gained a degree in his own time. He was in the middle of finishing a Master's degree when his illness took hold. When we were told that Peter had lung cancer everyone said that it was unfair - he had never smoked and seemed to be in the prime of life. What we didn't know that in his late teens, whilst working in Germany, he had been working on building sites with asbestos and it was this that eventually killed him. After the operation to remove a lung Peter was told he would never dive again and so he very generously donated his equipment to the club - this was Peter's way - generous with his possessions and time.

However he was determined to at least swim again and on several occasions he could be found on a Thursday evening swimming up against the side of the pool. I was there the first time that he went into the pool - it took him half an hour to get from the shallow end to the deep end and when he finished he got out, very slowly. It was enough that he had done it. Over the coming weeks he continued to increase his time and

duration in the pool until his disease caught up with him again and he became too ill to come.

I saw Peter at his home about 2 weeks before he died. He had just been to Gap to buy some new clothes as his old clothes didn't fit him anymore. He saw a leather jacket there - he hadn't had one since he was young, so he bought it. He never got to wear it - Peter was nothing if not a quiet optimist.

For one, and I know there are many others in the club, will miss Peter very much and we send our deepest condolences to Cathy, his wife and to his 2 children."

In order to pay our respects to Peter and to raise money for his Cancer charity, we will be dedicating the last club Thursday night at Hind Leys. This will be on the 3rd July. Please turn up and join in the tributes. Details are not finalised, so this will be forthcoming.

As a lasting tribute, the club will be reviving its award for achievement at the AGM in the name of Peter. This award is open for nomination of anyone that has made a difference to the club, or performed a high number of dives etc. It's up to you to nominate whoever you want for whatever you want. A committee can then decide on who gets the award.

Disabled Day of Sport

The Disabled Day of Sport will be taking place at the pool on the 22nd June. We have plenty of volunteers, but let me know if any of you would like to help out on this rewarding day.

Diving Internet

Too busy to look at the net. Instead I recommend you go out and buy the Shark Special produced by the Dive team. For a fiver you get a DVD of over an hour. Unlike those natural history programmes, this is a video made by divers for divers. Highly recommended and available in WH Smiths in Loughborough. For those that are too tight, you could always borrow the DVD off of someone else.

Rob Cuss

