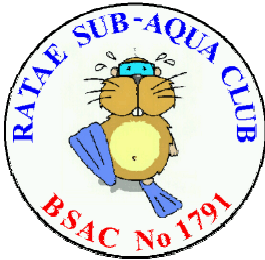


RATAE SAC



Newsletter July 2003

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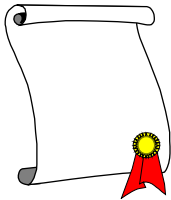
The diving season has really kicked in; Wednesday Stoney evenings are well attended and the club trip season has one more trip to go.

Thursday Evenings

No more Thursday evenings until the last week in August. People are still meeting down the Lifeguardsman for a pint though.

Stoney comes to the club!

On the 25th of September, Andy from Stoney will come to Ratae and show us a rebreather, underwater propulsion unit and a full face mask. There will be a chance for the club members to try them out in the pool later on. Thanks to Bryan for arranging this.



QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications include: Ocean Diver Theory, James and Peter Hennessey; Dive Leader theory, Lesley Turnbull, and Martyn Tongue became a fully qualified Sport Diver while on holiday in Cyprus. Congratulations to all.

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 Wednesday of each month (although the last BBQ was rained off!).

Disabled Day of Sport

The Disabled Day of Sport took place at the pool on the 22nd June. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Diving Internet

Been very busy (promotion interview, which went very well!), so I've not had chance to look at the Internet in my lunch break.

Mid-life Crisis!

Next February is my 30th! So I'm off to the Blue Planet Aquarium to dive with their sharks (as featured on Hollyoaks this week) as my birthday present. Up to 12 divers can take part and I already have a few of my friends signed up. Anyone interested should contact me to get more details. It isn't exactly cheap, but if you can't make the club trip to Tenerife, it is a better option than the cold of Stoney! You have to be Sport Diver qualified at least [they do cater for novices, but this is more expensive and done on a separate evening].

TRIPS UPDATE



PEMBROKE NITROX COURSE

The Nitrox course has been moved to the 20th and 21st September. Anyone interested should contact Martin Crookes.

ANGLESEY

There has been a drop out in the Anglesey trip. Contact Ian Petchey if interested, but hurry.

HOLIDAY

Ideas have come forward for the next Ratae holiday. Tenerife is the location. Plans to be announced soon.

TRIP REVIEWS

Still waiting for a full Plymouth review (and too lazy to write one myself).

VOBSTER QUAY TRIP

Thanks to Bryan Spence for the following write-up of Ratae's trip to Vobster Quay, Somerset, to take part in an RNLI training day.

The time at Vobster Quay was very useful. Although the RNLI wasn't able to supply the helicopter and lifeboat due to a standby call, we had an excellent presentation given to us by the helicopter pilot and great fun using the flares in the water.

The pilot told us how they have to look for an object the size of a cabbage in the sea and what we could do to increase the chances of being seen by the RNLI. We were shown various

pieces of kit, flares and transmitters and then how to use them.

Soon we were in the water letting off flares and watching clouds of smoke drift downwind. Try as hard as we might we didn't hit the microlight at one thousand feet.

One of the visibility aids was a simple hood made out of a brightly coloured material that could be stored in a BCD pocket. The hood could then be put on if the diver was separated from the boat. This is something that is very cheap to make and could be taken up by a club member with a half decent sewing hand and sold for club funds. Any offers?

We had a dive between sessions and found time to appreciate Stoney! When we came out Paul Dale gave us a bit of training in how to bring a casualty into a boat from the water.

A photographer from the RNLI magazine took plenty of photographs and comments for use in their publications, so keep a look out for familiar faces.

Those present felt that this type of day should be part of our club training and should be repeated twice a year so that all had some knowledge of safety at sea.

Rob Cuss

