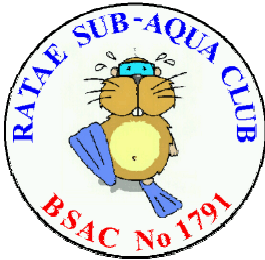


RATAE SAC



Newsletter October 2003

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A new training session has begun, and what a lot of trainees we have! So in this month's news we have; the try dive night, new training, the Ratae holiday, warning of the AGM and a trip to Dosthill.

Try dive evening

The club's participation in the BSAC free try dive week was a huge success. Ten people got to sample the underwater world and many have returned to become our new trainees. As only a few clubs participate in this event, we had trainees from as far as Birmingham and Lutterworth. A huge thanks to everyone who helped out.

Thursday Evenings

Training has resumed on Thursday evenings. We currently have 8/9 trainees, so the classroom and pool is fit to bursting. The numbers have stretched the club's resources to the limits and the following problem has surfaced:

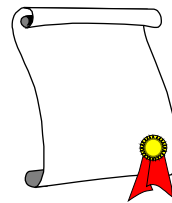
Who can teach?

Mark Willoughby contacted the BSAC Regional Coach, Graham Woodcock, about who can take lessons. The following was found out:

The minimum for taking any lecture or person into the pool is a Sports Diver

who has qualified as an Assistant Club Instructor. Unfortunately this means that as a club we've been breaking this rule. Graham Woodcock points out that this is not an overly strict rule brought in by the BSAC, every sports club in the country has similar restrictions. This all came about in the mid-1990's when several teenagers were killed canoeing in Lyme Bay. The non-instructors and the equivalent of the Chairman and Diving Officer went to prison. These rules are there to protect us in the current blame culture that we find ourselves in.

Try dives are a grey area in the ruling and we are trying to get clarification.



QUALIFICATIONS

I've not been informed of anything on this front.

STONE COVE DIVING

Stoney cove diving will continue through the winter on the first and third Wednesday. As the nights draw in, it's good practice of night diving skills.

Dosthill diving

Mark Willoughby, Graham Stanbridge and myself are off to Dosthill on Friday 24th October. Anyone interested is welcome to come along, but this is

strictly a fun diving session with no training going on. Dosthill is similar to Stoney with a maximum depth of just over 20 m. On a Friday it opens 12 - 9. The late night opening of Dosthill offers us the opportunity of other evening diving sessions. Check out: <http://www.divein.co.uk/Dosthill.htm>

The Ratae SAC AGM

This is a reminder that the club AGM will be in late November. Can anyone who is interested in standing for any of the committee position, or those current committee members wishing to stand down, please let me know? Also it is time to decide what trips will be run next year.

At one of the last Quarterly Meetings we decided to create the Peter Ridge award within the club in memory of Peter. The decision was that this should be for anything worthy of recognition; number of dives, services to the club, etc etc. Can anyone wishing to nominate any club member for any reason please let me have your nominations? The DO, Chairman, and myself will decide which one deserves the award.

TRIPS UPDATE

EVENTS CALENDAR

TRIPS CALENDAR 2003			
5 th November 2003	Stoney Cove		Mark Hessey
19 th November 2003	Stoney Cove		Mark Hessey
3 rd December 2003	Stoney Cove		Mark Hessey
17 th December 2003	Stoney Cove		Mark Hessey
February 2004	Chester trip	£75	Rob Cuss
4 th September - 18 th December 2003	Hind Leys	Thursday evening diving	

HOLIDAY

The Tenerife trip has changed to a Red Sea trip some time in February or March. Let Martin Crookes know if you are interested and hopefully it isn't too late.

TRIP

If you want to run a trip for next year then let me know and announce your plans at the AGM. I have been thinking about an Oban trip, any one interested?

Huge thanks

Following the clubs summer break in, Kev Wright mended our club cupboard. A huge thanks to Kev, and all involved in the move of it.

Diving Internet

<http://www.divein.co.uk/Dosthill.htm>

<http://www.uwpmag.com>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3151384.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3191280.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3173942.stm>

<http://www.bsac.org/news/news2.shtml>

<http://www.bsac.org/services/talk/bransec1003.htm>

<http://www.divernet.com/news/newsindex.shtml>

Rob Cuss