

# RATAE NEWS



Newsletter December 2003

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There's a lot to cover this month, mainly because of the AGM and the outcomes from that meeting.

## AGM

There were several changes to the committee at the AGM. The following were elected:

Lynne Wright – Treasurer

Mark Willoughby – Assistant Dive Officer

Mick Ward – Welfare Officer.

## Club matters

The appointment of Mark Willoughby as Assistant Dive Officer is mainly so that Mark can oversee and review club safety. The BSAC and other organizations are tightening up on regulations, and as a club we have decided to make changes before we are forced. Over the winter, Mark and a few others will be reviewing every aspect of the club. Don't think of this as a bad thing, we are only trying to make everyone safer.

As part of the safety review, Bryan Spence has conducted a Risk Assessment. This will be finalized in the next few weeks and everyone will have to read the document and comply with it.

The risk assessment is there to protect the instructors, should anything go wrong.

Mick's appointment as Welfare Officer is to ensure that we operate correctly in terms of training the under 18s and for male instructors teaching female divers. It is a sad world we live in and we have to make sure that none of our teaching methods can be misinterpreted by anyone.

Lynne's appointment as Treasurer is good news for the club, without a Treasurer the club's future could have become uncertain. Thanks to Cherie for her hard work.

## Medicals and Photos

This is a reminder that all qualification books must have a verified photo in it before anything can be signed off. All divers must be in possession of a Fitness to Dive certificate. This should be kept with your qualifications and a copy must be passed on to the DO. Mark would like this to be done every year. The DO has very few copies of existing members medicals. In future, all try divers will also need to sign a similar form before their try-dive. Copies of the medical form can be downloaded from <http://www.bsac.org/medical/index.html>. or requested from the DO.

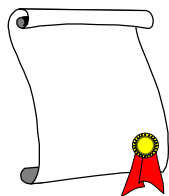
## Christmas Parties

That's the heavy stuff out of the way...Two events have been organized over the Christmas period:

Mark Willoughby suggests Monday December 29<sup>th</sup> at 15:00 at the Golf Range on Derby Road for a few beers and some food. It's not an arranged meal thing just turn up for a drink and a chat for those that want to.

Alison and Mark are getting married on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January – I'm sure everyone will join me in congratulating them both and wishing them every happiness. The patter of tiny feet will also follow later in the new year! So Alison and Mark are throwing a party on New Years Eve from 8pm at 69 Garendon Road, Shepshed to celebrate the New Year and the wedding. All are welcome and those with childcare problems can bring them along too. Bottles and food are most welcome donations.

## QUALIFICATIONS



Michael Mildenhall passed his Sports Diver theory exam with a very high mark, congratulations to him.

## Club Trips

As always at the AGM, several trips were announced. In no particular order:

**Training weekend** – there is currently a problem in the Dive Leader and above syllabus in that marshalling has to be undertaken. To address this, a training weekend will be arranged at either Penzance or Pembroke for proper sea borne training. More details to follow.

**Plymouth** – The annual Plymouth trip on Roger Webber's boat has been booked for July 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Some dives are deep (30m+) so this is open to Sports Divers and above. Check out [www.plymdiveone.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.plymdiveone.fsnet.co.uk) for more details. The cost is £89pp including accommodation, air fills and diving. We are currently struggling for numbers (have 5, need 8, maximum 10) and it would be a shame to cancel. Contact Paul Lucas ASAP if you are interested, or know of anyone who would be interested. A deposit of £40 is required now.

**Anglesey** – Ian Petchey has booked the 14-15<sup>th</sup> August. Cost is £70 for two days diving and a £14 deposit is due. B&B will be extra. Anglesey has some excellent shallow wrecks, so would make a good first sea dive for qualified Ocean Divers.

**Farnes** - Rod has booked the Farnes trip for the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004. There is room for 12 and the accommodation/boat should cost in the region of £100. Could those interested let Rod know and a £25 deposit is required.

**Egypt 2005** – Martin Crookes has a contact who can offer a one week liveaboard in the Red Sea for £4k a week for up to 16 divers. This is all inclusive and is outstanding value. Martin needs to know who is interested soon.

## Diving Internet

The following links were supplied by Peter Hennessey:

<http://www.pol.ac.uk/ntslf/tides/> Tide tables for the UK, know the height of

tide and slack water times at your chosen dive site for the next 7 days.

<http://www.cavedivinggroup.org.uk/>

The UK Cave Diving group website. If you want to dive in thick mud through narrow tunnels with zero vis and no way out but backwards this is the site for you! Also some stuff about gas, deco, etc.

<http://www.cavediving.com/index.htm>

Clear Blue water caving from the USA. Gee that's better!

[http://www.goredsea.com/EN\\_gomaps.aspx](http://www.goredsea.com/EN_gomaps.aspx)

Interactive map of the Red Sea.

Pretty good!

<http://www.nasportsmouth.org.uk/> Site of the Nautical Archeology Society. I fancy a bit of this!

<http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/data/sst.html>

Satellite derived sea surface temperature maps- see how warm the BVI or Maldives are when you're diving in Good Old Blighty!

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>

This site contains real time weather data from bouys around the world and the UK. See wind speed and direction , wave height, temp etc b4 u go.

<http://www.subaqua.co.uk/> Greg Roach's own website, loads of

useful/interesting info/discussions, including a list of cylinder weights for different manufacturers and sizes. Faber steel are actually considerably lighter than Luxfer aluminium! Amazing!

## Change of Format

As those that get this newsletter electronically will have noticed, I've moved over to PDF format. I noticed that when Mark Willoughby printed the newsletter out, all the formatting had changed. So PDF gives me more control. I can now include small photos as well, with the intension of keeping the newsletter to about 200k in size. Let me know if this is a problem. Over Christmas I will be updating the newsletter look as well.

At the AGM, the subject of the clubs website was brought up. As a consequence I will also be attempting to update this over Christmas. If there is anything you want adding then let me know (photos and reports of trips etc). I will also put past editions of the newsletter online, but with contact details removed.

Have a good Christmas.

**Rob Cuss**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

TRIPS CALENDAR 2003-04			
17 <sup>th</sup> December 2003	Stoney Cove		Mark Hessey
May 2004	Pembroke Training weekend?		TBA
10-11 <sup>th</sup> July 2004	Plymouth	£89	Paul Lucas
14-15 <sup>th</sup> August 2004	Anglesey	£70	Ian Petchey
30-31 <sup>st</sup> October 2004	Farnes	~£100	Rod Hill
4 <sup>th</sup> September - 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2003	Hind Leys	Thursday evening diving	
8 <sup>th</sup> January – 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2004	Hind Leys	Thursday evening diving	