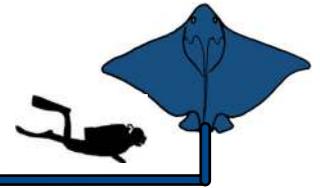


FISH TALES

Haslemere Sub Aqua Club

June 2012



Friday evening at Goodwood races



Clare Williams

Some of the group of 19 who enjoyed winning and losing their money at the Goodwood races.

The weather forecast indicated that dry suits may be needed for the evening racing at Goodwood on 15th June. Instead, the rain held off and 19 of us enjoyed a really good evening out. There were lots of wins, some lucky people just after arriving managed to pick the winning horse without even seeing the horses or studying the race cards. Some lost every race but still claimed they had a great time.

Many of us enjoyed watching the football on the big screens and continued to enjoy this after the racing had finished, England's win adding satisfaction to the evening. Some of the group then stayed on to the entertainment, boogieing to great music provided by Dermot O'Leary and marvelling at the stunning lasers and lights. It was a great evening and a must for next year.



Clare Williams

Big thanks to Clare for organising a great evening!

More Socials for 2012

7th July – **Annual summer barbecue**, hosted again by Sandy

16th September - **Clay shooting** - see Paul

29th September - **Slot car racing** being re-organised by Paul and Suzy.

October/November - **Blockbuster Quiz night** – see Fox for details.

1st December - **Christmas dinner dance** - returning to the Punchbowl hotel for a second year, this time with a disco and DJ, and space for up to about 60 people, so our once a year dressing up evening promises to be a good event!

Summer Programme

We will have a short **break from the Herons** over August when typically many members are away on holiday and the pool would be very quiet.

As usual, there will be activities organised for those still around:

Thurs Aug 2nd - Compass Navigation with Mike T

Thurs Aug 9th - Spectrum deep pool in Guildford – ideal for rescue practice

Thurs Aug 16th and 23rd. No Thursday meetings. These weeks fall either side of the club trip to Porthkerris in Cornwall, so we will not be meeting on these two Thursdays.

Thurs Aug 30th - BBQ and bottle-filling at our boatshed with Steve T.

Boat Shakedown

A collection of intrepid members set out for an Easter shakedown for the larger of HSAC's two boats, **Cobra**, which appeared to be ready for the season's diving ahead.

Unfortunately it is now having a service to sort out a recurring issue with the engine.

Eagle now has a replacement battery and is ready to take us out.



Paul Williams

Open Night - February

February's open night was hugely successful with many people enjoying a try dive, and several new members joining as a direct result, and now progressing through training – a warm welcome to you all!!

Thanks to Michael for organising the evening, and to Sandy B for providing the display for the Herons foyer, which was instrumental in bringing in many of the try divers and highlighting the presence of the club at the Herons. Photos of the evening have been on the notice board and are on our website.



DIVING

Annual Dive Programme

Thanks to Mike T for putting together a great dive programme, identifying the best neap tides for the year. Diving has been underway since March - back in some finer weather – so what does it matter to divers if it's wet in the air as well as the water?!

But it all started at the beginning of March, without getting wet at all!

Chamber

Following Fox's expert organisation, Nick kindly drove everyone up to the London chamber (Whipps Cross University Hospital Leytonstone London E11) for a dry dive down to 40m.



Computers confirmed a perfect textbook profile for the whole dive party, but the same cannot be said for the performance of mathematical tasks which diminished with depth and nitrogen narcosis, while voices rose to soprano under the pressure.



The visit gave a good introduction to hyperbaric chambers, summarised here, for those who missed the trip: <http://www.londonhyperbaric.com/dry-dives>. Thanks to Wayne who looked after everyone and made it a fun and instructive event and who impressed us all with his astute analysis of our attending members whom he described as 'a great bunch for a club', adding that 'it was a pleasure to have you lot'.



DIVING REPORTS

Chepstow

Chepstow National Dive Centre was the target for the first wet dive of the season, also in March. The site features a variety of depths and plenty of attractions and places to hone buoyancy skills. Also available are lunches and hot drinks, as well as a proposed zip wire - for the amusement of non-divers, rather than for divers to enter the water!

Thanks to Yvette for organizing this. She reports on how it went: "A lovely sunny day and we were a tad warm in dry suits on the pontoon. Plunging into clear water dappled in sunshine seemed inviting, and it was, after the first gasp! Michael, Paul and I decided to do the scenic tour - through the double decker bus (and up the buoyancy challenge of a spiral staircase), through the BAE aircraft, on to the Essex helicopter, round the Amphibious Vehicle, and back to the pontoon via a safety stop along the shallow side, still having things to look at. Despite being 10 C, cold hands made scaling the ladder a wee bit more challenging than usual.



Liz enjoyed a scenic dive around the pipe swim-throughs, satisfying Mike with some good buoyancy control, demonstrated by avoiding kicking up the silt. Meanwhile, Fox's computer cover had fallen through a gap in the pontoon, providing a real target for a demonstration of the proposed rope search exercise. This was expertly and successfully executed by Mike using a line with a visible tag dropped down close to the entry point.

After changing cylinders and planning for the test rope search Michael, Paul and I headed back to the spot by the Amphibious Vehicle we had chosen earlier – with a large clear area around it that was fairly clear of obstructions.

Each of the three took on each role in turn - dead weight hid the item for the other two to search for - using a systematic circular search – one in charge of the reel and the other in control of the marker which is left to show when each circuit had been completed. Avoiding kicking up the silt presents an additional challenge for a search, but despite all efforts by the rope searchers, there were several other divers around and the visibility progressively worsened. All 'lost' items were nevertheless successfully retrieved.

Mike took Fox for his shake down dive and included an extended practice mid water safety stop at the end.

A great day of diving and a good start to the season.

Godalming College Try dives

We welcomed another group of try divers from Godalming college on 10 May.



All photos: Tony Barton

Training

Lectures

The first series of lectures have continued through the spring. There are plans to run through Dive Leader and Dive Supervisor lectures –speak to Peter if you're interested.



Hérons

A request from the Herons staff – that we should routinely put our clothes safely in lockers rather than leaving them in changing cubicles. Also, to put diving kit on the pool side of the barrier to allow Herons staff to freely clean the changing area.

Sub Aqua Association

Regional Rep

After a period of inactivity, we're very pleased to have a new SAA regional representative, Darren Boniface, who will be organising some courses for the SAA clubs across the SE. Check out the SAA website and newsletter and let our training officer, Peter, know if you're interested in oxygen administration, boat-handling, chartwork, diver first aid, or any of the other SAA courses which are run outside the Club.

The **SAA AGM** was in April in Northamptonshire.

DIVING REPORTS

HMS Northcoates

Sun 13 May: Thanks to Yvette for another report:

The sun was making a rare appearance and the wind was steady so we launched from the new slipway at Selsey East beach. A tricky reverse and quite a slope, so well done Fox for getting Cobra in so well. We were all in good cheer as we set off as we were finally getting back in the sea and soon we were on the site of Northcoates.

We did the usual back rolls close to the shot and I discovered that finning in borrowed fins that are somewhat too long was a bit of a challenge against the current. I was very grateful for a tow to the shot, after drinking half the sea.

Down we went into pretty dismal viz, heart sinking when Chris lost a fin. Luckily on a club dive we go in waves and there are always people willing to loan and share so he was soon reshod and we descended without any further problems. For once we were lucky with the shot as it was right in the middle of the wreck and buried quite snugly so we first moved it out before setting off to explore.



The viz was much better on the bottom and it is a very pretty wreck with loads to see, including scallops, some really big crabs, a lobster, eel, and best of all 3 little blennies poking out from 3 holes on the top of the wreck. As Chris was on a rebreather and I was on nitrox we got a lovely extended dive time, and we surfaced to sunny skies again.

Retrieving our shot was a challenge but Cobra managed this valiantly, before having engine power problems which slowed the return journey. We decided to abort plans to go to the Britsum and try the lifeboat slipway instead. Here the current was ripping through and the water was very mucky so we erred on the side of caution and decided to get the boat out. As the tide was out, Fox had his work cut out trying to get Cobra back up the slope on the loose shingle. Luckily Tony was on hand with his Range Rover to assist with the towing.

This launch site proved convenient but it is important to recover at the right state of tide when the vehicle can stay on the wooden boards.

Since we were back early we decided to retire to the Greyhound outside Cocking for a refreshing brew to celebrate a really lovely day's diving.

DIVING REPORTS

Bracklesham

Saturday 14 April, and several brave souls decided to dive to a slightly amended dive plan as the wind forecast was meant to be somewhat dire. Staying within Bracklesham Bay, however, gave shelter from the NE winds. Another account from Yvette:

After launching from Itchenor, with Fox doing the expert task of reversing Cobra into the harbour for us, we potted out in high spirits for our first dive on the alleged Barge. I say alleged as only some of us saw it.... viz was at best half a metre so it was most challenging and clearly Sandy, Paul, Michael and I did not swim far enough through the pea soup to find it.

Sandy discovered just how cold the water was when her suit sprang a leak, and with viz so bad they made the sensible decision to surface. Michael and I managed to see a dog fish in the murk and a few baby scallops but that was about it. Mike, with Fox and Liz, successfully found the barge and had a good dive, especially considering it was Fox's first sea outing.

Steve and Richard also found the barge as Mike had very kindly moved the shot onto the wreck. The barge which sank in 1989, is fairly intact, lying on its side and whilst not teeming with life, does have some large "dead man's fingers", and is home to some crabs and fish peering out of the gloom.

Momentary alarm when the engine failed to start, but the air lock in the fuel line was soon resolved. We decided to drop Sandy off at Bracklesham so she could get dry and warm, as the wind chill was in danger of making a snow maiden of her on the boat. Having persuaded a somewhat reluctant taxi driver to take her back to Itchenor, she enjoyed hot fish and chips and a relaxing snooze in the warmth of her car whilst the rest of the intrepid explorers were off in search of the 'unknown wreck' for a second dive.

With viz still poor, Paul, Michael and I decided to run a line from the shot, and actually managed to find the wreck which appeared out of the dark. However, diving in a threesome is always challenging and diving was somewhat curtailed. Mike and Liz, and Steve and Richard had a potter round this very broken up and scattered wreck.

Next was Bracklesham Bay for Paul and Yvette to do a rope search for DL training. 'Viz was again half a metre at most so we were working pretty blind which made it all the more important to stay close and do the search methodically and slowly.

Haslemere Sub-Aqua Club is an active diving, training and social Club, welcoming both qualified divers and new trainees at any time throughout the year. We meet and train at The Herons Pool, Kings Road, Haslemere GU27 2QA every Thursday evening, except at Christmas, and in the summer holidays, when an alternative programme of events is organised. We organise a full programme of diving throughout the summer in the UK, as well as Club holidays abroad.

As a member of the **Sub Aqua Association**, Haslemere Sub-Aqua Club (SAA 259) follows the SAA diver training programme, leading to qualifications which are recognised world-wide. The training is designed to build confidence and enhance skills through a series of lectures, pool sessions and open water dives. Experienced instructors provide one-to-one and group tuition in a friendly environment.

www.haslemersubaquaclub.com

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In our jubilation at finding the 'lost' weight belt we forgot to pick up our marker, but the loss of one weight was well worth the joy of completing the task well.

Back on the rib we hightailed it homewards, getting fairly chilled by the time we got back to Itchenor – a reminder that extra clothes like dry gloves and hats are always well worth packing in a dry bag. Peter was a most excellent skipper and obviously the warmest of us all as he abstained from diving because he was recovering from a chest infection.

An excellent first day of sea dives; thanks to Mike for organising, and finding alternatives that were safe so we didn't have to cancel - always good to have a back up!

Diving Planned

PORTLAND - KIMMERIDGE

See Yvette if you're interested in some Dorset diving on the 30 June - 1 July weekend.

PORThKERRIS

Thanks again to Clare for organising another trip to beautiful Porthkerris in Cornwall in August.

Noticeboard

See the mobile notice-board down at the pool on Thursdays for booking onto dives.

Tank testing and filling

Thanks to Steve for arranging bulk testing of cylinders in the spring, and to the several members who regularly spend their time filling the club's cylinders for pool training.

Committee

The Committee met on Monday 26 March and Tuesday 29 May. The next meeting is on 17 July to finalise the Summer Programme.

Sportivate grant

Thanks to Liam and Paul for organising support from Sportivate which will help support the Club in training some young new members (between 17 and 25) over the coming year.

Life Jackets

Thanks to Sandy B for the loan of some life jackets for use on the boat shakedown for those without buoyancy aids. HSAC has now purchased some life jackets at a very favourable rate from one of our new members – many thanks to Jacky.

