

# FISH-TAILS

## Haslemere Sub Aqua Club

May 2015



### DIVING Chepstow—21st March



Unfortunately there were no wigwams available; Chris put a figure of 5°C on Yvette's gentle caution that "it will be nippy". But nobody seemed deterred from a March visit to Chepstow, won over by talk of hot showers and stuffing duvets into drysuits to sort the "frozen toes" that Francis had been predicting.

Thanks to Paul for photos, including Francis embarking on his first open water dive, plus Liz doing a grand job as dive marshal.

Yvette reports on the visit: "We have had our first dive of the season! Saturday was a lovely sunny day to be out at Chepstow, quite busy with lots of divers having shake downs and training before the sea season gets underway.



We drove up together in Nick's minibus sharing just one car and costs, as well as passing the time pleasantly in good company. Water was indeed nippy at 7°C, and for David L and Francis having to do the mask removal skill a bit of a shock, so they found it best to remove their masks at the surface to get used to the freeze.

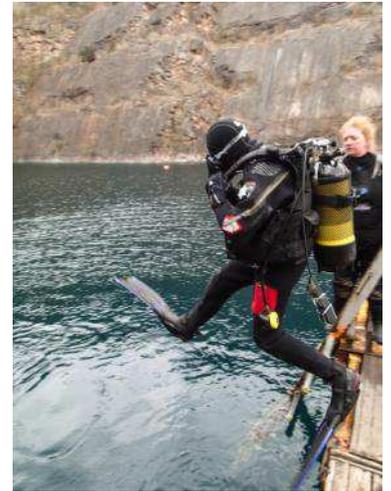


Francis had his first open water dive and did really well considering he was also fairly new to a drysuit. He did his mask and regulator removal without any problems. A few issues with buoyancy control

that are totally normal for new divers. He lost an integrated weight at one stage which didn't help but luckily we were able to find it easily as the viz was a lovely 12m. We had a lovely pootle around the Land Rover and dive platforms. On the second dive he controlled his buoyancy without any problem, so a great start to the season.

David L got a little over-heated before his first dive (always best to leave your hood off until you go in, to do safety checks more comfortably!).

Unfortunately his mask was loose and kept flooding, and his regulator had a free flow during the removal skill. Luckily he had a spare, and the second dive went much more smoothly. Great that when things were not going to plan both Francis and David remained calm and coped admirably.



Sonja and David D were doing a crossover dive which meant the dreaded vertical air share and stop at 6m maintaining good buoyancy. We all know this is tricky, but both managed it very well. Sonja did her DSMB and both did the

surface rescue tows. So both can be crossed over, after a Buhlmann tables session, and a check their dive logs cover all the criteria.

Thanks to Nick for driving, and to everyone for sharing the marshalling duties on the pontoon to enable others to dive. Thanks to Paul and Nick for helping with dives for those wanting to train.



We decided that staying over would be great, so are looking at going again in the near future. Paul and I are keen to play with our cameras and this is a great venue for training so please let me know if any of you are keen to join us so I can see when the chalets are available. They have a restaurant as well as a bar now so it does make it a nice way to unwind and debrief in comfort.

## DIVING

### Plymouth – September

It was January and very chilly and Yvette was thinking about a sunny weekend in Plymouth in mid September, the first weekend when the boat was available. Paul secured a great price of £160 per person for 4 boat dives and accommodation for 2 nights. There are 12 places on the boat, but the accommodation at Mountbatten takes 16, leaving space for a few partners.

<http://www.scyllareefdivecharter.co.uk>

### Selsey –29<sup>th</sup> March – 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Sadly the planned dive on the Mulberry and HMS Pine on 29<sup>th</sup> March had to be cancelled in the face of forecast gales. Yvette quickly planned another trip to this favourite site on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, at a leisurely time to hit the slack water in the middle of the day. Despite fighting the current a bit, members managed to follow the roped route around the Mulberry, Landing Craft and Cuckoo and had a lovely day out.

### Portland – 11-12 July

Yvette found some cheap 4-to-a-room bunkhouse accommodation for diving around Portland over the weekend of 11-12 July, so let her know if interested.

### Isles of Scilly – August/September

A full boatload of HSAC divers are booked on this trip, and anticipation mounted with ferry and B&B bookings.



## SOCIAL

### Beer Festival

Thanks to Paul for organising another special deal outing to Petersfield's Beer (and cider) festival on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Trains within 10 minutes and an 8-seater taxi enabled something more than a taster of the beers on offer. The fun night out also raised £90 for club funds between the 15 people there.

### Summer BBQ

This is currently planned for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Yvette's house, Hindhead, gathering from 3pm for a swim and garden games, with barbecue food and pudding billed to emerge from 6pm. Anyone welcome to bring camper vans and stay over. Just £15 adults, £5 children, please book with Paul.

**Christmas party** – A festive gathering is being organised by our social team, Paul and Mandy.

## EQUIPMENT

Thanks very much to Phil for taking a trunk-load of Club and members' cylinders and other gear for testing and services in February, and again in May, to get us all ready for the diving season ahead.

## BOATS



Eagle out in 2014

David Longhurst was organising a day out for both club boats on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, inviting members to join him for a test in Ichenor and a possible trip to the Isle of Wight. A few maintenance issues on Eagle were sorted, with thanks to David L and Michael H, and she was as ready as it was possible to get her. Unfortunately, the brake cables on Cobra's trailer had rusted and seized up and couldn't be replaced in time. The overrun mechanism at the tow hitch had also seized over the winter, but a "large hammer, lots of heat and a good talking to" eventually sorted that out. David cautioned that "we have a day out or we may not get further than the pontoon – but finding out what works is what the boat day is about"!

In the event, David reported "a very successful day with Eagle . . . engine tested around Chichester to gain confidence in the boat, then a trip round Bracklesham for a rather chilly lunch, followed by a return to Ichenor with everyone getting a chance to try their hand at handling the boat. There was no sign of the engine troubles noted last year, one or two minor items to be fixed but none which would stop Eagle being used. Thanks to Liz, Mike, Rob, Francis and Darren for an enjoyable day out." Liz responded with "Many thanks to David for the shipshape, functional rib and to Mike for towing. Also thanks to the crew for a good day."

David subsequently worked with Nick and Michael H in late March, making both club boats ready for action.



Club RIB, Cobra

# TRAINING

## Dive Leaders

In February, Yvette ran the final Dive Leadership lecture, and then the Club's would-be Dive Leaders attended one of two revision sessions with Bryony, reviewing their knowledge in an interactive discussion session before taking the written test. Well done to Liz, Liam, David D and Phil who passed Nick's strict marking.



## Dive Supervisors

In March, we organised a day of interactive lecture sessions covering the four Dive Supervisor topics, each one delivered by one of the aspiring Dive Supervisors, overseen by Bryony. Oiled by copious tea and coffee and the odd generous portion of cake, Yvette's house renovation works were not quite loud enough to distract attention from the task at hand. Paul led a session on the duties of a dive marshal and accident management, establishing the theme of interaction for the day, and a list of points for later discussion and action was begun. Nick ran through compressor operation, and more actions were added to the list.

Several massive charts unfolded to paper the room as Mike took us through some navigation principles. David had popped in at the start of the day with two large bags full of navigation books, charts and chartwork instruments that could have originated from the Victory. Sensing a hint of alarm from a club more accustomed to using new fangled software for such tasks, he rapidly explained how to use each of the instruments, relieving Yvette of some of her Chartwork lecture responsibility. It was a long day and Phil had to leave as the lectures drew to a close, but, with a bit of diligent clock-watching, Paul, Mike, Nick and Yvette managed to complete the exam before heading off for various Saturday evening engagements - well done to all 4 who passed!

By the end of the day, the action list had grown to a couple of pages, and kept Nick, other DS candidates, existing DS, Steve Bond, and other club members busy over the next few Thursday evenings reviewing and revising some of the Club's paperwork and practices, including dive log, dive plan, policies and compressor log, crossover tasks list, and a new coastguard notification crib sheet.

A few new documents have resulted, so do please help DO, Nick, by putting these into use.



## SAA courses

Our SAA SE regional rep Stefan, has been organising regional meetings, and putting on various regional courses this year, including Club Instructor, and Oxygen Admin and Emergency Diver First Aid, and Rescue Diver assessments. Paul, Liam, Phil and Liz are training for the Rescue Diver assessment in September. Let Liz know if you're interested in SAA courses.

## Crossovers

Thanks to Liz and Yvette who have produced some laminated cross-over training task lists to clarify exactly what is required for members who trained elsewhere to be signed off under SAA qualifications.



## RYA Powerboat

Liz and David L have been looking into the best option for a boathandling course, possibly using our own RIB, Cobra. See Liz if interested.

## Nitrox

Paul Williams has offered to run a **one day Nitrox course on 6th June** – open to anyone of Open Water Qualification or above. It is a fairly straightforward course enabling you to dive with oxygen enriched air (nitrox) – especially beneficial if you are diving for a series of days (eg. liveaboard diving) as it reduces the physiological stress on the body. £40 for the day, and a useful certificate to have. Please see Liz for an application form if you're interested.



## Dive Planning with Neptune

Yvette had an attentive gathering on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May for a demonstration of the 'Neptune' dive planning software, showing how easy it is to obtain the time of slack water and a whole lot of other interesting information for a wide range of wrecks along the south coast, along with their depths and GPS positions (although more precise positions need to be obtained from elsewhere). Having been one of 5 HSAC members to purchase the Neptune software some years ago, Liz has been negotiating a discount for any other members who are interested.

## Fun with Finning

Theory and pool session in May – such an essential skill, and one which is all too often ignored.

**Deep Stops** On 26<sup>th</sup> March, Mike kindly went over the Buhlmann Deep Stop tables, essential training for new cross-overs to SAA Club Diver and Dive Leader, and useful for all as backup for cases of computer failure.

# Try Dives

## Try dives for Alton College 19th March

On Thursday 19th March 12 students from Alton college arrived at the pool for a try dive as part of their preparation for an exciting biology research trip to Samos. They will be participating in a seagrass survey around this beautiful Greek Island, requiring them to dive in its warm and clear waters. They will be taking full a PADI OW course while in Greece, but Paul Williams suggested a try dive evening to give them a taster and to build some confidence with scuba gear prior to this.



Nick gave everyone a safety briefing and a bit of hands-on practice putting the gear together before the eager try-divers headed for the poolside, swapping between snorkelling and diving half way through the evening.

