



Banstead Underwater Diving Club

THE FROG ON THE BOG NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017

Fellow Bubblers,

What's been happening?

So we had the first Tuesday gathering on the 31st January, only 9 members attended but it was horribly cold and wet (a bit like our last day out at Vobster ☺)

The video presentation of the lecture given by Dr Neil Pollock at the BSAC conference was very informative and did much to reinforce current thinking on how we should be diving to avoid DCI.

The poster and leaflet campaign, although in its infancy, is already attracting interest from both qualified and novice divers and further moves are being made to recruit new members. This will of course mean more trainees going through the programme so any help that we can all give to Charlie and the rest of the training team would be greatly appreciated.

If on a Monday evening you see someone looking a bit lost, give them a hearty BUDC welcome and point them in the right direction of any committee member present.

Mark Swan has been collecting nicknames on every club trip so we now refer to him as 'Rupert the Ice Bagel' Not withstanding this ongoing abuse he has kindly organized another Portland beano – see below.

Rupert and 'Pikey' Burgess continue to dive in the muddy puddles (see Stoney Cove report on the website) while still very cold, the viz is great (Littlehampton currently <1m)

Let's go diving!

We have rather a nice boat sitting in Littlehampton that loves taking us out to the 'Shirala', however other wrecks are available! My favourite remains the 'Northcoates' as can recall being at 27m and still being able to see our boat on the surface.

Don't forget our boat fee is only £10 per day so a bargain especially if we get two good dives.

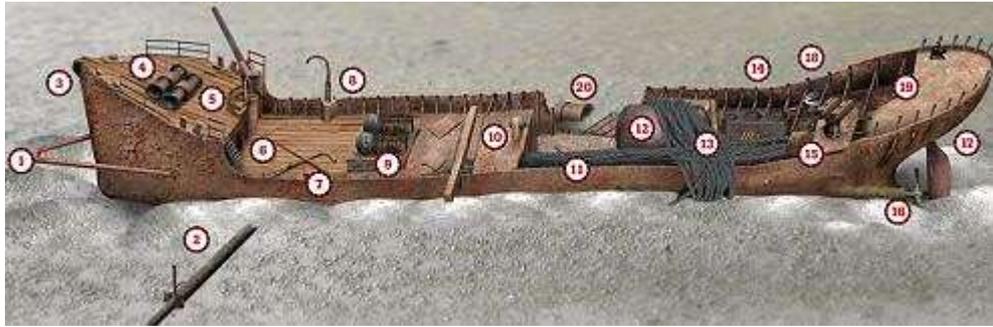
Featured Wreck

HMS Northcoates

WW2 armed trawler sitting in about 27m, 124ft (38m) long with a 23ft (7m) beam

She sank after suffering engine failure and while under tow succumbed to bad weather.

She is relatively intact with the 12lb gun still in the bow plus much of the minesweeping gear, as such a small dive site can be navigated easily and explored thoroughly. Visibility is best on a low water slack.



For greater detail google: Divernet Wreck Tour 77

What is your favourite wreck off Littlehampton and why? Send me an email so we can include in the forthcoming editions of 'Frog News'

After scrutinizing the tide curves, the dive programme for the year has been devised and will be published shortly on the BUDC website and sent out by email. Willing volunteers sought to act as Dive Managers!

Michael Oliphant is still one dive away from completing his Ocean Diver, think he is waiting for warmer weather (so would I in an Ex Admiralty Avon dry suit!)

Mark and Owen Cawood have had two outings to Wraysbury and complete their first 4 dives in chilly conditions, well done to them both! (See full reports and photos on the BUDC website) Final dives due in Vobster on the 12th March to complete the Ocean Diver training in time for their trip to Australia.

Alan 'Holby City' ran his CPR/Defib Role Play and training on Tuesday 28th February 2017 at the football club, 8 members turned up to refresh their memories. More are planned so do try to get to along to one.

What's on the horizon?

Red Sea - 17th to 24th March 2017

The invasion date draws ever closer, the team are dusting off their moth eating wetsuits, shaking the mouse droppings from their regs and buying bucket loads of factor 50! Hurgada awaits their arrival!

Join me in wishing the BUDC Ninjas bon voyage and safe diving, Salam Alaikum!

Philippines – 14 to 29th April 2017

Dave and Kirstin off for what looks a fantastic trip, so jealous!

Galapagos – April 2017

Andrew and Jenny will be following in the footsteps of Darwin, although he didn't do any diving? Awesome wildlife but the water is surprisingly cold!

Portland - 25 to 28th July 2017

10 members off to dive 'the Bill' with Skin Deeper, wrecks galore await, the M2, Aeolian Sky, Alex Van Opstal etc, then the evening uptake of deco juice in the Cove Inn! For those who have seen Dr Neil Pollock's presentation (see above) he is an advocate of a **light** consumption of beer, post dive to assist in rehydration!

Where are you off to? Please do let us know if you have any diving holidays planned, once back any report and photographs will be gratefully received.

Club Events- These are run by member, for members and your attendance at these events is always appreciated especially if we have external speakers.

Please note the timings for the monthly Tuesday events will be 8pm for an 8.30 pm start

- Tuesday 28th March 2017 – Scuba Bring and Buy Sale (Football Club) get rid of all that kit that has been lying in the bottom of your dive box!
- Tuesday 25th April 2017 (Football Club) – Decompression – a History, plus demonstration of deco training software
- Weekend 4th & 5th March 2017 - Boat Handling Course – (Littlehampton)
- Club Compressor Training – 1st April 2017 – Tim Cozen’s Man Cave, Godstone



Anyone fancy a Dry Dive? We haven’t run one for a few years and the LDC in St John’s Wood run a 50m experience every Tuesday night at 6pm – cost is £40 – let me know if interested.



The Walrus Reports

Shipwreck Conference, Plymouth – Saturday 4th February 2017

The BUDC Walrus (yours truly) attended for another great event, all the big names were there, Leigh Bishop, Innes McCartney, Rex Cowan to name but a few for some great presentations. This was not a dusty dry conference with a bunch of beardy weirdys discussing some bit of ‘spidge’ (see definition below for those who have forgotten!) but a world class event covering a broad range of maritime history topics.

Diving on the Edge Conference, Plymouth – Sunday, 5th February 2017

Once again the Walrus was been in action; the DDRC had the good idea to run a conference a day after the Shipwreck event to capture maximum audience. A diverse range of topics from scientific diving in extreme environments, Ghost Fishing and the initiative to recover lost fishing gear, Thermal insulation in diving (apparently a human having the fat layers of a walrus aren’t much good?), Mark Powell’s experience diving the Britannic and more!

Non-Club Events

- London Diving Chamber Lecture – Wednesday, 8th March 2017
- Great Northern Dive Show 8-9th April 2017 – new show, could be interesting but in Manchester!

Have you attended any dive related events? Talks, shows? Do send a report in so we can include either in the ‘Frog News’ and BUDC website, lets show the rest of the UK diving community how proactive we are!

Dive Safe

Paul

FOTB Word of the Month

'Spidge'

Treasure brought up from shipwrecks on the seabed by scuba divers.

For "Treasure" read - mainly bits of brass rubbish.

For "Brought up" read - furiously chiselled off against the clock.

For "Scuba Divers" read - thieving pikekeys.

For "Seabed" read - murky depths of cold water with visibility of two metres.

FOTB Antique of the Month

For those clutching their Suunto's and Shearwaters there was a time, long, long ago.....



The SOS Decompression Meter (D.C.P.) was introduced in 1959 by the Italian firm, SOS Diving Equipment, Limited and became the first commercially successful decompression meter. It used a ceramic filter between two chambers to estimate nitrogen absorption and off-gassing in the diver. The meter was initially marketed in the United States by Healthways and then by Scubapro beginning in 1963 and continuing until the late 1970s.

There were differing opinions in its day about the safety of the meter. Despite its nickname, "Bend-o-matic," some authorities proclaimed that the bends rate was similar for dives conducted with the meter as compared to those conducted with the U.S. Navy tables. Dr. Carl Edmonds of Australia felt otherwise, "The SOS decompression meter contributed to the unacceptably heavy case load during the early 1970s." Many divers believed that the meter was quite good at following the profile for a single dive but that it was not so good for multiple dives on the same day. The instruction manual (not included) provided caveats to protect the divers by imposing such limits as diving within 130 fsw, diving only within a six hour period per day, making a decompression stop at 10 feet for all dives over 100 feet even when the meter did not call for it, and stating that there was no guarantee that you would not get "bent" even if the DCP was followed.

The meter was said to go out of calibration and exhibit variability when two or more meters were compared on the same dive. Many stories were told of how divers misused the meter such as the one about California abalone divers discovering that they could shorten their surface interval by putting the meter on a hot running air compressor between dives!

(Thanks to the Scubamuseum.com for image and copy)