

GOING DOWN



The Journal of the Dacorums
Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC 0713)

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

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CHAIRMAN'S VIEW



I know I've already said it, but I would like to say it again I think that the 30th Anniversary 'bash' was a great success. I've never seen so many divers looking so splendid. We were all delighted to have the opportunity to dress up. The venue was just right, and with good food and music we all enjoyed ourselves very much. Someone even arranged for a bit of excitement at the end by sounding the fire alarm and evacuating the building, fortunately this was just as we were getting into a taxi to go home, so didn't affect us too much. So did the party carry on in the car park?

Thanks once again to Louise and Angie for organising it and to the entire raffle ticket sellers. A special thank you to Andy Bridson for the displays that covered the room, which was the finishing touch. It was good to meet up with some of the old club members and talk over old times. All had a really enjoyable evening.

For most of us the diving season is over, although I know there is some training going on for those wanting to get their sports diver in time for the Red Sea trip. Good luck to you all, it's not easy when it gets cold, but having a goal makes it worthwhile.

The next big project is to buy and install a compressor; I know there is a lot of work going on in the background for this, so thank you to everyone involved. Sometime next year we should be up and running.

I'm away from January to the end of March, so Barry will be in charge. Don't forget to give him a big "good evening Barry" when he asks for it.

I'd like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Margaret

DIVING OFFICER REPORT



Things have quietened down now as far as "fun" diving goes, but we are of course continuing with the training. Please volunteer to help out if you can, to spread the load! You should find the initial schedule for diving next season in this issue, telling you who's organising what - there is plenty of room for more trips!

This year I submitted 4 Incident Reports to BSAC, which is a lot, but thankfully no-one has any lasting effects (details: a fast ascent from 17/18m, no symptoms; a fast ascent from 12/13m, recompressed; a spinal bend for no evident reason(!), recompressed; and lastly a loss of buoyancy at 10m, ascended missing decompression stop but no symptoms). The 3 premature ascents all involved difficulties with kit - underweighting, failure to dump from autodump and concerns with DSMB. Perhaps more care with pre-dive preparations could have averted some of the problems?

These incidents should all appear in the annual report which will be presented at the DOs' conference on 4th December, so we'll see if they are part of a national trend.

Pool rota - after some problems getting this printed, you should by now all have received your copy. I appreciate it is not a very popular move, but I do want to have done all we can to avoid any accidents, and we must have formalised pool cover. I have used SDs and above in alphabetical order (excepting committee members; NQIs* are down for the days when we will have a course in the pool; to supervise training), so it should only be

once a year for everyone (Next part of rota to be published later). Feel free to take along a friend for company, (as long as chatting doesn't distract you from your observation!). Please also read the Risk Assessment and the sports centre's own emergency procedures which should be included with this Going Down. I really want all our members to both take from and give to our club, and I hope you don't hold it against me for being the one to bring in the rota! Please note "your" day in your diary and remember to reorganise if you can't make it!

Regarding Risk Assessment: I have already asked for some formal ones to be done (i.e. written down; for dives deeper than 30m or for dive marshalling assessments), they are basically just common sense and good dive planning. I will publish a generic one for open water diving so you've all got one for future reference. I'm hoping to run a presentation on preparing them too.

* Rota was prepared before we had the fantastic news that Tony has passed his Open Water Instructor exam and is now a full Nationally Qualified Instructor - well done!

I have tried to schedule evening events to keep us busy during the winter - in particular I'd like as many of you as possible to watch the safety videos made by the RNLI and HSE which include simulations of DCI (what happens inside the body & in the chamber!), some training dives which unfortunately led to fatalities and actual footage of what different SMBs, flags etc look like from helicopters and boats.

TRAINING OFFICER REPORT



"Christmas comes but once a year.....", now ain't that a blessing. As we get near to the end of my second year "in office" I reflect on what being a Training Officer means. It means, in real terms, helping people achieve their goals. This is a good thing and it's something that gives me a buzz. Well done to all of you who have achieved something over the last year. Again, though, it as to be said that nothing would happen without the volunteers who give up their time to train in the pool, do snorkelling, go all the way to Gildenburgh/Wraysbury/Stoney to train in Open water, do lectures, organise SDCs and generally help in all sorts of ways with the training. To you all a very big THANK YOU from me. My job would be completely impossible without you.

The new Ocean Divers are due at the time of writing and this will be the last Ocean Diver course for this year. I want to see these through to Sports Diver and run a few SDCs and "catch up" training to help the other members who I feel have been neglected recently as I have concentrated on getting the beginners through. If you feel neglected, jot your thoughts down on a piece of paper and let me have it!

I'm not making any jokes about Barry this time 'cos I nearly got into trouble last time.....well, OK just one....

Barry's Primary School teacher saw him drawing one day and asked him what he was drawing.

"God" says Barry.

"But, no-one knows what God looks like" says his teacher.

"They will in a minute" replies Barry

OK, so it's not a good one, who cares, it's Christmas.

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Please talk to me if you require any training of any sort or would like to see a course covered and I'll see what Lindsey can do!

I'm very pleased to see 'new' trainers coming into the fold. This is an encouraging sign as we are desperately short of Instructors. Please go and do the IFC and then report for duty. You'll love it. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing someone enjoy something because you taught them how to do it properly.

Have a lovely Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dive safely

Tony

CHESIL BEACH



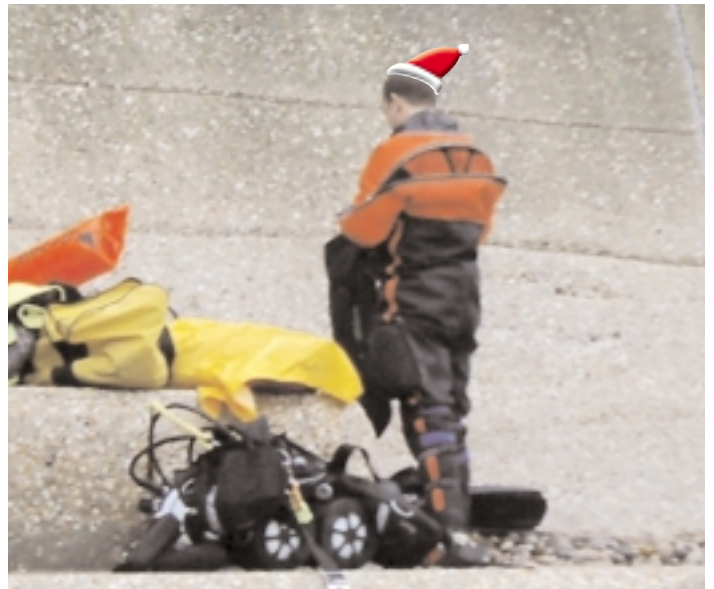
A dreary day made less uncomfortable by good company, a kind surf and the prospect of some good diving. A BIG thanks to Peter Dollman for organising it.



A relatively calm sea. Not for long, however. The afternoon's diving was a good test of character!



*"Now where has that doodly thingy with the smidgywig gone?".....
Lynda prepares herself calmly and carefully*



"Now, I know I've forgotten something...I wonder what it is? Funny, it'd be just like me to go in with my zip open!" Oh for a nice cup of tea.....



"Grace steels herself for the dreaded dsmb deployment.

FOR SALE

2 Protec drysuits in VGC as sold by Deep Dive, both suit female about 5'2" -4" with size 5 feet. Plus one wetsuit, small/medium female going cheap!

Lindsey

SOLA 3mm shortie wetsuit. Almost brand new. Only worn twice! Man chest size 38 – 40. **£30**

See Tony

EON LUX in line computer complete with quick release (as fitted on the Cobra). Complete with Computer downlink and software. Reads current cylinder pressure, estimates dive time left, Deco stops, depth, max depth, dive time, water temp etc. **£30. See Tony**

15L Cylinder, in Test. £85.

Suunto Tripple Console Guage (Pressure, Depth, Compass). Spare Hose. **£70.**

For Swap:15L Cylinder, in Test. Looking to swap for 12L or 10L Cylinder also in Test.

Found: Yellow Mini Q40 Touch. Found after Chessil Beach on 21st November.
Contact **Dan Egleton - phone 07986 217854**



