



Leaky Cuffs

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Editors Letter

It's the end of a busy diving season, lots of fun has been had since the last newsletter however I hear that some of you are to continue planning the odd dive here and there during the winter. I'm afraid I'm a bit of a chicken and have packed up my drysuit until next year - it will take more than arm twisting for me to put it back on before April!

There are several articles in this edition - thank you to those who have contributed.

Kay

AGM Decisions 2005

The following decisions were taken at the 2005 AGM on 9th September:-

1. The WDC membership fee will be raised to £125.00 per annum as from 1 October 2005.
2. A monthly payment system by standing order will be implemented - details are to be worked by the Treasurer in discussion with the Committee. This facility will be reviewed after one year. The Treasurer has also pointed out that members are still able to pay the "old way" by one cheque or over a period of three months if they wish to do so.
3. The introduction of a limited membership class was approved in principle. The Committee to work up a more detailed proposal for approval.
4. The introduction of Honorary membership to commence from 2006 AGM: clear criteria and time limits to be defined at the time of proposal/election. It was agreed that a maximum of two Honorary members run concurrently and that they maintain their voting rights. These members to have their own responsibility for their BSAC subs and medical self-declaration.
5. Members of the 2005/6 Committee are as follows:
 - DO: Mike Little
 - Chair: Kay Orr
 - Secretary: Tim Nicholls
 - Treasurer: Jackie Stanley
 - Equipment Officer: Roland Crook
 - Assistant Equipment Officer: Mike Boler
 - Training Officer: Steph Burnip
 - Assistant Training Officer: Kathy Manlove
 - General Members: Mark Giddins and Amanda JohnstonThe General Member's post held by David Park has been converted to Publicity & Marketing Officer with David in this position.

My Try-Dive Experience by Rebecca Couchman

A couple of months ago, with my explorer scout unit I was invited by Wantage Dive Club to come along to Radley for a try-dive. I decided it sounded like a new challenge and I decided to jump in and give it a go.

So on a Wednesday night I found myself at the swimming pool with a load of boys and a pile of flippers. That's when I knew that scuba-diving was going to be a lot of fun.

After the initial briefing, we were given a mask and flippers and told to make sure it all fitted comfortably. Apparently it is required to spit into one's mask and in Lesley's words "swirl it around a bit in the pool" so as to make sure your mask doesn't steam up. When we had "swirled" sufficiently we were given a *really* heavy jacket with oxygen attached and various tubes and mouth-pieces hanging off it. Our instructors all showed us how to use these to put air in and out of our jackets so we could rise or sink. Accordingly, they also showed us the signals for OK and what to do if something goes wrong.

We were first taught how to go underneath the water and our expert instructors checked that none of our equipment was leaking etc etc., It was amazing how quiet it is when you are underwater for such a long time and when you can see people all around you learning, its really quite magical.

I was lucky enough to be taken into the deepest end of the pool (3m) where I did a somersault first time! That was my real achievement and I really enjoyed the whole evening so I would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who made our try-dive possible from Ridgeway Explorers.

Club Merchandise by Lesley Boler

The following club merchandise is now available for sale:

Beanie Hats	£10.00
T-shirts	£15.00
Sweatshirts	£20.00
Fleeces	£27.00

If anyone is interested, please contact Lesley Boler directly.

Weymouth 2005 by Rob Bohm

As we were waiting for the dive boat to arrive, our thoughts weren't, is the diving going to be any good, rather what colour were Harry Grundy's toe nails this weekend? Those members of the club who don't know either Weymouth or Harry should try to book next year. You are in for a treat! The Weymouth trip is always a good weekend. Paul the skipper of 'Dive Time' runs an excellent boat, an offshore 135, with a tail lift, great for the old and infirm, or just plain lazy! Paul's soups, which he makes himself, are legendary, as is his accuracy of dropping the shot. The diving is extremely varied, wrecks, wrecks and more wrecks. The choice is endless, deep, shallow, intact or broken up, subs or ships.

Harry Grundy is an ex, sometimes part time member of the club, who is always game for a laugh, has a fondness for women's clothing and nail varnish, and usually camps with Dave Parker!!!

We were blessed with absolutely fantastic weather. Harry was able to top up his tan nicely. The sea was like the proverbial mill pond and the under water vis was excellent. The group was made up of the usual suspects plus a few Weymouth virgins. Andy, who did a great job of marshalling, Kay, Chris and Claire, our illustrious DO Mike, Jackie, Dave P, Harry, Gary, Rachel, and myself Rob B.

The diving was of the usual format, nice wreck in the morning followed by a gentle dive in the afternoon when Dave would usually try and find something for his supper.

The high point of the weekend was diving the 'Sallsette'. Those members who don't know her, she is quite a dive. 132 metres of a classic cruise liner lying on her port side, with starboard railings at 32 metres. She is still in excellent condition, considering that she went down in 1917. Some of her teak decking is still intact! We had approaching 10 metres vis and so many fish at times it was hard to see the wreck. Unfortunately we also had a low point. Jackie going to the pot caused us all a great deal of concern, and we collectively heaved a great sigh of relief when we heard she was responding well to treatment. The incident certainly focuses the mind.

Well I shall remain one of the Weymouth faithful and shall be looking forward to next year. See you there.



Operation Weed by Kathy Manlove

Operation Weed

Date: early Autumn

Time: noon

Mission: Using all available man-made devices clear the lake of weed in preparation for removal of golf balls.

Well there were eight of us and several rakes and a fork and rope. Imagine the scene: sun shining, beautiful landscaped grounds and the lake. Well I was there earlier in the year and my god has it been a good growing year. There had been a bumper weed growth since the spring and not a single patch of clear water could be located. Undeterred the intrepid divers entered the water and waded through the weed - swimming was no longer an option. Within minutes the weed was fighting back and John disappeared under the surface. Mike and Matt made a valiant effort in rescuing and the battle continued. Reinforcements arrived aided by a four wheel drive, chains and ropes and planning commenced for **Operation Weed**. This plan could only have been hatched by a man but the theory went like this:

If we put a chain across the pond and attached the ends to rope which ran through a winch then maybe we can pull all the weed in one go and then we can skive off to the pub for a nice lunch. The outcome! Well if anyone ever wondered if there are any fish in the lake then we can confirm that there used to be. Towing commenced and the water stirred. Fish were jumping out of the lake in shock as their world was swept out from under them. The finale was the rope snapping under the strain of the tons of weed it was dredging from the lake. All that was left was **Operation Save the Fishies**. Lumping tons and tons of weed onto the bank whilst Kay and Leslie, Chief Fish squealers, ensured the boys returned every living thing to the lake.

Anyway, the battle was fought against the odds, torrential rain, substandard rakes and mad hat schemes and I think we may have won the battle but on surveying the lake on our retreat it was clear to see that the war will have to be won another day. Thanks to Mike and Leslie Boler, Andy and Kay Orr, John Manlove, Matt Atkinson and Paul Wentworth to making it a fun day and maybe we will make it to the pub next time!