

Mark Mumford

From: Ted Coleman [ted.coleman@btinternet.com]
Sent: 02 December 2007 20:20
To: CRABBSAC Everyone; Ray Miller; Dave Carr; John Seldon; Mark Fuller; Mick Costello
Subject: 03 Diving Officer's Newsletter 2 December 2007

**Dates for your diary**

Tuesday 4 December - 20.00 Lesson OT3 continued - instructor Dave Carr

Tuesday 4 December - 21.00 Instructors' Meeting - all instructors and assistant instructors to attend

Wednesday 5 December - 20.00 Pool training and diving at K2. Please be ready in good time for your lessons. Any questions, contact Andy Galley and let him know if you want to use club equipment but do not have a lesson booked.

Wednesday 5 December - 21.00 onwards - meet in the bar upstairs in the K2 Leisure centre

Saturday 8 December - Open water training at Stoney Cove. So far I been inundated with one yes and one maybe. Let me know urgently if you wish to come.

Tuesday 1 January - New year's day dive - contact Dave Champion

What's been happening

I went to the Diving Officer's Conference in London on Saturday. It is actually a well-organised event. There were some useful announcements from BSAC which I will be passing on to you. There were also some very good and very amusing speakers. It is basically open to anyone who wants to go. Next year's will be on Saturday 6 December 2008 and I recommend it to you.

I did intend to go diving today, Sunday. However I took an early view on this and cancelled on Friday. Just to see what I missing, I looked up the data today from the Greenwich Light Vessel which is moored south of Newhaven and it was recording winds of 60 knots and seas in excess of 4 metres this afternoon. I think for once it was a good decision.

Winter diving

We have in recent years done little diving between January and March. I need some feedback from you on whether you would like to go diving in the UK during the winter? The club will organise diving for you if you want to go, but we need to know if you want to do it or not. I can't promise, though, that you are actually likely to meet me in the water, unless you happen to be in the Maldives in early March.

Red Sea?

We will almost certainly be arranging a club liveaboard trip to the Red Sea later in 2008 so watch out for that, but there are good value shorebased packages available at quieter times of the year. Would anyone be interested in looking for a trip round about the beginning of February? A week with diving should be available for between £300 and £400. You should be qualified at least to Ocean Diver before you go although if you are missing one or two lessons, it might be possible to complete them there, probably with external instructors.

Let me know if you are interested in this. You can expect warm sunny weather, equivalent to average summer

temperatures at home. Water temperatures will be around 20C, so you would need a good semi-dry suit or even a dry suit, but this is a lot warmer than it will be at home at that time.

And finally...

Each year at the Diving Officer's Conference there is a presentation on diving incidents in the past year. This is a serious subject, and I will leave the written report in the club hut for you to read. Diving is a safe sport, particularly if you are as well trained as all Crawley Divers are and you follow BSAC Safe Diving rules. As Diving Officer I am responsible for safety and will be pestering you to keep to the set standards - but ultimately whether you do or not will be your decision. The incident report will tell you a bit about what really can go wrong. For example...

Two divers got separated this year from their boat cover and spent over 9 hours drifting in the water before being found just before dusk. As one of them reputedly said to the other before being found "I would like to be buried at sea, but I would rather be dead first".

Safe diving

Ted
01403 782441