

WHISPERING KELP

THISTLE DIVERS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



Welcome ***Thistlers*** to the spring edition of our quarterly newsletter. Since our last edition, lots of diving has been happening within a core number of members and it would be great to see more of you out diving soon.

Has the cold deterred you from getting wet over the long winter months? If it's been a while since you were out diving, come along to the pool to check out your dive gear and polish your diving skills in a safe environment. The pool is an ideal place to practise rescue skills or Air Share Ascents/controlled buoyant lifts with one of your dive colleagues. Just ask around who wants to practise these skills and I am sure you will get a willing buddy without any problem at all!

The Instructors have also been very busy on Monday evenings with both theory training and practical pool sessions for our new Ocean Divers and those who want to practise their skills before venturing into the open water or just to increase fitness levels.

SO, WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Training day held in January at Finnart
Lots of regular pool and theory training for our Ocean Divers and anyone else who wants it!

Personal Development Plan (PDP) Sessions to help all members take small steps to achieve their goal/s

Two of our trainees have finished their initial training: Congratulations to Martyn and Jamie safe diving ☺☺ We look forward to seeing you out on a regular basis at club dives. Everyone else going through their OD qualifications are well on their way to finishing. The newest Ocean Divers who have started their theory lectures are Summer and Gemma so it's fair to say the Instructors are being kept busy !!

CLUB RHIB

Our Club RHIB and trailer has had a full rewire and the trailer had work done to improve the weighting when being towed. The work was done in time for our trip to Plockton for our Easter trip. Thank you to Jonathan Peck for all the work he did free of charge. Jonathan's help is very much appreciated. Martin's Son has also worked on the trailer brakes and again on behalf of the club, I would like to thank him for his hard work, it is very much appreciated.

However during the rewiring it was identified that the radio wasn't working. We did try to have this repaired but Raymarine advised it was beyond being fixed, so we have purchased a new radio which will be fitted soon.

CLUB DIVES SINCE JANUARY 2018

SHORE DIVES

- Finnart A Frames (training day)
- Caves at Loch Long
- Conger Alley Loch Long
- Glen Douglas Road Loch Long
- Twin Piers Loch Long
- The Torpedos site at Loch Long
- Slates at Ballachulish

BOAT DIVES

- Long weekend trip to Kyle of Lochalsh (see Rob's report):
 - Loch Duich reef dive
 - Port Napier Wreck
 - Lochcarron (Conservation Bay)
- Scapa Flow trip in April (two of our members) (article next month on this trip)

WHAT'S BEING ORGANISED FOR YOU DIVERS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSES and practise sessions

- Boat Handling skill development course (SDC) in May/June 2018 - **ONE SPACE REMAINING TO BE FILLED, CONTACT MARTIN OR ANNE IF INTERESTED !**
- Potential Compressor Operations course being considered at the moment

Potential SDC's - details to follow, Training Officer will advise

- Oxygen administration course
- First Aid for Divers course

Refresher sessions to be organised for our members who have already achieved and want to practise:

- Rescue skills
- CPR and Rescue Breaths
- First Aid

Dry run practical sessions outside pool area on Monday evenings before pool sessions are to be arranged to cover going over:

- Compass work
- Line laying
- Knotty class (learning about knots)

More details to follow after our AGM

BSAC THIS GIRL CAN CAMPAIGN

Mary and I helped at a BSAC event called "This Girl Can" early in March where we were two of a number of Instructors taking girls into a pool to do a 'try-dive' over in Edinburgh. Paul came along too helping with organising kit for the try-divers. The pool was lovely as it had a deep end and the best bit for me was checking with the try diver that she wanted to venture down to the deep end!

The big smiles ☺ ☺ from the experience - priceless !!

I was amazed and very happy to see so many young ladies looking to try out SCUBA. We finished the night with a cool non -alcoholic refreshment before driving home, very tired but happy. Unfortunately I do not have any photographs to share with you.

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

- We won a small grant from North Lanarkshire community trust for £340 which will be put to good use in maintaining our diving equipment, i.e. regulator services, cylinders services and of course our boat and trailer and jeep.
- Our annual fundraising day at Kirkintilloch Gala day is coming up on Saturday 9th June 2018, so watch out for more details from your new committee in May.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL CLUB MEMBERS & PARENTS GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) - WHAT IS IT?

In the UK, (GDPR) will replace the Data protection Act 1998 from the 25th May 2018. GDPR seeks to give people more control over how organisations use their data.

Simply, we need to have a 'legitimate reason' for contacting members and keeping their data, the reason for BSAC, and for Thistle Divers as a club, is the fact that you are a BSAC member.

If we (Thistle Divers), want to share your contact details with other Thistle Diver members, this is when you would need your permission. We do not and will never use your personal data for marketing purposes. Please be aware, we will be in touch with each member individually to discuss this before 25th May 2018.

BOATHANDLERS/ANYONE - ANY GUESSES AS TO WHAT TYPE OF ANCHORS THESE ARE?



Three eye-catching anchors sitting outside a house in Plockton !!

SOCIAL EVENING - BOMBAY DREAMS CUMBERNAULD

A number of members enjoyed lovely food and some good chat recently at our favourite curry house. If you have a suggestion for a social evening/day, just let me know.



GLENCOE WALK - THE LOST VALLEY

To help everyone get their fitness levels up, Audrey is organising a walk through The Lost Valley in Glencoe on Saturday 5th May. Experience in hillwalking is not required but good fitting boots walk shoes are!

Let Audrey know if you are interested in going so that she can arrange the day appropriately for everyone.



2018 and Thistle Diver potential trip plans.....

September - there are two trips being planned:

Gozo (off the Island of Malta): - by Martin Paterson if interested let him know.

Arran: Bonny Scotland! - where the water may not be as warm as Gozo but will be just as fabulous and interesting to dive around the 'no take zone' and the 'marine protected area'. Let me know if you are interested in coming along ASAP. (Anne)

Thistle Divers Kyle of Lochalsh Expedition Easter 2018



The plan was to dive 3 different Lochs around Skye/Plockton Area.

The team all met in Plockton on Friday 30th March. The team consisted of Thistle Members and some non-Thistle members to fill up the trip.

The team:

Exped Leader	Rob Sewell
Member	Anne Peck
Member	Andy Gibson
Member	Donald Bain
Member	George Pinkett
Member	Martin Paterson
Non-Member	Debbie McNeill
Non-Member	Sands Castro
Non-Divers	J Peck
Non-Divers	Bobby Sewell
Non-Divers	Skye Peck (Girl Dog)

I towed the boat with the club jeep, with Debbie and Bobby. We brought the shopping for the trip, although this was not without a few hitches. I left Friday

night's tea, Lasagne, in my house, doh! Debbie started the morning having a cracking time with the eggs. All were replaced on route.

Martin kindly took his jeep with Donald and George. Andy took the easy rider route and arrived on his bike. Anne and Jonathon had been enjoy the delights of Skye all week and came over to meet us. Sands finished diving in Oban and drove up to meet us.

With the all the team present we decided to dive Loch Duich on the Saturday. Everyone chipped in over the weekend helping to cook breakfast make sandwiches and generally assist with jobs, even Jonathon helped by running the cylinders to get filled whilst we went diving.

Saturday Day1 Diving



Loch Duich

Boat launching was easy at the slip on high tide, impossible on to recover on low tide, so we ended up recovering at the Kyle slip. The morning didn't start great as the boat wasn't running as good as normal (old fuel and a long time between uses was blamed). We decided not to dive the planned sites due to the engine not running great and dived alternative sites on the south side of the loch, closer to the launch site. Fish farm is near this end of the loch on this site which would reduce visibility, Anne and I both did the North side of the loch. Both air and water temperature had everyone frozen by lunch time and everyone decide that would be it for the day. We recovered the boat at Kyle as mentioned above, giving Bobby his chance to drive the boat, which put a smile on his face. We also took the

opportunity to mark the Port Napier on the GPS on route. Recovered boat and everyone headed back to the bunk house to warm up.

Sunday Day 2 Diving



Kyle of Lochalsh (Port Napier)

Boat Launching was easy at the slip on any state of tide. Straight out to the Port Napier, which also has a fish farm near the wreck, reduce visibility was noticed. The dive was good with reduced visibility, again water temperature had everyone keen to do only one dive. Boat recovered and everyone headed back to heat. Jonathon was away helping to get cylinder fills, very much appreciated.

Sunday Day 2 Diving

Second dive was going to be in Loch Carron (Conservation Bay)

Boat Launching was easy from the old Strome Ferry slip and possible on any state of tide. Straight over the loch to conservation bay, this should have been on slack water; however the tide was running in every direction like a steam train, clearly not slack then. Possible slack may be on HW and LW. A good drift dive was had by those that chose to dive; water temperature took its toll again with everyone doing short dive times.

Monday Day 3 Diving

Should have been Loch Carron; however everyone had called it a day and we all just headed home.

On an evening the group, played football and went down to the local pub to play pool.

Learning from this:

Think about hiring a Compressor

Think about water temperature and time of year

Phone signal is non-existent

Try to avoid Spring Tides

Delegate jobs to the group;

- Towing the boat

- Organising meals

- Organising Dive Sites

- Organising Costs

Rota of jobs (Meals & cylinder filling)

Positives from Trip:

Group of divers out enjoying themselves

Rob Sewell

Expedition Leader

ARTICLES:

Please feel free to submit any articles for our next edition of Whispering Kelp to any of our Committee Officers, we are always looking for stories or articles / photographs that are of interest to our club divers. It doesn't need to be 5000 words, 50 words will be great!

AGM Reminder: Our Club AGM is being held on Monday 14th May 2018 at 19.30 hrs at Garrell Vale Community Centre, Kilsyth. The committee officers look forward to seeing as many club members attending as possible to hear how our club is progressing, the dives we have done over the last year, achievements accomplished by our dive members and **WHO** will be awarded our coveted Diver of the Year Award? Most importantly, voting on our new committee officers for the year ahead.

Please ensure your membership fees are paid in time for the AGM, if they are not, you will be unable to vote or be nominated to serve on the committee. Thank you ☺