

September 2012



The Frog

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Water, water everywhere, but difficult to Snorkel

Slow start to dive season

This year the club has had a challenging dive season, the weather was nice in March but the water was not warm enough for us. Then we had the wettest Summer for 100 years with June the wettest ever recorded. The rain was accompanied with wind and that meant most of our dives were cancelled.

The rain meant that our first club river dive at Barcombe Mills in East Sussex had plenty of water, but no visibility, a theme that continued throughout the season.



The river Ouse is slow moving and canoes are available to hire; our experience demonstrated that you were probably safer snorkelling than paddling a canoe.



The sun was shining for a change and we will add Barcombe Mills (River Ouse) to our dive plan next year; not just because of the pub right by the river.



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Special points of interest:

- Club Committee Meeting to be held 14 October.
- Club featured in September edition of Scuba Magazine
- Pictures from our Pembrokeshire and Dorset dives on the notice board.

Selsey Pier

Despite the weather warnings (wind and rain showers) a small group ventured out to Selsey Pier, a site tried-out by the club for the first time last year; the sun did make an appearance but it was windy. Visibility was poor so surface photographs were the best we could achieve.



Pembrokeshire and Swanage Expeditions

This year we planned a special trip to Pembrokeshire for our more experienced members. Our first dive was at St. Brides Haven where we had an excellent dive along the coastal ridges.



This was followed by a day on the "Predator" where we witnessed the beautiful Pembrokeshire islands of Skomer, Grassholm and Sheep Island from the sea and met with some fellow mammals.



The final day was spent at Martin's Haven, where we had another good dive before heading home.

The trip to Swanage this year had the added interest of being followed by a BSAC cameraman who was capturing images for a Snorkelling promotional video. Although the sun shone on us for most of the weekend the visibility was poor in all the dive locations (Swanage Bay, South Beach & Kimmeridge).

The club boat was put to good use over the weekend providing the important safety cover and some fun rides for our younger members.



Some of our members had some fun trying unusual entries.



Membership Fee Increases

As mentioned in the last newsletter our membership fees are increasing this term, the new fees are:

Juniors £46 per term

Adults £49 per term

This increase is necessary to ensure that the club covers the pool fee increases that occur during the summer. The concessionary discounts for those working towards an award outside the BSAC Syllabus, i.e. DoE or internal courses such as the coaching course will continue.

Also, members are reminded that fees are due every term (three terms per year) and are to be paid

within the first two weeks of term; after this time a late payment fee of £5 is added to the membership fee. If any member has difficulty meeting this time-scale, i.e. due to holiday, illness, etc., please let us know.

Club finances have been a concern for some time and we are always looking for ways of operating more efficiently or increasing our income through grants or sponsorship.

If any members have a financial flair or would like the challenge of pursuing grants or sponsorship, please contact **Anthony Hulcoop** or **Graham Griffiths**.