

September 2013



# The Frog

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## Summer came and went...

### Dive season review

Last year was the wettest summer for 100 years but this year we enjoyed the hottest, driest and warmest for 7 years, what next...

The 2013 dive season was defined by low member participation throughout; this meant dives were cancelled due to lack of sign-up rather than the weather. We will be asking members what we could do to help improve the likelihood of participating next year.

The club did manage a trip to Wrasbury and also a return trip to Selsey Lifeboat Station. The weather was good on both occasions and those who attended enjoyed the days out.



### Pagham

After learning about rip tides at Horsham pool a group travelled down to Pagham on the Sussex coast. The sun was shining but it was a little windy, and this was causing a bit of a swell. For members who had not been in open water before it was a lesson in how easy a buddy or boat can disappear from view.

The visibility was fairly good around the Mulberry and those who made it in gained valuable experience.



### Barcombe Mills

We re-visited Barcombe Mills in East Sussex more for a swim rather than a dive; it was not the warmest of days but we entertained the cows...



The hired canoe that weaved (zigzagged to be more accurate) its way to the drop-off point had a more direct route back with Snorkel power...



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### Special points of interest:

- Club Committee Meeting to be held 14 October.
- Pictures from our Cornwall and Dorset dives are on the notice board.
- BSAC celebrates 60 years this year; Dorking Snorkelling Club will be doing something special to celebrate...



## Cornwall Expedition

This years first weekend expedition took club members to Porthkerris in Cornwall, we travelled down on the Friday ready for a dive in the afternoon. We booked into the newly refurbished accommodation at Porthkerris with the expectation of launching the club boat from the beach. Our expectations were dashed when the wind changed direction and it was too rough to launch for our first dive. An alternative venue was agreed and we set off to Church Cove Gunwalloe.



The sea was very clear and it was possible to see strawberry anemones from a distance. It was a good first dive and then we returned to our accommodation to plan for the next full day.

Day 2 (Saturday) was equally windy so we headed for the other side of the peninsular to Mullion Cove.

We saw some spectacular jelly fish...



and also the largest Tompot Blenny I have seen.



The seas around the Lizard Peninsular were the clearest the group had witnessed. Day 3 took the group to Kaynance Cove where we snorkelled around Asparagus Island and Gull Rock. On route we saw a seal but it did not hang around; but we looked on expectantly...



After experiencing some spectacular Cornish coastline it was time for some of the group to head home to land-locked Surrey. The rest of the group enjoyed a little bit more of Cornwall before returning home; it was a great weekend and we are already thinking of next year's expedition.

## Swanage Weekend

This year's Swanage expedition included a change of accommodation; we took over Tower Lodge Hotel just up the hill from Swanage beach. After setting up camp in Prince Albert Gardens we split into groups and completed dives along the end of the bay near the sailing club and around the piers.



A few wrasse could be seen around the old pier.

Day 2 of the weekend was spent at Lulworth Cove, where we could see the geology above the water but not under it.



We used the club boat to take members out of the cove to Stair Hole just around the corner; it was surprising to see so much activity going on outside the bay. As well as us snorkelling we could see individuals rock climbing, coaststeering and canoeing.

Day 3 took us to one our favourite spots, Kimmeridge Bay and we were pleased to see that the visibility was much better than the previous day.

We split into groups and explored the ridges where we saw crabs, anemones and more wrasse of various sizes.



All too soon the weekend was over and hopefully everybody, snorkelers and non-snorkelers, enjoyed the weekend.



## Going to the bog...

While some club members were enjoying the Dorset coast, club member Paul Madelin was in Wales taking part in the World Bog Snorkelling Championships.

Paul was competing for the first time both representing the snorkelling club and raising sponsorship money for the club and Friends of St Nicholas School.

St Nicholas is a special needs school in Merstham, for boys with behavioural difficulties. Paul hopes to raise over £300.

As well as raising money he managed a very respectable runner up slot for the over 50's category at the competition. Well Done Paul!



## Member Training Update

All club members are expected to work towards a BSAC Snorkelling Qualification, your instructor has a record of your level and you should ensure that you are signed up in your Qualification Record Book (QRB). This term your instructor will encourage all members to have the appropriate QRB and reflect your achievements in it.

As a reminder, QRB and reference materials are to be purchased from the club. QRBs are available for £2.50 and course books for £5.00. **Please ask Gail for details.**

If you have any questions about the BSAC snorkel training syllabus, please speak to your instructor or Graham.

## BSAC Membership

As well as paying a subscription to the club that covers pool fees, etc. members should ensure that they apply/renew their BSAC membership. The British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) is managed by volunteers and BSAC membership subscription pays towards the management costs of running this international organisation. BSAC membership also provides third party insurance cover that is essential for pool and open water sessions.

Our membership secretary Guy Dubois will be following up BSAC Membership issues.

## Membership Fee Increases

At the Club AGM in February the committee agreed to increase membership fees to ensure the club covered its costs. The 2% increase means that membership fees are now:

**Juniors £47 per term**

**Adults £50 per term**

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 timescale, 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**.