



Frog Squad Diving Club

# NEWSLETTER

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Hi again this months newsletter is a bit early due to some important changes we are making within the dive club. But first we would like to offer our

## Congratulations



To Mr & Mrs Frog  
Mark and Andrea

On the birth of their tadpoles, twin daughters Emily & Katie  
from all at frog squad.

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# IMPORTANT CHANGES

Due to unforeseen circumstances Mark has handed the training side over to the dive club for an unspecified period of time. Although this should not have any affect on training provided as this will still be provided by Mick and Steve supported by the rest of the training team. What it does mean is that all payments for training courses, seal team and try dives will come directly into the club funds and any charges incurred will have to be deducted from the club funds. For this reason we have had to cancel the proposed pool training session previously advertised for the 21<sup>st</sup> February. Also we have had to let the current contract with Worksop College lapse as we cannot guarantee income to cover the hire costs. Don't worry we are looking around for a new pool and intend to hold our first session early in March. However, there will be a slight change in that we will be making a nominal charge of £2-3 per person for those wishing to use the pool that are not on any paid training course. As soon as we have a date, time and location we will add it to the web site.

In the mean time may I take this opportunity to wish Andrea all the best and speedy recovery from all at Frog Squad.

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The Christmas Party meeting saw Anna Simpson winning the kids quiz to receive the £10 frog voucher. Simon Condry was the winner of the adult's crossword winning £15 worth of diving gear and Ian Briggs was the lucky winner of the £50 free members draw.

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Christmas dinner this year was held on 18<sup>th</sup> December at **China Moon** with twenty-three members and partners enjoying an excellent meal. We provided 8 bottles of wine for the tables to get the night off to a swing. Comments received after the meal, were all positive and all attending enjoyed the night.

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The prizes and winners of the monthly raffle since the last newsletter are as follows for;

**November 09** Prize: Raptor Dive Knife & Frog Dive Bag

**Winner: Mick Jones**

Sorry no runner up prize this month

**December 09** Prize: Hamper

**Winner: Lee Weaver**

Runner up prize: Whiskey, Bacardi, Brandy

**Winner: Russ Morris, Mick Jones, Dave Beardsall**

**January/February 10** Prize: Laptop Bag, Regulator Tool + Other Dive Gear

**Winner:** Not Drawn At Time of Issue

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There have been a couple more members winning **£20 cash** on the football cards since the last newsletter these being as follows;

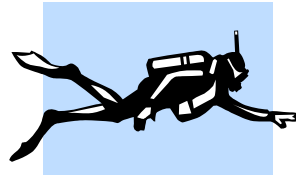
**Shaun Hooton**

**Mick Vickers**



**Remember to win the £20 football card or raffle you have to enter and they are only available at Tuesday's club meetings so make sure you get to them and support the club.**

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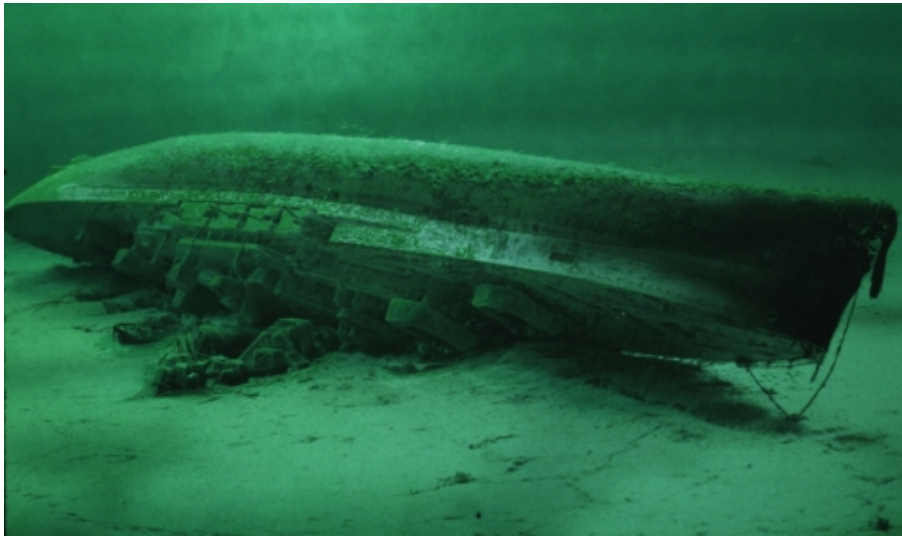
A few places are still left for the proposed diving trips  
**Oban on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June** see Mick Vickers if interested  
restricted to advanced divers only.



From Oban you can dive in the Sound of Mull which lies between the Isle of Mull and the Morven Peninsula of mainland Scotland and is a highly popular destination for UK divers. The reason for its popularity is the range of diving that is offered in reasonable conditions. There are many picturesque wrecks at shallow depths such as the Shuna and more demanding ones like the Rondo. The abundance of wrecks is a result of the bad weather that plagues the area. This doesn't mean diving will be blown out however, as the sites are spread out so you are guaranteed to find somewhere sheltered. Diving isn't restricted to wrecks as there are rocky outcrops, such as Calve Island, that serve as interesting wall dives with faulted ledges and overhangs.

The water is generally clear and green and there may be strong currents, particularly after a lot of rain. Visibility usually averages around 5 – 20m.

**Scapa Flow on 31<sup>st</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> August** see Mick Vickers if interested (3 places left) restricted to advanced divers only.



Scapa Flow lies in the beautiful and remote Orkney Islands just across from the most northerly point of mainland Scotland. It is famous for the wrecks of the German High Seas Fleet that were scuttled here at the end of World War I. There are seven wrecks from the fleet, plus a number of other smaller wrecks that sank under different circumstances. Together these definitely put Scapa in the top ten dive sites of the world. The sheer size of the German wrecks makes for awesome diving. The biggest of the fleet are the three battleships: the Kronprinz Wilhelm, the Markgraf and the Konig, all 177 metres long and weighing 26,000 tons. Because most of the weight of the battleships is on the deck, these have turned over whilst sinking, leaving the hull exposed and most of the deck buried. On these and all the rest of the fleet, huge guns protrude from the wreckage, sometimes with a conger lurking in the barrel. Other life includes wrasse, brittle stars, large jellyfish, sea urchins, sponges and starfish, which are often seen on the wrecks and in the kelp forests nearby. You will also find seals on the surface, although these are timid around divers. Visibility usually averages around 10 – 30m.

**Farne Islands on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August** see Mick Vickers if interested.



Diving in and around the Farne Islands is a real feast for the senses. Numerous wrecks litter the seabed, and inquisitive grey seals come and say hello. Whether you prefer a shallow dive or are prepared to delve that little bit deeper, there's something to suit everyone out at the Farnes. The Farnes consist of almost 30 small islands and rock outcrops lying between 2 and 4 miles off the Northumberland coast. They are split into two main groups separated by a stretch of water known as Staple Sound. The islands are comprised primarily of a rock called whinstone, which is very prone to vertical weathering and faulting. This has produced a strange topography of steps and sheer faces above water that gives just a hint of the delights below. Visibility usually averages around 10m.

**St Abbs on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September** see Mick Vickers if interested.



For shore diving and much of the boat diving, most dives can be conducted above 18m as many of the reefs don't get down

below this depth until further out. Several of the boat diving sites if you swim further out (that'll be east or north, sometimes south, depending how the rocks lie) will eventually drop to 22m or thereabouts. Of the most popular only a small handful are below this depth, but the bulk of the marine life is between 15m and 6m. The towering cliffs drop below the water line, and deep cut ridges are formed, with many kelp-topped boulders, the latter of which are vertical in nature closer inshore. Visibility usually averages around 10m, usually more. Tidal ranges are small and currents on most sites usually minimal, however boat diving is conducted using delayed SMBs as there can be boat traffic around.

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This years Easter quiz will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April and again there will be a £10 frog squad voucher for the winner of the kids quiz and a chocolate Easter egg for all the kids attending

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If anyone has any ideas to what they would like to see in future newsletters or just wants to make a comment in it then please e-mail your ideas/comments to the editor, thanks.

PS  
**Keep on Diving!**