

## IPSAC January Newsletter 2013

Well that was 2012...it went quickly and lets face it, if anyone was trying to go diving in Dorset it's best forgotten. Here's hoping for fair weather in 2013 and a great new diving season, which will hopefully require the use of sunglasses rather than waterproofs and hot soup!

### Christmas meal 2012

This years Christmas meal was held at the Purbeck House Hotel in Swanage who laid on a very nice carvery for us in their conservatory at a reasonable price per head.

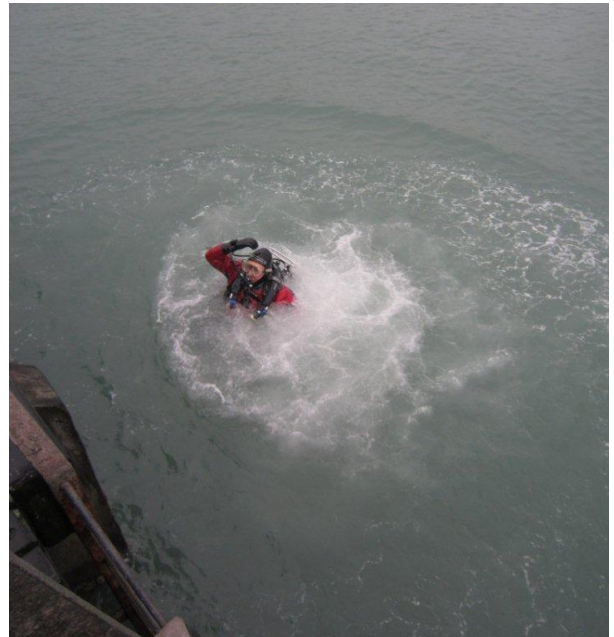
The food and service was excellent as were the portion sizes and second helpings were allowed, which some people happily took advantage of. No complaints this year from me about lack of potatoes and nouvelle cuisine portions! We may well go back next year.



### New years day dive

As usual, the new years day dive took place, but as I was away I

unfortunately missed the tea and biscuits and frozen parts...shame However a lot of people turned up, to either dive or socialise to welcome in the new year. Everyone brought their tea and biccies and had a great time on what can be a bit of a bleak day with everything else shut.



### Pool Nights

Official pool nights have been reluctantly cancelled for the foreseeable future for due to a recent H+S requirement raised by the pool for a lifeguard to be present, making it difficult for the club financially.

Allocating pool side club members to watch out or act as lifeguards proved impractical, requiring rotas and hard commitment from those people to attend and not swim. Lifeguard qualifications were also an issue. As this is a lost opportunity to socialise with other members of the club as well as exercise, the committee have decided to trial a voluntary `pay as you go` pool night. On the **first Wednesday of every month 7.30pm**

– **8.30pm** at the Purbeck leisure centre Wareham will become `swim and pint night`. The pint being in `The Duke of Wellington` in Wareham afterwards from 8.30pm if you feel the inclination.

As the club are not booking the pool, members will just pay for a swim as a member of the public.

### **Try dive & recruitment**

this years January try dive has been `knocked on the head` due to a re-think taking place this year over the best way to secure trainees. The last try-dive was a big disappointment with 10 – 12 people signing up for the try dive, and 4-5 trainees signing up subsequently to train, but then failing to follow through despite the hard work put in by our training officers and assistants.

### **Dive Booking & 2013 Plan**

The plan will be produced in the next few weeks and will be added to as suggestions are received. If you have any dive sites you particularly like or have heard about and would them included, please contact our Chairman Chris by e-mail and let him know.

This year, some dives will be added from **Divers Down** scheduled dives on Swanage pier. This is to enable dives where only a single wave of divers have booked and to add diversity to our plan for this year.

These dives will require a non refundable payment commitment to attend unless cancelled with enough advance warning [to be advertised on the plan] or by Divers Down

themselves.



The opportunity to more easily book a few dives with Divers down for dives [particularly on the Kyarra], is a move I personally welcome. Some of the club already dive with DD regularly and we know how they operate.

It also supports Pat and Pete of Divers Down, who are a key resource for the club on the Pier. Let's see how it goes!

### **IPSAC Diver**

The club boat is currently sleeping. The Boat officer Jane reported that she has been fully winterised - the boat, not Jane that is - and is ready for the new season. Come April it will be time to test that new gearbox!

### **Club Meals Jan – March**

#### **January**

Wed Jan 30<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm.

**at the Black Swan Pub Swanage.**

Names of attendees to me by 26th Jan please so I can let the Black Swan know .

#### **February**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

The Gurkha  
Sandford Road

Leisure centre Wareham  
7.30pm

### **March**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
Skittles at the Claypipe Inn  
Sandford  
Wareham.

### **Club Holiday - L'Estartit – Costa Brava, Spain, early October 2013.**

A few club members have independantly been to dive the internationally recognised marine reserve of the **Medes Islands** sitting just 1Km offshore from the Costa Brava town of L'Estartit.



Apart from easy diving, clear water, bundles of fish to be seen - Morays, Eagle Rays and big Groupers - , there are also limestone caverns and walls lined with sponges which having dived myself, can testify are exciting and colourful. This is special Med diving before commercial fishing and pollution wrought havoc!

The town itself is also not far from Barcelona, with numerous opportunities to take a day or

afternoon off and go walking, visting historical sites or just mooch about drinking coffee in the sun with a plate of fresh Sardines.

Details and prices are still being researched, but early expressions of interest should be passed to Keith Coombes or Mike Wilson.

Thinking about it?  
Check this link out>>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Vo\\_Emwk45M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Vo_Emwk45M)

That's it for now

Kind Regards,

Dominic.  
Social Sec.