EAST CHESHIRE SUB AQUA CLUB – BSAC Branch 100

A year in the life of our members and the club

Our Heinke Trophy Application 2015

This page is intentionally blank to aid with pagination

Table of Contents

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Foreword from one of our founding members. 1

1.2 The highlights of our application 2

1.3 Executive Summary 3

1.4 List of contributors to our club application 4

1.5 About East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club (ECSAC) 5

1.5.1 The history of ECSAC 5

2 Membership 11

2.1 Numbers 11

2.2 Senior Members 13

2.3 Snorkelling 14

2.3.1 Pool Sessions 16

2.3.2 Developing Open Water Snorkelling. 16

2.3.3 Recognition of our Snorkelling Group by BSAC. 19

2.4 Administration 20

2.4.1 Branch Organisation and Committee 20

2.4.2 Club Strategic Plan and Objectives 21

2.5 Information 22

2.5.1 Newsletters and Noticeboards 22

2.5.2 Club Website 24

2.5.3 Social Media 26

2.5.4 Special provisions made for new members on joining 30

2.6 Promotion: 31

2.6.1 Club Marketing. 31

2.6.2 Treacle Market. 32

2.6.3 Club Promotional Kiosk 33

3 Diver training 35

3.1.1 Training Officer – Mark Paisey 35

3.1.2 Assistant Training Officer 36

3.1.3 The Training Team 36

3.1.4 Instructor Qualifications 2015 37

3.2 Water-work 37

3.2.1 Pool Training 37

3.2.2 ECSAC On-Line Training Record 38
3.2.3 Try Dives 39
3.3 Theory lessons: 39
3.3.1 Ocean Diver Training 40
3.3.2 Sports Diver Training 40
3.3.3 Dive Leader Training 40
3.3.4 Advanced Diver Training 40
3.3.5 FCD Training 40
3.3.6 Skill Development Courses 41
3.4 Qualifications 42
3.4.1 Diver Qualifications gained in 2015 42
3.4.2 Instructor Qualifications as at end 2015 42
3.5 Equipment: 45
3.5.1 Equipment Officer – Steve Welton. 45
3.5.2 Compressor Station 46
3.5.3 Gas Blending Panel 47
3.5.4 Dive Boats 47
3.5.5 Minibus 49
3.5.6 Scuba & Snorkelling equipment 49
3.5.7 Clubhouse 51
4 Diving activities 53
4.1.1 Diving Officer – Kevin Phillips 53
4.1.2 Branch dives 53
4.1.3 Dives in 2015 – the stats 56
4.1.4 Dive locations 57
4.1.5 Catering for all levels 58
4.1.6 Arrangements for risk assessment, safety and emergency procedures 58
4.1.7 Selected Club Trips 2015 59
4.2 Expeditions: 76
4.2.1 The Shipwreck Project 76
4.3 Scientific: 77
4.3.1 Project Baseline 77
4.3.2 Seasearch 80
4 . 4 Competitions 81
5 General activities 83
5.1 Branch meetings: 83

5.2 Social: **84**
5.2.1 Annual Social Calendar 2015 84
5.2.2 Annual Dinner Dance with prize giving and disco – 30th January 85
5.2.3 Menai Boat Trip – March 8th (multi club) 86
5.2.4 New member welcome evening – 6th August 87
5.2.5 Barn Dance Social (multi club) – 3rd October 88
5.2.6 Film Night (multi club) 89
5.2.7 Diver Grade Certificate Presentations 90
5.2.8 Christmas Party 91
5.3 Publicity: **91**
5.4 Inter-branch liaison: **93**
6 Special achievements **94**
6.1 Training Platform Project **94**
6.2 Grant application to expand community and youth group support **105**
6.2.1 Letter of support for our project by our local MP. 106
7 Appendices **108**
7.1 Club Rules **108**
7.2 ECSAC Management Manual **118**
7.3 Club Committee **125**
7.4 Club AGM Minutes 2015 ..... **126**
7.5 Club Accounts 2014 ..... **133**
7.6 Trainee Code of Conduct **135**
7.7 Safeguarding Policy introduction letter example **136**
7.8 Helly Hansen Watersports Centre - Diver Registration form 2015 ..... **137**
7.9 Risk Assessment for Salford Quays **138**
7.10 Example ECSAC Dive Log **140**
7.11 Boat Storage Proposal **141**
7.12 Site Risk Assessment example **145**
7.13 Weekly Club Newsletters **148**

1 Introduction

1.1 Foreword from one of our founding members.

Neville Oldham was one of East Cheshire's founding members and having moved to the south coast often referred to himself as "The Devon Branch of East Cheshire BSAC".

Neville was involved with the preparation of our application for the Heinke Trophy and supplied a number of the pictures and words used in the history section. He had also offered to provide a foreword in his own words, saying "I would be delighted to help with the application". Sadly Neville passed away on the 17th of November 2015 and will be a huge loss for the scuba community in general as well as for East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club in particular. He was a major supporter of the club and an inspiration to many of its members. We are dedicating this application to him and the legacy that he left for the club.

Neville Oldham

1935-2015

Neville Oldham BSAC No: AO 11514

Founder Member and Honorary Member East Cheshire BSAC Branch No. 100

Fellow of the Nautical Archaeology Society

BSAC Jubilee Trust Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal Winner

Chairman of the International Marine Archaeology & Shipwreck Society

Senior diver of the Moor Sand Historic Wreck site, Erme Estuary Cannon & Ingot Wreck sites.

Neville was born in Cheshire in 1935 and spent his formative years on a farm. In 1953 joined the Grenadier Guards. He first started diving in 1956 whilst serving as Assault Pioneer Sergeant during the Suez Crisis when on attachment to 45 Commando attending a minefield and demolition course.

On leaving the Guards he went into construction. To continue diving he joined East Lancashire BSAC and with their help founded the East Cheshire BSAC holding the posts of Chairman, Training Officer and Secretary. In 1979 the Club made him an Honorary Life Member. In 1983 he attained his commercial divers' ticket.

1982 was an eventful year for him, at the beginning of the year along with members of the East Cheshire Club, he was involved with locating parts of the wrecked Penlee Lifeboat (for which the club received formal thanks from the RNLI - see page 10). He also moved to Devon where he started a Diveboat Charter business at Hope Cove and joined the Nautical Archaeology Society SW, serving on the committee as Secretary and Chairman as well as a member of NAS national committee and also became a NAS Part I Instructor.

In 1983 he formed the Bigbury bay investigation team looking for historical wrecks in the SW and in 1989 they were joined by members of Northampton and other Midlands BSAC and formed the South West Marine Archaeology Group with whom they have been fortunate to have located several of South Devon's premier Historic wrecks sites. Erme Ingot site 1000 B.C (for which they won the BSAC Duke of Edinburgh's Jubilee Prize,) Erme Estuary Cannon site 1632, the Salcombe Cannon site 1635 and Salcombe B Bronze Age site 3000 B.C. These are now all protected Historic wreck sites.

He is also the Licensee of the Moor Sand historic site 3000 B.C. Other projects that he was involved with are the investigation of HMS Venerable 1804, The Gossamer 1868, Chanteloupe 1772, San Pedro El Mayor 1588 and the Dartmouth Cannon site 1577. He had been involved in diving for over 50 years.

1.2 The highlights of our application

We strongly believe that East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club deserve recognition for their contribution to the diving scene in 2015 and for furthering the interests and profiles of its members and of BSAC. Working together as a team within the club we have grown our membership and expanded the club's diving and greatly expanded our involvement with other clubs, as well as contributing to both scientific and historical diving projects in the UK. We have also worked very hard to extend our club's reach and benefit outside of East Cheshire by involving other clubs in our social and diving activities in the UK and abroad which we believe has also greatly benefitted the club itself.

Some of the major activities we undertook were:

- We initiated and delivered a project to install a scuba-training platform into Salford Quays that significantly improved the usability of that facility for Dive training. This project has delivered a new facility that is now available to the entire scuba community, both BSAC and other agencies as well, and has generated a lot of interest from a number of other BSAC clubs - see page 94.

- We created a standalone promotional kiosk – it is a computer terminal featuring specialised hardware and software that allows us to promote East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club around the region and can be left in situ with no human support required. It went on tour in 2015 and was used to generate awareness and leads for membership - see page 33.

- We significantly grew our club membership in 2015 against a backdrop of national decline. This was in response to a near crisis situation two years ago when membership levels were in danger of falling below those needed to sustain the club - see page 11.

- We have worked hard to deliver a large amount of training to both our membership and to the wider BSAC community – delivering over 20 SDCs during 2015, which included both our own members and members from over 10 other clubs - see page 41. We also managed to qualify divers into every BSAC Diver Grade in 2015 - see page 42.

- Our club's social calendar was extended in 2015 to deliver a greater number of events, these were opened up to divers from other agencies and clubs in an attempt to widen our links with other like minded divers and extend the appeal and raise the profile of BSAC - see page 84.

- We now coordinate an annual event that is reaching epic proportions, the annual Menai Boat run which involves and raises money for the RNLI. It was featured in Scuba Magazine and attracted over 10 clubs in 2015, 14 RIBs and more than 130 people. We have plans for over 20 boats in 2016 - see page 86.

- We surveyed our members and listened hard to what they wanted from the club; this directed the club committee in its decision-making and drove the delivery of both training and trips ensuring that as a club we delivered what our members wanted - see pages 13 and 58.

- We created our club mission statement and a strategic plan to deliver it - see page 21.

"To protect, maintain, develop and grow the club and its assets to the benefit of its membership with a focus on promoting and delivering more diving and snorkelling activities that meet the preferences and enhance the enjoyment of the members of the club"

1.3 Executive Summary

Key Achievements in 2015:

- We have created a very professional approach to running the club and worked together as a team with focus and drive to deliver a better experience for our members.
- We grew our club's membership by over 20% in 2015 compared to a national decline of 2%
- We grew the number of dives the club conducted by 25% compared to 2014 and over 100% to 2013
- We ran eleven inter-club events (training and socials) with involvement from over 10 different clubs and other diving agencies from across the North-West and beyond.
- We safely conducted over 1,000 club dives in the UK and aboard
- We created links with several new clubs during 2015 and involved them in club events and training
- Delivered a total of 82 try dives and hosted snorkelling courses for 38 Scouts.
- Ran an outreach project to support the **#thisgirlcan** campaign, promoting diving with the Girl Guides, something that the club had not done before as we previously only worked with Scout groups. We also got some national coverage for this via Twitter and two new club members as a result.
- We built and installed a training platform in Salford Quays for use by the entire scuba community.
- We hosted the now annual "Menai Boat Run" with over 10 clubs and 130 participants.
- We qualified people into every BSAC grade from Ocean Diver to First Class Diver during the year.
- We actively developed our instructor team during the year and delivered an Instructor Development Workshop with nine of our team supported by BSAC NW Region.
- Delivered twenty SDCs for our own club members and opened the SDCs to the wider BSAC community.
- Supported and grew our award winning Snorkelling Section.
- Forged links with other BSAC Clubs and independently assisted them with training by giving time from our Open Water Instructors to their training sessions (Richmond SAC and Manchester University SAC).
- Our instructors contributed to the regional coaching team and running the NW FCD group.
- Developed our own instructor team by creating skills videos for our students and running instructor workshops with the BSAC regional coaches.
- Kept our club members engaged and informed with a weekly newsletter, never missing a week thru 2015.
- Provided opportunities for our members to extend their diving experiences and get involved in a number of different projects including The Shipwreck Project, Project Baseline and Seasearch.
- Broadened the depth and type of diving offered to our members following detailed consultation with our diving members.
- Created a new outreach tool with our "Club Kiosk" and sent it on tour around the area driving awareness of the club, generating membership enquiries and promoting diving and BSAC in general.
- Setup our club facilities with boat storage and simple processes to make it easier than ever for members to run and attend diving trips – see page 141.
- Provided a wealth of facilities and equipment free of charge to our members, delivering real value for their £144 annual membership fee (we also maintained it at that level – with no increase in fees for the last few years).
- Introduced the formal role of a Club Safeguarding Officer as well as a new club team structure to better support our expanding activities.
- Implemented a Trainee Code of Conduct and the buddy-guard policy to ensure we involve and engage our younger members and their guardians correctly.
- We put in place a fundraising officer and applied for two Sport England Grants (see page 105).
- We have defined a six-year strategic plan and mission statement for the club, aligned to BSAC HQ's mission which will drive and focus our activity and development over the coming years to ensure we continue to drive forward and develop the club in the long term.

1.4 List of contributors to our club application

This application has been a team effort with contributions from across the club. The people contributing specific sections of this application include the following.

Neville Oldham - ECSAC Founding Member

Paul Tyers - Chairman

Kevin Phillips - Diving Officer

Simon Rice - Treasurer

Steve Welton – Equipment Officer

Mark Paisey - Training Officer

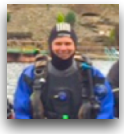
Julie Phillips – Registrar

Gemma Thomas - Assistant Training Officer

Dave Grindrod - Snorkelling Officer

Mike Vale - Snorkelling Instructor & Safeguarding Officer
(non-diver and Snorkelling Member)

Kayleigh MacCaffery - Club Member
(Marketing Officer)



Loz Broome – Club Member & Instructor

Tim Porter – Building Manager
Website Manager and Instructor

Nicole Santos - Social Secretary

Pat Spencer - Secretary

This document was also reviewed by a selection of members via paper copy left in the clubhouse for 8 weeks and with specific additional formal review feedback from Pam Tyers, Andy Bickerdike and a detailed review from Lorna Searls.

1.5 About East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club (ECSAC)

Paul Tyers – Presently ECSAC Chairman and member for over 37 years.

I have been a member of ECSAC since January 1979 and have served on the Committee as Diving Officer, Equipment Officer, Building Manager, Treasurer and Chairman both currently and for 5 years over the time of our clubhouse build; I am also a Trustee.

I trained to Dive with Trafford SAC then Sale at a time when I moved jobs from Nottingham to Manchester. It took me a year to sell my house and move my family so I needed something to fill my time during the week and was introduced to Sub Aqua. I have always been a water based individual having rowed at school and raced sailing dinghies in my teens and beyond so going underwater seemed like the next step. I was first aware of the sport at the age of 8 when on a family holiday at Tenby and seeing the local diving Club - I am also very keen on seafood!

I started training in October 1974 and qualified as an Advanced Diver (or 2nd class as it was known then) on 16th November 1977.

I bought a house near Macclesfield and was eventually introduced to ECSAC by a neighbour and as I had a young family I was looking for a local family friendly club and I wasn't disappointed. Both my children have grown up on the sides of slate quarries in Wales and on beaches by the sea in all types of weather and they tell me they remember the days with fondness. My son had his first pint at the club bar - of course he was old enough!!!

I've made lifelong friends and have had very special times in some wonderful places with some lovely people both home and abroad. I have dived with wild dolphins both in England and Ireland, basking sharks, manta rays, shoals of barracuda in Sipadan and sea snakes in the South China Sea to mention but a few. ECSAC also introduced me to skiing – seemed like a good thing to do when we couldn't dive so off to Scotland in a bus – I was much younger!

I see my position now as a link between our founders some of whom I have met and dived with and our newer members letting them know what they could achieve with East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club.

1.5.1 The history of ECSAC

The Club was formed in 1960 making it one of the oldest sports diving clubs in the UK and forms part of the British Sub Aqua Association of Clubs. We are BSAC Branch 100 indicating our early affiliation in the history of BSAC.

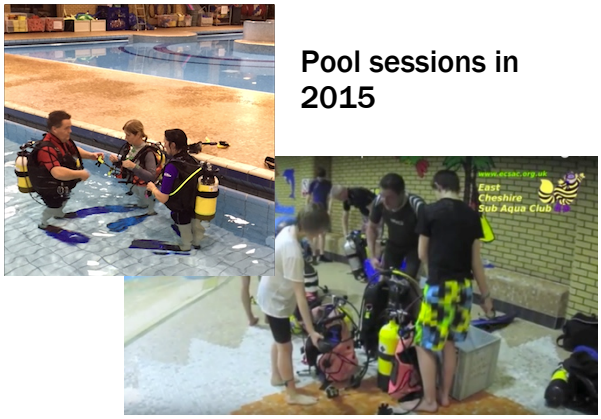
It was the dream of two men who with drive and passion created the Branch we now have.

The Club's first ever dive, which was under ice in Red Brook Reservoir saw Neville Oldham and Roy Hyde braving the elements in their homemade suits. Clearly they also had a photographer with them who it seems had more sense than to dive in the ice filled pond.

Roy & Neville also assisted the police with in-water searches as at that time the local Police did not have their own dive teams. The two pictures below show them on the first body search the club made for the Police at the Silesian College at Pott Shrigley for a young priest who had drowned while swimming.

The first club meetings were in the Highwayman public house in Rainow which was owned by our founder member Neville Oldham and over the formative years these meetings moved to a coffee bar in Queen Victoria Street and then to a rented house scheduled for demolition in Commercial Road and on to more cosy meets in the bar of the Bate Hall pub all after weekly training sessions in Macclesfield baths on a Thursday night.

We still hold our pool nights on a Thursday to this day.



Pool sessions in 2015

6 COUNTY EXPRESS. MARCH 12, 1964. CM.

SUB-AQUA CLUB SUPPER AT RAINOW

Our club members can be seen meeting at the Bate Hall pub in the photo on the left taken in 1964. A very smart bunch they look.

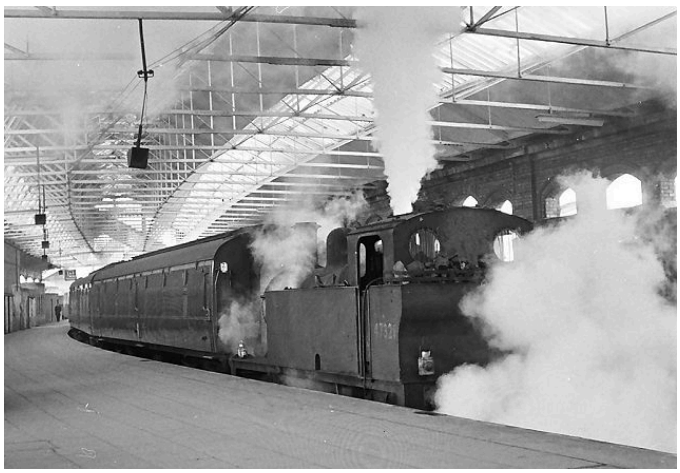
The breakthrough for the club came in 1965 when founder Chairman Stewart Davison negotiated a lease on the club's behalf of some premises in Lower Bank Street owned by Frost Mills. An exceptionally lively hot-pot supper with our Landlords as hosts resulted in the rent reduced to peppercorn proportions – a technique still utilised by the club to day to solve tricky problems!

Everybody mucked in with all the building works required to make the building suitable for club meetings and socialising including the installation of the bar, which was a clinker built boat neatly sawn in half. In honour of this, a copy of that boat has been constructed above the existing bar in our new custom-built premises as can be seen in the photo below.

Once the bar became operational club funds rapidly improved and with the help of a grant from the sports council it was not long before the club started to accumulate an enviable array of its own inflatable boats with outboards and an excellent ex-American compressor.

Over the years the club continued to improve and grow with exciting times had by one and all – a truly family club with every one involved.

The stories are endless as you would imagine but a typical one is about a group of six members who caught a train to Holyhead in 1962 and walked with their equipment on their backs to Trearddur Bay complete with camping gear to spend a weekend diving in and around the bay.



The club has developed over the years training hundreds if not thousands of people how to dive, drive boats and generally how to make the most of our wonderful seas.

The club was forced to vacate our beloved premises when the land was acquired for the building of the bypass (the new Silk Road) but in the true spirit of this merry band of members, which at the time numbered well over 100, this only represented a challenge which resulted in the fine custom built clubhouse we now own. When in 1991 planning permission was granted work commenced on building what must be one of the very best dive club facilities in the UK. (See Section 3.5.7 on page 51 for more details of that).

The 18th September 2010 saw East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club, celebrate its 50th birthday party.

We held a suitably grand party, attended by the Mayor of Macclesfield and his wife; Gordon and Felicity Baxendale, Macclesfield's former MP Sir Nicolas Winterton, the newly elected MP Mr David Rutley and BSAC representatives Phil Clifton and Debbie Powell.

This certificate is awarded to

East Cheshire Cub Aqua Club

in celebration of achieving

50 years as Branch 0100 of

British Sub-Aqua Club

and in recognition of furthering the exploration

of the

Underwater World

We also had the club's founder and life member Mr Neville Oldham and over 150 past and present members, with some coming from as far as the US just to join in the celebrations.

The highlight of the event for many was the very moving and heart-felt speech by Neville. "It's not the building, or the boats that make the club it's the members" was exemplified by the hard work and commitment put in by so many to make the event the success it was. To say it exceeded expectations is an understatement.

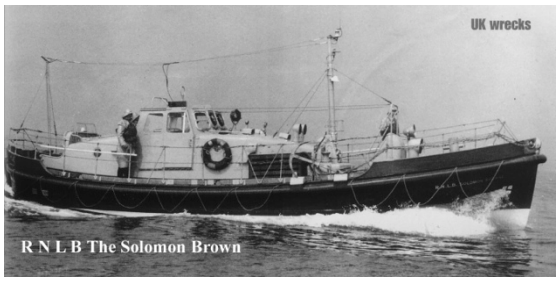
The birthday party was the culmination of a year of activities to celebrate the 50th year of the club which included a 'Diving Through The Ages Event' at Macclesfield leisure centre, where club members had a chance to try a variety of equipment including a hard hat supplied by the Historic Diving Society, the re-launch of the photographic competition and a very special Annual Dinner Dance at the start of the year.

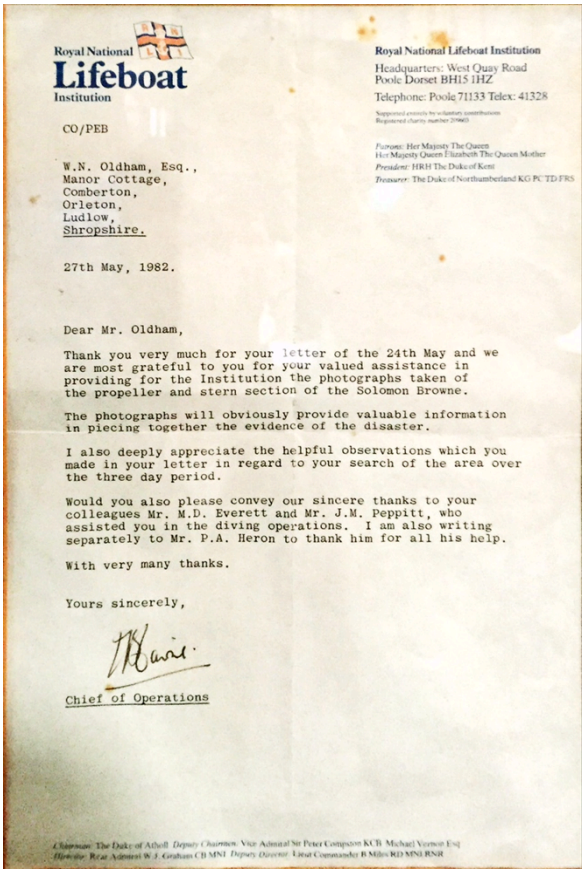
Early Characters of the Club

Since then the club has continued to develop, we have faced some challenges but always come out stronger, this application outlines the current position, one of strength we hope driven by the enthusiasm and effort of the current growing membership.

The finding of the stern section of the Solomon Brown by club members

One of the many notable items in the story of the club was our involvement in a piece of maritime history. On 19th December 1981 the Penlee lifeboat the "Solomon Browne" was launched in hurricane force winds to go to the rescue of the Coaster the "Union Star" that had got into difficulties off the coast of Cornwall. A Sea King Helicopter from RNAS Culdrose was unable to lift any of the crew or passengers from the ship. Whilst the Solomon Browne managed to get 4 of the crew off the "Union Star" the lifeboat made further attempts to rescue the rest of the people on board but to no avail and both vessels were lost together with the loss of all crew and passengers. In total 16 people died. It was one of the worst disasters in the RNLI's history and a devastating blow for the village of Penlee. How, why and where the boats went down remained a mystery despite the RNLI employing a team of professional divers to look for both wrecks for a number of months. The mystery remained unsolved until Easter 1982 when a group of divers from East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club were diving on Buck Rocks out of Lamorna Cove. Here they found a maroon anorak that turned out to belong to the Coxswain Trevelyan Richards of the "Solomon Browne". They left a marker on the anorak and reported the find to Falmouth Coastguard. A further dive was done and the wreck of the "Solomon Browne" was found: a rope was found round one of its propellers and a hatch allowing the crew access to the propeller was missing. The divers who did these initial dives were John Wright, Stuart Andrew (Angus), Pat Heron and Tony Wilkinson. Further dives took place and photographs were taken of the wreck and can be seen in our clubhouse along with the letter of thanks we received from the RNLI. These divers were Neville Oldham, Mick Everett, Mick Pepitt, and Pat Heron. The information provided by ECSAC divers proved invaluable to the inquest into the loss of the "Union Star" and the "Solomon Browne". For a start both were outside the area the professional divers were looking and they were much deeper, over 40m (130ft) rather than 20m (60ft). It seemed that the "Union Star" had been thrown on top of the "Solomon Browne" and it was her rope that had fouled the lifeboats propeller, rendering her unsteerable.





Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Headquarters: West Quay Road
Poole Dorset BH15 1HZ
Telephone: Poole 71133 Telex: 41328

Patrons: Her Majesty The Queen
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
President: HRH The Duke of Kent
Treasurer: The Duke of Northumberland KG PC TD FRS

CO/PEB

W.N. Oldham, Esq.,
Manor Cottage,
Comberton,
Orleton,
Ludlow,
Shropshire.

27th May, 1982.

Dear Mr. Oldham,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 24th May and we are most grateful to you for your valued assistance in providing for the Institution the photographs taken of the propeller and stern section of the Solomon Browne.

The photographs will obviously provide valuable information in piecing together the evidence of the disaster.

I also deeply appreciate the helpful observations which you made in your letter in regard to your search of the area over the three day period.

Would you also please convey our sincere thanks to your colleagues Mr. M.D. Everett and Mr. J.M. Peppitt, who assisted you in the diving operations. I am also writing separately to Mr. P.A. Heron to thank him for all his help.

With very many thanks.

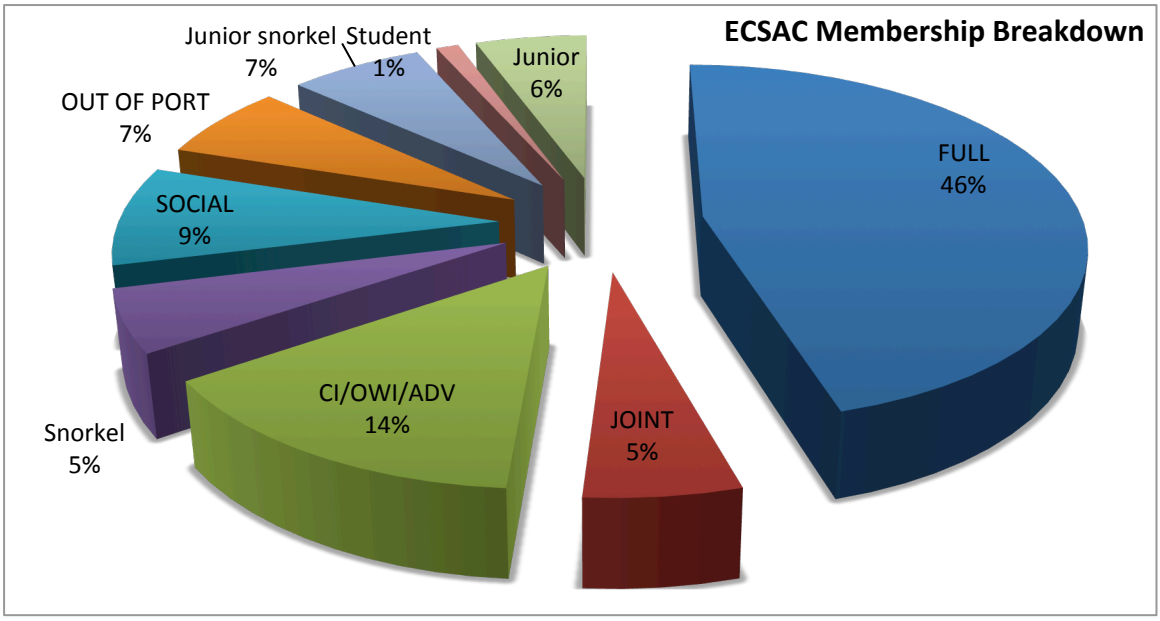
Yours sincerely,

Chief of Operations

2 Membership

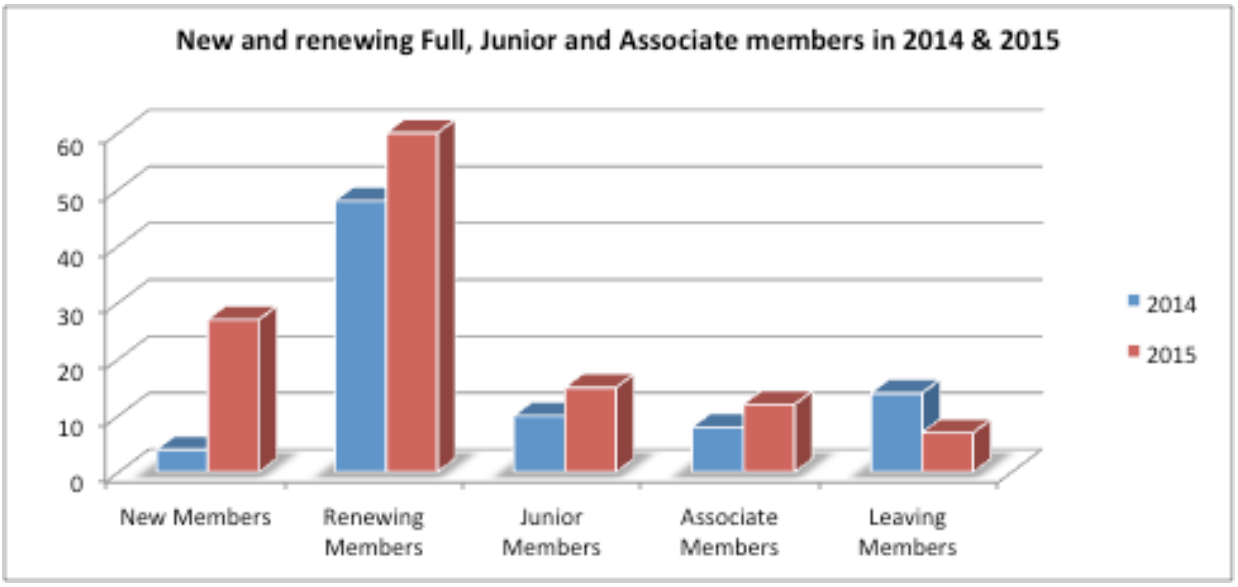
2.1 Numbers

ECSAC grew to a total of 89 members in 2015, this includes juniors, snorkelers and social members, the breakdown of these into the various categories we have is as follows:

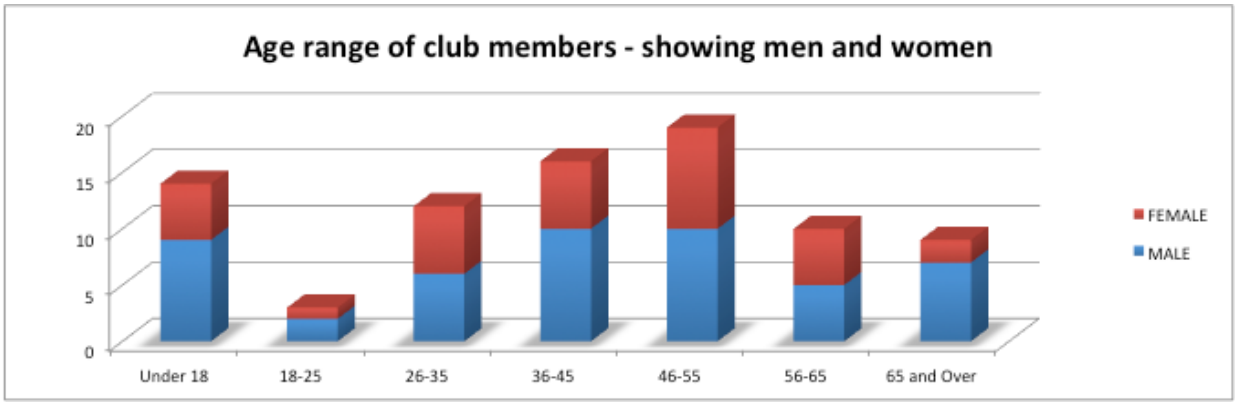


Our renewal rate for 2015 was 93% and comparing 2014 and 2015 it is clear that we achieved a much higher renewal rate (2014 having a renewal rate of only 80%).

The graph below shows a comparison of new vs renewing members in 2014 and 2015.



The club has a good balance of men and women with 41% of the members being women and 59% being men. The average age of our club members is 43, although this is brought down slightly by the non-divers in our snorkelling section. If we exclude the non-divers in the club then the average age is 47.



Using information from BSAC HQ and observing the presentations at the BSAC Conference in 2015 it is apparent that BSAC Membership overall is presently on a downward trend. In 2015 BSAC membership overall was about 28,000 members[1], reducing year on year by about 500, continuing a trend of an annual reduction of around 2%. East Cheshire had seen a higher reduction over the preceding years. From 2012 to 2013 our membership fees income reduced by over 4%. From 2013 to 2014 we saw a dramatic reduction of over 25%. This brought the club close to crisis as projecting our ongoing standing costs showed that if membership continued to fall then the club would not be financially viable in the future particularly as we have annual maintenance costs for equipment and boats and charges to keep the clubhouse operational. By taking action in a number of areas we were able to turn this around.

2015 saw an increase in our branch membership from 70 at the start of the year[2] up to 89. This was from a low in 2013 of less that 60 members and was an overall increase in membership from 2014 of 27%. Compared to 2013 this was a total increase of 50%. This was driven largely by efforts to attract new members and trainees via try dives, promotional activity and to raise our profile in the diving community in general and to expand the appeal of the club to a wider range of divers (including already qualified divers) and to retain more of our existing membership by seeking to deliver more trips and a wider range of diving options that appealed to existing members.

We ran a programme of promotions and try dives and extended our use of social media and Youtube seeking to promote the facilities and friendliness of the club – for more details see section 2.6 Promotion: on page 31.

In addition to the promotional activities we ran to attract new members we also targeted previous members who had left the club and managed to get 3 of them to rejoin as we had started to provide more diving trips and activities that delivered what they were looking for from the club. See section 4.1.5 on page 58. We actively canvassed past

[1] Metrics supplied by the BSAC HQ membership team.

[2] Taken from the BSAC Monthly Branch emails supplied by HQ.

members and sought to understand why they had moved away; some had given up diving and some were simply not aware of what the club was now doing. We extended our communications (weekly club emails) to ex-members who expressed an interest and this enabled them to keep in touch with what we were doing and also encouraged them to re-join. This is ongoing.

7 people left the club during the year - 2 of these left the area, 1 lost his job, 1 was due to the arrival of a new baby, 1 gave up diving altogether and the other 2 decided that they could no longer justify the cost as they rarely dived. Viz at our nearest dive locations did not help this either.

2.2 Senior Members

38% of our members have been members of ECSAC for over 10 years.

An analysis of our members reveals that 63% of divers in the club are Sport Diver and above, 44% are Dive Leader and above.

Diver and Snorkel Grades in the Club

FCD	1
Advanced Divers	16
Dive Leaders	22
Sport Divers	16
Ocean Divers	9
Ocean Trainees	13
Snorkelers	1
Snorkel Trainees	9

We recognise that providing interesting and varied diving is key to retaining these divers in the club. In order to ensure that we got input from across the club we decided to conduct three surveys during the year, the first to establish the sort of diving that people would be interested in, the second to see what training people wanted and the third was a survey of all those who were qualified as dive managers in the club to find out what trips they were prepared to run and wanted to partake in. With all of this data we were able to plan a programme of trips and training that appealed to all of our members and ensure that the more experienced divers in the club were able to do the kind of diving (and other activities) they were interested in without being tied to supporting less experienced divers.

The surveys showed that although the more experienced divers were happy to provide some support (for training and easier diving with newly qualified divers) they also wanted the opportunity to do more challenging diving and also other activities outside of the normal dives. This led us to run a number of additional dive outings and to expand our diving into a number of more adventurous areas, including mixed gas diving, deeper air diving (down to 48m) as well as adding a number of new activities to “normal” dive weekends such as water skiing and wakeboarding for which we extended the club boat insurance and purchased a set of watersports equipment that is now available to the whole club.

We also included the experienced divers in survey dives for the platform project and ensured that they were invited to join our project diving, see section 4.1.7.11 on page 70 and sections 4.2 and 4.3 on page 77.

2.3 Snorkelling

Our Snorkelling group has been in existence for a number of years but was really pushed into overdrive with the involvement of Dave Grindrod and more recently Mike Vale who is a dedicated Snorkelling Instructor (Mike is not actually qualified to dive, he is a qualified snorkelling instructor and focuses solely on that for our club). We are very proud of our Snorkelling Section and see it as an integral and important part of the club, we have trained over 150 snorkelers over the last few years with ages ranging from 6 to 75. ECSAC got recognition of its great snorkelling section from BSAC HQ as ECSAC were lucky enough to win the award for "Snorkelling Branch of the Year" in 2012.

Mike Vale – Club Safeguarding Officer, Snorkel Instructor.

I have been a keen snorkeler since my childhood in Cornwall and later on the east coast of Scotland.

My first contact with the club was in early 2009 ahead of a planned family holiday to Greece later that summer. I had 2 boys aged 9 and 12 at the time, both strong swimmers, but I was aware I was self-taught and very keen that they should learn to snorkel properly. I think I offered to help our instructor, Dave, one week and before I knew it we had all joined the club. I found I really enjoyed instructing families and groups of cubs and scouts, and I became a snorkelling instructor in early 2010.

I formed strong friendships with Dave and other members of the club. Together with Dave and others, the snorkelling section of the club has been very successful over recent years training scout groups - we have built up contacts with a number of groups who return every 2 or 3 years, attracting snorkelling members not just children of club members, organising snorkelling trips to Anglesey, the Lakes, even Salford Quays! (which is far more fascinating that you'd think - clear water full of fish life especially where they oxygenate the water). In 2012 we won the BSAC Snorkelling Branch of the Year. For details of that see page 19.

Both my sons progressed through snorkelling qualifications and my youngest Alex has recently completed his Ocean Diver qualification and is progressing to Sports Diver (and Triple Decker Capernwray burgers!)

When I was in my teens I had wanted to join a diving club on the east coast of Scotland, but at that time (or for that club) diving membership was not permitted until 16, although I did attend some trips in a non- diving capacity the opportunity passed. So I have always yearned to learn to dive but each year snorkelling commitments and instructing have kept me busy, perhaps this year....

East Cheshire have a great group of instructors so the opportunity is there for me to get qualified and join my son and dive on some of the club trips in 2016.

Dave Grindrod OWI and Snorkel Instructor.

I have always had an interest in snorkelling from being young and always hoped that the next holiday would be set along a rocky coastline. Most of our holidays were along the North Wales coast and Anglesey. The main reason for running the courses is to offer the same opportunity to youngsters who might not otherwise get the chance.

I am an Advanced Diver and Open Water Instructor as I have been diving since 1996. I also trained and became an Open Water Snorkelling Instructor in 2005.

I moved to Hazel Grove in 2008 and looked for a club closer to my new home and joined ECSAC the same year. There had been a snorkelling group at the club in the past but with nobody running it at that time I took on the role of generating some renewed interest. Following an initial basic snorkel diver course with Chelford Scouts in 2008 we have had a stream of Scout groups coming to the club ever since based on word of mouth recommendation from one group to another and now regularly host both Scouts, Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts and Girl Guides within the club. Our most recent courses were run for Hazel Grove Sea Scouts and saw 12 Scouts complete the course and take part in a specially arranged Try-Dive session at the end of the course. Even going an underwater investiture with representation from their regional scouting team!

2.3.1 Pool Sessions

We run our pool sessions weekly alongside the scuba training in the pool on a Thursday night. This gives us the ability to share pool marshals to a degree and also aids us integrating the snorkelling section into the scuba training activity.

We are allocated half of the pool as we usually have a large number of snorkelers in the water, this also allows us to setup underwater obstacles and games and use the three meter deep end as well.

2.3.2 Developing Open Water Snorkelling.

Open water training and snorkel dives had been conducted in those areas generally used for scuba shore diving. Our Snorkelling Group have been to Capernwray snorkelling on the 6m to 8m platforms. We have received some interesting looks from scuba trainees wondering why they need all that kit if it can be done with a snorkel and also some compliments from seasoned scuba instructors. Our own instructors often comment on how much more comfortable trainees are doing try dives in the pool if they have been through the basic snorkelling experience beforehand. Progression from feeding the trout in the shallows through to drills using the platforms and then depth progression to the top of the horses then down to the Orca are all-possible. Viz is usually very good particularly around the Orca and this area tends to be relatively diver free ! The only problem here is that there is no relaxation on the price for children or snorkelers.

Devil's Bridge on the River Lune close to Capernwray is a very good fresh water site, there is also a burger van and plenty of space for picnics on a nice day. The water depth varies from the shallows to 6m under the bridge where duck diving for "loot" can be very productive. Unfortunately the last mobile phone that I found had some water damage !! I have both scuba dived and snorkeled here and there is more to see snorkelling from the surface than scuba diving to the river bed.

Our sea dives mainly take place around the North Wales coast and Anglesey. Chris Holden's Underwater Guides to North Wales volumes 1 and 2 are an excellent source of information and we are working our way through his suggested snorkelling sites.

One such site is Ravenspoint Gulley which we have snorkeled on a number of occasions.

We try and mix snorkelling with other outdoor activities such as camping, hill walking and fishing so that there is always something to do if the weather is not in our favour. One of the main advantages of Anglesey is that you can always find a sheltered snorkel diving site and last year was no exception. We found a sheltered site off Penrhos beach for snorkelling in the morning and then did some sea fishing in the afternoon, with Alex (one of Mike's sons) catching a sea bass which we had around a campfire tea (with one or two burgers to help it along!!). We have also snorkeled around the Ravenspoint Gully area many times and have managed to dive

on the boilers of the Bothilde Russ, dive 10.1 in Chris Holden's volume 1 North Wales guide as well.

Anita Sherwood's book “Top British Shore Dives” is also an excellent reference for some of the shallower venues and its identification guide at the back as is the new article in the SCUBA magazine "Torbet on the Tube".

Dave bought a 3m inflatable with a 9.8hp engine to give us some additional flexibility in where we can go snorkelling. Many of the better areas are hidden around headlands where a long snorkel swim would be needed to access these areas from a beach. More adventurous dives are also made possible by the fact that the club has two large RIBs which can offer backup if we go diving and snorkel in the same general location. We have also run specific snorkelling trips when the boats were dedicated to the snorkelling group. Many of the divers have caravans at Rhoscolyn which enables us to use that as a base.

We are also looking closer to home for venues where we can safely train in open water and a number of watersports centres have been approached. Our dive team have also now installed a scuba platform in Salford Quays so this venue is one that we can use in the future. We are also planning to use the inflatable as boat cover which will allow us to work on boat entry and exit skills etc before we take to less sheltered sites along the coast.

We play several of the games suggested in the BSAC snorkelling book and Mike Vale picked some up when he completed the Instructor course. We play underwater bingo and lifting weighted milk cartons by blowing into them under water to improve confidence. Once our trainees have completed the basic snorkel diver / experience snorkelling course we encourage them to play games during our pool sessions with equipment we have made. Mike has egg (ping pong ball) and spoons for racing and we let them play octopush once they have gained the basic skills.

One instructional aid rather than a game that I have developed is to tape a single bubble from bubble wrap to toy soldiers (divers) and then to weight them using blu tac. It is possible to make them neutrally buoyant so I have 2 transparent tanks one with tap water and the other I get them to pour in salt. They each have a diver and weight them to make them neutrally buoyant in one or other of the tanks then have to figure out what will happen if you swop them to the other tank. They can then see with their own eyes what is going to happen transferring from fresh to sea water and can gain an understanding of why they will become negatively buoyant with a wetsuit and weights on.

The club has now also created the position of Safeguarding Officer and having reviewed the safeguarding information provided with the new snorkelling resource material and the BuddyGuard scheme from BSAC we now have a safeguarding policy which helps us maintain a significant ratio of younger members in the club, both divers and snorkelers. This demonstrates our commitment to integrating the younger members of the club. it also helps us integrate young snorkelers and divers into the club training, trips and pool sessions. See the example safeguarding letter on page 136.

2.3.3 Recognition of our Snorkelling Group by BSAC.

In 2012 the club was awarded the accolade of "Snorkelling Branch of the Year" an accolade we are very proud of.

This also led to us being featured in Scuba Magazine.

SCUBA Hub

East Cheshire's snorkelling heroes

APOLOGIES to East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club (ECSAC), who should have been credited in December's issue as winners of the Scubapro Snorkelling Branch of the Year Award.

Members of ECSAC attended the BSAC Diving Conference at the recent Birmingham Dive Show to receive certificates and snorkelling kits from Scubapro's Andy Shears.

ECSAC's young snorkel members Tom Laverick, 11, Heather Laverick, nine and Will Laverick, [illegible] put together this report on why they enjoy being part of the club: "Do you want to try out snorkelling? ECSAC Macclesfield is a great place to be.

We snorkellers are very eager, and love the training nights. We are all under the age of 14 and we always have loads of fun at the training sessions. We are all qualified snorkellers so we do lots of life saving training nowadays, like throwing in a rope to a pretend drowning person. We play lots of games like octopush, underwater bingo and lifting weights by blowing in to a milk bottle.

We all love meeting up with each other and have made many new friends. In the future we would like to snorkel in the sea as we have only snorkelled in Salford quays so far. We really enjoyed it and saw pike and perch and fry and a key, and the most amazing thing we saw was a sunbed. The instructors are really nice and kind. The highlight of the year was probably when we won the BSAC snorkel club of the year and won all the new kit. Also we can't wait to go on our brand new RIB."

14 SCUBA

2.4 Administration

2.4.1 Branch Organisation and Committee

Our branch reconfigured its committee and volunteer structure in 2015 with a detailed new structure being approved by the committee. The new structure is set out in the diagram below - a larger version is available on page 125.

The club is a branch member of BSAC. The club constitution and rules adhere to those set out by BSAC.

We have a detailed Management Manual that sets out how the club works and this document can be found on page 118 in the Appendices.

As per the constitution the club assets and financial matters are managed by an elected committee. The committee consists of Chair, Vice, Treasurer, Secretary, Diving Officer, Equipment Officer, Building and Bar Managers plus 4 general members. (See our team structure at Appendix 7.2, on page 118.

Sub committees : DO liaises with Training and Assistant Training Officers

Equipment officer liaises with RIB and compressor teams as well as the equipment team who work on specific projects as they arise.

The Bar sub-committee helps with managing bar and functions.

Social Secretary helps to organise functions and fund raising events.

Buildings Manager co-opts willing volunteers for maintenance and cleaning of the clubhouse and we run working parties once a month.

Suggestion Box, and the weekly “What’s on” newsletter as well as the all members email mailing list via Google groups involves all members. Asset register sets out all responsibilities and club rules.

The AGM adheres to BSAC constitutional rules. Held every year in March. For details of the Agenda and presentations given at the 2015 AGM see page 126.

2.4.2 Club Strategic Plan and Objectives

One of the keys to our success in 2015 has been a focus on organising the club in a way that ensures we direct our energies into the right things and ensuring we use our limited resources (money and people) to the best effect.

In 2015 we drafted our Club Strategic Plan, which identified the key objectives the club should be focused on and set out a long-term plan for their delivery.

At the highest level the strategic plan was formed of two parts. The immediate Mission and Objectives (intended to align to BSAC HQ's mission) and the longer term objectives.

ECSAC – 6 Year Plan

Mission and Objectives

2016

Mission

"To protect, maintain, develop and grow the club and its assets to the benefit of its membership with a focus on promoting and delivering More diving* and snorkeling activities that meet the preferences and enhance the enjoyment of the members of the club".

High Level Objectives

- Grow the membership to 100 by end of 2016, then onward to 200 by 2020
- Grow our diving in terms of volume and diversity to safely* conduct at least 1500 dives per year by 2020
- Maintain a stable financial position, not falling below £10k cash at hand (1 years normal running costs)
- Seek to obtain at least 10% of our annual running costs by way of grants or awards every year (i.e. £1,000)
- Run at least 6 socials per year, including events that extend beyond our membership
- Deliver a "special interest project" at least annually
- Maintain high levels of satisfaction within the membership and seek their input on this annually**
- Maintain a strategic plan, approved annually by the committee and membership at the AGM
- Report on the progress of delivery of the strategic plan and objectives on an annual basis at the AGM.

** - All club diving to conducted within BSAC's safe diving guidelines.*
***- Conduct at least one annual survey of members seeking their input on objectives and satisfaction with the club.*

and the 6 year plan, that sets out our longer term objectives.

ECSAC – 6 Year Plan

Delivering our vision- draft objectives

2015
Stabilise the decline in members
Obtain grant for engine + A-Frame
Sort the land situation
Deliver Platform Project
Make club trips easier
Deliver 1000 club dives

2017
Achieve 110 members
Replace the Delta Engines
Put in permanent surface on the car park
Replace the kitchen in the club
Deliver one grant funded project
Replace the Minibus
Conduct a large "Club expedition" with BSAC BEGS funding

2019
Achieve 150 members
Conduct more than 1300 club dives
Conduct a large "Club expedition"

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

2016
Achieve 100 members, maintain growth
Obtain grant for training kit
Deliver 7 x socials
Expand community outreach
Agree strategic plan
Identify fundraising targets and projects and put in place a fundraising plan
Formalise the land registry situation

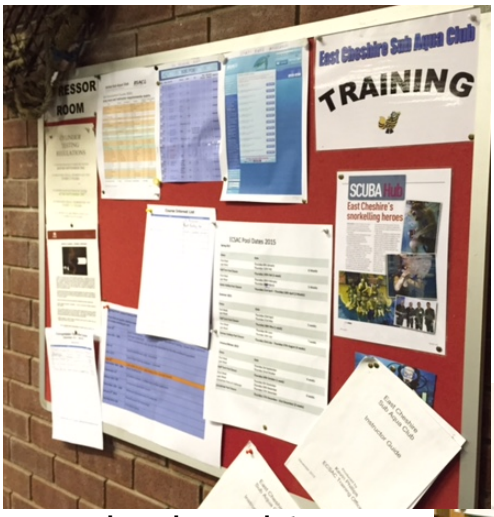
2018
Achieve 125 members
Conduct more than 1200 club dives
Seek BSAC BEGS funding for one club expedition
Apply for BSAC Jubilee Trust awards

2020
Achieve 200 members
Replace the Delta with a new boat
Conduct more than 1300 club dives

2.5 Information

2.5.1 Newsletters and Noticeboards

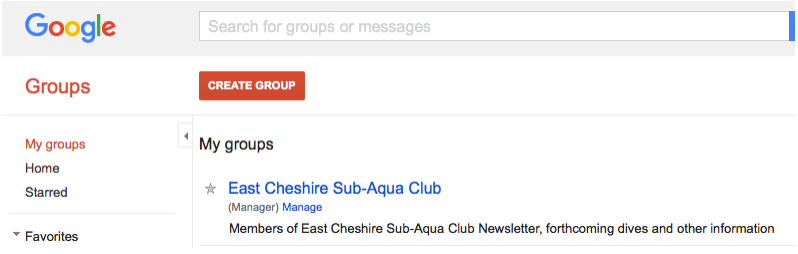
We maintain four noticeboards in our clubhouse, one for social events, one for training, one for trips and a further noticeboard for our snorkelling section.



In addition to these points of reference for members and visitors we also have verbal club announcements led by our Club Chairman on our weekly club nights so that those people who are in the clubhouse get to hear news straight from the horse's mouth and before it is sent out more widely via email and other methods.

We also provide our members a weekly newsletter via email See section 7.13 on page 148, these are comprehensive updates on all aspects of the club, from social events, dive plans, training, working parties, club nights, pool times and committee meetings etc. We also maintain a mailing list that enables club members to automatically email the entire membership if they have announcements or requests to make. This is accessed via Google Groups at macc_scuba@googlegroups.com. This is a closed and moderated email mailing list which avoids spam finding its was to our members inboxes.

Over the year we average about 2 emails per week via the google group email list, it is used for a variety of purposes including trip announcements, selling dive kit, announcing social events and ensuring members are aware of key activities and news from around the club.



We also have a suggestion box in the clubhouse so that members can make requests anonymously if they wish – these are reviewed monthly by the committee.

We include our dive plans in our weekly newsletters as well as putting printed copies up on our noticeboard at the club. This is an example of one sent out in April 2015. It was maintained and reissued weekly throughout the year as new trips were added.

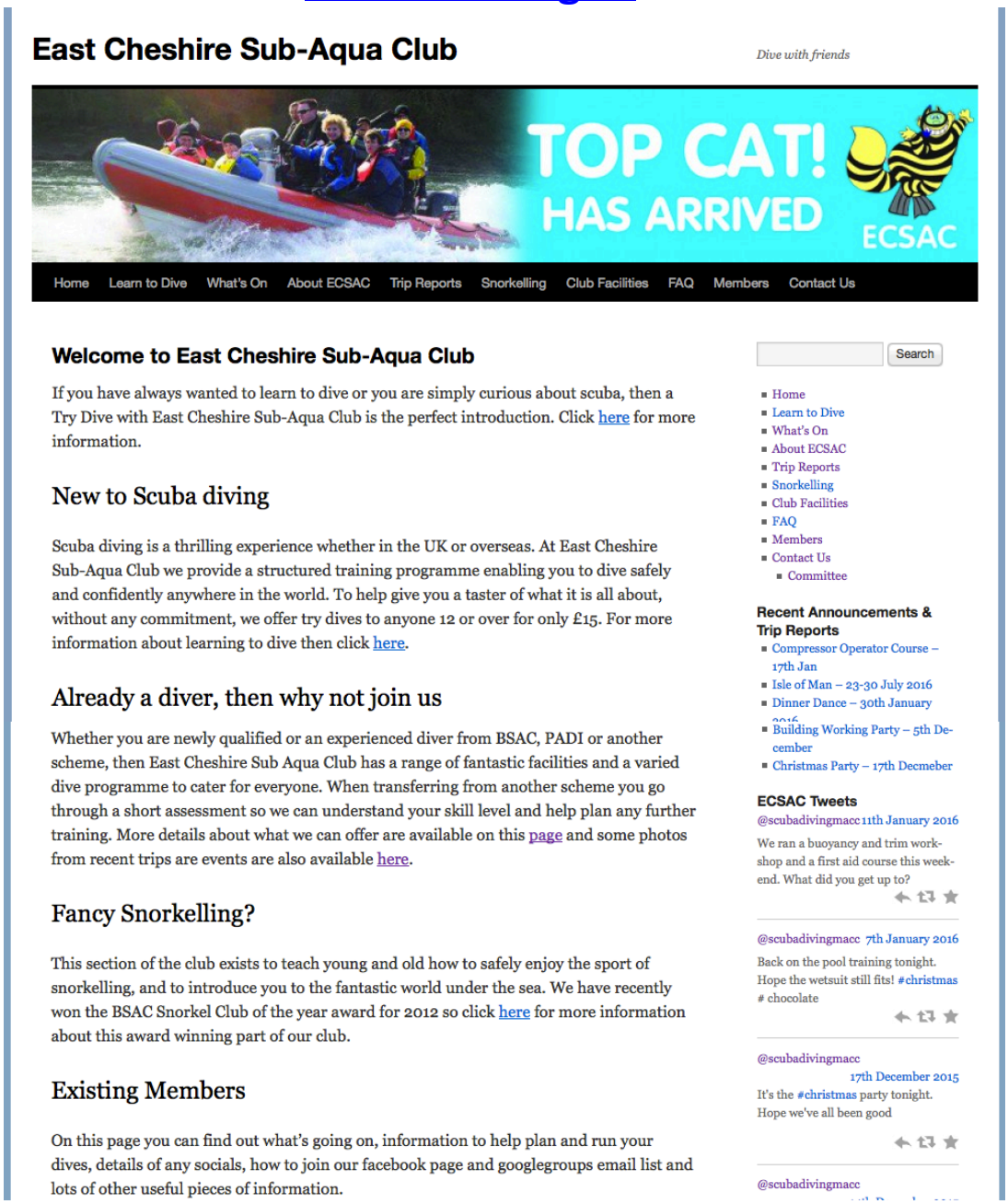
Weekend	Trip Type	Trip Organiser
May good diving weekends		
2nd – 4th Bank holiday weekend – 2 days before spring	Diving + Chartwork and Position Fixing (Diving to take precidence)	Mark Paisey + support from Assistant Dive Manager TBA
9th – 10th neap	Sports Diver/Dive Leader	Amanda/Simon Lowrie
23th – 25th Bank holiday weekend - moving towards neap	Diving	Mark Hickson (We need a tow vehicle to collect the boat)
June good diving weekends		
Springs and neaps are mid-week		
13th – 14th neap ish		
27th – 28th neap (best weekend in June!)	Ocean/Sports Dive/training weekend from Topcat including Search and Recovery SDC (Aiming to have both boats and run diving as well)	Mark Paisey + support from Assistant Dive Manager TBA
July good diving weekends		
11th – 12th neap		
25th – 26th neap		
August good diving weekends		
8th – 9th neap	Sports Diver/Dive Leader	Amanda/Simon Lowrie
22nd – 23rd neap	Ocean/Sports Dive/training weekend from Topcat	Mark Paisey + support from Assistant Dive Manager TBA
29th- 31st Bank holiday – 31st is one day off spring		
September good diving weekends		
Springs and neaps are closer to mid-week		
5th – 6th coming on to neap		
19th - 20th coming on to neap	Isle of Man Trip (Both Boats?)	Mark Allen

2.5.2 Club Website

By Tim Porter – Website Manager and Building Officer.

We maintain a club website and direct prospective members to it for information about the club and what we provide as well as contact details for club officers (particularly our membership secretary). Our members also have access to a number of documents and processes that are kept on hidden members areas on the website.

Our Website can be access at www.ecsac.org.uk



East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club

Dive with friends

TOP CAT! HAS ARRIVED ECSAC

Home | Learn to Dive | What's On | About ECSAC | Trip Reports | Snorkelling | Club Facilities | FAQ | Members | Contact Us

Welcome to East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club

If you have always wanted to learn to dive or you are simply curious about scuba, then a Try Dive with East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club is the perfect introduction. Click here for more information.

New to Scuba diving

Scuba diving is a thrilling experience whether in the UK or overseas. At East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club we provide a structured training programme enabling you to dive safely and confidently anywhere in the world. To help give you a taster of what it is all about, without any commitment, we offer try dives to anyone 12 or over for only £15. For more information about learning to dive then click here.

Already a diver, then why not join us

Whether you are newly qualified or an experienced diver from BSAC, PADI or another scheme, then East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club has a range of fantastic facilities and a varied dive programme to cater for everyone. When transferring from another scheme you go through a short assessment so we can understand your skill level and help plan any further training. More details about what we can offer are available on this page and some photos from recent trips are events are also available here.

Fancy Snorkelling?

This section of the club exists to teach young and old how to safely enjoy the sport of snorkelling, and to introduce you to the fantastic world under the sea. We have recently won the BSAC Snorkel Club of the year award for 2012 so click here for more information about this award winning part of our club.

Existing Members

On this page you can find out what's going on, information to help plan and run your dives, details of any socials, how to join our facebook page and googlegroups email list and lots of other useful pieces of information.

Search

- Home
- Learn to Dive
- What's On
- About ECSAC
- Trip Reports
- Snorkelling
- Club Facilities
- FAQ
- Members
- Contact Us
  - Committee

Recent Announcements & Trip Reports

- Compressor Operator Course – 17th Jan
- Isle of Man – 23-30 July 2016
- Dinner Dance – 30th January 2016
- Building Working Party – 5th December
- Christmas Party – 17th Decmeber

ECSAC Tweets

@scubadivingmacc 11th January 2016
We ran a buoyancy and trim workshop and a first aid course this weekend. What did you get up to?

@scubadivingmacc 7th January 2016
Back on the pool training tonight. Hope the wetsuit still fits! #christmas # chocolate

@scubadivingmacc 17th December 2015
It's the #christmas party tonight. Hope we've all been good

@scubadivingmacc

Membership

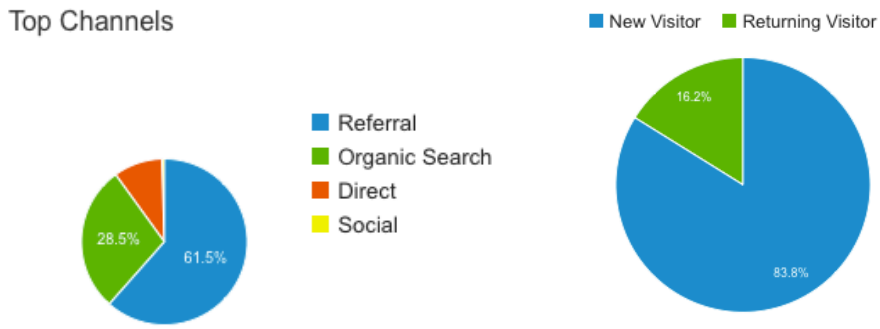
The structure of the website is laid out as a simple hierarchy that is easy to navigate from the banner on the top of each page,

Home | Learn to Dive | What's On | About ECSAC | Trip Reports | Snorkelling | Club Facilities | FAQ | Members | Contact Us

This banner provides one click access to each of the sub-pages within the site.

The structure of the site is as per the site map below.

During 2015 our website had a total of 4680 hits and generated a number of enquiries for try-dives and membership. We have a dedicated website manager, Tim Porter, who is an IT expert and maintains the content on a regular basis. Tim is also currently the building manager who is responsible for the Clubhouse. We review the Google Analytics on our website and this allows us to tailor the content, some interesting data as below:



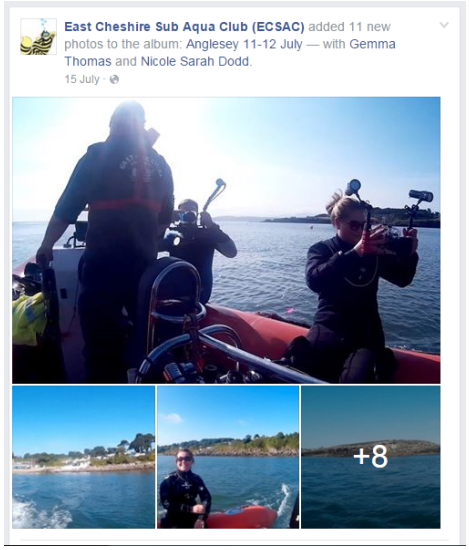
2.5.3 Social Media

We are regular users of social media, using our twitter account and Facebook to push out details of social events and regular updates on out trips and activities.

Social media accounts used by the club include:

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/scubadivingmacclesfield

From pictures and videos from our latest trips to snippets of news from all over the underwater world our Facebook page is managed in such a way to reach out to new divers but also being an effective way for our club members to keep up to date with the latest trips and events. Facebook also gives us the opportunity to stay in touch with other BSAC clubs in the UK and abroad. We also want to show new divers that there is much more to UK diving than they think.



YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCTX620Byqw/

Our YouTube page is regularly updated by our diving officer 'Kevin Phillips' with a variety of videos, local and abroad, if a picture paints a thousand words then a video must definitely be better! We hope to attract new divers to the underwater world as well as demonstrating to trained divers what ECSAC has to offer.

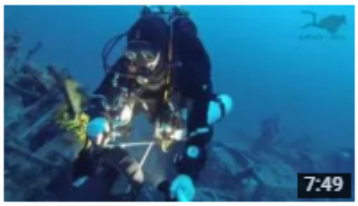
Popular uploads

Diving in Capernwray on the new Plane Wreck and with the...
254,671 views • 5 years ago

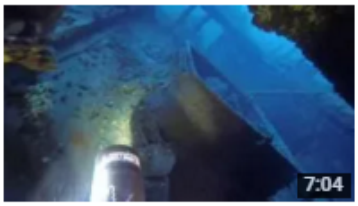
Diving Malta - Wrecks, reefs, a cave and a Seahorse!
43,454 views • 5 years ago

Scuba Diving Blue Pool, Llangollen, Wales (+Underwate...
15,842 views • 5 years ago

Uploads



Tech Diving Malta with Jack Ingle - November 2015
269 views • 1 week ago



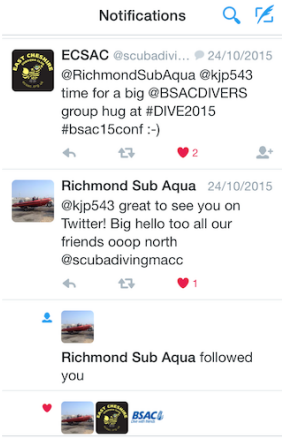
Diving the Polynesian deep wreck on Malta
78 views • 1 week ago

Dive Scooter testing in Capernwray with Daf..
237 views • 1 month ago

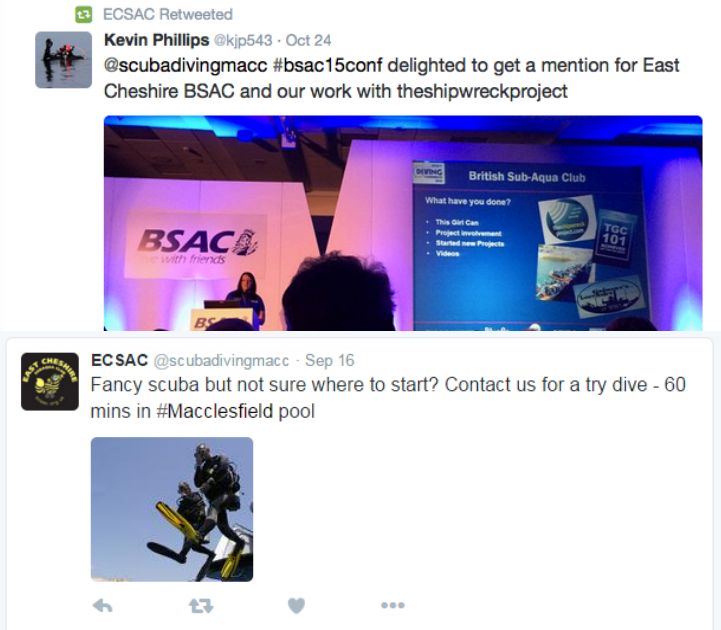
Twitter @scubadivingmacc

We regularly tweet updates on our club activities, social events and outings and also provide updates via our Facebook page in an effort to keep our members informed as well as publicise the club more widely.

Our Twitter account has a live feed on our website with over 270 followers we can reach out and engage with a much larger audience. Using hashtags makes us discoverable to other social media users, clubs and committees. Twitter gives us the opportunity to get noticed by local media and other groups in our community such as scouts and girl guides, hopefully appealing to our next generation of club members.



We have successfully been re-tweeted from a variety of sources and this has raised the profile of the club and of BSAC worldwide.



That picture on the left brings us on to how we make special provisions for any new member who joins our club. It may begin following a try dive or perhaps a recommendation from a current club member, when a new or experienced diver joins the club we make every effort to make them feel welcome.

Our exposure on Twitter is Local

As well as international

Website - http://www.ecsac.org.uk/

Membership

2.5.4 Special provisions made for new members on joining

Every new member receives a welcome email from the Diving Officer. This is sent to new members directly after they join and a short introduction for each new member is included in the weekly newsletter along with a photograph of them so other members can recognise them at the club and events and are in a position to welcome them. Examples are provide below of both of these, as well as the full newsletters for 2015 in section 7.13 on page 148.

Extract from the club newsletter, 28th September 2015.

New Members

We welcome Megan Proffit this week. Please say hello and make her welcome if you see her around the club. She starts Ocean Diver pool training next week and will be attending the Ocean Diver Theory session on Tuesday night.

Example welcome email sent to all Members upon joining (tailored to the individual).

From: <diveofficer@ecsac.org.uk>
Date: Wed, 30 Sep 2015 10:56:34 +0100
Subject: Welcome to East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club!

xxxx,
Welcome to East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club! It was good to meet you last night.

Thanks for joining the club, as a member you now have access to all the facilities the club owns and you are most welcome to come to the clubhouse any Thursday (the club and bar opens every week from 9pm at the latest). We would encourage you to come to the club when you can, and particularly after each of the training sessions with your Instructor (xxxx). You will get a warm welcome and be able to chat with other members and keep up with goings on around the club, you will also be able to chat with your instructor about progress on your training and get your training book signed off. You will be making use of the pool, we use this weekly from 8-9pm (except for school holidays). The pool fee is £4, payable on the night. If you have any questions or need any help with training then for Scuba training you need to contact Gemma who is copied this mail or alternatively Mark Paisey (who is our Training Officer).

You will from now on receive a weekly newsletter from our Google Groups mailing list, (a copy of the last one is attached FYI) this is a weekly email that gets sent to every member of the club on a Monday, it will keep you up to date on what is going on around the club and also provides details of pool dates, upcoming trips and training planned.

As I mentioned last night I will include a welcome message for you in the weekly newsletter next week and will include your photo as you agreed so that people at the club will be able to recognise you.

All in all I hope you enjoy being a member of the club and are able to make the most of what we can offer.

I look forward to diving with you soon and in the meantime if you have any questions then please feel free to ask.

Many Thanks

Kevin
Kevin Phillips
ECSAC Diving Officer
East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club – BSAC Branch 100
http://www.ecsac.org.uk/
E: kevinjp@btinternet.com T: 07896 625215
Check out our club video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCTX620Byqw

In addition to the welcome we provide to new members we also provide a copy of the club's Trainee Code of Conduct (see section 7.6 on page 135) as well as pointing parents of under 18 members towards the BSAC Safeguarding Policy. See section 7.7 on page 136.

2.6 Promotion:

2.6.1 Club Marketing.

We created the role of dedicated Marketing Officer role within the club during 2015.

Kayleigh was a new member who joined in 2015 and wanted to assist the club in reaching out to new members. Part of Kayleigh's role was to create a Marketing Plan and coordinate events and outreach activity, including ensuring potential new members are made aware of the club and its activities.

Kayleigh says – "My first ever dive was in the blue waters of Borneo whilst backpacking around SE Asia, after completing my open water qualification I was hooked. I knew that when I returned to the UK I definitely wanted to continue diving. A friend introduced me to ECSAC and I am really glad she did! Everyone I have met at the club are incredibly helpful and friendly, my instructors have been really supportive especially as I was quite nervous for the first couple of dives. My first UK open water dive was at Anglesey, although the water was bracing I soon forgot about the temperature. I am now keen to complete my sports diver training in 2016 so I am able to dive more wrecks and learn more about the history of British waters. I have recently taken on the role of Marketing Officer which I am really enjoying. I hope to create and introduce a number of new marketing strategies to reach out to potential new members and to get more involved with the running of the club"

Kayleigh has produced a marketing plan that endeavors to make the most of the various channels available to us. This has a number of key elements which are covered in more detail in the earlier sections, but include: Newsletter: sent via email to past and present members as well as the current version being used in replies to all prospective members who contact us for details of the club. Website: our website is our main online presence with details of the club, trip reports, contact details and a members area where we store documents and reference material of use to the membership (dive logs etc).

We created an outline Marketing Plan as below:

ECSAC Marketing Plan

1. Update website. Appeal to new and current divers not just existing members. More information about courses and social events. *(In Progress)*
2. Incentives for members to bring in divers, discounts/vouchers for dive shops *(In Discussions)*
3. Collaboration with local dive shops to offer discount for members *(COMPLETE)*
4. More flyers/posters in workplaces, gyms, leisure centre etc, plus the Kiosk *(COMPLETE)*
5. Business cards *(TBA)*
6. Open evenings at Macclesfield leisure centre *(in discussions)*
7. Assign one member from each trip to write 'journal entry' to go into newsletter/Facebook page *(COMPLETE)*
8. E-newsletter *(COMPLETE)*
9. Google places & Google Adwords *(In-Progress)*
10. Great northern dive show –April 2016 *(In-Progress)*
11. Advertisement on the boats, displaying logo etc *(COMPLETE)*
12. Try dive packages *(COMPLETE)*

2.6.2 Treacle Market.

One of the local traditions in Macclesfield is the Treacle Market, this is a bustling Arts, Antiques, Crafts, Food and Drink Market, held on the cobbles of the historic Marketplace in Macclesfield, with around 140 stalls of food and drink, unique crafts and vintage finds, plus stalls and information from the Macclesfield community. We regularly attend the market and take a free stall (as a local community not for profit group). The organisers allow us to pitch a large stall in the Churchyard as below.

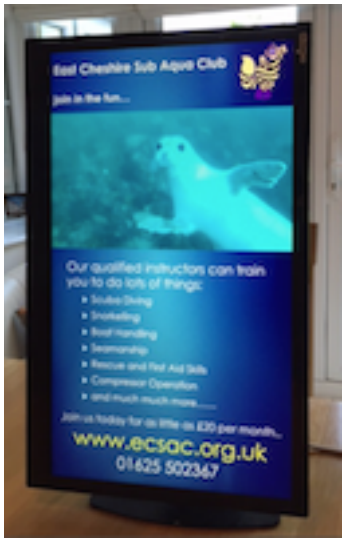
We use a members Gazebo and dress it with dive flags, BSAC banners and usually fill the stand with interesting dive equipment as well as a dummy wearing a drysuit as can be seen from the photo.

This is a great opportunity for the club to raise its profile and given the large number of people attending we are able to generate try-dives and awareness for the club, which of course is very local to Macclesfield.

In addition to the Market itself the Treacle Market also has a large following on social media with over 6,000 likes on Facebook. We are able to tap into this following and use their page as a means to reach the local population.

2.6.3 Club Promotional Kiosk

The club now has created a kiosk available for promoting the club. It is a standalone screen with a set of professional looking presentations and videos that runs automatically on a 26 minute loop and showcases UK diving in general our dive club and its facilities in particular and can be left running continuously without the need for any intervention. It is ideal for leaving at a reception desk at an office (or in a shop or used on a show stand). It will promote the club and encourages people to get in touch with us as it has both email, website and phone numbers on the screen at all times.



Kiosk in Action

It has been used in a number of locations and most notably at a local employer to promote the club and to support the promotion of a Try Dive event. It is also used at club socials and other outreach events as a focal point, which draws people in and creates a discussion point. It is also designed to be left as a standalone unit and will act as a eye catcher and gives people contact details for the club so driving enquiries.

It also spent over a month at the reception of our local Leisure Centre and generated some enquiries for the club via email, which led to try-dives and potential members.

Our Local Leisure Centre

The extract below is from an overview taken from the leaflet we used to promote this with our members at the club. This was used during a consultation period with our members where we took input on the content of the Kiosk and also suggestions for places where we could use the Kiosk during the year.

The "kiosk" is designed to be a standalone screen left somewhere prominent (i.e. a reception desk in an office building, leisure center, sports club or on a stand or other high traffic area where people pass by). We have encouraged our members to give us suggestions and ideas as to suitable organisations we could approach to take the Kiosk while it is on tour. Ideally we arrange for it to be securely left at a variety of places for two weeks at a time and have it move around promoting the club. We also leave a set of club leaflets next to it so if people are interested they can take away a leaflet.

The Kiosk shows a set of screens with rolling video on a continuous loop, it will need no human intervention once switched on, just switch it on and it goes.

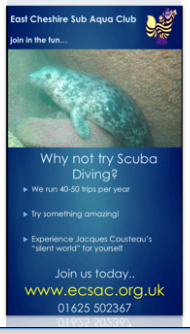
The concept is as follows:

The "kiosk" will be left at a place of work or club, Leisure Centre etc for a limited period (say 2 weeks). The idea is that the video will have a LOT of stuff flying around on it in the hope that some of it catches someone's eye. It is also constantly changing and so over the period of two weeks while people walk past they see something different each day and we have a chance that some of it piques their interest. Each of the slides (with the static words on) stays on the screen for 3-6 minutes with the video running. The common element of each slide is the footer that says simply – join us for £20 per month – look at the website or ring us up. We also leave a set of leaflets next to the Kiosk so if people want to take something away they can do. Although the kiosk was a total of 26 minutes of different content we are not expecting anyone to stand and watch the whole 26 minutes of video.. Ideally any given five seconds during the full runtime of the videos should be enough for someone to get the message and have the info needed to get in touch. What we have tried to do is include some cool looking stuff (Seals, Dolphins, Boats, Divers etc) that may at least grab their attention as they walk past, if they are interested then they can get in touch.

Screen Shot 2015-07-07 at 16.50.07

Screen Shot 2015-07-07 at 16.50.40

Screen Shot 2015-07-07 at 16.51.41



The Kiosk will show a set of screens with rolling video on a continuous loop, it will need no human intervention, just switch it on and it goes. The screens look like the pictures on the left, the images are all videos that will run on a loop one after the other.

3 Diver training

3.1.1 Training Officer – Mark Paisey

Our training team is led by Mark Paisey, Advanced Instructor, First Class Diver and qualified RYA Instructor and Technical Diving Instructor. Mark is a former RAF Pilot and currently an Airline Pilot Instructor for British Airways and comes from a very structured background which enables him to bring both a wealth of knowledge and a hugely professional approach to his work with the club.

My name is Mark Paisey and I am the current Training Officer. I started diving in 1982 at Hull University Sub Aqua Club. My diving continued as part of a Special Branch in the RAF based in Germany where I sat the original Club Instructor qualification and continued to Advanced Diver. Having moved to Rhiyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 1994 I continued diving with a BSAC branch which was part of British Aerospace, mostly in the Red Sea and swimming pools. Returning to the UK in 1997 I then had a 10 year break from diving until my son, Henry, reached 12. He became interested in learning to dive and started with the Sea Cadets at Neptune, Liverpool. To progress his diving I restarted and became a BSAC Direct member eventually joining ECSAC.

Since 2007 it's fair to say I became obsessive and progressed to FCD, AMGI and AI. For me helping others to share my passion and progress their skills is reward in itself.

My main aim is to deliver a training plan that meets the aspirations of all our members. We start with an annual request for personal development and build a training plan around this thus targeting our resources. We have an Assistant Training Officer, Gemma Thomas, who coordinates the pool training and Try Dives. Allocated instructors progress their trainee to the completion of open water training and a little beyond so they receive guidance on equipment purchase and the transition to boat diving within the club. Training to Sports diver and beyond falls under the annual training plan. We also run an extensive SDC programme ranging from the Buoyancy and Trim Workshop to open circuit mixed gas. Our dry courses are supported by

instructors from other branches e.g. the First Aid for Divers and AED courses, are delivered by Adam Rhodes, a paramedic, from Manchester University SAC. In turn some of our instructors help his club deliver Ocean diver training.

3.1.2 Assistant Training Officer

We have an Assistant Training Officer who is responsible for organising the pool training and delivery of Ocean Diver Training and Try Dives. Gemma Thomas.

Gemma Says… "Having been diving since my post university gap year, I have progressed from diving abroad to becoming an avid all year round UK diver, as well as teaching in the UK. My training started with PADI and I completed the BSAC crossover course with support from the instructors at ECSAC and the regional training team. I have gradually increased my knowledge of the BSAC diving curriculum, attending several events including this year's conference.

I am thoroughly enjoying the position of Assistant Training officer within ECSAC, being able to use my experience to make sure students and try divers get off to the best start with the club and with scuba diving. I aim to get to know what each new diver is looking to get out of the sport, whether they want to progress quickly or want to take their time. I enjoy seeing students progress and build their confidence or decide to become members following an excellent try dive experience. To be a part of such an excellent training team with so many talented instructors is something I'm very proud of, everyone has such different and varied qualities to bring.

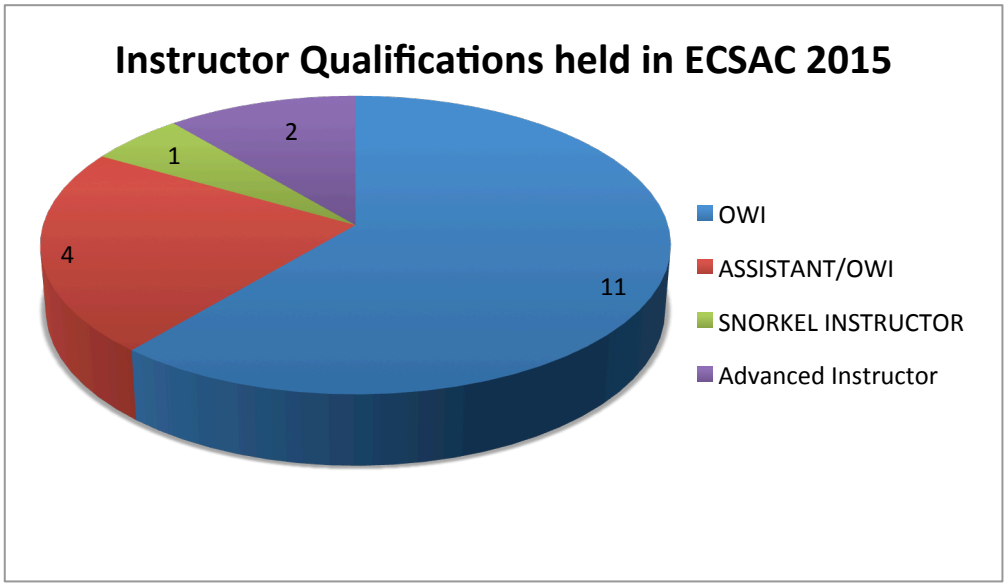
I would like to further my own involvement at the club, potentially by taking on another committee role in the future, what I am doing now is a great stepping stone for this and a fantastic opportunity that ECSAC have provided."

3.1.3 The Training Team

We have been very lucky in ECSAC to have a strong training team with two Advanced Instructors and 11 Open Water Instructors in the club. This was increased in 2015 by 4 with 2 new Open Water Instructors qualifying and a crossover instructor from PADI as well as a new Assistant Instructor.

3.1.4 Instructor Qualifications 2015

During 2015 we qualified an additional Assistant Instructor and two more Open Water Instructors, we were also lucky to attract new members who were already qualified, one being an PADI Open Water Instructor – who crossed over via an BSAC OWIC course and an already qualified BSAC Assistant Instructor.



3.2 Water-work

3.2.1 Pool Training

East Cheshire SAC has the use of Macclesfield Leisure Centre pool every Thursday night from 20:00-21:00 outside of school holidays.

The main pool is 25m long and has a max depth of 3m. Normally the pool is divided in two to facilitate diver and snorkel training at the same time. The pool costs £97 per session and fees of £4 are collected from each user to meet the cost. Try dives are charged £15 which also contributes to the pool fee throughout the year. During 2015 we reduced our pool bookings, dropping school holiday nights (which had traditionally been very low usage) in an effort to break even on costs. In past years we have regularly lost up to £2,000 when comparing pool costs to income. In 2015 our pool costs reduced to £3,500 (from £5,000 when we stayed open in school holidays) and income was £2,500. This substantially reduced our overall costs for pool usage and reduced the overall cost burden on the club without impacting our ability to deliver training.

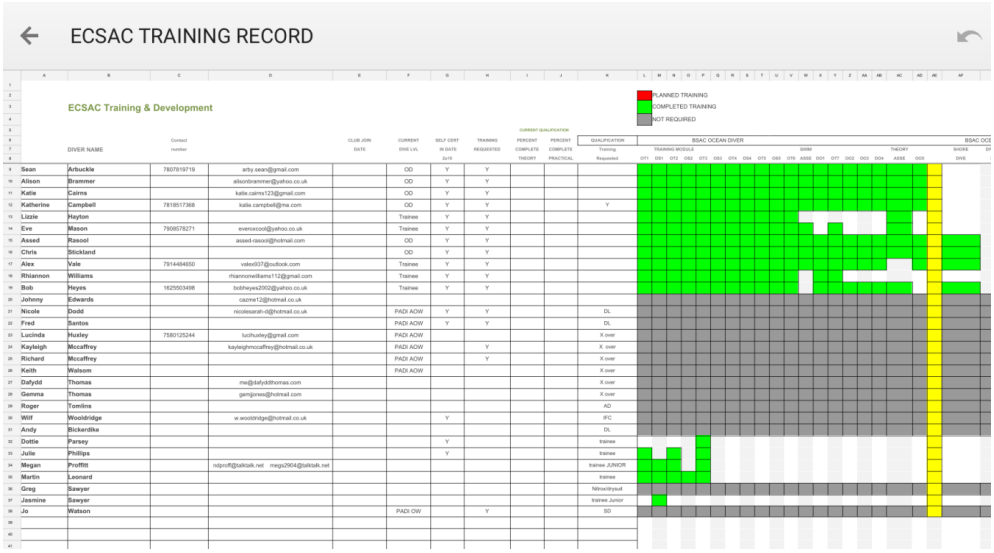
Alternative venues have been researched but travel times are prohibitive on club nights, however this became the inspiration for installing a diver training platform in St Peter Basin, Salford Quays and forging links with the Watersports Centre.

This project has progressed with Trafford Council and the Helly Hansen Watersports Centre and will offer an open water facility for sheltered water training in the warmer months of the year, this facility will be made available to other dive clubs and we have involved two other clubs in the project. Further details of this project are provided in section 6.1 on page 94.

As the club operates all year around we take on trainees all year around. In fact we make a point of accommodating training requests as they arise. Trainees are normally paired with an instructor for their pool training and programmed weekly by the Assistant Training Officer, Gemma Thomas, who emails the Thursday plan to all concerned.

3.2.2 ECSAC On-Line Training Record

Training progress is tracked on a Google SpreadSheet – stored on the web which allows an instant view of who needs what. Should instructors or trainees be away it is an easy job to reallocate resources. We try to maintain continuity of training with the same instructor as instructors like the reward this style of training brings to them as they can follow the development of their trainees. This approach was agreed following consultation with the instructor team.



3.2.3 Try Dives

ECSAC promotes itself through Try Dives throughout the year offering these as a taster of the sport in an effort to encourage people to join the club and train with us. We also put together a special Christmas package that includes a try dive and a tour of our clubhouse and facilities as well as a free drink at our bar. We usually sell this in the run-up to Christmas as a simple stocking filler and package it with the BSAC Try-Dive booklet and a special voucher that can be redeemed against the try dive on a date that suits the recipient.

Participants in our Try-Dives come from recommendation, advertising initiatives e.g. Macclesfield Treacle Market, local Scout groups, club website and local press stories.

We use BSAC promotional material and the Try Dive packs. Participants are emailed with the details of where and when and asked to bring T-shirt and swimming costume. We supply remainder of gear from club stocks. Try Dives are charged at £15 which contributes to our pool costs. Snorkelling members get a free Try Dive as part of their course to encourage progression.

Our last mass Try Dive event, organised by our Assistant Training Officer Gemma , targeted members of McCann Ericksson a local business. To allow the 15 attendees time in the water a conveyor system was used with briefings, kitting up, water time, dekitting and debriefing being conducted by different instructors. The recent change allowing use of Dive Leaders for Try Dives has freed up resources for these events and allowed us to increase our capacity for try dives.

All Try Divers are given a BSAC pack and invited back to the club for a tour and information on expected membership and training costs and training timescales. Many join there and then so forms are completed and a photo taken which we then use to include a welcome to the club section in the club newsletter. The use of the BSAC Direct Debit system has also improved our sign up rate due to reduced up front costs which in the past had been potentially prohibitive for some prospective members. The whole club is migrating to this system, which we hope will also assist with retention. We use a group email system so new members can immediately access 'Whats On' information. Their photo is sent around so everyone knows who they are and can make them feel welcome at the clubhouse.

3.3 Theory lessons:

Theory lessons for Ocean Divers are normally run at the clubhouse on Thursday evenings in our purpose built lecture room on non-pool nights. Sports Diver lessons are normally packaged into groups and delivered integrally with their course. Dive Leader and Advanced lessons are delivered when required. We encourage Sports Diver attendance of the Oxygen Administration and Practical Rescue Management SDCs so many of the Dive Leader lessons will already have been completed by the time the course starts. This year 2 members, Gemma and Dafyyd Thomas, made use of Regional training to complete their Advanced lessons in a weekend whilst our current candidate, Roger Tomlins, has chosen to progress his lessons on club nights.

The training room is well equipped with projector, whiteboard and flip charts as well as a 70 inch high definition TV that is used for training videos and theory presentations. Multiple training aids are available for use including resuscitation dolls, AED, and a variety of equipment that can be used for demonstrations.

3.3.1 Ocean Diver Training

This level is normally started in October and carries through the Winter into Easter time utilising the pool fully. The long time period allows for consolidated training and completion of all lectures and the theory exam when trainees are ready. As trainees normally carry out their training with the same instructor the club runs a skills assessment session with a different instructor for quality control. This is normally conducted with hoods and gloves as a transition session to open water. The trainee then receives drysuit training in the pool before moving to the local quarries at Ecclestone Delph or Capernwray. We normally complete their open water training over a weekend which allows progression to boat diving from Anglesey.

3.3.2 Sports Diver Training

This level commences as required but normally twice a year around Easter and October. Recently the club has benefitted from an influx of PADI cross over members and to encourage them intensive long weekends away have been used to introduce UK diving from RHIBs. Fred Santos and Nicole Dodd attended a long weekend in Cornwall 18-20 September in 25m viz to complete their open water lessons. This has proved a very successful vehicle but equally we support long term Sports Diver training as illustrated by Sue Wainwright who has taken 6 years to complete her training through personal choice!

3.3.3 Dive Leader Training

This level normally commences in October with completion of the Oxygen and Practical Rescue Management SDCs. Once the other lectures are completed the open water lessons are completed through an intensive weekend. Members have used Regional events for this purpose or to complete missing lessons eg Wilf Wooldridge. The idea for skills weekends came from instructor participation in Wales Region training events and had proved successful. Our next Dive Leader candidate, Andy Bickerdyke, is on this programme currently and will complete his course by December.

3.3.4 Advanced Diver Training

The club has certified one member in 2015, Steve Welton, who completed his 2 day weekend in the Lleyn in June. Members are offered in house training or can use Regional events. Gemma and Dafyyd Thomas completed their lectures Regionally whilst Roger Tomlins has chosen to complete them in house. Again an advanced skills weekend will be programmed and support given for expedition planning.

3.3.5 FCD Training

The club has had one successful member in 2015 and this has encouraged 2 members, Kevin Phillips and Mark Hickson, to progress with this level in 2016. These members will use the Northwest Prep group for guidance under Sean Mckenna and Maria Harwood. The Prep group is coordinated by Mark Paisey from ECSAC.

3.3.6 Skill Development Courses

ECSAC is very active running SDCs and offers all its courses and facilities to the Northwest Region. We have been successful in attracting BSAC Direct members into joining our branch as a consequence of their experience on these courses. They join as out of port members with a reduced membership fee enabling them to participate fully but with a fee structure that reflects their likely reduced attendance.

3.3.6.1 SDCs run by the club in 2015

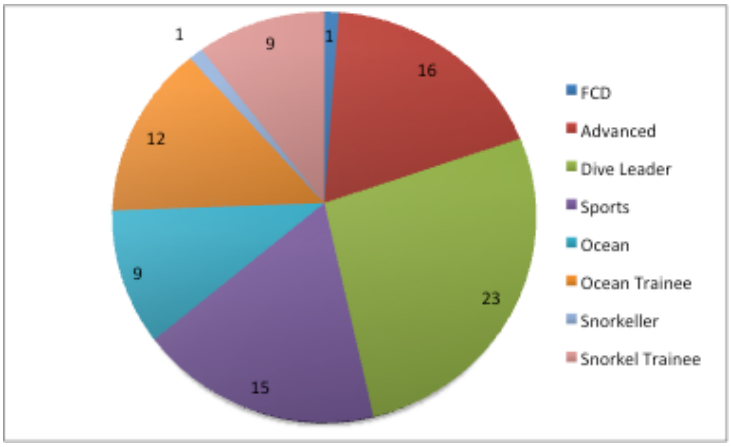
CCR MOD 1	January. One member qualified. Trained in club by CCR instructor.
Accelerated Decompression procedures	10/11 January. NDAC. 2 members qualified.
Diver Coxswain preparation and Assessment	24/25 January. Held in Southampton. Qualified 3 members and upgraded Mark Paisey to DCA under NI130.
Practical Rescue Management	8 February. Salford Quays using RHIB. 10 members plus 1 Regional member.
Boat Handling	4/5 April. Holyhead Harbour. 3 members.
Chartwork and Position Fixing	2/3 May. Holyhead. Inter club involving 3 boats, 12 qualified (8 from ECSAC and 4 from Region). Regional instructors used in addition to Mark Paisey.
Advanced Mixed Gas OC	23-26 May. Completed SDC commenced in 2014. One member qualified.
Marine Life Identification (new SDC)	Run by Wendy Northway over 8 weeknights for 15 members.
Explorer Mixed Gas OC	8-10 June. Cornwall. 2 Regional members qualified.
Search and Recovery	27/28 June. 2 members plus 1 Regional member.
Boat Handling	19/20 September. Holyhead. 3 qualified. DCA from Darwen SAC ran course.
Buoyancy Trim Workshop	7 November. 9 members completed course.
Oxygen Administration	13 November. 6 qualified.
Sports Mixed Gas OC	5/6 December NDAC.
Accelerated Decompression Procedures	12/13 December NDAC.
Buoyancy Trim Workshop	Planned 9 January 2016
First Aid for Divers	Planned 10 January 2016
AED	Planned 6 February 2016

3.4 Qualifications

The current profile of diver qualifications within the club is as follows:

We have managed to qualify at least one diver into every BSAC diver grade during 2015.

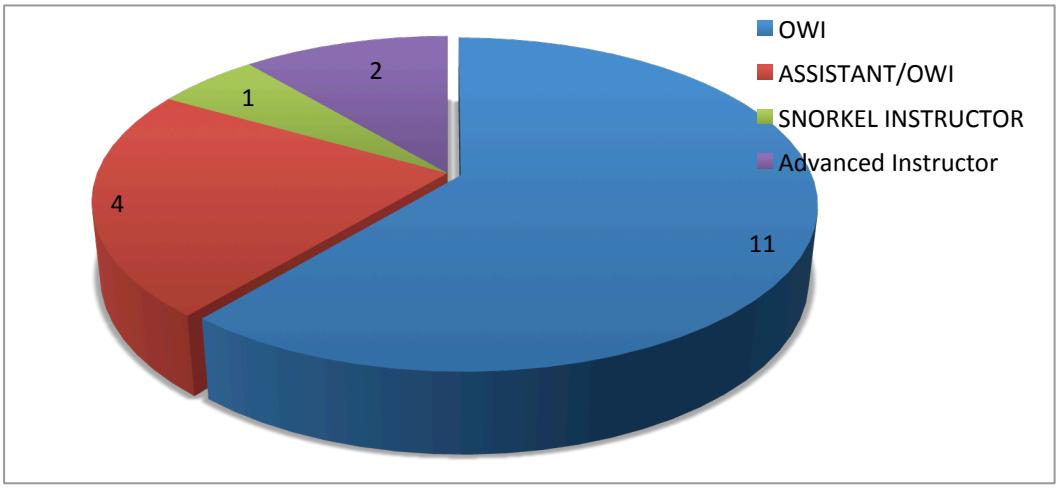
By focusing on what our members want to pursue and encouraging progression and providing lots of opportunities for people to develop new skills we delivered over 20 SDCs in the course of 2015.



3.4.1 Diver Qualifications gained in 2015

FCD	AD	DL	SD	OD
Mark Paisey	Steve Welton	Amanda Lowrie Wilf Wooldridge	Nicole Dodd Fred Santos Sue Wainwright	Sean Arbuckle Alison Brammer Katie Cairns Katie Campbell Assed Rasool Alex Vale

3.4.2 Instructor Qualifications as at end 2015



During 2015 ECSAC gained one Advanced Instructor from a combined event in 2014, Mark Paisey, who has been awarded the Analox Award at 2015 BSAC Conference for "Most Meritorious Performance in the AI Exams".

Gemma Thomas gained her OWI status as a PADI Cross Over Instructor having attended an OWIC in May 2015. Clive Byrne and Tim Porter passed their PIE on 10th October. These members benefited from an arranged Regional instructor development session with Mike Holdroyd prior to their OWIC. Wilf Wooldridge attended an IFC having completed Dive Leader training in October.

As part of on-going instructor development we held three instructor meetings in the year to canvas instructors input on our training programme and feedback what development they wanted for themselves.

As part of the feedback from the instructor meetings we identified that our instructors wanted us to run a workshop covering key areas of the DTP and give the opportunity to practice lesson delivery as well as compare notes with the regional coaching team on how best to deliver the DTP.

This workshop was held on 29th November at Ecclestone Delph with input from our regional BSAC coaching team. 7 instructors attended the workshop led by Maria Harwood (NW Regional Coach) and Mike Holroyd Instructor Trainer from outside the club aimed at a fun day to refresh teaching skills.

We ran the Instructor Workshop at Ecclestone Delph with the help of our BSAC regional coaching team Maria Harwood and Mike Holroyd. This was a great opportunity for ECSAC to develop our already enviable instructor team. A great day was had by all and despite the chilly weather we managed to run through a lot of training scenarios and create a real buzz within the team. Our focus was on rescue scenarios and ensuring we have a consistent and effective training approach to rescue skills. This will be utilised in the new year when we plan to run a rescue refresher for all members at the pool to ensure we are all ready for the new season and proficient in rescue and incident management skills. We will also be running the Lifesaver and Advanced Lifesaver SDCs on 5th/6th March 2016 2016.

In addition to the workshop we also employed some new technology to capture examples of "demonstration level skills", these were captured via video and provide a reference for the instructor tram to use as the baseline for skills taught as part of the DTP. This allowed us to ensure we delivered consistent training and also provided a resource that can be used with students to show them the skills they will be taught as part of their training. These are now used as part of the theory lessons and allows a visual "preview" to be provided to students as a further extension to the instructor's REAP debriefs.

We created videos for each of the following skills:

Kit Assembly

Buddy Check

Giant Stride entry

Controlled Descent (in buddy pairs)

Controlled Ascent and surfacing (in buddy pairs)

Basic Buoyancy skills (fin pivots)

Mask Clearing

Regulator Clearing & Regulator

Use of an Alternative Supply

Controlled Buoyant Lift

AS Ascent and surfacing procedure (building on deployment)

CBL - Ascent and surfacing procedure

We aim to work with BSAC HQ and assist if possible in their planned skills videos as we are aware that the National DO is considering these.

3.5 Equipment:

3.5.1 Equipment Officer – Steve Welton.

We have a team of people engaged with the management of the club Equipment, led by our Equipment Officer Steve Welton. An engineer by trade, Steve is very well organised and superbly qualified to look after these key club assets. Steve is supported by a team from around the club who are able to provide support for both the management and maintenance of the club equipment as well as supporting the various projects we run through the year, including such things as fitting a new A-Frame to the boat as well as building and installing a training platform in Salford Quays – see section 6.1 on page 98.

My name is Steve Welton and I have recently taken over the role of equipment officer within our BSAC Branch. I started scuba diving in 2004 with another agency and have continued to add additional skill sets by formal training and going diving with other more experienced people. Since crossing over to BSAC I have continued on the skill development route which I greatly enjoy and adds different dynamics to just diving. I have successfully completed Diver Coxswain, Compressor Operator and gas blender amongst others. My proudest achievement under BSAC to date has been to gain my Advance Diver certification, which was hard earned. I still dive all year round in the UK and abroad and really enjoy the sport. It's a shame work gets in the way.

The role of equipment officer is fulfilling and challenging at times. Taking on this role felt like the right time to give a bit more back to the club. Many of the roles within the club do rotate within the members to keep fresh ideas and enthusiasm at a consistently high level. We are very fortunate to have such an abundance of equipment at our disposal. The equipment has been purchased and maintained over the years by the efforts of the club members. See summary list on the right giving details of our main items of equipment. The following pages provide more details of the key items.

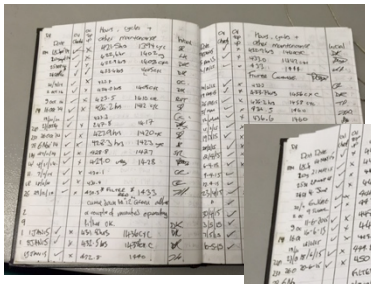
Club Asset List

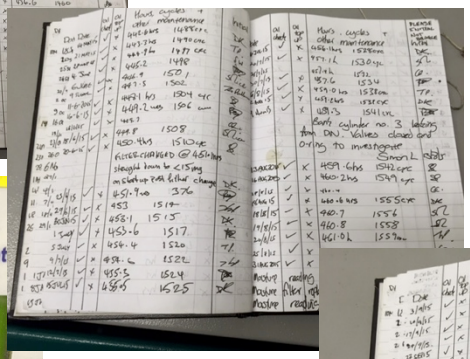
1 x Ribcraft 5.85m Diving Rib
1 x Delta 5.85m Diving Rib
1 x LDV Convoy minibus
1 x Lenhardt & Wagner Compressor
1 x Mixed Gas Blending station
6 x 42 litre 300 bar air bank cylinders
2 x 75 litre 280 bar air bank cylinders
4 x 97 kg O2 cylinders
2 x 67 kg Helium cylinders
2 x Luxfer 3 litre O2 kits
1 x 15 litre cylinder
12 x 12 litre cylinders
3 x 10 litre cylinders
3 x 7 litre cylinders
7 x Buddy Commando BCD's
8 x Buddy Slimline BCD's
3 x Seaquest BCD's
8 x Apeks Regulator sets
2 x Dracor Regulator sets
2 x Scubapro regulator sets
Various assorted fins, masks, hoods, gloves, weight belts, DSMB's and lift bags
1 x Analox O2 monitor / analyser
1 x Analox ATA pro analyser
2 x CPR manikins
5 x Scubapro full Snorkelling kits
2 x Handheld VHF Radios
1 x Ultrasonic cleaner
Shot lines and surface buoys
2 x RIB Expedition Fuel bladders
Flare Kits

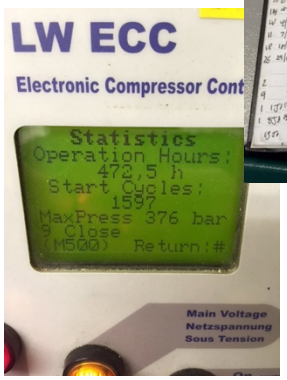
3.5.2 Compressor Station

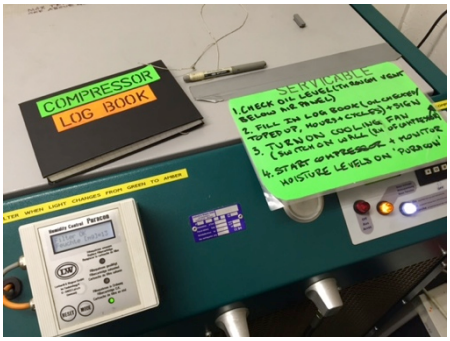
Here at East Cheshire we have access to a Lenhradt & Wagner LW 450 E air compressor which is capable of 300 bar air fills. This is backed up with 6 x 42 litre 300 Bar cylinder air bank and 2 x 75 litre 280 Bar cylinder air bank. On average the compressor runs for 50 hours a year providing around 27000 litres of air in any given year. An added bonus to the air bank and compressor is the capability to provide nitrox and trimix fills via the gas-blending panel.

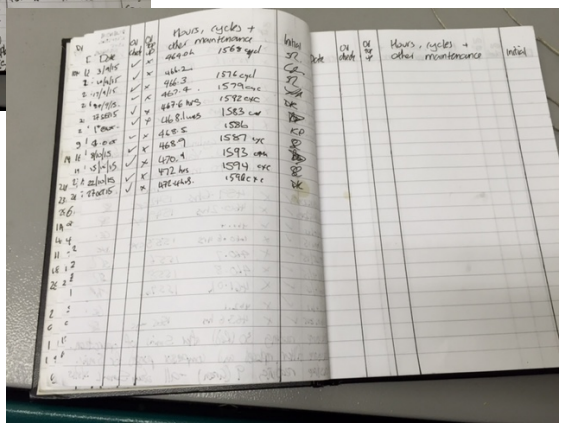
The use of the compressor is logged to ensure that operators follow the correct start-up process and we are able to track who uses it and how many hours the compressor gets used for. This enables us to manage the maintenance schedule and monitor usage.











The logs show the compressor ran for a total of 41 hours in 2015. The compressor went through 160 start cycles in the year showing how well used the compressor is. It usually runs every week on a Thursday and often does special runs in advance of club trips. We estimate that well over 1,500 cylinder fills were done during the year (we do on average 10 fills a week just for our pool training sessions). This provides a benefit to our members of over £5,000 compared to commercial air fill prices, on average a benefit for £60 for each of our members.

3.5.3 Gas Blending Panel

The gas blends are calculated utilising a computer program on our dedicated compressor room PC with the backup of standard tables. Standard air fills up to 300 bar are offered to club members at no extra cost but most members offer a small donation in order to support the maintenance requirements of the air station.

Nitrox and Trimix fills are offered via 4 x 97 kg O2 cylinders and 2 x 67 kg Helium cylinders. These fills are offered at cost price, which is a great advantage to club members. Nitrox and Trimix analysers are available to test the blends on completion and cylinders marked up as appropriate % of gas blend and MOD.

With such a great facility we have also been able to offer SDC's on compressor operation and gas blending to our members and other BSAC clubs in our region.

3.5.4 Dive Boats

One of the main attractions for me originally joining the club was the access to not one, but two diving ribs. Top Cat & Cheshire Cat. Both boats have generally been stored in the boathouse pictured above and towed to the dive sites with members' own vehicles or the club minibus. As mentioned above fresh ideas are at the core of a successful club and the committee received a proposal to store one of the ribs (Topcat) on the isle of Anglesey for the 2015 diving season. See 7.10 on page 140. This proved to be very cost affective as predicted in the proposal due to the rise in fuel costs associated with towing boats to North Wales and back to Macclesfield each weekend. This is also expected to give a return to the club funds which can be used for service and maintenance.

3.5.4.1 TopCat

Top Cat is a 5.85m rib with a single 140hp 4 stroke Suzuki outboard engine manufactured by Ribcraft. The Rib is equipped with a vhf radio, Lowrance HDS 5 depth sounder and plotter.

This Rib was originally provided by Ribcraft to support the water sports events during the 2012 London Olympics. Once the Olympics were over the boats were offered for sale at a greatly reduced cost and ECSAC club purchased one of the boats. This acquisition was not only great value but has enabled a great deal more diving to take place. As part of continual improvements we raised funds enable us to purchase an A-Frame for this boat this was done to enable the fitting of navigation lights, a higher radar reflector and also increase the range of the radio and thus enhance the safety of our boat use which supports the clubs expansion of diving to deeper sites further offshore.

3.5.4.2 Cheshire Cat

Cheshire Cat is a 5.5m rib with twin 70hp 2 stroke Yamaha outboard engines manufactured by delta powerboats. The Rib is equipped with a vhf radio, Lowrance depth sounder, gps and plotter. This rib is showing its age and use a little now and we have plans in place to submit a grant application for converting to a single 4 stroke engine.

We have fitted this boat with a new radio that provides an AIS function. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is an automatic tracking system used on ships for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships and AIS base stations. It is also used for Man Overboard (MOB) emergency situations and enables location of crew members and divers on the surface of the water if activated. A number of our club divers use AIS Personal Locator Beacons and this facility enables us to locate divers on the surface if they are separated from the boat for any reason. Once a diver's beacon is activated, the AIS receiver in the radio will alert the Cox and provide distance and bearing to any activated beacon within a 5 mile radius. It also interacts with other AIS enabled vessels and provides collision avoidance alerts to the Cox which is a useful benefit in some of the high traffic areas we occasionally dive around Holyhead etc.

This rib is now showing its age; we have plans in place to raise money for converting to a single 4-stroke engine which will lower the maintenance overhead and the running costs. This will be undertaken in 2016.

3.5.5 Minibus

Our club minibus enables us to tow one of the ribs and carry a large amount of equipment for a diving trip. The minibus is often utilised for taking groups of divers to open water for training purposes and the weekly pool session at the local leisure centre as well as transporting kit for scouts and groups try-dives. This facility enables members to travel together to help form stronger personal bonds with each other and cutting down on travelling expenses.

3.5.6 Scuba & Snorkelling equipment

Dedicated equipment room

The club scuba kit comprises of 12 x full sets of kit. All the items have been numbered in order to keep track of the individual pieces of equipment maintenance requirements. The BCD's are generally Buddy Commandos which have been a stalwart of BSAC over the years. They are both hard wearing and easy to maintain. The regulators are Apex DST which are robust in construction and provide a good consistent breathe.

We have a large selection of fins and masks which have been purchased or donated to the club over the years. Any scuba equipment issued is booked out and back in again on return, via a simple T-card tracking system. The simplicity of the system means that anyone can easily establish who has been issued with what item of equipment.

Two Luxfer 02 kits are always on hand when we are carrying out any diving activities. Robust carry cases have been manufactured by club members to protect the 02 kits from damage and also water proof them when being used on the diving ribs.

Also available for loan are:-

3 x 7 litre cylinders, 1 x 10 litre cylinder and 3 x 12 litre cylinders. 4 x Buddy Commando BCD's, 3 x Buddy Slimline BCD's and 2 x Seaquest BCD's, Various weight belts, Dsmb's and lift bags.
ECSAC won the snorkelling branch of the year in 2012 and received 5 x sets

of snorkelling equipment as part of the award (see page 19). The kits consisted of:-

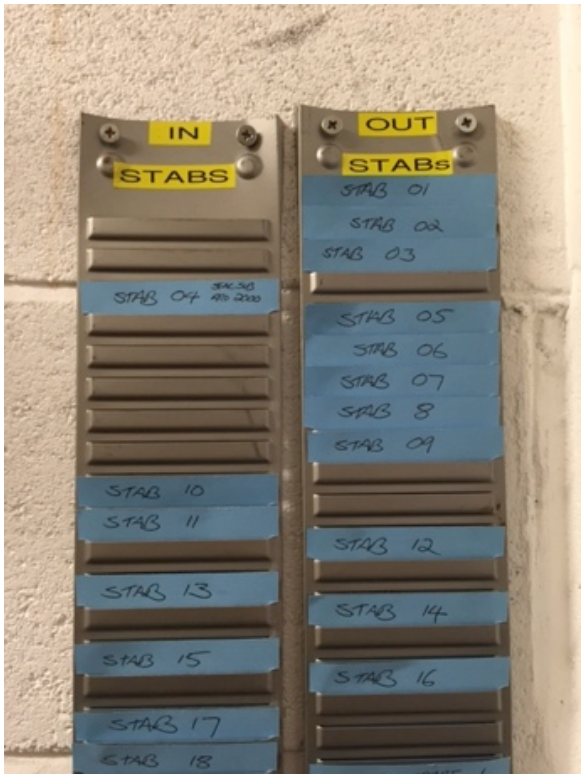
5 x Masks, 5 x snorkels, 5 x pairs of fins (various sizes) and 5 x wetsuits.

Together with numerous other items of snorkelling equipment they have been put to great use over the last few years with our very busy snorkelling section led by Dave Grindrod. More on that on page 14.

Maintenance on the equipment is generally carried out by club members who between them have a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of mechanical and electrical maintenance. We are also very fortunate to have club members who are qualified in air compressor and diving regulator maintenance. Any specialist maintenance & testing such as cylinder or J bottle testing is outsourced to local suppliers. Regular working parties are organised throughout the year to carry out maintenance of the clubhouse and surrounding grounds and we actively encourage existing and new members to get involved. Maintenance records are kept in paper format and online in a drop box account so they can be viewed by all committee members.

We maintain logs of equipment issue via a T-Card system that enables us to track when equipment is issued and who currently has it.

As can be seen from the photos on the right and below the system is simple and easy to manage and enables the equipment team to quickly see what kit is available to loan at any one time. At the time this particular photo was taken you can see that a large amount of kit is out on loan (the right hand column is the “kit out”).



As part of our training programme we provide kit to trainees free of charge; a refundable deposit of £100 is taken which is then returned to trainees at the end of their training when the kit is returned in a reasonable condition. We maintain the kit for them and will conduct appropriate servicing and repairs free of charge. We would only use (or retain) the deposit if equipment is lost or damaged outside of “normal” wear and tear.

3.5.7 Clubhouse

We are lucky to have a purpose built clubhouse, designed specifically for the dive club and funded and built by the members themselves back in 1991.

This gives us boat and equipment storage, compressor, bar and function room as well as training facilities.

The clubhouse was designed by the members, for the members. Planning permission was obtained for the clubhouse in January 1991 and was built largely with the efforts of members themselves taking part in the construction as well as a number of specialist contractors being employed for those elements that required specific skills.

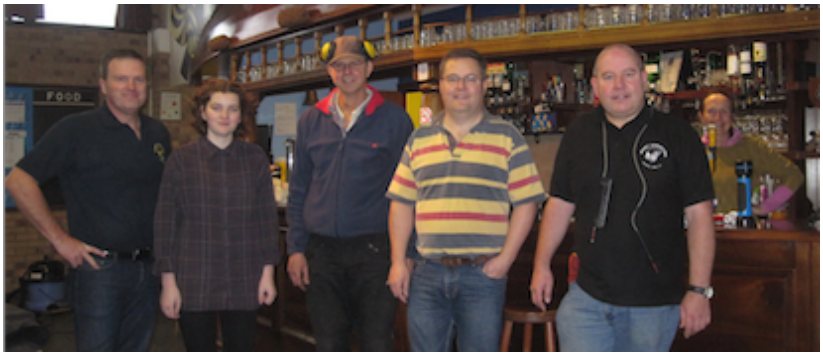
The first brick was laid in September 1991, the final one in September the same year with the roof and fitting out commencing soon after. In all the building cost £110,000 to construct – average property price changes in the intervening period would suggest that this would be nearer £250,000 today.

Training

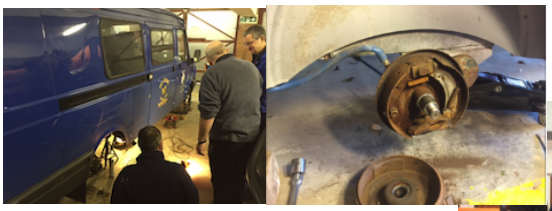
3.5.7.1 Working Parties

We regularly arrange working parties to attend to maintenance of the clubhouse, boats minibus and surrounding area. We ran several of these over the course of the year in 2015. We usually have a team of enthusiastic volunteers turn out for the working parties, lots of work gets done as there is always stuff to do at the club. We managed to get lots done during 2015 with boat, trailer and minibus maintenance, outside areas, landscaping and car park as well as maintenance of a number of other areas inside the club including the fire alarm, bar, stock room, lecture room and kitchen.

Our team in December 2015 ready for action.



The painting team ready for action.



Work on boats and minibus

As ever the bacon butties were very popular!

and quite hot.. :)

4 Diving activities

4.1.1 Diving Officer – Kevin Phillips

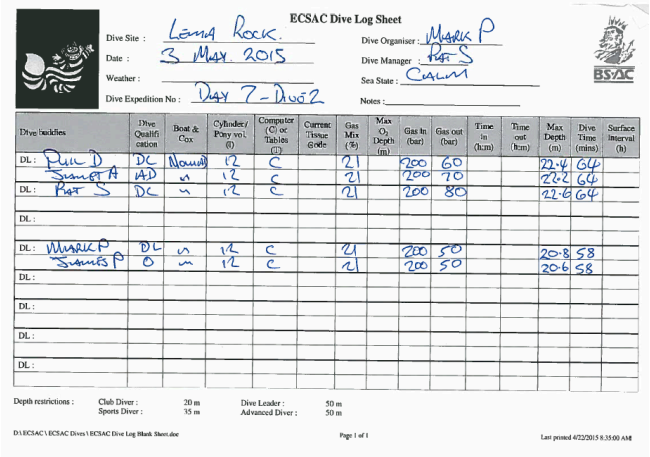
Kevin first joined BSAC in 1978, then with Hartford Sub Aqua Club and enjoyed many happy family holidays with his father, uncle and cousins all of whom were avid divers at the time. He stopped diving when he moved away from home with work, got married and had a young family, when the opportunity arose to restart diving with his daughter he took up the sport again with enthusiasm and he and his daughter were re-qualified in 2009.

Kevin then progressed to become a PADI Divemaster, qualifed Cave Diver and joined ECSAC in 2011, taking a general role on the committee, qualifying as a BSAC Advanced Diver, Open Water Instructor in 2012 then progressing to Assistant Training Officer, Training Officer and then Diving Officer in 2015.

"I joined ECSAC as I wanted to benefit from the more social side of diving and progress from holiday diving into a wider range of diving offered by the club structure. I must admit to wanting to recapture some of the adventure I felt as a boy diving with BSAC and this has been one of the great joys of joing ECSAC and getting to do some fantastic diving with a great group of people".

4.1.2 Branch dives

All club dives are logged on our own log sheets and these records kept on file in the club for reference if required. See example on the right and full size version at in section on page 140.



ECSAC Dive Log Sheet

Dive Site : Lemna Rock.
Date : 3 May 2015
Weather :
Dive Expedition No : Day 7 - Dive 2
Dive Organiser : Mark P
Dive Manager : Pat S
Sea State : Calm
Notes :

Dive buddies	Dive Qualification	Boat & Cox	Cylinder/ Pony vol. (l)	Computer (C) or Tables (T)	Current Tissue Code	Gas Mix (%)	Max O_2 Depth (m)	Gas In (bar)	Gas out (bar)	Time in (h:m)	Time out (h:m)	Max Depth (m)	Dive Time (mins)	Surface Interval (h)
DL : Phil D	DC	Nomad	12	C		21		200	60			22.4	64	
Simon A	AD	"	12	C		21		200	70			22.2	66	
DL : Pat S	DC	"	12	C		21		200	80			22.6	64	
DL :														
DL :														
DL : Mark P	DC	"	12	C		21		200	50			20.8	58	
James P	O	"	12	C		21		200	50			20.6	58	
DL :														
DL :														
DL :														
DL :														

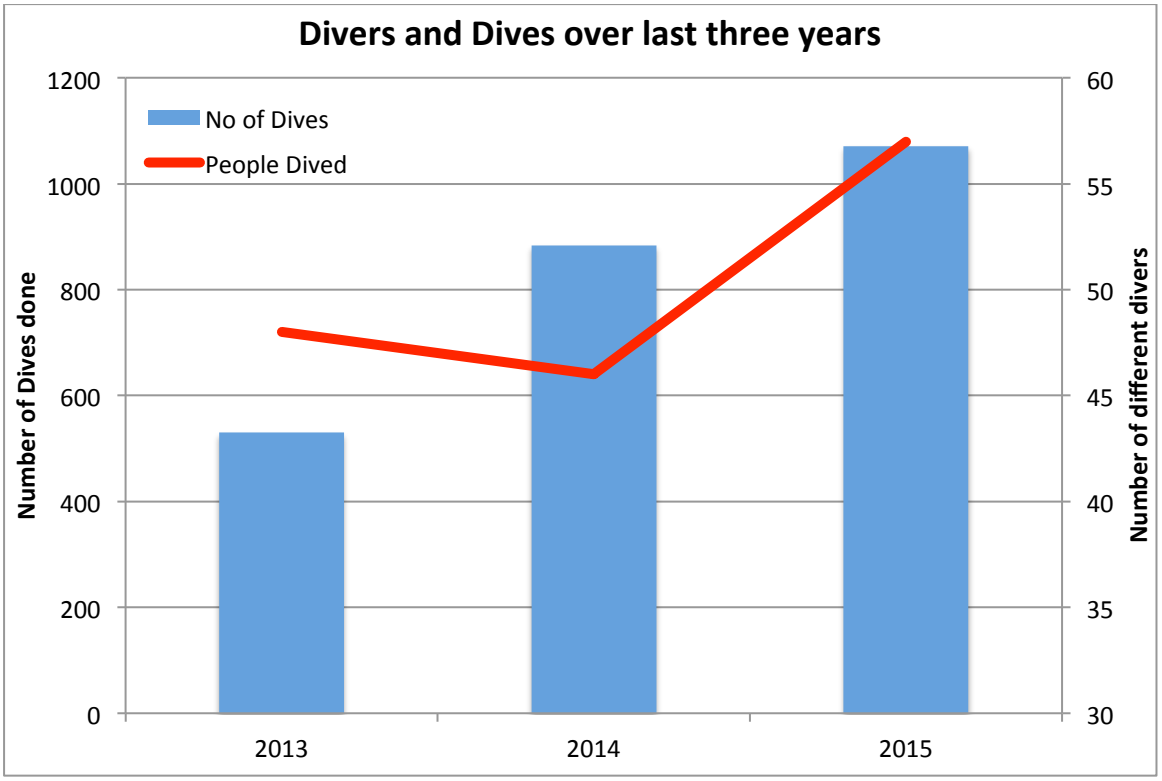
Depth restrictions : Club Diver : 20 m Sports Diver : 35 m Dive Leader : 50 m Advanced Diver : 50 m

D:\ECSAC\ECSAC Dives\ECSAC Dive Log Blank Sheet.doc Page 1 of 1 Last printed 4/22/2015 8:35:00 AM

During the year we undertook over 1,000 club dives (that being dives organised as inclusive trips open to all our members). In previous years we had seen a gradual reduction in the number of dives run by the club and also a significant reduction in the number of people actually diving. This was trending with the reducing membership and demonstrated a loss of enthusiasm within the membership.
During 2015 we endeavored to drive up the amount of diving done within the club by identifying what kind of diving the members wanted to do and then running more of these kinds of trips. This injected some variety into the club's diving and also introduced new

types of dive site which led to many more people diving in 2015 than had been the case in previous years.

An analysis of the dive logs from 2013, 2014 and 2015 demonstrates the significant change in numbers and also shows that we managed to avert the downward trend.



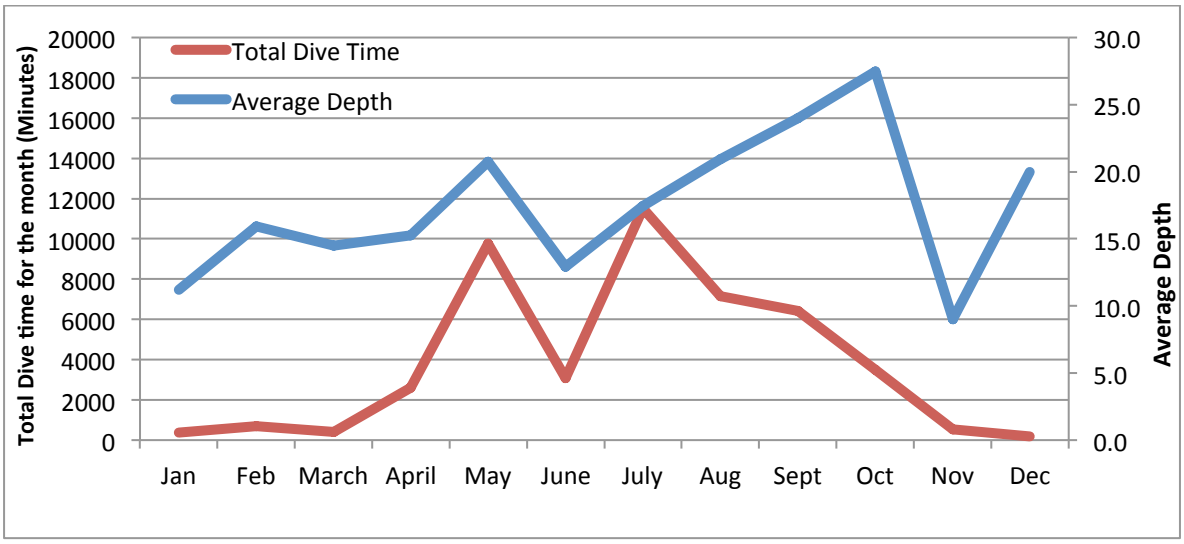
As part of our push to increase the volume of diving we also introduced "Target 1000...." which was an initiative that regularly reported the number of dives completed and enabled us to celebrate the 1000th club dive immediately after it happened while on a club trip to the Sound of Mull in late September.

This was worthy of a celebration, having hit the milestone of 1,000 club dives in 2015. Our group diving up in Mull completed the 1,000th club dive of 2015 whilst diving on the wreck of the Hispania – the whole boat celebrated with a bottle of bubbly (drunk very responsibly whilst on a diving trip of course)...

The Mull Dive team celebrating the 1,000th ECSAC dive of 2015..!

Our approach to diving through the year is to build up progressively as can be seen from the extract from our dive logs below that shows how we gradually built up depth as the

year progressed. We arranged early season warm up dives and ensured that these were sites suitable for less experienced people and enabled those divers who usually lay off during winter to build up their dive fitness over the early season.

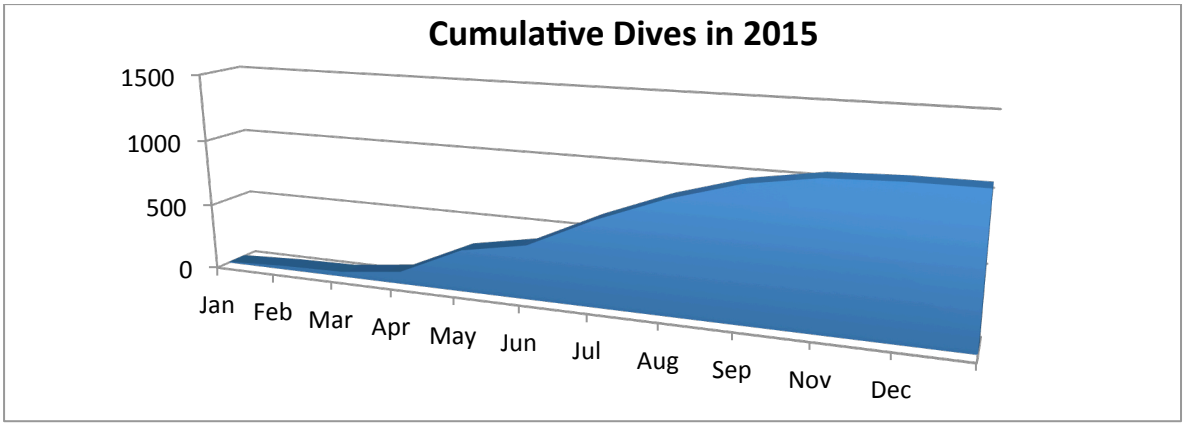


Progressive building of depth and volume – using build up dives and early season warm up sessions

We also encouraged people to make use of the pool sessions pre-season so that they refreshed skills and tested their kit out before jumping off the boat! – See the extract from the 5th January Newsletter below:

"The pool re-opens this Thursday, we have a group of new Ocean Diver trainees starting, I would also encourage everyone to take the opportunity over the next few months for POOL PRACTICE before the main season starts. Just find a buddy and go diving. If you can't find a buddy, let me know or drop an email out yourself to the Google Group email and ask for someone to join you (macc_scuba@googlegroups.com). We will have an instructor at the pool each week to advise and keep an eye on things. Things to practice:- Buoyancy (you can always get better), DSMB deployment, Compass work, Mask removal (with gloves & hood on) etc, rescue skills etc etc. Also worth dusting off your kit from winter storage and making sure it works before you lose a dive when you jump in during the main season and something fails."

The cumulative dives completed also demonstrates our progressive approach to the season



4.1.3 Dives in 2015 – the stats

Having logged all the club dives we are able to maintain a database of the data and produce detailed analysis that enables us to track and monitor the club dives.

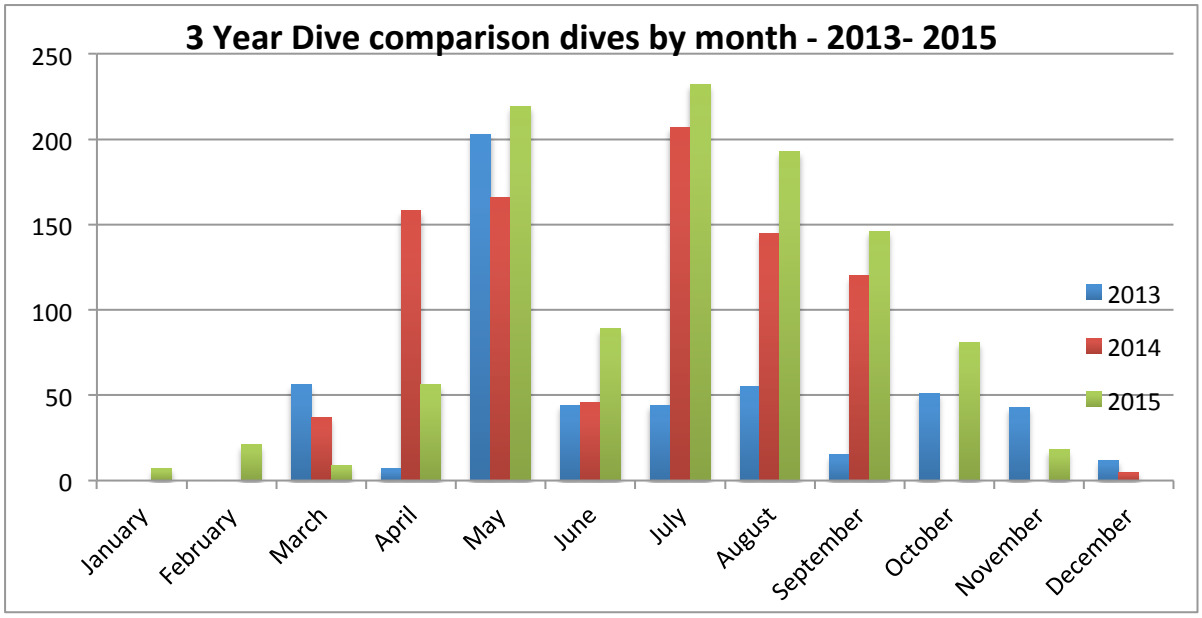
An analysis of the data we hold enables comparisons to be drawn out for the last three years.

Dive Stats 2015 at a glance

Total Number of Dives	1069	
Total Number of Divers	57	
Average dives per diver	18.8	
Average Dive Time	41	Minutes
Total Hours Underwater	766	Hours
Total Days Underwater	32	Days
Longest Dive	69	Minutes
Deepest Dive *	66	Meters

** - All dives conducted within diver qualifications.*

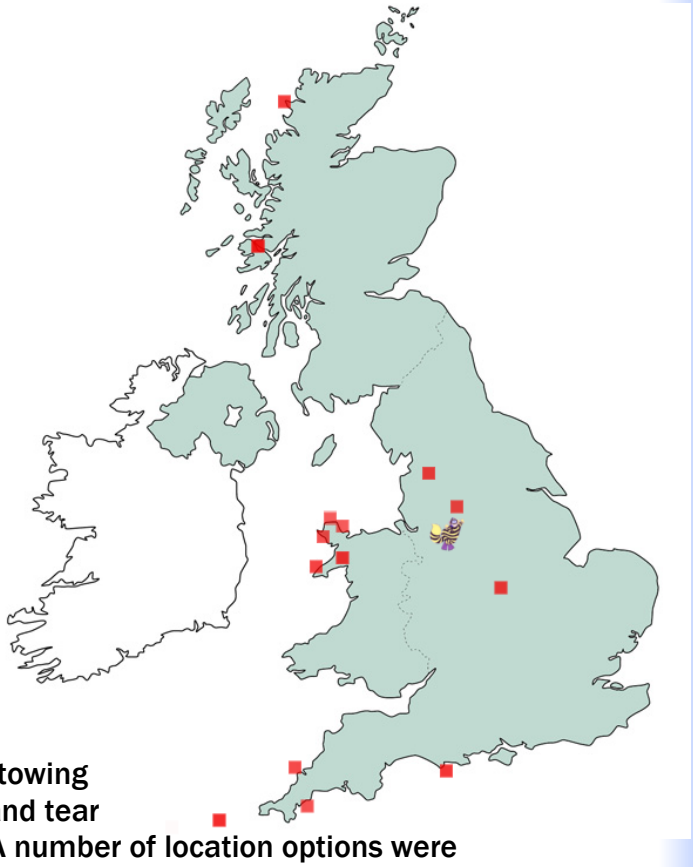
This shows that apart from March and April (which were poor weather and viz months in 2015) we have conducted more club dives each month when compared to previous years. The graph below shows the monthly comparison of total club dives conducted in the last three years.



This information is also shared with the membership in part via the newsletters but also in greater detail as part of the Diving Officer's presentation at the AGM. See examples below: (these relate to the stats for 2014, presented at the 2015 AGM).

4.1.4 Dive locations

Our club is located quite some way from the sea; we are 50 miles from the nearest sea as the crow flies and 70 miles drive from the nearest reasonable sea dive. Our club location is denoted by our Cheshire cat logo on the map opposite.



During 2015 we arranged club trips to a number of different UK destinations denoted by the red dots on the map.

The majority of our club diving is done around Anglesey, the closest area with access to a variety of sea dive sites. We decided to locate our boat on the Island for 2015 after canvassing the membership and discussing the options at length with the committee. This decision was made after weighing up a number of factors, including the cost of the storage (£1,100 per year) and the costs of towing the boat for each trip along with the wear and tear and risks involved in a frequent long tow. A number of location options were considered on the Island and in the end we opted for Trearddur Bay.

The club has been lucky enough to run a number of trips away from the UK shores during 2015 with trips to The Azores, Portugal, Malta, Tenerife and Oman. These trips are organized by club members rather than travel agents to keep costs down and we normally work with local dive centers or local clubs in these locations to ensure we get the best diving for our members. As per guidance from BSAC we ensure members pay direct themselves to avoid the club being seen as acting as a travel agent.

4.1.5 Catering for all levels

We recognised that with a proportion of new members joining the club and also our Snorkel Section it was important to ensure we delivered diving that was appropriate to them and also allowed them to develop their confidence and enjoy "real" diving in the UK which meant going outside of the normal inland training venues.

During the year we ran a number of trips specifically aimed at novice divers and ensured that the diving on these trips was progressive and allowed the new divers to develop their skills and move beyond the conditions they experienced during training but in a safe and supervised environment.

In addition to catering for the newer divers we also took a poll of our membership and enquired specifically what kinds of diving people wanted to do. The results were as in the table on this page: 40 people replied to questions (including 5 newly qualified divers) and these are the proportions in each category

Survey of Members	Do Want	Do NOT Want
To progress my training	30%	63%
To dive on wrecks	40%	10%
Dive more scenic dives	60%	3%
To dive some new sites	55%	5%
To take part in projects	30%	18%
To dive deeper	8%	73%
To find some better viz	95%	0%

The newly qualified divers all said they wanted to continue with their training, it was clear we did not have a wish to do deeper diving (although we already had a group that did tech diving, evidently not many people wanted to join them).

There was a clear mandate for diving new sites and doing more scenic diving as well as to find some better visibility. This led us to try new dive sites and also run some trips further afield (notably Cornwall and the South Coast) to ensure we delivered diving that appealed to the entire membership.

4.1.6 Arrangements for risk assessment, safety and emergency procedures

For all new dive sites we conduct a risk assessment. This is often done as part of an Advanced Diver weekend where the Dive Manager is completing a trip to an unknown site. One such trip was the trip to the Lleyn Peninsular run by Steve Welton see page 64.

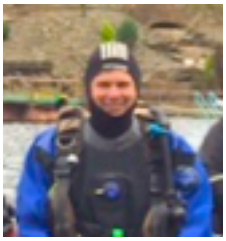
Alternatively we also seek out new training venues and as part of that work we conduct a risk assessment. An example of this would be the use of Salford Quays as a training venue and its subsequent selection as a location for the club to install a training platform. A detailed risk assessment was carried out for that site and is included in this document in section 7.9 on page 138. We also have an example risk assessment on page 145.

We utilise the standard BSAC casualty assessment forms as well as the emergency procedures sheets that we keep laminated and stored in the club boats and with the dive manager during club dives. In order to keep members rescue skills up to date we also run a Practical Rescue Management course (or refresher for some) on an annual basis, usually early in the season. In 2015 we ran this at Salford Quays.

4.1.7 Selected Club Trips 2015

4.1.7.1 Tenerife – Feb 22nd – 1st March

By Loz Broome

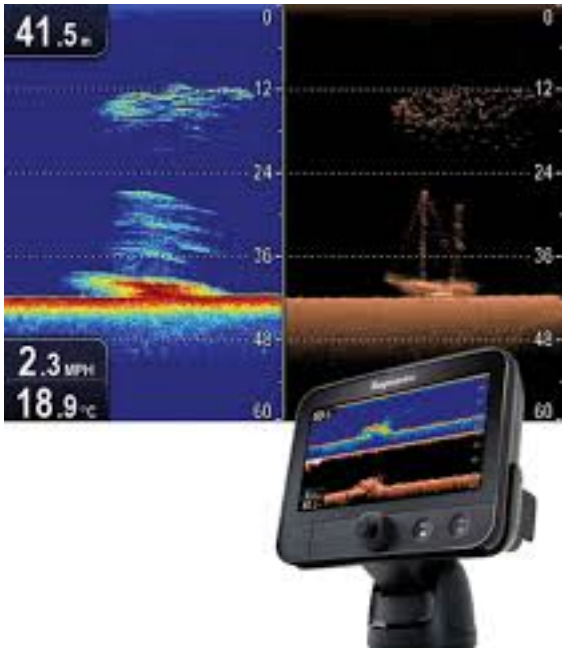


The club took an opportunity to get away early in the season while the weather in the UK was still cool. This gave some of our members the chance to dive in warm clear water well before the UK was warm enough for "fair weather divers" to venture out.

A few lucky ECSAC divers had a week in Tenerife in February 2015. The dive center we used was Aqua Marina situated at Los Christianos. As the beach here was very nice and the surrounding area clean and had a lot going on, with plenty of restaurants, shops pharmacies etc we spent most days in this location. Our accommodation a few miles away was ok but the local resort not as good as Los Christianos. We only managed 3 dives (we got blown out one day, diving was cancelled, as all dives were from a huge rib). Viz was, I guess, between 10 and twenty meters. We saw numerous large rays on the sea bed that took flight underneath us as we approached - massive shoals of fish forming bait balls, so many that at times it went dark. For me the best dive was on a wreck; the small cargo vessel, I guess at about 80 feet in length, hit the reef and wedged itself in a horseshoe reef at a depth of 24metres, the bow broken off and lying inside the wreck amidships. As we left the surface we could see the entire wreck and surrounding reef, viz was very good. The stern section and bridge were intact and home to many large what i call trumpet fish, that ignored us and seemed to be used to visitors to their ship. I enjoyed Tenerife diving and will be returning, as always with diving if you get involved and really look you can find interesting critters and make it worthwhile. Tenerife does offer many watersports, and whale & dolphin watching. There is also plenty of sightseeing to be had - Mount Teide and the tree covered mountain range is a must and if escaping the British weather, Tenerife is just the ticket. Oh, it is doable in wet suits.

4.1.7.2 Wreck Locating Day - March

One of our objectives for 2015 was to practice our wreck locating skills and to enable new members to develop their skills in terms of wreck location and shotting. We arranged a day out on the club boat that was not to include diving and just focus on boat handling, wreck location and shotting.



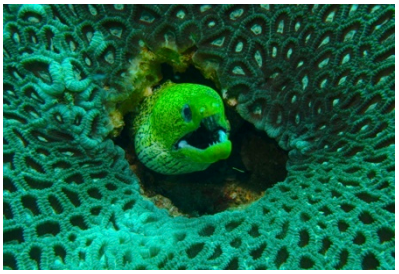
We went out of Trearddur Bay using TopCat and a new Dragonfly Sonar GPS with a downscan facility that would enable us to image potential wreck sites in high definition. We planned to survey a variety of sites (wrecks, reefs and other interesting features identified from charts) and expected to cover over 40nm during the course of the day.

Our specific objectives were to better understand the use of the down scan facility and also to verify our existing GPS marks as well as conduct a search for other potential dive sites based on un-corroborated GPS marks we had obtained from a number of different sources.

The day was very successful, having validated all of the current GPS marks we had stored in the boat's GPS system as well as being able to identify two or three new sites that we were able to dive later in the season. We were also very impressed with the image quality of the Dragonfly unit once we had worked out its optimal settings.

Segontium Wreck on the Downscan

4.1.7.3 Oman - 24th April - 9th May Pat Spencer



We left a cool Manchester on a Qatar flight via Doha to Muscat at 9am and were in our rather swish 4* hotel before 11pm their time. (We even had time for a cup of tea in Doha's brand new airport.)

The first thing that hit us was the *37°C* wall of warmth as our taxi driver took our luggage and loaded it into an air-conditioned 4×4. The next was our arrival at The Millennium Hotel—friendly staff, spotlessly clean sea view rooms with super-sized comfortable beds and a 5* buffet styled restaurant. We spent some of Saturday sorting out our kit at Sea Oman ready for our first

day of diving on the Daymaniyats, a group of islands about an hour's boat ride away. The rest of the day involved eating, walking on the beach and relaxing by the pool.

The diving did not disappoint: 27°C water; 10/15m viz and very little current. We saw every type of reef fish, so many morays (honeycomb, yellow mouthed, grey, peppered and zebra, both in crevices and free swimming: shoals of snappers, juvenile barracuda, red toothed trigger fish, torpedo rays, turtles, puffer, porcupine and lion fish, spiny lobster and the best find, seahorses and a leopard shark). We only saw one other dive boat all the time we were there. The staff and dive guides were excellent; friendly, well organised and knowledgeable.

A change of venue to dive the Musandam involved a 6 hour drive in 2 4×4's plus 2 border crossings (into UAE, out of UEA and back into Oman) — an interesting experience!!! We met up with Mark's friends from Dubai BSAC on board the Dhow that had been chartered for the weekend. This group included Tash, an ex ECSAC trainee, who is now a fully qualified rebreather diver. We then stayed and dived with Nomads for another 2 days.

The scenery was spectacular— jagged mountains plunged into the sea. The underwater topography was its equal. The diving was very different, more challenging and deeper, remote, with drifts of varying speeds. Dive sites with names such as Ras Musandam, White Rock, Lima Rock, Wonderwall, Octopus, Ras Morava and Mother of Mouse. The dive briefings included advice such as "if you get caught in a down current do not inflate your BCD, go with it and fin at right angles to it."

The night dive from the Dhow on Octopus and the early morning 5.30am dive on White Rock were superb. Shoals of batfish, fusiliers, snappers, red toothed trigger fish, massive groupers, pairs of cuttlefish, shimmering silver and electric blue, soft coral in various shades of purple, yellow ,orange, blue and pink, bubble coral with anemone fish darting in and out, hard coral gardens, the sound of reef fish munching, broom tailed wrasse, bannerfish, angel fish, morays — a true fish soup. The high lights for me in the Musandam, the curious bat fish, a porcupine fish being cleaned, seeing my first jaw fish and the group of eagle rays that passed by.

We returned to The Millennium to continue diving on The Daymaniyats. Once again 3 days of calm, well organised and relaxed diving with so much to see. We even stopped pointing out the morays to our buddies as they were everywhere.

We left Mark at The Millenium, as he had booked another two days of diving before his return to work in the Omani desert. Would you believe it –5 whale sharks in two days!!!!

We arrived back on time courtesy of Qatar Airlines to a chilly but very green Manchester.

Was a 15 day trip mega expensive? No.

Would we go again? Yes –September 2016 on The Daymaniyats looks likely.

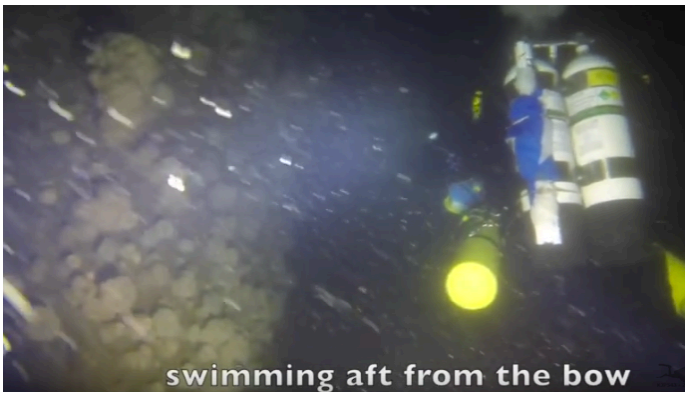
A big thank you to Mark Parsey who organised this trip for us.

4.1.7.4 Cornwall Tech dives - U-Boats - 23-24 May

As part of our efforts to offer more adventurous diving to the members we arranged a trip to Cornwall to dive some deep wrecks and conduct Advanced Mixed Gas training to extend the range of some of our members down to 80m.

We used a charter RIB based in Rock as it would have been prohibitively expensive to take the club boat down with a small number of divers.

The diving included the U325 at 65 meters it was an interesting and challenging dive.



As an extra bonus we were visited by dolphins on our decompression stops and enjoyed 20 minutes of close encounters with them. Awesome.

The video of this trip is available on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOwyOHSd55U

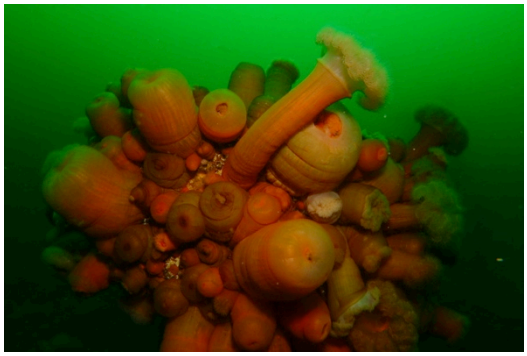
4.1.7.5 Summer Isles – 23-30 May

The drive north is always spectacular. The green fields of Lancashire give way to the mountain tops of the Lake District which in turn give way to the southern lowlands of Scotland and the Cairngorm National Park. The views from Inverness to Ullapool are equally stunning. A single track road with passing places takes us past Stac Pollaidh and on to our final destination, Port Beag Chalets, Altandhu.

The chalets overlook a beautiful bay and The Summer Isles. They are well equipped, clean, spacious and above all warm. The downside was it was extremely windy and rather chilly.

We met our skipper Andy in the pub and agreed to meet at The Old Dornie Pier at 9.30am.

This was the pattern for the rest of the week.



We loaded our kit onto the boat and prepared for our first dive. The viz was a decent 10-15m.

The shock was the water temperature, 8° C. It just hadn't warmed up. We dived every day despite the North westerly wind, squally showers and swell. This was purely down to our skipper, Andy's skilful handling of his boat, The Lady Nicola. He did say that we were a hardy bunch and just to prove the point, Phil and Tim completed a scallop dive for him.

The diving was mainly a mixture of reefs, walls and boulder fields although for good measure we dived the wrecks of the Fairweather and the Boston Stirling. The Fairweather was a riot of colourful plumose anenomes. The marine life was varied—featherstars, hydroids, bryzoa, starfish, anemones, Devonshire Cup Coral, Ling, wrasse, edible crabs, and for good measure sea hares, nudibrancs, octopus and angler fish. Long clawed squat lobsters were under every boulder and in all the crevices.

We had a great week. With better weather we would have been able to dive the northern and western sides of the islands—a good excuse for a return visit.

4.1.7.6 Lleyn Peninsular - June – Steve Welton

Date Friday 26th June 2015 to Sunday 28th June 2015.

Dive Manager: Steve Welton

Dive Team: Kevin Phillips, Mark Paisey, Wilf Wooldridge, Sue Wainwright, Jon Green

Steve organised this trip as part of his advanced diver training. In particular dive planning and management to unknown sites. Steve's write-up of the trip is below.

Friday 26th June 2015.

So Kevin, our DO, and I collected the boat from the club house and set off on the 3 hour journey to the Lleyn Peninsula.

The drive was fairly uneventful for a Friday evening and we arrived in good time at our accommodation, stowed the boat and chose the best beds in the static caravan. (trip organiser's prerogative?)

We were staying at the Llwyn Ffynnon camp site at Yffor just outside Pwllheli where we were launching from Saturday morning. The plan was for other members to join us Friday night who were staying in the caravan and the other boat was to be towed from Anglesey where we had the 2nd boat stored. The site had its own bar and we felt it was only fair to sample the hospitality first hand. I must say it lived up to expectations. During the evening I took a call from our other members on Anglesey who had picked up the boat and found one of the wheel bearings was faulty and therefore were not able to tow the boat any great distance. With only 1 x boat available, this was going to have an impact on the number of people able to dive. Not off to the best start with the bearing failure and even with the extensive efforts of some of our workshop team we could not change the bearing by torch light and limited tools. Quickly altered the plans to suit all parties and turned in for the night.

Saturday 27th June 2015

Up early to get a weather update from the coastguard which presented more challenges as the force 3 to 4 increasing later force 5 to 7 did not bode well. Briefings completed and coastguard informed of plans etc. we launched at Pwllheli and headed out to our first site. the wreck of the Timbo which needed to be dived at low water slack. We located the wreck in good time and deployed a shot line. Divers dropped in and we rotated during the slack window leaving a cox and assistant on board during the dives. Sue, one of the sports diver trainees, had that look in her eye of I am not sure about this as it was a bit lumpy. Kevin took Sue into the water and it turned out to be her best and longest UK dive to date. Her face was a picture of joy once she finally de kitted. Great to see someone really enjoying the dive that you had been planning for many weeks. Handed over the dive management to Mark Paisey our training officer and I jumped in with my long-time friend and dive buddy Jon Green. Down the shot line, bang on the boiler, fantastic shotting by the on board team! We were buzzed by a couple of juvenile seals which was fantastic to see. Plenty of Pollack and wrasse around the wreck. We had a good bimble around the plate work and ribs of

the wreck on the last of the slack water and located plenty of lobsters, edible crabs and a carpet of star fish. Great dive.

All back on board, quick debrief before heading back to port for a spot of lunch and change of cylinders.

The weather had started to pick up a little but headed out to the 2nd wreck which was the aptly named the challenger. Having located the wreck with the coordinates the sea state was picking up and a few green faces developing nicely. I called the dive off and quickly planned for another more sheltered location. We headed over St Tudwall's islands and found a nice spot in the lea of the wind. Having checked the depth sounder it looked like some interesting topography.

Dropped in a shot line for a reference and current check. All good to go. Quick briefing and we jumped in again with the same pairings. I had couple of skills to complete in the water, mask removal and replacement at 20m, 20m CBL and rescue at the surface which went well and met the criteria for a pass. Other members of the dive team reported good viz with plenty of fish life, anemones and crustaceans. All back on board we headed for port to recover the boat and a full debrief.

We all had a nice pleasant evening meal out together and we retired back to the static caravan. Quick check on the weather forecast for Sunday which did not look too good so likely to have to plan for alternative sites which I had done in advance as a contingency.

Sunday 28th June 2015

The pre-planned dive sites were all blown out on the south side of the Lleyn so we relocated to the north coast. Checked out all the bail out sites but the wind had got the better of us this time around so we headed off back to the club house to stow the boats.

Fortunately I had done enough to get the tick in the box, which completed my advanced diver grade training.

This was the second attempt at diving the challenger which beat me again so third time lucky June 2016 here we come, are you ready!!

Steve getting his Advanced Diver Signed off.

4.1.7.7 Anglesey RIB dives – 11-12 July

This weekend was one pulled together to enable a quick and easy launch using the boat we had stored on Anglesey. The weekend was aimed at enabling some of the club's newly qualified divers so we selected a number of easy shallow sites with plenty of life to look at.

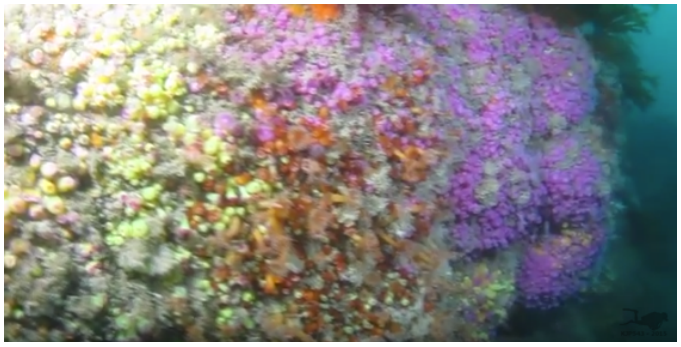
The weekend included four dives for each of the divers and because of early tides we were also able to do some waterskiing.

The video of this trip is available on YouTube at : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaGyexnrS-8

4.1.7.8 Scilly Isles – August – Mark and Anna Hickson

This was our 8th trip the the Scillies, staying on St Martins and diving with Tim Allsop. Our group this time consisted of 10 divers and one non-diver, which is a lovely number, both on the boat and off. We began the trip as usual with an overnight stay in Penzance, then took the Scillonian to St. Mary's, the largest of the Scilly Isles. From there we took the smaller inter-island ferry to St. Martins to begin our holiday proper. It's a long journey - we often comment that we could get to Australia more quickly - but it's beautiful and well worth the journey, which is all part of the holiday. We began our diving with a true Scillies favourite of mine, Treneme Ledges. This is a typical Scilly dive, walls and walls of stunning jewel anenomes of every colour. The vis, as everywhere this year, was not it's best, only 6-8m! During the week we were slightly restricted by the weather and tides, but we still managed many Scilly favourites, including The Hathor, King Cadwallon, Brinkburn, Juno cannon and anchors, Hanjague and Sponge Hill. One of the joys of the Scillies is the variety of diving from stunning walls covered in all kinds of anenomes to 18th Century wrecks, where all that's left are cannon and anchors. Luckily for us Tim, our skipper, jumps in and lays a trail for us underwater, so that we don't miss anything, If we're lucky there can be a seal or two about as well.

Wreck of the Collossus



Above water we sampled the delights of Adams Fish and Chips, freshly caught lobster tails - yummy! Once again our week was over too quickly, we had a fantastic week, both due to the diving and also to the great group of divers.

4.1.7.9 Azores 17-26 July 2015

"Where's that?" was the usual question when we said that ECSAC was diving in the Azores. (Broadly speaking these beautiful islands are mid Atlantic approximately 900 miles west of Lisbon).

We survived the rigors of flying with TAP although some of us required stopovers in Lisbon in order to do so. Lisbon itself is a beautiful and extremely safe city which merits a visit in its own right. 19 of us arrived on Pico (the island takes its name from the volcano which at 2000m + dominates the sky line). We were taken to our hotel which was situated 9km outside the main town of Madalena. The hotel was spotless, the breakfasts marvelous and the views over the vineyards and the sea were stunning.

We had 5 days diving with Gary and Lindsey who own and run Twin Peaks Dive Centre in Sao Roc. The diving was predominantly shore based, from a variety of sites around the island. Morays groupers, octopus, nudibrancs and wrasse were easy to spot in and around the crevices and boulders. Depth hounds descended to 47m to see the black coral on the last day.

One group took a RIB over to the Island of Sao Jorge for a day to dive the caves and the hardier amongst us endured the two and a half hour RIB trip from Madalena out to Princess Alice Bank, an underwater sea mount, to dive with the mobula rays. The end of course justified the means, as seeing these graceful creatures in the clear blue waters of the Atlantic was pretty amazing. Our 2 non divers had an equally fruitful trip out to Faial to go whale watching. Not only did they see sperm whales but pods of dolphin entertained them on the way.

Azorean history is bound up with the sperm whale. Did you know they ground whale bone into flour? Pico itself is largely unspoilt. Black volcanic rock is used in constructing houses and the hundreds of dry stone walls that protect the vines. The square in Madalena was the meeting place for families and tourists alike. We were entertained by local choirs, brass bands and traditional dance groups. Restaurants were small and family run so eating out was very enjoyable.

The video of this trip is available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF2VIR4HCPg

4.1.7.10 New Diver Anglesey weekend 25/26th July

This weekend was all about getting the new ocean divers out into the sea; unfortunately it didn't happen this weekend but we had some other fun instead.

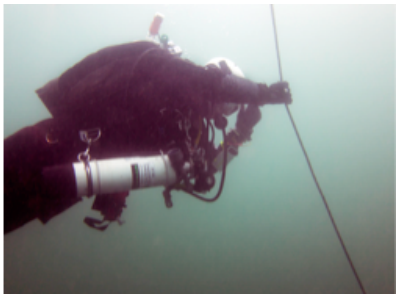
News coming in from local North Wales clubs who we keep in touch with told us that high winds and poor viz were what was in store for this weekend. After a meeting at the clubhouse we changed plans to do some skills practice and navigation diving at Capernwray quarry, to make the best of the time we had planned in and still stretch our new divers with some activities.

Although not the sea, we set up some complex navigation for ocean divers and progressed some other skills. Ocean divers led the more experienced and we made sure we also had some fun on the surface, with new members getting to know each other, working as a team and getting more comfortable and independent, with guidance on hand if needed.

A worthwhile weekend enjoyed by all.

4.1.7.11 Anglesey RIB dives - 22nd-23rd August

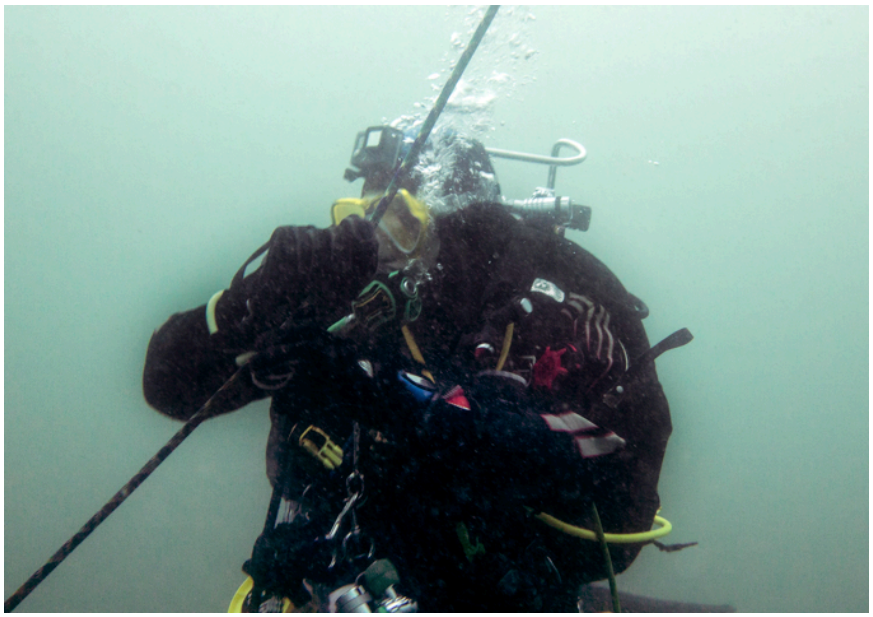
Derbent Deep Wreck – Phil Darlington



This was a trip put together to appeal to the more adventurous in the club and took us further offshore than normal and somewhat deeper than the more usual Anglesey diving done with the club.

An early morning slack meant a group of bleary eyed divers met at Bull Bay to load and launch Top Cat. The sea was mirror calm as we made our way 7 miles offshore. The wreck was located, shotted and the 3 pairs of divers descended in still water as our 'educated guess' at slack had proven to be right. The shot was on the Bow and the divers explored the forward holds with 3m to 4m of viz before making a safe return to the surface. We returned on Sunday flushed with success and another calm sea only to either miss with the shot or have it drag off the wreck; the Sunday dive was a 42m seabed in the vicinity of the Derbent.

This dive also sparked a very good discussion in the club in relation to gas planning and enabled us to engage a number of members in a healthy debate about appropriate equipment for more adventurous dives including the use of bailout cylinders and deco gases. This provided the opportunity to discuss deeper diving and the need for careful planning and engaged some members not on this trip so well they decided to undertake the Accelerated Decompression SDC which we ran along with a Buoyancy and Trim Workshop later in the year.

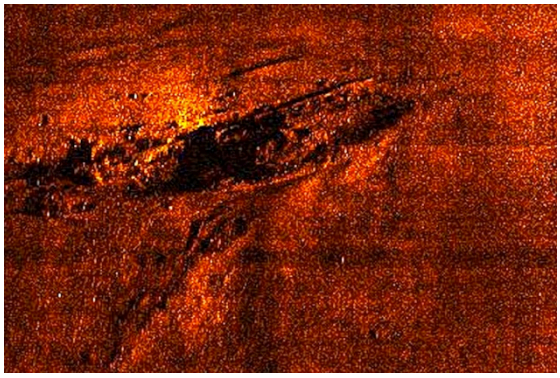


4.1.7.12 Shipwreck Project 7-11 September

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club brought together members of Darwen, Stafford and Gwynedd Sub Aqua Club to sample a week with the Shipwreck Project in Weymouth on 7-11 September. The Shipwreck Project is a story hunter at heart and anyone diving with the Project does so with the aim of adding to that story. They search out new undived wrecks and sites of historic importance and document, photograph and log them and so add to the increase of our rich maritime history. Our group was primarily interested in offshore trimix sites but also tried their hand at target diving Chesil Beach in 16m.

Wey Chieftain 4

All of the diving is done from Wey Chieftain 4 a fast catamaran. The boat is spacious and very well equipped with diver lift and spacious toilet! The first site planned was the sailing clipper Aracan, similar to the Cutty Sark, in 55m. This site has not been definitively identified but the cargo contents, especially belt buckles from the Staffordshire Regiment, indicates the Aracan. Huge metal hoops and an abundance of pottery and glass artefacts mark the wrecksite cargo.



Sidescan image of the Aracan

The boat normally arrives on site 45 minutes early and hooks in via a rebar grapnel. For our dives we also deployed a deco trapeze with spare gas, divers are required to return via the shotline. Any items identified on the seabed and there are many, are photographed and catalogued to become data for the Project and to aid further research.

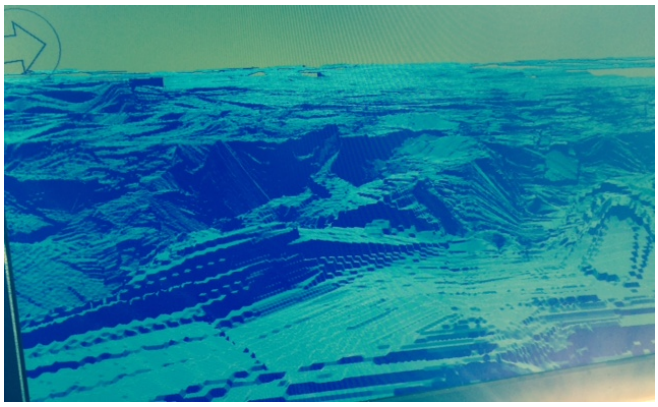
Our second dive was 29nm out towards Cherbourg on an early steamer as yet unnamed in 63m. She has a square engine block and flywheel similar to the arrangement seen on the Warrior in Portsmouth. This suggests a mid 19th century wreck. The Project was interested in recovering one of the blocks known to lie around the engine. If the blocks were patent fuel then this suggests a 60-70 year old vessel when sunk as patent fuel blocks date from around 1900. The blocks are normally also stamped so a manufacturer could be determined. As always the shot was exactly on site from skipper Grahame Knott despite only being 2m above the seabed. A fuel block was quickly identified at 63m and photographed, a dive around the engine and flywheel followed.

The third day saw a change of scene and the opportunity to target dive a developing wrecksite off Chesil beach. The Project spends much time sidescanning areas for targets on Coastal Guardian their survey ship.

Clusters of targets indicate potential wrecks. To gather this data the sidescan towfish needs to be pulled approximately 5m above the seabed scanning 50m either side. Towfish are expensive and it's vital to know that the fish will not collide with the seabed. The Project has therefore collected lots of soundings in the areas of interest enabling a picture to be made of the seabed in the areas of interest where charts are inadequate or not surveyed.

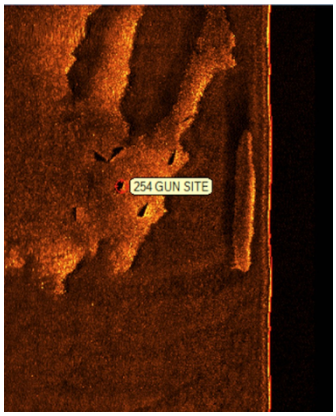
Coastal Guardian survey vessel

The Project uses Olex which allows users to collect data from a ships echo sounder and GPS direct to a digital database. This can be immediately visualised on screen which can be shared between users.



3D image of the seabed on the OLEX System

The sidescan uses an algorithm to produce an 8 figure coordinate at the click of a mouse on any point of interest allowing it to be shotted and dived. (See the screenshot of the cannon site on the right). The Project aims to place the shot within 5m of the site and divers have to follow the shot down without pulling on it. A circular search follows by attaching a line to the shot via a prussik knot 2-3 m above the seabed. Normally the target is very close such is the accuracy, if not its back on the boat and on to the next target. This is great diving for any BSAC club as its "diving for a purpose" and has something for every interest. We felt that if you enjoy diving why would you not get involved. If you are interested then contact Richard Bright-Paul at the shipwreck project. http://www.theshipwreckproject.com



Cannon Site on the sidescan

What did we find..... a sense of adventure, Oh and a Bronze Age Axehead from 700 BC!

Axehead found on the ECSAC Dives

4.1.7.13 Anglesey RIB dives August

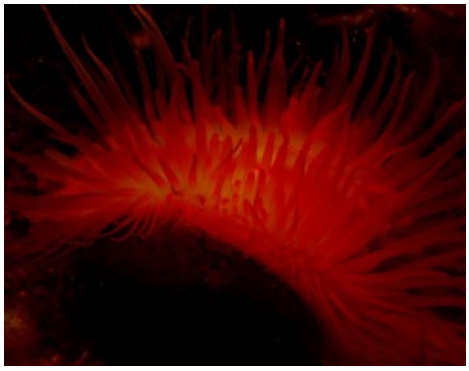
Bank Holiday weekend 29th-31st August

A family focused weekend to enable partners and kids to join the trip with diving early in the day and activities in the afternoon including water skiing and then a meal arranged for the whole group in the evening.

4.1.7.14 Sound of Mull 19-26th Sept 2015

We arrived at Salen Pier House late on Saturday afternoon. Everyone, as always, loved the accommodation. It has everything, a huge lounge overlooking the sound of Mull, a fully fitted kitchen with a dishwasher, microwave and a huge stove. 4 bathrooms, 2 of which were en-suite, conservatory, drying room with underfloor heating and best of all for the divers our very own pier.

This was the fourth time that we had chosen to dive with Malcolm and Dave from Lochaline Boat Charters. The reasons: the boat is well laid out with plenty of room to kit up; an on board compressor, loo, galley kitchen, warm cabin and the all-important dive lift means that the diving is safe and enjoyable. Dave's extensive knowledge means perfect slack and dive briefings.



Day one was a leisurely stroll to the end of the pier. We did our check out dive on the Rondo and then headed up The Sound to Sgeirean Mor. What a brilliant day's diving. Colour by the bucketful.

Day 2 was a skipper and divers dream—calm seas, sun, spectacular scenery including a Minke Whale. We steamed out to Coll to dive The Tapti and then on to Muck to dive Windmill Wall. Our skipper, who we affectionately call Steaming Dave lived up to his well-deserved reputation for taking divers to The Sound and beyond.

Day 3 . The classic wreck of The Shuna did not disappoint—a riot of colour, plastered with life, on perfect slack. The day then became one of my favourites as we dived the Risga Pinnacle in Loch Sunart. This is a must if you like colour –the walls were covered with Plumose Anemones, Jewel Anemones, Devonshire Cup Coral, Northern Sea Fan, Red Fingers, Celtic Feather Stars: squatties were in every crevice. Mark as always spotted every nudibranc. If I sound envious, it is because I am.

Day 4; Ardmore Point and then a steam up Loch Sunart to the flame shell beds. How much fun can you have on a dive? These critters are a must see.

Day 5.Auliston Wall with its stunning Red Fingers and then the classic wreck of the Hispania, a favourite which never disappoints.

Day 6: The Hispania because it is a firm favourite and then Calve island to finish a fantastic week.

Great company — we shall be back—same house, same boat, same skipper.

4.1.7.15 Portugal – October

Sadly a fairly low viz trip due to poor weather the week before our team turned up.

Trip overview from Sue Wainwright - The first day we went out the guide and Simon went down the shot and decided the viz was too bad so dive got cancelled. The next day Bob passed his remaining Ocean Diver training and was signed off. A major day for Bob!

The Dive Guide gave everyone else the choice of diving or not given the conditions were not ideal so I went down the shot and came straight back up as viz was about one meter. Everyone on board was told that if they didn't want to dive they wouldn't charge so I sat on the boat with a few others. The following day Simon and I dived a wreck the viz was still bad but I decided I had to do one dive!

Overall it was a good trip, the Dive School was excellent and I would definitely visit again.

Aside from the dives the highlight was that drove you on golf buggies to the marina which was good fun and their dive RIB was massive!

The highlight of the trip however was that Bob Heyes completed his final open water dive and successfully completed his Ocean Diver Training.

Another happy new diver with East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club.

4.2 Expeditions:

4.2.1 The Shipwreck Project

ECSAC teamed up with the Shipwreck Project for a dive expedition aimed at diving previously undived wrecks and dive sites selected from potential dive sites identified from Sidescan Sonar data shared with the club by the project. See the trip report for this at 4.1.7.12 on page 71.

The Shipwreck Project is a Community Interest Company (CIC). That means that it is a not-for-profit organisation with an isolated fund to be used for the benefit of its members. It is obliged to provide annual accounts to Companies House, and in the case of being wound up any remaining funds would go to charity. Funding is generated initially through membership subscriptions, which a number of members of ECSAC have taken up, and it is hoped that these funds can be supplemented in future by seeking public funding for specific projects.

The Shipwreck Project aims to invest the majority of their funds in research. Some of those monies will go on archive subscriptions and searches. Some will go on commissioning seabed surveys. These surveys will be primarily conducted using the survey vessel Coastal Guardian. Coastal Guardian is not an asset of The Shipwreck Project, it is under separate private ownership. A proportion of the ship's time will be dedicated to conducting survey searches for The Shipwreck Project. The Shipwreck Project will not pay commercial rates for the vessel (use of the vessel and time effectively will be provided free of charge); it will simply cover the cost of fuel used on the surveys. In return, The Shipwreck Project will have sole access to the findings of those surveys. Kitted out with OLEX, high frequency sidescan sonar, dive deck and a 60m drop camera, Coastal Guardian is pretty unique in the UK in being a privately owned, survey vessel with true wreck-exploration capabilities.

The diving organised through The Shipwreck Project is, in the UK, conducted on Wey Chieftain IV – a bespoke dive catamaran with diver lift. Wey Chieftain IV is dedicated the majority of its time to it. Members of The Shipwreck Project who dive on Wey Chieftain IV will pay for dives on an individual place basis, so subscription funds will not be used for this purpose. Likewise, on foreign diving or non-diving trips, members will pay as they go.

The Shipwreck Project intends to bring together a broad range of people with skill and expertise in relevant areas of research, people who want to get involved in discovery at the sharp end, and people who simply want to learn and have fun. Some of thier members are divers, with their natural interest in the sea, and others interested from a more historical basis. East Cheshire's particular skillset bought to bear on our trips was deep technical diving and also IT skills which enabled us to assist with Sidescan Sonar data reviews. We also provided the project on some ideas for how to promote the project and run more widely accessible trips, some of these ideas (creating special trips with a mix of project tour and guided target diving for dive clubs) have been implemented for their 2016 season.

ECSAC also got an honorable mention in the National DO's speech at the 2015 BSAC Conference where Sophie mentioned our work with the Shipwreck project.

4.3 Scientific:

4.3.1 Project Baseline

What is Project Baseline? Project Baseline is a grassroots, environmental conservation initiative. The organization exists to support people who are invested in water quality and availability by providing a platform that gives voice to otherwise under or undocumented aquatic areas. It is a global initiative that allows people from all over the world to see what's happening in various parts of the globe through one central database - See more at: http://projectbaseline.org/

Why Project Baseline? Gradual loss of knowledge about what should compose a healthy ecosystem leads each new generation to accept a different environmental standard; thus, our "baseline" shifts to accommodate an often changed, and, perhaps more importantly, sometimes degraded environmental 'norm'.

ECSAC's involvement with Project Baseline

Gemma Thomas – "We've collaborated with the Project Baseline North Wales project. DiveLife and Global Underwater explorers originally set this project up due to North Wales being premier dive spot in the UK. ECSAC regularly dive in the area and house one of their ribs here, so have started to build up data and awareness of popular sites both inland and off shore. Our aim over time is to build up a picture of changes, so future generations can see what may have changed, for better or worse."

ECSAC objectives for Project Baseline

Build awareness in the club and encourage members to be aware of the sites they are diving and what's happening there in terms of visibility, sea life, conditions.

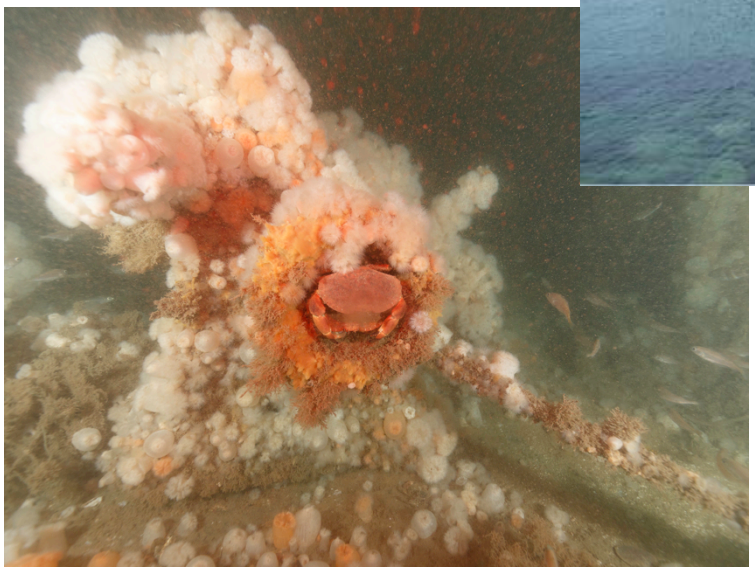
Narrow down to a couple of sites that have meaning to ECSAC to monitor well over the next 5 years.

Promote our work to other BSAC clubs and other divers in North Wales via Facebook and discussion, so that other divers can start helping collect information and take ownership for our local dive sites.

What's happened so far -

Gemma Thomas delivered a talk to ECSAC members on Feb 19th attended by 30 members

Dive sites visited and documented in 2015 included – March, Trefor Pier; June, Segontium Wreck off Anglesey; July, Bulls Head sites, however viz was poor.

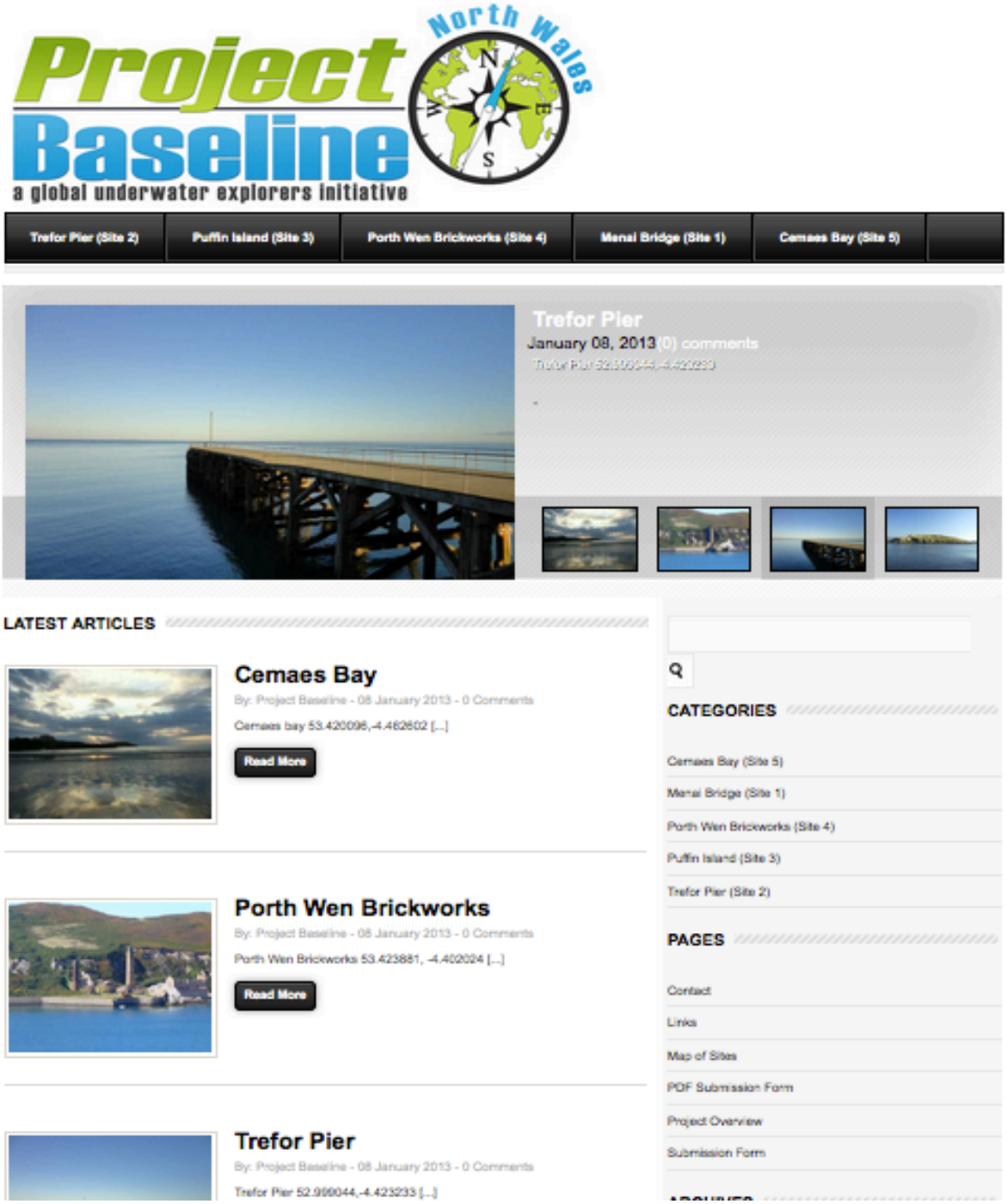


What's the plan going forward -

We will aim to collect more evidence and document the sites we have already visited using the baseline datum points we have already photographed and we will also extend our list of monitored sites as time progresses. This information will all be fed back to Project Baseline.

We will set our target sites for 2016 so that we are committed to documenting and maintaining a record for up to five sites. We will then monitor these each year. Once we have our sites agreed and a dataset established it will be about our taking ownership of these datasets and building up a strong picture of how they develop and enabling a rich picture to be available for future generations, so we can preserve them for future divers.

Gemma Thomas has collated the work so far and uploaded this onto the Project Website at www.projectbaseline.org in the section for North Wales.



In moving this project further forward we aim to gain commitment from our club divers to gather pictures and get more people confident with how to take part and develop a strong working team in the club to make sure we plan in diving at the chosen sites for next year. We also include Project Baseline in our outreach activity and aim to encourage and involve other clubs.

4.3.2 Seasearch

ECSAC have been involved with SeaSearch for a number of years. Seasearch is a project for volunteer sports divers who have an interest in what they're seeing under water, want to learn more and want to help protect the marine environment around the coasts of Britain and Ireland.

The main aim is to map out the various types of sea-bed found in the near-shore zone around the whole of the Britain and Ireland. In addition we are recording what lives in each area, establishing the richest sites for marine life, the sites where there are problems and the sites that need protection.

Sea Search has been championed within our branch by Pat Spencer. Pat has been diving with ECSAC for over 10 years.

Pat says "I became involved after attending a 2 day course run by Sea Search North Wales coordinator Liz Morris. I completed my observer qualification with Sea Search North Wales and my surveyor in the Shetland Islands with Jo Porter and Paul Holmes. Since then I have taken part in Sea Search data collecting in North Wales and in Scotland. I have also spend a weekend in Loch Sunart and a week in Orkneys in 2015.

As part of these trips I have been able to observe and log many interesting and important marine species. Notable ones include:

Flame shells – these beds are protected as rare

Yellow Ringed sea Squirt.

Sand Mason on Maerl bed.

4.4 Competitions

We have a set of awards within the club that have been awarded for many years. These include Diver of the Year and Trainee of the Year (selected and awarded by the Diving Officer) and Club Member of the Year, which is voted for by the membership.

Diver Of The Year

This is awarded by the Diving Officer and is normally awarded to the diver who completes the most club dives in the year, reflecting their appetite for diving and also their support of club events.

In 2015 this was won by Phil Darlington

Not only did Phil do more training than anyone else in the club, 25% more than the next most dived diver and 325% more than the average diver in the club, he also worked tirelessly behind the scenes keeping the boats going and servicing the club mini bus on the road. He also organised a lot of club trips as well and so the award went beyond just the diving.

Ocean Diver of the Year (Originally named Novice of the year).

Again decided by the Diving Officer but with input from the Training Officer and training team. This usually reflects a diver who has progressed through training showing particular skill and commitment and also then moving on to dive with the club and make a positive contribution to the club in either a diving or social capacity. The DO will present these awards at the annual Dinner Dance and he/she will make a supportive speech recognising the individuals selected along with the reasons they have won the award.

For 2015 this was won by Alison Brammer, a new member in 2015 and someone who progressed through her Ocean Diver training and used her qualification whilst on holiday in Hawaii as well as opting to continue with her training through to Sports Diver in 2016.

Alison has also been active in helping with social events and joining in on a number of the club's working parties and really thrown herself into the club's activities.

Club Member Of The Year. (now known as the Neville Oldham Memorial Trophy).

This is decided by the Members in a 'secret' ballot arranged in advance. The winner is only known by the person arranging the engraving, with the trophy being awarded at the annual Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony.

This award has been given annually for the last 42 years.

In 2015 this was won by Kevin Phillips.

Each winner receives the trophy and a small keepsake of a crystal tumbler engraved with the name of the trophy and the year.

The past winners are:

1973	- DS Andrew	1988	- T Crew	2003	- J Adshead
1974	- S Hamer	1989	- K Rushton	2004	- M Ruston – M Lomas
1975	- P Heron	1990	- T Tuke	2005	- M Whitworth Junior
1976	- B Sadler	1991	- J Barnes	2006	- A Reed
1977	- B Robertson	1992	- M Doughtrey	2007	- D Ketteringham
1978	- S Farer	1993	- M Lomas	2008	- A McMullan
1979	- K Rushton	1994	- R Lomas	2009	- P Spencer
1980	- S Farrer	1995	- L Royle	2010	- J Shaw
1981	- K Gregory	1996	- S Farrer	2011	- J Adshead
1982	- R Walker	1997	- H Macro	2012	- D Grindrod
1983	- P Tyers	1998	- M Doughtrey	2013	- K Phillips
1984	- A Wilkins	1999	- L Broome	2014	- K Phillips
1985	- M Garnet	2000	- J Hibbert	2015	- K Phillips
1986	- K Rushton	2001	- L Broome		
1987	- J Morton	2002	- E Howarth		

We also awarded the Open Zip Award, given to commemorate the "Whoops! moment of the year" this went to Phil Darlington, Mark Hickson and Simon Lowrie.. (now to be known as the Chuckle Brothers).. For the Trearduur Bay Sandbar incident – a Sandbar that looks suspiciously like a beach to me in the photo.... An honorable mention goes to Keith Walsom who managed in his enthusiasm to drop the shot off the boat when no-one was looking and watched the shot, the line and the buoy disappear into a deep hole never to be seen again before the dive site was even reached!

5 General activities

5.1 Branch meetings:

We hold weekly club nights on a Thursday each week, these are from 8pm till late and are held at our clubhouse in Macclesfield. We also have use of the swimming pool on Thursday nights (at Macclesfield Leisure Centre) so instructors and students will usually arrive soon after 9pm to join the club night. For details of the clubhouse and bar see page 51.

We regularly hold other gatherings of members at the clubhouse including a number of social events (most are open to other clubs as well, see page 84). In addition to the numerous social events we also hold monthly working parties at the clubhouse to maintain the club and our equipment at which volunteers get treated to lunch.

We have an annual Christmas Party (usually the last Thursday before the Christmas week).

We now hold regular Instructor meetings to ensure that our training team have the opportunity to feedback on how training is running and how it is being managed as well as discussion around training techniques and progress of students. This is also a good forum for exchanging hints and tips to less experienced instructors and comparing teaching methods and ensuring we approach training in a consistent and fun way.

In addition to our own club's use of the facilities we are happy to host regional and SDC events at our club and though 2015 were able to open our facilities to a large number of non-ECSAC members. This will continue through 2016 and we have now confirmed this with Phil Alberts the Diving Support Officer at BSAC HQ.

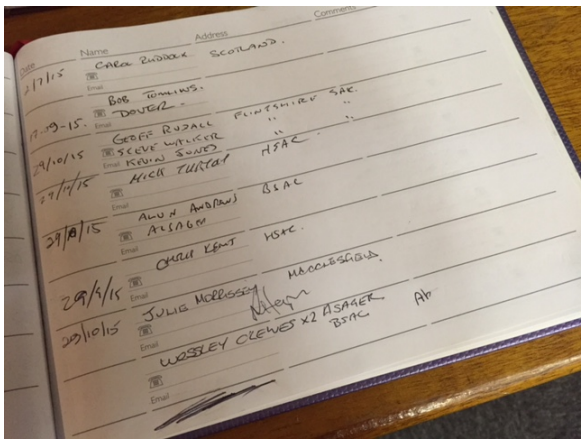
The committee also holds a monthly committee meeting at the clubhouse (usually the first Tuesday of the month) at which branch matters, diving, finances and general administration are discussed.

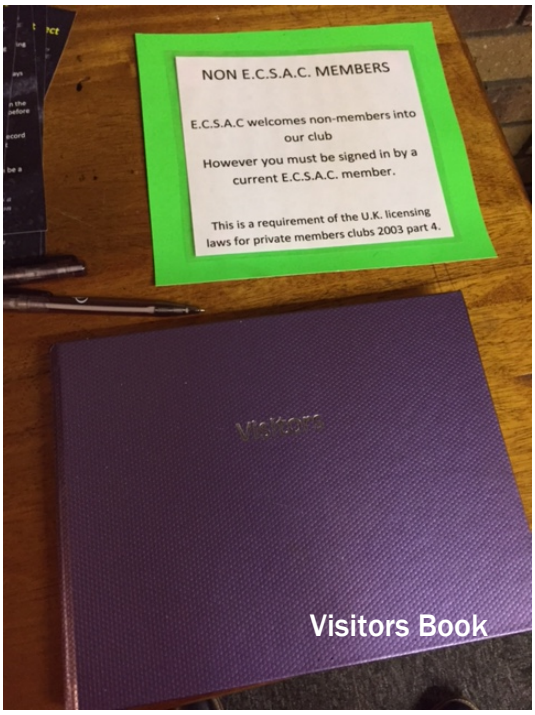
We also hold our annual AGM in March each year where we feed back to our members on progress through the year, provide details of club finances (annual accounts – see page 133 for details of these) and also hold officer elections for any positions that need filling. We also take this opportunity to put important matters in front of the members to ensure we obtain their feedback in an open forum. This meeting Is fully minuted (as are the committee meetings) so that a formal record is kept of the club's management.

5.2 Social:

The club has a social secretary and regular social events arranged both in our own clubhouse and further afield when the opportunity presents itself.

When we hold socials at our clubhouse we also extend invites to other local clubs. We have regular contact with over 10 clubs and we invite them to open events such as film nights, dances, special interest talks etc. Our most recent film night attracted attendees from as far afield as Flintshire BSAC (65 miles away) and was attended by representatives from four other clubs.





5.2.1 Annual Social Calendar 2015

We organised a series of events to make use of the clubhouse and to ensure we had some coverage throughout the year as well as avoiding good diving weekends to ensure we did not compromise the running of trips.

Our calendar was published to ensure people knew the dates to keep free.

January 31st	Dinner Dance	ECSAC Only	External Venue
March 8th	Menai Boat Run	(Multi Club)	8 clubs
March 26th	AGM	ECSAC Only	
Summer	Freediving Talk	(Multi Club)	Guest Speaker
Summer	New Member Welcome Event	ECSAC Only	
October	Barn Dance	(Multi Club)	4 clubs
October	Shipwreck Project Talk	(Multi Club)	2 clubs
October 29th	Film Night	(Multi Club)	5 clubs
December 17th	Xmas Party	Open Invite	

5.2.2 Annual Dinner Dance with prize giving and disco – 30th January

Our Dinner Dance was held at an external venue (not using the clubhouse) as this gave us a chance to treat it as a special event and go for black ties, it also meant that the overhead of organising it was reduced so all the members could relax and enjoy the evening. We had a three course dinner, an after dinner speaker and an awards ceremony with a number of awards presented to the winners.

We present the following awards at this event: (See section 4.4 on page 81)

Club Member of the Year

Novice of the Year (now awarded to the most meritorious ocean diver student and while the cup presented still says novice which reflects the grade as it was when the award was first created. The crystal glass presented to the winner now says Ocean DIver).

Diver of the Year (selected by the DO)

and the Open Zip award – usually presented for the most comical error of the year.. Such as forgotten kit, forgetting to zip up drysuits (as the name would suggest), or other comical errors that may amuse all involved.

5.2.3 Menai Boat Trip – March 8th (multi club)

We now run an annual boat outing before the main dive season begins.

We had a great day out on the boats, along with over 130 others from clubs in the region. The BSAC Clubs joining us were Congleton, Hartford, Chester, Gwynedd, Flintshire, Warrington and Mold with two further boats brought along by private owners. Including our boats there were a total of 14 RIBS – we also raised money for the RNLI and arranged for the Beaumaris Lifeboat to do a demonstration launch for all of the participants to watch.

We created large queues in the Chippy

The invitation for this event read:

Once again to start the new season and to have a day's fun in our much loved boats we are running a non diving day on the Menai Straits on Sunday March 8th. We hope to travel the length of this beautiful stretch of water which is steeped in history as well as being an interesting area to navigate. We look forward to seeing the skills of the by then newly qualified diver coxwains.

Simple instruction in navigation will be given to those who are interested and of course we will have the obligatory stop for a fish and chip lunch in Beaumaris and of course ice creams by Caernarfon Castle to end the day. This castle is both stunning and historically very significant and to approach it from the sea is an experience not to be missed.

SCUBA HUB

Riders on the strait

On a blustery Sunday morning in early March, 16 boats representing eight BSAC clubs congregated for a day of early season boat handling on the Menai Strait. This photo of some of the participating boats was taken by Amanda Lowrie of East Cheshire SAC, who said the main focus for the day was to raise money for the RNLI, as well as giving the RIBs a pre-season outing.

"No divers escaped the collection for the RNLI and all were made to dig into their very deep pockets," said Amanda "More than £200 was raised, which is now on its way to a greatly appreciative RNLI team. Although no diving took place, the camaraderie, good spirits and unity of all the clubs was a real joy to behold and so were the 130 divers squeezing into a chip shop!"

This trip will be repeated again next year so if any more clubs would like to join us, please contact East Cheshire SAC for more details. Thank you to the following for participating and raising money for the RNLI: Congleton SAC; Gwynedd SAC; Hartford SAC; Flintshire SAC; The Golden Lion SAC; Chester SAC; East Cheshire SAC; Rhosneigr SAC; Beaumaris RNLI; Café Neptune, Beaumaris; Parisellas Ice Cream, Caernarfon; Dinas Boat Yard, Menai.

This is open to everyone and with the two Club boats and offers of more there should be plenty of room.

I would particularly like to see our newer members on this as it will give them a great opportunity to meet fellow members and our friends from other Clubs. We were also lucky to get an article in Scuba Magazine (published in the May 2015 edition) to publicise the event so we look forward to an even bigger event in 2016.

You can see the video of this event at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8fvXQVVHRY

General Activities

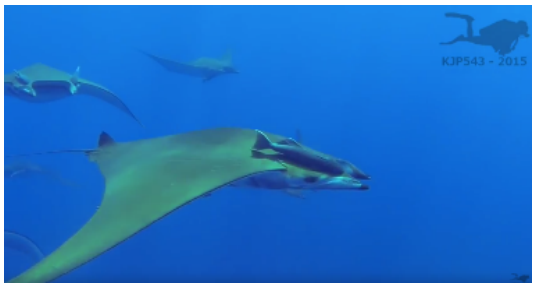
5.2.4 New member welcome evening – 6th August

We held a special new member welcome evening as we had a lot of new members join the club through the first half of 2015 and we wanted to make them welcome and encourage them to attend the clubhouse on a Thursday.

As part of this evening we showed a number of scuba videos shot by members whilst on club trips to wet the appetite for the dives they can do with the club.

These films included..

Mobular Rays in the Azores



Driving the club boats

Great club holidays (The Scilly Isles)

Seals – very popular!

Lots of critters

All of these stills are taken from videos of ECSAC trips in 2015.

5.2.5 Barn Dance Social (multi club) – 3rd October

The Barn Dance was a great success, we had over 70 people come along and we had representation from other BSAC clubs as we had extended the invitation out to a number of the other local clubs. On the night the food and dancing were great. Many thanks to all those who helped prepping and on the night, particularly Pam for the great chilli, Janice and team for running the bar and Alison for her help with the setup. Must also give Julie a mention for her sterling efforts with the preparations and dressing the room. We also had a good team for the Sunday cleanup with help from Janet, Maxine, Bob and Suzanne as well as Julie. The club got a good clean from top to bottom.

Big Thank you to the Band as well – they did a great job and managed to get most of us doing something like dancing.. They were called Wagon Wheel
http://www.wagonwheeldance.com/

5.2.6 Film Night (multi club)

We ran a number of film nights during the year, showing scuba films shot by our members as well as other films of interest to the membership. One such occasion was an open invitation evening to other clubs on 29th October where we had other clubs come along for a social evening. The clubs attending included Hartford, Alsager, Flintshire and Chester as well as representation from the PADI center in Macclesfield.

The event was a great success and we received very positive feedback from the other clubs suggesting they would be attending future events. One such email as below:

From: Alun <alunandrews@hotmail.com>
Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2015 17:37:41 +0000
To: KJP <kevinjp@btinternet.com>
Subject: James Cameron film

Hi Kevin
Just wanted to thank you for the film last night.
It was most enjoyable.
Alun Andrews
Alsager Sub Aqua

Our clubhouse has an inbuilt screen and projector that is perfect for running social events or delivering training, larger scale SDCs or films if we so choose. This is in addition to our purpose built lecture room so we have capacity for two simultaneous presentations, with the ability to run lectures to a group of up to 90 people in the main area and up to 15 people in the lecture room.

5.2.7 Diver Grade Certificate Presentations

We held a presentation evening at the clubhouse for all our divers attaining a new diver grade, both for new Ocean Divers and for all divers as they progress through the diver grades.

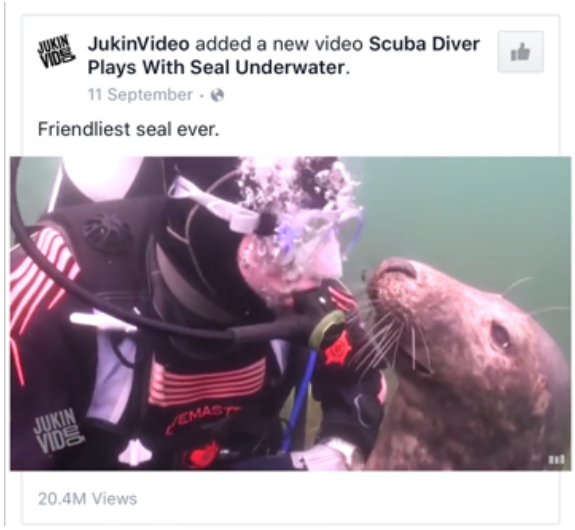
5.2.8 Christmas Party

We held a members only Christmas Party at the clubhouse with food donated from all attending. We had a great spread put on with lots of festive food and really nice cakes and treats as well. We decorated the clubhouse and had a very good turnout.

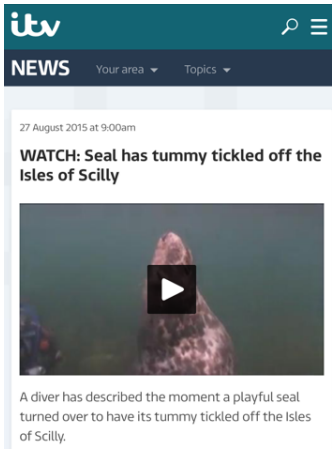
In addition to the festivities and food we also held a presentation for two of our Snorkelers who received their certificates and a large round of applause from the members, well done to Jacob and Eliza who received their certificates as per the photo on the right.

5.3 Publicity:

We have a club Marketing Officer, and a marketing plan, see Promotion – section 2.6 on page 31. In addition to our normal marketing activities we have also got the club in the press as well. With a video that one of our members shot going viral on the national news, it was featured on ITVs 'Unbelievable moments caught on video' in January 2016.



The video has been on the ITV website, Manchester Evening News, Daily Mail, Telegraph, The Sun, loads of online sites, Facebook groups, press all over the world. It went truly viral with over 20 million views.



In addition to this the club also got an article in Scuba Magazine (we have submitted two further articles and expect these to be published in 2016).

We have been lucky to be featured in the local press with articles promoting both our try dives and also a broader feature on the club and what we do.

MACCLESFIELD PEOPLE

YOUR EVENT

Time to start your underwater adventure with club's try dive

Name of event: ECSAC Big Try Dive.

Where / when is it? Saturday, October 18, 4pm-6.30pm, Macclesfield Leisure Centre and continuing in the clubhouse.

What does it involve? If you have never tried scuba before then a try dive with East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club is the best place to start.

In the safe confines of Macclesfield swimming pool, a BSAC (British Sub Aqua Club) instructor will introduce you to the basic skills and equipment needed to experience the thrill of breathing underwater for the very first time.

It is an experience you will never forget... so sign up for a try dive with us today and start the adventure of a lifetime!

Our next try dive session is at Macclesfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, October 18, from 4pm to 6.30pm – last entry 6pm – followed by a tour around our clubhouse.

Who is it suitable for? Provided you are over the age of 12, diving is a very accessible sport.

Instructors are trained to be flexible and adaptable to work with all students and their individual needs to help them achieve the necessary diving skills. As a result diving is a sport which can be enjoyed by a wide group of individuals.

We also have a snorkelling section in the club which is open to all ages.

Any other information? The cost of a try dive is £15 per person or £25 for two. This includes a drink and a hot dog at the clubhouse afterwards.

We recommend that you book a specific time in advance via the contact form on our website www.ecsac.org.uk.

Want to find out more? There is lots more information on our website including photos and videos of recent trips.

You can also get in touch by leaving a message on our answer phone 01625 592367.

● The East Cheshire Sub Aqua crew on the Menai Straits, and below, the clubhouse, minibus and boats

MACCLESFIELD PEOPLE

YOUR CLUB

There's a warm welcome for everyone at our club

Would you like to feature on this page? Send your details to communications@ecsac.org.uk

We were also featured in the May issue of Scuba magazine with a double page spread.

SCUBA

Riders on the strait

On a blustery Sunday morning in early March, 16 boats representing eight BSAC clubs congregated for a day of early season boat handling on the Menai Strait. This photo of some of the participating boats was taken by Amanda Lowrie of East Cheshire SAC, who said the main focus for the day was to raise money for the RNLI, as well as giving the RIBs a pre-season outing.

"No divers escaped the collection for the RNLI and all were made to dig into their very deep pockets," said Amanda. "More than £200 was raised, which is now on its way to a greatly appreciative RNLI team. Although no diving took place, the camaraderie, good spirits and unity of all the clubs was a real joy to behold and so were the 130 divers squeezing into a chip shop!"

This trip will be repeated again next year so if any more clubs would like to join us, please contact East Cheshire SAC for more details. Thank you to the following for participating and raising money for the RNLI: Congleton SAC; Dwyneed SAC; Hartford SAC; Flintshire SAC; The Golden Lion SAC; Chester SAC; East Cheshire SAC; Rhosneigr SAC; Beaumaris RNLI; Café Neptune, Beaumaris; Parisellas Ice Cream, Caernarfon; Dinas Boat Yard, Menai.

5.4 Inter-branch liaison:

We have tried very hard in 2015 to extend the reach of our club by involving a number of other clubs in our activities, this includes building on the Menai Boat run (see page 86) that in 2015 attracted over 14 boats and 9 different clubs (plus other non BSAC affiliated divers). We also ran a number of social events that were open to and attracted attendees from several other clubs.

See the Social Calendar section (on page 84) for details of the individual events, an outline is included below:

January 31st	Dinner Dance	ECSAC Only	External Venue
March 8th	Menai Boat Run	(Multi Club)	8 clubs
March 26th	AGM	ECSAC Only	
Summer	Freediving Talk	(Multi Club)	Guest Speaker
Summer	New Member Welcome Event	ECSAC Only	
October	Barn Dance	(Multi Club)	4 clubs
October	Shipwreck Project Talk	(Multi Club)	2 clubs
October 29th	Film Night	(Multi Club)	5 clubs
December 17th	Xmas Party	Open Invite	

In addition to the social interaction with other clubs we have also been active in creating links with other clubs via a number of others means, these include:

- Directly assisting with in-club instruction at two other BSAC clubs, Richmond BSAC and University of Manchester BSAC, to provide some additional instructor support.
- Delivering SDCs to a large number of other club divers - see page 41.
- Completing the Training Platform project and involving Hartford BSAC in the installation plus opening up its use to a number of other clubs (Oldham BSAC, PADI centers and the regional BSAC team) - see page 94.

6 Special achievements

6.1 Training Platform Project

We worked hard in 2015 to ensure that we delivered a scuba training platform in Salford Quays in Manchester that would have a long-term benefit to the scuba community. We have created a detailed user guide that we issue to anyone who wants to use the platform upon request; so far we have issued 5 copies of this to other dive clubs and organisations.

So it was on a damp and grey November day in Salford that East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club got a hardy team together that included a helper from a neighboring club and set about installing a scuba training platform at a depth of 5 meters that will enable Salford Quays to be used more effectively as an open-water training venue.

The original idea for the platform was first hatched on a similarly grey day back in February 2015 when East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club were running a Practical Rescue Management SDC in the main watersports area in Ontario Basin. This SDC event saw us launching one of the club boats and inviting three other clubs along to run a number of very realistic rescue scenarios both from the shore and in the boat. We also put divers on the bottom to carry out a search and rescue that kicked up a bit of silt.

We returned again in July (on a much nicer day) for a Search and Recovery SDC run by ECSAC and crossover training for some of our new members; this again involved other clubs with one person coming all the way from Yorkshire to attend. It became apparent that although it is a great venue for surface training and an interesting venue for a dive (with Pike, Perch, Tench and Carp in the water and good viz when undisturbed) it was not ideal for static drills on the bottom as there can be quite a bit of silt, which if divers settle on the bottom soon reduces the viz to near zero.

With the successes of our previous training outings and buoyed by a real sense of purpose we therefore decided to build a platform that would allow us to make better use of the site and we set about designing a training platform that would enable us to extend the use of this relatively local facility. We also wanted to provide something that would be useful to other scuba divers and make the basin an easy choice for quick shallow training outings. In addition to the design of the platform we also had to ensure that we obtained the relevant permissions from both the council and from the custodians of the Watersports Centre, Salford Community Leisure. We also approached BSAC HQ to ensure that the insurance requirements we were asked to comply with were covered by our standard BSAC insurance. Happily our standard BSAC third party insurance cover fitted the bill and all parties were happy with what we were proposing once we had crossed all the t's and dotted quite a few i's.

With all this in place we set about sourcing the materials for the platform and using our club members' extensive network of contacts we managed to get a scaffolding tower for the base and track down and purchase some galvanized gratings from Vivian Dive Centre in Llanberis. Having invested a very modest sum of the club's money in securing these along with the necessary hardware to complete the project we then arranged transport to get the gratings back to the club after collecting them on the way back from one of our club weekends on Anglesey.

We then set about the job of building the platform and creating a safe training area in Salford Quays that will provide a two-meter by three-meter solid base away from the silt in the basin. We are lucky enough to have our own custom built boathouse back at our club in Macclesfield and this doubled as the workshop for the platform build. Our skilled team of volunteers pulled together all the various parts and set about the build led by our man of all skills Phil Darlington.

With the build underway we had to focus on where to locate the platform so while the build team were completing the fabrication we put together a dive team to survey the basin and settle on a location and complete a risk assessment of the site.

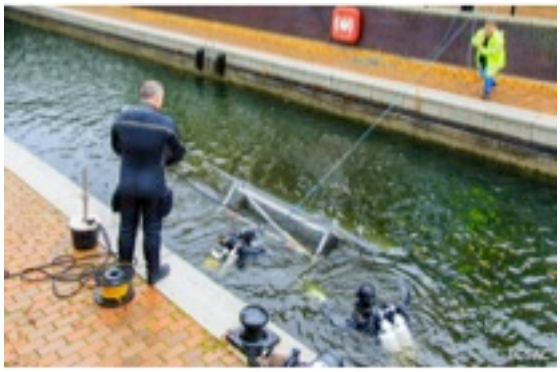
One evening in October we put divers in the water to survey St Peter Basin. This basin is adjacent to the main Watersports Centre's Ontario Basin and is a quieter backwater in the Salford Quays complex away from the busy surface traffic of the wakeboarding, triathlon and boating that takes place in the main basin.

The dive team (Roger Tomlins and Kevin Phillips) completed the survey and found a level area with the least silt, ideal for locating the platform and a short swim from the entry steps. We actually found that the silt varied from 20cm in some areas all the way up to 1.6 meters deep in others. We selected an area with the least silt to ensure that we could safely site the platform on the solid concrete bottom of the basin. The survey was written up along with a site risk assessment and plans submitted to the Watersports Centre and the Council for approval. These plans were accepted, as were details of the BSAC insurance that would cover us (and other BSAC clubs) when using the platform. With all this in place we agreed a suitable date that would allow us to bring together a team to install the platform and have the relevant surface cover in place from the Watersports Centre team. So it was on a surprisingly warm November day that the team met in Salford to complete the install. We had team members from both East Cheshire and Hartford Sub Aqua Clubs on site and gathered on a Saturday morning to brief the team and prep for the install.

The Install Team arriving at Salford Quays with the platform.

From Left – The ESCAC Team, Steve Welton, Jon Green, Simon Lowrie, Kevin Phillips, Tim Porter and on the right Kim Anderson (from Hartford BSAC). Not forgetting Daffyd Thomas who took the Photo and Paul Tyers our chairman who towed the Trailer.

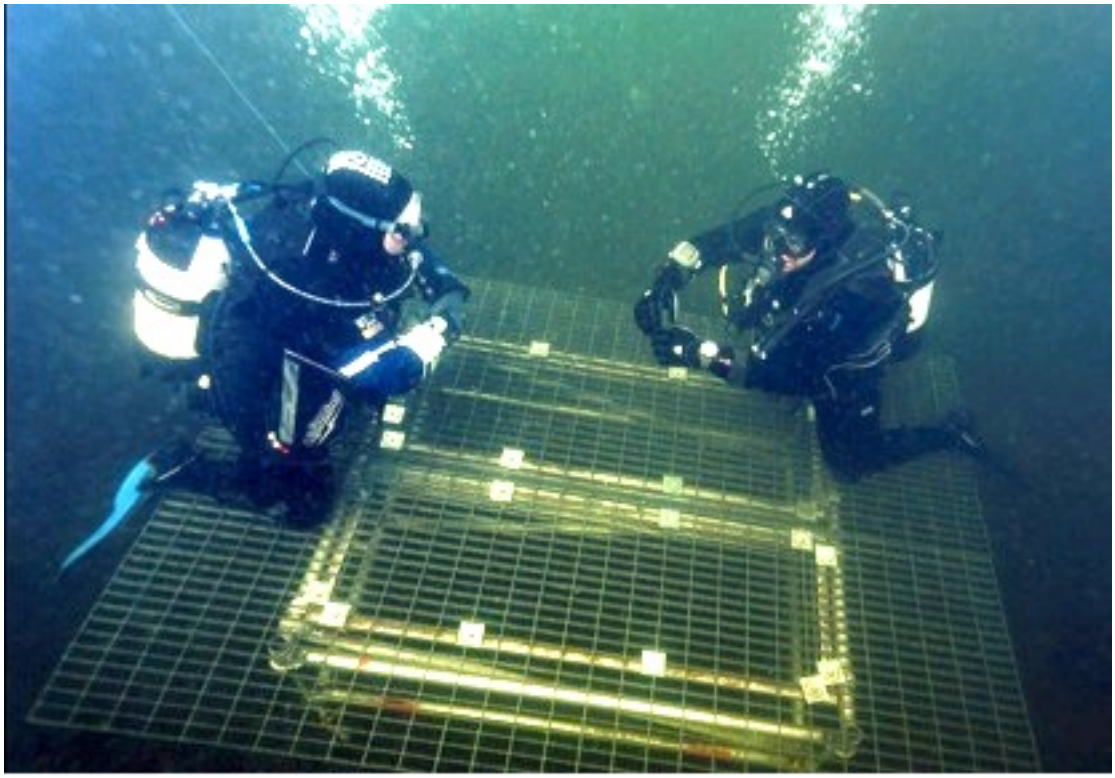
We initially dropped the platform into a connecting canal ready for fitting the heavy ballast legs as these made it very hard to maneuver on dry land.



Once we had completed the construction the platform was set on the bottom of the canal and then we fitted large lift bags to float the platform ready for it to be moved out of the canal and into position above its intended site in the basin. Our in-water team moved the platform into position and them lowered it down onto the bottom of the basin. Once lowered we fine tuned its location and then used the adjustable legs to level the platform.

Having sited it we then attached a line running from the entry steps right to the top of the platform which now sits level at 5 meters. This will enable users to follow the line straight from the steps to the platform and avoid kicking up the silt and ensure that they find their way easily.

Within minutes of the installation we noticed a number of Perch had taken a great interest in the platform and took up residence underneath it adding a bit of extra interest for future users. The team feeling suitably pleased with a job well done retreated to the swanky offices of Smooth Radio within the Quays complex where one of our club members works. We were treated to coffee and cakes and had chance to reflect on the achievement and post a few updates on Facebook and Twitter. Before our coffee had chance to cool down we had already had enquiries via Facebook from two other BSAC clubs who were interested in using the platform! Since then we were delighted to see that the project had indeed been successful and delivered a facility that would be of value to the Scuba community in the North-West. If you would like to use the platform then please get in touch with East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club (info@ecsac.org.uk) and we would be happy to provide you with a user pack including risk assessment and directions to where it is located along with details of who to contact at the Watersports Center to arrange access to Salford Quays.



The first users of the platform in November 2015. Including both PADI and BSAC divers

This project was led and initiated by East Cheshire but involved input from Hartford and Congleton Sub Aqua Clubs and developed with cooperation from both Salford Community Leisure (a company registered under the Co-operatives and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 associated with Salford Council) and the Helly Hansen Watersports Centre at Salford Quays. It was however fully funded by East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club.

This project is intended to enable Scuba Instructors to safely take trainee divers into the basin in Salford Quays and conduct training on a raised platform that will ensure we keep the training away from the silt present in the basin. This will provide a stable and safe location in which to conduct training.

The basin itself is located within the Salford Quays complex; St Peter Basin is next to the Salford Quays Tram Stop, in between Waterfront Quay and Merchants Quay. The postcode is - Salford M50 3WL.

The project team comprised the following:

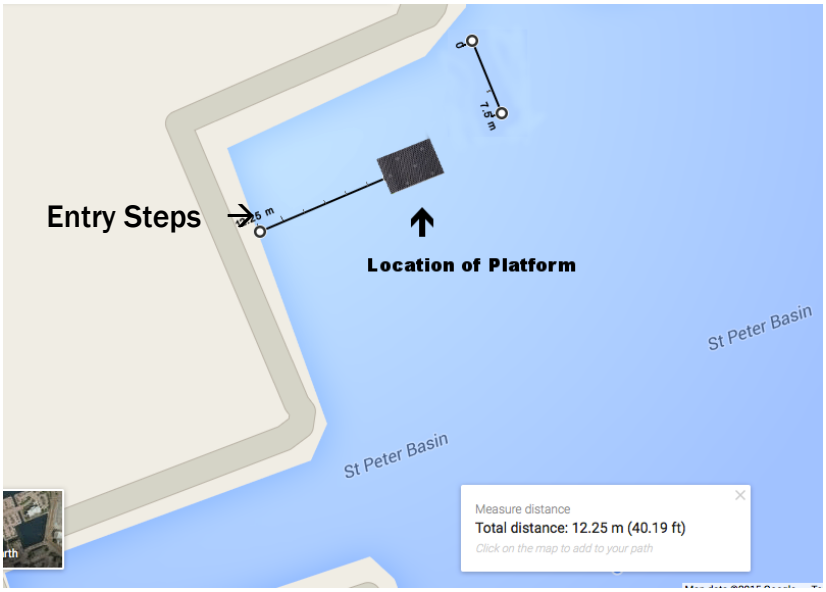
Steve Welton	-	Equipment Officer for East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club, Advanced Diver (Project Lead)
Jon Green	-	Equipment Team ECSAC Open Water Instructor and Advanced Diver (Dive Team)
Mark Paisey	-	Training Officer – ECSAC Advanced Instructor, First Class Diver, Technical Diving Instructor (Training Advisor and Requirements Lead)
Kevin Phillips	-	Diving Officer for East Cheshire Sub Aqua club, Advanced Diver, Open Water Instructor and Cave and Overhead environment qualified. (Dive Team and Install Lead + Survey Team)
Phil Darlington	-	Equipment Team ECSAC Dive Leader (Leading construction and engineering)
Tim Porter	-	Building Manager Dive Leader, Assistant Open Water Instructor (Dive Team)
Simon Lowrie	-	Equipment Team ECSAC Dive Leader (Construction Team + In Water team)
Roger Tomlins	-	Equipment Team ECSAC Commercial Diver (Dive Team Lead and safety, logistics advisor + Survey Team)
Daffyd Thomas	-	In Water support, Salford local logistics Dive leader
Kim Anderson	-	In Water Support (Hartford Sub Aqua Club)
Gemma Thomas	-	Surface Cover, team photographer.
Paul Tyers	-	Surface Cover and transport logistics
Assed Rasool	-	Raw materials logistics lead

Location of the Platform

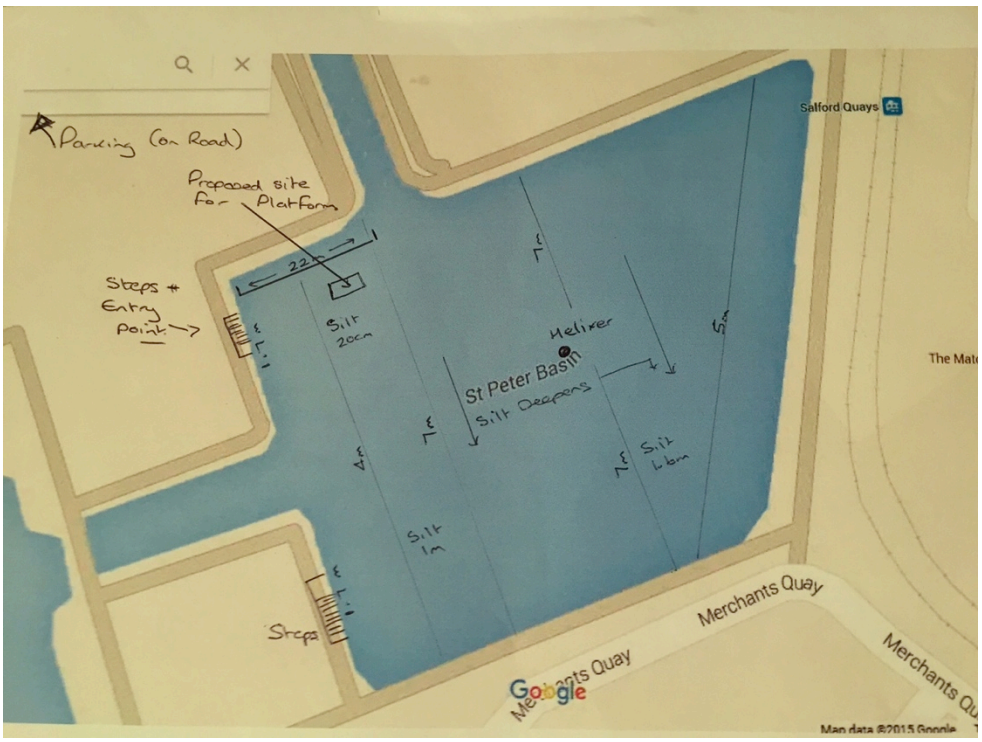
Having conducted a survey of the basin it was clear that the silt levels (up to 1.6m) on the south and east sides of the basin were very deep and would potentially cause difficulty not only in siting the platform but also in creating poor viz as divers travelled to and from the platform.

On that basis and also taking account of access and parking, the recommended location for the platform is in the North-West corner, sited away from the entrances to the canals and in an area of low silt (20cm).

The survey plan is included below for information.



It was decided that the platform should be set level and situated 12.25 meters from the entry steps and 7.5 meters from the north wall of the basin.



A guideline was also installed, connected to the base of the entry point steps and leading to the left corner of the platform to enable students and instructors to easily locate the platform after entering the water and avoid kicking up the silt on their way over to it. This was belayed and lifted off the bottom of the basin using some of the blocks that were already present in the basin. This also ensures that it is usable as an easy means to navigate back to the entry/exit steps from the platform even in low viz conditions.

Parking and Access

St Peter Basin can be accessed from either Waterfront Quay or Merchants Quay. Both of these have limited parking which is available at weekends or after 6pm in the week.

The best parking is on Waterfront Quay as there are more spaces here and it avoids a longer walk to the recommended entry point via the steps on the north-eastern corner.

The view of Waterfront Quay looking south towards St Peter Basin (on the left) with on-street parking on the right.

Access to the car park for vehicles is currently blocked by a locked barrier. However it is a short walk once kitted up and access to the steps is quite easy.

Pedestrian access once kitted up is via the path at the side of the building

Then across the car park.

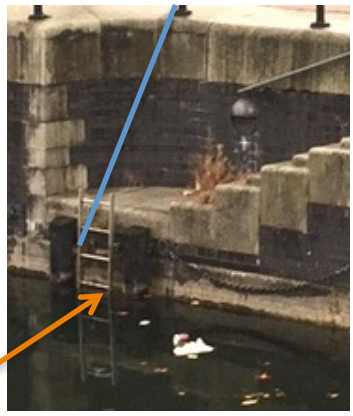
Waterside Access

Prior to using the site the WaterSports Center should be notified and all divers registered using the form on page 137. Registration lasts for one year.

Access to the water in the basin can be gained via a number of sets of steps. The recommended entry point is via the steps marked on the previous page, on the Waterfront Quay side of the road.

The gate to the steps is not locked

There is a life preserver located next to the steps



The bottom stone step is actually over 50cm out of the water and at the base of the ladder the water is only 1.5m deep so a giant stride entry would not be advisable. We would recommend an entry via the ladder into the water (without fins) and then fit fins whilst in the water.

Exit would best be achieved after removing fins, weight belt and scuba gear and then climbing the ladder. The addition of a knotted rope (as depicted by the blue line on the photo) connected to the post above would also aid exit from the water as the ladder is quite low.

As part of the approval process ECSAC has undertaken detailed site surveys, risk assessments and obtained clearance from Urbanvision, Salford Council, Salford Leisure and the Helly Hansen Watersports Centre. A copy of the Risk Assessment is included at Appendix 7.9 on page 138.

The finished platform in use

6.2 Grant application to expand community and youth group support

In 2015 we decided to pursue grant funding for club projects; this was built into our club objectives. We reviewed projects we would like to pursue and as a result we defined a specific project that would allow us to create a resource to expand our delivery of scuba try-dives and training for local community and youth groups, including Scouts, Sea Scouts and Girl Guides. This project is to deliver a new set of SCUBA equipment for pool and open water use and two AEDs (automated external defibrillators) for use in training as well as training for instructors to deliver the BSAC "Diving for All" course thus expanding the range of people we can offer training to. Although we do a number of try-dives at present we are limited in how many we can deliver by the availability of equipment. At any one time we have ten or more members in training and are unable to meet the demand from the community groups.

The application summary is as follows:

We have reached the capacity of our current equipment and are having to turn away requests from local community groups to conduct Scuba and Snorkelling training. We have, over the course of 2015 increased the number of instructors within the club and so have capacity to run courses and take on extra young people but we have a limited stock of training equipment and this limits our ability to expand this service. The funding provided by this grant would enable us to deliver significantly more training and allow us to expand the numbers of participants and to be able to support them through longer term scuba training as well. We also aim to encourage family involvement so that parents and carers can become involved thus ensuring that the young people involved develop skills they can use long after the training has been completed and join in with club trips and activities as they grow up as well as partake in Scuba Diving later in their lives with a recognised international qualification. As a non-profit CASC status organisation, East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club, part of The British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC), is a very long standing part of the community and has been actively training the local community in snorkelling and scuba diving for 53 years. The strength of the club's presence within the community is demonstrated by the support received from local scout groups and others in the region (see attached supporting letter). As a non profit organisation, the club relies on qualified club members to volunteer their time to provide training for new members from the age of 6. We provide snorkelling courses, scuba diving courses and pool hockey to all club members and their families as well as community groups who come along and use our facilities. Our ethos is to encourage people of all ages to keep fit and to learn new sports. A big achievement for the club has been the success of our snorkelling courses for the local Scout groups, Sea Scouts and Girl Guides which involve young children from 5 to 18+ and to date the club's instructors have trained and qualified over 100 scouts with some progressing to diving with the club. In 2012 the club was awarded the BSAC "snorkelling branch of the year" which was an amazing accolade reflecting the hard work and dedication of club members and their passion to involve young children and adults in water sports. We are keen to expand our involvement with the youth groups and want to embark on a project with Scouts, Sea Scouts and Girl Guides but we are limited by the availability of equipment. This project would enable us to drastically increase our delivery to these groups.

6.2.1 Letter of support for our project by our local MP.

DAVID RUTLEY MP COPY

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Jennie Price
Chief Executive
Sport England
3rd Floor Victoria House
Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1B 4SE

20th January 2016

Dear Ms Price,

Re: East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club

I am writing to express my strong support for the grant application submitted to Sport England by East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club (ECSAC), which seeks to extend the equipment available to the Club, to more fully support community groups and the development of diving in the area.

I understand that the Club wants to create a resource to expand its delivery of scuba try-dives and training for local community and youth groups, including Scouts, Sea Scouts and Girl Guides. This would include a new set of SCUBA equipment for pool and open water use and two AEDs (automated external defibrillator) for use in training. Although the Club holds a limited number of try-dives at present, it is limited in how many it can deliver, due to the availability of equipment. At any one time, ECSAC has ten or more members in training and is, therefore, unable to meet the demand from the community groups.

ECSAC is a not for profit organisation based in Macclesfield, which has existed for more than fifty years, throughout which time it has developed into a prominent and successful group within the community. The Club offers participants of all ages experience of water activities, requiring specialist equipment and qualified tuition, which is taught in a friendly and experienced environment.

The Club and its active volunteers make a significant contribution to the community. ECSAC enjoys strong links with organisations such as local Scout groups, Sea Search

Member of Parliament for Macclesfield
Private Office: 020 7219 7106 Email: david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.davidrutley.org.uk

Marine Conservation and the Old Gaffers Association. The Club is also keen to promote environmental awareness, through to lectures and presentation evenings on subjects such as marine archaeology and marine life preservation. In addition to offering diving memberships, ECSAC also provides social memberships, meaning that anyone can feel an active member of the group, even if they prefer to stay on dry land.

As well as holding popular weekly diving sessions at Macclesfield Leisure Centre, ECSAC is keen to give participants as much experience of open water diving as possible, by making regular trips to outdoor diving locations nationwide. In 2014, I had the opportunity to participate in a try-dive with the Club, and saw first-hand the high standard of experience, enthusiasm and dedication provided by ECSAC's instructors.

To ensure that the Club is able to develop its active programme, it is vital that the Club receives additional funding to allow it to meet the strong local demand. I understand that in 2015, the Club enjoyed an expansion in its membership and instructional capability. This means that a grant of £10,000 would offer a clear opportunity to introduce the exciting sport of diving to the community far more widely than is possible at present. I hope you will therefore give this application the strong consideration which it deserves.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Rutley MP

PS many thanks in advance for your kind consideration of this application.

We have worked hard to reach out to our local community, including our local MP David Rutley. David took part in an organised try dive session that we ran and was very impressed with the club and the work we do and has become a strong advocate for the club and our ongoing projects.

This letter of support was sent direct to the Chief Executive of Sport England by Mr Rutley.

General Activities

We are, at the time of writing (Feb 2016), glad to report that we have been successful with our grant application and have secured a grant of £9,997 from Sport England. This will enable us to deliver this project in 2016.

LOTTERY FUNDED

SPORT ENGLAND

we've invested in you...

Sport England is proud to award

£9997

to

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club

as part of our

Small Grants Programme

Nick Bitel
Chairman
Sport England

Jennie Price
Chief Executive
Sport England

7 Appendices

7.1 Club Rules

Revised August 2013

EAST CHESHIRE BRANCH, NO. 100

OF THE BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB

Bye_Laws

The rules of the Branch to which each member shall be bound shall be those currently adopted by the British Sub-Aqua Club (hereinafter called "B.S.A.C.") and in addition each member shall be bound by the current version of the bye-laws:

1. Title

The Branch shall be known as the East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club (hereinafter called "the Branch")

2. Objects

The aims and objects of the Branch shall be to provide for its members the facilities, opportunity and training for diving in accordance with the standards of the B.S.A.C, together with related social activities.

3. Headquarters

The headquarters of the Branch shall be at 2, Lower Bank Street, Macclesfield SK11 7HL, or at such place as may at any time be decided by the General Committee.

4. Clubhouse

The Branch may maintain for the convenience of its members a Clubhouse. Such Clubhouse will operate under the name of East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club, the control of which is vested in the Branch General Committee (hereinafter called the General Committee).

5. President

The Annual General Meeting may appoint a President for the ensuing year and he/she shall be ex. Officio, a non-voting member of the General Committee.

6. Membership

6.1. Membership is open to all applicants, regardless of ethnicity, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, but diving membership is subject to the medical requirements as set by the B.S.A.C. from time to time. There shall be seven classes of member : -

6.1.1. Full Diving, Abated or Adult Snorkelling Member who may be any person deemed suitable by the BSAC. Associate member who may be of any age but shall not be entitled to participate in diving activities.

6.1.2. Honorary Member who may be any person invited by the General Committee, in its absolute discretion, to become an honorary member for such period as the General Committee shall determine. Honorary members shall not be eligible to participate in diving activities except with the expressed permission of the General Committee.

6.1.3. Life Member who may be any person invited by the General Committee, in its absolute discretion, to become a life member. Life Members are permitted to participate in diving activities.

6.1.4. Out-of-port Member - to qualify for this class of membership the person must be in permanent residence outside a 50 mile radius of the Clubhouse and must have been a full member of the Branch for a continuous period of at least 12 months. The membership fee will include the person's B.S.A.C. membership contribution and in all respects will be accepted as a full diving member of the Branch. All applications for this class of membership will be considered individually by the General Committee and membership will be accepted or rejected at the General Committee's discretion.

6.1.5. Family Member - This category will apply to BSAC Junior Diving Members (ie, up to age 17), Junior Snorkelling Members (ie, age 6 - 17) or Student Diving Members (ie, over age 18 and in full time education) if accompanied by an adult paying full membership fee, or a B.S.A.C abated member who joins as the third or subsequent diving member of a family group.

6.1.6. Social Member – Who will be entitled to attend all Branch activities, but may not participate in any diving or snorkelling activities. Social members are not permitted to vote at Annual or Special meetings, but may be invited to sit on committees formed for the purpose of promoting the non-diving activities of the Branch. Social members are not members of the B.S.A.C.

6.1.7. Any person under 18yrs of age whose parent/s or guardian must also be at a minimum, a club social member.

6.2. All applications for membership shall be considered by the General Committee, who, on receipt of the appropriate payment of Branch and National Subscriptions as appropriate will accept the applicant to the category applied for or to which they are eligible.

6.3. Persons may not be admitted to membership without an interval of at least two clear days between their application for membership and admission.

6.4. Only adult diving or snorkelling members shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings or Special Meetings.

6.5. All non-voting members must not become significant in relation to the number of voting members.

7. Management

7.1. The management of the Branch shall be vested in the General Committee, which shall administer for the general benefit of the Branch all funds, property and equipment in the general ownership of the Branch.

7.2. The General Committee shall ensure that the finances of the Branch shall be managed to ensure that it remains in a proper and solvent position.

7.3. Any surplus income or gains shall be retained by the Branch for its future development and shall not be distributed to members or third parties in cash or in kind except that this does not prevent donations by the club to Charities or other clubs registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

8. Trustees

8.1. The Trustees shall hold for the benefit of the members all assets, funds, property and equipment in the general ownership of the Branch.

8.2. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation, unless removed from office by a resolution of the Trustee Committee. The number of Trustees shall be not less than five and not more than seven so far as is practicable.

8.3. A Trustee Committee, consisting of all the Trustees and the Officers of the Branch shall be responsible for the appointment or removal of a Trustee, except that such appointment or removal shall not be confirmed until ratified by a majority of the General Committee.

8.4. At any meeting of the Trustee Committee there shall be at least two Trustees and two Officers. The meeting will be chaired by a Trustee appointed for the duration of the meeting. In the event of a tied vote the chairman shall have a second casting vote.

8.5. Following a motion of the General Committee, the Trustees shall consider a request for the Branch to borrow money by way of a loan, mortgage or any other instrument for the benefit of the Members. Provided that the Trustees are satisfied that this is the wish of the Members, the Trustees are authorised to pledge, mortgage or debenture any or all of the Branch assets to satisfy the lending institution. In determining the wishes of the Members, the General Committee shall provide all reasonable facilities to the Trustees to enable them to make their decision in a fair and open manner and Members shall be permitted at all times to have full access to all minutes and documents related to this process.

8.6. In all other matters the Trustees are authorised to sell or otherwise dispose of any of the Branch assets in accordance with the resolution of the General Committee, of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence, provided that the Trustees are satisfied that this is the wish of the Members. In determining the wishes of the Members, the General Committee shall provide all reasonable facilities to the Trustees to enable them to make their decision in a fair and open manner and Members shall be permitted at all times to have full access to all minutes and documents related to this process.

8.7. Trustees shall be entitled to attend any General Committee meetings and to participate in any discussions, but shall not be entitled to vote on any resolutions placed before the General Committee.

9. General Committee

9.1. The elected members of the General Committee shall consist of four Officers, who shall be the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Diving Officer and not more than 8 other members including Equipment Officer, Registrar, Building Manager and Steward.

9.2. The General Committee shall at its first meeting appoint one of its members Vice Chairman.

9.3. The General Committee shall take office immediately after the Annual General Meeting at which it is elected and hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting.

9.4. The General Committee shall meet not less than 9 times in a year of office to examine the Accounts and arrange the affairs of the Branch.

9.5. Minutes shall be taken of all proceedings of the General Committee.

9.6. The quorum of the General Committee shall be 5 of the members, one of whom must be the Chairman, Vice Chairman or the Honorary Secretary.

9.7. The General Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to the General Committee to fill any vacancy among the officers of the Branch, among its other members or of the Auditors which occurs in its term of office and shall have the power to co-opt any other members it sees fit, except that members co-opted other than to fill a vacancy shall not be entitled to vote on resolutions before the General Committee.

9.8. The General Committee may appoint from among their number or from the general body of members such Sub-Committees as they may deem necessary or expedient and may depute or refer to them any of the powers and duties of the General Committee, except those given under bye-laws 17 and 19.

9.9. The General Committee shall determine any question as to the interpretation of these bye-laws and of any regulations made hereunder and may rule in connection with any situation not otherwise provided for herein. In the latter event, such ruling shall only remain in effect until the next Annual General Meeting of the Branch or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Its continued validity shall depend upon ratification at that meeting.

9.10 No member shall occupy a single position on the General Committee for a continuous period of more than 5 years. No member shall sit as a General Committee member, in any combination of positions, for a continuous period of more than 7 years. Following a continuous period of 7 years on the General Committee a member shall not stand for election to the General Committee until after the second Annual General Meeting following the end of their term of office.

10. Honorary Treasurer

10.1 The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for dealing with all monies received or paid on behalf of the Branch, and shall keep proper books of account of all monies received or paid on behalf of the Branch and shall effect in the name of the Branch, and keep records of, all investments by the General Committee. The Honorary Treasurer shall arrange for all such monies and securities to be deposited at such branch of a Bank or Building Society as the General Committee may approve to the credit of an account in the name of the Branch, on which cheques and other orders shall be signed by two of three officers of the General Committee as nominated by the General Committee members

10.2 Treasurer shall be responsible for the calling in and collecting of all debts and subscriptions and for the due discharge of all liabilities of the Branch out of Branch funds as the General Committee may direct. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet to 31st December of each year, which shall be the end of the Branch year and The Honorary Treasurer shall

cause it to be **reviewed** by the Branch **Accountants** and presented to the General Committee for submission to the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary Treasurer may be assisted in his work by such person or persons as the General Committee may approve.

11. Annual General Meeting

11.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be held not later than 31st March in each year, upon a date and a time to be fixed by the General Committee, for the following purposes:

11.1.2 To receive from the General Committee a Report, balance sheet and Statement of Accounts for the preceding year.

11.1.3 To appoint the General Committee and Officers, by a secret ballot, and to appoint Accountants for the ensuing year.

11.1.4 To decide on any resolution which may duly be submitted to the meeting, as herein provided?

11.2 Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be sent by post or otherwise delivered to all paid-up members at least six weeks before the meeting. A copy of this notice shall be posted in the Clubhouse at the same time.

11.3 All nominations must be delivered to the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days before the meeting, proposed and seconded and signed by the nominee that he/she is willing to accept the position if he/she is elected.

11.4 The notification of the meeting shall also include a request to members for motions for consideration at the meeting. These must be proposed and seconded and delivered to the Honorary Secretary not less than 28 days before the meeting.

11.5 A further notification shall be sent by post or otherwise delivered to all paid-up members at least 2 weeks before the meeting listing in detail the business of the Annual General Meeting including any motions which have been proposed and listing election details. A copy of this notice shall be posted in the Clubhouse at the same time.

11.6 The Agenda shall include:

11.6.1 Apologies for absence;

11.6.2 Minutes of the previous AGM and any General Meetings which have occurred since that date;

11.6.3 Matters arising from those Minutes;

11.6.4 Reports from Officers;

11.6.5 Election of the General Committee;

11.6.6 Motions of which notice has been given

11.6.7 Other business as the Chairman may select.

11.7 A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall be 1/5th of voting members, but a quorum once formed shall not be lost despite the departure from the meeting of any member or members

11. Special General Meeting

12.1 Any General Meeting other than the Annual General Meeting shall be known as a Special General Meeting.

12.2 A Special General Meeting may be called by the General Committee at any time.

12.3 A Special General Meeting may be called by the written request of not less than 2 Trustees at any time

12.4 The General Committee shall convene a meeting within 2 months of the receipt of the request.

12.5 A Special General Meeting may be called by the written request of not less than 12 paid-up voting members or fifty percent of the paid-up voting members, whichever is the greater. This request shall state the reason for the meeting and be signed by all the members calling the Special General Meeting. The General Committee shall convene a meeting within 2 months of the receipt of the request.

12.6 A Special General Meeting may be called by a member who has been suspended under bye-law 19.

12.7 Notice of a Special General Meeting of the Branch shall be sent by post or otherwise delivered to all paid-up full voting members at least 14 days before the meeting, together with a statement for the reason of the meeting. A notice shall also be posted in the Clubhouse at the same time.

12.8 The business of a Special General Meeting shall be that for which it was called and no other.

12.9 A quorum at a Special General Meeting shall consist of 1/5th of the voting members but a quorum once formed shall not be lost despite the departure from the meeting of any member or members.

13. Voting

13.1 Except as otherwise provided, voting at General Meetings or Special General Meetings shall be by show of hands or by ballot of voting members as the Chairman may decide and except as otherwise provided a motion shall be passed by a simple majority.

13.2 Voting papers for any ballot being conducted by post shall be sent to all members not less than 14 days before the date on which the votes are to be counted. A postal ballot will be considered to have been passed if not less than 1/5th of the members have cast a vote and that a simple majority of those voting agree with the motion.

13.3 Every voting member shall be entitled to one vote upon every motion.

14. Branch Activities

14.1 The Branch activities shall be open to members of other Branches at the discretion of the person in charge

14.2 The use of the training pool will be directed by the Diving Officer or his/her representative.

14.3 If a member damages or loses Branch equipment, the General Committee may charge that member the cost of repairing or replacing the article. The General Committee

may similarly charge a member who damages or loses private property used in connection with Branch activities

15. Charges

15.1 Persons joining or re-joining the Branch shall pay such entrance fee as may be determined from time to time by the General Committee.

15.2 Subscriptions shall be renewable annually in October. Persons joining any time between will pay one full year's subscription and in October will pay an adjusted fee to align their renewal date in October.

15.3 A member shall retain his/her membership until he/she has resigned or is deemed to have resigned in accordance with this paragraph or bye-law 19. If payment of his Branch or National Headquarters subscriptions, if any, in respect of any period is 3 months or more overdue, a member shall be deemed to have resigned.

16. Bar

16.1 The bar shall be managed and operated by a Bar Sub-Committee, hereinafter called the Bar Committee, consisting of not less than five members, at least two of whom shall be members of General Committee

16.2 In the event that a member nominated to the Bar Committee resigns or leaves their position, the General Committee shall immediately appoint another person in their place.

16.3 Bar opening times will be in accordance with current permitted licensing hours.

16.4 The purchase for the Branch and the supply by the Branch of intoxicating liquor shall be in the absolute discretion of the Bar Committee.

16.5 Part 4 of the Licensing Act 2003 is adopted and there shall be no sale of intoxicating liquor by or on behalf of the Branch to any person not a member for consumption on the Branch premises under any bye-law except:

16.5.1 Guest of the Branch - Every member of 18 years and over shall be allowed to introduce one guest on twelve separate occasions per year subject to such regulations or bye-laws as shall be made from time to time by the Bar Committee. Every guest shall be considered the guest of and shall be accompanied by the member introducing him/her, provided that no person shall be introduced as a guest into the Branch who shall have been expelled from membership or whose conduct or presence in the Clubhouse shall be considered by the Bar Committee to be objectionable or injurious to the interests of the Branch. All guests shall be required to sign the visitor's book.

16.5.2 B.S.A.C. Officials, visiting clubs and bona fide guests taking part in any event organised by the Bar Committee or any sub-section or sub-committee may be invited and admitted to the Branch premises and intoxicating liquor may be sold or supplied to such persons on behalf of the Branch for consumption on the Branch premises and not anywhere else. Such visitors must supply the Bar Committee with a list of names and addresses of those attending. Such list must be entered into a book especially kept at the Branch for such purposes to be produced to a Police Officer on demand. It should also include members of another Branch and its officials whose own club is temporarily out of use and who have been permitted by the General Committee to use the facilities of the Branch.

16.6 Individual members may apply in writing to the Bar Committee to hold a function for a special occasion in the Branch. The members so organising such functions must be present at the function and must submit to the Bar Committee a list of names and addresses of the guests who are expected to attend the function and such list must be kept in the Branch. Intoxicating liquors may be sold or supplied to visitors in accordance with paragraph 16.5.2

16.7 There shall be no sale or supply of intoxicating liquor to any person under the age of 18yrs.

16.8 For a non member to hire the club a temporary events notice (TEN) form must be filled in. The person hiring must be over 18. This must be received by the relevant licensing authority (in duplicate) and must be accompanied by the prescribed fee and a copy of the TEN must be sent to the relevant chief officer of police, no later than 10 working days before the event. There must be 24 hours between events. Only 12 of these events can be applied for a year, and only five per a person. This is not needed for a member to hire the club. The General Committee has the right to refuse an event if it is seen as a risk to the club or members.

16.9 There shall be no alterations to the bye-laws of the Branch so as to authorise sales not authorised on the club premises Certificate under section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003

16.10 The Secretary of the club is responsible for the club premises certificate and must ensure it is kept on the premises (Licencing Act 2003 94.2) They are also responsible for giving the relevant licencing authority notice of any changes to the bar bye-law (82.1) within 28 days of them being changed (Licencing Act 2003 82.1)

17. Resignation from General Committee

The General Committee shall have the power by a two-thirds majority of all its members to request the resignation of any officer or member of the General Committee. Failing compliance within seven days of such a request, such officer or member shall be deemed to have resigned.

17.1 Before requiring the resignation of an officer or member, the General Committee shall give that person the opportunity of appearing before the General Committee, of hearing the reason for such request to resign and of addressing the General Committee in answer to such reason. The officer or member shall be permitted to be accompanied at such a hearing by their nominated representative, who shall be permitted to speak for or to act as a witness for that officer or member.

18. Temporary suspension from participation

In order to ensure the safety and good name of the Branch and its members, the person in charge of a Branch activity may suspend, at his discretion and for the duration of the activity, any member who misconducts himself. Any such suspension shall be reported as soon as possible to the Chairman or the Diving Officer and must be discussed at the next meeting of the General Committee.

19. Suspension and Loss of Membership

Where a member is considered to have brought the Branch into disrepute, or where the activities of a member might be considered to be a matter of gross misconduct then that member shall be suspended by the Chairman or Diving Officer, such suspension being

confirmed in writing within ten days of the notification, and the following procedure for considering the future membership status of that person shall be used:

19.1 At all stages of the procedure, the suspended member shall be entitled to be accompanied by a nominated representative, who shall be permitted to speak for the suspended member, or to act as a witness for that person procedure, the suspended member shall be entitled to be accompanied by a nominated representative, who shall be permitted to speak for the suspended member, or to act as a witness for that person

19.2 In the first instance, the suspended member will have the right to hear the reason for the suspension and to discuss it in private at a meeting between the suspended member (and a witness) and the Chairman and Honorary Secretary or the Chairman and Diving Officer. If the suspension is dismissed, the minutes of the meeting shall be returned to the member, and no further record shall be kept of the details of the incident leading to the suspension, except where such an incident would have led to an Incident Report being filed with the B.S.A.C. Head Office.

19.3 If the suspension is upheld at this meeting, then the suspended member (and a witness) shall have the right to present their case before a meeting of the whole General Committee.

19.4 If at the meeting of the whole General Committee the suspension is upheld by a 2/3rds majority of all its members, then the member will be expelled from the Branch with immediate effect, such decision being confirmed to the member in writing within seven days of the hearing.

19.5 The expelled member can appeal the General Committee's decision by asking for a Special General Meeting to be held within six weeks of the date of that letter. At the meeting the member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation of such conduct verbally or in writing. If 2/3rds of the members present shall vote for their expulsion, the member shall cease to be a member of the Branch. The voting at such Special General Meeting shall be by ballot if not less than five members present shall so demand.

19.6 At all stages in the procedure, the Chairman shall use his/her best endeavours to ensure that the hearings are held as soon as possible, and to suit both the suspended member and the General Committee. Any hearing shall not be unduly delayed by reason of the unavailability of any member or members.

20. Dissolution

If at any General Meeting of the Branch a resolution be passed for the dissolution of the Branch, the membership list of the Branch shall immediately be closed. Such resolutions shall at a Special General Meeting, held not less than one month thereafter and attended by not less than one-half of the voting members of the Branch, be confirmed by a majority of two-thirds of the members being present. The General Committee shall there upon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the property of the Branch and after the discharge of all liabilities, shall hand over the net assets to other clubs in the local area whose aims and objectives are consistent with a Community Amateur Sports Club or other Charitable causes.

21. Amendment

21.1 Subject to21.3 these bye-laws may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the voting members present at that meeting.

21.2 Subject to or interpretation of these bye-laws made by the General Committee under bye-law 9.9 shall be confirmed or set aside at the next Annual General Meeting thereafter or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose

21.3 Except that any bye-laws added to, repealed or amended in accordance with bye-laws 21.1 or 21.2 shall not become effective until after a certified copy of the new bye-laws has been delivered to The Clerk to the Justices, Macclesfield Magistrates and The Divisional Commander, Macclesfield Police, and that they have confirmed their receipt thereof.

22. British Sub Aqua Club Rules

These Bye-laws are made in compliance with Rule 3 of the Rules of the B.S.A.C., shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of that Rule, and shall only be valid to the extent that they are not in conflict with the said provisions and requirements or with those of the Articles of Association of the B.S.A.C.

7.2 ECSAC Management Manual

MANAGEMENT MANUAL

EAST CHESHIRE SUB AQUA CLUB

INDEX

1.0 Introduction
2.0 Club Controls
3.0 Headquarters
4.0 Club Location
5.0 President
6.0 Membership
7.0 Management
8.0 Trustees
9.0 General Committee
10.0 Annual General meeting
11.0 Officers
12.0 Officers Responsibilities
13.0 Club Functions
14.0 Appendices
14.1 Register of Standard Documents
14.2 Appointed Trustees

Rev	Revision Description	Date
01	First issue to ensure club requirements and responsibilities are clearly defined	January 2011
02	Revised to cover revisions to Bye Laws, CASC and Trustee appointments	March 2011
03	Revised due to changes to the Bye Laws March 2012 Section 16 Bar Licensing act 2003	March 2012
04		
05		

1.0 INTRODUCTION

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club (ECSAC) was established in 1960, its purpose being to provide a facility that will allow any interested individuals to take part in Scuba Diving or Snorkelling in a controlled and effective manner.

ECSAC is a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC 00728). This means that there are benefits such as the ability to raise funds from Individuals under Gift Aid. A registered CASC can claim up to £ 28 in tax for every £100 donated. There is also business rate relief exemption from Corporation Tax and Property income both with specific limits. In effect the club is deemed to be an asset to the community and as such is better able to obtain a grant because any grant is recognised as being a benefit to the Community not the individual club members.

When you join a BSAC club you join a worldwide group of people who share a real passion for scuba diving.

BSAC is UK's leading dive club and the sport's National Governing Body, providing an internationally-recognised diver training and development programme via a network of clubs and centres across the country and overseas.

So whether you're a qualified PADI (or other agency) diver or only just started, tried it on holiday or would like to learn to scuba dive - if you want the highest standards of training and great diving in good company, then East Cheshirs Sub Aqua Club BSAC number 100 established over 50 years is for you

As a club member you are also entitled to the full range of BSAC membership benefits.

- FREE **Third Party Liability insurance**, up to the value of £10m
- Affordable **diver life cover**, critical illness and income protection cover
- Have your say - as a member of the **UK's Governing Body** for diving
- Access to our internationally-recognised http://www.bsac.com/landing.asp?section=32&sectionTitle=Already+a+Diver%3F+Then+this+is+the+place+for+you**diver training** programme
- Ongoing support and training with the **BSAC Regional Coaching system**
- FREE monthly subscription to **SCUBA** magazine.
- 10% or more off **BSAC Shop** items
- Unlimited access to expert advice from our experienced and friendly **BSAC Team**

If that is not good enough as an ECSAC member you have.

- Your own **club house**
- Use of the **clubs boats**
- **FREE air** plus access to **Nitrox** at a nominal increase
- Regular **planned dives scheduled** up to 18 months in advance
- **Club functions** held in the club house at very competitive prices
- **Good company** and the opportunity to extend your circle of **friends**

As seen at the 50th aniversary of the club diving friendships last a life time..

When you look at the annual membership fee to join the East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club, including BSAC membership, the costs are easily covered by the benefits.

2.0 Club Controls

The controlling documents are the Bye Laws, this Manual together with, Documented Procedures (DP), Committee Members responsibilities (CM), Standard Forms (SF), Check Lists (CL) and relevant Statutory and Regulatory requirements. To this end the rules of the Branch to which each member shall be bound shall be those currently adopted by the British Sub-Aqua Club (hereinafter called "B.S.A.C.") and in addition each member shall be

bound by the relevant (ECSAC) bye-laws which is the primary ruling document within the management system:

3.0 Headquarters

The headquarters of the Branch is 2, Lower Bank Street, Macclesfield SK11 7HL (From Bye Laws)

4.0 ClubLocation

The Branch may maintain for the convenience of its members a Clubhouse. Such Clubhouse will operate under the name of East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club, the control of which is vested in the Branch General Committee (hereinafter called the General Committee). (From Bye Laws)

5.0 President

See Bye Laws

6.0 Membership

See Bye Laws for details

7.0 Management

The management of the Branch shall be vested in the General Committee, which shall administer for the general benefit of the Branch all funds, property and equipment in the general ownership of the Branch (See Bye Laws)

8.0 Trustees

The Trustees shall hold for the benefit of the members all assets, funds, property and equipment in the general ownership of the Branch. (See Bye Laws for details) A list of trustees is attached to this document.

At any meeting of the Trustee Committee there shall be at least two Trustees and two Officers. The meeting will be chaired by a Trustee appointed for the duration of the meeting. In the event of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a second casting vote. (see By Laws for details)

9.0 General Committee (Summary)

The elected members of the General Committee shall consist of four Officers, who shall be the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Diving Officer and not more than 8 other members including Equipment Officer, Registrar, Building Manager and Bar Manager (Steward From Bye Laws)

General Committee shall meet not less than 9 times in a year of office to examine the Accounts and arrange the affairs of the Branch. (see Bye Laws for Details)

The quorum of the General Committee shall be 5 of the members, one of whom must be the Chairman, Vice Chairman or the Honorary Secretary

General Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to the General Committee to fill any vacancy among the officers of the Branch, among its other members or of the Auditors which occurs in its term of office and shall have the power to co-opt any other members it sees fit, except that members co-opted other than to fill a vacancy shall not be entitled to vote on resolutions before the General Committee.

The General Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to the General Committee to fill any vacancy among the officers of the Branch, among its other members or of the **Accountants** which occurs in its term of office and shall have the power to co-opt any other members it sees fit, except that members co-opted other than to fill a vacancy shall not be entitled to vote on resolutions before the General Committee

No member shall occupy a single position on the General Committee for a continuous period of more than 5 years. No members shall sit as a General Committee member, in any combination of positions, for a continuous period of more than 7 years. Following a continuous period of 7 years on the General Committee a member shall not stand for

election to the General Committee until after the second Annual General Meeting following the end of their term of office. (**Note for full details refer Bye Laws**)

10.0 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be held not later than 31st March in each year, upon a date and a time to be fixed by the General Committee, for the purposes identified in the Bye Laws:

The Agenda shall include:

Apologies for absence;

Minutes of the previous AGM and any General Meetings that have occurred since that date;

Matters arising from those Minutes;

Reports from Officers;

Election of the General Committee;

Motions of which notice has been given

Other business as the Chairman may select.

A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall be 1/5th of voting members, but a quorum once formed shall not be lost despite the departure from the meeting of any member or members

10.1 Special General Meeting

Any General Meeting other than the Annual General Meeting shall be known as a Special General Meeting.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the General Committee at any time. (See Bye Laws)

11.0 Officers

The Club shall have the following Officers: -

Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Diving Officer together with: - Registrar, Equipment Officer, Building Officer, Bar Manager (Representative) and four general members.

12.0 Officers Responsibilities

CM 01Chairman

Is responsible for chairing all meetings except when not available when the Vice Chairman will cover. The Vice Chairman to be nominated by the Chairman. The Chairman is a signing authority for cheques and other financial activities and signs the minutes as a fair reflection of what took place at each meeting. Has a responsibility to ensure that the club is functioning in an acceptable manner. Holds the master copy of the clubs management system including the Asset Register. Has a responsibility to see that the requirements of the management system and the legal and regulatory requirements are complied with.

CM 02Honorary Secretary

Is responsible for the administration of the club and prepares the minutes and the agenda together with retaining the clubs contacts and ensuring present and past members are advised of events. The Secretary normally has signing authority for cheques. Is responsible for the administrative records of the club and traditionally has the role of organising the Annual Dinner Dance. (See bylaws 10.2)

The Secretary is also responsible for the club premises certificate (Licencing Act 2003 82.1) and advising the relevant licencing authority of any changes to the bar bye laws (82.1) within 28 days of them being changed (Licencing Act 2003 82.1). The Secretary should also ensure that the club has a relevant licence to run raffles.

CM 03Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for dealing with all monies received or paid on behalf of the Branch, and shall keep proper books of account of all monies received or paid on behalf of the Branch and shall effect in the name of the Branch, and keep records of, all investments by the General Committee. The Honorary Treasurer shall arrange for all such monies and securities to be deposited at such branch of a Bank or Building Society as the General Committee may approve to the credit of an account in the name of the Branch, on which cheques and other orders shall be signed by two of three officers of the General Committee as nominated by the current General Committee. The normal preference is for at least two of the following officers, the Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Chairman or the Diving Officer. There is however, through the Bye Laws, the opportunity to appoint any other committee members in this role where it is deemed to be appropriate for the clubs benefit

Treasurer shall be responsible for the calling in and collecting of all debts and subscriptions and for the due discharge of all liabilities of the Branch out of Branch funds as the General Committee may direct. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet to 31st December of each year, which shall be the end of the Branch year and The Honorary Treasurer shall cause it to be reviewed by the Branch **Accountants** and presented to the General Committee for submission to the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary Treasurer may be assisted in his work by such person or persons as the General Committee may approve. **(Bye laws)**

Is responsible for controlling and managing the clubs finances and reporting the situation at each monthly management meeting. The treasurer is a signing authority for cheques and financial matters. This activity requires two authorised signatures for any cheque or other financial transaction from the three approved signatories. Is responsible for the retention of all applicable financial records appertaining to the club and preparing the accounts for audit as required.

CM04 Diving Officer

Is responsible for all diving activities within the club as required by BSAC. Is responsible for authorising club dives and no diving may take place without his/her approval. Ensures dives have the relevant number of competent divers for the planned dive. Is responsible for the activities of the Training Officer when reporting concerns or status at the Committee meetings. Is responsible for the records for the diving equipment and dives that were carried out.

CM 05 Registrar

Is responsible for holding a controlled list of all members and their current membership status together with their contact details. Advises members when their subscriptions are due and collects the ECSAC fees together with the BSAC fees. Holds the current membership fees for every grade of member (See Bye Laws) and is responsible for advising each member of the fees they should pay based on the Committee meeting agreed figures for that year. Responsible for passing the membership receipts to the treasurer.

CM 06 Equipment Officer

Is responsible for identifying the condition of all equipment used for diving. He/She may appoint other club members to take responsibility for specific items such as Boats, Compressor, etc but will report the situation to the committee at the monthly meeting.

CM 07 Building Officer

Is responsible for the condition of the building and all its facilities including the condition of fire equipment, kitchen equipment, electrical equipment and all services related to the building. Is in control of the Keys to the building and the issue of Keys to Key holders to ensure adequate security. Deals with licences and approvals from external bodies where

they relate to the building and its safe operation. Controls, together with the Bar Representative, any function held at the club. The building Officer is responsible for ensuring that booked dates are registered after confirmation with the Bar Representative to ensure the dates required can be covered by volunteer staff and to prevent double booking

CM 08 Bar Manager (Steward)

The Bar manager is responsible for ensuring that the ECSAC Bye laws covering the bar (Section 16) are complied with. They are also responsible for the general running of the bar which includes cleaning line's ordering the beer, recycling the rubbish in the bar area, cashing the till each week (banking & change orders can be done by the Bar Manager (BM) or given to the treasurer to do if you don't have time as long as there is a record of everything that goes in and out of the till). The BM is also responsible for staffing the bar for normal nights and doos, keeping bar area tidy and dealing with the cleaners. The Bar Manager has the authority to place orders for drink and snacks held by the bar and the monitoring of the usage and modifying what is purchased in light of experience. The Bar Manager also has 2 sets of keys, one is for their own use and the other is to be used at the BM's discretion for bar committee and club members who need them for obtaining the boats or running doos etc but only for established members who the committee can trust. BM is responsible for ensuring the Keys are returned after use. The Bar Manager is one of two committee members responsible for approving the hiring out of the club and must comply with the bye laws.

CM 09 General Committee Members

All general committee members have the same voting rights as the other committee members and this role is a supportive role where other activities are often taken over by these committee members. They may be co-opted onto or lead a sub committee for a specific requirement or they may take on any other role as the committee see fit.

13.0 Club functions

All club functions are dependent on a valid "Club premises Certificate" with formal evidence of the payment of the appropriate annual licence fee. Club Functions are controlled by the use of Club Function Booking Form, which must be filled in by the person who wishes to use the club.

The form SF09 01 Club booking form must be approved by both the Bar Manager and the Building Manager . The fees for this are identified on the form and paid to the Bar Manager for submission to the Honorary Treasurer.

14.0 Appendices

14.1 Register of Documents

Documented Procedures (DP) Level 2:-

DP 01 Document Control

Committee Members responsibilities (CM) Level 3

CM 01 Chairman
CM 02 Honorary Secretary
CM 03 Honorary Treasurer
CM 04 Diving Officer
CM 05 Registrar
CM 06 Equipment Officer
CM 07 Building Officer
CM 08 Bar Representative
CM 09 General Committee Members (Four Off) CM 09-1, -2, -3, -4.

Work Instructions (WI) Standard Forms (SF) Check lists (CL) Asset Registers (AR) and Standard letters (SL) are identified using the Committee Members relevant identification number e.g. SF04 XX Diving Officer form. It is also their responsibility to ensure their documents are up to date and meet their needs.

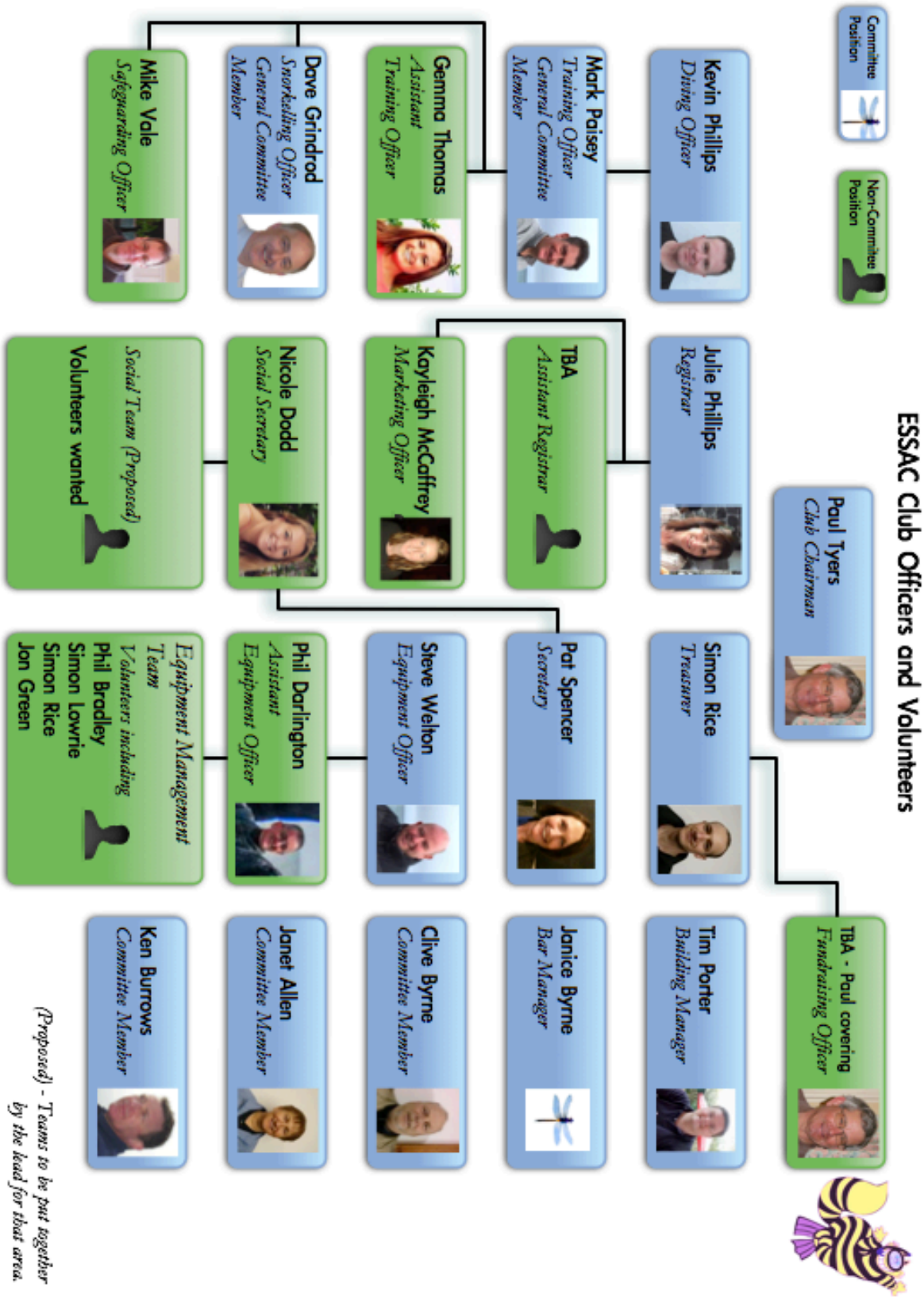
14.2 APPOINTED TRUSTEES

The Bye Laws state that there should be a minimum of 5 Trustees and a Maximum of 7. The list below is the current definitive list of Trustees from the signed document in the Club Safe.

Note: -addresses and contact details available from the Registrar.

1. **Alan Haywood**
2. **Richard Delaney**
3. **John Wright**
4. **Paul Tyers**
5. **Tom Tuke**
6. **Tony Crewe**

7.3 Club Committee



7.4 Club AGM Minutes 2015

ECSAC Minutes AGM 26th March 2015

Apologies: Pam Tyers, Pete Sampson, Peps Turler, Jane Knott, Pete Farrer, Sue Farrer.

Minutes AGM 2014. Accepted.

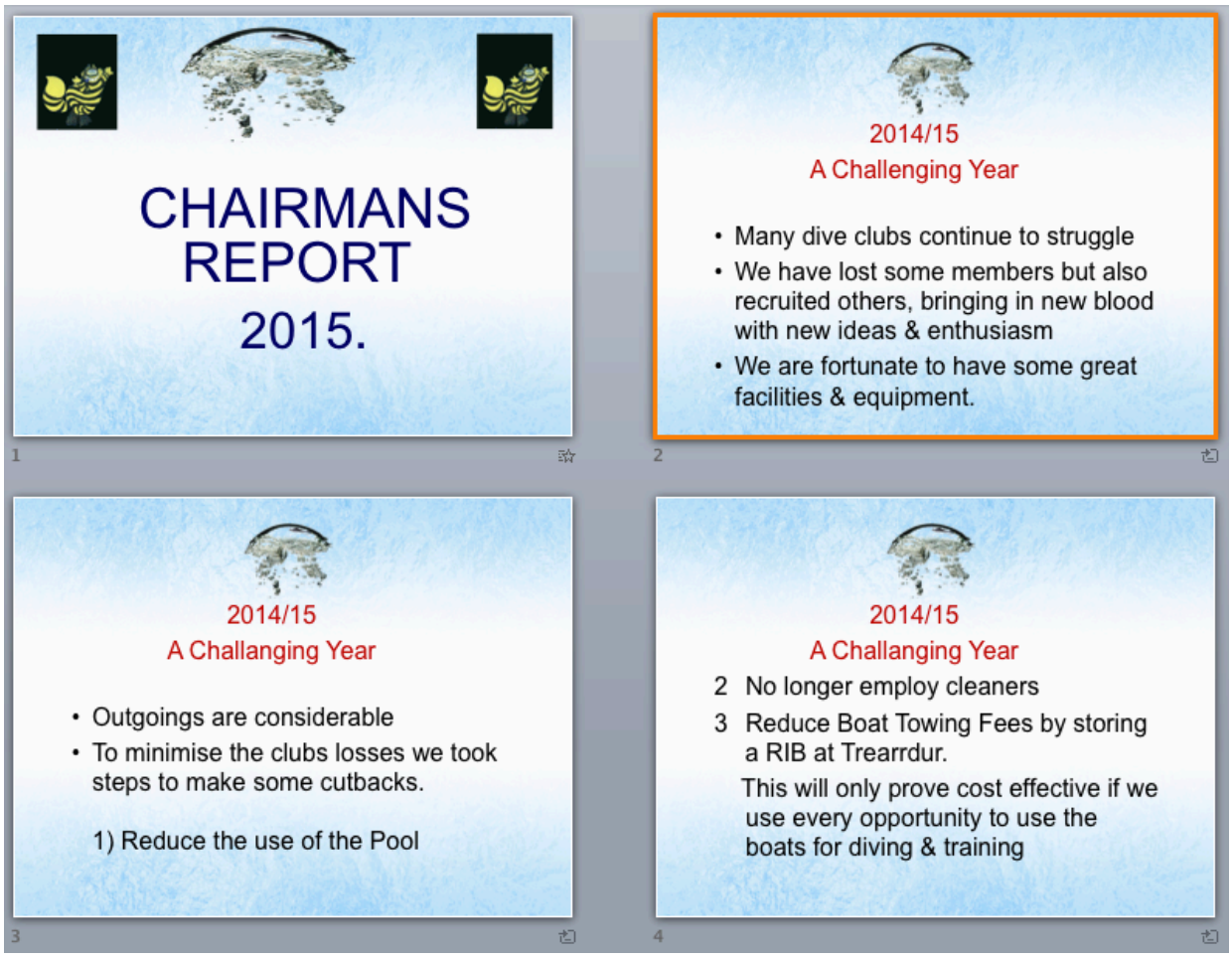
Proposed: Tim Porter. Seconded: Simon Rice.

Matters arising: None.

Appointment of Tellers: Not needed as only one person, nominated, per position on the committee.

Officer Reports:

1. Chairman;



Diver Training

Last year we took steps to improve the organisation of our diver training and try-dive programmes with the appointment of Kevin Phillips who took on the Training Officer role. Kevin has done an excellent job, making our training much more professional.

Kevin is also responsible for the monthly "What's on in ECSAC" circulation

As always we mustn't forget the contribution the instructors make, offering their time freely helping others learn to dive.

5

Diving

- The Dive Calendar continued to be very busy during the year offering club members different types of diving at various locations.
- Remember that these trips don't organise themselves. Lots of work goes on behind the scenes by the organisers and they need your support by going on these trips and paying promptly.

6

Dinner Dance

- An great evening at a new venue.
- As always Pat working hard putting this event together & thanks to her for making it such a success.

7

Club Finances

- Gavin will go into more detail on the accounts later
- A great deal of effort was put in by members of the club organising a Try-Dive evening in October in an attempt to recruit some new members. Despite publicising the event at the Treacle Market, in the Local paper & local radio the response on the night was poor.

8

Club Finances

- Last year I mentioned that we would be looking at the possibility of applying for various grants. Thanks to hard work by Simon Rice we have managed to get a small grant for safety equipment. Amanda Lowrie has also put in a great deal of effort putting together an application for larger grant to fund a new outboard engine

9

Thanks

- Dave & Louise Ketteringham are having to stand down from their positions on the committee as DO & Bar Manager
- To the rest of the dive club committee for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes on the clubs behalf.

10

2. Secretary:

Secretary Report 2015.

The role of secretary is very straight forward. It requires the elected person to take the minutes at committee meetings, deal with any administration, organise the Dinner Dance and the AGM.

I took on the role in October 2012 and for some reason still find myself here. Note to self, stop talking.

The dinner dance this year was held at the Bridge in Prestbury. We were sorry to leave Adlington Hall but we just could not meet their minimum number requirement of 80.

What a good move. The room was perfect, the food and service excellent. Our guest speaker was our very own Dave Seear. All the proceeds from the raffle and the brown envelope prize went into club funds. We cleared just over £700. A big thank you to Brett at Dive Life who donated a 4th Element under suit for the brown envelope prize and to Bennett Brooke who donated a case of wine for the raffle. Thanks again to Maxine who sold 135 tickets, to Ken Burrows and Peter Sampson for keeping everything in order, to Leo Allan for designing and printing ticket and finally to everyone for donating items to the raffle/buying and selling tickets. All in all a good night which was enjoyed by everyone.

This is my third AGM. I have tried to ensure that everyone is on Google Groups as this cuts the time and expense of postage. Hopefully no one has slipped through the net.

3. Treasurer: Accounts accepted. Report below.

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club

Treasurer's Report 2014

By Gavin Cairns F.C.C.A

1

Total Surplus/Deficit

	2014 £	2013 £
Income	18,011	25,239
Expenses	16,789	22,194
Surplus	**1,222**	**3,045**
Depreciation	3,866	5,141
Deficit	**(2,644)**	**(2,096)**

2

Bar income

	2014 £	2013 £
Sales	4,336	6,454
Purchases	1,922	4,419
Surplus	**2,414**	**2,035**

3

Subscriptions – BSAC & Club

	2014 £	2013 £
Fees received	8,491	11,430
Expenses	1,351	2,430
Surplus	**7,140**	**9,000**

4

Pool

	2014	2013
Contributions received	2,491	2,593
Mac leisure centre	3,754	4,168
Deficit	**(1,263)**	**(1,575)**

Snorkellers
Try dives
Scouts
Swimmers

5

Other income

	2014 £	2013 £
Boat sale	-	3,000
Socials	133	24
Dinner Dance	560	464
Club House hire	236	100
Dives	615	734
50/50 club	572	389
Clothes	32	(25)
Nitrox	193	71
Storage	346	-
Bank interest	6	5
SURPLUS	**2,693**	**4,762**

6

Expenses

	2014 £	2013 £
Telephone	283	268
Diving Equip maint	3,427	4,075
Building maint	1,295	1,858
Rates	936	1,197
Heat & light	1,006	1,410
Insurance	2,139	1,827
Post & stationery	233	27
Accountancy	247	240
Bank charges	(25)	23
Sundry	221	252
Depreciation	3,866	5,141
Total	**13,628**	**16,318**

7

Diving equipment maint

Diving equipment	
Filters	62
Cylinder testing	258
Boats	
Launch pass	240
New radio	200
Flares	270
Insurance	475
Repairs	724
Minibus	
Insurance	673
AA	206
RFT	165
MOT and repairs	154
Total	**3,427**

8

Building Maintenance

Cleaning	823
Alarm	250
Fire extinguishers	123
Others small reps	99
Total	**1,295**

9

See also 7.5 Club Accounts 2014 – on page 133.

Proposed Amanda Lowrie; Seconded: Clive Byrne.

Proposal to use Bennett Brooke again to audit accounts:

Proposed Dave Ketteringham Seconded Ken Burrows.

4. Registrar

Membership as of March – 70.

5. Equipment.

All in order.

Highlights

- Topcat stationed at Trearduur Bay
- Cheshire Cat re-engine plan
- High usage of training equipment
- Low usage of minibus

Topcat

- Stationed at Anglesey Marine and Leisure until September 2015

Using Topcat

1)Phone boat yard in advance
2)Collect ancillary equipment from EO
3)Turn up and load dive kit
4)Tractor launch
5)Dive
6)Phone boatyard and tractor recovery
7)Wash down and re-fuel
8)Ice cream and drive home
9)Return equipment and report to EO
10)Submit accounts to Treasurer

Cheshire Cat

- Amanda leading a proposal for a Sport England grant to replace the engines and steering
- Additional funds required
- Fund raising events to take place.

Training equipment

- Currently all training equipment issued
- May have to recall from SD
- 2014 usage:

	Try dives	Training
BCs	73	5
Cylinders	66	25
Regs	69	6

Minibus

- Minibus is under used
- An important towing and transport vehicle
- Use it or lose it!

And a big **Thank You** to the "boat house crew"

Phil Simon Tim Dave Steve

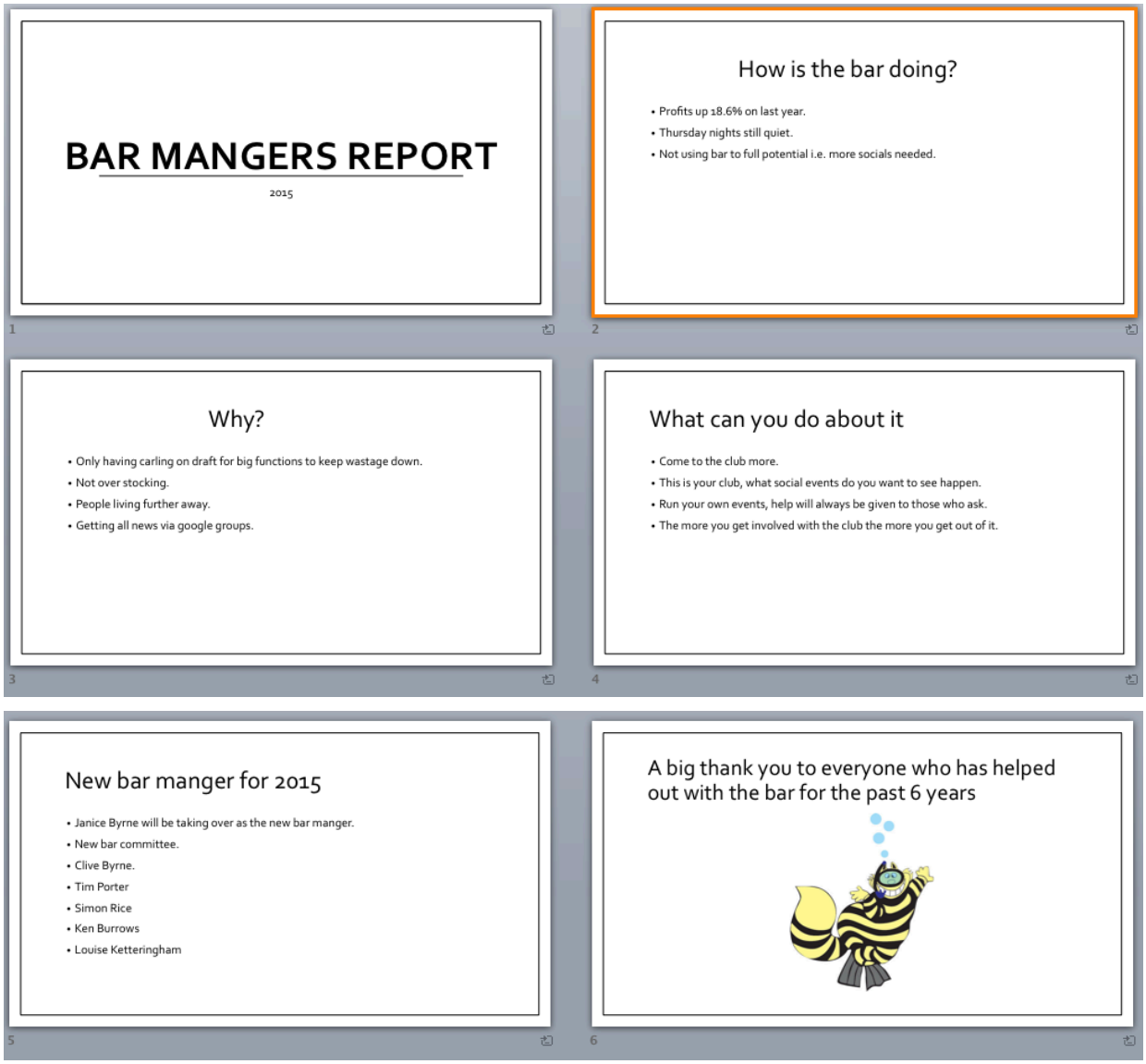
5. Buildings

Yes we have one and we are very happy with it.

Land Registry matters are ongoing and will be reported to the committee monthly.

6. Bar

See Bar Manager's report below.



Motions: None

Election: not required.

Committee:

Chairman: Paul Tyers. Secretary: Pat Spencer. Treasurer: Gavin Cairns. Diving Officer: Kevin Phillips.

Registrar: Amanda Lowrie. Equipment Officer: Simon Rice. Buildings Manager: Tim Porter.

Bar Manager: Janice Byrne.

General: Janet Allan, Clive Byrne, Ken Burrows, Mark Paisey.

A.O.B. Dave Seear thanked Dave and Louise Ketteringham for their commitment and service to the club and wished them well in their move with Dave's new job. He presented them with a bottle of champagne as a token of thanks.

Happy birthday to Maxine Lomas and a cake to celebrate.

7.5 Club Accounts 2014

EAST CHESHIRE SUB-AQUA CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO

31 DECEMBER 2014

2013		2014	
	BAR		
6,454	Sales	4,336	
(4,419)	Cost of Sales	(1,922)	
2,035			2,414
	SUBSCRIPTIONS		
11,430	B.S.A.C. & Club Subscriptions	8,491	
(2,430)	B.S.A.C. Fees & workbooks	(1,351)	
9,000			7,140
	POOL		
2,593	Pool contributions	2,491	
(4,168)	Pool fees	(3,754)	
(1,575)			(1,263)
	OTHER INCOME		
24	Socials	133	
3,000	Sale of boat	-	
464	Dinner Dance (2013)	560	
100	Club House Hire	236	
734	Open Water Dives (net)	615	
389	50/50 Club (net)	572	
(25)	Clothes	32	
71	Nitrox	193	
-	Other	346	
5	Bank and Building Society Interest	6	
4,762			2,693
14,222	**INCOME FOR THE YEAR**		10,984
	EXPENDITURE		
268	Telephone	283	
4,075	Diving Equipment Maintenance	3,427	
1,858	Building Maintenance & Repairs	1,295	
1,197	Rates	936	
1,410	Heat and Light	1,006	
1,827	Insurance	2,139	
27	Postage, Stationery and Advertising	233	
240	Accountancy	247	
23	Bank charges	(25)	
252	Sundries	221	
5,141	Depreciation of Fixed Assets	3,866	
16,318			13,628
(2,096)	**SURPLUS/DEFECIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE**		**(2,644)**

% Return on Bar

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
35.02%	35.02%	47.05%	40.58%	47.71%	39.74%	31.50	55.67%

Appendices

EAST CHESHIRE SUB-AQUA CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

2013				2014
		FIXED ASSETS		
140,000		New Building at Valuation (by M.J. Wroe F.R.I.C.S.)		140,000
	11,610	Equipment at 31.12.2013	29,767	
	18,157	Additions – boat	-	
	29,767		29,767	
15,699	14,068	Less: Depreciation	17,934	11,833
155,699				**151,833**
		CURRENT ASSETS		
	2,151	Stock	1,761	
	133	Prepayment	-	
	200	Sundry debtor	-	
	625	Cash at Bank	282	
	13,760	Deposit account	15,500	
	220	Cash in Hand	814	
	17,089		18,357	
		CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	(245)	Sundry Creditors	(291)	
16,844		**NET CURRENT ASSETS**		18,066
£ **172,543**		**NET ASSETS**		£ **169,899**
		Represented by:		
90,196		**MEMBERS CAPITAL FUND**		90,196
		MEMBERS ACCUMULATION FUND		
	84,443	Balance at 31.12.2013	82,347	
	(2,096)	Surplus/Defecit for the year	(2,644)	
82,347				79,703
£ **172,543**				£ **169,899**

The financial statements were approved on 26 March 2015 by:

Gavin Cairns Hon. Treasurer

Patricia Spencer Hon. Secretary

ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EAST CHESHIRE SUB-AQUA CLUB

We have prepared without carrying out an audit, the club's accounts for the year to 31 December 2014 and balance sheet as at that date, from the books, vouchers and information supplied.

Bennett Brooks & Co Ltd

Bennett Brooks and Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants
2 Maple Court
Davenport Street
Macclesfield. SK10 1JE

26 March 2015

7.6 Trainee Code of Conduct

• Treat your instructor and fellow students with respect.

• Make your instructor aware if you have difficulties in attending sessions.

• Arrive in good time before the sessions start to complete any warm up as directed by your instructor.

• Do not enter the water until asked to do so by your instructor.

• If you arrive late report to your instructor before entering the water.

• Ensure you have all your equipment with you.

• If you need to leave the water for any reason during instruction inform your instructor and buddy before doing so.

• Listen to what your instructor is telling you at all times and obey instructions given.

• Think about what you are doing while under instruction and if you have any problems discuss them with your instructor at an appropriate time.

• If you have any problems with the behaviour of fellow Club members report them at the time to an appropriate adult (see below).

Club Welfare Officer

Mike Vale mike.vale01@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officers

Dave Grindrod david.grindrod@hotmail.co.uk

Gemma Thomas gemmajayne@outlook.com

Pam Simpson pabsimpson@yahoo.co.uk

7.7 Safeguarding Policy introduction letter example

Example Welcome letter to Macclesfield Sea Scout Parents

The East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club is pleased to welcome your child on the Experience Snorkelling

I am Mike Vale and I will be the lead instructor on the course, assisted by Dave Grindrod and other members of the club as necessary.

• Mike Vale mike.vale01@gmail.com

• Dave Grindrod david.grindrod@hotmail.co.uk

Training will take place at Macclesfield Leisure Centre on Thursday nights between 8 and 9pm. The scout leader will confirm precise dates for each child.

Parents/carers are responsible for transporting children to and from the Leisure Centre and expected to ensure trainees arrive in plenty of time to get changed in the Leisure Centre changing facilities into suitable swimwear to be ready to start at 8pm.

All snorkelling and diving equipment will be provided by ECSAC, although an old tee shirt is recommended for use during the try dive usually in week 4 or 5 of the course.

No trainees will be allowed to participate in lessons until the declaration of fitness for snorkelling and disclaimer for liability for the try dive forms have been signed by the relevant parents/carers.

I understand that photography consent has previously been collected by Macclesfield Sea Scouts, which covers all scouting activities. Sometimes photographs are taken and used for promotion purposes particularly with other scouting groups, but further permission is always sought at the time.

ECSAC has adopted and implemented Buddy Guard the British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and Procedures.

Full details can be found in the Buddy Guard documentation available on the BSAC website.

http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1307&sectionTitle=Safeguarding+policy+for+children+and+vu

I am the club welfare officer (mike.vale01@gmail.com) and the other safeguarding officers are:

• Dave Grindrod david.grindrod@hotmail.co.uk

• Gemma Thomas gemmajayne@outlook.com

• Pam Simpson pabsimpson@yahoo.co.uk

With kind regards

Mike and the team

7.8 Helly Hansen Watersports Centre - Diver Registration form 2015

Helly Hansen Watersports Centre

Diver Registration form 2015

Leisure IN Salford

All Divers will need to re-register on an annual basis. This form is valid until 31 March 2016

To participate in Diving activities in Salford Quays, all Divers must register by completing the registration form below, and return to:

Salford Watersports Centre, 15 The Quays, Salford, M50 3SQ. Tel: 0161 877 7252 Fax: 0161 778 0582.

Please print & complete all fields

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (delete as applicable) _____

Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Tel (day)_____(evening) _____

Dive Club: _____

D.O.B. _____

Employment Status: _____

Ethnic Background: _____ Salford Resident? Yes/No

Diving Qualifications (please enclose copies):

_____

_____

_____

Do you have a health problem, disability or special need?

_____

_____

_____

In case of emergency contact:

Name : _____ Relationship : _____

Tel :Number: Mobile _____Evening _____

By signing this form, I agree to the following:

- I confirm that that they are physically and medically fit to take part in Diving activities that I will inform the Dive Marshall of any medical issues.
- I am a competent Diver, or I am undertaking training lead by a competent Diver
- Salford Watersports Centre / Salford Community Leisure Ltd will not be held responsible for any injury or death to myself / my group, caused by the negligent actions of myself / my group.

SIGNED:_____ DATE: _____

Name of parent or guardian if under 18: _____

7.9 Risk Assessment for Salford Quays

SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

Site Name: St Peter Basin, Salford Quays **Date of Assessment:** 23/09/2015

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Risk Evaluation/ Likelihood
Slips and trips	Divers and members of the public may be injured if they trip over objects or slip on wet surfaces.	General good housekeeping is carried out. Kit kept tidy and site briefings given by dive leaders to point out hazards. Public should be asked not to get too close to divers. Kit should be kept tidy and in a limited area.	Ensure Dive Managers include these hazards in pre-briefing and shore cover are suitably briefed to manage kit and bystanders accordingly.	Dive Manager Shore Cover	Pre-Dive During dive	Medium
Loss / damage of equipment	Divers equipment may be damaged or lost/stolen in what is an open public area	Ensure we have shore cover to keep an eye on any kit left on shore.	Ensure team on site are vigilant	Shore Cover	On whole event	Medium
Drowning	Divers and/or surface cover + public	Lifebelts are supplied at poolside, surface cover (rescue trained is on hand). Divers monitored and dive as buddy pairs. Onlookers kept from water's edge and behind chain fence.	Ensure nearest life belt is in place, take the club O2 kit along and have a rescue trained diver in the water at all times when students are in the water.	Dive Manager, Shore Cover and Instructors	Pre-event and during event	Low
Lifting	Access to the pool is via ladder, these are low ladders and awkward to exit from. Divers may slip or pull muscles if they attempt to exit fully kitted.	Divers should de-kit in the water, pass kit up to surface cover to exit the water via ladder. A rope should be used to enable people to lift themselves off the top of the ladder	Ensure pre-brief covers these points. Remind instructors to brief this also and ensure people are instructed on how to exit.	Dive Manager, Shore Cover and Instructors	Pre-event and during event	Medium

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Risk Evaluation/ Likelihood
Reduced underwater visibility	Divers get separated or inexperienced divers may be spooked and panic.	Divers to dive in buddy pairs at all times. Contact to be maintained throughout the dive. Strobes or buddy lines to be carried.	In case of separation standard process to followed. 1 min search, then surface. Re-establish contact. Surface cover to render assistance as required.	Divers Instructors to brief accordingly.	Pre-Dive	High
Contact with sharp objects	Divers – (injury hazard)	Site to be cleared of major objects annually, site survey identified 2 or three that need attention.	Advise divers not to swim into silt or push hands into it. Care should be taken in low visibility, gloves should be worn.	Dive Manager, Shore Cover and Instructors and Divers.	Pre and during dives.	Medium/Low
Entanglement with underwater objects/ropes	Divers – potential entrapment and drowning	Dive Marshal to brief divers of danger areas. All divers carry appropriate cutting implement, such as filament line cutter, wire snips, diving knife.	Line following discipline should be followed (do not go under lines).	Divers Instructors to brief accordingly.	Pre and during dives.	Medium
Water and Air Temperature	Divers and shore cover - hypothermia	All divers to wear appropriate thermal protective clothing, including dry suit, gloves and hood.	If people are too cold, provide first aid treatment for hypothermia. Ensure on cold days warm drinks and warm water are taken.	Dive Manager, Shore Cover and Instructors and Divers.	Pre and Post dives.	High in winter
Ear Damage	Divers (depth is in excess of that which can damage ears)	Trainees receive specific instruction in 'ear clearing'. Divers or snorkelers do not dive when suffering from a cold.	Assistance from Instructor or buddy	Instructors and Divers. (all in the water).	During dives.	Medium
Running out of air	All Divers – emergency situation	All SCUBA sets fitted with cylinder pressure gauges. Monitoring by Instructor or buddy. Instructor/trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recommendations.	All divers carry AS.	All Divers	Pre dive checks including buddy checks and frequent checks during dives.	Medium

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Risk Evaluation/ Likelihood
Rapid Ascent	All Divers – barotrauma	Progressive training. Correct weighting of all divers. Monitoring by Instructor. Instructor / trainee ratios in accordance with BSAC recs. Visual datum used for ascent exercises where needed	Diving monitored by shore / boat cover able to provide / direct assistance. Oxygen Administration equipment and trained administrators on site.	Dive Manager, Shore Cover and Instructors and Divers.	Pre and during dives.	Medium
Contact / collision with other water users	All – personal injury or kit damage	Dive Marshal to plan use of site to reduce diver/diver contact. Liaise with other water Users.	If other water users present in the basin advise use of DSMB if surfacing away from the exit line. SMB to be deployed from the platform.	If a collision occurs, remove casualty from the danger and water. First Aid.	Pre-event and during event	Low (if we have sole use) Medium/High if other users arrive
Objects thrown at divers	All – injury	Divers to exit the danger area. Security to be contacted to remove offenders. HH Centre Number – 0161 877 7252	Carry out pre-dive checks on the area to ensure it is clear of potential problems before kitting up.	Provide any first aid that may be appropriate. Hospitalise, if required.	Pre-event and during event	Low
Diving equipment malfunction	All Divers – potential emergency situation.	Divers to carry octopus rig to cover loss of primary second stage. To be checked in brief and buddy check	All diving equipment must be checked as being in service and fit for purpose.	Dive to be aborted. Buddy to render assistance to casualty.	Pre and during dives.	Low
Helixer in operation (aeration pump in basin).	All Divers – may be trapped or visibility reduced.	Check with HH center as to when and if Helixer if to be switched on.	Ensure buddy teams maintain an awareness of its location. Steer clear if it is to be switched on.	Dive Manager to brief on this.	Pre and during dives.	Medium

THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE HAZARDS. This risk assessment should be reviewed bi-annually.

Alternatively if it is considered out of date or no longer be valid (e.g. following an accident or incident or if there are any significant changes to hazards, such as new equipment or training/diving activities) it should be reviewed prior to the next trip to this location.

7.10 Example ECSAC Dive Log

ECSAC Dive Log Sheet

Dive Site : Lema Rock.

Date : 3 May. 2015

Weather :

Dive Expedition No : Day 7 - Dive 2

Dive Organiser : Mark P

Dive Manager : Pat S

Sea State : Calm

Notes :

Dive buddies	Dive Qualification	Boat & Cox	Cylinder/ Pony vol. (l)	Computer (C) or Tables (T)	Current Tissue Code	Gas Mix (%)	Max O_2 Depth (m)	Gas in (bar)	Gas out (bar)	Time in (h:m)	Time out (h:m)	Max Depth (m)	Dive Time (mins)	Surface Interval (h)
DL : Phil D	DC	Nomad	12	C		21		200	60			22.4	64	
Simon A	AD	"	12	C		21		200	70			22.2	64	
DL : Pat S	DC	"	12	C		21		200	80			22.6	64	
DL :														
DL : Mark P	DL	"	12	C		21		200	50			20.8	58	
James P	O	"	12	C		21		200	50			20.6	58	
DL :														
DL :														
DL :														
DL :														

Depth restrictions :				
	Club Diver :	20 m	Dive Leader :	50 m
	Sports Diver :	35 m	Advanced Diver :	50 m

7.11 Boat Storage Proposal

ECSAC Committee Proposal

1. Proposal summary

The proposal is to store (relocate) one of the club boats to a boat yard on Anglesey for a proportion of the year in 2015. The boat yard we recommend would be ABC Powermarine in Beaumaris.

We would recommend TopCat is the boat that is stored due to the likelihood that the Delta will need more maintenance than TopCat and this can be more easily carried out while in the Macc Boat House. It will also mean that (as planed) TopCat would get more use as the Delta would only be used when two boats are needed for a trip. If maintenance were required on TopCat this could either be carried out in situ or potentially the boats could be swapped over on a dive weekend if/when both boats are on the same trip.

Central to the proposal of boat storage is the concept of improved access and utilisation. The current model of planned trips with 2 weeks notice and trailering the boat to Anglesey is inflexible in that a suitable tow vehicle is required and the weather needs to be appropriate or the trip is cancelled, costs are also significant and as a result prohibitive for some types of use.

Moving the boat to Anglesey for spring/early summer storage aims to address these issues. Clearly the storage needs to be cost effective, secure and accessible. A number of sites were identified, Holyhead, Treardurr Bay, Port Dinorwic (Dinas) and ABC Powermarine. HH has security issues and probably has not been explored fully but operating out of a busy harbour all summer is probably not ideal. Dinorwic is mid Menai Straits and whilst suitable as a base for storage requires the boat to be trailered to launch sites defeating the point of the proposal.

ABC Power marine is 4nm from Puffin and outside the Swellies giving access from the boatyard to Puffin, North Coast sites, Great Orme Head sites and deeper offshore sites. Within a 15 nm range there are many dive sites available. The slipway is useable +\- 3 hours of HW, outside of this a tractor launch and recovery service is provided for £24. This means a day dive akin to a trip to Capernwray is achievable, i.e. no tow vehicle is required. Multi day trips can utilise B&Bs or camping in Beaumaris and the new shower/toilet facilities block at the boatyard (hot showers!) In addition should the boat be required elsewhere on the island (or on the Lleyn) it can be collected and towed as needed but at a much lower cost the trip participants, this must lead to increased utilisation and return additional fees to the club.

From a boat handling training perspective the Beaumaris area offers distinct advantages over other sites as the North channel is buoyed and this will provide an enhanced training area for Seamanship events. Increasing the diving opportunities both in numbers of dive trips and type eg SDCs and good inshore dives (Puffin Island in particular). This will lead we hope to increased interest and keep people in the club.

Whilst this is primarily aimed at the club members a spin off is that spare boat spaces (if there are any) could be offered regionally or to other clubs via ex members eg Ian Ross at a suitable charge rate this may advertise the club effectively and promote growth!

This is a proposal only in that it is of course reversible. Let's try a trial period and review it afterwards.

2. Location

ABC Powermarine, http://www.abcpm.co.uk/
More details provided at Annex A.
Address: Gallows Point, Beaumaris LL58 8YL, UK
Phone:+44 1248 811413

Opening Hours Access to the yard is possible 7:30am thru 8:30pm in the summer season.

Chandlery
9.00am - 5.30pm
7 Days a week
(Winter Sundays 11.00am - 4.30pm)
Yard
Gate is secured by a combination lock when open and is locked out of use outside these hours.
(parking area available outside these times where a secured trailer can be left – the team will also then move the boat into secured storage for us in normal hours if needed.

Petrol Station
7.00am - 9.00pm Weekdays
8.00am - 8.00pm Weekends

2. Costs

Boat storage will cost £16 per week (for 10 weeks or longer). We would propose to store the boat immediately after the early season boat trip (early April – Easter) as a trial and aim for an initial 10-week period through to Mid June. This would cost £160.

A cover would be needed for the boat, we would propose this was sourced via the club (large clean tarpaulin would be satisfactory).

3. Charging Proposal / Programme of Use

Charging

We would suggest that a simple charging process is adopted to ensure that it is easily managed and recoups the cost of storage as well as returning some wear and tear money to the club.

The proposed charging mechanism would be £5 per day per user (same for divers as trainee boat handlers/trainees etc). Plus a share of the cost of fuel (and launch fees if these are incurred) as per the current trip calculator (including the 15% wear and tear surcharge).

E.G. 5 divers using the boat for a single day = £5 each + petrol/W&T.
Assume £40 fuel, thus trip cost = £25 + £40 + £6 W&T = £71 = £14.20 each

Assuming we launch the boat ourselves. If we use the launch facility then the price would be £19 in this example.

For 6 divers the cost would be £16.70 each with a launch or £12.70 with a self launch.

This simplicity and pricing will encourage more diving!

4. Cost Benefit / Breakeven

Assuming the costs are as expected then the breakeven point for the first 10 weeks storage would be reached at 6 days usage with 5 divers on the boat (30 diver days – that is just two Bank Holidays!).

However based on an expected 55 diver days minimum usage (that is just Easter + 2 May Bank Holidays and one extra weekend with 5 divers using the boat i.e. 11 days usage for 5 divers = 55 diver days) we would see a return to the club of £180. This will completely cover the storage charge; it will also return an additional income to the club for maintenance.

If we assume a minimum of 55 diving/training days are conducted in the 10-week trial period then a total of £181 will be returned to the club in usage fees and wear and tear fees.

10 weeks Storage Costs	= £ 160
Usage charge 55 days (three bank holidays + 1 weekend with 5 divers)	= £ 275
Fuel wear and tear surcharge 15% of £40 per day fuel	= £ 66
	———
Net income	= £ 181

If we were able to increase the diving to say 180 diver days (that is just 6 divers in the boat for 30 diving days or 5 divers for 36 diving days) over a full season then the charging proposal here would return a net income to the club of over £600.

4. Recommendation

We therefore recommend that the committee agree to site the boat at ABC Powermarine for the first 10 weeks of the 2015 season and adopt the simple charging mechanism[3] outlined in this proposal as well as ratify the simplified trip approval/announcement process outlined at Annex B.

5. Proposers

Proposer/Seconder

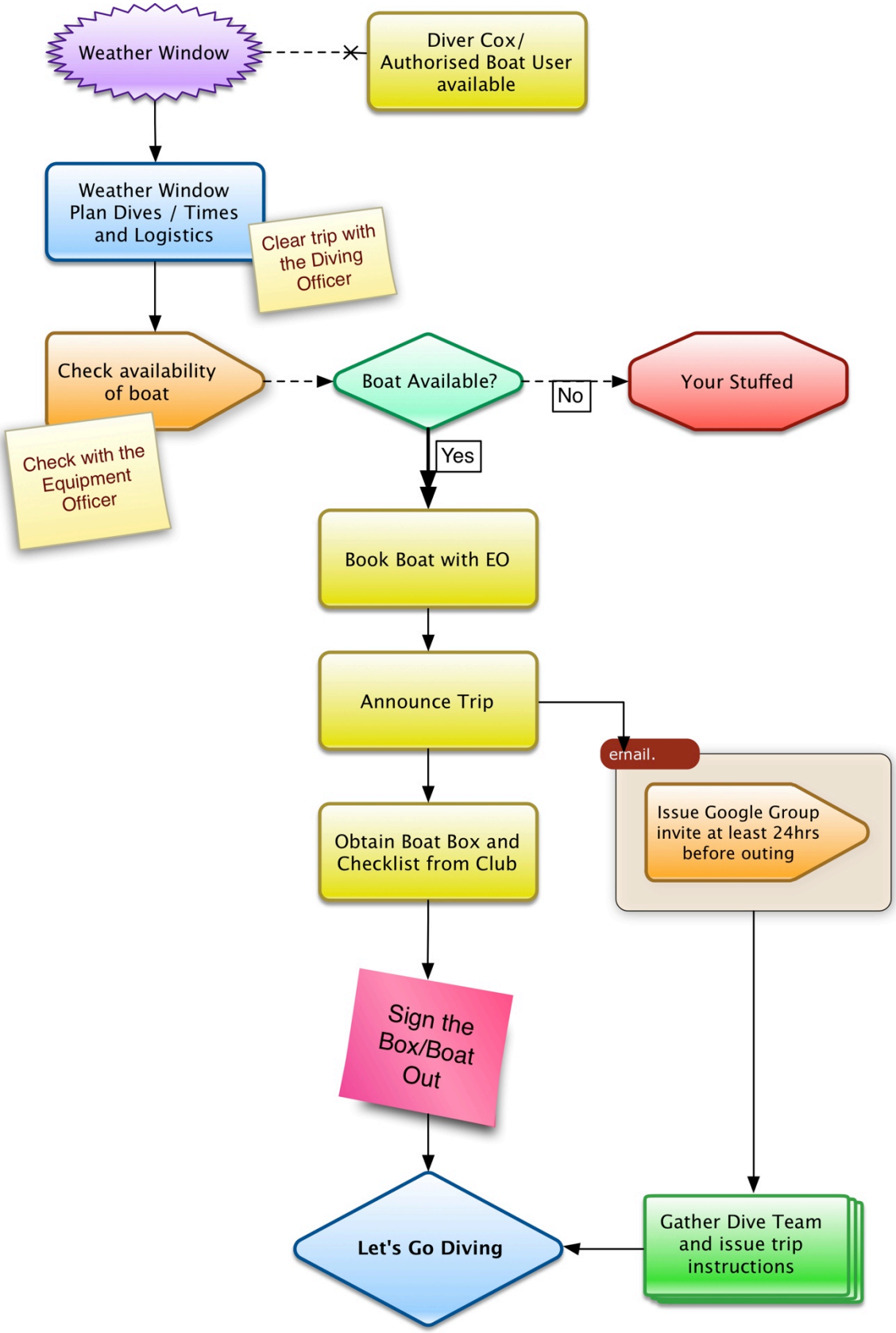
Kevin Phillips

Mark Paisey – Advanced Instructor + Member in good standing

Proposed requesting process – see annex on the next page.

_____

Proposed Boat Booking Process.



7.12 Site Risk Assessment example

Date: 4,5,6th May

Location: Anglesey

Risk Evaluation

LIKELIHOOD (L)

0 No Hazard
1 Very Unlikely
2 Unlikely
3 Likely
4 Very Likely
5 Almost Certain

SEVERITY (S)

1 No Injury
2 First Aid Injury
3 A 3 Day Injury
4 Major Injury
5 Fatal/Disabling

LIKELIHOOD

SEVERITY	0	1	2	3	4	5
		2	4	6	8	10
		3	6	9	12	15
		4	8	12	16	20
		5	10	15	20	25

- ❒ Low Risk (1-5)
- ❒ Med Risk (6-10)
- ❒ High Risk (11+)

Risk = Likelihood x Severity

No of Persons Involved: 15

Duration: 4,5,6 May (3 days)

Description of task covered by this assessment:

1st ocean Rib Dive early in the season

Hazard	Control Measures in Place	L	S	Risk Score	Risk Rating (LMH)
Cold	**Suitable suits. Abandon dive if too cold. Remind divers of the dangers and symptoms of hypothermia (assess on day dependent on conditions). Take special care of anyone diving wet.** Assess on day!	4	2	8	M
Depth	All divers to dive to a maximum of their qualification limit & a max ppO2 of 1.4 bar	1	4	4	L
Entanglement	All divers to carry a knife or line cutter	1	4	4	L
Entry/Exit Points	Check suitability & include in briefing	1	4	4	L

Equipment Failure	Buddy check before the dive. All diving to be buddy diving NO SOLO DIVING Make divers aware that as first dive of the season, need to look out for problems (bubbles) self and buddy	2	4	8	M
Fast ascent	Confirm correct weighting For deeper dives use a shotline.	1	3	3	L
Running out of Air	Correct buddy monitoring. All divers to have an AAS	1	5	5	L
Computer Failure	Backup tables/abandon dive.	1	3	3	L
Fitness to dive	No colds or other illnesses, no hangovers, no dehydration, no one on unsuitable medication	2	2	4	L
Decompression Illness	Dives properly planned and executed, with suitably slow ascent rates and adequate deco/safety stops. Minimal exertion after diving, all divers properly hydrated. Always have Oxygen available on the boat (either the boat or the club's)	1	5	5	L
Free Flowing Regulator	All divers trained on how to deal with regulator free flow and all divers to have an octopus	1	4	4	L
Drift dives	The speed of the drift to be suitable for experience of divers & SMB's to be used	1	4	4	L
Weather	No diving to take place in unsuitable conditions Forecast to be checked before dive and changes monitored during day	1	3	3	L
Discipline	Dive Marshal (As appointed by Diving Officer) has final say on dive site, depth, time & if diving can go ahead	1	5	5	L

	Training on buddy diving practice. Agreed procedure to ascend if separated. All divers to carry an smb and reel	1	1	1	L
Boat Collision/Control	There must always be a qualified boat coxswain & boat handler on board and in charge of the boat (They can not dive in the same wave)	1	5	5	L
Loss of shore contact	Backup radio to be carried at all times	1	4	4	L
Panicking Student	All instructing to be done by nationally qualified instructors Ensure dives do not push students limits	0	4	4	0
Additional Control Measures – must be specified where the risk rating is medium or high > 5					
Completed by: _____	Date: _____				

7.13 Weekly Club Newsletters

Over the course of 2015 the club newsletter has been issued weekly without fail. Keeping the members informed of all the news, dive trip, training and social activities going on within and around the club.

The full newsletters are not included in this version of the document to reduce its size

Newsletter	Page
Week beginning 28th December 2015	150
Week beginning 21st December 2015	154
Week beginning 14th December 2015	156
Week beginning 7th December 2015	159
Week beginning 30th November 2015	162
Week beginning 23rd November 2015	165
Week beginning 16th November 2015	167
Week beginning 9th November 2015	169
Week beginning 2nd November 2015	171
Week beginning 26th October 2015	173
Week beginning 19th October 2015	174
Week beginning 12th October 2015	179
Week beginning 5th October 2015	181
Week beginning 28th September 2015	185
Week beginning 21st September 2015	189
Week beginning 14th September 2015	194
Week beginning 7th September 2015	197
Week beginning 31st August 2015	199
Week beginning 24th August 2015	203
Week beginning 17th August 2015	206
Week beginning 10th August 2015	208
Week beginning 3rd August 2015	210
Week beginning 27th July 2015	212
Week beginning 20th July 2015	214
Week beginning 13th July 2015	215
Week beginning 6th July 2015	216
Week beginning 29th June 2015	218
Week beginning 22nd June 2015	220

Week beginning 15th June 2015 221
Week beginning 1st June 2015 225
Week beginning 25th May 2015 226
Week beginning 11th May 2015 227
Week beginning 4th May 2015 228
Week beginning 27th April 2015 229
Week beginning 20th April 2015 230
Week beginning 13th April 2015 231
Week beginning 6th April 2015 232
Week beginning 30th March 2015 234
Week beginning 23rd March 2015 235
Week beginning 9th March 2015 239
Week beginning 2nd March 2015 241
Week beginning 23rd February 2015 243
Week beginning 16th February 2015 244
Week beginning 2nd February 2015 246
Week Commencing 26th January 2015 249
Week Commencing 5th January 2015 255