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{ECSAC} What's on around the club - WC 17th July 2017

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17 July 2017 at 17:53



What's-On in East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club?

2017 – Week 29

for week beginning 17th July 2017



THE POOL IS OPEN THIS WEEK

(THIS IS THE LAST WEEK IT OPENS BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK)

MAKE SURE YOU GET ALL YOUR POOL WORK DONE BEFORE IT CLOSSES

***In this issue:** LOTS of Diving and much more...*

This edition of the newsletter is winging its way to you from the wilds of Scotland as I am now on the banks of Loch Striven taking part in the Highball Project.



As you will have seen, Loz is planning a trip to Scapa Flow to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the scuttling of the German Fleet.

Loz Says...

June 2019, a good way off but this is the 100th anniversary of the scuttling of the German high seas fleet. The exact date was 21.6.1919 so we aim to go to Orkney on Saturday 15th June 2019 so we will be there to dive and take in the celebrations.

My preference would have been to use a hard boat from Stromness, but as this is a special week every man, woman and their dog also wanted to be there, so all the boats are booked.

The options were a long swim, borrow a large canoe, or take the club rhibs.

Orkney is 500 miles from Macclesfield. So a long way to tow, but with teamwork and planning well doable

Do you want to come ? I will put an interest list up this Thursday 13th July. I have a very basic plan to start off. Houton is the nearest village and launch site to the wreck sites and as such on fast boats I guesstimate we could get to the sites within 15 to 20 minutes, there are also lodges for accommodation at Houton. This is a very basic plan at the moment, first I need to know if anyone wants to join me (if not I will borrow that canoe, cos I'm definitely going) I have spoken to the lodge people and they are available now, but as this is such a popular week we need to book beds asap.

It might be possible to dive the wrecks in waves if we are a large group. Also there are shore diving opportunities on the Churchill barrier block ships, along with scenic shore dives.

This could be a trip for everyone, divers, snorkelers, non divers, chillers. There are plenty of things to do and see. To dive the German high seas wrecks divers need to be a sports diver with experience, but there is plenty of time to get that, and not all the wrecks are deep, and as mentioned above there are other dive options/sites.

So if this floats your boat please get in touch and/or put your name on the interest sheet. Thanks. Loz 07977 217672

Note from the editor.... This is likely to be a great trip, be part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations, soak up the history and dive what many agree are some of the top 10 wreck dives in the world. One not to be missed as it will not be repeated in our lifetimes.

Highball Update

We got some more coverage from BBC Scotland at the end of last week.. You can see their report here:
<http://staff.computing.dundee.ac.uk/irmurray/files/BBC-ReportingScotland-12July2017.mp4>

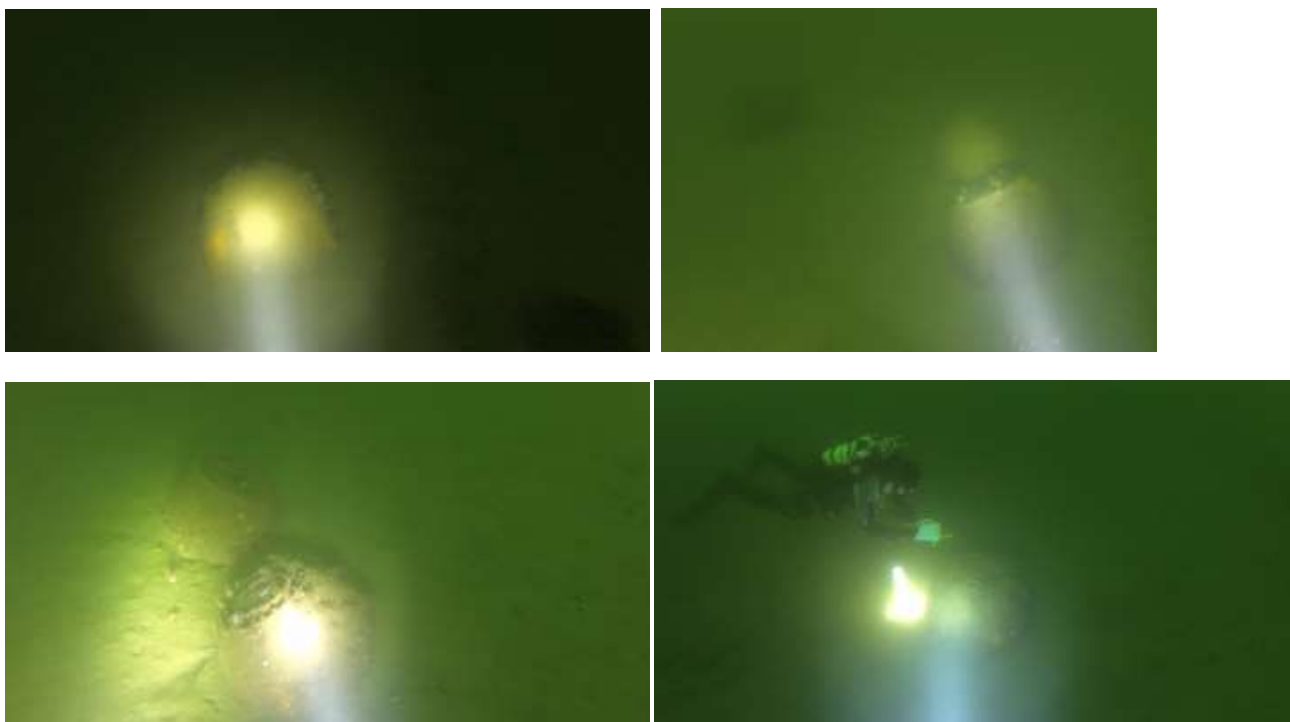
Sadly they managed to misname the bombs.. They are not Tallboy bombs – they were actually an earthquake bomb also developed by the British aeronautical engineer Barnes Wallis and deployed by the RAF in 1944. Rather bigger than the Highballs we are after – the Tallboy was 12,000Lbs!



So our Highball project is now underway, we travelled in convoy with the boats and the containers for the Highballs on Saturday and arrived after a ferry ride... and 8 hours driving... You can see a short teaser video of some of the action here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o16qn9brDU>

Saturday's team briefing took place on the shores of Loch Striven in one of the amazing lodges, we used the ping pong table as mission control and lots of planning got done, on Sunday we started the survey work and diving.

Saturday's dives were very successful with the team finding 20+ Highballs and all positions logged. We also dived a huge admiralty anchor and chain, all of which made for some really interesting dives.



The huge anchor.. Four of these were used to keep the battleship that was used as a target in position.



We also located the position of an X-Craft submarine side charge, these are bolted on the side of midget submarines and carry two tonnes of explosives which were supposed to be dropped under enemy ships. We don't know whether this one is live – but we don't intend taking any chances so are avoiding disturbing it at all and will continue to look for other interesting artifacts and map and document them.



We have two additional survey teams joining us, one with a state of the art £60,000 Sidescan Sonar – brand new and improved technology just imported from the US and also an ROV team (Remotely Operated Vehicle). This will allow us to probe deeper sites that we identify on the sonar before we commit divers to a 1.5hr decompression dive..



We should have pictures from the ROV tonight and Sidescan pictures by midweek – so look out for more on that in next week's newsletter.

We also had the Navy arrive today and they are already in the water. We hope to see two highballs on the surface by the end of Wednesday as well as BBC and ITV film crews coming along so watch out for us on Breakfast on BBC and evening news on ITV. So watch out for the story. We are all feeling pretty confident and things have gone very well so far.

Publicity for BSAC and ECSAC

Tuesday night last week saw Steve Welton and Mark Paisey attend Ecclestone Delph as part of the new BSAC HQ digital website launch.



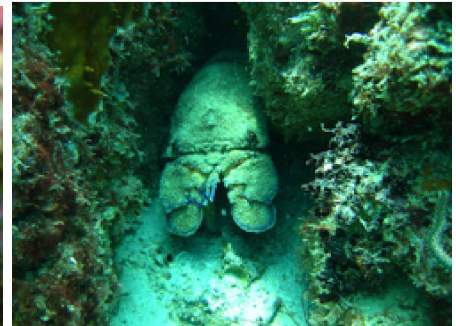
BSAC HQ are revamping all of their training materials and launching marketing campaigns to attract new and existing divers to BSAC (and of course the branches). As part of this they are pulling together case studies of people who have joined BSAC and completed their training, Steve became the face of Advanced Diver and Mark First Class Diver along with 3 others from across the region for OD, SD and DL. You will be able to view their filmed interviews on the NW website later this year and likely appearances in the magazine and on the main BSAC website.

News from Cape Verde

Steve is just back from a holiday in Cape Verde, although not specifically a dive holiday Steve had to sample the diving on the island.

Steve says... Diving with Scuba Caribe on boa vista:- It is a Padi centre and BSAC centre

Dive sites:- Bodega de Juan & Marina club reef



Some good diving as can be seen from the pictures. If you are ever on the islands then it is worth a dip in the sea.

Steve also found a go pro hero 3+ which looks like it's been down for a few years and survived. He is going to recover the footage and attempt to reunite it with its owner through the diving community & social media. Who knows where this might lead too. So look out for Steve on the news in some far flung part of the world meeting the owner. (I expect he is hoping it is not a bloke from Burnley – or any other random town in the North-West for that matter)...

Disabled Toilet Project Update

Work continues on the disabled toilet project. Electrical fit out is now complete with new lights, sockets and alarm. Dave and Steve will be starting the fitting of the main bathroom items this week and the working party should move things on next weekend as well.



Dave Moss (our new Building Manager) is also arranging a working party (29th July – next Sunday) to spruce up the club in preparation for the Kitchen Opening and do some odd jobs like painting, cleaning and gardening. So it would be great if you could find some time to assist with this and help the club. If you are interested please speak to Dave or [drop him an email](#).

Snorkelling and Try Dives

Last Thursday saw the pool busy again with a good number of try divers. We have a few this week as well.



Thanks to Simon Rice, Clive, and Simon Lowrie for assisting with these.

Dave Grindrod is planning on camping at Anglesey outdoors the weekend that Steve has arranged for the divers (5th August weekend) to link up if anyone is interested in joining him for some snorkelling. Dave will send a google message to confirm the details.

Club O2 Kits

The club's O2 kits have been serviced and are out with us at Loch Striven. This is an unseen part of the club where the equipment team ensure all our gear is well maintained and safe, we hope we never need them but if we ever do we will be very glad that they work correctly and could save someone's life.



Social Calendar

Watch this space for news of our developing Social calendar. Our Social Committee are working on plans for a number of socials and we have a few ideas in the pipeline.

Knockout Pool night – no this is not a punch up in the Swimming Pool.. We are planning an 8-Ball pool night..

Themed Big Bash – under wraps at the moment but we have something to follow on from last year's Undersea Ball...

Barn Dance – we are planning a re-run of the excellent barn dance we had in 2015.

Annual Awards Dinner – following feedback to the questionnaire that went out to the members we have now re-worked our annual awards event, the aim will be to have more time to socialise, less formality and a totally new venue..

More news on all of that soon.

Competition

Scuba Diver Magazine have the following free to enter competition:

WIN an Anchor Dive Light Series 3K 20° Spot with umbilical and wreck canister worth £650!



A dive light that's perfect for diving in clear water both during the day and at night. Developed primarily as either a handheld or umbilical system, this light is designed for divers who want increased performance. While similar to the Anchor Dive Lights 1K handheld, the 3K's increased output and less tightly focused beam reaches a fantastic distance while generating a wider beam.

Enter the competition here. <http://bit.ly/2ucNJ2P>

Kevin

Kevin Phillips

ECSAC Diving Officer

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Check out our club video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCTX620Byqw>

Diving - contact the Diving Officer Kevin Phillips DivingOfficer@ecsac.org.uk

Please advise of any new trips and I will add them to the list

[Click here to download the current 2017 Dive Calendar.](#)



Kevin

2017

Swanage Weekend - Friday 18th August 2017 to Sunday 20th – Deep Wrecks in the 35-50m range. Dive Leader+ only. [Mike Hood](#) is arranging.

August 18th-25th 2017 - Shetlands trip - [Pat Spencer](#) is planning a 2017 trip to the Shetlands on Bob Anderson's Boat aiming for 18th-25th Aug this will be West coast of Shetland and hopefully Foula which will be a liveaboard on MV Halton – cost approx. £800. **POTENTIALLY SPACES.**

Norfolk. 9th 10th Sept 2017 - Qualification: Ocean Diver (must be comfortable with gentle drift diving) or above. Pat Spencer and Phil Darlington (assisted by Tim Porter) are planning a dive weekend on the Norfolk Chalk Reefs, We will dive twice on the Saturday and twice on the Sunday. One of the dives each day will be a drift dive. Once we have enough interest we will look into accommodation, costs to be confirmed. We will be diving from the club boats with a maximum of 6 divers per boat. We'll share the coxing so everyone will be able to dive the chalk reefs. **RESERVE LIST ONLY.**

Farnes 4th and 5th November 2017 – Charter Boat diving with the seals on the Farnes. Organised by Fred **SPACES ON 2ND BOAT**

2018

Norway 2018 - April 21-28th - Phil and Pat are organising a trip to Narvik, Northern Norway They will be diving WW2 wrecks and scenic walls with Gordon Wadsworth aboard the Jane R. Gordon was a Scapa Skipper. He was one of the first to run dive trips to Norway and enjoyed it so much that he now lives and runs The Jane R and diver bunk house in Narvik. 5 days , 3 dives per day, tanks, weights air included. Fully catered bunk house, 2 bathrooms, sauna, drying room. No, tides or current, 20+m viz. Open to Sports Diver and above. Leisure time free for skiing, walking, sight-seeing. Cost around £800 plus flights . **RESERVE LIST ONLY**

Pembrokeshire 24th-28th May 2018 - A fantastic coast line to dive with both reefs wrecks and walls. A chance to dive the islands of Skokholm, Skomer Grassholm, and The Smalls. Gannets puffins and seals guaranteed. A 4 night stay at Belhaven Hotel, Milford Haven Thursday evening 24th May 2018. Check out Monday 28th May. (Bank holiday Monday.) Double /twin £75 per night per room including breakfast. £37pppn. 4 days diving with Dive Pembroke UK. Hard boat with lift, cabin , galley and loo out of Milford Haven Marina . 2 dives per day. Air/Nitrox extra. Minimum Qualification Sports. **RESERVE LIST ONLY**

Portland – Deep Channel Wrecks - 19-22 June 2018 - a trip from Portland to dive the Illinois mid Channel and dive deep wrecks. Speak to Mark Paisey - **SPACES**

Scilly Isles – 29th July – 4th August 2018- I am pulling together a Scillies trip in summer 2018. Expected costs are around £700 subject to accommodation etc. This trip is suitable for all levels and ideal for families. See previous trip video here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfICbUNVuSY> The diving is superb scenic reef and wreck diving. **RESERVE LIST ONLY**

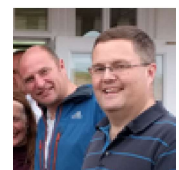
Northern Scotland - 19th -24th August 2018. An opportunity to dive the remote islands of North Rona and Sula Sgeir in the North Atlantic as well as the northern Scottish coast. We would be fully catered, live aboard with skipper Bob Anderson, on MV Halton. The cost is £700 pp Contact [Pat Spencer](#) **RESERVE LIST ONLY**

Mull - Saturday October 27th –Nov 3rd – 2018 Pat and Phil running a trip to the Sound of Mull. 7 nights' accommodation at Salen Pier house .6 days diving with Lochaline Boat Charters. Luxury accommodation ,with fantastic views and its own pier. You can watch the skipper making his way across The Sound and then stroll the 200m from the house to board the boat. **RESERVE LIST ONLY**

Training & Pool

Training Officer [Tim Porter](#) or Assistant Training Officer [Jon Green](#)

If you have any specific training requests not covered below then please advise Tim or Jon a.s.a.p. and they will do his best to arrange something for you.



Jon and Tim

CCR Try-Dive pool event – 15th Feb 2018. £15 - 4 slots available.

Regional Courses held at ECSAC Clubhouse.

Date	Course	Cost	Places
15 July	Marine Life Appreciation course	£40	Stamford Gate, Flintshire

19 Nov Diver Coxswain Theory £20 10

Booking via www.nwbsac.co.uk and click on skill development courses

SeaSearch Course – 9th July (Theory) and 6th August (Open Water) – [contact Wendy Northway](#) to book.

[Mark Paisey](#) can also arrange VHF radio license courses and exams if you are interested.

Social Events



We have a new Social Secretary, please contact [Jo Watson](#) with ideas or if you want to help run an event.

See the Club Website for more details of our events <http://www.ecsac.org.uk/updates/?cat=2>

27th of July at 19:30, James Sanderson introducing GUE to BSAC clubs.

3rd August at 20:00 – Heinke Trophy says goodbye.. We will be having a group photo of members and the Heinke Trophy before it gets returned to HQ

31st of August at 19:30, Tim Gort giving a talk on the direction Technical Diving within BSAC

What else would you like to see happening? Let us know – or better still offer to arrange something.

Club Committee & General

Dave will be organising working parties (next one is 29th July) - a short working party at the Clubhouse to tidy up and carry out any maintenance needed. All welcome – Contact [Dave Moss](#) the building manager for details.

Next committee Meeting – 31st July 19:30 - at the Clubhouse – please pass on any items you have for the committee to consider or feel free to put something in the suggestion box on the wall in the clubhouse.

ECSAC Pool Dates 2017

Summer Session

Open (7 Weeks)	8 June 2017 – 20 July 2017
	27 July to 31 August 2017
Summer holiday	Talk nights on 27 th July and 31 st August
	We will also have a social to provide feedback on the Highball Project

Autumn/Winter Session

Open (7 weeks)	7 September 2017 – 19 October 2017
Half term	26 October 2017 (Available for a Social)
Open (7 weeks)	2 November 2017 – 14 December 2017
Christmas Holiday	21 December to 4 January 2018

UK Dive Dates for 2017

Neap weekends (good tides) are shown on the table below. Dive managers if you have any plans then please advise asap of dates you may want to reserve. Don't forget to speak to Steve about boat or equipment bookings.

Weekend Date	Trip Type	Dive Manager
July – weekends		
15 th – 16 th – coming off a Spring		Project Highball Week – 2 RIBS
22 nd – 23 rd – onto a Spring		Project Highball Week – 2 RIBS
29 th – 30 th – onto a Neap		
August – weekends		
5 th – 6 th – Neap(ish)		Lleyn RIB Trip – Jon/Steve
12 th – 13 th - coming off a Spring		
19 th – 20 th - coming off a neap		
26 th – 28 th - coming off a Spring	Summer Bank Holiday	
September – weekends		

1 st – 2 nd – Neap		
9 th – 10 th – Spring	RIB Diving Ocean Divers and above (must be comfortable with gentle drift diving)	The Norfolk Chalk Reef East/West Runton Phil Darlington/Pat
16 th – 17 th – Neap(ish)		Lleyn RIB Trip – Jon/Steve
23 rd – 24 th – Spring		
30 th – 1 st Oct – Neap		
October – Neap weekends		
7 th – 8 th – Spring		
14 th – 15 th – Neap		
21 st – 22 nd – Spring		
28 th – 29 th – Neap		

Data relating to tides for 2017 has been obtained from the following:

http://www.cams.bangor.ac.uk/realtime/local_forecasts/tide_tables/next/caernar.htm and <http://www.cardiffbsac.org/tides>

Paper tide tables can be obtained cheaply from www.laverpublishing.com

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