Dec 2006 Newsletter

It seems strange to be writing the last news letter of this year as I can't believe how fast this year has passed. On the whole it has been a good year for UK diving and it was unfortunate that the weather took a bad turn mid September onwards. If we hadn't of had this spell of weather it would have been the best Season ever in the last few years.

2006 has been a great year for me too, and I can only start my final 2006 news letter by thanking everyone who has supported me this year. I finished as the 2nd busiest IANTD Instructor in the UK and considering only 40% of my work is through IANTD, I can only assume it's been a good year for me with TDI too. In the age of cut price training and part time Instructors I am very grateful to have been so busy, so thanks to you all.

2007 Operational plan.

Much speculation has been flung around, very often by those that don't even know me, as to what will be happening at Deep Blue, so please allow me to explain the situation. Sean has now taken over the Open Water Training, Retail and Gas supply for visiting divers. I am based upstairs where I will be solely concentrating on Tech Training, Expeditions, Endeavour Charters and Specialist Tech Retail supply.
One of my greatest difficulties has been trying to juggle all the balls required to run everything, and this very often ended in one or two balls being dropped. With this new approach for the company I can now truly concentrate on developing what I love to do best, go diving.
Our new website that has been designed by Leigh Bishop will reflect these changes and the Online retail section will be live in the New Year. All types of CCR's, Silent Submersion Scooters, stage cylinders, manifolded doubles etc will be in stock so viewing and purchasing this equipment has never been easier.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Sean and Lol at 'In deep' all the best of luck for the coming season, you can see their website at **{** HYPERLINK "http://www.indeep.co.uk/" \o "http://www.indeep.co.uk/" **}** which explains more about what they can offer. If you plan to be a visiting diver to the Mount Batten Area next year then please pop in and see the new changes to the shop that Sean and Lol have made, it's very much a case of business as usual regarding air fills etc.

2007 Diving Overview.

Personally I feel that 2007 is going to be the start of a new era within Technical Diving, Exploration and Charters. Never before have we had so much support from the Charter Boat market and the amount of new boats being built shows that our UK market is thriving. If only we could work around the weather we'd all be laughing, but then it would be too easy and those of you that dive offshore understand the satisfaction of when it all goes right on the day. As for what Plymouth has in store I wonder how long it will be until the Weymouth style of boats appear, who knows?

Endeavour is involved in 4 sets of midweek 3 day trips of which most spaces are now filled and we have a 6 day Expedition to the Scillies of which there are 6 spaces left for diving Virgin wrecks in 90-100m depth.

Next year will see a lot more Cave Diving and Overseas Wreck Expeditions being planned as with air travel being cheaper and easier than ever it's time to plan expeditions that have been difficult in the past. A trip to Bikini Atoll is one such trip that I can use as an example, I can now get return flights to Bikini for less than £900 which is incredible when you consider the distance involved.

Mexico is big on my agenda next year too. I am running both Cave Training and Diving weeks in March and November and later on in November I plan to organise some deeper Trimix dives in the Cenotes. Florida as always will play part of the plan towards end of November / December and this year we will have the Scooters out there on the last week for some decent penetration dives

Cave Diving in France will also feature heavily on the Calendar and again the Scooters will come out to play in September time as longer dives are planned in the Resel and St Saveur should conditions allow.

Details of all the upcoming 2007 trips can be found at **{** HYPERLINK "http://www.deepbluediving.co.uk/divingexpeditions.htm" \o "http://www.deepbluediving.co.uk/divingexpeditions.htm" **}**

2007 Training Overview.

If you click on this link **{** HYPERLINK "http://www.deepbluediving.co.uk/trainingcalender.htm" \o "http://www.deepbluediving.co.uk/trainingcalender.htm" **}** you will see that there are a lot of booked dates for pretty much every course. In order to support training more next year I will be keeping CCR's in stock and organising regular try dives. The first such CCR try dive session is at Plymouth College Swimming pool on 20th January 2007 at a cost of £30 per person. CCR Try dives will feature nearly every 6 weeks so if you can't make the first set of dates please consider that there will be another session later on.

Cave Diving has been popular in 2006 so to encourage more folk to blow away the misconceptions of Cave Diving I am organising 4 day intro Cave Courses in the Dordogne. Here you will be able to fly to Bergerac airport and be picked up and all the gear will be waiting for you. FLYBE travel to Bergerac from Exeter airport and if you check out **{** HYPERLINK "http://www.flybe.com/" \o "http://www.flybe.com/" **}** you will see how unbelievably cheap these flights are. They even have a fixed £17 price for excess baggage as long as you bring your OW certification card or similar!

Scooter training whilst very often overlooked as being unnecessary has been planed for 2007. The format is that I provide the UV18's for you to use and we spend 2 days scootering around 20-30m wrecks. If you are Trimix certified you then have the option of a 3rd day on the Afric or something of the same size to really appreciate how much fun scootering is. For those of you with Scooters already then please feel free to join in on the fun and get the most from your units.

I could ramble on for ages so I won't! I will finish up by saying thanks again for a great year, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I have, it certainly has been great fun and the diving has been superb. The January news letter will be out early Jan with a more detailed outlook for coming months.

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

Cheers

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