

LLEYN SAC

DIVING OFFICER'S REPORT 2014

1. Summary.

The following paragraph is a word for word reproduction of the Summary for 2013, as the two seasons were virtually identical and equally dismal, and hence there seems to be little point in writing a new summary.

“There's not a lot worth saying about last season, other than to note that it was thankfully accident free but, if you're at all interested, the detailed record is summarized in the following sections. I've decided not to mention what the weather owes us this coming season as all recent predictions have been horribly wrong. I suppose that if you keep at it long enough one of those good ones has to come up eventually!!”

2. Weekend Dives.

Diving happened on 20 of 35 planned dive days, although 5 of those days were spent at the NWIDC. The actual 15 dive days spent at sea appears to be a slight improvement on 2013 until account is taken of the fact that on two occasions the viz. was so poor that diving was abandoned after the first dive. The records of full weekend dive days at sea for the last two seasons were therefore practically identical. The viz. was poor throughout most of the season, possibly as a consequence of the extreme winter storms, which was also reported by reliable sources to have been the case after a previous winter of similar extreme weather.

While windy weekends were largely responsible for the limited diving, sea fog and the poor viz. served to keep the better dive sites off limits, with yet again no visits to places such as Caswenan, the Tripods and the Segontium. Diving was evenly split between the south coast, the north coast reefs and Bardsey Sound and Island, with five visits to each area. Diver numbers were usually not high, with Mike's rib being needed on just three occasions, but did average six overall. The majority of the diving occurred in the summer months (June to September) with little diving in April and May, and none after September. Thus, in essence, the timing of the season's diving was a carbon copy of that in 2013, which was then described as “our worst season of a miserable recent bunch”, but with poorer viz. Statistically, therefore, this coming season is due to be brilliant, or does global warming mean that they are mostly going to be equally mediocre from now on?

One feature of the late summer diving was the use of a dedicated cox'n on three occasions, as well as for the second dive only on a few others. This works well when it is possible, i.e. where there is low boat traffic, and can cut an hour or two off the dive day.

3. Boat Cleaning Dives

Mike was asked in the winter by someone from JKA Sails if we would be interested in undertaking the cleaning of the hulls of a small fleet of Dragon sailing boats at the Abersoch moorings, in return for contributions to Club funds. After an unsuccessful first attempt in June, there were four successful outings in July (3) and August (1). These were mostly on Fridays with the rib twice being left at Castellmarch for the weekend diving. Each boat clean was followed by a dive, to compensate the workers as it were. These were mostly at Carreg y Trai, where the viz. was easily the best of the season and the seals were at their most playful. After allowing for launching and

towing charges, boat levies and fuel costs the boat cleaning effort contributed a total of £276 to Club funds.

4. Wednesday Evening Diving.

The Wednesday diving was more successful, with only 7 nights missed out of 28 planned, and was generally better attended with diver numbers peaking at 13 in late June and averaging about 8. In fact, with 4 of the first 6 evenings being lost in the early season, as well as the last two dive nights in early October, diving took place on all but one Wednesday evening between mid May and late September, with only three evening's diving being diverted to the NWIDC. Porth Ysgaden was the most visited site (4 times), followed by the Menai Straits (3). Other sites (Gimblet Rock, and each of the Criccieth sites) were dived twice, with single visits only to Trefor Pier, Bae y Cychod and the West End, Pwllheli. The rib was taken out on the south coast on only two occasions, both of which were used for OD training.

5. Launch Sites.

The most popular launch sites were Castellmarch and Porth Colmon. Tractor launches from Aberdaron were restricted to the early and late season as Terry's tractor was out of commission for most of the summer.

David Jones
Diving Officer
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