



May 2020

## **Message from the Chair**

Well here we all are, experiencing lock-down in these difficult times. I am sure we are having stressful days and are all suffering in a multitude of ways. We can only take comfort and hope that things will get better and we WILL meet again, to quote the Queen.

It seems trivial to talk about lost training, holidays and finances when the world is suffering tragically all around us.

However, life goes on and we must remember the good things that have past and the good times we will have once this is all over.

### **Grants and Finance**

We have received another grant from the HSF. **Amanda Ford, Faye Wilde** and I visited the HSF office in London and **Paul Jackson** presented us with a grant of £2,000. We have spoken recently and his offices are closed and all further grant applications are on hold, so we were lucky to get funds before the virus struck. Thanks once again to Paul and the HSF.

**Faye** was also able to organise a great donation from her workplace National Australia Bank. Funds were raised via a 'Dress Down' day. Thank you Faye your support is much appreciated. If anyone else knows of other organisations who do this and might look for a charity to support in future, let me know.

The Trustees continue to look at our finances. At the moment we are not gaining any funds from training or courses. However, our assets of kit and van depreciate and insurance is still needed. We will continue to monitor this and are making savings where possible. we have taken the van off the road for example. More work has progressed on the van interior.

### **Premises**

In the last newsletter we were negotiating a tenancy with Woking Council and Woking Adventure Group. This was necessary as the previous premises at Woking Pool were being taken away.

Thanks primarily to the efforts of **Ian Tucker** we now have tenancy of very large premises in Woking. It is an old industrial unit previously used as a garage workshop and is big. The premises are virtually cost free thanks to the helpful negotiations on both sides.

A small working party have met and tidied the premises and installed racking so that our kit can be better documented, stored and looked after. Thanks guys; you know who you are.



## **Mabel Street Premises**

Far, far away in a galaxy called Surrey, there was a very generous borough council by the name of Woking. They recognised that the force was strong in the Scuba Trust. They liked what we did and wanted to help. The problem was that we have been receiving free cylinder fills and some storage space at the club house of the diving club called WAG (Woking Adventure Group) which Ian and I were members thereof.

However the evil Surrey County Council, who had been allowing WAG to inhabit this club house, decided that, although they liked us, they liked someone who could pay rent better. So they unscrupulously evicted us last November. Homeless and desolate, Ian and I wandered the streets of Woking desperate for a three-phase industrial electrical supply unto which we could connect our compressor.

At the same time, much of the Scuba Trust's equipment was spread far and wide. Although most of it was stored at The Sunbury Air Cadets' squadron, we could not occupy a large proportion of their storage container indefinitely.

Woking Borough Council took pity on our sorry plight. They scoured the plains of Woking, looking for a suitable place to house us. The wise and venerable Woking Borough Council settled on an old car repair garage in Mabel Street which the council owned. They have plans to redevelop the area but must wait for the leases on other properties to run out before the master plan can be unveiled. This will probably be in two or three years' time. In the meantime we can have it rent-free. They have also allowed us a 100% discount on the business rates. WAG will pick up the electricity and water bills so it is costing us nothing. WBC also gain, as a property that is occupied stands less chance of being vandalised and we will make sure that it does not become an eyesore for the adjacent residents. The property is huge. Michael Smart has built some racking and hanging space and more is planned. There are still some large holes in the roof where dust extraction fans were fitted but we plan to cover these up soon. The compressor is wired in and is working well. We have cleaned up the yard and sorted out the stuff left inside. We have filled in all the holes that the foxes were getting in.

We need to sort out the tea room. We have a second-hand sink and taps and worktop but if anyone can donate a couple of base units that would be appreciated.



# SCUBA TRUST NEWSLETTER

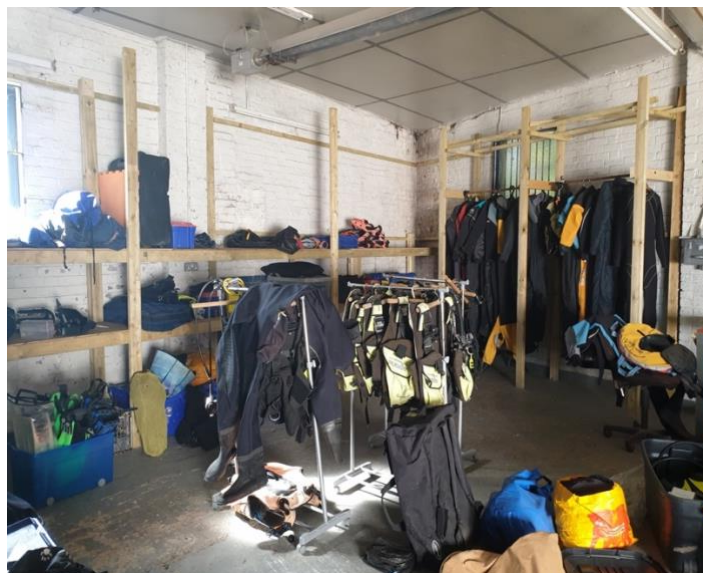
Diving with Disabilities



The next big job which has been interrupted by the country-wide lockdown, is to sort out all the equipment and catalogue it and start selling off some of the donated gear that is not needed. This could bring much needed revenue to the Trust.

If you have any Scuba Trust property lying around, please bring it to one of our try dives or alternatively contact me directly and I can arrange to re-home it at Mabel Street.

In closing, I wish you all good health, and be safe in these extraordinary times.



## Publicity

We had a three-page article in April in Diver magazine which was a round-up of 2019 events.



We also had a photograph in The Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Work featuring in an article from the HSF.



## **Holidays**

Sadly the trip to Sharm in May had to be cancelled. As we understand at this moment, it will now take place in 2021 and hopefully most will take this option. Please understand that the situation is fluid at the moment and as we get information we will pass it on. As I said above, many are suffering and our friends in Egypt are taking another big hit. So I wish them good luck.

The message is stay safe, stay positive and look after your loved ones.

Eric

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## **Christmas Dinner 2019**

This was arranged by **Jen Cluney** and held at the MacDonald Berystede in Ascot. Jen did us proud once again and those that attended enjoyed the evening. We were given a very interesting talk by Paul Jackson on the Hospital Saturday Fund and the Manta Trust.

This year's awards went to:-

Brenda Carey trophy awarded to **Mike Sparrey**  
Paul Cluney trophy awarded to **Eric Bellworthy**  
Leon Golding trophy awarded to **Michael Smart** and **Dean Humphreys**  
Lew Cullwick trophy awarded to **Liam Coffey**  
Holiday trophy awarded **Ian Tucker**

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## **Covid-19 disruption / Try Dives**

The Trustees hope you are all keeping safe in these uncertain times. Unfortunately we have had to **cancel all pool sessions** until further notice. As soon as the situation changes we will let you know via the website and Facebook page. In the meantime keep yourselves and your families safe.

## Van Update

On a planet called EARTH (not Howard's planet ☺), during a Worldwide pandemic, two steely-eyed woodworkers continued with the valiant effort of completing the fixtures and fittings of the new(ish) Scuba Trust van. While **Dean** completed the weight rack, **Mike** continued ploughing on with the cylinder rack in hopeful efforts of completing the van before the end of the lockdown period (social distancing was observed at all times).

To begin with, the hanging rails for the BCDs were removed and reattached with a much stronger and robust system. Both Dean and Mike then settled down to the crucial job at hand of cutting, routing and painting the wood required for the vital racks in the van. As you can see from the pictures below, a huge effort has been made and progress is good. Dean completed the weight rack while Mike was routing out the grooves required for the joins. As you can see there is still a lot of work to do, but with the extra time afforded to us by the lockdown, we hope to continue to make good progress and have most, if not all, of the work completed by the time we return to the pool sessions in the (hopefully) not-too-distant future.

Dean and Mike - we both hope you are all well and staying safe.



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## Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has been raising donations for the Scuba Trust via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE.

4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) do your everyday online shopping – at no extra cost to you!

Every donation makes a difference to us, so please sign up if you can.

The banner is set against a light yellow background. At the top left is the 'easyfundraising.org.uk' logo with the tagline 'feel good shopping'. The main text reads 'Collect FREE donations every time you shop online'. Below this is a three-step process: 1. Join (represented by a pink heart icon), 2. Shop (represented by a green shopping basket icon), and 3. Raise (represented by a yellow coin icon). At the bottom, there are logos for partner retailers: amazon.co.uk, John Lewis, ebay, Expedia.co.uk, Booking.com, Sainsbury's, and Argos. The bottom section of the banner has a light blue background with the text 'EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK', 'You shop. Scuba Trust gets money. For free.', and 'Help us when you shop with 4,000 shops &amp; sites. Join now.'

## Facebook & Twitter

A big thank you to everyone who posts on our Twitter and Facebook pages, to **Pippa Ashley** who monitors Facebook for us and to **Suzanne Harper** who looks after our Twitter account, @ScubaTrust.

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