SUB AQUA CLUB 2016/2017

Important trips:
Preseason – Purely a week of recreational diving to dive new sites. The lovely weather allowed us to dive several local sites, including a new site (a small wreck off near Crail). A group of divers then travelled up to Aberdeenshire, where we dived sites that were new to the club, but members of Ellon Sub Aqua Club (ESAC) were kind enough to show us the ropes.

Dry suit inductions were carried out in Prestonhill Quarry. Over the two day trips, 12 divers were introduced to drysuit diving. These inductions were carried out by the club’s Dive Leaders/Dive Masters with the help of an Instructor from ESAC. A further two divers were introduced to drysuit diving over the course of the first semester.
Seal diving at the Farne Islands – A recreational diving trip to the Farne Islands to dive with seals. 12 divers went and had up-close encounters with seals. Unfortunately, due to rough seas and bad weather, only one dive could be carried out. Before returning to St Andrews, we spent the second day of the trip on Lindisfarne (Holy Island), exploring the castle, local sites and shops.

December trip – a “post-exam” trip before Christmas took members of the club over to Oban, and the surrounding area for some cold, cold diving! Divers worked on their navigation and enhanced their diving experiences in chilly conditions.

January Warm Water Trip – this year, the club organized a trip to Utila, Honduras. Many divers went on this trip, and the trip seems to have been a roaring success!

Boat trip – after several outings in the new RIB (boat) around St Andrews Bay, the new boat (“Pablo”) was taken to the west coast for a weekend of diving. Due to inclement weather, only a couple of dives could take place, but the boat held up well!
Appin – Week long trip in spring break for recreational diving. The trip allows new members to get well integrated with the club and enhance their diving experiences with the help of more experienced divers. Boat diving using the club boat was common on this trip, allowing new and old members to gain knowledge about the dive sites requiring boat access.

Local trips during revision/exam diet – with the promise of improving weather, the club has organized a dive trip to the Isle of May during the exam diet for those that are not studying. Additionally, several more local day trips may be organized for the end of the semester, and some trip during the summer may take place.

Training:
In total, seven members took part in boat handling courses (BSAC power boat handling or RYA PB2), enabling them to drive the boat that was purchased halfway through the year.

Four members of the club travelled to Stirling to do the BSAC Instructor Foundation Course (IFC), which enhances the club’s abilities to carry out training.

Six new ocean diver trainees and ten sports diver trainees were taken on at the start of the year, with a number of ocean diver trainees from the previous year continuing their training as well. All pool and theory sessions were completed. Two dive leader trainees continued their training from the previous year.

BSAC organized regional training session (in Inveraray) were attended by many of the sports diver and dive leader trainees, allowing one on the dive leader trainees to complete their qualification.

While several ocean diver weekend and day trips were organized, only one was able to run successfully. This trip was carried out near Oban, and two instructors from ESAC came to help, while three of the IFC qualified divers were present to help and instruct. Seven ocean diver trainees attended this trip and most completed two of the lessons, while the sports diver trainee who came to help drive, was able to complete all of his remaining lessons, bar one skill, which will be taught by the end of the year.
The ocean diver trainees that are not able to complete their training this year will hopefully continue on next year. One sports diver trainee and an ocean diver trainee have worked on completing/working on their qualifications out with the club, in order to complete training before they graduate.

Lots of club members were trained on the compressor and how to maintain the equipment over the course of this year.

Community service and charity work:
Prestonhill Quarry cleaning – Removal of plastics and pollution from the quarry is attempted, as it is an important training area for regional sub-aqua clubs. Trips included clean up dives and checks round the site that divers took part in.

Our boat was lent to the University Sailing Club to be used as a safety boat during a big competition.