

EUSAC

Getting Wet Since '68



UPCOMING BSAC WEBINARS AND EVENTS - JULY

1st: University
Expeditions

2nd: DT10 Helicopter
Operations

7th: AT3 Organising
Diving from Different
Platforms

9th: 50 Shades of Green -
Underwater photography
in the British Isles

11th: Theory Instructor
Exam

14th: AT4 Review of
Diving Conditions and on
site First Aid

16th: Understanding
Underwater Metal
Shipwrecks

25th: BSAC Virtual AGM
& Election 2020

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Hopefully you're not surprised to hear that, despite the continuing coronavirus situation, we've still had a busy couple of months within the EUSAC community. Coming up in this edition of the newsletter: fundraising, remote teaching and guidelines for a safe return to diving (finally!)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hi all, hope you're well!

As a committee we've been planning this coming year: trips, finances, socials and training. Due to Covid19, we've rearranged some things but fingers crossed a fun packed diving calendar including plans for a New Years trip to Skye and our abroad trip, normally in January, done in May after exams instead.

We've also had a big think about ways to better welcome and integrate new members, especially in a time where we may still be distancing when we return in the new semester. We want to introduce a scuba families system where new and current members can get to know each other on less intimidating terms. These provide a ready made unit for the beginning of the year where you have a few go to people to ask about how many jumpers to pack for a trip or so you don't have to arrive at big socials on your own when you don't know anybody! We have plans for family socials, challenges and if we have to do remote socialising via zoom, remote family dinners are still a great way to get to know new people. We'll be sending out more info about how to get involved soon! If you have any other ideas about creative ways to involve new people whilst distancing or in general please get in touch with me or our Social Sec, Alex Philip.

The club has been busy getting involved with online things like boat handling, intro to commercial diving many more interesting things such as the upcoming talks on situational leadership or underwater photography – whatever floats your boat. See the link for the full list: <https://www.bsac.com/training/online-learning/further-interest-webinars/>

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SECRET SCUBA SANTA

- By Ellen MacRae

At EUSAC, we always look after each other, it comes with the sport! Since we can't physically be together, we thought it would be a good idea to spread a little EUSAC love through a Secret Santa style event - COVID care package edition.

We had 17 EUSAC members take part and COVID care packages were sent, not only in the UK, but to Germany and New Zealand too. Everything from chocolate to personalised playlists to batteries for my baking scales!

We hope everyone's lockdowns have been brightened just a little bit with a miscellaneous parcel and that we can see you in the water again soon!

Following BSAC's blog post on "Acts of Kindness to Fellow Divers," Charis was in touch with Laura from the BSAC marketing department. She was a big fan of this idea!

On the 25th of June, BSAC released a blog post about this event and our travel challenge titled "Uni dive club that keeps on giving." So if you haven't had the chance to read it yet, check it out on their news page!



THE EUSAC TRAVEL CHALLENGE

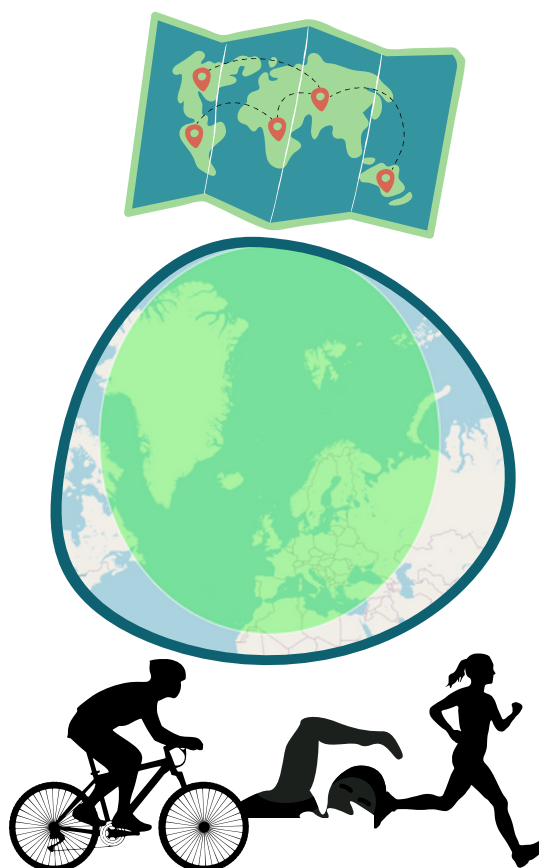
Every year, EUSAC's most popular trip is the excursion abroad, usually run at the beginning of January. Unfortunately, due to the continuing challenges posed by the coronavirus, the committee has chosen to postpone the 2021 trip until May.

However, to hopefully soften the blow, we decided to have a novel way to choose the destination: The EUSAC Travel Challenge! EUSAC members were given 10 days to walk, cycle, swim or run as far as possible- and their total distance combined would determine how far the club could travel.

We also further motivated the club by choosing to use this as an opportunity to raise funds for the St Abbs Marine Centre. This local charity is "dedicated to marine science, conservation and education" and we have so far managed to raise £252 for them! If you would like to donate, the page will still be live for a few more days at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/eusac-for-st-abbs-marine-station>

A total of 32 EUSAC members and alumni took part in this challenge, and managed to accumulate a combined distance of 3508 km! Fantastic work, folks!

As shown by the map on the right, this is far enough to reach the Canary Islands, Cyprus, and even Eastern Canada. So stay tuned for the announcement of which destination we're choosing...



REMOTE TEACHING - By Cara Nicholson

Cast your minds, if you can, back to the middle of April. Lockdown was in its teenage stage; young enough to be exciting and relaxing, not yet becoming the boring, slow, frustrating days we seem to have more of as we reach the end of June. Remember it? Seems like a lifetime ago! That's when BSAC got in touch to talk about how we were getting on with our training.

Luckily, I was already using online meeting software for lab meetings, and as an undergrad I was very familiar with the concept of an online lecture, so getting started was straightforward. Unfortunately, with our semester two training cut short, we had some loose ends. We have a cohort of Dive Leader trainees working their way through the theory lectures, so decided they could act as guinea pigs for a Microsoft Teams-based lecture. I also shared the link on BSAC's newly established online training platform, and had 2 trainees from Dundee Uni SAC join us.

While it took some adjustment to talk to a screen instead of a room of faces, and a screenshared PowerPoint that is difficult to interact with, there are some definite advantages. The group were spread all over the country, and my commute to the sofa was significantly shorter than to Appleton Tower!

The biggest challenge as an instructor was generating interaction from the students and testing the effectiveness of the lesson. Usually we would have a group discussion and I would ask questions throughout, but the distance and varying internet connection qualities made this difficult. If you are considering running an online lecture, make sure you take this into account when planning.



Cara's lovely face in SCUBA magazine

Kristina from SCUBA magazine spoke with me about our shift to online learning, and how different it looks from our usual training. You can find the article on pages 28-29 of the June issue which you should all have emailed to you. This was excellent publicity for the club, thank you Geoff for putting us in touch.

The June issue focused on life in lockdown, and it was interesting to see how we were getting on compared to other clubs. It seems with our tech savvy abilities, we were quick to reconnect with each other for both training and socialising, even if we were missing the pub! The club meme page has never been more active, and the group chat has more general chit-chat than ever before. Remember that student members receive a digital subscription to SCUBA magazine every month, and the topics covered are interesting and informative. I highly recommend adding it to your lockdown reading lists! I know as lockdown drags on we are growing restless and are missing our diving friends.

Diving is slowly resuming, and there is hope on the horizon that club activity can restart, with some changes, before the waters turn cold again. In the meantime, EUSAC and BSAC have fully embraced online tools to keep us together. If you are missing a theory lecture or two, this is the perfect time to get in touch with us and get it signed off. BSAC have been offering a variety of diver training and taster skills development theory lessons our members have been taking advantage of. They also have a growing list of free special interest webinars coming up, which I highly recommend checking out. They are all listed on the BSAC website and as events on their Facebook page. Hopefully you'll hear from me soon with a club diving update, until then, stay safe and dream of diving x

BOAT HANDLING COURSE

As Cara mentioned, we aren't the only club running remote teaching. The BSAC Southern Region was kind enough to run the theory element of the Boat Handling SDC over the evenings of the 5th and 6th of June.

7 EUSAC members logged in to learn about boats and their equipment, maritime flags, different types of buoys and oh-so-much about licenses!

Hopefully these trainees will be able to put these theory lessons into practise out on the water soon!



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I really enjoyed this course! Well organised and super informative, there were so many interesting aspects of the boat handling that I can't wait to put into practice!

Robyn Lindeque

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TREASURER'S REPORT - By Sophie Dawson

Considering COVID, EUSAC has rounded out this academic year very well on the financial front. The forecast for the new semester is yet to be determined, though we may have to brace ourselves for an unusual beginning, possibly devoid of our usual Ocean Diver course. The club has serviced nearly all of our equipment throughout this year, meaning the prospective expenditure for 2020/21 is significantly reduced.



As concerns membership prices, prices for both student and non-student EUSACers will increase by £10, beginning September 2020. This was a decision taken to maintain financial viability in these uncertain times. The incoming committee are determined to ensure as smooth and safe return to diving as possible, hopefully in time to take advantage of the positively balmy autumn sea temperatures!

SAFE RETURN TO DIVING

There are a huge number of resources that have been made available in order to inform British divers of when diving activities have been allowed to resume and best practice while doing so. Some of the biggest steps towards getting back to the water are coming in the next few days.

Scottish Regulations:

Travel distance restrictions are due to be relaxed on the 3rd of July. In Phase 2 you can meet with up to two other households (or extended households) at a time outdoors,

In Phase 3, up to 8 people in total at a time (from up to 3 households) will be able to meet in extended groups outdoors (with physical distancing). The indicative date is the 10th of July.

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In the case of scuba diving, once underwater each diver is breathing from their own self-contained breathing device and there is no potential for cross-contamination of the virus and so distancing will be dictated by maintaining safe visual contact with a buddy.

- SCOTTISH SUB-AQUA CLUB
COVID-19 PHASE 2 GUIDANCE

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Three steps for a safe return to diving:

Step 1: Follow Government Advice

Wherever you're currently stationed, it's important to know your regional guidelines and take account of them before planning any dive trips.

Step 2: Follow the BSAC Guidelines

BSAC has over a dozen documents available on their Advice and Support page. These should have all the answers to any questions about safe practises in a range of activities at this time.

Step 3: Be conservative and follow your training

We all know we shouldn't take unnecessary risks while diving but now more than ever (especially as we're out of practice) is a time to be mindful of not over-extending ourselves.

Participants should travel to site in household groups, while avoiding public transport.

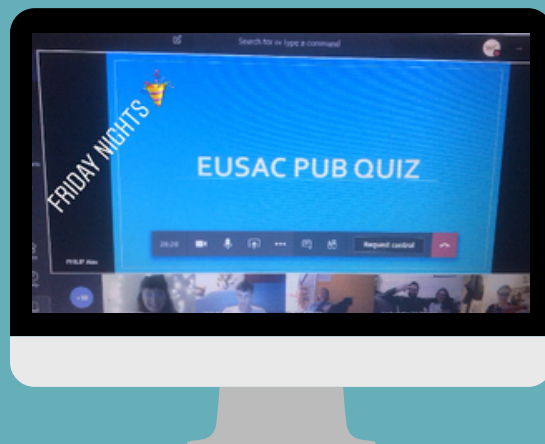
Wherever possible, participants should use their own personal equipment and ensure appropriate hygiene rules are adhered to. If it is necessary to share kit, appropriate hygiene measures must be in place for equipment to be cleaned thoroughly before, during and after use.

Other essential parts of the diving experience, such as briefing/debriefing, buddy checks, and entry/exit procedures should take place as usual, but at a socially responsible distance of 2m or more.

Diving Officer, Cara Nicholson will be in touch soon with an official statement about EUSAC's road to a return to diving.

QUIZZES

EUSACers are still spread across the UK and the world but, even so, we're socialising regularly. Cara ran our last quiz (mostly because we got tired of her and Matt winning every time!) Keep an eye out for events going up in the EUSAC Facebook group to let you know when the next one is. See you on Teams!



CHECK THESE OUT!

Spy in the Wild

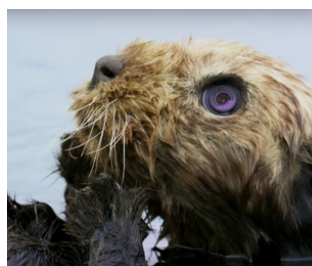
Not directly focused on marine life but a really endearing look into the emotions and intelligence of a number of different species. Available on iPlayer.

Low Visibility Memes for Sub-Aqua Fiends

Adam Dunajski has been keeping the club meme page active, providing us all with giggles (usually at club members' expense). Just search for the page on Facebook.

Not Another Science Podcast?!

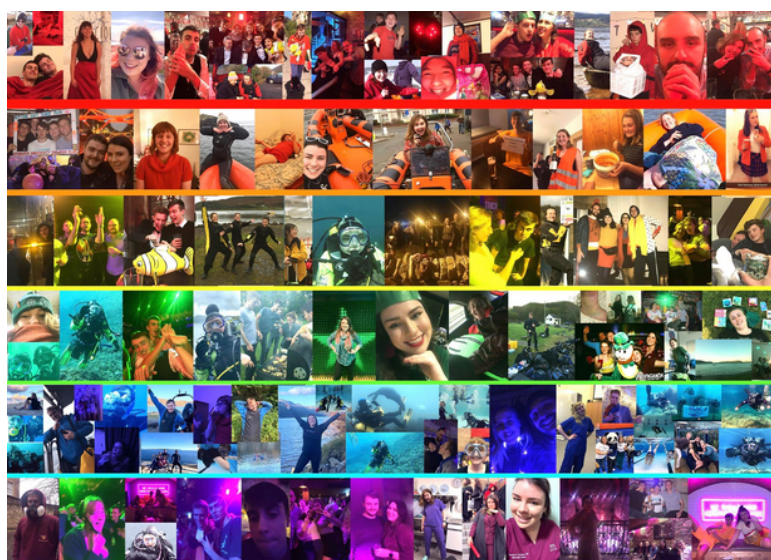
Launching tomorrow with a miniseries on the University of Edinburgh's response to coronavirus and hosted by our very own Tom Edwick! Available where all good podcasts are found.



And on this, the last day of Pride Month, we'd like to say...

**Happy
Pride!**

FROM THE LGBTQ+
MEMBERS AND ALLIES OF
EUSAC ♡



KEY CONTRIBUTORS



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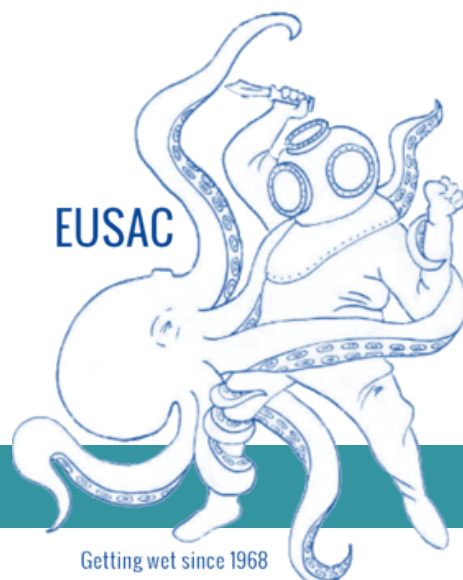
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