

Clubs and Societies Board
10th May 2010

Imperial College Underwater Club – Easter Tour 2010

After a rocky start caused by a caravan site booking error, the Imperial College Underwater Club's Easter Extravaganza. After meeting up in Beit Quad and packing three minibuses full of kit we went to Harlington to collect Icecube, our new boat generously funded by the Harlington Trust. At Harlington we realised that our bus was too heavy to tow safely so after an hour of shuffling kit back and forth we were finally on our way. Our convoy of Branded minibuses and boats made a wonderful sight rolling down the M5. After several hours on the road we made it to Cornwall, our home for the week. While a group of people went to buy food for the week, the others made themselves at home.

Tuesday brought us some horrible weather but after a drive to Porthkerris to check the sea state it was decided that we would go ahead with the diving. Back at the campsite the trainees were sceptical and with the wind and rain battering the caravans, who could blame them? However, the beach is sheltered and the owners of Porthkerris had erected a large tent in our honour and soon the trainees were taking their first tentative fin - strokes in the open sea.

After that the days simply flew past. The weather remained changing, varying from beautiful sunshine to rain, wind and hail but spirits were kept high, mainly thanks to the daily deliveries of fresh baked Cornish pasties.

On Tuesday we launched Icecube and she performed wonderfully throughout the week. After finding and marking the Volnay (a WWI wreck) the trainees advanced from shore dives to open water diving to wreck diving, an option that turned out to be very popular.

We teamed up with our rivals at Oxford Underwater club for a filling barbeque and a lovely night dive where we spotted Scorpion, Dog and Cuttle Fish. After a late night on the beach we had a lie in the next day and then back to teaching. The trainees turned out to be exceptionally good and in no time they had finished their instructing and as they went out on their own the instructors took some well earned time of, lazed on the beach or went diving amongst themselves to recuperate after all that teaching.

On the last day we finished early, took the customary group photo and then headed to the pub for a lovely meal out and some awards for exceptional behaviour over the week.

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After the pub we retired to the caravans to pack, tidy and have a last beer or two. The next morning we packed the minibuses one last time and set off in our convoy back to London. After another long day on the road we returned to Beit Quad to wash kit, sign qualification books and head home.

All in all we carried out over 140 dives, issued certified 32 certificates (15 Sports Divers and two Ocean Divers) and travelled over 2200 miles (land and sea). Not bad for £170 per person!