



Training Officer's report 2007-2008

This was the first year for me as a training officer. A full job on itself I would say!!

Following the AGM last year we continued the open water training smoothly in order to get some qualified divers out of the students from the season 2006-2007. End of August 2007 out of the 13 new students on-going training only 4 students were OD qualified and 1 cross over qualified SD. Part of this limited result was due to the reluctance of the students to attend the outdoor sessions. This meant that a consequent carry-over for the year 2007-2008 had to be taken into account when preparing the new season.

Having said that out the 13 students following OD-SD training in 2006-2007, only 6 had decided to continue the training in the season 2007-2008, which considering the amount of time invested by the club could be regarded as disappointing. To be fair, may be all the new students did not fully realize what diving in the Netherlands meant.

The whole month of September and October were used to do the try dives. In an instructor preparatory meeting, it was decided to attract the attention of the potential new students on the fact the number of instructors was quite limited and therefore we were looking for people ready to invest of their own time in the club and with some potential to remain within the club for a couple of years. Attention was also attracted on the diving conditions and on the difference between a dive school (commercial service) and a dive club (investment of leisure time of instructors).

The try dives were quite successful thanks to a new set of posters displayed all around ESTEC. 15 persons expressed interest out of which 8 did a try dive. We however retained only 3 new OD students and 1 cross over. Later in the winter around February (as usual I would say) two other interested cross-over to SD joined the group.

Despite the low amount of instructors and despite the new assistant instructors having attended IFC in 2007 (Stefania, Michel, Chantal, Nicolas), it was quite a challenge still to organize regular theory lessons and pool sessions. With the help of the instructors I managed it, and we proposed some workable schedule to the regular students split in between 7 OD students (only 3 following theory), 9 SD students (only 5 following theory) and 6 DL students.

At the end the result is quite satisfactory from the theory and pool point of view at least: all three OD theory students have passed their exam. Out of the 5 SD theory students, 4 passed, and the 6 DL students shall take their exam by end of

June/beginning of July and it is expected at this time that the remaining SD student shall be able to pass too. For the pool sessions, all sessions are finished except for two students having to finish half of their last SD pool session.

For the open water training, the results are not as satisfactory mainly due to the lack of good weather in April / May. Prior to the Aquadelta week-end, only two outdoor sessions took place, and during the Aquadelta week-end due to the bad weather and the lack of luck with the boat, around 25 qualified dives took place which is close to a quarter of the score of last year.

Despite this difficult start, I know that an open water program is being prepared by our diving officer and based on the fact that we should have now good weather conditions, but also bedding on the good willingness of the participants and on the fact we have now two additional assistant dive instructors (Tiree and Kostas participated to IFC in 2008), the training program should progress significantly during the summer.

I would like to warmly thank all the assistant/qualified instructors who have dedicated part of their own time for helping to progress our students. This is not always easy and I have been frustrated myself too.

I would like to wish the best for my successor for the season 2008-2009, as I expect to be too busy next season and I am not representing myself.

Nicolas Le Gallou

Sassenheim , the 7th of June 2008