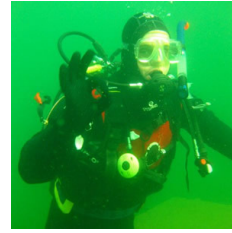
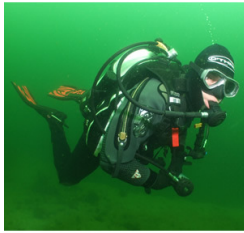


WRAYSBURY DIVING AND COURSES REPORT - RICHARD POTTER

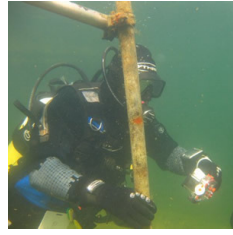
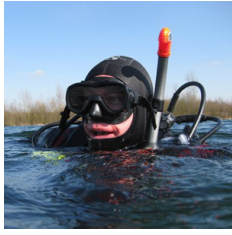


With Christine needing to fit in a few more dives before the upcoming (and very exciting) Blue-O-Two trip to Egypt, we decided to see if the ice had cleared at Wraysbury. Never being one to miss an opportunity to get wet, Julian volunteered to come along to make sure we didn't get lost! When we arrived, we discovered that we had finally succeeded in getting to a dive site before Julian. It turned out that Aquatic Element were also running an Open Water and PPB course. Louise (amazingly) appeared to have beaten us all there - could it be the desire to try out her spangly new O-Three dry suit after a year of diving all year round in her old "wet"suit?

Despite Arthur being on fine form, we decided to hit the water first and bacon butties later. After John's adjustments and despite 5 °C water, free-flows seemed to be a thing of the past despite plunging to the heady depths of 9.7m! The next test will be Vobster in a few weeks time! Thanks to Julian's expert navigation, we hit the bus on the nose 1st time (unlike at least one Instructor I could mention) and that was from the far entry point!

As it turned out, the large pike was hiding under one of the platforms - we found him on the 2nd dive. The visibility was pretty good - upwards of 8m at times. Unfortunately, the photography wasn't too hot - must have been due to the cold water addling my brains. It wasn't helped by me taking too long to realise that the optical cable to the strobe had disconnected itself from the camera! We saw a friend of the pike carefully camouflaging himself on top of the taxi on the last dive; at least we think it was a different fish!

In summary, 3 good dives, lovely weather, brilliant bacon butties from Arthur, Louise was ecstatic with her new dry suit and proof once more that with enough Fourth Element Xerotherms, diving in cold water is very enjoyable. She completed her Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty Course along side Stuart who did his Dry Suit Specialty Course both of whom were instructed by Kevin Linsell and assisted by Mike Belchamber (thanks guys!).



Congratulations also to Jeremy, Sarah and Peter who are Aquatic Element's newest divers as they completed their Open Water Diver Course on Sunday with Steve Reid who was assisted by Mark Hand, Phil Davies and Francis Jose (thanks to you guys as well!). So another fantastic diving weekend and we look forward to seeing you all diving again soon!

RICHARD POTTER