

First Dives on Tiggers Dream

After all the waiting for Tigger's Dream to be launched we were finally in and away down the harbour at Newhaven. Karen and Co had been testing and filming for specialities working in conjunction with ITDA on boat handling and crewing, now it was mine and Tim's turn to help with filming for entry and exit procedures from the club rib.

Our plan was to look around and do a couple of drift dives. Not too deep, just comfortable bimbles. Weather was OK, light north-westerly but picking up during the day. There we were turning out of the harbour at 11 o'clock Easter Sunday. Looking over the Seaford side the viz looked decidedly poor so we motored over the other side of the Newhaven arm. Not looking much better we decided to dive anyway.

Kitted up and ready with David on the camera we back rolled in together. Quick check and descend. 9m to sand and less than 1 ft viz. We drifted for 15 mins before coming up. Perfectly executed dive despite the viz. Saw nothing but sand!!!! How lucky we were as we found out later. On the surface, gave the OK to the crew who efficiently came round to collect us. Kit off in water, handed up to the crew, then a big fin up the side and over into the rib. Great dive.

Round 2 saw us going over the Seaford side to a small reef. Very slightly deeper at 10m. Same entry together one each side of the rib and back rolled in. Collect on surface and good descent. Viz was unbelievably worse!! Literally a few inches. Buddy lines were in order. As we had not got one we used the SMB together. There was less current this side and we drifted slowly along a reef formation, really unable to see anything unless our noses were scraping the rocks. 15 mins and time to go up. Same procedure, kit off in water, hand to crew and a good fin kick up and over the side.

I have to say we had great fun despite the poor viz. The rib handled with ease and expert crewing. This is going to be a fantastic asset to the club and I cannot thank the guys more for the 'first dives'. Hopefully now the trials have been completed it is open for diving to all club members so get your kit dusted off and I for one look forward to seeing you on the boat soon however please be mindful that I have booked my spot all year!!!!

Kevin and Tim