

# Training at Gildy, 10 November 2013

Trip report by Ruth Charles

## Divers:

- > Stuart Moore
- > Mareike Wiedmann
- > Amanda Dalby
- > Harry Bravinier
- > Jan Lellmann
- > Ruth Charles

Max wondered if anyone wanted to go diving this Saturday and asked the club. In classic CUUEG tradition many people couldn't make Saturday, but came up with a variety of other dates that Max couldn't do. This trip emerged from a "So who's going with Max on Saturday?" conversation at the Thursday pub meet to become one of our insta-trips.

Most people travelled up from Cambridge having sorted kit out on Thursday night. Ruth lives part-way to Gildy, so made her own way there having abducted much of the club's lead collection earlier in the week (she was planning a weight check with new kit). We arrived around 10am, and by 10:15 most of the lead was on everyone else's wings and weight belts; Ruth wondered whether this would be another day of 'interesting' buoyancy. Jan was rather hoping that someone else would help with Ruth's weight check as he remembered the last one (which currently holds the record for longest weight check & faff in the history of CUUEG).

Of course we had the traditional kit faff, although Gildy's trademark geese were not around to 'assist' us for once. Jan, Harry and Ruth went in the first wave once a relatively modest weight check was over. They spent some time reminding themselves how to do controlled buoyant lifts under Jan's watchful eye. Then it was suggested that we try this from 15m as this is one of the many DL skills we will eventually have to master. All was going well (Ruth is quite good at pretending to be unconscious), and then it wasn't. Ruth made her way to the surface in a more-or-less controlled manner, but indicated to those who were signalling her to come back down below that her weighting was insufficient with the now almost empty cylinder. Jan and Harry surfaced and the three returned to the training platforms by the steps. Ruth demonstrated her lack of sufficient weight again in more controlled conditions, and it was conceded that perhaps another kilo was in order.

Stuart, Mareike and Amanda did some SD practice dives. By this point it was a brilliantly sunny day and the geese had broken cover having noticed that Jan was having chips for lunch. Harry retreated inside to safeguard his chips. Ruth glared at the geese, who for once left her sandwiches alone.

Time for our second dive, at which point Ruth noticed that one of her weight pouches was not in her harness. That might explain why the last CBL had gone a bit wobbly at the end. Jan and Harry volunteered for a search and rescue mission; heading off to the general area where our earlier CBL had happened. Ruth wandered off to sulk and stole some of Stuart's chips.

Amazingly 10 minutes later Jan and Harry returned with the weight pouch. Ruth perked up and started to kit up for a second dive while her two heroes went off to inspect the plane visiting most of Gildy's resident fish on the way. Stuart, Mareike and Amanda kitted up for their second dive and Ruth thought she'd join them. Somehow Ruth's shiny new wing got a dose of geese-droppings when she wasn't looking (curse those feathered demons). Then Jan announced that he still had plenty of air left in his twinset and looked hopeful, so Ruth and Jan went off as a pair to inspect the outer reaches of Gildy while Stuart, Mareike and Amanda did some more SD skills.

Ruth saw some fish and got to play properly with her new wing before revisiting the DL skill of launching a mid-water DSMB, which continues to elude her. When we got back to the surface the sun was starting to set, cars were packed and we headed off back to Cambridge just as it got dark.

Not a bad training day at all for November. Gildy was relatively quiet and we had platforms and tables to ourselves. Ruth prefers Gildy when its not that crowded, and even the geese were well behaved at times.

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