

Press Officer's Report to AGM on Sat 5th December 2015

2015 was an exciting one for British Freediving. It would be difficult and near impossible to mention everything so a summary of the highlights will have to do! The year started with the announcement of the BFA's annual UK Freediving National Champions Liv Philip and Michael Board, both top athletes and wonderful ambassadors of our sport. We were treated to multi-national record holder Georgina Miller holding her breath live, for five whole minutes on the BBC1 the One Show, prime-time TV, coached by her partner Daan Verhoeven; the show also featured top British freediving athlete Ian Donaldson. Samphire Amps shared her imaginative insights and experiences as a freediver with Jarvis Cocker for a special edition of Wireless Nights at the Proms.

The biggest highlight has to be Alice Hickson coming home a World Champion Freediver with not only a gold medal for her massive dynamic no fins swim of 174m, but also a bronze for her equally impressive static breath hold, two seconds shy of seven minutes at Freediving World Championships in Serbia!

Over the course of the last twelve months, we have seen 6 national records set (the same number as last year):

John Moorcroft, DNF, 176m on 21 March
Georgina Miller, STA, 06:33 on 22 March
Alice Hickson, DNF, 153m on 21 June
Alice Hickson, DNF, 174m on 25 June
Alice Hickson, STA, 06:58 on 26 June
Michael Board, FIM, 97m, on 10 September

Freediving has continued to make appearances across the press spectrum, in print, online, on the Radio, on TV and even in the form of a hugely successful exhibition in the centre of London. And we are continuing to appear on Redbull Adventure's website and Facebook page courtesy of top freediving videographer Daan Verhoeven (www.daanverhoeven.com)

This year we are proud to say we maintained our well-known brand name sponsors: Elios Sub, Bounce Energy Balls and Beet-it and we are delighted to have gained the support of Divesangha and Salt Free Divers. Each year we strive to further widen our presence in mainstream media.

Below is a list of all the BFA press releases throughout the year (so far) and also listed are any other freediving related stories and / or pictures that made it into the mainstream press.

January

14 January: Freedivers Ian Donaldson, Georgina Miller and Daan Verhoeven appear on BBC1 the One Show:

- Clip available on YouTube
www.deeperblue.com/british-freediver-showcases-freediving-live-prime-time-tv/
- Published as a Feature story on the Deeper Blue website]
www.deeperblue.com/british-freediver-showcases-freediving-live-prime-time-tv/

21 January: AIDA International announce Wild Cards for 2015 World Championships, 8 are won by British Freedivers: Chris Crawshaw, John Moorcroft, Georgina Miller, Rebecca Coales (x2), Michael Board (x2) and Beci Ryan.

22 January: Deeper Reflection feature article by Louisa Collyns former UK Team Member on her experience as a safety diver for prestigious Vertical Blue competition:

- <http://deepreflection.cool/safety-team-vertical-blue/>

27 January: Redbull feature the World's Most Amazing Places to Freedive and the NDAC & Salt Free Divers get a mention with a picture of British Freediver Tim Money, along with other photos by Daan Verhoeven:

- <http://www.redbull.com/en/adventure/stories/1331701034450/8-epic-freediving-spots-around-the-world>

29 January: The Bristol Post publish a feature on multi-national record holder Rebecca Coales:

- <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/Bristol-Rebecca-Coales/story-25938933-detail/story.html>

February

9 February: Liv Philip wins 3 gold medals at the Riga Freediving Cup in Latvia.

14 February: The BFA host a stand at the London International Dive Show (LIDS) at the ExCel in London.

15 February: BFA Press Release, **UK National Freediving Champions Announced: Mike Board & Liv Philip**

- Published as a Feature story in Sport Diver
<http://www.sportdiver.co.uk/News/Latest-News/UK-National-Freediving-Champions-Announced>
- Also published on Adrex website
<http://www.adrex.com/en/water/freediving/articles/liv-philip-mike-board-are-uk-national-freediving-champions/>
- And published by Soggy Science
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/33847434676461171/>

19 February: Ibiza Kitchen publishes an article by UK Freediver Louisa Collyns on freediving nutrition

- <http://theibizakitchen.com/recipes/louisa-collyns-deep-reflection-post-dive-alkaline-balancing-choc-berry-smoothie/?preview=true>

March

12 March: Freedive-Earth, created by British UK Team member Chris Crawshaw, is announced.

21 March: DNF National record set by John Moorcroft

22 March: STA National record set by Georgina Miller

22 March: National Pool winners announced as Dan Betts and Beci Ryan

27 March: BFA Press Release: **2015 Great Northern International Pool Competition, incorporating the UK BFA National Pool Championships (also new NR in STA for Georgina Miller DNF for John Moorcroft)**

- Published on Deeper Blue website
<https://www.deeperblue.com/winners-of-the-6th-annual-great-northern-freediving-comp/>
- Published on Sport Diver website
<http://www.sportdiver.co.uk/News/Latest-News/National-Records-set-at-BFA-Great-Northern-Freediving-Comp>
- Published on Diver Net website
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10155577141240019&set=gm.10153734132299167&type=3&theater>
- Published on Adrex website
<http://www.adrex.com/en/water/freediving/articles/freedivers-from-all-over-europe-competed-in-the-uk/>
- Published on Soggy Science website
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/33847434676633520/>
- Diver Magazine publish the BFA press release in their May publication.

28 March: Video of Georgina Miller's STA National Record on Youtube:

- <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/33847434676633520/>

April

2 April: A 90 second version of the video of Daan Verhoeven and Tim Money's freediving film of the plane wreck at the NDAC with Saltfree Divers is shown at the the Roughcut Film Festival in Truro:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FztfYbO1uHA>

11 April: Deeperblue feature a video of John Moorcroft's DNF National Record swim from the Great Northern:

- https://www.deeperblue.com/video-john-moorcroft-dynamic-no-fins-176m-uk-freediving-record/?utm_content=buffer2b75b&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

18 April: Vertical Blue 2015 announced and the UK have three athletes representing Team GB, Georgina Miller, Tim Money and Dean Chaouche.

19 April: Gary Lowe, former UK Team member talks to Simon Mayo on BBC Radio 2 about freediving and how to find a local club:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05pl231>

May

2 May: BFA Press Release: **The BFA are delighted to introduce the UK Team for the 2015 Individual AIDA Pool World Championship in Belgrade, Serbia**

4 May: Deeper Blue publish article on race for a place at Vertical Blue 2015 mentioning Brit Dean Chaouche:

- <https://www.deeperblue.com/the-race-is-for-2nd-and-3rd-at-vb2015/>

6 May: Sport Diver publishes pictures of Rebecca Coales modeling Divesangha clothing:

- <https://www.facebook.com/divesangha/photos/a.1413917558856651.1073741828.1412486788999728/1588998711348534/?type=3&theater>

10 May: Dean Chaouche wins silver for his CNF dive to 68m at Vertical Blue 2015.

17 May: 18 Most Amazing photos from Vertical Blue 2015 by Daan Verhoeven and Dean Chaouche makes an appearance:

- <https://www.deeperblue.com/the-18-most-amazing-photos-from-vb2015/>

18 May: British Freedivers Martin Toole and Rachel Evans take part in the Water and swimming exhibition in Devon, Just Add Water by Discover Hannah:

- <http://www.thecoloursofwater.com/article/water-and-swimming-exhibition-devon-just-add-water-discover-hannahs>

19 May: Go Freediving Summer Party announced by Emma Farrell

22 May: BFA Press Release: **Dean Chaouche wins silver medal at Suunto Vertical Blue, Wimbledon of Freediving!**

- Published on Sport Diver website
<http://www.sportdiver.co.uk/News/Latest-News/Briton-wins-medal-at-Wimbledon-of-freediving>
- Published in Diver Net magazine and Diver Magazine

27 May: British Champion Freediver Liv Philip shares her experiences and thoughts on competitive freediving:

- <http://www.matthewrenew.com/self-improvement/perform-under-pressure/>

28 May: BBC Live Extreme interview Georgina Miller and Herbert Nitsch:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05w8h8r>

31 May: Liv Philip ranks 1st out of the Women for Freediving World Competition in Sharm el Sheikh

June

13 June: Dean Chaouche wins deepest Constant Weight dive to 95m at the Nirvana Ocean Quest competition in Columbia.

14 June: BFA Press Release: **Get Snapping this Summer!**

18 June: Website dedicated to British Team at Belgrade Individual Pool World Championships announced:

- <http://britishfreedivingteam.weebly.com>

19 June: Photo of Georgina Miller by Daan Verhoeven wins photograph of the week and is published on DPG website (Dive Photo Guide):

- <http://www.divephotoguide.com/underwater-photography-special-features/article/photographer-week-daan-verhoeven>

21 June: Alice Hickson breaks DNF national record, swimming 153m and securing a place in the A Final at the Individual Pool World Championships in Belgrade.

24 June: Glass and Water, a brand new book on underwater photography for freedivers, by UK Champion freediver Mark Harris announced and goes on sale.

25 June: Alice Hickson breaks her own DNF national record, swimming 174m, winning a gold medal and title of World Champion.

26 June: Deeper Blue publish a story on Alice Hickson and Mateusz Malina's gold medals:

https://www.deeperblue.com/mateusz-malina-and-alice-hickson-take-gold-in-dnf-final/?utm_content=buffer4690f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

BFA Press Release: Alice Hickson World Champion Freediver, wins Gold & sets 2nd British National Record at Pool World Championships in Belgrade!

- Published on Diver Net website
<http://www.divernet.com/home-diving-news/p303603-briton-is-freediving-world-champion.html>
- Published in the Mirror
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/woman-breaks-uk-freediving-record-5954630>
- Published on Barcroft TV website
<http://www.barcroft.tv/alice-hickson-british-freediving-record-belgrade-serbia>
- Published by Sport Diver
<http://www.sportdiver.co.uk/News/Latest-News/Brit-named-World-Champion-Freediver>
- Published on Travel Amazing
<http://travelamazingworld.com/woman-breaks-uk-freediving-record-after-swimming-underwater-for-174-metres-without-breathing-apparatus/>
- Published in Diver Net Magazine

July

BFA Press Release: Alice Hickson wins Gold & Bronze at AIDA Individual World Championships & Breaks two national records in DNF & STA

26 July: French World Champion Freediver Guillaume Nery features on the BBC Week in Pictures:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-33649393>

30 July: Beautifully edited and crafted showcase video of the Pool World Championships in Belgrade published on YouTube and goes viral:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYxgMv9N5K8>

31 July: Press Release: **Glass and Water: The Essential Guide to Freediving for Underwater Photography by Mark Harris**

August

6 August: Liv Philip is interviewed on BBC Radio 4 about the disappearance of World Champion Freediver Natalia Molchanova.

10 August: Divesangha publish a feature on the UK Team from the Individual Pool World Championships in Belgrade:

- <http://divesangha.com/pages/british-freediving-association>

11 August: Deeper Blue publish “A Place Below: A Freediving Short Film” by Liv Philip on their website:

- https://www.deeperblue.com/video-a-place-below-a-freediving-short-film/?utm_content=buffer5851e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

23 August: Deeper Blue publish Martin Toole’s photo titled “Duck Diving into the Abyss” as their Photo of the Week:

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/6u40FQTKXY/>

24 August: National Geographic in the Netherlands publish a video by Daan Verhoeven featuring Tim Money freediving through a plane at the NDAC:

- <http://www.nationalgeographic.nl/video/spannend-een-freedive-in-een-wrak>

26 August: Redbull feature a video by Daan Verhoeven shot in Cornwall:

- <http://www.redbull.com/uk/en/adventure/stories/1331743149428/cornwall-freediving-cliff-jump>

30 August: BFA Press Release: **UK Depth Team Announced for 2015 Individual AIDA Depth World Championships in Limassol, Cyprus Proud to be sponsored by Elios Sub, Divesangha, Bounce Energy Balls & Saltfree**

September

1 September: BBC announce an underwater night at the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, featuring Samphire Amps talking to Jarvis Cocker, which will take place on 10 September:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p030n4wp>

5 September: Martina Amati's immersive installation 'Under' announced the Art Newspaper:

- <http://theartnewspaper.com/news/in-the-frame/film-maker-dives-into-a-new-experience/>

8 September: Stylist report on Martina Amati's freediving installation 'Under':

- <http://www.stylist.co.uk/life/it-s-the-strongest-form-of-meditation-i-have-ever-experienced-the-life-of-a-female-freediver>

10 September: Michael Board breaks his own national record in FIM, pulling himself down to 97m

14 September: The Guardian give the underwater Wireless Night at the Proms 4 stars:

- http://www.theguardian.com/music/2015/sep/11/wireless-nights-prom-jarvis-cocker-review-royal-albert-hall-london?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

15 September: Deeper Blue publish photos by Daan Verhoeven, featuring some the UK Team in training for the AIDA Individual Depth World Championships in Cyprus:

- <https://www.deeperblue.com/in-pictures-2015-aida-individual-depth-championships-training-days/>

BFA Press Release: A FIM National Record for Michael Board of 97m! At AIDA World Championship Pre-Competition

- Published by Sport Diver
<http://www.sportdiver.co.uk/News/Latest-News/Freediver-breaks-national-record>
- Published by Adrex
<http://www.adrex.com/en/water/freediving/articles/michael-board-nailed-it-again-a-fim-national-record-of-97m/>
- Published in Diver Net

<http://www.divernet.com/home-diving-news/p303893-british-freediving-record.html>

24 September: Deeper Blue interview Mark Harris on his book Glass and Water:

- https://www.deeperblue.com/glass-and-water-interview-with-the-author-mark-harris/?utm_content=buffer10a3f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

24 September: BFA Press Release: **Neil Wood's freedive Cowboys and Indians wins Photo Competition.**

25 September: Under opens at the Amika P3

27 September: World Champion Freedivers Guillaume Nery and Alice Modolo feature in Beyonce's music video 'Naughty Boy – Runnin':

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJSik6ejkr0>

27 September: A press release on Under in Time Out:

- <http://www.timeout.com/london/art/martina-amati-under>

28 September: A press release on Under in the Londonist:

- <http://londonist.com/2015/09/september-s-most-talked-about-art-exhibitions>

28 September: The Image Deconstructed publish an interview with Daan Verhoeven based on his image of William Trubridge taken at Dean's Blue Hole in the Bahamas:

- <http://imagedeconstructed.com/post/spotlight-on-daan-verhoeven>

28 September: Samphire Amps features in BBC2's Countdown to Life: The Extraordinary Making of You:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06crff1>

29 September: A press release on Under:

- Published by Curating Women:
<http://curatingwomen.tumblr.com/post/130076275664/martina-amatis-under-at-ambika-p3-in-the>
- Published in the Guardian:
http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/sep/29/breathless-experience-freediving-film-installation-opens-in-london?CMP=share_btn_fb

October

5 October: BFA Press Release: **2015 AIDA Individual Depth World Championships Team of 8 Fly the Flag for Team GB**

8 October: Redbull Adventure interview Daan Verhoeven and Georgina Miller about their freediving centre Aquacity and being an instructor:

- <http://www.redbull.com/uk/en/adventure/stories/1331752516095/adventure-jobs-freediving-uk>

30 October: The Guardian publish a series of underwater images by Spanish photographer Enric Adrian Gener, known as 27mm:

- <http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2015/oct/30/life-aquatic-underwater-photography-27mm-in-pictures-enric-adrian-gener-27mm>

November

11 November: The Mirror publish an article and video of Italian World Champion freediver Ilaria Molinari as a mermaid, swimming for a crowd in the Y-40:

- <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/real-life-mermaid-swims-underwater-6798096>

25 November: A new competition for freedivers by In Water Photographer of the Year announced:

- <http://www.inwaterphotographeroftheyear.com/>

December

2 December: Matt Le Clercq is interviewed by BBC Radio Jersey about freediving:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p037nz96#play>

26 December: Camilla Argent stunt doubles for actress Maeve Dermody in a 3-part adaptation of Agatha Christie's best selling novel 'And then there were none':

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03bj5kn>

21 December: Daan Verhoeven's image of William Trubridge entitled 'William needs to eat more cake' wins Photograph of the Year in Deeper Blue:

https://www.deeperblue.com/deeperblue-2015-photo-of-the-year?utm_content=buffer2e1b0&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer