



The brave people at Glasgow's Aquatron Dive Shop staged their own Dive Show back in January. SCOTTISH DIVER sent along editor Jack Morrison to check it out. Here's his report ...

Dive Show Hits Town

THE SCOTTISH Dive Show brought to you by Aquatron, that's what the advert said but what kind of dive show can you put on in a dive shop. Well, as it turns out, quite a good one.

Cynics might say it was more an open day than a dive show but this is the first and who knows what it may grow into. The brainchild of Chris, Aquatron's managing director - he hopes to make it an annual event.

What lifted the show was the participation of major equipment manufacturers. Chris had persuaded three of their main suppliers to come and take part. Scubapro, Typhoon and Beuchat all brought along their latest gear and were on hand to answer any questions about their equipment.

James Lutener and Laura Edwards from Scubapro were on hand to launch, well in Scotland at least, the latest in the Galileo range of computers. The Galileo Terra is too sophisticated a computer to call entry level but it is the little brother of the Galileo Sol. It features most of the

same features but without the remote air integration. You can add some of them like the heart rate monitor via an infra-red connection, how cool is that.

The Galileo has a large easy to read screen with a dot matrix display; it has a digital compass and the ability to switch mixes. I also saw the new MK17 first stage, which the first person I met had in his sweaty little hand having just bought one, and he only went in to buy a snorkel.

On the new version the ports are now on a swivel which makes for more versatile configuration and takes the strain off the hoses. The G250 has a makeover with new materials and a new look; the only other new product was the Everdry neoprene dry suit which looks very comfortable and quite stylish.

James told me:

"Scubapro is very supportive of this kind of event. We feel by attending and supporting the regional shows and conferences like the recent ScotSAC event in Oban, we can get to meet the

people who matter, the customers."

Also on hand was Tim Holgate from Typhoon. This innovative company recognise that women now make up a growing percentage of the market and have a new design of their popular TRX drysuit.

They have noticed that women are a different shape (as have most 14 year-old boys) and the new design has a unique closing which pulls in the waist making the suit more comfortable and shapely. There is also a new version of the Ice-breaker about to be launched, the heated vest now has a new battery pack and lead which is simpler and hopefully tamperproof.

Why do divers always have to take things apart to see how it works and then are never able to put it back together? Trivial fact; Typhoon are probably the biggest manufacturers of drysuits in the world, supplying most of the major navies as well as the recreational diving market, at least that's what Tim says.

Over at the Beuchat stand I spoke to to



The Aquatron crew with the Typhoon, Scubapro and Beuchat teams



Aquatron's Chris (centre) with Scubaoro's James and Louise



The Typhoon team

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the jovial John Camm whose enthusiasm for his products is surpassed only by his enthusiasm for his customers. It was John who coined the phrase, 'bringing Birmingham dive show prices to Glasgow'. John also saw this as a great opportunity to get out and meet divers and answer any questions they may have about his products.

A new high performance regulator the VR 200 and a new BCD the Masterlift X Air light. The BCD has masses of lift and a clever locking device on the weight pouches. I had to wait quite a while before talking to John as he was busy with the Feehan family, Thomas, Jacqui, Kimberley and Simone. They are just starting their diving adventure doing their Open Water course with Chris and the lads at Aquatron.

Taking advantage of the discounted prices at the show and with the guidance of John they have treated themselves to regulators, BCDs, fins, masks and snorkels. I asked Mum Jacqui what attracted her most, 'wreck diving' she said without hesitation, here's someone who knows exactly what she wants and I

suspect the rest of the family had better get used to the idea they will be heading for the Sound of Mull or Scapa Flow just as soon as they have enough experience. Jacqui surprised me by saying they were planning to dive both here and abroad but she hasn't been to Loch Long yet.

All the customers I spoke to on Saturday when I was there all praised Aquatron for putting on this 'Dive Show' and were delighted with the products available. Chris was also delighted at the response from customers, attendance was well above what he hoped for and there was still Sunday.

Chris asked me to pass on his thanks to all Aquatron staff - school and shop - and all customers who attended. He hopes everyone enjoyed it as much as he did and he is looking forward to next year's show already.

Images: top - John Camm (right) representing Beuchat and right - customer gets fitted for a new dry suit.





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