

Night Snorkel Dive - Guide Notes

1. **Pre-Preparation** – it's a good idea to check all kit before you start and put in the right order
2. **Kitting up** – Aim for the 'night dives' commence with kitting up just after sunset so enter the water in semi darkness then exit
3. **Dive marshall/shore watch** - A dive marshall - not diving - is a must. Issue people numbers and count them in and out with a greater amount of zeal than a usual day dive...
4. **Glow sticks** – Put Glow sticks on snorkels and SMB's so everyone is visible to each other in the water. Ideally try to have different colours for each buddy pair so easily identifiable. We attach them with tape and elastic bands to be doubly sure they stay.
5. **Torches** – Everyone should have one –firmly attached. Demonstrate - how to signal (ok in torch beam) and emergency to shore by waving torch at arms length. Brief Buddies not to 'blind' each other! If a torch fails - abort dive and return to shore.
6. **Buddy pairs** - Buddy principles need to be very strictly reinforced
7. **Eyes play tricks** - Youngsters, particularly, should be advised that eyes play tricks with the brain in the dark! A totally harmless piece of tree on the lake bottom could look at first like a monster fish!
8. **Light at entry/exit point** - You must have light coverage at the entry/exit point for safe access and egress, but have consideration that you want to keep it as dark as possible on the water, but be able to see the area when you're getting in and out, and have it spotable from a distance in an emergency from the water...
9. **Changing afterwards** - The more light the better at the changing area for after the dive. Be prepared for the cold. Obviously diving at night has no sun to warm you up after a dive, so warm clothing always, even on hot days.
10. **Clearing up** -At the end of a dive, always do a sweep of the site with a powerful torch to make sure you've left nothing and no one behind

Dorking Snorkelling Club 2009

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