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Diving in at Westhoughton Sub Aqua Club

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chief reporter



SUB-MARINER Liam Thorp takes the plunge

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AS holidaymakers prepare to give scuba diving a go on their summer break, Bolton News reporter LIAM THORP took the plunge with the Westhoughton Sub Aqua Club.

I LIKE to think that when a new experience is offered to me, I am the type of person to dive right in – and at Westhoughton Sub Aqua Club I did just that.

The club invited me down to Westhoughton Leisure Centre for a “try-dive”.

The instructors were very thorough and diligent when explaining to me how each bit of equipment worked and ran me through every eventuality.

Fully kitted out, I tentatively dipped a toe in the water and my instructor Mick Miller was on hand for last minute advice and support – which was literally needed when I gracefully fell over trying to put my flippers on.

Then we were off and I was instantly amazed by the new sensation of breathing underwater – it took me a little while to get used to moving around but with Mick's assistance we were able to explore the pool and before long I was picturing myself as Bolton's answer to Jack Cousteau.

But as Mick explained to me, this is a discipline that takes practice and people who enjoy the try-dive experience can enroll on a full **training** course that teaches both the practical and theoretical sides of scuba diving.

Paul and Lindsey Firth are newcomers to the club and have already been bitten by the scuba bug. Lindsey said: "We've only been coming for five weeks but I absolutely love it – you feel so free and can see things that you won't see anywhere else."

Paul added: "We are going on holiday to the Maldives soon so will be looking forward to using what we have learned here out there."

He said: "If you don't try it you won't know if you enjoy it, we find that youngsters pick it up quite quickly and adults find it harder to get used."

n For more information visit westthoughtonsubaqua.com.