

The Muddy Puddle

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

DEC 2000

A new Ray-gime...

Yes folks, the club AGM has come and gone for another year. There have been changes at the top, and few at the bottom.

The past year has been very successful for the club. In recent years the club membership has been slowly decreasing, yet this past year it rose.

The feeling amongst established members is up, with many saying this has been the most enjoyable year in recent memory. In recent years the club became fractionalise, with splits between Instructors, Trainees and Diving Members. Over the past year these rifts have healed, no longer do individual groups huddle away in the pool or pub.

Much of the upward turn in the club's fortunes can be placed at the foot of the committee, whom put in many hours of hard work to get the club on stream.

Probably the hardest working members were Dave Enderson, the Diving Officer, and Paul Brown, the Expeditions Officer. Together they worked hard at organising a wide variety of dives, aimed at all members of the club. This in many ways revitalised the interest in many of the more experienced members of the club.

Further, their use of modern technologies, i.e. the Internet, attracted

much new interest and gained us many new members.

Paul's enthusiasm for diving seemed infectious and spread throughout the club.

Dave on the other hand committed himself to ensuring proper standards were met. He also took on the vacant role of training officer, and structured training programs for many new members, as well as drumming up interest for in-house skills development courses. Dave, on occasion could also be seen diving with the club, and (heavens forbid) seen to be enjoying it.

However, all this could not have been possible without the additional help of the rest of the committee and the aid of the instructors and dive leaders, whom I would like to thank on the clubs behalf.

Dave Enderson stepped down as D.O at the AGM, as did Tom Maguire from Chairman.

Paul Carvall has stepped from Treasurer to Chairman, and has sworn to run the club with a "Gloved" hand. He has been with the club for 5 years now, is an avid diver, swimmer and air-breather. He also has the most disgusting ideas of what to do with a dentist chair known to man.

Tony Ray has stepped into the pressure job of Diving Officer.

Tony is an Advanced Diver and is one of the longest serving members, remembering hard hats, ABLJ's and wooden barrel diving bells.

Mark Emuss has taken on the role of Boat Officer from Paul Rochester. Mark's job is to look after and log the use of the Club's RiB. Mark, too, has been diving since the dinosaurs, although has moved with the times, so much so that he has travelled into the future and can only talk in "Troxx" terms.

Andy Hart is the other new face on committee, taking on the role as treasurer. Andy only joined the club this year, and is famed for his sexually explicit controlled buoyant lifts in the pool. As treasurer he will soon be charging people to watch.

Dave "Sharky" Solomn has taken on the role of Equipments officer. Dave is rarely seen in British waters, so please don't ask him about dry suits. He is an experienced diver with lots and lots of underwater video footage of Great White Sharks.

The rest of the committee is unchanged. Dave Elphick is still Dry/A Member, Jeanette Copper has kindly agreed to remain as Membership Secretary, and Chris Boddington is still, yes, still Editor (doh!!)

I'm sure you'll you will wish them the best of luck for the coming year.

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Christmas Break

The first club night after Christmas is Wednesday
10th Jan 2001
As this is when the Pool reopens.

Editors comments.

Throughout this issue, I have placed some teasing questions about the past year in the club. Something for you to think about during the off season.

Also there are no recipes this month as you'll all be eating turkey and will have no time for fish.

DIVES COMING SOON

New Dive sheets
Coming Soon

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

My fellow BSAC Divers, it is with much soul searching that I have to start my first real communication as Chairman with a Confession: - I am not the best diver in the club. Yes I know some of you will be shocked, some even crying, but I am afraid it is true. Sorry about that. However, for those about to end it all there is an upside. Although I might not be the "Best", I do think that I possess an enthusiasm for the Club that has been passed down from a number of notable members and is also shared by my peers.

For those of you who don't know me I have had a relatively short but enjoyable history with the club. Like other I started with a "Try Dive". I then thought I would give it a go and this then progressed to often listening to other peoples tales and terminology that I didn't quite understand (for three months I thought a D.V. was a disease backwards). However, I was struck by the readiness of others to include new recruits such as myself.

From the beginnings I became "A" member and then for the following three years I have been treasurer (quietly salting your money away – cheers for that by the way).

As for my skill level (and I use the term very loosely), I am a dive leader and have taken a keen interest in the training side of the club as well as my own diving needs.

There are of course Cliques within

the club – people make friends, they share interests. This, as I'm sure the eminent Desmond Morris would be only too happy to point out, is natural behavior. However, despite the apparent groups of Sub-Aqua David Baileys, Pseudo – Tekkies, divers for whom 30metres is a decompression stop, Shark Botherers and of course numerous "Meldrews", they all overlap, and serve as a good exchange of knowledge and skill (that word again) within the club.

Pick a Clique and join in.

There is a game plan to the club, and in the course of the coming year plenty will be going on. The engines of the club live in many different places, quietly giving the club a forward looking outlook, and I'm sure that with your support things will get better and better.

Yours in Diving

Paul

PS. For the Buddhists amongst us – "Mules when trained are good, and so are noble horses of Sindh. Strong Elephants when trained are good, but the best is the man (or Woman) who trains himself (herself!)"

P.P.S All spelling mistakes are the editor's fault.

Your starter for 10. . . .

Q1. Who were the 3 club members who were "Westward Bound" ?

Diver(s) of the Month

This month we only have one true entry for Diver of the Month, although there has been a lot of bottom barring by the usual suspects and from some other sources. I can no longer be accused of a biased view in this article after this month's award, for I feel that most people will gladly agree that it was well deserved. For it is I. I have claimed my first Diver of the month award, although I must share it.

It was another perfect day in the Red Sea. A light breeze took the sting out the intense heat, not a cloud in the sky. The image of Royal Diving 3 reflected perfectly in the satin blue of the water. After a successful dive already that day, I looked forward to another relaxing dive.

I was quietly chilling out on the bow, sipping a bottle of water, reading the latest Terry Pratchett offering, whilst listening to the Sisters on my headphones. Kevin Stickland awoke me from the fantasy world Ankh-Morpork; to inform me the dive briefing was taking place. I finished the page before attending, now fairly laid back in holiday mode.

I managed to catch the end of the brief. Basically there was a reef off to our right, 40metres away, and 16metres down. Fin there; examine it at our pleasure and come back, easy, especially in 20+metres viz.

My buddy, of far greater experience than myself, had caught most of the briefing and readied himself, whilst I fiddled with my underwater camera. We had a quick chat and I learnt that we were to use a compass bearing to get to the reef and use the reciprocal to return. At this point I was kitted up, as was my buddy, and everyone else had already entered the water. I realized that my compass was downstairs in my cabin, but my buddy had his, so providing I didn't lose him I should be ok.

We entered the water, and finned for the reef using the bearing given to us by the dive guide. Arriving a short while later at the reef face, I noticed a railway sleeper on the bottom, lying at the same angle at which we approached the reef. From here we finned off with the reef on our left, examining the nocks and crannies, sometimes coming off the reef to examine the outcrops of coral. After about 20 minutes, I was begin to wonder if it was not time to turn around and head back to our starting position, then it had occurred to me that I had seen several of these fish, and coral formations before. I noticed that the same divers had swan past me several times. It began to dawn on me that I we had swam around this "circular" reef not twice but three times (You don't look at the big picture when you have a camera in your hands). We had varied our height on the reef on our different circuits, so as not to see exactly the same thing twice, my buddy was a bit more aware that I, obviously.

After another 20 minutes of the same reef, we meet up with Dave Elphick and buddy, Chris Sailes (I believe), back at the point we had meet the reef. We all

agreed it was time to return to the boat and prepared to make way. I secured my camera, and looked down to see there below me was the railway sleeper, pointing back to the boat. Dave and Chris were already heading along its line, and my buddy was above them and to their right, fining away. I swam between the two groups, but started to become a bit alarmed as I found the gape widening between the two. To make matters worst my buddy seemed to be in a hurry.

Now I have dived with Dave Elphick on many, many occasions and you can say what you like about him, but his is very good on his compass work, and I knew this. I knew Dave was on the right path, but I was now in a quandary. My buddy was fining faster and further away on the wrong path. Was I to follow him and try to somehow find our way back to the boat without a bearing or say stuff him and go with what I guessed was right. Now I know most of you are saying stuff him, but I am trying to be a responsible diver (when I'm not acting even more stupid than usual). So I chased after my buddy, wildly indicating the direction I though the boat lay in. Finally after 100metres of fining I caught up with him. He obviously realised that we were not near the boat, with around 30metres of water beneath us and 6metres above we decided to surface and check out where we were.

The first I noticed on reaching the surface was that the boat wasn't close, the second thing was that I could hear 15 voices all trying to sing, and I use the word cautiously, the Laurel and Hardy theme. We swam the 100metres or so back to the boat, to an even louder chorus of the theme. De-kitted and tried to explain what had happened, then gave up and went back to my book and to listen to the Sisters.

For these actions I award Diver of the Month to myself and to my buddy, Dave Solomon. As a footnote, when I returned from this holiday I begun teaching Compass work in the pool to the Novices.... Heaven help 'em.

Q2. Who at Plymouth proved they could "wibble and wobble but wouldn't fall down"?

Q3. Which notable member of the club started the season off with a "Do as I say, Not do as I do" display?!

Gozo 2000

For me it was a first on many fronts - first proper dive holiday and first time diving in a wet suit, having decided to leave the cumbersome dry ones home on this occasion. More 'firsts' later. All in all it was a great trip. The first dive, the 'shakedown', as Sue put it, took place in Marsalforn Bay, not a very exotic location but experiencing clear viz as a diver was quite exhilarating. I didn't expect the viz to be that good in Gozo, nor did I imagine it being that warm. Though I was told. More serious dives were to follow. When we hit the Inland Sea (definitely more exotic) we had our first look at the amazing 'Blue Hole'. Going through the cave and seeing the clear blue window at the end was quite something. Because there were quite a few novices on the trip a system begun to take shape where the morning dives were purely for pleasure and the afternoon dives for fulfilling assessments.

I will always remember 'Raqqqa Point' firstly for the sheer drop-off seen on entry and secondly for what can happen to one who fails to respect the power of 'the current'. I was chosen to lead Don and everything went well up to the point towards the end of the dive. All through the dive our group had its little troubles fighting against the fierce currents pulling us off the reefs but we managed. Anyway I notice that Don had drifted dangerously away, I made a split decision to go after my buddy to give him a hand at which point he found

enough reserve to make it back. We effectively swapped positions in an instant and Mr Current took control of me. Pat came to the rescue after having pulled Don in closer and we fortunately got a tow back into the reef from a passing boat, dived down out of Mr. Current's grip and swam back to safety. How I got the diver of the week award, I don't know, however it was pulled out of a hat after three of us got the same amount of votes. All's well that ends well, though not for 4 other divers from a German dive group doing the same dive. They were miles out from the reef totally stranded and had to wait to be picked up as we got changed and watched. At least we beat the Germans this time! Having said that, the experience was not nearly as scary as our helicopter ride from Malta to Gozo!

Chris, Jeff and Mark also had a 'scare' at Marsalforn Bay when their dive went wrong due to 'dodgy compass work'. Nevertheless, they made it back just before it got dark without totally running out of air. We also did some good boat dives with an over-enthusiastic sea urchin eating skipper..... one way of entertaining Sue and Andrea whilst the divers were down.

The best dive had to be the 'Blue Hole' though, up and back down the chimney 'n all! We saw lots of fish but the most intriguing one I spotted was the flying gurnard. Pat was also vigilant enough to spot an octopus for us on the night dive in Marsalforn Bay. A good trip, see you next year!

Patrick Campbell

Gozo 2001

29th Sept - 8th Oct 2001

Diving in the Med

Accommodation, Diving, Jeep hire, Flights and Helicopter ride

Approx. £450.00

See Rob Carter on 020 8679 9711

Alternative Diver of the Year 2000

Joanne Robins

This award is given out to the most outstanding cases from Diver of the Month. Joanne, joins Tom Maguire who won this prestigious award last year. Joanne has won Diver of the Month not once but twice, and as such is deemed the rightful winner for this year.

Joanne won her first "DoM" together with her good friend April, for their Navigation skills, which lead them to travel the short journey from Maidstone in Kent to Croydon via France. A fine effort. The next month Joanne won her DoM, single handed, by turning up to a dive with her brother's football kit instead of her wetsuit, BCD, regs etc. People still wonder if her brother managed to turn up at football with her dive kit, and how he managed to kick a ball with fins on.

For these fine acts, I'm sure you will agree, Joanne is a well deserving winner of the Alternative Diver of the Year award.

But in line with our previous winner, the only way is up, Tom has had an excellent year, even becoming Club Chairman, so big things are expected of Joanne over the coming year.

Finally, this year we have an official prize for Alternative Diver of the Year so if Joanne would like to come and see me, I would be pleased to present it.

Thank you Joanne for keeping us entertained.

The Thistlegorm

The story of the "Thistlegorm" starts, in 1940, at the yards of J.L. Thompson and Sons in Sunderland. She was 415 feet long, a beam of 58 feet, and a net tonnage of 4898 tons. She was powered by triple-expansion steam engines that could generate 365 nominal horsepower. The British Government had helped fund the construction of the Thistlegorm. Therefore, upon her completion, the government requisitioned her for the war effort.

Her final journey started in Glasgow, bound for Egypt, in September 1941. She was delivering desperately needed war supplies for the British 8th Army in North Africa. She was laden with all kinds of military equipment, including Bedford gun carriers, vehicle spares, aircraft and aircraft parts, motorbikes, gun carriers, radios, guns, railway stock, rubber boots, and an abundance of ammunition. At this crucial time of the war, Germans and Italians virtually controlled the seas and skies of the Mediterranean. Conse-

quently, it was far too dangerous for Allied merchant ships to take the shortest, fastest route to Egypt. So the Thistlegorm had to make a 12,000 mile diversion around South Africa to Suez, from where she would go up the Suez Canal to reach Alexandria. The voyage, to what would become her final resting place, was a long one. However, the ship made excellent time and stopped off at Capetown in South Africa where she picked up her escort, the cruiser H.M.S. Carlisle, for the remainder of the voyage. By the 4th of October, they were in the Red Sea and only a day out from Suez, and on the 5th, they entered the calm zone alongside Sha'ab Ali to wait for orders to move up the canal.

In the early morning hours of October 6, the Thistlegorm was discovered by a long-range German bomber based in Crete. A pair of German Heinkel bombers were deployed from Crete and headed south-east towards Egypt. As the bombers approached the Sha'ab Ali area, they saw that there were several ships in the anchorage and so they quickly armed their bombs. Because they were low on fuel, they had to choose the first target they came across. Unfortunately, that target

was the Thistlegorm. Two of the four bombs released landed close together and penetrated the aft of the ship, one directly on the cover of the ship's fourth hold which was where the ammunition had been stowed. The resultant explosion ripped away the stern section, and set the ship ablaze. The fire reached the lower holds and the ammunition stored there exploded. The subsequent explosion blew the entire stern midsection of the ship apart and her bow and stern pointed skywards before she sank to her underwater grave. Nine of the crew members met their fates as well that early October morning. The surviving crew members were picked up and transported to Port Tewfik, just outside the Suez Canal.

For many years after the sinking of the Thistlegorm, British navy vessels passing that spot would lower their flags in respect to those who had lost their lives. The Thistlegorm laid undisturbed until the early fifties when a young explorer name Jacques Cousteau found her. He raised several items from the wreck including a motorbike, the Captain's safe and the ship's bell. He published a book, and in doing so, published the wrong coordinates for her position. Again time passed the wreck by until early 1990's, when a group of divers found themselves on the bridge of the Thistlegorm. Once word got around as to the magnificence of this dive site, it

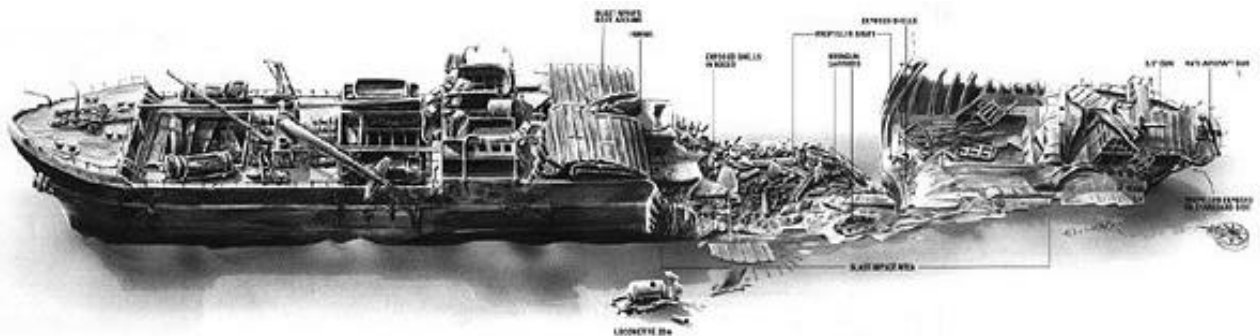
badly damaged. The stern section, its huge propeller clearly visible, boasts crew quarters, the main anti-aircraft gun and a 32.5 inch (39mm) gun on deck. Off the port side of the ship, a railway locomotive lies at 33m (108ft), thrown from its place on deck as the ship sank.

The wreck of the Thistlegorm is like a gigantic, submerged army surplus store. But there are strict penalties for wreck-stripping, so do not help yourself to souvenirs.

Among other attractions, you can visit the captain's bathroom where tubeworms grow from the silt-filled bathtub like flowers in a window box. The site is fairly well colonized by fish and corals, including lots of big jacks, big schools of snapper, bannerfish and huge grouper. There is quite a bit of soft coral growth throughout.

Dives generally begin at the bow deck, where downlines will be secured. Descents and ascents should always be made along the line to avoid being swept of by frequently tricky currents.

Diver overload along with looting and vandalism have taken their toll on the Thistlegorm, and in all likelihood, the Egyptian authorities may soon ban diving on her altogether in order to protect the well-



seemed as though the whole world was flocking to this "World War II museum".

This wreck dive has almost legendary status among Red Sea divers. While the site is suitable for all but the most inexperienced divers in calm conditions, the level of expertise required definitely increases as conditions deteriorate, and they do so regularly. Check for current, when and wave action, and decide whether the conditions match your skill level.

The Thistlegorm lies at 30m (100ft), her largely intact forward section sitting almost upright on the sandy bottom. The midsection where the epicenter of the blast that sunk the Thistlegorm is

being of this "World War II time capsule". Yet, it is still considered a vital hub of wreck-diving in the Red Sea, and to the diver is conceived as one of the most sought after wreck-dives in the world. Truly, the Thistlegorm must be one of the best dive sites ever known.

Taken from
<http://touregypt.net/vdc/redseact.htm>

Q. Which 3 divers released the shot line on the Thistlegorm while which other pair were decompressing on it?

Buddy Cheek

There are many reasons why some people prefer solo diving to diving in a pair, and having a god-awful buddy is high on the list. Answer our questionnaire (truthfully) to see whether your skills as a buddy are up to par. By **John Bantin and Rico**

Sharing your under-water experiences with another person can double the pleasure of diving - and pleasure is what leisure diving should be all about. Like most sensible divers, I always opt to dive with a buddy. But occasionally I come across seemingly experienced divers who prefer to go it alone. Why? The answer could be you! Try answering yes or no to the following questions to find out how good a buddy you actually are:

Do you find that your buddy insists on pointing out details of his equipment to you, when he should be aware that you are familiar with every bit of kit on the market?

Are you left hanging about in the water while he has to make a textbook entry?

Does he stop unnecessarily on the surface and check that he is OK, before signalling to the cover boat crew and descending?

Is he slow to descend the shot-line, leaving you to wait impatiently for him at the bottom?

Does he want to go with the current when the best part of the dive is only ten minutes of hard swimming away? Does he want to go against the current when the dive boat is tethered?

Does your buddy disappear behind you in the murk because he dawdles when you want to fin urgently ahead?

Does he want to conduct the dive by consensus, when you are clearly the dive-leader?

Does he want to study (or even photograph) the wildlife, when you want him to hold open your goody-bag while you stash it away? Does he spend too much time looking at things?

Does he go to the surface after you have been separated and leave you to continue the dive alone?

Does he signal that he is low on air and insist on making an ascent, when he still has all of 30 bar in his aqua-lung? Does he drag you unwillingly to the surface, when you could have squeezed another five minutes from the dive?

Does he ascend at a dawdle, constantly checking his com-

puter, when you would rather get up and get out?

Does he insist on hanging around in shallow water, making a safety stop, when you could be getting back on the boat and wrapping yourself round another can of lager?

Does he loiter about on the bottom, fiddling about with some problem and leaving you to twiddle your thumbs while you wait for him, probably at the surface?

Is he prone to wait passively at the surface for the cover boat, while you shout at the coxswain for picking up other divers first, and lead the swim towards it?

Does he complain that you never saw the anglerfish and you never saw his signals, because you never looked at him once during the dive?

Is he slow to get up the ladder of the boat, and does he take forever to struggle out of his kit unaided?

Does he stay quiet while you tell everyone about the maximum depths you achieved during the dive?

Does he always seem to opt for the long shallow dives, when you want to have the challenge of beating your own depth record?

Is he not impressed by all your hard-earned badges, which prove you must be a better diver than he?

Was he trained by a different, and therefore inferior, training agency?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, rest assured - I don't want to dive with you. I would rather be diving solo!

Appeared in DIVER - November 1998

Q5. Who are two divers who turn swimming pools into saunas with their passionate displays?

Q6. Why are ladies always welcome on the dive boats?

Q7. What do Quasimodo and Scott Dillson have in common?

Underwater Laptop Developed.

The diver was 40 metres deep, enveloped by blue water when he pulled out his computer - Not just any computer but a newly developed underwater one that maps reefs, monitors sea life and reads the water's temperature!

The computer, called the SeaPC, is the latest device to make a splash at the National Coral Reef Institute, a research institution at the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Centre in Dania Beach. Such a technology will help local and global scientists better understand how a coral reef is faring. Is it healthy or is it dying? How badly did last year's hurricane or this summer's oil spill endanger local reefs? "We could look at a reef and return to see if anything has changed," said Stephen John, an engineer with Australian-based Nautronix Ltd., which developed the computer with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and WetPC. Australian scientists were on hand Wednesday showing Nova's Dania Beach crew how to use the computer during a field test.

Scientists say by using the computer they will be able to better network and share information on reefs here and down under. The computer is more practical than logging information on a plastic-coated paper with a pencil underwater, scientists say. "Imagine you are a diver with a lot of gear, it is difficult to write," said Peter Moran, managing director of WetPC. "Divers used to use pad and pencils underwater but it wasn't very practical. The idea is to bring a general purpose computer to help divers perform tasks they would on a regular laptop."

The computer looks like something you would see in a video arcade. You wrap your hands around two joysticks flanking a flat monitor. The grips feature five buttons used to control the computer. Graphic symbols on the display tell the diver which keys to press to activate a specified function. The screen logs the diver's swim path, depth and map and shows the position of objects on the seabed. Divers may access reference material from a database and funnel data through the water to the surface over long distances. It is powered by batteries and its charge lasts eight hours. It is neutrally-buoyant so the diver can drag it almost anywhere underwater.

Aladdin Pro dive computer

For Sale

£120

Fully Decompression Model
 Logs 40 hours of dives in memory
 100% Reliable
 73% Battery Life left
 Comes with protective cover.
 Contact : Chris Boddington
 Tel: 020 8671 0768

Q8. Who deco's upside down?

Q9. What was described as an expensive espresso maker this year?

Q10. Who lost their Rat this year?

Q11. What was given away for free, from "Nepal" in Falmouth?

Whatever next.....?

Tired of diving in the sea? Looking for something different to do now that you've attained Sports Diver?????

Your wait is over. Once you get to the Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Centre outside Moscow, it costs less than a VCR to enrol in an entry-level course that will give you the chance to train underwater as cosmonauts do. The Gagarin Centre (commonly referred as Star City, has been offering space travel training experiences to the public since 1990. Now it is selling courses in its underwater neutral buoyancy tank, which measures about 25 yards (23 meters) across and is about 13 yards (12 metres) deep.

"We offer three basic courses," said Col. Nikolai Grekov, a former cosmonaut-candidate and the Centre's chief of Cosmonauts' Training in the Conditions of A Hostile Environment. "One is Orientation to Space Suit Diving which costs \$225. Another is advanced Space Diver course which costs \$700, and finally - Space Suit Diver," he said.

"The latter costs \$6,000 since a customer is using a real EVA (extra-vehicular activity) suit and practices assembly procedures on a space station mock-up placed on the bottom of the tank."

Courses last from three to five days. The Centre recently started cooperating with the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, a California-based organization that certifies divers and diving schools.

Space Diver and Space Suit Diver graduates at Star City get official **PADI** certificates!

Below is a memo handed out at the recent Diving Officer's Conference . Tony has request that all members read it and take note. The coming year is very important for the continuation of Wreck diving in UK waters, and a close watch is be kept on diving activities across the country, with respect to the effect divers are having on our wrecks .

The Receiver of Wrecks

The Receiver of Wrecks acts as the **Honest Broker** between the finder and owner, and acts to clarify ownership and salvage questions.

The Receiver of Wrecks **will not confiscate** your finds.

All shipwrecks are owned by someone (private individuals, insurance companies, MOD, DETR, dive clubs etc)

The Receiver of Wrecks gives the owner of a wreck the **opportunity of regaining their property**.

If the owner wants their property returned, the finder is entitled to a **salvage award**, based on the value of the find (prior to conservation & less any costs incurred).

If the owner isn't found it becomes an **unclaimed wreck**, which is the property of the Crown (or other grantee).

The Receiver of Wrecks acts on behalf of the Crown, to dispose of wreck material in an appropriate manner. The majority of wreck material is **returned to the finder** in lieu of a salvage award.

If the owner waives his or her rights to the find , the finder is often given **legal title** to the find.

90% of finds are returned to the finder in lieu of a salvage award.

In some cases the find may be of **Archaeological importance**, and therefore best housed and displayed in a museum. The finder is entitled to a salvage reward, or could donate the find to a museum. Most museums are happy to acknowledge the role of the finder on a plaque in the display.

Reporting your find, however small or seemingly insignificant, is a **legal duty**.

Anyone who declares their find to the Receiver of Wrecks will be **treated fairly**.

Declaring your find also makes otherwise unknown information available for **future study**. This may be included in the National Monuments Record (maritime Division).

Remember – However unimportant you think your find is, it could be of great significance to someone else. **All wreck material must be reported to the Receiver of Wrecks**.

Please contact : The Receiver of Wrecks, Maritime & Coastguard Agency, Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton, SQ15 2JA. Tel 023 8032 9474 fax 023 8032 9477.

For any further information please speak to the Diving Officer or failing that a member of the committee.

Q12. Who should put more sandwiches in their mouth and talk less?

Q13. Who had a throbbing toe?

Q14. Who should drink more Water?

Return of the Narked

You will be pleased to hear that a group of intrepid mariners undertook a week's live-board in the Red Sea this October. Did they manage to uphold the fine tradition that is BSAC 23? Well let's see....

The team met early and headed for liquid refreshment. Apparently there are few greater pleasures than a pint of Stella at 8a.m. This type of behaviour carried on throughout the next two hours, interrupted by poor and ill fitting purchases from duty free shops. Thongs and Lipsticks were especially popular (You know who you are). However at least some diligent souls managed to raid the booze counter for their usual of Baileys, Archers and Advocaat. These alcohol challenged divers still had to negotiate an aeroplane drinks trolley - No problem.

By all accounts they adopted the Sleep/Drink cycle of traveling, which as we all know is the best way to last the course.

On board the boat (a very fine Royal Diving III, which was better than they deserved) there was the usual scramble for the best cabins.

It was about this time that they started to be aware of their surroundings. There is of course no pulling the wool over our new D.O's eyes. As he helpfully pointed out "That's an underwater submarine, that is". Thus making Benny from Crossroads look intelligent. Tony was last seen looking for Miss Diane...

Paul Brown, who was no stranger to this and many other columns, wishes to inform all members of the club that even abroad, he "Can get a long bottom time". His roommate will of course confirm this.

Chris Sailes is apparently forming a new acrobatic team. His star turn is to sit on Doug Hamalton's face, somersault over, put his own face in Gary Easom's wedding tackle and then attempt to knock himself out.

Conversation overheard on board: -

P.C "It's Phil Goldacre's 100th dive, with me".

P.B "He's done a hundred dives with you?".

P.C "It feels like it, yes".

On any diving holiday there's always a sweepstake on when Chris Boddington will finally "go". I can confirm that rather surprisingly it was only day three when a pod of brown dolphins passed majestically by.....

Many would agree that a comfortable way to do deco is to hold onto the shot line. Many would also agree that letting the three stooges undo the shot line whilst two people are still hanging onto it is not in the manual - is it, Brown, Maguire and Boddington?

A word for Messrs. Roffey, Copeland and Goldacre - don't leave your cameras lying around - you never know what might end up on them.

A word of advice from our new D. O. - Make sure when buying a mask that money is no object, and make sure your fins are the best that money can buy....

As the days wore on, the crew began to look more inviting, but surely putting ice cubes down their trousers would have the opposite effect? Gary?

Narked thinks that we should spare a thought for one of our longer

Q15. What are PPD's?

Q16. Name the Curry House the Club was locked in at?

Q17. Which Famous Photographer gave 3 lectures to the club this year?

serving divers, who re-hydrates with 7 gallons of tea. Rather sadly, he says, "I would be able to retire, just have a day off to die" Aaah!

The whole team visited an outcrop known as "The Lonely Mushroom". Well after 45 minutes there were two lonely mushrooms, heading off in a compass bearing that only they could understand. "Stan and Ollie" finned on determinedly until even they decided it was time for a look. There in the distance they could see a speck. Yes it was the boat...

Quote - Chris Sailes "If I go in that (hammock) will you toss me off, Gary?" Answers on the back of a postcard please.

Perverts to a man, our trusty submariners are always ready to embrace new hobbies. This year Ornithology took a front seat with Easom/Elphick, Carvall/Ray, taking shifts to spot any bird that they could see from their beech towel constructed hide. Subtle? No!

Not only does Eddie Driver traverse the four corners of the known world dropping items of dive kit, he also has a talent for dropping bottles all over the place. Don't let him make you a cocktail unless you like crushed glass with it.

Kevin Turley (who takes in water like a 3 litre colander) wishes to give us some advice on birth control - "My face is the only contraceptive I need" announces our luckless Romeo. Meanwhile Chris Sailes believes that "anything that wakes me up in the middle of the night has to be something substantial". Maybe these two should get together.

Question - What is the best preparation for diving in the Red Sea?

- A) Get a good night's sleep and drink plenty of water.
- B) Stay up until 3 a.m. drinking

Scotch.

Elphick, Boddington, Brown, Maguire and Carvall should all answer "B".

Gary Easom, who is to farts what John Lewis is to home furnishings, must surely win an award for being, ahem, the most photogenic of all divers. His personal and intimate displays were freely given even when they weren't wanted.

Narked is please to hear that when our thirsty gang hits port, they scrub up well as usual. No drink was too much and no hubbly bubbly left unsmoked. Female holidaymakers were subjected to some of the cheesiest lines since Edam was introduced, and one was even pursued across the desert on a quad-bike by a lustful lothario. Business as usual for BSAC 23.

Narked usually likes to have the final say but in this case we will leave it to Paul Brown alias Rolf and Huey. "I shouldn't have had that last Gin and Tonic".

Narked!!!

Q18. Name the Club member, who's TV alter-ego was run down by Hanna Gordon in his final episode this year?

Q19. Who was described as a Tele-Tubby, when seen in a Dry Suit?

Q20. What was strangely described as having a "S#@T, Shower and a Shave?"

Q21. How much were the Cancos?

And finally...

Q20. Who or what are "Good Boys"?



Merry Christmas
and
a
Happy (Bubbling) New
Year
To all our readers

See you all back at the pool on
10th Jan 2001

The Muddy Puddle will be back in
March 2001