

The Muddy Puddle

February 2005

Welcome!!!

Welcome to the first edition of the *Muddy Puddle* for 2005. Apologies in advance for the poor quality of this edition - unfortunately our Editor is currently away becoming a copper (*boo, hiss, gob, etc*), so for one edition only I, your faithful Chairman, will be editing the mag!

The AGM has come and gone and I'd like to welcome the new committee into their posts and thank those members that have stepped down (or moved job) for all their hard work over the last year. Although we had a low attendance, this years AGM could prove to be pivotal for the club as motions were carried to sell the boat and to look into sharing the pool with Xenopus (who currently use the pool for the hour after us). The new committee have since met and we are starting to make progress on these issues.

Perhaps more importantly, the dive list for 2005 is now available from our Expeditions Officer. We have some cracking diving booked and are set to visit some new venues and sites as well as a few old favorites, so get your sheets to Ben asap. If you don't, he'll some round your house kick the door in, plant a load of smack and take you back to the station to kick out a confession before letting 'Big Derek' have his way with you.

Lastly I should mention that 2005 is the 50th Anniversary of the formation of Croydon BSAC 23. We will be celebrating this monumental achievement with various events throughout the year, but to kick things off I have included in this newsletter copies of information from our past that some of you may find of interest. In addition to this I am pleased to announce that for the club's 50th we are offering £50 towards the cost of completing BSAC's Instructor Foundation Course (IFC). This is the first rung on the ladder to becoming a BSAC instructor and really is a good course. More details on this offer and on the IFC can be found later in this issue. Also in this edition are some wise words from our ever-faithful Diving Officer, Sticky's favorite dives and a review of some of the venues we have booked for diving for the year.

Good luck for 2005, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable year diving.

Paul Brown
Chairman

PS – That pic is there as proof that I DO smile sometimes!



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January's BSAC
NDC Newsletter



Diving Officer's Bulletin

Putting the Div into Diving...



In this newsletter's DO's Bulletin, I would like to recount one of my more memorable dives, where it is fair to say that I really "pushed the envelope".

It was a calm day after an early start on the way to the Moldavia. Steve, Nauticat's skipper, signalled that we were near the dive site and it was time to kit up. He thanked me for taking the wheel earlier, and asked me to show him that knot again after the dive, if I wasn't too busy.

As usual, I had kitted up first. I caught my reflection in the wheelhouse window – I looked good. In fact, I looked great. All that effort I had put in to trimming all my kit into tidy pouches or on karabiners clipped close to my body so that nothing could hang down or get snagged had finally paid off. The other benefit of this was that I now have less drag through the water. I now move more dolphin-like, even if I do say so myself. When I see other divers with octopuses or SMB reels dragging I the sand I despair, I really do...



Anyway, back to the dive. As I looked over the side I felt I could almost see the outline of the "Mole" as I affectionately call her. I couldn't wait to get down there, so I volunteered to go in first, and yes Steve, I will check and reposition of the shot if necessary. Dive Leadership eh? As I fell backwards into the bright clear channel water, I felt a pleasant wash going through my hood. Luckily today the tide has afforded some real visibility and its not long before I start to make out the shape of the crows nest, sitting proud at the top of the mast, and below that, the numerous weaves of the Moles rigging. I twist and turn through this, daring it to snag me, but being so well trimmed, I know this is unlikely!



The shot seemed OK in the hold so I decided to make for the bow. I checked my air, nitrox and dive slate. Dead men's fingers and anemones adorned the companionway that I threaded through. At the bow I went to see if "Old Crusty", the barnacle clad resident conga was still there. Much to my amusement, he was, with his head poking out from a small funnel, making him look like an ugly Crocus.

Turning back along the starboard side, a cuttlefish eyed me suspiciously, changing colour to hide from my watchful gaze. It was time for more safety checks. For those of you wishing to dive this venerable old lady, I will warn you that it is 50m to the seabed. I patted my trusty 15ltr cylinder, but chose to switch to my 40% nitrox pony for the trip back to the shot, just to flush some nitrogen out. I worked my way around the imposing superstructure of the ship, and dropped down into the hold to get the shot.

Checking my gas again, I reminded myself to keep my Buddhist inspired breathing steady, or I would not have enough for my ascent. I decided to do a half way safety stop and took the opportunity to switch my computer back to air from its nitrox profile. Further stops at 9m and 6m on my 40% mix cleared the computer comfortably.



I broke the surface to see the sun shining and the boat 20 yards away. Steve signalled recognition and I waited happily knowing that the lift was in good working order and tea and biscuits were going to be in abundance. What a day!!

This column by *Virtual-Diving.com*

The software featured was "Carvall ? Fantasy Dive", now available from most major retailers and suitable for closed season diving.

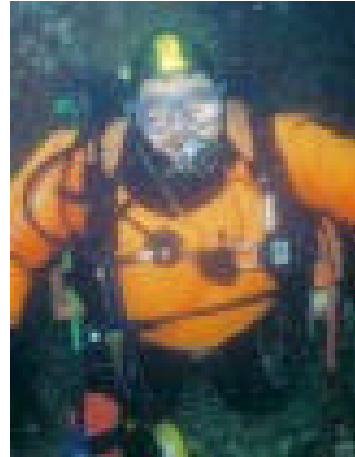
"Carvall ? Fantasy Dive" accepts no responsibility for anything. Ever.

Training Talk

Greetings,

The club still has the use of the pool each Wednesday, so come along and get your legs dive fit at least with some fining action. It will not be long before we all start getting wet.

As usual I am at your disposal to do some exercises in the pool or advise of diving related issues.



Currently Chris and Steve are at the stage of buying dive kit so that they can venture out of the pool for the first time. I shall be taking them to Horsea Island etc for their first dives and there is no reason why a group of us cannot meet there for a diving session.

I recommend a gentle exposure to start to re discover dive skills.

Recently BSAC issued a Bulletin and one of the articles specified that the old syllabus for any training could not be used after this year. Everyone must complete outstanding dive skills or start again on the current syllabus.

I am at happy to plan an event where outstanding skill exercises are performed. Later in the year I shall certainly be doing another Dive Leader session to complete outstanding training. More of this later.

Please let me know what I can do for you.

Regards

Alan

PS don't forget to get your cylinders tested and equipment serviced.

NOTE – I've attached a copy of the BSAC Bulletin Alan mentions at the end of the mag. Paul


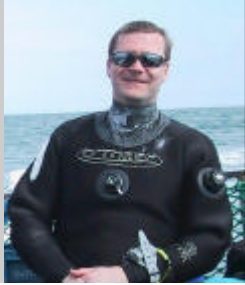



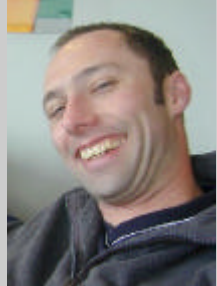



BSAC South East Region

The Region now has an e-mail group, that allows you to keep up to date with courses, expeditions, etc that are organised within our area. To join you can either use the Smartgroups web site, the link at the bottom of the BSAC-SE home page or send a blank email to bsac-se-subscribe@smartgroups.com.

**Smartgroups website: www.smartgroups.com
Regional website: www.bsac-se.org.uk**

The New Committee

These are the members who'll be running the club this year - pitiful isn't it? Thanks to you all in advance for your hard work over the coming months.

Chairman	Diving Officer	Training Officer
		
Paul Brown	Paul Carvall	Alan Glen
Qualifications: Dive Leader, Assistant Instructor, Trimix Diver, Lardarse.	Qualifications: Dive Leader, Nitrox Diver, felcher and Inventor of the Dirty Sanchez.	Qualifications: Advanced Diver, Instructor, Scapa enthusiast.
Equipments Officer	Expeditions Officer	Membership Secretary
		
Roy Edgerton	Ben Stock	Andy Hart
Qualifications: Sports Diver, Sheep Botherer.	Qualifications: Sports Diver, Advanced Nitrox, Copper (careful what you say).	Qualifications: Sports Diver, Advanced Nitrox, Amateur Gynecologist, IBS expert.
Treasurer	A-member/Dry Officer	Boat Officer
		
Chris Griffiths	Andy Bennett	Alan Lawrence
Qualifications: Sports Diver, Advanced Nitrox, Expensive-car-crasher.	Qualifications: Sports Diver, International man of mystery.	Qualifications: Sports Diver, Fanny magnet.

Paul Brown

A Blast from the Past.....

This year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of Croydon BSAC 23. We were formed 2 years after the BSAC itself came about, hence our relatively low club number. As most of the current members have not been in the club especially long I thought I'd include the transcripts of some letters I have that provide a little history of our wonderful club.

The first is a letter from Rob Frankham to Nick Fleming from 1973. It is a bit long, but provides some interesting information on the history of the club, particularly with respect to membership numbers!! Enjoy!

=====
Nick Fleming Esq.
National Institute of Oceanography
Brook Road
Worsley
Godalming
Surrey

27 December 1973

Dear Mr Fleming,

Thank you for your communication regarding B.S.A.C branch growth. A small number of Croydon Branch members met recently to discuss the matter and found that your suggested headings were most useful and an interesting discussion took place.

The members concerned were George Roofthcroft (Branch Chairman), Gilbert Dinesen (1st Class Diver and past Chairman with long branch experience), Norbert Rieser (branch member with quite long experience), Rob Frankham (Branch Hon. Secretary - member of Croydon Branch since its formation) and Tony Broxton (Diving Officer).

Using your headings, details are as follows: -

History and Growth

Date of formation September 1955

Number of members each year as reported at A.G.M

1956 - 33	1957 - 67	1958 - 70	1959 - 79	1960 - 109
1961 - 106	1962 - 78	1963 - 86	1964 - 62	1965 - 60
1966 - 62	1967 - 63	1968 - 67	1969 - 70	1970 - 112
1971 - 130	1972 - 143	1973 - 140	1974 - 190	

Turnover of membership over the last five years has averaged nearly 30% . This year's figure, however, is only half this value.

Formation of Other Branches

Two other groups formed from Croydon Branch memberships -

The first was Croydon Underwater Club (non B.S.A.C). This was a splinter group with the opinion, we believe, that much of the B.S.A.C training was unnecessary.

The second group formed Thornton Heath Branch. This split was due to a clash of personalities with the D.O. at the time.

Competition from other Branches

Croydon Underwater Club is relatively small and does not appear to represent any form of competition being mainly a group of friends.

Thornton Heath Branch is also very small and actively discourage membership by charging £25 membership fee. We believe that little training is offered as the membership is composed of already experienced divers.

Croydon Technical Branch is we believe a restricted Branch, but in any case we co-operate closely with this branch and have a good relationship with them.

Mullard Branch is a special branch and is therefore limited competition. We provide this branch with training assistance due to their lack of qualified members.

Critical Developments etc.

Croydon Branch during its early life was extremely introverted and for many years was controlled by the Diving Officer who was "all powerful". These D.O.'s had a "shoe string" coupled where everything had to run "on the cheap" for members. This meant that very little cash was available for equipment purchases. Poor and sparse equipment discouraged membership and the "one man band" leadership prevented teamwork and involvement to some extent. New members not "fitting in" obviously did not renew.

Seven years ago this system was overcome and the new look Branch expanded steadily and became much more proactive. Inflatables and outboards have been purchased and more equipment obtained and kept in first class condition. Two years ago a grant of £500 was obtained which enabled a fine new compressor to be obtained.

Pool location has been a limiting factor. For many years only one hour a week was obtained. Following Branch expansion, however, the large numbers using the pool came to the notice of the authorities and two hours a week were made available during the winter. These were on different nights which assisted by giving alternative days to accommodate members other commitments. Due to the fact that the hour must include changing time at each end the amount of time in the water is limited. For this reason we would prefer two hours on the same evening to assist training consistency.

At the time a large influx of new members caused a temporary restriction of membership at 150. This restriction was raised after a short time and membership exceeded 200 at one point.

Efforts for many years to obtain a Branch headquarters has still not been successful and this is a discouraging factor in that it makes communication much more difficult. Opportunities to communicate are restricted to the Newsletter, and at lectures, encouraging the formation of cliques and it is inevitable that some new members feel left out, despite efforts by many members, to establish and maintain personal relationships.

The quality of training and lectures is very high and this certainly encourages membership as does the good spirit of co-operation prevailing.

It is certainly apparent that a keen and liberal minded committee does encourage membership to renew, leading to expansion.

Croydon with its office development has become a part of the Metropolitan area with a floating membership as in London. This, we feel, increases our turnover unlike a provincial town with a more static population. Other members leave for various reasons such as to pursue other interests or to dive with friends having no further use for branch training. We overcome this tendency to some extent by encouraging allied interests, and we will be interested to learn of the percentages quoted by other branches.

Branch Size and its Effects

1. Membership turnover - A small branch may stay small due to a large turnover of members. This may be due to committee management errors or that limitation of qualified members for committee work causes a clique to form which is difficult to displace.

As a Branch grows, it will have more qualified members and given a good committee will accumulate assets and be large enough to obtain boats and compressor etc, enabling more members to be accommodated. Better pool allocation may follow. Branch size appears to be self limiting by factors such as pool size and availability, communications etc.

2. Committee turnover - With a large Branch some committee jobs can become onerous. Delegation to non-committee members assist but turnover if committee can increase (not always a disadvantage).

3. Financial Situation - More members = more income but also more expenditure on equipment. With our growth being fairly recent we have no financial reserves but we have just revised our charges and hope to build up reserves.

4/5. Grants and Fundraising and Capital Equipment Acquisition - Special fundraising has not been attempted but may be necessary due to increasing costs.

A Grant was obtained, after considerable effort, and a factor in our favour was our large membership and this helped to overcome the favour for "larger than local" projects. We were fortunate in obtaining the grant before these were withdrawn.

6. Newsletter - A newsletter of good quality has been published for many years. Articles have been published elsewhere (Triton S.A.B etc) and copies are sent to other branches, Head Office, Triton etc. The large membership and circulation has encouraged advertisers which has made the newsletter self supporting.

7. Training - A large membership puts a strain on those instructors with the staying power to become part of the qualified team. The excellent lectures have had a large attendance enabling a small hall to be booked. 43 members recently sat our written 3rd class examination. Considerable organisation is required where such events are arranged.

8. Dives per head - Each year the number of official "man dives" has increased but it is felt that dives per head are falling as there is ledd personal pressure and encouragement to participate.

Boat hire is proving difficult as there is a shortage of suitable craft when coping with large groups. Small groups are easier to organise and accommodate, therefore less numbers are prepared to take on the organisation of official dives in a large Branch.

9. Projects - Plenty of divers are available for projects such as the Mewstone Ledge Cannons Survey for which we were awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Large membership will always provide a group to specialise in a specific field such as photography, archaeological study, Bovisand courses such as explosives and cutting and Marine Biology.

Certain members are obtaining special qualifications in various subjects and this of course more likely in a large Branch can benefit all members.

10. Qualification Percentages - Floating membership and less personal contact possibly decreases qualifications as a percentage but a large number achieve 3rd and 2nd Class enabling assistance to be given to other local Branches (e.g. Alleyn College and Mullard). We have only one 1st Class Diver and feel Branch size is not significant.

11. Transport and access to Dive Sites - We do not usually arrange transport but members arrange lifts between themselves. More numbers means more available to tow the boat trailers.

Diver pollution is a problem where large groups dive the same place.

Split locations are necessary and this gives more choice and variety of dives e.g. last Whitsun one group dived in Cornwall, another at Bovisand and a third one at Portland.

12. Relations with Pool Authorities - see previous comment - greater influence.

13. Regional Diving Schemes - We were able to provide the manpower to give the new Alleyn School Branch one year's training to get them started and to assist Shetland Islands Branch.

14. Relations with H.Q. - has been close for the past eight years due to personalities rather than size of branch.

15. Morale - is high but depends upon the influence of the committee which is limited by large membership communication problems causing a lower morale.

Future Developments

We feel Branch membership in excess of 200 would be unlikely and beyond the capabilities of voluntary work and normal pool facilities. They would become commercial and would lack club feeling and comradeship. Professional advice could not overcome these problems.

Larger Branches should be encouraged to assist smaller local Branches to expand as we feel that very small Branches have disadvantages already mentioned.

I trust that the above information will prove useful to you and look forward to hearing the discussion at the Chairman's Conference.

Yours sincerely

Robert Frankham
Hon. Secretary Croydon Branch

Some of you may not know, but in 1970 the club was awarded BSAC's Duke of Edinburgh's Prize. Once a president of the BSAC, the Duke of Edinburgh offered this annual prize for the best underwater scientific project carried out by members. Our project was to find and map the location of the Mewstone Ledge Cannon Site just outside Plymouth Sound and the following was sent to the Croydon Advertiser:

It has Just been announced from Buckingham Palace that the Croydon and District Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club have been awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Prize for 1970 for their Mewstone Ledge Archaeological Survey.

This was an exercise in Nautical Archaeology. The branch had discovered some cannons lying in about 40' of water off the great Mewstone, near Newton Ferrers, Devon. During the subsequent survey which was carried out in accordance with the principles of nautical archaeology, several more cannons came to light, lying in various gullies on the rocky seabed. The survey was hampered by strong currents, by a very uneven bottom and a vigorous growth of marine flora which made it difficult to triangulate and to take measurements.

A remarkable feature was that many of the guns were provided with 'fins'. Samples were cut off and subjected to metallurgical tests which proved that the fins themselves were made of a different metal from that of the cannons themselves, and were obviously brazed on to the cannons subsequently. This feature is unknown in ordinary guns preserved on land, and has given rise to quite some speculation. One theory put forward is that the fins may have supported some kind of sight for aiming the gun.

Some pottery was also recovered and from the markings it was possible to establish a close similarity to jars preserved in a museum in Holland. This kind of pottery, coupled with detailed drawings of the cannons, would suggest a wreck dating from about 1790, but in spite of research it has not been possible to ascertain the identity of the vessel.

The Croydon team of divers led by Mr R Middlewood and Dennis Hinchcliffe, were very ably assisted by divers from Slough, particularly in respect of the pottery. The report is of such a high standard that it will be used as a model in training amateur archaeological groups. It has been partly reproduced in the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology, Volume 1, March 1972.

At the AGM of the British Sub Aqua Club, held on April 15th at Newcastle-on-Tyne the Croydon Branch were praised by the Club Chairman for having done great credit to the British Sub Aqua Club.

NOTE – I have managed to get hold of a copy of the above-mentioned article from the Journal of Nautical Archaeology. It is a bit too long (12 pages) to reprint here, but anyone is free to have a look at it, just let me know and I'll pass it on. PAUL.

Many thanks to Kevin Stickland for his help in sourcing this information. In the next issue we'll feature articles from the Newsletter's of years gone by...

CAPTION COMPETITION

What do you think our erstwhile Membership Secretary is saying here? Answers on a postcard – best one wins the chance to be Dive Marshall for a day at Easter. Prizes don't come much better than that.....



Expeditions 2005

You should by now have received a copy of the 2005 dive sheet. As usual the dives for the year are listed with venue, site, depth and grade, all you have to do is mark the ones you would like to attend and return the sheet to me (PLEASE remember to put your name and contact details on). As a bit of a teaser for the forthcoming season, here are a few trips that should provide some top diving.

Easter and 6/7/8 May

It's that time again – Plymouth here we come! This annual Easter pilgrimage by the good divers of Croydon BSAC has become something of an institution. Some of the best diving on the south coast is available to us here, including the wrecks of the James Egan Layne, the (recently sunk) HMS Scylla and some spectacular scenic dives such as Hand Deeps and the Eddystone Lighthouse. All comers are welcome at Easter, with the focus being shallow diving to a) get everyone ready for the season ahead and b) to get trainee divers doing their first UK sea dives. The May trip is for Sports Divers and above and will concentrate on diving in the 35m range. Both trips are booked diving from VENTURE, skippered by Pete Fergus, a boat we all know well and that is perfect for our needs.



Weymouth, July



Again, another club favourite, Weymouth is a mecca for UK wreck diving with dozens of wrecks within a 20 mile radius. This is a Sports Diver trip as most of the popular wrecks are in the 30m region. Possible sites include the submarine M2, the enormous freighter Aeolian Sky, the Pommeranian or the bucket dredger St Dunstan. Diving from KYARRATOO with Paul

Cooper, we will be 'entertained' by his unique wit and be made fatter with his unique lunches.

Portsmouth, various dates

A new venue for the club we'll be diving from WIGHT DIVER on wrecks around the east side of the Isle of Wight. Most of the dives booked are in 30m region and include the liner Cuba, the Polo and the submarine UB-81. All dates are single days as Portsmouth is only a 1½ drive and sites have been chose for all diving levels. Skippered by Andy Ryan, this is a new boat which comes complete with tail lift to save those leg-killing ladder climbs. Vis, so I have heard, is either iffy or excellent, with little in between.



Sark, August

For our week-long trip this year we have booked to go to Sark in the Channel Islands. A promising and relaxing week should be in store as Sark does not have



any cars – so we'll be loafing, drinking, BBQing and diving 'til our hearts content. We'll be diving from PROTECTOR, which is a Weymouth-based boat that will be relocating for the week. Vis is usually stunning in the Channel Islands and wrecks abound. All diving will be in the 35m range and so is open to anyone who is Sports Diver or above.

In addition to these we have our usual days booked with Steve on Nauticat throughout the season, and for those of you that don't have real jobs (coppers, builders etc) Steve's midweek list is now up on his website, www.channeldiving.com).

I think you'll agree that this year's list looks good and should provide some exciting diving. Lets just keep those fingers crossed for the weather and vis!!!



Ben Stock

Favourite Dives...

This month we hear from that Croydon BSAC 23 stalwart, **Kevin Stickland** on his most memorable dives.

My first Novice hard boat dive

Dated 30th June 1980, departure Littlehampton West Sussex on the Dive boat Jungfaul. The wreck was the Ariel sunk 1872. Dive depth 34m for 16 minutes.

It should be noted that prior to this I had only had two beach dives out of the West beach at Newhaven.

Dive 1 - 45 min, max depth 8m and dive 2 - 65 minutes to a depth of 5.5m! As a result, on the Ariel I used 100 bar to the bottom!! Plus I was over-weight, it was black and not one of my best dives. I had the last laugh as it was time to go up as soon as we got to the bottom and to my diver leaders' dismay it didn't put me off diving!



Best Dive, May 1990

Well it's got to be the Murree. The Murree was 11,940 ton Pakistani motor vessel in transit from Tilbury to her home port of Karachi, laden with containers on her 150ft deck in three layers. The club was booked on the Dunedin to the Channel Isles, but some months prior to our trip, a drama unfolded on the BBC programme 999, when 40 people were requiring air lifting from the Murree which was sinking in force 10 gales by an unreal helicopter rescue. The two sea-king helicopters were only expecting 14 crew as listed by Brixham coastguard.



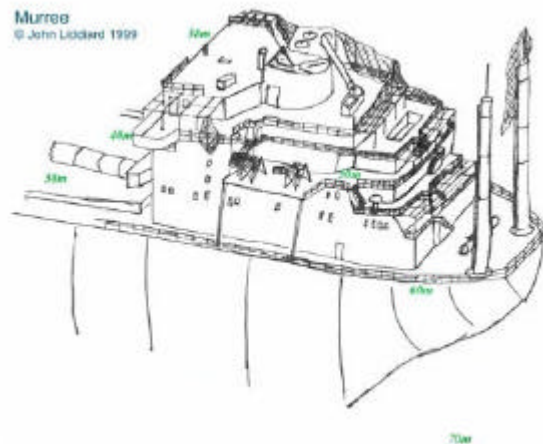
On arriving at the stricken Murree they found out that crew had wives and children with them which increased to numbers to 40 persons.

The television pictures taken by the Helicopters in force 10 seas, 15 miles out in the channel, witnessed the containers falling off like match boxes and the last two persons off the sinking ship were the helicopter crew as it went down vertically. They had to jump 30m down into the sea to avoid going down

with her, and were then picked up in the water after. But the vest cams had shown the wreck going down in front of them like an express train.

We were only the second boat to dive the Murree after it sank. The Murree is upright and went down in 70m of water and sits proud of the bottom by some 30m. On our dive we were met with 15 - 20m visibility which increased the deeper we went. We landed on the wheel house which was brilliant white and like a block of flats. The deck cranes were in front and below with containers of all colours below them, like match boxes. Inside the wheel house it was a mass of wires hanging down. Cloth flags still in the flag boxes, which some of the club took back for mementos.

We went down to the top of the containers at 45m looked around and made our way up over the wheelhouse back to the dive boat. Pat Dillon somehow removed some electric equipment from inside the wheel house, which on the surface was already corroded, even in their short time underwater, they were duly returned overboard.



Once all was safely on the dive boat, the buzz was unreal. Nobody could believe the size of the wreck itself, added with the short period of time it had sunk, colours, good visibility etc. was amazing, which not many people will experience. I dived it a couple of years later and was disappointed, a green & rusty old wreck compared with our first dive, which I personally will always remember in its pristine condition, as if I had dived it yesterday.

The Most relaxing dive – (Just to P..s off Tom Maguire!)

The Zannstrom on MV Coral Diver in 1992, a mid week dive, all experienced divers on board and what a dive!

Flat mirror seas, Vis 10 to 12m, wreck upright, I dived with Steve Fishwick which was a pleasure. I had my hands crossed under me and we just finned slowly, with the occasional glance at each other exchanging nods to signal all was ok. We swam through the ribs of the wreck, over the bows and almost under the wreck. Loads of fish, crabs and lobsters of good size. We watched at a distance, Russell Crafter using the alternative method of extracting very large Lobsters and Ling usually out of the reach of normal divers, with some great success using his spear gun! I think even my DV fell out of my mouth at one point as I was so relaxed. On the boat afterwards we all agreed that we were in our element - all down to years of good through training - all coming together in one perfect dive.

Instructor Foundation Course (IFC) Offer

We are pleased to announce that for the duration of 2005 the club will be offering all members £50 towards the cost of attending BSAC's IFC course. The following information about the course is taken from the BSAC website:

"INSTRUCTOR FOUNDATION COURSE (IFC)

The first step in qualifying as a BSAC Diving Instructor, (including the Instructor cross-over programme), is to attend the two day IFC, where the essential elements of instruction are taught. The comprehensive student pack provides candidates with course notes and a copy of the BSAC Manual 'Teaching Scuba Diving'. Following completion of the IFC members who are Dive Leaders can further build their teaching experience by attendance at an Open Water Instructor Course (OWIC). Members who have attained Dive Leader grade can complete the Theory Instructor Exam (TIE) at any stage after attendance on the IFC. Following OWIC attendance and after further practice and experience at Branch level those who have gained Dive Leader status can apply for the Practical Instructor Exam (PIE)."

Having attended the course myself, I can thoroughly recommend it as a useful and highly enjoyable weekend. Dates, venues and booking details for this years IFC's can be found on the BSAC website, www.bsac.org or for more information, speak to Alan Glen.

Paul Brown

WANTED

**Ideas for dry
events for 2005
to celebrate our
50th Birthday**

Please contact Andy Bennett if you have any requests for dry events.

REMINDER

EQUIPMENT FOR THE EASTER PLYMOUTH TRIP

If you will be needing to hire any equipment from the club for the Easter Plymouth trip, please let the Equipments Officer, Roy Edgerton, know ASAP.

Phone: 07930 908 913

E-mail: roy.edgerton@btinternet.com

Dive Show 2005

5/6 March 2005

Get pissed and look at dive gear!!!!!!

The 5th and 6th March sees the **London International Dive Show (LIDS)** come to the Excel centre in London. Croydon BSAC will be mounting its annual expedition on Saturday the 5th, where our main aim will be to get paralytic and annoy the totty on the manufacturer's stalls.

If you fancy coming along please let me know and we'll arrange a meeting point (more than likely, the bar).

WARNING: Previous expeditions to LIDS have resulted in ex-expeditions officers not being able to walk, free bars being gatecrashed, large amounts of money being spent and the DO forgetting where he lives.

You have been warned.....

Gear for Sale

I have the following equipment for sale. Mostly well used but in good working order, get in quick though otherwise its all getting e-bayed...

Poseidon cyclon regulator on standard length hose. **£150.**

Buddy Commando slimline BCD size medium, in (faded) yellow, complete with Scubapro Air 2. Working OK, but old hence **£100.**

O3 Neoprene Drysuit. Leaks like a sieve, but is better/warmer than a wetsuit (probably). Will fit 5'10" bloke, size 8-9 feet. Holes can probably be patched – but will be a fair bit of work hence **£50** (these suits are over £600 new – and they still leak!!).

Umbilical torch. JMD Umbilical, 50w lamp, focusable beam, 70min burn time **£250.**

See me on a Weds if interested, or call/email me.

Paul Brown
07956 555 728
paul@dive50.freeserve.co.uk

Nauticat - Midweek Dive List

APRIL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth(Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Friday 1st	Brighton	LANFRANC	52	07.00
Monday 4th	Brighton	DUKE OF BUCCLEUGH	58	12.00
Wednesday 6th	Brighton	RAMSGARTH	28	08.00
Friday 8th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	36	10.00
Monday 11th	Brighton	TR THOMPSON	34	12.00
Wednesday 13th	Brighton	CITY OF WATERFORD	30	07.30
Friday 15th	Brighton	BESSELL	TRIMIX 63	08.00
Monday 18th	Brighton	MOLDAVIA	50	10.00
Wednesday 20th	Brighton	CITY OF BRISBANE	27	08.00
Friday 22nd	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	40	09.00
Monday 25th	Brighton	BRAUNTON	36	10.30
Wednesday 27th	Brighton	FORTUNA	28	07.00
Friday 29th	Brighton	TYCHO	32	08.00

MAY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth(Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Monday 2nd	Brighton	MOLDAVIA	50	09.30
Wednesday 4th	Brighton	PENTRYCH	25	07.30
Friday 6th	Brighton	BIG CRAB WRECK	36	08.30
Monday 9th	Brighton	MIRA	30	11.00
Wednesday 11th	Brighton	IKEDA	25	12.30
Friday 13th	Brighton	CITY OF WATERFORD	30	08.00
Sunday 15th	Brighton	WARILDA 3 DAY TRIP	50	07.00
Monday 16th	FeCamp	FRENCH WRECK	40	09.00
Tuesday 17th	FeCamp	LANFRANC	52	09.30
Wednesday 18th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	11.00
Friday 20th	Eastbourne	HMS GHURKA S	42	08.45
Monday 23rd	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	40	09.30
Wednesday 25th	Brighton	VALE LEVEN	28	11.00
Friday 27th	Brighton	TYCHO	32	07.00
Monday 30th	Brighton	MOLDAVIA	50	08.00
Tuesday 31st	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	10.00

JUNE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Wednesday 1st	Brighton	CLAN McMILLAN	TRIMIX 65	11.30
Wednesday 8th	Brighton	ARIEL	30	10.30
Friday 10th	Brighton	TR THOMPSON	34	12.15
Monday 13th	Eastbourne	DUNGANESS WRECK	45	07.45
Tuesday 14th	Brighton	LANFRANC 2 DAY TRIP	50	07.00
Wednesday 15th	FeCamp	WARILDA	52	08.30
Thursday 16th	Brighton	LANFRANC 2 DAY TRIP	50	09.00
Friday 17th	FeCamp	WARILDA	58	10.00
Monday 20th	Brighton	CITY OF WATERFORD	36	08.30
Wednesday 22nd	Brighton	LANCER 11	27	10.30
Friday 24th	Brighton	CITY OF BRISBANE	27	12.00

JULY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Monday 4th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	08.00
Wednesday 6th	Brighton	SEVEN SEAS	40	10.00
Friday 8th	Eastbourne	OCEANA	28	11.45
Monday 11th	Eastbourne	CALEB SPRAGUE	44	07.45
Tuesday 12 ^h	Eastbourne	CALEB SPRAGUE	44	08.45
Wednesday 13th	Brighton	WARILDA 3 DAY TRIP	50	07.00
Thursday 14th	FeCamp	RYE	38	09.00
Friday 15th	FeCamp	LANFRANC	52	09.00
Monday 18th	Eastbourne	DUNGANESS WRECK	45	07.45
Tuesday 19 ^h	Eastbourne	ARGONAUT	38	09.15
Wednesday 20th	Eastbourne	SPARTA	40	10.15
Thursday 21st	Eastbourne	POTTERY WRECK	38	10.15
Friday 22nd	Eastbourne	ALAUNIA	36	10.45

AUGUST

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Monday 1st	Brighton	BESSELL	TRIMIX 65	07.00
Tuesday 2nd	Eastbourne	ARGONAUT	38	09.45
Wednesday 3rd	Eastbourne	STORRA	48	10.15
Thursday 4th	Eastbourne	OCEANA	28	10.45

Friday 5th	Eastbourne	ALAUNIA	36	10.45
Monday 8th	Eastbourne	ALAUNIA	30	07.15
Tuesday 9th	Eastbourne	CALEB SPRAGUE	44	07.45
Wednesday 10th	Eastbourne	VILLE DE BORDEAU	44	08.45
Thursday 11th	Eastbourne	UC65	43	07.45
Friday 12th	Eastbourne	MAINE	45	07.15
Monday 22nd	Brighton	TR THOMPSON	34	12.00
Tuesday 23rd	Brighton	HMS KERRYADO	38	07.30
Wednesday 24th	Brighton	NORTHEASTER	48	07.30
Thursday 25th	Brighton	QUAIL	40	08.00
Friday 26th	Brighton	LANFRANC 5 DAY TRIP	52	07.00
Saturday 27th	FeCamp	FRENCH WRECK	45	09.00
Sunday 28th	FeCamp	FRENCH WRECK	45	09.00
Monday 29th	FeCamp	FRENCH WRECK	45	07.00
Tuesday 30th	FeCamp	FRENCH WRECK	50	07.00
Wednesday 31st	Brighton	ARACATACA	60	08.00

SEPTEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Friday 2nd	Eastbourne	DUNGANESS WRECK S	45	10.15
Monday 5th	Brighton	DEEP TENS	50	09.30
Wednesday 7th	Brighton	CITY OF WATERFORD	36	07.00
Friday 9th	Brighton	HMS MINION	46	07.30
Monday 19th	Brighton	BRAUNTON	36	11.00
Wednesday 21st	Brighton	PENTRYCH	25	07.00
Friday 23rd	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	07.00
Monday 26th	Brighton	MOLDAVIA	50	08.30
TUES 27th	Brighton	LANFRANC 2 DAY TRIP	52	09.30
Wednesday 28th	FeCamp	WARILDA	50	11.00
Friday 30th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	07.30

OCTOBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Monday 3 rd	Brighton	RAMSGARTH	28	10.00
Wednesday 5th	Brighton	HMS KERRYADO	42	11.00
Friday 7th	Brighton	FORTUNA	28	07.00
Monday 10th	Brighton	HMS MINION	46	08.30
Wednesday 12th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	09.00
Friday 14th	Brighton	ASHFORD	42	07.30
Monday 17th	Brighton	CITY OF BRISBANE	28	10.30
Wednesday 19th	Brighton	VALE OF LEVEN	25	11.00
Friday 21st	Brighton	CITY OF WATERFORD	30	07.00
Monday 24th	Brighton	MOLDAVIA	50	07.00
Tuesday 25th	Brighton	LANFRANC 2 DAYTRIP	52	07.30
Wednesday 26th	FeCamp	WARILDA	50	09.00
Friday 28th	Brighton	TR THOMPSON	34	07.30

NOVEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Saturday 5th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	40	10.45
Sunday 13th	Brighton	CITY OF WATERFORD	36	07.30
Saturday 19th	Brighton	QUAIL	44	10.45
Friday 25th	Brighton	MOLDAVIA	50	08.30
Saturday 26th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	11.00

DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Departs From</i>	<i>Dive Site</i>	<i>Depth (Metres)</i>	<i>Departure Time</i>
Saturday 3rd	Brighton	FORTUNA	33	10.30
Saturday 10th	Brighton	DUKE OF BUCCLEUGH	58	10.00
Sunday 11th	Brighton	UNIDENTIFIED WRECK	TRIMIX 65	11.30
Saturday 17th	Brighton	ASHFORD	42	10.00
Saturday 24th	Brighton	TYCHO	33	09.30

For bookings please contact owner/diving skipper Steve Johnson:

20 Chailey Avenue
 Rottingdean
 Sussex
 BN2 7GH
 Tel/Fax: 01273 301142
 Boat Direct: 07970 674799
 E-mail: steve@channeldiving.com



The bulletin from the National Diving Committee of the British Sub-Aqua Club

News from the National Diving Committee Groups

Technical Group

BSAC Rebreather Courses

The BSAC is pleased to announce the launch of two rebreather courses:

- SCR Dräger Dolphin course
- CCR APD Inspiration course

The courses have been developed and piloted over a two-year period. The materials have been designed to be consistent with the layout and structure of the Diver Training Program.

For those interested in becoming a rebreather diver or rebreather instructor please contact the BSAC Technical Chief Instructor (Dave Lock) email address: techinst.chief@bsac.com.

Work is underway to produce alternative unit specific courses and crossover modules to enable migration between the different unit types.

Clarification on the recognition of 'technical' qualifications

It was recognised by the BSAC approximately two years ago that there are a number of BSAC Sport Divers who hold additional 'Technical Qualifications' who wished to be able to dive within the limits of their qualifications during normal branch dive activities. The BSAC reviewed this and enabled Sport Divers who hold recognised technical diving qualifications to be able to dive to their qualifications provided:

- a) They adhere to BSAC Safe Diving Practices
- b) Have obtained the Diving Officer's approval
- c) Do not exceed the limits of their technical diving qualification or BSAC imposed limits, e.g., 70m depth limit
- d) Be suitably kitted and carry appropriate gases for dive undertaken
- e) Progressively build-up their dive depth and experience based on experience to-date
- f) Dive with a suitably equipped and knowledgeable buddy
- g) Be empathetic to other branch divers and their comfort

- h) Support the dive marshal and educate branch members

Tri-mix & Nitrox

Work has recently commenced on the development of tri-mix courses. The team is looking at the strategy of how to develop courses that are attractive to branch members. The team members are looking at both open circuit and closed circuit rebreather courses as a parallel exercise and co-ordinating with the Nitrox team who are evaluating the existing BSAC Nitrox courses.

If you wish to contribute to these developments please contact:

For tri-mix Mike Rowley- techdev@bsac.com
For Nitrox Mark Mumford - integration@bsac.com

Jeff Reed techg.leader@bsac.com

Instructor Training Group

The ITS – get involved!

Part of the Instructor Training Group remit is to manage the Instructor Training Scheme (ITS) and the staff who work on it.

The ITS scheme is the process by which BSAC teaches divers how to become instructors. In order to do this high quality instructor trainers are needed to work on the following events:

- Instructor Foundation Course (IFC)
- Open Water Instructor Course (OWIC)
- Advanced Instructor Course (AIC)
- National Instructor Preparations (NI Prep)
- Theory Instructor Exam (TIE)
- Practical Instructor Exam (PIE)
- Advanced Instructor Exam (AIE)
- National Instructor Exam (NIE)

The process starts when candidates are successful on the Advanced Instructor Exam after which an invitation to attend an Instructor Training Development Course (ITDC) is sent. The ITDC teaches instructors how to become instructor trainers and is followed by a managed process to working on the events listed above.

In due course instructor trainers will be working on suitable BSAC ITS events and helping others develop their instructor skills. Working on the ITS also helps us keep our own skills current and correct, in addition it offers the opportunity to pick up and swap good technique with other instructors.

In 2005 we will be encouraging new staff onto the ITS scheme and making every effort to include all those who want to partake. As this is such an important part of BSAC training we do expect very high standards and intend to provide more support and mentoring of all ITS staff. Senior instructors on the events will be providing more coaching and development of staff to make standards as high as they need to be.

So all Advanced Instructors out there please consider working on the ITS, it is challenging as well as being very rewarding. For more information please email the instructor training team and we will be glad to help you get involved.

Congratulations to all new Instructors

The following members are successful candidates on Instructor exams between 20th August and 15th December 2004:

Advanced Instructors

Terry Stubbs, Jo White, Nick Kay, Garry Whyke, Simon Ward, Howard Lewis, David Perks, Joanne Porter, James Bull, Phil Norman, Nigel Cossons, Dave Sydenham, Hazel Archer, Malcolm Gould, Neil O'May, Andy Shum, David Tressidder, Stephen Plotkin, Steve Pooley, Richard Simpkins, Lee Choat, Chris Marshall, Andrew Shallcross, Mark Ridgeway, Wayne Dunbar, Craig Holdstock, Christopher Miles, Jo White, Chris Storie, David Mynett, Sasikumar Attoor, Sam Parker, Janet Gough, William Reid, Simon Campbell, Darin Edmunds, Mark Jordan, Francis Lintott, Jens Hucke, Bob Tottey, Stuart Scorgie.

Open Water Instructors

William Weigall, Ian Garty, Mark Smoothy, Mike Imrie, Alan Bellerby, James Phillips, Jo Marshall, Paul Merrick, John Keenan, Tamzin Sallis, Lynda Westall, Icarus Bryant Fowler, Michael Kitchingman, Steven Sims, Barry Lowes, Russell Ford, Martin Grove, Steven Bale, Michael George, Martyn Nichols, Alan Brown, Robert Hammersely, Kelly Russell, Alison Rendle, Edward Young, Stuart Maxwell, Angela Dearden, Graham Wells, Lucy Taylor, John McCann, Gerd Maack, Janine Sydenham, Judith Bodkin, Don Fleming, Sylvia Lippold-Muller, Bob Pitman, Claire Bartlett, Keith Abbott, Rob Parsons, Roger Sides, Desmond Arnold, Andrew Eade, Michael Pollard, Paul Kirkum, Trevor Milne, Roger Barefoot, Mark Bushell, Wendy Roake, Emma Fleet, Nicola Boothman, Jeffery Corbet, Alison Allan, Hamish Torunski, Andrea Edlin, Jean Schrantz, Richard Schrantz, Roy Bentham, Simon Lambert, Simon Gosling, Tim Long, Robert Strongitharm, Mark Coombe, Sara Ellis, Andrew Fretter, Richard Grundy, Alan Robinson, Nicola Davies, Helen Balcombe, John Leonard, Ian Marnane, Conor Sweeney, Padriag O'Flynn, Timothy Nolan, Barry Keenan, Kevin Lacey, Shane Purtill, Andre Ray, Noel Mitchell, Bryan Gamble, Mark Clague, Stephen Logan, David Kilner, Sonya Millar, David Walker, Claire Hinton, Sarah Snowden, Dawn

Theaker, Richard Lockwood, Chris Bartup, Julie Finan, Jude Turnbull, Andy Bevan, Melanie Jeavons, Malcolm Drew, John Barnes, Jesus Tirado, William Hedges, Roz Fletcher, Andrew Brigham, Trevor Karslake, Michael Tremellen, Nicola Wilson, Cornelias Mitchell, B Hobbs, Robert White, Alexander Sloan, Ian Gregory, M Whale, Sheila Cawthera, Kelly Gilmore, Graham Sutch, John Hayes, Peter Brack, Phil Maxted, Eileen Bithell, Euan Williams, Norman McCarthy, Andrew Holding, Barry Kidd, Alexandra Allan, Jon Chitty, Richard Powell, John Coles, Tony Holmes, Stu Hardy, Mark Goodchild, Owen Davies, David Gibson, Roddy Hay, Barrie Munro, James Coleman, David Wylde, Andrew David, Dave Kennard, Beverley Hall, Chris Boardman, Anthony Newton, Arthur Jerrett, Emily Cadman, Tim Gray, Jackie Sloane-Stanley, Craig Wilson, Daren Mottershead, Alan Gogle, Mike Singleton, Stella Marie Chapman, Elaine Gough, Phil Butcher, Joy Stanton, Andy Hyslop, Ian Barrie, John Corbett, Janos Suto, Paul Hughes, Tony Kelsey-Stead, Kevin Shankey, Pete Preece, Paul Hargood, Camillo Taege, Stuart McLean, Paul Couser, Richard Wordsworth, Gary Marsh, Julie Fairclough, Neil Fairclough, Matthew Scofield, Michael Scowcroft, Harry Walch, Michael Davidson, Steven Kershaw, Ian Baker, Stephen Jones, Craig Robertson, Adam Bolton, Brett Pennell, Joe Parker, Mike Robinson, Richard Candler, Jon Hardman, Craig Lindley, Jacqueline Wass, Marcus Ackerman, Bryan Stone, Jenny Hubbard, Tracy Stone, Keith Farrell, Goncalo De Carvalho, Alison Raybould, Mark Wan, Rebecca Molyneux, Kenneth Neal, Richard Bright-Paul, Thomas Templeton, Peter Evans, Delwyn Evans, Paul Morris, Matthew Worsley, Amanda Strang, David Cordell, Peter Bowen-Walker, Alan Mitchell, Martin Sinclair, Michael Moog, Sheila Ryan, Thomas Smith, Geoff Richardson, Peter Hickle, Neil Smitham, Denise Jaques, Colin Clasper, Tim Fitsimons, David White, Thomas Mullier, Anthony Littler, George Fallow, Amanda Jones, James Garland, Richard Nokes, Lynne Cooper, Anne Carroll, Richard Griffin, Michael Evans, Jonathan Dean, Susan Tuckett, Cathy Moore, Helen Barker, John Skerry, Nicholas Charter, Robert Stewart, Malin Dixon, Mark Heaton, Stephen Pearson, Nicola Simmons, Ivan Hooper, Matthew Stevens, David Colquhoun, Grant Wallace.

Diver Training Group

Final transition of Diver Training Syllabi

The current diver training syllabus was introduced in October 2002, a milestone in BSAC training when a complete re-write of each diver grade syllabus was launched, complete with a comprehensive Instructor Manual, Student Workbooks and animated PowerPoint presentations as visual aids for theory lessons. At the time of the launch, it was envisaged that members currently under training for a particular grade would complete that grade within a couple of years and then progress to the current syllabus for the next level.

During this transition period, it has been difficult for Branches Instructors and the Coaching Teams delivering two different syllabi, in trying to accommodate everyone.

Therefore, the Diver Training Group of the NDC have decided end support for the old diver training programmes (pre October 2002) from January 2006. This gives members under training a further full year to complete a grade under the previous system and further training after this date will only be delivered on the current system.

First Class Divers

2004 has produced 17 successful candidates awarded FCD. Examiners have reported an extremely high standard was achieved by all.

Snorkelling Development

The Diver Training Group is pleased to announce the appointment of Ruth Healey onto the team to assist in the big task of developing the snorkel training programme. Ruth has been an active volunteer in the northwest and involved in the Snorkel Instructor training scheme.

Boat Handling Course and Diver Coxswain Award

The Diver Training Group is pleased to announce the release of the new Combined Diving Agencies' Boat Handling Course and Diver Coxswain Award. Trevor Davies took a leading role heading a team in the development of the new content and material. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have recognised the course and award and an International Certificate of Competence will be provided to successful Diver Coxswain candidates. Sean Gribben at dtg.leader@bsac.com

Diving Group

Two main themes are being covered by the Diving Group in this bulletin: 2004 Diving Incidents and the new BSAC Expeditions Grant Scheme (BEGS). Annually at the Diving Officers Conference Brian Cumming, the BSAC Safety and Incidents Advisor, reports on the annual incidents statistics. As the governing body, the BSAC produces the most comprehensive analysis of diving incidents in the UK and has been doing this since 1965. Brian spends much of his spare time compiling records and statistics, analysing scenarios and trends and applying these, alongside his considerable experience as a diver/instructor, to provide us with the knowledge to dive safely.

Diving Incidents

Brian Cumming writes:

The 2004 incident report has just been published and is available to all from the BSAC web site via the following address - www.bsac.org/techserv/



Brian Cumming

The report contains the synopses of 445 incidents, together with some statistical and comparative data. These incidents include 25 UK fatalities and this is a high number compared with the average of 16.5 over the previous 10 years. Of this 25, 6 were BSAC members and 19 were not. Although this number is higher than expected no new causal factors have been identified.

Divers are encouraged to browse through the incident report and to use this information to understand the problems that others have experienced. Hopefully, by doing so, they will avoid similar problems themselves.

The 'Safe Diving' booklet, available free of charge from BSAC HQ, lists key information that divers should adhere to to avoid problems, indeed it is estimated that more than 90% of all incidents would not have taken place if divers had conformed to the recommendations in this booklet. Critical points that divers should consider are:

- Dive within your limits. Build your experience gradually.
- Develop your diving skills in the company of other more experienced divers.
- Practice the basic skills until you are faultless, and then keep in practice.
- Plan and equip yourself correctly for the dive.
- Maintain constant vigilance whilst involved in diving activities and be ready to act quickly as soon as things start to go astray.
- Ensure that equipment is fully and correctly serviced (both diving and boating).

If you are unfortunate enough to be involved in an incident then please pass your experience on to others by completing and returning a BSAC Incident Report form. This form is available from the BSAC web site. Your confidentiality is assured; we are very careful to withhold information that would identify individuals.

The BSAC Expeditions Grant Scheme

The BSAC Expeditions Grant Scheme (BEGS) was launched at DOC 2004 with the overall aims of promoting expeditionary diving in the UK. The scheme is managed by Andy Hunt, the BSAC Expeditions Officer, in conjunction with the Diving Group of NDC. Up to five grants, each with a maximum of £1000 will be awarded annually.



Andy Hunt

Objectives of the Expedition Grant Scheme

1. Promote experience of BSAC members in safe challenging expeditionary environments.
2. Promote personal improvement in diving experience/skill levels by groups of individuals who have the potential to cascade that experience to other members.
3. Promote improvement of a group of divers to aspire to a higher level of achievement by exposure to leadership or presence of a First Class Diver in an appropriately challenging expeditionary environment.
4. Promote inter-branch expeditionary diving and to ensure that cascade of experience occurs as broadly as possible.
5. Promote expeditions that would normally take place in the territory of origin of the group of divers rather than a "subsidised overseas holiday".



Application Process

The applicant (who must be a BSAC First Class Diver OR an expedition leader who is supported by a First Class Diver mentor present on the expedition) for an expedition grant must submit:

- A completed application form
- A detailed expedition plan (in their own territory - not overseas) including risk assessment and budgeted cost
- A detailed list of participants (all current members of the BSAC) and a commentary on the application in relation to the criteria listed on the application form.

Application forms and criteria can be downloaded from the BSAC website. Closing date for applications for 2005 will be 1st February 2005. The applications will be judged by the Expedition Advisor and members of the National Diving Committee Diving group and successful applicants will be notified by mid-February 2005.

Further information on expeditions are found at: www.bsactravelclub.co.uk/reports/redsmull.htm

Services Group

Work is progressing with the revision of Schools guidelines and we hope these will be available early in the New Year.

We're also looking at the communications and support we give to BSAC Direct members, if you have any thoughts about this area please contact us (email at the bottom of this article).

I am pleased to announce that Alistair Reynolds has joined the Services Group. His knowledge of HQ procedures and experience as a National Instructor will be invaluable.

It's become apparent that not all members are having the various elements of a qualification signed off when completed. So, for example, a Sports Diver page may be signed and stamped but some of the lessons that make up Sports Diver have not been signed. Can we make sure that all training is properly marked down and signed in the qualification book.

Contact Dennis Wigg servg.leader@bsac.com

CMAS 2-Star Divers

Sports Divers applying for CMAS cards are automatically awarded 1-star diver. However, they can be awarded CMAS 2-star diver, if they can provide evidence of completing 10 plus logged dives since qualifying as Sports Diver. Copies of a member's dive log, suitably endorsed by the Branch Diving Officer is sufficient. Application forms are available from BSAC HQ and the cost is £17.

Coaching Appointments

The Coaching Manager, Jim Watson is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Regional Coaches:

North Scotland - **Dave Sydenham**

South East - **Dave Tresidder**

Both appointments take effect from 1st January 2005

The Use of Volunteers in Recreational at Work Diving Projects

Clarification from HSE

This is some useful clarification in that it explains in detail how volunteers can support scientific or archaeological work projects.

Clare Peddie

The involvement of unpaid "volunteers" in recreational at work diving projects has been causing problems for both the recreational diving industry and HSE for some time. This is far from being a black and white issue and it has proved difficult to provide clear and unambiguous interpretation of the law in this area.

The Diving at Work Regulations 1997 (DWR97) Regulation 2 states that:

"diver" means a person at work who dives: and
"diving project" means any activity, made up of one or more diving operations, in which at least one person takes part or will take part as a diver.

To date, HSE's interpretation and subsequent advice to industry has focused on whether an individual person taking part in a diving project is "at work" or "not at work". Broadly, the advice has been that a person who is receiving any kind of remuneration for their diving services falls into the category of being "at work". The term "favour or reward" has also been used to emphasise that a person does not have to receive monetary payment to be considered "at work" and that other benefits such as the provision of free air or the use of diving equipment need to be considered.

This approach has led to difficulties in establishing the status of unpaid volunteers who are effectively essential members of staff whose involvement is required to enable a diving at work project to go ahead in compliance with DWR97. Current legal advice is that consideration should be given to factors other than payment or direct benefits when considering the status of volunteers who dive as part of an "undertaking". These factors include:

- The possibility of profit/loss for the undertaking
- The provision of equipment, resources and facilities by the undertaking
- Insurance cover for the diving project
- The degree of direction or control over those taking part

A definition of "undertaking" with respect to recreational diving is:

Where a trade, business or profession is set up and has as one of its aims the provision of the service of diver training or guiding it is an

"undertaking" within the intent of section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA).

In general terms, any person taking part in a diving project who is either being paid (or in receipt of favour or reward) or whose involvement in a diving project is required for that project to be carried out in accordance with DWR97 should be considered to be at work (and therefore a "diver" under DWR97 Reg 2). Consequently, the provisions of DWR 97 - including the requirement for divers to be sufficiently competent and have a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive (issued by a medical examiner of divers who has been approved by HSE), would apply to such persons.

However, there may be situations when an unpaid volunteer taking part in a recreational at work diving project would not be considered to be at work themselves. Take, for example, a diving training course being run with at least the minimum number of staff required for the number of students and their abilities. If a suitably qualified diver (e.g. Divemaster) offered to join the dive either to "tag along" or to provide additional back up to the "at work" instructional staff (and they received no payment, favour or reward) they would not necessarily be considered to be diving at work.

Another situation where a professional level diver may not be considered to be at work is when they are in training, as a paying customer (e.g. Divemaster course), provided that that their dive directly meets the objectives of their training. It should be borne in mind that, in the event of an investigation by the HSE, all such trainee candidates involved in the operational dive team will be investigated to ensure that their training is legitimate and that the law is being complied with.

However, the use of any volunteers by an undertaking places duties on that undertaking under Section 3 of the Health & Safety at Work Act. This requires that the undertaking be conducted in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that:

- a. the volunteer is not exposed to risks to their health and safety; and
- b. the actions or omissions of the volunteer when acting on behalf of the undertaking does not expose other persons to risks to their health and safety.

Divers who are neither at work nor under instruction but have "tagged on" to such a group would still be part of the diving project. They would be considered to be "persons engaged in a diving project" under DWR97 Regulation 13 and subject to the duties imposed upon them by this regulation:

Regulation 13

(1) No person shall dive in a diving project -

- (a) unless he is competent to carry out safely and without risk to health any activity he may reasonably expect to carry out while taking part in the diving project; or
 - (b) if he knows of anything (including any illness or medical condition) which makes him unfit to dive.
- (2) Every person engaged in a diving project shall comply with -
- (a) any directions given to him by a supervisor under regulation 11; and
 - (b) where they would not conflict with those directions, any instructions applicable to him in the diving project plan.

Additionally, the divers would effectively be "guided" by the supervisor who would therefore have responsibility for their safety under DWR97 Regulation 10.

"Tagging" divers may interact with the divers under instruction and/or the working divers and should therefore be considered to be a part of the overall dive team, although they do not require an HSE medical or approved qualification. Any such divers

should be included in the risk assessment, dive project plan and the dive briefing.

In general, the same health and safety standards should be applied to volunteers taking part in a diving project as they would to employees exposed to the same risks. If the risk assessment shows that the risks to the volunteers are different, the preventative and protective measures should reflect the different risks.

The most common question put to HSE on this issue is "Do I need an HSE medical?" As a rule of thumb, if a diver's involvement in a recreational at work diving project (other than as a fee paying member of the public) is required for that project to go ahead, then they need to have a medical certificate issued by an HSE Approved Medical Examiner of Divers.

As previously mentioned, this is not a straightforward issue and ultimately each case can only be decided on its own merits by a court of law. A diving contractor using volunteers during a diving at work project should consider seeking legal advice.

DOC Awards

A record number of awards were presented at last year's National Diving Conference held in December 2004.

First Class Divers

Andy Henning, Chen Ping Teng, Terry Schiller, Iain Aitchison, Michael O'Riordan, Alan Thomas, Clive Bowen, Wynne Evans, Sam Moffett, Adrian Moss, Dave Simmons, Sarah Gauci, Stuart Robertson, Keith Farrell, Greg Hanna, Sarah Bothwell, Steve Cowley.

National Instructors

Eugene Farrell and Peter Smith

The Wilkinson Sword

Clare Peddie, NDO announced the winner of the Wilkinson Sword Award. This is an engraved sword mounted on a wooden stand, awarded to the candidate who is judged to have had the most meritorious performance in a BSAC nationally assessed examination. This year the award went to **Andrew Henning** for his performance in the First Class Diver Exam.

OWI and AI Awards

The NDO also presented awards for outstanding performance in the other Instructor Examinations, with the **Collins & Chambers OWI Award** going to **Janos Suto** and the **Analox AI Award** to **Andrew Bennett**.

Safety Awards

BSAC Safety Awards were presented to:

Martin Sutcliffe/Matt Gubbins/Alex Dobres (04/001)

David Thatcher (04/171)

Wayne Warwick/Carl Stephenson/Christopher Emes/Phil Smith (04/297)

Caroline Perry (04/309)

Dean Gosnell (04/325)

Glen Pearson/Mark Mayes/Geoff Leighton (04/337)

Travel Club Photographic Award

The results of the BSAC Travel Club Photographic Award were announced by Linda Dunk. The winning photos from the 12 monthly competitions were presented with the Annual Competition Award being presented to **Pedro Vieyra** for his shot of a Silvertip shark taken in Rangiroa, French Polynesia. This year's award is accompanied by a cruise of Australia's Coral Sea on Undersea Explorer, including flights.

Major BSAC Awards

This year's winners of the **Heinke Trophy** were the **Kingston & Elmbridge** Branch.

The **Colin McLeod Award** went to **Peter Ormerod** for his many years of work on Operation Raleigh.

The **Aqualung Jacques Cousteau Award** was presented by Clare Peddie to recently retired NDO **Lizzie Bird**. Thanks to Aqualung as the generous sponsor of this award.

"Thank You" Awards

NDO Clare Peddie presented BSAC "Thank You" Awards to: **Robin Eccles, Penny Glover, Jack Ingle, Bob Brading, Andy Boorer, Fiona Boorer, Derek Cowan**

A full report on the 2004 Diving Officer's Conference can be found at:

www.bsac.org/techserv/ndc/doc2004/doc2004rep.htm

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Web link for the NDC Group Structure: www.bsac.org/techserv/ndc