

# The Muddy Puddle



Upcoming dives

Easter	Plymouth
5th April	Clodmoor, 25m
27th April	Pentryct, 22m
5th May	Fortuna, 32m,
12th May	Tycho 33m

February 2008

Issue 1 for 2008

## Fees increase

As was recently published in a club wide email by the chairman, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 the membership fees for the club will be £120 per year plus BSAC membership, presently £45.50 . This decision was reached by the committee after a review of the current finances.

Following the collapse of Xenopus Dive club, the club that used to chare the pool with Croydon BSAC, it meant that the costs to the Club would increase, as the club would have to finance

the entire pool fee's itself. This was not possible under the previous membership fees structure.

During December and January a finance sub-committee was formed by the committee to investigate the finances and produce a plan of action for the future. Once they produced their report and proposals, this went before the full committee for discussion. All the proposals were agreed with one or two minor alterations.

Previously the membership fees have remained the same to the membership, whilst costs to the club have increase, BSAC's membership has risen over the past for the five years and this too has impacted the clubs income.

Thus the decision was taken remove the BSAC Fee's from the total Croydon BSAC membership fees. Thus removing the impact to the club of any BSAC pricing changes, as well as reducing the impact to present membership

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## The Puddle splashes BACK!!!!

Yes If you're ready this, then we're back, back from the dark place the mysterious being known as 'The Editor' has been keeping us.. now free from the torrid collection of other publications kept under his bed for special occasions...

If your new to the Puddle, then you may be

surprised to find this is the publication of Croydon BSAC, and will have tales and stories from the World of Croydon BSAC and of Diving in general.

This is the first issue in over a year and usually we would recount the general tom foolery in our little world, since the last

edition, we have had some notable events however the Chairman has ordered us not to discuss these on pain of being forced to attend committee meetings.

So sit back, make sure you have enough toilet paper and enjoy this return of the Muddy Puddle.

## Fees Increased *continued.*

### Membership fees from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008

£120 Per Annum or £10 Per Month (standing order)

Plus £45.50 Bscac Fees

Also one time payment of £15 or £45 dive deposit.

fee's processing, as members already paying by standing order can continue to pay the same £10 a month in future and pay the BSAC portion separately.

The club will continue to take the BSAC fee's, previously if a member paid by standing order the club would the BSAC portion 'upfront' and recoup these monies over the next 4.5months of the members standing order. This meant that the from most members the club actually saw no income towards it's costs for almost 5months. Now the club will allow have the paperwork to allow the member to pay BSAC directly for their membership either in one

single £45.50 payment or via direct debit.

Also the Financial review set out area where the club can make some saving, as well as planning for the future. One recommendation was that the Expeditions Account was resurrected, several years ago the club amalgamated it's accounts into two, but the need for the Expeditions Account was decided as it would give greater clarity to the financial positions. Further it was decided that the Dive Deposits would be raised to £45 per Diver, thus existing members who have dived with the club before will need to pay a £15 top up to their existing £30 dive deposits, while new

members to supply £45.

Further budgets were published for Dry events, Membership and advertising, Equipment maintenance and renewal as well as the Pool.

The planning also allowed for a margin of growth which should allow for future financial stability as well as tolerances for possible future increases in costs.

The committee believes that the club is now in a position to meet the future needs of the club and has a stable base to grow, whilst still remaining one of the cheapest and most cost effective diving clubs around.

## Chairman's Blog

**El Presidentee** here, first off, I am very glad to see the mag back after it's little sabbatical, and well done to all those who contributed to it's resurrection. After my successful campaign for re-election back in October complete, I decided this year I would try to set some objectives to achieve in 2008, these included setting a growth rate for the club, and definition of procedures to aid

in the smooth running of the club.

As you may be aware, issues over the funding of the Pool became apparent before much progress could be taken, and these issues helped illustrate the need to raise the membership price.

The financial review and proposal which followed has helped to lay foundations down for the future survival of the club.

Over the coming months there will be a number of

changes, with the most apparent probably being the changes in pool usage times. We have yet to confirm these times with the school, but provisionally we shall use a 8-9 slot in the pool from next term (after Easter).

I would like to hear your suggestions on ways we can continue to grow and improve the club for you it's members.








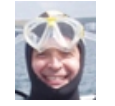
Finally, with Easter almost upon us, I would like to welcome the newer members of

the club to the wonders of the British Diving season, this is where your training has leading up to. Enjoy the coming months.

I wish you all, old and new, trainee and Experienced diver alike a safe and enjoyable season.



## The Committee (Some of the committee didn't cooperate so their profiles are made up)

Name	Alan L	Alan G	Chris B	Chris C	Chris G	Dave E	Neil M	Nesha M
								
<b>Position</b>	Equipment	Training	Chairperson	Expeditions	Dry Officer	Diving Officer	Membership	Treasurer
<b>Date Joined</b>	2000	I didn't join the club joined me	1996	2002	2002	1066 AD	2002	2006
<b>Qualification</b>	Sports Diver	Advanced Diver	Dive Leader	Dive Leader	Sports Diver	Dive Leader	Sports Diver	Sports Diver
<b># of Dives</b>	150	800+	660+	150+	400+	1000+	100	20
<b>Best Dive</b>	James Egan Lyane	St Josephs Pool	Either Planet Rock, PNG or the Mixon hole with Ben Stock crab juggling	Ship Rock	The Moldavia, or any of last years Normany wrecks	The Pinnacles, Mozambique	The A24 near Box hill on a Sunday Morning... oh sorry.. Dive!! No ...no idea	Braunton
<b>Why join the club/Dive</b>	No one else would have me	To bring Order to Chaos, to bring Light to the Dark!!	it's in my blood..and coz my mates are here.. well they're supposed to be.	I think I look good in rubber, and thus like to wear it any chance I get	No one manages to successfully convince me not to join.	I look upon it as something I once stepped in and can't shake off my shoes	I like to swim in a pool full of lanky hair and plasters.. It makes me feel dirty	I wanted to go diving
<b>Life outside of diving, Job, other hobbies</b>	When not molesting cars, I like to train for the world gurning championships	There is no life outside until my mission is complete.. To teach the world to dive, and remove all who follow the non-BSAC way.	IT consultant, love watching rugby at Harlequins, travelling, eating exotic foods, drinking and sleeping.	At weekends I like to jelly wrestle hamsters in my rubber outfits, and I also deal in medical "accessories"	Job as an IT consultant, cooking (and eating) and driving fast cars ... badly.	I like to follow my wife down small dark holes, and experiment with combustible gases in enclosed areas.	I teach you wannabe Damon Hills, and have a love of the music of Nana Mouskouri	I work in IT
<b>Dream Dive</b>	The Blue Oyster Bar, from the film Police Academy	The Hydro Box, Stoney Cove	A nice long dive with good viz and Killer whales.	The Titanic	Hammerheads at Cocos, but with a big wreck there too	The Weymouth Tandoori	The deep end of Horsea... oh the excitement of it all	Cage Dive with Great Whites
<b>Dream Buddy</b>	Maria Sharapova	Troy Tempest from Sting Ray!!	My father, a former BSAC diver in the 60's	The nurses of St. Helier Hospital, Barrington Brooke ward.	Anyone who won't kill me, doesn't whinge about being cold and will buy me a pint afterwards	Denis Cope-land and Jonathon Grithenswaite but only at my Dream Dive site	Nana Mouskouri	Jessica Alba (she was that BSAC Dive Leader in "Into The Blue", right?:-))

# Plymouth Guidelines - Paul brown

## The Muddy Puddle

Its getting close to the Easter Jolly to Plymouth where many of you will be conducting your first proper (i.e. non-Larkfield/Wraysbury/Horsea/Stoney) open water dives. I have written the following notes to give you an idea of what to expect over the course of the weekend – most of this will also apply to the other club trips scheduled for the year.

### Itinerary

We have the boat chartered for 4 days (Friday 21 March – Monday 24 March) and will

**“The Dive Leaders are there to help – if you have a problem, don’t be afraid to ask”**

be using the Mount Batten Centre as a base for pick-ups. We will meet at about 9.00am (ish) on the pontoons each morning where the boat will be waiting. This is about a 15min drive from the digs which are just behind the Barbican. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure you get there on time and have all the equipment you need on board when you depart – there is no coming back for forgotten regs/masks/flasks etc. We will be at sea for about 6 hours each day doing 2 dives a day (weather permitting), getting progres-

sively deeper over the weekend. Hopefully we will have a good mix of scenic and wreck dives that will cater for everyone’s tastes.

### Boat

We have the hard boat VENTURE chartered for the weekend – the skipper’s name is Pete who we know well from previous trips. He is a very nice bloke and does his best to help us have a good time, so please

DO NOT piss him off with your boat as you try and out as much as possible with kit loading and unloading -the skipper will have his own way of arranging the boat, please follow his instructions. If you are not sure what to do just ask one of the more experienced divers or the skipper.



Pete

### So What Happens?

First thing to do is get your kit on board – make sure it is all there and stow it nice and neatly in one place, rather than spreading out all over the boat. There is a kitting up bench for your cylinder set and second bottles go in a rack at the stern. Bags go under the bench or forward in the cabin and weight belts go in the weight belt box. Once all your gear is on board, set up your equipment so it’s ready to dive. It is easiest to do this in the harbour, without the motion/spray/swell that will

come when we leave. Also, whilst still moored up it’s a good idea to get your under-suit on and your drysuit on so its round your waist. In the summer this can lead to a bit of overheating, so we leave it a bit later, but at Easter you’ll appreciate it!

Once on the boat you will be told your buddy pairs and the order you’ll be entering the water by the day’s Dive Marshall. The Dive Leaders are there to help – if you have a problem, don’t be afraid to ask. We have all been through this and know what it is like. At some point before each dive the Dive Marshall will come round and ask you for your air – let him/her know the size of your cylinder and the pressure in bar. Post dive, you will also be asked for the depth and time of the dive, safety stop times and the remaining pressure in your cylinder. We take this information so that in the event of a problem (e.g. a DCI) we can let the coast-guard know all details with the minimum of fuss. All divers should be back on the boat with an absolute minimum of 50bar.

When it comes to dive, each pair will get ready and enter the water in turn. Try to help the pair before you get kitted up if they need it. Methods of entering the water vary from boat to boat – from VENTURE you do a backward roll off the port (left) side. Make sure when you are sitting there ready to go that you go not have any

‘danglies’ (octopus/pressure gauge/SMB/reel etc) hanging down, as these can get caught under the gunwale. Once you hit the water get yourself the right way up in the water and head for the shotline. Pete will drop you uptide of the shot so you drift on to it and there will be a trail line for you to grab. You have to be quite quick here as you don’t want to drift off past it – you won’t be able to reach it by swimming against the tide. Once you and your buddy are on the shot exchange OK’s and descend for your dive.

When you surface give the OK signal to the boat and Pete will come alongside and pick you up – if it is a bit choppy he may decide to do this in 2 runs – one for you and one for your buddy. He will approach so that you are on the starboard (right) side of the boat and stop when you are level with the lift. There is a trail rope dangling down, grab it as soon as you can so that the tide doesn’t take you. Once he has lowered the lift down as far as it will go, step on, grab the handrail and give Pete the nod. The lift will bring you up clear of the sea and level with the gunwale. When the skipper tells you, step on to the gunwale and hold on to the bar above your head, from here step down and hey presto, you are back on board – easy! Once on, return to your place on the bench and sit down, catch your breath, get de-kitted, have a cup of tea, smile and rabbit on madly about the fantastic fish life/how big the wreck was/the size of



the-lobby-that-got-away etc



Venture at 'Speed' etc.

**Seasickness**

For some of us there is a slight problem with going to sea – its makes us sick. I am a martyr to seasickness (ask anyone) – it isn't pleasant so try to avoid it if you can.

There are several brands of tablet you can get to prevent seasickness, personally I use Stugeron which I have found work quite well. Normally I take 1 the night before the dive and 2 in the morning (about an hour before the leave time). Other people in the club use Boots own brand pills, which I am told also work quite well, but are taken 10 minutes before the boat

*“If you do feel sick while on the boat go to the down-wind side of the boat and do it there. Try not to get it on other people's kit or in their faces”*

wind side of the boat and do it there. Try not to get it on other people's kit or in their faces (in that order of importance). Afterwards, drink

plenty of water to re-hydrate yourself and try to stay forward (away from the engine fumes) and in the centre of the boat (where the rocking motion is least).

**Dives**

There are some fantastic dives available to us out of Plymouth – the only limiting factor for us is the weather. Easter is fairly early this year so there is (as always with this diving lark) a chance of a day or more getting blown out. If a dive does get called off it will be for good reason; please don't complain, as we will be just as disappointed as you.

This is a trainee trip – as Ocean Divers you are trained to go to a maximum depth of 20m DO NOT EXCEED YOUR DEPTH LIMITS. The dives over the weekend will get progressively deeper

– if you are not happy at any time before, during or after the dive tell your buddy -don't be afraid to call the dive.

For more information on diving around Plymouth have a look at the following:

- Dive South Devon by Kendall McDonald Dive South Cornwall by Richard Larn

- [http:// www.totnes-bsac.co.uk/](http://www.totnes-bsac.co.uk/) -Totnes BSAC's website.

- <http://www.divernet.com> – Diver magazine's website. A search on 'Plymouth' gives loads of info, or searches on "Eddystone Lighthouse", "Hand Deeps", "Scylla", "James Egan Layne" or "Mew Stone" will all return good results.

**Equipment**

Diving is an expensive business – we don't expect you to have everything straight away. As you all know the club has BC's, cylinders and regulators that are all available to use. It is YOUR responsibility to arrange your equipment hire with the Equipment's Officer. You will need to beg, buy, borrow or steal the following for the trip:

- Mask/sea fins/snorkel
- 2 cylinders – must be full for first day
- Suit of some sort – drysuit is best
- Gloves
- Regulator with octopus and
- Weight belt and weights (ankle contents gauge weights if using a drysuit)
- BSAC '88 Decompression Tables
- BCD
- Some means of measuring depth and time – computer, depth gauge and watch or timer
- Cutting device (knife/sea snips/line cutter)
- Bag to put it all in
- Delayed SMB and reel
- Warm gear -Windproof coat, hat. Gloves, handwarmers, etc
- Flag

There are various other pieces of equipment that are handy but not essential at this time, torches for instance. If you can afford to do so buying these is a good idea.

Whether you are using your own cylinders or using the club's it is your responsibility to

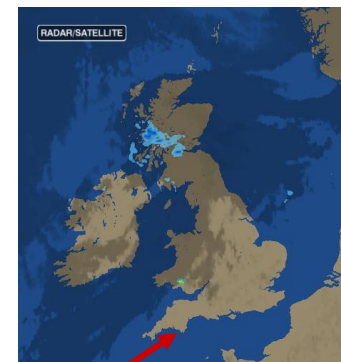
get them filled. There is a dive shop next to the Mount Batten Centre where we can leave the bottles overnight and collect in the morning. Usually we fill a couple of trolleys with cylinders and push them round to the shop – make sure you are available to help with this and you don't just bugger off for a pint leaving it to the Dive Leaders (this has happened in the past).

*“It is YOUR responsibility to arrange your equipment hire with the Equipment's Officer.”*

That is pretty much it – I hope you enjoy the trip, just keep your fingers crossed for good weather. If you have any further questions about the trip ask any of the more experienced divers in the club or contact Chris on the following number:

**079 68 707403**

PS....



Plymouth

## A Cravin' for Caving

Bleary eyed & not very bushy tailed we started to hump our caving/diving gear into the boot of the car at 4.45 am- in hindsight at little over zealous as we were leaving Dover at 8am but you never know just what the M25 will be up to.

1 x 15litre twin set 1 x 12litre twin set. A cylinder of

**“Finding that dive site hidden in the middle of a field somewhere in place called Mas de Bassoul., via badly attempted requests for directions in French ...”**

02 + 2 x 7 litre cylinders caving gear + all the just in case diving gear. Caving equipment complete with 3 wire

ladders our poor car was bulging at the seams. We made it down to the ferry port to meet John in good time in the warm morning sunshine. Our ferry crossing was uneventful & as John had already been to the Lot/Dordogne region twice already we decided just to follow behind his car. Driving was relatively easy & my worries past about driving on the wrong side of the road or

going round the roundabouts the wrong way. The roads were relatively clear & well sign posted.

We arrived at our destination ,Payrac. A small town relatively close to the cave sites we wanted to visit. Many people come to this region to dive. We even had a guide book with all the popular cave diving sites listed, the dives that we were intending to do were “Tourist Dives”.

Diving in caves that had already been surveyed and lined, even so there still seemed to be an element of venturing into the unknown. Finding that dive site hidden in the middle of a field somewhere in place called Mas de Bassoul., via badly attempted requests for directions in French and not really knowing just how tight that squeeze through the entrance of a submerged cave might be.....All was yet to come.

Our first day of diving was to be at Emergence Du Ressel. A popular dive site. We arrived without much further ado and kitted up at the road side. The plan was to drop into the river keeping close to the bank thus stopping oneself being unfashionably dragged off downstream by the flow of the river. Approx 60 metres up stream we found a line tied to a tree. Following this leads to

the large submerged cave entrance.

A big inviting hole , no squeezes here & a perfect place to practice a few emergency drills .Drills now complete with one drill that I didn't do myself particularly proud of we set about following the line in. The visibility was a fine 15 metres; here our HID torches really came into their own. The passage was wide and square; the limestone surface light in colour, our white/blue light seemed to bounce off every corner illuminating the whole passage. We followed the line reassured by the tags marking the length inwards in 10 metres increments.

We arrived at our planned turning point. A junction , to the left a line following a shallow route which eventually joins again with the main line to form a circular route back to base. For the three of us however, this was time for us to turn the dive. We swam out at a gentle pace admiring not just this underwater limestone landscape but at nature itself- Water, unrelentingly driving and carving its own way through time & rock.

Every dive here in France should be finished off with a fresh Baguette, a good French cheese preferably camembert & of course the arbitrary

foie gras.....This I tell you is the perfect days diving.

After a good nights sleep & a quick dip in our freezing cold pool we were ready for the second day of diving. The air temperature had dropped quite dramatically since we arrived & the sky somewhat overcast- never mind I thought we're not spending our time outside its underground is where we want to be !- Enter Trou Madame. A bit of a bugger to get to but worth every bit of pain & misery. The entrance to this cave is on a large bouldery dried up river bed.

To get to this you have to slip & slide (hoping twin set is still on back) along a muddy sleep path followed by carefully picking your way over rocks through a shallow river and then clambering over boulders.

Nobody else was at this dive site , I wonder why?. Arriving at the entrance & kitted up we decided that John would go on ahead & dive solo while Dave & I would dive together. We dropped into the clear water & did a bubble & equipment check.

Dropping down to 5 metres I could see the wide low passage in front, again lined and tagged in 10 metre increments. I couldn't believe how good the visibility was.

The limestone rock seemed to be a lot darker in colour than Ressel, its shape completely jagged and irregular almost like floating through a landscape of solidified volcanic lava. This place was truly amazing.

Keeping at an almost constant 5 metres in depth we reached our turn around point at about 200 metres in distance from dive base.

As we turned I could see a flash of blue light every now and again in the distance. It was John's light so we waited a while and all came back together. What an excellent dive. More baguettes, camembert & Foie gras, this time with the added bonus of heavy rain.

Our third day saw us in Fontaine De Truffe. More rain but we weren't really bothered by this. Truffe is entered via a murky sump pool & is renowned for its submerged entrance squeeze (1.2metres wide & 0.8 metres high).

We kitted up along with a few other divers, again the plan was for John to go on ahead & do a bit of an epic while Dave & I would dive to sump 1 or 2 or turn on our first third of air, which ever came soonest.

The three of us planed to go in one by one and meet up again past the squeeze. John went

through first no worries. I then attempted.

I could hear my first stages clang on the rock above me, I pushed my head against the gravel floor to get as low as I could & then I was through into clear wide passage.

I turned to watch Dave come through. I could see Dave moving exactly as I had done, Reg guard bumping the ceiling above. Dave attempted a couple of times & we even tried to push some of the gravel out of the way. It was no use however & Dave decided to give this dive a miss –

For today anyway. After a short discussion a plan was made for me and John to dive to sump 2 & possibly for John to go onto carry his kit through dry passage that would lead onto sump 3.

With crystal clear visibility we made our way through the winding twisting roller coaster ride that is Truffe.

This place is a well know favourite amongst cave divers. We passed sump 1 as the passage started to turn deviously narrow and back on itself seaming meandering without rhyme or reason.

We reached the end of sump two well within our thirds but decided to turn the dive as John had broken a nail trying to get out of the water into the dry passage. The way

back was just as much fun & seeing other divers blue lights up ahead of us gave the dive an even more surreal feel. An excellent dive of epic proportions!

More rain & more rain, Some of the dive sites we would have liked to have done were now either marred by bad visibility caused by the torrential rain or choked at the entranced due to landslides of gravel & sand. Still there were many adventures to be had.

We dived in a place called Source De Lane-nouse in terrible viz we turned the dive after about 15 minutes as for me anyway the place just felt too eerie. We dived Truffe again finished off with a mouth full of red wine- those Polish lads don't half like to crack open a bottle of vino after a dive- Goods boys.

Our holiday although primarily a cave diving holiday would not be complete without some dry caving. We were aware that being a limestone area this place would be littered with caves.

John had researched a couple caves in the area- Thanks John. Saut De La Pucele –A large cave with a river running through it some 3.5km in length & Le Gouffre De Briant again with a river running through it.

I'll do you a favour by not rambling on about caving although these caves were beautiful & to find ourselves the only people travelling through these massive underground expanses was both exhilarating and humbling.

Also ask Dave about Leaches!

A great holiday, French sparkling cider, gorgeous food and stunning scenery. A place you can really keep coming back to with plenty of scope for exploration for the really experienced cave diver & "Easier" caves for the lesser experienced.

If you would like more information on Cave Diving Please contact Claire Elphick.

Editors Note:

We are extremely sorry but there were pictures to accompany this story but due to technical difficulties are unable to publish them at present.

## Underwater digital camera mask

For all you budding James Bonds and BBC Wildlife photographers out there comes the Liquid Image Digital Underwater Camera, it is aimed at those who want to film underwater but don't want to splash the cash on really expensive camera kit, and don't care about looks.

Costing around the \$99 (£50 approx), this **mask** lets you record both video

The lenses are complete with crosshairs that help you frame your underwater shots and images are recorded to the internal 16MB memory, or to the external microSD card slot.

The shutter press is located on the top of the goggles, so as you see something you want to capture you simply push the button.

We hoped to get this reviewed by one of the



Underwater Digital Camera Mask

depth rating, and can store 29 pictures on it's internal memory.

There have been no comments on strobe/ lamps nor on the more pressing issue which will be on most divers minds.

"Is it available in black?"

### Technical Specifications:

**Image Resolution** - 5.0MP  
CMOS Sensor  
Internal Memory - 16MB  
NAND Flash Memory  
External Memory Card - Micro SD Card  
Video Mode - 18-25FPS @ VGA

**Status Display** - LCD

**Interface** - USB

**Power** - 2 AAA Batteries  
**Set Focus Distance** - 1.2m

### Picture Modes

**High Res** - 5.0MP  
(2560x1920) - 29 Pics

**Low Res** - 3.1MP  
(2048x1536) - 45 Pics

**Video** - 53S VGA  
(Image Qty is based on 16MB internal Memory - Add a Micro SD Card to add memory)

**Depth:** 30M

More info can be found at <http://>

### Specifications



and still images thanks to the up to 5-megapixel camera that's just above the lenses of the mask.

regular photographers in the club, but could find anyone to take it seriously.

The 5mb version has a 30m



## Training

### Sport Diving Course

Starts March 31st for Theory Lessons

6 Theory Cases till the 2nd June

Open to all members.

Please contact Alan Glen For details.

### Lifesaver Course

BSAC SDC, to be run over the summer

Open to all members.

Please contact Alan Glen to register your interest..

### Dive Leader Course

To be run in 3rd Quarter 2008

Open to Sports Divers/members.

Please contact Alan Glen to register your interest..

## Dry



### Organiser Required to help with Dry Events

Pre-Season Party planner required.

Please contact Chris B or Chris G

[Chris\\_Boddington@hotmail.com](mailto:Chris_Boddington@hotmail.com)

[Chris.Griffiths@directline.com](mailto:Chris.Griffiths@directline.com)

## For Sale

### 15lt Steel Cylinder

Out of Test

Reasonable offers

Contact

Chris B

### Stainless Steel Pony Clamp

Quick release

£30

Contact

Chris B

### Raising Money for the RNLI

[www.buymybeard.com](http://www.buymybeard.com)



The London International Dive Show 2008, will take place at the ExCeL Exhibition Centre on March 8/9.

Wanted  
Articles for  
the Club

# BAD-VIZ

## TOP TIPS...

**Red Sea divers,** ensure you en-dear yourself to the trip organizer by agreeing to pick him up at 5am then managing to sleep though your alarm. Improve the situation by also sleeping through multiple phone calls and texts from the increasing irate organizer...

**Ex-Chairmen and Ex-DOs,** on Red Sea liveboards prove you are double hard by doing every single one of the twenty one dives that are on offer, despite several of them being complete waste of beer-drinking time.

**Older members,** after being graciously given a large brill to take home for dinner give the expensive, tasty fish to the Mrs to shred into a million tiny pieces, thus making sure that the poor thing's life was taken completely in vain.

**Deep divers,** after surviving a life-threatening incident, enjoying a nice helicopter ride and

whiling away the following hours with a spot of re-compression treatment, make sure you let everyone know what happened by telling everyone about it on TV!

**Messer's Carvall, Brown, Whitby and Griffiths,** on your first night in Egypt when you find out a very important England result has gone your team's way, make sure you ruin the first days diving by deciding to get rat-arsed on gin.

**Dinner party hosts,** remember that planning and preparation can be completely ignored when hosting your classy little soirées, it won't bother the guests one little bit that dinner arrives at 1am...

**Perverts,** there is no need to be so sheepish when other members of your holiday party ask you (in front of your female room-mate) about your ferret-like journeys down said room-mate's underwear drawer. It's perfectly natural and nothing to be ashamed of...

**Chairmen,** pay for diving holidays then spend all week stuck on the boat reading!

**Weymouth dive shops,** make sure visiting divers are well and truly "satisfied" by not filling their cylinders until 10pm at night then refusing to fill their stage bottles (but letting other people come swanning in and giving them their 7l of 50% until their heart's content).

**Committee members,** do your best to put the last nail in the coffin of the club by not paying the pool fees for months on end! Whoops!!

**Old ex-dive shop owners,** when in France on cracking diving weeks get yourself bent as a £4 note then completely ignore the symptoms for the next 3 months.

**Long standing members,** after each dive off the luxurious liveboard you are sharing with several strangers, make sure you give the family jewels a good airing by whipping off those Speedos at the opposite end of the corridor to where your room is. Strut proudly down said corridor with a smile on your face and the last turkey in the shop flapping in the wind.

24/25/26 May 2008

The venue for this year's May Bank Holiday trip is Falmouth, a pretty Cornish port that the club has visited before, most recently in 2004 as part of our tour of the West Country (see *Muddy Puddle* of September 2004 for a full trip report). I've been volunteered to organise the trip, so thought I'd write a short overview of what to expect.

## The Boat

We're diving from the subtly-named *Cornish Pussy*, skippered by a chap called Gary Fox. She looks a fine boat and comes complete with kitting up benches and a tail lift.



As well as the boat, Gary also runs a dive shop in Helston, called Dive Action Services ([www.diveaction.co.uk](http://www.diveaction.co.uk)) and provides training at all levels.

## The Dives

There is a wealth of excellent diving available to us within a short distance of Falmouth, highlights include:

### *The Manacles*

A stunning granite reef system that is teeming with life and provides several different dives depending on which area you dive. Similar to Hand Deepes/Eddystone, life to be seen includes large areas of jewel and plumose anemones, several types of wrasse, shoaling pollack, pouting and the occasional sea bass, lobsters, crabs and if you're really lucky cuttlefish or basking sharks (May might be slightly too early for the sharks – you never know though!!)

### *The Mohegan*

The Mohegan was a 6889-ton four-masted liner, built 1897 and originally named *Cleopatra*. On the 14 October 1898 she struck Vase Rock (a section of the Manacles) first then ploughed into the Voices where she sank in 26m with the loss of 106 lives. The wreck now lies well smashed on the Manacles and is home to an abundance of life. Visibility is usu-





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May**

**Please send you  
articles to Ben  
or Chris at**

[info@croydonbsac.com](mailto:info@croydonbsac.com)

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ally very good and after having a good rummage you can drift off to explore some more of the Manacles reef system.

### *The Volnay*

The Volnay is a shallow, pretty dive that is often done as the second dive of the day as it can be dived at pretty-much any state of the tide. She was a 4609-ton steamship, built in 1910 and sank on her journey from Montreal to Plymouth on 14 December 1017 scattering her cargo of tinned meat, butter, jam, coffee, cigarettes, peanuts, crisps, anti-personnel shells and timber across Porthallow Beach.

The diving is suitable for Sports Divers and above, although if you are an Ocean Diver and have done a few dives by then you should be OK. There are currently 5 spaces on the trip, so if you fancy it let me know.

Paul Brown

## The Gallery

Please send in your pictures to [info@croydonbsac.com](mailto:info@croydonbsac.com) and queue the music

