



WHAT'S BUBBLING

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The Magazine of Ealing Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC 514)
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DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE

A little reminder of what's up for grabs so far this year -

Weymouth - 28th April-1st May 06. See Watts Babbling for info, or call David Broad on 07866 418302 or Craig. NB1 Note to Trainees - you'll need all your own kit by this time, except for cylinders which you can hire from the Club. Call Dennis Philpott for info. NB2 THIS TRIP HAS NOW BEEN DECLARED "FULL".

Isle of Man - 14th-21st June 06. Contact Jackie Rasbach for details.

Porthkerris, Cornwall - 1st-8th July 06.
Full details from Greg Taylor.

Farne Islands - 28th July-1st August.
Info from Robin Stevens.

St Kilda - 9th-15th September 06.
Jackie O'Dowd is the contact for this one.

Nuweiba, Northern Red Sea - 22nd-28th October 2006. Jackie O is again the contact.

See the latest events schedule - visit the ESAC Events Diary at www.esac.org.uk

TRAINING . . . TRAINING . . . TRAINING . . . TRAINING . . .

Have you been missed off the REVAL list? Or are you perhaps an Ocean Diver who fancies having a go at a Reval in preparation for what you'll go through as a Sport Diver? Contact David Broad if you fall into either category!!

Renewing your membership – Ian Oliver

Most members' annual renewal date is now June 1st. I hope to get the renewal forms from BSAC by the beginning of May and I will distribute them to everyone involved soon after that, giving you all around a month to respond.

It's important for this that your home address is current in the club's records, so if you have moved since you last renewed please can you be sure to update them. To do this, login to the members area of the club website at <http://www.esac.org.uk> and select "Your personal details update" under the "Membership Details" heading. It's also a chance to make sure your other details, such as next of kin, are up-to-date as well. If anyone has a problem, or cannot access the internet, contact me on 07792-086221 or by email on ian.oliver3@btinternet.com and I will sort you out.

Minor price changes

The committee have had to make some small increases in our prices as BSAC have put up their's. The cost of BSAC membership has gone up £1.50 or £2.50, depending on grade, for anyone joining or renewing from 1 April onwards. This price increase has been passed on. BSAC also put up the price for training material, but because we hold stock, we can hold the price of training for now, until we re-order.

The committee decided that ESAC's own membership fees will remain as they are for anyone renewing or joining before 31 August. This means that every member can renew up to June 2007 at current prices.

Ian Oliver
Membership Secretary

SWIMARAMA CLOSURE – MEETING ON 13th MAY

As you probably know the Swimarama is closing in September '06. Which unfortunately leaves us without a Thursday night pool home. In preparation for this the Committee have been looking at several options for a new home be that a temporary one whilst the pool is rebuilt, or a permanent one.

We would like to update you on what we have done, considered, so far and present the couple of options which are possibly most appropriate in an open forum on Saturday 13th May, starting at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm) at Northolt Community Centre.

The Committee will **not** be making a decision on the future home of the Club, it will be the memberships' decision, of which this is the first stage. If you would like to have your say and be part of making that decision please ensure you attend. If you can help on the night, shifting furniture and preparing the hall, please contact Enrico.

SHARKS 3D – SCIENCE MUSEUM IMAX 3D CINEMA LAUNCHING 22nd JULY

Don't miss the limited advance screenings of this summer's new film **Sharks 3D**, which officially launches at the Science Museum IMAX 3D Cinema on 22nd July. Embark on a breathtaking underwater voyage to explore the life of one of the ocean's most fascinating creatures, the shark.

Presented by Jean-Michel Cousteau (son of famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau), *Sharks 3D* brings you face to face with a multitude of shark species, including the Great White, Hammerhead and Whale Shark. Witness them as they really are: not wicked man-eating creatures, but wild, beautiful and endangered animals that have been

in existence since a million years before dinosaurs roamed the earth. So experience this unique round-the-globe expedition and you'll enjoy astonishing up-close 3D encounters for an unforgettable giant screen experience. Limited weekday previews will apply until 22nd July.

To find out when Sharks 3D is showing call 0870 870 4771 (booking fee applies).

Visit www.sharks3d.com for more information or to watch the trailer.

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Michelle and Steve on the safe arrival of baby Ethan, born on 16th March, weighing-in at 8lb 14oz.

Michelle reports "Kieran and Rhys are very happy because Ethan is the name of one of the Power Rangers, though after half an hour visiting at the hospital Rhys asked "Can we stand him up now please?" so I think their expectations of a small baby may be a little high.

Other than that life on the Island is great, though maybe the name of the house (Seawinds) should have been a warning. I have for the first time appreciated that the Beaufort Scale should be re-written for modern life. Though as divers we know that F4 is the limit for diving, how many people appreciate that at F6 small children can't close car doors, and if you park the car facing the wrong direction in a F8 they they can't open them either! The weather feels much more important here, and checking the forecast is a daily habit. The wind direction affects whether the tide comes up over the roads, and how hard the tide hits the cliffs. We live about 150 yards back from the sea, and given the right conditions we get sea-foam (Manx word = Kesh) blowing into the garden. It took a trip outside to prove to Kieran and Rhys that it wasn't snow.

The Dive shop is just about sorted out now. The shop fittings arrived about 3 weeks ago, and the counter was shipped across last week. The classroom is finished and is in action for a BSAC TIE next weekend. I obviously haven't been there much over the last few weeks, but I've managed to do a lot of internet based things (mainly involving ordering stuff). There's still lots to do (website, office, workshop) but things are definitely moving in the right direction".

Volleyball?

The evening of the great sporting event arrived. Enrico had masterfully balanced the competitors by their strengths into 5 evenly balanced teams.

Let Games commence!

Oops! Too many no shows! Let's hastily rebalance into 4 teams based on their position on poolside. Finally we stand ready – Dates, Apples, Bananas and Coconuts – a right bunch of fruit cakes.



Our first match was Volleyball in the deep end – a drawback for those unable to tread water for lengthy periods. Fortuitously, my team had acquired divers with ferocious serves who generated more than their fair share of aces. Setting the pace for the rest of the games, we convincingly won our first game and moved to the other end of the pool.

To add interest to the night, a new game had been devised whereby each team member had to dive twice for thrown sinker rings. The last retrieval being followed by the recovery of a weightbelt from the centre of the pool. Not sure who devised the rules but their seemed to be some disparity between how far the sinkers had to be thrown.

Reminding my team to hold their mask as they dived in, I stood back to last to do the weightbelt recovery. Upon my turn, I managed to forget my own advice and sent my mask rocketing off my face.



Notwithstanding my mistake, my team triumphed and we returned to the deep end for our next match.



Keeping to the same tactics of ace serves and no attempts at rallies, another victory was put under our belts.

This process was repeated for both following matches and the 'Dates' emerged from the night with an unbeaten record, something surely to go down in the annals of 514 games nights.

For those interested in the results of the night:

| Ring Retrieval | Volleyball |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dates 2. Coconuts 3. Bananas 4. Apples | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dates 2. =Apples, Bananas, Coconuts |

Thanks to all those involved in the preparation and running of the games and commiserations to the gallant losers who really had no chance with the Dates on such top form on the night!

Simon

Comedy Night – David & Davina

On the 7th April, seventeen members of Ealing Sub-Aqua Club attended an evening of joviality at the 'Ha Bloody Ha Comedy Club' based at Ealing Studios. The evening started at a local pub where the drinks flowed and everyone had a good chat. Once everyone had arrived, the group made their way over to the comedy club, with Enrico directing everyone through the gate, the labyrinth of studios and into some dark alley wondering 'what had we let ourselves in for'?

Once through the doors, Enrico ensured everyone got a seat at our reserved table, and proceeded to the bar to get drinks for everyone (first round included in the price of the evening). For some reason, the chairs around the table, furthest from the stage were occupied first, with us ending up closest to the stage; however we managed to avoid any comments from the comedians.

The place was packed by the time the compere brilliantly started the show off and he continued to entertain the audience between acts. First up was Will Smith, not the Hollywood star, but a comedian with more of a liking to Hugh Grant. He very funnily and cleverly joked about his own appearance and class compared to the youngsters of today. The second comedian, in his teacher like brown corduroy suit and glasses, concentrated on George Bush and the Olympic Games for his laughs. The third used a guitar to enhance his act. The comedians had us all laughing throughout the evening however trying to find the toilets in the intervals was even funnier!

A big thank you to Enrico for this entertaining and enjoyable evening, which he arranged to his usual high standard. A highly recommended evening out!

Watts Babbling The D.O.'s Column

So just a couple of weeks to go before the dive season kicks off properly for us down in Weymouth. Yey!! Of course some people, including myself, have already started, with nice warm water dives away from our pleasant shores. But that's not real diving now, is it? No, we want the somewhat cooler and tad murkier waters of the English coast. Hats off, therefore, to those instructors, trainees and others who have already braved conditions at Wraysbury, Stoney & Vobster - a balmy two degrees I'm told - a very good test of dry suits, regulators and buddy skills.

So the start of a season is a good reminder that all kit needs to be serviced and inspected. Remember too, to test it all out in the pool before taking it into open water. And, of course, we have our revalidations. David B and Margarita have been doing a sterling job in sorting this out, but there are still several people who have yet to do it. It's a thankless task, so please help them out by responding to David/Margarita emails & phone calls, and informing them if plans change. I'll also be chasing people to ensure that medical certificates and training database records are up to date. If you haven't yet logged on to the website and updated these please do so, or give me your qual. book & I'll do it for you. Or else you'll be hearing from me!!

Weymouth looks to be an interesting start to the season. With over 40 divers and 4 boats (does this constitute a flotilla) it's going to be exciting keeping everything on schedule. We did preliminary planning at 30,000ft (well what else is there to do on a long flight) and know we can get everyone diving and still have a beer or two in the evening. Of course this will need all participants to understand the complexities of this and help all the marshals out, even if it is just ensuring that you are ready at the allotted time.

And once that is over and done, then it's time to start flicking through those diaries and dive books/magazines and plan those dives that you've been putting off. After all if ESAC can get 40+ divers in the water, 12 in 2 boats will be a breeze.