



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 -

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.

Portsmouth or Ipswich - September/October 06. Alan Radlett's the chap to see about this one.

Ever fancied learning how to sail a 72 ft 90 year old gaff rigged Edwardian racer? It is

mostly hired out to groups taking disadvantaged kids for a week's sailing experience. However, it is also available for week-end hire to other groups.

The format is to be at the boat on Friday evening. All day Saturday is spent sailing, under the supervision of the professional skipper and mate. Sunday morning is spent either sailing or just playing about - like hauling people up the mast!! Sunday afternoon is spent cleaning up the boat. The cost for the week-end is about £150 plus food and we also have to feed the crew.

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

SOCIAL EVENTS . . . SOCIAL EVENTS . . . SOCIAL EVENTS . . .

OPEN FORUM, POT-LUCK SUPPER AND QUIZ NIGHT



What an evening that was! We had a brilliant start - no Quizmaster and no keys! Mind you I think we were at the right place - that's what David said anyway!

Once we were inside we soon settled in and started with the Forum. A big thanks to Craig and everyone involved in trying to find us a new venue to train. We still have a few options which Craig and others will pursue further (*see article further on*).

Supper was superb. Like mama used to make! (Italian accent required) Well Done to the cooks.

Unfortunately the Quizmaster was unable to make it due to unforeseen circumstances, so I stepped into the breach. First time lucky - I'd say. Everyone complained about my accent. That will teach them to pick an Italian to be their Social Secretary!!

We had five teams, their names were:

- 4 2 Fail - made up by the young ones.
- The KIDD - average age 35 years.
- The A Team - more like the OLD Team
- Scrappy - something to do with diving
- Craig and the Girls - self-explanatory

The first prize was free entry to the next Ballroom Dancing Event, this was won by The A Team with 81 points. Second was Scrappy with 62 points. Third was The KIDD with 45 points. Fourth was 4 2 Fail with 40 points. The wooden spoon went to Craig and the Girls with 22 points. There was a shortage of wooden spoons on the night so they received a Pot Plant kindly donated by "Il Giardino Enterprises".

I expected a quiet and orderly evening - How wrong was I! What a rowdy bunch! I certainly enjoyed the evening and everyone stayed until the end even my lovely assistant Alex.

Thank you for being such a lovely crowd.

Ciao, Enrico

Craig's summing-up of the current situation follows, for those who didn't get the e-mail. It's also worth mentioning that "What's Bubbling" has a much wider audience than the "Divers" e-mail list.

NORTHOLT POOL - UPDATE

For those of you who could not attend Saturday's very enjoyable pot Luck supper and quiz night at which we also discussed some of the options regarding the rebuilding of the Northolt Pool, I thought I would provide a quick summary of our options and the direction in which members have directed the Committee.

The Northolt Pool will be closed in March 2007 for redevelopment, with a new pool due to be opened in September 2008. The new pool will be a 2m deep pool, with a smaller training pool which will have a moveable floor which can be extended to 3 - metres depending on final spec.

So we will be without a pool for 18 months as of March 2007.

Options are:

1. Not have a pool for 18 months - meet at the Harvester Pub, or similar each week, and continue our diving antics. Where needed for training purposes we could hire a pool for odd sessions e.g. University of London pool.
2. Move to a different pool within Ealing Borough for the interim months. The current offering from the council is Acton Pool.
3. Move to a different pool outside of Ealing Borough. We have only researched doing this where we can share a pool with other BSAC Branches. Harrow branch, based at Harrow Leisure Centre and Ruislip & Northwood Branch based at Highgrove Pool. Have both shown interest, or is that just in taking our members!
4. There is also the option that, as we will be moving back to Northolt and not such a deep pool, we could consider moving our location permanently - to anywhere.
5. Wraysbury disabled water ski centre are interested in starting a BSAC Branch. Storage for the boats, a bar, lecture facilities and a big lake all at one place. Could be good
6. Ealing council are currently acquiring land and obtaining funding for a 50m pool in Acton which will have high diving boards and hence a large 4m deep section. They have suggested that as a long term plan this may be our preferred option. But it's not due for completion until 2010.

So what was the members' guidance? Whilst finding a pool to use in the interim 18 months, we should leave our options open with respect to coming back to Northolt Pool in September 2008, or getting into the new Acton facility in 2010. But if we could get a deal with Wraysbury disabled water ski lake and a local pool to there that would great as well.

I will keep talking to the right people. My current plan is to have a vote at the end of the season on which option the majority of members want to go for. If anyone is personally interested in championing any of the options please let me know. We will shortly be setting up a Forum page on the website for your comments. If you did not give your view on Saturday please wait until then to express your opinion.

Safe diving, Craig.

BSAC Southern Area Coach – Spring News

Dear All,

I thought it would be worth providing an update on what's happening in the Southern Region now that the season is well under way.

Regional expedition to Penzance - 22/23 July

Following last year's successful Southern Region expedition to West Wales, we have scheduled another expedition this year over the weekend of 22/23 July to Penzance. This will be open to BSAC Dive Leaders and above and will provide an opportunity to participate in some adventurous diving and dive with BSAC members from other branches in the Region. We have chartered a boat with up to twelve places, so spaces are limited. If you are interested in finding out more, or want to reserve a place on this trip, please contact Mike Smith, who is the expedition marshal via email on mike.smith@bsac-south.com.

New website - www.bsac-south.com

We have revamped the Regional website www.bsac-south.com. If you haven't viewed this for a while, do take a look. You can book on SDCs and other events directly and there is a considerable amount of other information of interest to those involved in organising branch dives.

Advanced Diver training (part 2) - 7/8 October

We held a day for those working towards their Advanced Diver qualifications in March, where we covered the lectures. As a follow on from this, we have scheduled 7/8 October for a practical diving weekend, aimed at covering AP2 'Advanced Diver Expedition Planning & Marshalling'. The aim of the weekend is to execute a diving trip of at least two days duration and requiring the organisation of travel and accommodation in addition to diving activities. Completion of the Advanced Diver lectures is a prerequisite. If you would like to attend this event, please book yourself on, by visiting www.bsac-south.com. Further information can be viewed at: <http://southern.bsacregions.org/documents/AD%20Expedition%20Event.pdf>

Instructor development

We are running a dedicated day to support those working towards the Advanced Instructor Exam, see below. For those preparing for the Theory Instructor or Practical Instructor exams, your Area Coach, as well as Maggie Driscoll maggie.driscoll@bsac-south.com are also available to help at any time. Please feel free to contact us should you need any help or advice with exam preparation, or advice on teaching generally.

Area Coach support

We have a team of Area Coaches who are there to offer support and advice to branches as required. If you would like a visit from your Area Coach, please contact them directly. If you are not sure who your Area Coach is, please look up your branch on the website www.bsac-south.com. You should find the name of your Coach against your branch. Failing that, please contact me.

Courses coming up

Although most of us are out diving, there are still a number of events coming up over the summer.

24/25 Jun - Nitrox (Nitrox Diver, Adv Nitrox Diver, Combined Nitrox Diver)

8 Jul - Advanced Instructor preparation workshop

2 Sep - Advanced Lifesaver Award

9/10 Sep - Nitrox (Nitrox Diver, Adv Nitrox Diver, Combined Nitrox Diver)

7/8 Oct - AP2 Diver Expedition Planning & Marshalling

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please visit our website www.bsac-south.com and book yourself on the event of your choice.

Next Regional Coach

I am soon to reach the third anniversary in my role of Regional Coach and I am choosing this time, 1st June, to hand over the batten to the next person to take the Region forward. Phil Clifton, BSAC HQ Coaching Manager, will be writing to all Advanced Instructors in the Region shortly, inviting anyone suitably interested to apply for the position formally. If you are an Advanced Instructor and might consider applying, please feel free to call either myself or Phil or both for an informal chat to find out what is involved.

Regional Meeting - October

We decided to move this year's annual Regional Meeting, which historically has been scheduled for early in the year, to October. We will confirm the actual date during the summer. This will be a great opportunity to meet the new Regional Coach and team, to reflect on the season past, listen to updates from HQ and topical speakers and to contribute to the Region's plans for the following season.

Finally, here's to some excellent and safe diving this season! Look forward to meeting many of you on dive sites and slipways this summer.

Regards,

Richard Trevithick
BSAC Southern Coach
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And finally, a little more from Enrico . . .

Catch of the Day - Weymouth Weekend

For the vegetarian and the squeamish, this might look barbaric but for the connoisseur this is just heaven.



As a fishmonger from Harrow (my father-in-law) said, "You can't get them fresher than that!" Sizzling in their own shell, little butter and garlic, on the BBQ. Oh Boy!! - almost better than you know what! I said, almost, OK.

We had 18 disposable BBQs going at the same time, between two caravans, the space was no more than 35 ft by 20 ft. The smoke, the smell of cooking (chicken, fish, burgers, etc). Beers and Wine were following and of course salad. We really stunk Weymouth out! But that's what life is all about!

Well done boys and girls for the scallops and well done Becca for the plaice - you've got to be quick to catch that.

P.S As you probably know the scallops have to be 4" diameter before we can fish them out. The small ones you can see in the photo were kept alive whilst the photo was being taken then immediately returned to the sea - Safe and sound until next year.....

Enrico