



WHAT'S BUBBLING

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The Magazine of Ealing Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC 514)
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NEW MEMBER



"I'm completely new to diving but after years of being nagged by a good friend of mine I've finally given in and I'm giving it a go. Of course the prospect of going over to New Zealand to visit and dive over there (friend has just moved out there) helps too! It's a great excuse to ensure I get away from work on time on a Thursday to come down for a bit of training and some socialising afterwards of course. Possibly not the best timing to start this expensive hobby though as I'm hopefully about to buy my first house... at least that will give me plenty of space to store all the gear. Anyway, so far so good I think and I look forward to meeting many of you and some excellent diving trips over the next year."

Cheers
Peter Jones

COMMITTEE 05/06

Just a little reminder of those in the hot seats this year -

Diving Officer	Dominic Watts	diving.officer@esac.org.uk
Training Officer	Greg Taylor	training.officer@esac.org.uk
Boat Officer	Ian McEwan	boat.officer@esac.org.uk
Equipment Officer	Dennis Philpott	equipment.officer@esac.org.uk
Treasurer	James Anderson	treasurer@esac.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Ian Oliver	membership.secretary@esac.org.uk
Social Secretary	Enrico Marconi	social.secretary@esac.org.uk
Secretary	Rob Killick	secretary@esac.org.uk
Chair	Craig Burrell	chairman@esac.org.uk

The D.O.'s Column **Subtitled (for this year anyway)** *“Watts Babbling”*

So I missed the deadline for the last edition, and Natalie has been chasing me hard to make the deadline for this. This is my opportunity to report on various things that I see within the diving fraternity, and add my own commentary to what is going on within the club. Now more often than not the source will be from the various websites, forums and mailing lists I peruse, however, and this is where I look to you all to help supply me with fodder, it's also a chance to share those little ditties that would otherwise go unnoticed by all but the few. So if you see, hear, or overhear something that will bring a chuckle to the readers, forward it over for inclusion – anonymity for all is guaranteed.

I started my DO's role with a trip to the Diving Officers Conference, an annual event where members of clubs from around the UK and beyond get together to hear where the BSAC is at, where we are going, and share a few stories. I won't be repeating much of this as it has been well summarised in February's Dive magazine, but I thought I would raise a couple of things which I personally found interesting. One is Project Neptune – interesting because it is mirroring our own efforts, as well as regional teams' efforts, to computerise records in order to streamline the process of running the BSAC. Through this it will be easier to book and run skill development courses, as well as improve communications with branch officers. Much like our own website it's a long term project and the first milestones are only now being reached, however, and this is my chance for a less than subtle reminder, it underlines the need for our own records to be up to date, and once again I look to you all to help out here, as it is a lot easier for you to update your records than for us to chase you for your qualification books. So if you haven't been onto the members area of the website and updated your records, now's a good time. If you don't have your login details, or you're having troubles with the site, please send Nigel or me an email, as we're here to help. Or just tell us what you like, or don't!

The other item of interest, and sadly missed entirely by the Dive journalist, was a project run by Queens University Belfast SAC as part of a “Diving with Purpose” initiative. Basically the talk described their efforts in surveying a wreck, the Alisdair, which as part of their research was found to still be operational, and still very much floating (a bit of a pre-requisite) in France, and therefore they spent considerable time in identifying the wreck they had been surveying, which turned out, in the end, to be the “MY Alastor”. I cannot possibly do the story justice in a few column inches, and anyway QUBSAC have documented the project at <http://alastor.sub-aqua-ni.org.uk/>. I recommend the read, and specifically wonder whether this whets anybody's appetite out there in the way it did mine to get involved in anything similar. If so let me know.

Moving swiftly on to business more directly at hand, you will have doubtless noticed that things are starting to hot up on the diving front as we approach the season once more. As a result of a significant number of people going through training towards Advanced Diver grade we have a number of trips posted up on the website calendar and doubtless more information from the student dive marshals will be announced closer to the time. Additionally we are starting to wind up towards the annual Weymouth trip, and it looks like it's going to be more popular than ever. Do check the website events calendar and the notice board for updates, and there are still plenty of weekends where the RIBs aren't going out. So if you have any ideas of trips then start planning now, or if you don't feel like you want to take on a trip on your own, but you have ideas of where to go or what to dive on, why don't you talk to myself and I'll help you find somebody to help with arrangements so that we can do the dive. However remember that before we like to let you loose in the water we like to run you through a few basic safety skills in the pool, in the annual revalidation. David Broad has kindly volunteered to run this program, ably assisted by a cast of several. So get your kit serviced, your tanks filled and expect the call to the pool sometime over the next few weeks. Usual procedure – a session in the pool, a session by the side of the pool with our friendly “Annie” and a little take home and return written test.

My thanks therefore to David and crew for running the revalidations, and also my thanks to Davina, who you will have also seen is running the pool marshalling/cleaning rotas. Please help them out by sticking to the schedules where possible, and finding replacements and keeping them informed when it is not.

Ending a column can sometimes be difficult, and my thanks have to go to yesterday's Metro for handing me the perfect closer – here's something to encourage those non-diving partners to see what we see – take something that looks like a scooter, a 12v motor, some air and you get “The Scuba Doo” – an underwater

scooter. And should there be any more objection you can even do it without damaging your “Nicky Clark” hairdo. *ED – see article, page 6, too.*

Full reprint of the story at <http://www.esac.org.uk/News/Extra/TheScubaDoo.pdf>

Until next edition,

Dominic

Events Diary to July 2006

	Date	Time	Event	Organiser
March	4 th March	09:30	Oxygen Administration Course	Jackie O'Dowd
	5 th March	10:00	Boatyard Boat Maintenance Day	Ian McEwan
	9 th March	20:45	The 2006 Water Volleyball Championship	Enrico Marconi
	18 th March	09:30	Dive Leader Theory Lectures	Rik Nash
April	8 th & 9 th April		Swanage Diving	Robin Stevens
	14 th - 18 th April		BSAC Southern Expedition (Plymouth)	Dominic Watts
	22 nd & 23 rd April		Menai Diving	John Mullins Paul Chan
	29 th April - 1 st May		Weymouth – Training and Refresher Diving	David Broad Becca Weston
May	6 th & 7 th May		Eastbourne Diving	Enrico Marconi David Broad
June	14 th - 21 st June		Isle of Man Diving	Jackie Rasbach
	24 th & 25 th June		Plymouth, off “Furious”	Margarita Lewis
July	1 st - 8 th July		Porthkerris Diving	Greg Taylor
	29 th July - 2 nd August		Farne Islands, off “Sovereign”	Becca Weston
More events scheduled – see the ESAC Events Diary at www.esac.org.uk				

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

So why did we do it?

Why did Richard Ayers, Colin Stroman and myself give up our time to instruct a group of divers in 4 degrees of water? A day out at Stoney Cove in late February, a grey sky, an air temperature of 6 degrees, would normally lead to a 'sorry I'm busy' response. But no, we happily taught 7 divers mask clearing, AAS accents, Controlled Buoyant Lifts, rescue management, AV, CPR, ropework, and they are just some of the items listed to teach. Why did we get out of a warm bed to get to Leicestershire for 9:00 in the morning? Simple really! because we saw the enthusiasm on the faces of qualified divers, because we like seeing the smiles of people enjoying themselves, and because they all said Thank You, and meant it.

*Craig
Chairman*

BOAT HANDLING TRAINING & DIVER COX'N ASSESSMENTS

BSAC Southern Region are running Boat Handling Training and Diver Cox'n Assessment events over the weekend of 11th/12th March at Calshot (near Southampton). Although it's rather late in the day there may be a possibility of getting some places - I'm waiting to hear back from the organiser at present. There is also the possibility of running the course in-house at a later date.

Can you let me know if you are interested in either of these courses and if so, whether you could attend the weekend of the 11th/12th or would prefer it to be later. Thanks.

Follow the links below to get details of the course content:

<http://www.bsac.org/techserv/syllabus/boathandlingsyl.htm>

<http://www.bsac.org/techserv/syllabus/divercoxn.htm>

regards, Greg Taylor.

DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE PLANS . . . DIVE

Some dates are already set:

Weymouth - 28th April-1st May 06. The diving will be the same format as last year: easy warm-up training dives on the Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th and a more advanced dive for SDs+ on the Monday, which will probably be a local wreck at around 30m. This is a great weekend for those progressing through the ocean diver scheme, providing a good opportunity to get those little boxes signed off!!!! and meet others in the club.

It goes without saying that the highlight of the weekend will be Enrico's planned BBQ. Contact Dave Broad on 07866418302 for more info. **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. Lots to see - pilot whales, seals and all the other sort of UK wild life, plus various wrecks. Experienced sports divers and above, due to depth of wrecks. See Jackie Rasbach for info. Oh, and June/July is basking shark season.

Porthkerris, Cornwall - 1st-8th July 06. Mainly scenic reefs and pinnacles with plenty of life and good visibility. Also includes a stopover in Plymouth on the way down to see how the Scylla is progressing. Full details from Greg Taylor.

Farne Islands - 28th July-1st August. Come diving in the Farne Islands! I have booked a hardboat for 4 days diving. The dive Operators are Sovereign Diving. They also run B&B accommodation on site. As most of you will know, the Farne Islands are famous for their seal colonies. According to Divernet, "if you want to swim with seals, the Farne Islands are the place to be" and the islands are "a sight that will give a tremendous buzz of anticipation to anybody who loves exciting diving". Stand by for lots of buzzing from me, then. As well as the seals there are plenty of wrecks in the area and the underwater scenery is dramatic (gullies full of life). Robin Stevens and I will be marshalling. We will plan a mixture of scenic and wreck diving.

Want to know more? Have a look at the Sovereign site, <http://www.sovereigndiving.co.uk/diving.html>, or the article on divernet, www.divernet.com/travel/farn898.htm. Our boat is Sovereign III.

The trip is open to Sports Divers +. Please note that one of the dives we will plan to do is the "Somali" (check out <http://www.divernet.com/wrecks/wtour130300.htm>), which is in 30m. SDs will need to have depth progression signed off to 30m, therefore (please let me know if concerned about this).

Price is £340 for the boat over the weekend (12 divers) and £25pp for the Monday and Tuesday. 2 dives a day. Accommodation is £24pp pn. Cost for the 4 days is therefore £202 plus airfills plus food plus petrol. I have booked for 4 days because the Farnes are North of Northumberland, so it's a long way for a standard weekend.

Rebecca Weston: 07970 155 860.

St Kilda - 9th-15th September 06. There are 4 spaces available for Sports Diver and above. The Elizabeth G is a liveaboard with space for 12 divers in 6 twin berthed cabins with basin in every cabin and central heating.

The cost for the week is £675 which includes full board and air. Nitrox and alcohol are extra. You won't go hungry as a typical day aboard comprises a light breakfast followed by a dive then bacon (or egg) butties, 2 course lunch, a dive, homemade cakes, a 3 course supper and post pub snacks. A 3rd dive is sometimes possible later in the day or evening. Hot drinks and snacks such as biscuits cakes or fruit are included. Please let Jackie O'D know asap if you are interested.

Nuweiba, Northern Red Sea - 22nd-28th October 2006

For anyone that hasn't been to the club lately and seen the notice on the board, John and Jackie had such a good time with the family over Christmas that they are planning to return for the October half term.

Cost: £579 for fully inclusive accommodation and flights. The diving is on top.

The hotel is on the beach, dive centre on site. The diving isn't as 'big' as other areas but hides a great variety of life and Jackie plenty of photos to show! The food is fabulous and plentiful. Even the icecream is included in the fully inclusive package, as are all drinks, including alcohol, until midnight. There are facilities for kids to play pool, swing bat, use the pedaloes or canoes etc, There were 2 windsurfers available but they looked a bit old! Jackie will be contacting Regal and get booking in the next week or two so anyone else interested please give her a call. So far we have 3 families - O'Dowds, Olivers and Radletts.

REQUEST FOR HELP

St John's provide unpaid volunteers for first aid at many events. They operate a small marine unit at Richmond which provides cover for river and lake events, e.g. the Devizes to Westminster Canoe race. People are often needed on shore as well as on the boats. They have a rib and a dory.

They provide all training and equipment. They meet regularly on Tuesdays and have training days monthly. If you are interested in helping them please contact David Dooley.

CAMBODIA APPEAL UP-DATE - RICHARD AYERS

The main fund raising night was held on Thursday 26th January, it was a busy place to say the least. I for one felt very cramped, but that was not what it's about. The whole event was hosted by Al Murray (the pub landlord character) so the evening was very blue.

The raffle raised something in the region of £1500 which is an amazing amount, with PSP's, fridges & designer hair-cuts up for sale - maybe it's not so surprising this total was achieved. After the buffet meal was consumed, or should I say during the buffet meal! the "promise auction" began; by the time this had finished it was eleven thirty and the appeal had been given over £10,000.00, once again as a truly great fund raising event, Ealing's try-a-dive raised over £150.00 so thank you very much to the Club members for all of their contributions so far.

We are not there yet, however, and this appeal is all about maintaining the Medical Centre once it has been built and later maintaining the care which is needed to go into the Medical Centre on a regular basis.

Please see the web-link to get some more background on the Centre and let me know if you can help in anyway at all:

<http://www.rainbowkids.com/2004/08/humanitarian/kaisvillage.shtml>

Richard Ayers- Call 07771 892 044

Read all about it! - Nigel Ealand

Each morning I climb into my motorcycle kit and on to my BMW K1100. A beautiful machine in deep red, it is a stallion of a bike. I scoff at the car drivers as I weave my way down the A40 to work, who are these people that are content to sit in traffic jams? Just occasionally though I wake to find it's a little too cold to ride. Ice has a nasty habit of making things a little slick and it is on these occasions that the bike gets a day off and I rely on London Transport and the Central Line.

On such a morning last week I was sitting on a tube heading to White City reading the free Metro newspaper when I was drawn to an article about underwater scooters. In Australia they have developed a new mode of transport for the tourists.



It's an underwater scooter! As a biker and a diver you can understand my interest. Since Natalie and I are totally into *Top Gear* these days I can hear a Clarkson saying "I feel a race coming on!" Imagine the Australians belting around the coral reefs; the first one past the large bommie is the winner! Diving won't be the same ever again on the Great Barrier.

But hold on a minute - guess what it's called, only ScubaDoo. Don't we hold copyright on that name?

This week I went surfing the Internet to find some equipment deals for my trainees. Many moons ago, even before I took up diving, the diving regulator had two hoses, unlike today's single hose variant. A famous French diver and filmmaker called Jacques-Yves Cousteau was joint credited for its invention. Alas, the great man passed away in 1997, God rest his soul. His legacy is his films, the regulator design and the inspiration he gave to my generation to take up diving.



So, what caught my eye? Aqualung is manufacturing a new twin hose regulator. I don't know why that surprises me as they are now used in rebreathers.

The peculiarity of this type of regulator is that one hose delivers the air and the other returns the expired air to be vented behind the diver.

Photographers used to like them. They are light in the mouth, no vented bubbles means the water clarity in front of the lens remained good and you could get in close to the fish as they were less frightened by the bubble noise.

The disadvantage was that to air share (a practice now given up) the recipient had to be above the donor or he got no air and to clear it you had to perform a swift barrel roll - a little unnerving when you have no air!

I never used one but always wanted to have ago to see what it was like.

Nigel