

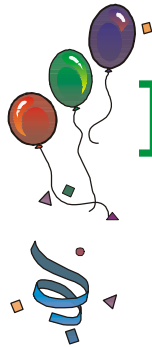


## **WHAT'S BUBBLING?**

**Issue 5  
April 2002**

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

**Editor: Natalie Ealand**



ESAC'S

30th

birthday

Bash

Northolt community centre  
Sunday 26th may  
2.30pm until 10.30pm

Water Fight  
Arena

Bouncy castle  
(For adults too)

Barbeque  
5 PM

RAFFLE

Bar

ALL DAY

Ceilidh band  
8 pm

PHOTO  
QUIZ

Adults £10 under 14's £5 UNDER 5'S FREE

INCLUDES bbq FOOD AND KID'S DRINKS

Contact BOBBY 020 8864 7377 for tickets  
available in advance only

BRING YOUR GARDEN CHAIR WITH YOU.

REMEMBER A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IF YOU INTEND TO  
JOIN IN THE WATER FIGHT ARENA !

Please let Michelle know of any 'old' Club members that you're still in contact with, so she can get in touch with them.



## Revalidation Progress Report

Well so far the revalidations have gone really well and, as at the end of March, over 5/7ths of the club's qualified divers have passed. Although I must admit to having been highly entertained by the range of inventive and innovative excuses offered for missing reval slots.

The other thing that happened, by pure fluke and not by planning on my part, was that my valued helper Janine ended up revaling a certain diver who just so happened to be her Dad. Fortunately family harmony was maintained as Nigel passed the test.

However, I discovered one problem - how to test the D.O when he had written the questions. So I consulted the T.O. and other senior members of the club and the answer was - reset the questions especially for the D.O.

So being a democratic club the D.O.'s questions, together with the given answers, real answers and some form of explanation are given below.

**Q1:** The current meaning of the "A" flag is to warn shipping of divers down. Before 1920 what was the meaning of the "A" flag in the Royal Navy?

D.O.'s Answer: Grog (rum) being issued.  
Correct answer: I am a warship under going speed trials

Explanation: This was found in a pre-war Manual of Seamanship.  
And even if it isn't correct, it sounds as if it could be.

**Q2:** When planning ESAC's New Year's day dive, what essential action is sometimes forgotten?

D.O.'s Answer: Informing the warden at Black Park of intent to dive.  
Correct Answer: As given.  
Explanation: If forgotten, irate wardens tend to call an early halt to the diving.

**Q3:** When climbing aboard the ESAC club RIB at Swanage, especially when in a dry suit, which part of the boat should be avoided?

D.O.'s Answer: The bit specifically designed not to puncture a dry suit, but does anyhow.  
Correct Answer: As above.  
Explanation: When climbing aboard the Rib, the D.O managed to make both an entry and an exit puncture in his dry suit.

**Q4:** Name one aspect of wreck diving, especially abroad, it is best to avoid when accompanied by a newly qualified diver?

D.O.'s Answer: Getting in the water  
Correct Answer: Wreck penetration  
Explanation: The T. O. thought that this was not a good idea.

**Q5:** As Dive Marshal, when buddying a re-breather diver with an open circuit diver, what qualification MUST the O-C diver possess?

D.O.'s Answer: A level patience  
Correct Answer: A range of answers are suitable here, but most of them would be unprintable.

Explanation: A former member thought that he was being victimised because no-one wanted to dive with him and his re-breather.

**Q6:** How do you leave an island with the prop intact after having a pee?

D.O.'s Answer: You remember to lock the engine at a 45 degree angle. Or remember that trainees actually don't know a thing - even after attending a boat handling course.

Correct Answer: Don't know. Ask Richard Ayres for further information.

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## CLUB FUNDRAISING

Anyone who read the last edition's ramblings by BDI (surely the result of too much brandy in the Xmas pudding?) would no doubt have been alarmed at the idea of a nude fundraising calendar. ESAC may be short of funds – but not that short!! And anyhow, I suspect BDI had been eavesdropping on poolside conversations during last autumn, when approaches to fundraising for the Club were discussed in earnest, including the calendar idea.

“But what is the alternative?” I hear you plead / beg / cry / giggle hysterically.....

### Corporate Try-A-Dive Evenings

Let me explain...

Have you ever been on one of those “team-building” work dos? Maybe you went paint-balling, bowling or go-karting? How about Scuba diving? We've put together a package which would involve the BSAC intro video, a poolside briefing and then a session in the pool. All for the very tidy sum of £35 per person (minimum 10 people – maximum 20). This would mean a minimum of £350 per night for Club funds. Now that must be a better way of getting dosh than hoping your strategically placed dive kit is preserving your modesty!! Obviously, in order for this to work we'll need help from everyone in the Club, not only in the water, but also poolside and before and after the actual dive to make sure our guests are well looked after.

Colour brochures have been produced with the aid of some friends in marketing, and we are starting to send them out to local companies. Please let me know if you can think of any potential targets. I need a contact name and an address.

As soon as we have any takers, it'll be all hands to the pumps. But think of the very real financial benefits – and the fact that you won't have to see Nigel naked again ...until the next dive at Black Park!

Michelle

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*As you can imagine, I was put under considerable pressure to include the following piece . . .*

### Australia

There I was sitting the BBC's newsroom when along came a foreign news producer and asked if I wanted to plan the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Coolum,

Australia. Contrary to what some of you may think the BBC rarely sends me to countries where it will cost them lots licence payers' money. "Are you going to take me with you if I do?" I enquired. It took me a few minutes to recover from the fall from my chair when the lovely girl said yes.

There is only one place of interest to me in Australia and I have been waiting 26 diving years to get there, the Barrier Reef. Yes, life is good! The next few weeks I worked hard on the CHOGM project with enthusiasm. In the course of technical emails to contacts in Australia I would sign off with the question, "Anyone know anything about diving the barrier reef"? Katherine works for the Satellite Uplinking company I would be hiring. Over several email discussions she advised that to do the barrier you must go on a live-aboard and to see the "big stuff" you must go out beyond the barrier reef to Osprey Reef, an overnight sail away. Which operator to go with came down to cost and whether you could live without the hot towels and Americans after each dive. I could and settled on a company called Taka and its ship the Taka II.

The trip was set. The next question was the diving kit. On my dream holiday I was not prepared to turn up with street cred (old) looking kit. Janine's new Stab Jacket and regulator was commandeered and she was left with my kit to use in the pool on a Thursday night!

CHOGM - Zimbabwe were warned that they must hold a free election or have their wrist slapped and the smaller commonwealth countries were offered template laws to kerb drug money laundering. Since the trip Zimbabwe held a dodgy election and were expelled from the Commonwealth. Exciting stuff eh?!?

Cairns - I had a day to kill so went on a Safari to the rain forest north of Cairns, up at Cape Tribulation. A big 4 wheeled drive mini-bus picked us up. On route we took a boat trip down the Daintree river, admired the foliage, wildlife and the crocodiles while praying the boat didn't develop a leak. For lunch we went off-road up a creek. As the drivers organised a barbee lunch we swam in the river, no Crocks here apparently and I believed them assuming they didn't like losing clients. They also made Daintree tea in a "Billy" tin! In the afternoon we went for a walk on a boardwalk through the rain forest and I got bitten to death. It's hard keeping a steady shot on the camcorder when ants and other bugs are crawling up your legs.

The Taka II is a converted prawn trawler. I shared a twin bunked bedroom with Ronny, a Scotsman from Edinburgh who is writing his first fictional novel. My allocated dive buddy was Stephen Morrell, a graduate of Imperial College, London. He graduated in mechanics and is one of Andy Amis's ex-students apparently - life is strange! There were twenty six divers on board. Loads of Japanese, two Americans: DeeBee and her sister-in-law Carole, two Germans: Dominique and Julia, a Belgium and plenty more English and Australian - very international.

We steamed (diesel) overnight to Cod Hole, the furthest northern part of the reef near Lizard Island. Diving started at 0700 with Craig, the trip director yelling "Dive Time" and rousing us out of our slumbers. Tradition says the dive briefing is greeted with a cheer by all, we stuck with tradition. Cod Hole is so named because of the Potato Cod, 4-5 foot Grouper like fish with spots. There was certainly plenty about. In an area known as shark alley we found some White Tip sharks asleep under overhangs, unlike the Trigger fish who were aggressively territorial and to be avoided. On the second dive the Potato Cod were fed while we were filmed. Did I mention they also have a professional video cameraman on board. He produces a tape of all our exploits during the week. I'll bore you all with it at a future Pot Luck supper. (*Oh No!*)

Dive 3 was in Challenger Bay, Ribbon reef N.9. Like diving in an Aquarium; shoals of colourful fish. Found some Giant Clams, a Lion fish and the smallest yellow box fish ever, about one inch long!

Dive 4, Pixie reef. We finished the day with a very pleasant night dive. Found an "orange" edible crab. Stephen's torch failed and we had to pop up for a replacement. The rear of the boat was swarming with small sprats, I guess attracted by the boat lights.

End of day two, 204 minutes spent under water and still stunned that I'm not bent as a corkscrew. The two guys on the top deck were bent but that's a different problem. That night we headed out to Osprey reef, us in the bowels of the ship felt queasy, them berthed on the middle deck puked, and the ones on the top deck in the luxury en-suite cabins had their heads and feet slammed into the bulkheads all night and remained in a semiconscious state, their stomachs were the least of their worries.

Day 3, Dive 5. "Dive Time" yelled Craig, "welcome to North Horn, Osprey Reef", we all cheered! After such a rough night we were all looking forward to a great dive. Plenty of white tip and grey whale sharks seen, anemones and Clown fish, but where was all the big stuff? No Manta Rays, no Whale sharks, no Hammer Heads and I've paid for this holiday!

Dive 6 was shark feeding on a bommie (Oz for rock pinnacle) while we cowered on the adjacent cliff. No hands involved on this one, the crew drop the fish heads attached to a caribena, down a shot line to the bommie. The sharks knew what to expect and circled the line. As the fish heads dropped there was a massed ball of writhing, twisting, tearing shark bodies. The larger sharks eat first and once satisfied the smaller ones got stuck in along with the Potato Cods, Red Snappers and every other critter on the reef. I must say that at all times during the holiday I never had any worries about the sharks, they kept their distance and so did I.

Dive 7, Half Way Wall, Osprey Reef. At last this was a stunning dive, the corals were spectacularly colourful of pastel shades of red, green, yellow and blue. Between each rock bommie was sand where we found more sleeping white tips. There was loads of life, Puffers, Parrot and Butterfly fish. The visibility was forever.

Dive 8, Entrance, Osprey Reef. This area is very similar to Dive 7 but has lots of opportunity to swim through caves. One cave was described as having an admiralty anchor in it on account of it being dropped, unluckily, straight through a blow hole at the top. That sounded like some ESAC craft work to me, so I had to pay it a visit. Following the instructor guide, another Stephen, and our German friends Dominique and Julia we headed to the cave. Stephen I think got it wrong, the cave was not in 14m but in 22m. Julia didn't fancy going first so in I cautiously popped. The exit wasn't where it should have been but I found one that would suffice. There was no anchor. We spent the rest of the dive swimming through other caves, admiring the scenery and basically hanging out. On exiting another swim through we came head to head with an Eagle ray and a white tip swimming together. This was the best dive to date.

End of Day 3, 406 minutes underwater. If you're sailing with the wind this should make the ride smoother - shouldn't it? Wrong, that night we sailed back to the barrier. Julia disposed of Dominique's sick bags (middle deck)(bio degradable) and Bruce (top deck, en-suite) lost his battle with the bulkhead and his dinner. I assumed the brace position in my bunk, faced down, rolled towels under the outer edge of the mattress to stop "spillage" and white knuckles of a firm grip on the mattress corners. This is a technique I learnt in my youth while not at sea.

Day 4, dive 9, Clam Garden, barrier reef, 0700, "Dive Time", Bruce failed to report. Clam Gardens are so named as there are enormous Giant Clams. Saw a Turtle missing one of its rear legs. After the delights of Osprey one started noticing how much dead coral there now is on the barrier.

Dive 10, Steve's Bommie. A bommie you will recall is a rock pinnacle. Steve was a poor sod who met his maker with the assistance of a Thresher shark back in 1989. A plaque is set in his memory. This is a very nice dive. We circled upwards and above 15m there is tons of life. Found a couple of Lion fish, in one hole there is a Red Flamed File Shell, an anemone that gives off visible electrical discharges along its body.

Dive 11, Temple of Doom, BR. Another bommie that was devastated in a cyclone a few years ago. Again, most of the life is in less than 12m. Lots of life again but the most memorable part is its top which has loads of anemones and clown fish. We even found a Mantis Shrimp. For

those who don't know what a Mantis Shrimp is it's a critter that lives in a conical shell and has a claw with a boxing glove on. It packs a punch better than Tyson, as Craig described it, if you want to know what it feels like take a .22 pistol and shoot your finger. I gave it some space and then found a small Octopus under a rock. We then had lunch!

The afternoon was spent decompressing and getting burnt. There's no Ozone over Oz! That evening we went night diving.

Dive 12, Beer Garden, BR. So named after the ship that got stuck and unloaded its beer bottles to the bottom. We were told that we could expect to find sleeping Turtles, we didn't but we did find sleeping Parrot fish encased in their jelly jackets. The highlight of this dive was when I stopped to admire a Giant Clam, now shut closed due to the lack of daylight and a 2m Moray brushed past me and into my torch beam heading for its cave hole. Apparently I was in the way. Those who know me will know that I don't care for this kind of encounter these days and yes Jackie O I can here you laughing. On the return to the boat this time was a swarm of Squid under the landing deck.

End of day 4, 606 minutes underwater and still straight.

Day 5, dive 13, Hogs Breath, Opal reef, BR, 0600 in the morning. "Dive Time", the cheer was subdued being early and no breakfast. This was the saddest dive I did. The coral was completely dead. The fish life was small and not much of it. I did see a Stingray hiding under a rock. Had breakfast and felt better.

Dive 14, Three Sisters, BR. So called as they are three bommies all together. After the previous dive I was pleased to see coral still alive and the colours were vibrant. However I couldn't tell whether the area was dying or regenerating, I suspect the former. Nothing really notable seen on this dive.

So that was the end of the trip. We returned to Cairns and all met for a final night in a pub called the Cock and Bull which served huge Kangaroo steaks and jugs of beer. I enjoyed the trip very much and glad I had the opportunity. The death of the reef is very real. This I'm told is due to the warming of the sea and chemical run off from the land. If any of you get the opportunity to dive the BR I would highly recommend taking a live-aboard and in particular go out beyond the reef to Osprey where the best diving is to be found. It is not over expensive and cheaper than paying for accommodation, food and day trips from Cairns. Taka is a great operation. They cater well for a diver's needs and their operation is efficient and friendly. You can find them at [www.takadive.com.au](http://www.takadive.com.au). I have only one regret - I'm 10 years too late!

By the way the final tally was 708 minutes underwater in three and a half days. I gave myself (and my computer) 48 hours to decompress before flying home. Just to prove my life is not one big exotic experience, I'm writing this article sitting in a hotel bedroom in Manchester - and it's raining outside!

Nigel

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## WANTED

Wanted: Copies of Dive magazine : we're always looking for cost effective ways to promote ESAC, and following a suggestion in Dive magazine we need old copies of Dive as publicity material for ESAC. We have printed lots of stickers to go on the front cover of Dive to promote ESAC. These stickers give a contact number for the Club and invite the reader to contact us and go diving. The plan is to place these stickered magazines in waiting rooms, such as the doctors', hospitals', dentists', vets' etc etc, basically anywhere that people are likely to pick up a magazine to read.

Please see either Michelle or Craig for your stickers, and do your bit to help promote the Club!

## **BRIXHAM, DEVON - AUGUST 2002**

Nine caravans have so far been booked for week beginning **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**. Names are as follows:

Richard Ayers	one x 3-bed caravan
Jackie O'Dowd	one x 2-bed
Mike Arnold (Yardley)	one x 2-bed
Dave Broad	one x 3-bed
Rik Nash	one x 2 bed
Adrian Jones	one x 2 bed
Mike Howard	one x 2-bed
Nigel Ealand	one x 2-bed, one x 3-bed

I will need to send FINAL PAYMENT for these vans at the end of May. Please let me have your cheque, made out to **JOHN FOWLER HOLIDAYS**, before the end of May. Final payments due are:

2-bed caravans £435.00  
3-bed caravans £485.00

Anyone else interested in going on this holiday should contact me **NOW**; there are obviously diving spaces available but accommodation may already be difficult to secure.

Natalie

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## **FEBRUARY'S POT LUCK SUPPER**

On the final Saturday in February, an unprecedented number of ESAC divers, friends and family descended upon the Ealand's in Ruislip. Bobby (claiming to be a life-long and keen Fulham football fan) was humiliated by a two year old (Kieran, smart, intelligent, son of Michelle and Craig) who was rattling off all the team players hot from a football match earlier on in the day!!

Those people who were not stuck in the kitchen waiting to hijack more food as it arrived, or gravitating toward the laden table in the lounge were either watching the highlights of the New Year's Day dive or busy in topical (and heated) discussions on diving age limits.

Seriously, a big thank you to everyone who came, and for all the food brought. Following the success of Satnam's chicken curry, you will all be pleased to know that later on in the year there will be an Indian food night!

Mike won the best dressed award for turning up in 'black tie'. Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to Natalie, Nigel and family for their hospitality on the night, and without whom the evening would have been a non-event. You will all be pleased to know that Richard and Maggie's roofing problems have all been smoothed out, so watch out for next year!

Bobby  
Social Secretary

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**Don't forget to order your Club gear from Natalie - sweatshirts, fleeces, polo shirts! The order must go in soon.**

Another month, another BDI report. Why? I hear you ask, well it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Jan finished off with our Esteemed Training Officer (ETO) trialing what seemed like a new device at Northolt. Apparently she appeared on poolside with this curious device afixed to the velcro at the back of her stab jacket. Now the BDI, being an inquisitive sole, wondered what this could possibly be and eventually came to the conclusion that it must be some form of **Bottle Retention Accessory (BRA)**. However, before the BDI could ask the ETO to confirm this assumption, someone else pointed out to the ETO the presence of this curious device. Somewhat red-faced the ETO retired rapidly to the changing room to remove her own bra from her jacket, where some cruel practical joker had attached it. Should the culprit ever be discovered, dire retribution is planned.

Feb got off to a good start, with Mick McGuirk organising a trip to the Submarine Escape Training Tank (SETT) at Fort Blockhead in Gosport. The actual dive was preceded by a visit to the submarine museum which seemed to be enjoyed by all, both divers and accompanying non-divers. After the visit all drove round to Fort Blockhead itself to sign in for the dive. It was during the signing in that one conscientious diver noticed that, this being a Ministry of Defence (MoD) site, cameras were Strengt Verboten. Now what had Mick put in the dive details? - 30M viz - Bring your cameras. So what had every budding underwater photographer done? - brought their cameras (quite what they were going to photograph in a 30M deep, 20ft across concrete tube is beyond the BDI. Actually there was something to snap at, but more of this later).

So before the MoD Plod arrived to cart away the ESACers en-mass, Mick did a quick bit of pleading and so got permission to proceed. So the ESACers proceeded to the top of the tower for their pre-dive briefing. Part of this was a warning to keep out of the way of underwater camera that monitored to the two escape hatches at the bottom of the tank. As it turned out this wasn't all they monitored, but more of this later.

And so they went in two by two. The first pair being Colin S and organiser Mick. They reached the bottom and waved to the camera (but more about the camera later), when Colin S heard a crack. "That must be the valve opening to circulate the water" thought Colin. Not quite it was his o-ring disintegrating and his tank very rapidly emptying itself of air. Fortunately Mick was not far away, well you can't get too far away in a 20ft diameter tank, and a CBL duly followed. [After note: Apparently our hard-hearted Esteemed Training Officer (ETO) has refused to allow this as part of the practical test for DL].

After that everything else was a bit of an anti-climax, at least for a while. The ESACers continued in two by two, descended to the depths, swam round in circles and then came up again. All this swimming round in circles must have disoriented Neville S. 'cos when it was his turn, and right in front of the camera, it was reported that he partially divested himself of his swimming trunks. The BDI thinks that Neville should be told that this is NOT the way to win the "Big Bottom" award. And so it came to an end, the dive that is, but not quite the show. Now it should be explained that there were no changing facilities actually at the top of the tower. These were located several floors lower. Apparently most ESACers were too lazy to use the proper facilities and resorted to furtive surreptitious changing beneath strategically positioned towels. Not so our Moonie diver, Neville. He must have decided that using a towel was too much of an encumbrance and so decided to do without it. Nigel E, catching sight of bared buttocks yet again, gave out an admonitory "Neville!!". Now what is the most natural thing, if you hear something like that - Yup you look to see what is happening and so, unfortunately for them, Christine and Julie N duly looked.

Should the **Committee** ever to decide to produce one of those calendars, see the last issue of "Whats Bubbling" for further details, then they have a prime candidate in view.

Other happenings included a much publicised, much postponed boat yard day. However, this was duly held and a formidable working party of both senior and junior ESACers assembled at the boat yard to renovate the containers. Apparently much hard work was put in to: concrete the approaches to the containers; paint them inside and out and dispose of a lot of rubbish. Greg T also spent the morning repairing the Humber's trailer. What was pleasing to the organisers, Craig and Michelle, was that quite a number of new faces put in an appearance, rather than just the usual suspects.

Everyone must have been hard at work, 'cos the only incidents reported were: somehow Michelle managed to paint Jackie O's rear - don't ask me how or why. Also Michelle's Kieran, feeling tired after all his hard work, leant back against the wall of the container to rest, the freshly painted wall of the container. So he then had two-tone hair. However, it must be said that Michelle didn't seem to get too "emulsional" about it.

And that seems a good note to finish off March's Musings.

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## POOL CLOSURE

Some of you will be aware of this – but many won't. Northolt Swimarama is due to close in the autumn of this year and it is unlikely to reopen. The building is becoming structurally unsound and will need demolishing, if it doesn't fall into the railway before then. As the lady from the Council said "Anyone who wanted to build a swimming pool would dig a hole and fill it with water, Ealing built a building and filled it with water . . ."

So ESAC needs a new training venue – and we need everyone's help to find it. Please try to think of any swimming pools that you know of and tell me as soon as possible. Please tell me an address and phone number as well, and don't shout suggestions at me in the pub because I will forget them before I get home.

The alternative that Ealing Council are offering us is the Gurnell Swimming Pool, Ruislip Road East, Ealing, at 10pm on a Thursday night. Not only is this an unsuitable pool, but the time of night isn't good for training either. There would be no socialising after the diving and the Club would undoubtedly suffer.

This is not an immediate problem, but it is one that we need to find a solution to as soon as possible. At the moment, Ealing Council do not intend to close the pool until the autumn, but there is a risk that the pool will shut on Health and Safety grounds before then. We do need to sort this out sooner rather than later.

Get your thinking caps on! It doesn't have to be a public pool, maybe a school pool, or a health club?

Michelle

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*Thanks to Simon for the following brain-teaser:*

Read the sentence below and count the F's in that sentence. Count then ONLY ONCE.  
Do not go back and count them again:

**FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY  
COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.**

*Answers next time!*

## Minutes of Ealing Sub Aqua Club Committee Meeting. 9/1/02

### **Club Subscription Charges:**

Consultation of all Club members had revealed that most were in favour of the introduction of a sliding scale of charges and this was approved unanimously. A new charge sheet will be put on the notice board and included on the web-site.

### **Dive charges**

Various tortuous options were discussed for amending the dive charges, but it was felt that whatever system we adopted should be simple for the dive marshals to administer.

It was agreed that the charge should be increased to a flat fee of £8 per dive and include petrol. These charges will be reviewed after this year's diving.

### **Training Officer: Jackie O'Dowd**

The lecture programme starts Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Two new trainees will start on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Chairman: Richard Ayres**

Sadly Tim Biglin died last week. He was Equipment Officer for 2 years and participated in many dive trips and did lots of boat handling. He will be sorely missed.

Northolt Swimarama will close later this year and we are actively researching alternatives

On 27<sup>th</sup> January there will be a dive-planning meeting at 8.00pm at Richard's house.

### **Diving Officer: Rik Nash**

The revalidation dives did not start last week, but will start this week. Alan Radlett is running them.

We discussed whether we could/should take any more trainees at the moment, and agreed that we may have to defer their training until September.

### **Treasurer: Dominic Watts**

Accounts have come back from the accountant.

The current bank balance is £14066.62

### **Boat Officer: Craig Burrell**

At the London Boat Show on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January a GPS/Sonar unit and Radio were purchased.

The boat will be ordered soon for delivery at the end of March or early April. A name for the boat is required by the end of February. We will organise a competition to name the boat. The winner gets to launch the boat and have a free days dive.

### **Social Secretary: Bobbie Ludlow**

The name the boat competition will be £2 per entry, money going to buying the new boat!

Pot Luck Supper which was to be held on the first weekend in February clashes with the trip to the submarine tube, therefore it will be moved to 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This will be advertised in What's Bubbling.

ESAC's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday is this year. We will celebrate this on the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> May. Ideas/suggestions for the next meeting, please.

### **Secretary: Michelle Burrell**

For insurance purposes we will value the boats at £5000 each.

**Treasurer: Dominic Watts**

The dive training kits will be treated as assets for accounting purposes. .

Last year's accounts are now ready and interested members are invited to ask Dominic for a copy of the accounts

**Diving Officer: Richard Nash**

Revals are proceeding. Alan Radlett is working through the Club steadily.

The trip to the submarine escape tube had 14 people diving. There is also lots of interest for a repeat trip from those who went, and those who couldn't make it – watch the notice board.

White water rafting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July. A notice will go up tomorrow.

**Training officer: Jackie O'Dowd**

The lecture programme is going OK.

Pool training is also OK.

The radio course has been organised for 13/4. The course costs £20 for the instruction and £19 for the exam. There is an option to update for those who already have a licence.

**Secretary: Michelle Burrell**

The Try a Dive cover letter has been printed, and some have already been sent out to local companies.

The lottery grant is almost complete.

Aqua Carta (Slough BSAC) have expressed an interest in taking up any spare places we have on dive trips. We agreed that this could be good for both Clubs. They would have to provide buddy pairs and would only get short notice of trips as ESAC members get priority. RN and CIB will finalise details of charging arrangements.

A new system of dive charges was proposed, with a flat rate of £25 per day and the balance being refunded. This will be sent out to consultation ASAP.

First Aid kits have been sourced from Rob Mills for both boats, plus a more comprehensive one to go with the Cox's pack.

**Boat Officer: Craig Burrell**

Extra equipment for the boats was discussed

Last year there were two sets of flares on one boat and two sets of tools on the other. New watertight boxes are needed.

Diver recall methods were discussed, including thunder flashes and air-horns. This will be researched further to determine which method we go for.

A boat report form has been generated for recording equipment failure, emergency equipment used and engine hours. This will be returned to the Boat Officer

Boat booking will need an OK from the DO, and then be booked with the BO, who will dispense keys etc.

A Boat Operational Procedures handbook has been written and is going to be sent to Simon, Nigel and Greg for them to check, correct and approve it.

We are introducing a reval for boat handlers in the form of a written paper. This will come into effect at the start of this season.

The Boat Handler and Diver Coxswain courses are now full. Our Humber will be taking part.

**Social Secretary: Roberta Ludlow**

Pot Luck Supper. This has been moved to the Ealands' - can someone let Natalie know?

ESAC's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday bash. 26<sup>th</sup> May Sunday. Bobby will try to book Northolt Community Centre.

**Chairman: Richard Ayres**

Pool cleaning has resumed.

