



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## WHAT'S BUBBLING?

December 2001

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

Editor: Natalie Ealand

### Contents

From The Editor  
Hi Everybody  
New Year's Day Dive  
For Sale  
Club Constitution  
Club Funding  
Lecture Programme 2002  
Instructor Training  
Brain Teaser  
The Zen Of Cyprus  
PAD(I) - Thai  
The Return Of Beady Eye

*From the Editor . . .*

*I had hoped that this would prove to be a nostalgic look back over the fun diving of 2001, but I've been ambushed by the Committee and instead made to produce the following very important, but not such fun, stuff. Ho hum, never mind, there was still room for an entertaining story or three tagged on to the end. We start with an invitation for New Year's Eve, however, swiftly followed by the daft bodies that will go diving on New Year's Day . . .*

*The next issue will have ordering details of our new sweatshirts and fleeces plus the chance to order from the existing polo shirt selection. This time I'll have a selection of samples so we'll get to have a look at the quality and sizes before we buy.*

*Natalie Ealand Dec 01*

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Everybody

Yes at long last Angela and I have moved to the Harrow house! Looks much the same as ten years ago for those of you who came to the last party!

We tried to make the excuse there are no carpets but it didn't work. So you are invited and welcome to our new home on New Year's Eve to bring in the new year from 8 til late at our house. See you there!

Angela and Jonathan

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **New Year's Day Dive**

It's back again, that one we all love to hate - the New Year's Day Dive at Black Park. No trainees on this one, unfortunately, although you're more than welcome for the social! Kick-off 11am, quick dive, mince pie and mulled wine (thanks to Jackie O and anyone else feeling generous) followed swiftly by lunch in the Crooked Billet. Directions for getting there are: A40 out of London, come off at junction 1 (now M40) and follow the A412 Denham Road. At the big roundabout take the third exit into the Uxbridge Road (still the A412), towards Slough. Turn right off the A412 into Black Park Road which will lead you into Black Park's car park. Remember to bring change for the parking machine. If you had your eyes open, and were coming from the direction described, you will have passed the Crooked Billet at the last big roundabout. Contact Rik for diving details: 020 8991 0832.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **For Sale : Otter Neoprene Drysuit**

**Size:** height 5' 8" ; chest 38"-40" ; waist 30"-32" ; foot size 8. Neck seal renewed recently. Colour: Red and Blue.

**£75 ono Contact Greg Taylor 020 8868 8407.**

## **EALING SUB-AQUA CLUB CONSITUTION**

(REVISED 25.11.2001)

1. **NAME:** The name of the Ealing Branch of the BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB shall be EALING SUBAQUA CLUB hereafter referred to as the CLUB.
2. **OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of the Club shall be the same as those of BSAC, to foster interest in underwater sport and activities. The Club shall operate within the rules of BSAC which shall be read in conjunction with this constitution. To enable its members to participate in underwater activities safely and in a friendly club spirit.
3. **MANAGEMENT:** The management, direction and control of the Club shall be vested in a Committee, the officers of which shall be the CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, DIVING OFFICER, SECRETARY, TRAINING OFFICER, SOCIAL SECRETARY, BOAT OFFICER and DIVE EQUIPMENT OFFICER who shall each have a vote at Committee meetings. Four members of the Committee must be present to vote for any decision with a majority. The Committee shall hold and administer for the benefit of the club all funds and equipment owned by the Club. The Committee shall have the power to deal with any question arising as to the interpretation of the Constitution and with any matters not provided for therein. The Committee shall be empowered to fill any vacancy which may occur on the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members who may be invited by the Chairman to, but shall not have a vote at, Committee meetings and may also appoint sub-Committees for specific purposes which shall be automatically dissolved at the following Annual General Meeting (AGM).
4. **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership shall be open to all persons subject to the discretion of the Committee. ESAC is an Equal Opportunities Club and has a formal policy to this effect which forms part of the Club Rules. Junior membership shall be open to persons between the ages of 10 and 15 year whose parent or guardian is already a member. Persons who do not wish to take an active part in diving or snorkelling activities may be admitted as Associate Members. Application for full membership must be made on the approved BSAC form (with the necessary indemnity signed and endorsed for person below the age of 18 years). A BSAC approved current medical certificate, or proof thereof, to be produced to the Diving Officer. Membership may be renewable annually subject to the approval of the Committee and the right of appeal of any persons whose membership renewal is refused to a Special General meeting convened for that purpose.
5. **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Rates of subscriptions, as determined by the Committee, will be posted on the Club notice board. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that their subscriptions are paid on time. Persons shall not be permitted to take part in club activities unless their subscriptions have been paid.
6. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** A General meeting of the club shall be held in November or December of each year. All Full and Associate diving Ealing BSAC members shall be allowed to vote. A quorum shall be a quarter of the voting membership and any resolution shall be passed by a simple majority in vote. At the AGM, the retiring Committee will submit a full report of the past year's activities, progress and accounts the retiring Committee shall propose a Diving Officer for the coming year. The Diving Officer, once voted in, will appoint the Training Officer. The new Committee will be proposed and seconded and voted in at the AGM. Postal votes will be allowed. Last notice of the AGM and the agenda for the meeting shall be displayed on the Club notice board at east 28 days prior to the meeting.

7. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:** A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called within 42 days if deemed necessary by the Committee or by written request to the Secretary with the signatures of 10 full members. All Full members and Associate diving Ealing BSAC members shall be allowed to vote. A quorum shall be a quarter of the voting membership and any resolution shall be passed by simple majority in a vote. Last notice of any Special General Meeting and the agenda for the meeting shall be displayed on the Club notice board at least 28 days prior to the meeting.
8. **CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION:** Additions or amendments to the constitution can only be made by a simple majority of those entitled to vote at an Annual General meeting or a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. Any proposal for amendment of the constitution must be in the hands of the secretary at least 28 days before the general meeting.
9. **FUNDS:** The treasurer shall receive all monies on behalf of the club and responsible for keeping them safely. Funds shall be deposited in an account in the name of the club at a place agreed by the Committee. Cheques shall be signed by any two of the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. The club shall not be used for private gain by any member. A Certified Accountant, who is not a club member, shall be retained by the Committee to audit the accounts which shall be submitted for approval by the members at the A.G.M.
10. **EQUIPMENT:** Club equipment will only be used on Official Club Activities or with the written permission of the Diving Officer following a written request for the use of the equipment by a member, the request to include relevant plans.
11. **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:** Any abuse of the club rules shall be dealt with by the Committee. The Committee, after giving due warning in writing to a member, may suspend that member subject to the right of appeal by that member to a general meeting called for that purpose.
12. **DIVING:** All club diving activities to be governed by the Diving Officer or his representative in accordance with BSAC regulations and recommendations. Additional regulations may be instituted by the Diving Officer with the approval of the Committee which will be notified to club members.
13. **NON-DIVING CLUB ACTIVITIES:** Shall only be conducted with the approval of the Committee. Activities conducted without the approval of the Committee shall not be the responsibility of the club.
14. **DISSOLVING THE CLUB:** If a resolution to dissolve the club is passed at a general meeting convened for the purpose and confirmed by a simple majority of the branch members entitled to vote, in a postal ballot, then the club shall be dissolved. All funds, property and equipment being passed to BSAC to be held pending formation of a new Branch of BSAC in the same geographical area, unless an alternative specific resolution has been passed at the General Meeting for such disposal.

## Club Funding - the way forward

### Introduction

Everyone who came to November's AGM, and indeed everyone who dived from the Club boats during this year, will already be aware that both boats need replacing. However, without external funding (e.g. Lottery grants) we can currently only afford to replace one boat. At the AGM there was also a lively discussion about Club finances in general. It was again suggested that the Club has to plan and budget more carefully for the future, so that the next time we need to replace major equipment we aren't relying on external funding.

The new Committee has fully taken these points on board and we have been developing a strategy that should address these issues and more. The purpose of this article is to put this strategy out for discussion between all members of the Club. We intend to discuss our proposed strategy again at the next Committee meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, so if you would like to make any comments or suggestions, please do so to any committee member, before this date.

### Our Current Position

#### **Boats**

- The Club currently owns 2 fully equipped (but aged) dive boats, which require maintenance, storage and insurance every year.
- We have owned these boats for 7 years, though it was originally intended that they should be replaced after 5 years.
- We currently can only afford to replace one of the boats.
- We have to rely on Lottery grants in an effort to replace the other boat, but this takes a large amount of time and input, and success is not guaranteed (only 1 in 10 applications are funded for 50% of the total required for their project).
- We do not want to be in the position where we can only send out one dive boat. This would restrict diving opportunities and compromise safety.

#### **Subscriptions**

- Club subscriptions have been static since December 1999, and the increase that occurred then was due to an increase in the BSAC portion of the subscription.
- BSAC increased its subscription rates again in April of this year by £5, but we have not passed this cost on to members.

#### **Training**

- We hire Northolt Swimarama all year round for training.
- We have more trainees at present than ever before and this puts increasing pressure on our experienced divers.
- We also own 12 sets of training kit for use in the pool.
- There is increasing interest in diving and we would like to be in a position where we don't have to turn anyone away.

#### **Diving qualifications**

- We need to retain our experienced divers and also provide some incentive for them to stay with the Club.

- We are currently experiencing a shortage of instructors and need to encourage members to progress in their training towards higher qualifications.

### **Financial Realities**

We have worked out that with a bit of luck and some Lottery funding we should be able to replace both boats in the next 15 months. One entirely new boat should be available for the start of next year's diving season. With some Lottery money we should also be in a position to fit a new engine to the Humber and keep that running for another year. Towards the end of next year (again with some Lottery money and some concerted fundraising) we hope we will be able to replace the Humber. The cost of each boat (including all the electrical equipment and engine) is approximately £14,000.

We want to plan for the future, so that in 6 years time (when we want to replace these boats) we will not be in the same position as now. This means that we have to save nearly £30,000 over 6 years, or £5,000 a year. Currently, the Club manages to save about £2,500 a year. Last year we spent almost all of the money we should have saved just keeping the boats running!

### **The Way Forward?**

There are two main sources of revenue for the Club, membership fees and dive charges.

BSAC increased their charges in April 2001 by £5 per member. After several careful calculations we have worked out that in order to generate enough revenue, membership fees have to increase by £30 per member. These two changes would mean a blanket increase of £35 per member. However, as discussed above, we want to encourage members to train to higher levels and provide incentives for experienced divers to stay with the Club. Therefore, we propose introducing a sliding scale of membership fees that will reduce as your qualifications increase.

		Full	Abated
<b>New Members &amp; Renewals</b>	Trainee / Club Diver (Ocean Diver)	£190.00	£175.00
	Sports Diver	£170.00	£155.00
	Dive Leader	£150.00	£135.00
	Advanced Diver	£140.00	£125.00
	First Class Diver	£130.00	£125.00
	Assistant Club Instructor (ADI)	£150.00	£115.00
	Club Instructor (PI/TI)	£120.00	£110.00
	Open Water Instructor	£110.00	£100.00
	Advanced Instructor	£100.00	£95.00
	National Instructor	£80.00	£80.00
<b>Junior Diver</b>	(Between 14 - 17 years old)	£60.00	
<b>Student Diving Member</b>	(Aged 18 & over, but in full time education)	£60.00	
<b>Special Member Full</b>	(Over 60 + ESAC member for <5 years)	£80.00	
<b>Special Member Abated</b>	(Over 60 + ESAC member for >5 years)	£65.00	

Abated			
Swimming Members	Under 12 years	£10.00	
	> 12 years old & < 16 years + full time students	£20.00	
	> 16 years old	£40.00	
Guests /per night	< 16 years old	£1.00	
	> 16 years old	£2.00	

We hope this will address several problems. Firstly, it will put the Club on a sound financial footing for the future. Secondly, it will act as an incentive for divers to spend more time diving and increase their qualification level. Thirdly, it rewards those to whom the Club owes so much, the instructors, brave souls who give up their time and share their knowledge of diving for the benefit of the Club. We are more than aware of the heavy demands made upon them and we want to let them know how much we appreciate all they do. A reduction in their fees is small compensation for all the time they spend in Wraysbury! This reduction amounts to between £10 and £20 on the current subscription fee.

Obviously, for those of you who can do the maths (or use a calculator) this means that there will be a £60 or 45% increase in membership fees for trainees. But please bear in mind that fees would have to go up by £35 (27%) anyway. These fees would be for Club Divers, most of whom would qualify as Sports Divers within a year and so see a decrease in their subscriptions. Trainee divers are the very ones who take up most instructor time and the new scale of subscriptions is an attempt to reflect this. Moreover, £55 of the £190 (for a new trainee) goes straight to BSAC. Thus Club subscription is only £135, £11.25 a month, which includes entry to the pool every week.

We have researched equivalent costs of membership to other sporting clubs locally. For example, a standing season ticket to see Brentford play would cost £200 a year, or £300 if you wanted a seat. Ealing Rugby club will charge you £40 in subs and £10 per game for 33 games, an annual cost of £370. A lot of money to get cold, wet and muddy, at least with ESAC there's very little mud!!! Even Phoenix Swimming Club that meets at Northolt Swimarama charges £22 a month (£264 a year) for juniors to go swimming. Even the highest charge on our scale works out at only £15.83 a month including BSAC subs. We are also going to review the charges for dives from the Club boats and the Committee is currently hotly debating this matter. Any contributions to this discussion would be highly valued.

Obviously this is your Club, and although as a Committee, we are charged with running the Club, this is a major decision. We would therefore value any **constructive** comments or suggestions that you care to make. Please can you make any comments before 9<sup>th</sup> January, either by email to the Committee, or finding one of us for a chat about it.

Thank you for your time,  
THE COMMITTEE

## Lecture Programme - 2002

### Club Diver

Date	Title	Time	Lecturer
12/01/02	Introduction to the BSAC	10.00	Jackie O'Dowd
	Break	11.00	
12/01/02	Physics of Scuba Diving	11.15	Paul Chan
	Lunch	12.30	
12/01/02	Scuba Equipment	13.30	Alex Woodrow
	Break	14.45	
12/01/02	Buddy Diving	15.00	Neville Simpson
09/02/02	Human Life Support System	10.00	Michelle Burrell
	Break	11.15	
09/02/02	Gases under Pressure	11.30	Greg Taylor
	Lunch	12.45	
09/02/02	Adventurous Diving	13.30	Rob Mills
09/03/02	Ocean Diving	11.30	Ann Howard

### Sports Diver

Date	Title	Time	Lecturer
12/01/02	Decompression	15.00	Adrian Jones
09/02/02	Diver Safety and Rescue Skills	15.00	Michelle Burrell
09/03/02	Diver Rescue	10.00	Jackie O'Dowd

### Dive Leader

Date	Title	Time	Lecturer
12/01/02	Dive Leadership	10.00	Rik Nash
	Break	11.15	
12/01/02	Diver Rescue Review	11.30	Ann Howard
	Lunch	12.45	
12/01/02	Symptoms and Treatment of Diving Disorders	13.30	Richard Ayers
09/02/02	Rescue Management	10.00	Rob Willin
	Break	11.15	
09/02/02	Adventurous Diving	11.30	Jonathan Wymer
	Lunch	12.45	
09/02/02	Decompression Tables, Air Requirements Review	13.30	Greg Taylor
09/03/02	Charts, Tides and Weather plus Dive Marshalling and Planning	13.30	Nigel Ealand

### All new drysuit divers

09/03/02	Drysuit Diving	13.30	Simon Yardley?
----------	----------------	-------	----------------

## INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSES AND EXAMS!

There was a day, (maybe a year ago, maybe 10 years ago, maybe more), when you dipped your head under water for the first time and breathed in an alien environment. I think I'm the only one over the last 10 years or so that has caused the pool marshal to blow his whistle and initiate a full blown rescue - but that's another story, and look where it got me!??

### **SOMEONE TOOK YOU FOR THAT FIRST DIVE.**

Presumably you enjoyed the experience or you wouldn't be reading this. Now, spare a minute to look down the Club contact list. It doesn't take a genius to spot a lot of names with TR in the qualification column (and there are 4 more to be added). So, WHAT'S MISSING?

We need more instructors! Talk to anyone that has done a BSAC Instructor course. We'll all say how much fun we had despite it being hard work at times.

*NOW IT'S YOUR TURN - and no excuses! (Adrian, that includes you)*

Instructor Foundation Course (IFC) - Open to SD and above  
19/20 January - London  
26/27 January - South East  
09/10 February - London (not if you have lectures to do)  
09/10 March - South (not if you have lectures to do)  
23/24 March - London  
13/14 April - South East

David Broad	Martin Bull	Craig Burrell
Michelle Burrell	David Corcoran	Janine Ealand
Mike Haley	Dave Watkiss	Adrian Jones
Robert Kaminski	Bobby Ludlow	Christine Newton
Ian Oliver	Alan Radlett	Colin Stroman
Jane Tebble	Errol Vaughan	Pradeep Vohra
Dominic Watts		

Please see Jackie for the application form!

NOW, IF THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE DONE YOUR ITC THINK YOU ARE EXCUSED FROM MY 'HIT LIST', - YOU ARE VERY WRONG!

**Dive Leaders who have completed an IFC (or ITC in pre 2002 language) can go on to take their THEORY INSTRUCTOR EXAM (TIE)**

**09 March - London or SE**

**13 April - South**

**21 April - London**

Guess what folks - that's

Richard Ayers                      Neville Simpson                      Alex Woodrow  
Jonathan Wymer (see there really is no escape)

BUT IT GETS STILL BETTER!

Having done an IFC (or ITC) - and that includes all our current CIs, you're eligible to undertake the OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR COURSE (OWIC). Rob Pratt, Rik Nash, Greg Taylor and myself did one in 2000, Rob Willin several years before. Again, we all enjoyed the course so PLEASE get that application in!

20 April - South East  
21 April - South East  
11 May - South  
12 May - South  
09 June - South East  
23 June - South

Richard Ayers (a busy year Richard)		Paul Chan
Nigel Ealand	Rob Mills	Neville Simpson
Alex Woodrow	Jonathan Wymer	Simon Yardley

There's more of course - the PRACTICAL INSTRUCTOR EXAM (PIE) but only Rob Willin and Greg Taylor are eligible at present if they choose this route to OWI instead of 12 hours logged experience (they both completed the Open Water Course prior to the change for 2002)

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO GIVING OUT LOTS OF APPLICATION FORMS.

Jackie O'Dowd

## Brain Teaser

An Oldie but Goldie:

### The Fork in the Road

A logician vacationing in the South Seas finds himself on an island inhabited by the two proverbial tribes of liars and truth-tellers. Members of one tribe always tell the truth; members of the other always lie.

He comes to a fork in the road and has to ask a native bystander which branch he should take to reach a village. He has no way of telling whether the native is a truth-teller or a liar. The logician thinks a moment, then asks one question only.

From the reply he knows which road to take. What question does he ask?

**And finally, the answer to the tie riddle . . .**

Mr. Brown is wearing red.

Mr. White is wearing brown.

Mr. Red is wearing white.

Mr. Brown is not wearing the brown tie (no man's tie matches his name). Since he talks to the man with the white tie, he is not wearing the white tie. That leaves only the red tie.

Mr. White cannot be wearing the white tie, and since Mr. Brown is wearing the red tie, that leaves only the brown tie.

That leaves only Mr. Red and only the white tie.

*Thanks again, Simon – keep them coming!*

## The Zen of Cyprus

Seven days of Sun, Sea, Sand and Souvlaki. The brochure said that our hotel was three 'stars' and a mere five minutes from Larnaca town centre and even less to the beach. In reality the only way 'Protea Hotel Apartments' would show stars is if you were whacked on the head and yes, you guessed it, it was located nearly five miles outside of Larnaca. The Owner / Barman / Receptionist, etc looked just like Telly Savalas, who I would remind you has been dead for some time (which explains why he stopped making films). This was not going to be a diving holiday, simply a holiday in which we would do some diving.

Two days before we left London I read a news story concerning a 'Great White' that had been seen prowling one of the beaches. I've seen these living submarines up close. Whilst we were in Cyprus it happened; a shark bit a local man. It headlined the local news on TV. It wasn't much of a bite, more of a nibble. After being bandaged up and given an injection (to prevent infection from the very nasty bacteria on sharks' teeth) he was allowed home. It wasn't the 'Great White' after all. We know that because a) He still had his leg and b) 'Gums' was caught on video. It was probably a Sand Tiger Shark approx 2.5 metres long. Great Whites used to be regularly seen around Cyprus but not for the last several years. The Tuna fish that they feed on in the Mediterranean are mostly 'fished out' using long nets off Malta. My brother and his family had already been on the Island for a week prior to our arrival, he informed me that he and his son whilst snorkelling had seen "Loads of fish and several Sting rays". We waited with growing anticipation for our first dive.

The day came and we set off, approx two hours late, which was no surprise to anyone. The dive site is via a high entry (approx three metres). The dive itself is all at about 12 metres and consists of a series of sea caves, several of which are connected by tunnels. The exit is via a small 'blow hole', through which you have to fin then climb and eventually be hauled through by two people, an interesting experience. The viz was in excess of 20 metres, the water was 26 °C. Soft and hard Corals, large colourful fish, plentiful crabs, lobsters, Cyprus doesn't have any of these. The caves and tunnels were fun though. We did the same dive that night. It was much more interesting. We saw four 'leopard' Morays, lots of shrimp, two Red and Blue Squat Lobsters and eight octopuses. I coaxed one of the octopuses to 'sucker' me but only for a short time before it jetted off into the night's gloom.

The next day was the main event; two dives on the 'Zenobia' or 'Zen' to those of us who have dived her. For those of you visiting from another planet; The Zenobia was a 200 metre long Swedish RoRo Ferry with 104 articulated lorries aboard that sank in suspicious circumstances just outside Larnaca harbour in June 1980. She lies in 42 metres, 17 metres to the top. There were no casualties. The story goes that when the rescue boat came alongside, the crew were in an orderly line with their suitcases neatly packed.

The wreck can be clearly seen from the surface, viz was at least 25 metres. The wreck is so well preserved that externally it is all still painted white and blue. There was not the profusion or size of life I had expected although there were some nice Barracuda feeding off the shoals of smaller fish that continually circled the wreck. There were also the usual varieties of warm water fish including a few very timid Groupers that were all less than a metre long. We made two penetrations into the wreck. The first was through the Bridge. We entered at approx 28 metres and exited at approx 20 metres. The inside of the wreck is in a much poorer condition than outside. Most of the instrumentation is still there but very dilapidated. The second penetration was into an accommodation area. This was a classically (bad) 'saw tooth' profile at about 25 metres. Several of the portholes have now been removed due to an 'incident' a couple of years ago. So even though we were inside the wreck for at least ten minutes there were several 'escape' routes available to us during that time. I saw a writhing group of red and sand coloured worm-like creatures. It's always interesting to spot something new. This something new on closer inspection turned out to be carpet gradually unravelling! Four of us finished the dive sitting in a row on one of the

stacks at 17 metres feeding hard-boiled eggs to the fish. This attracted a lot of small fish but the Grouper stayed away. We have been promised a photo of this. I will have to wait and see if it arrives. (They Did !)

The Lorries are still hanging off the chains that were originally used to 'tie down' the lorries to the decking. The chains are now weakening due to rust and will soon become dangerous. Rounding off the day, I fell backwards off the jetty into the boat whilst in full kit. Don't try this at home folks, it smarts.

Sightseeing around Cyprus was disappointing. However, the night dive and the Zenobia dives would easily keep you occupied for a one week holiday.

Rik Nash August 2001

## **PAD(I)-Thai !**

It's a scene straight out of Fantasy Island! You land at Koh Samui airport and the arrivals lounge is a wall-less bamboo hut surrounded by coconut palms.

After being flung-around and generally soaked in a massively-overpowered speedboat (600hp!) for two hours you arrive at Koh Tao : azure sea surrounds a coconut-covered island, baked in blazing sunshine – everyday!

My first month in Thailand has been fairly-well filled with the studying I've had for the PADI Open Water Instructor course. On the fifteen dives I've managed to fit in the visibility has been somewhat disappointing – sometimes not dissimilar to the UK! It's now recovering to 15m plus. Fish life is good though fairly consistent - blue-spotted stingrays, porcupine puffer fish, large groupers, barracuda, parrotfish, clown-fish etc. Corals (predominantly hard) are very prevalent. I have yet to visit the best dive sites here (Chumphon Pinnacle and Shark Island) where whale-sharks, white-tips and nurse sharks are to be seen. The water is 28°C and my combination of lycra dive-skin plus my shortie has proved perfect.

How does PADI compare to BSAC? Well ultimately it turns-out competent divers very effectively – especially in these warm waters. The instructional materials are much better thought-out than in BSAC thereby not making the quality of the instructor quite as crucial to the learning experience. We can certainly learn some good things from the PADI system – class control, free swimming ascents if you can't reach your buddy when out-of-air, and general teaching techniques to make the theory side much more effective for our students. Downsides – some of it's pretty god-damn American, the cost to the student is far greater than in BSAC, and for some of the techniques I definitely prefer the BSAC method.

It's really a case of horses for courses. PADI works really well here and gives employment to bums like me, BSAC works really well for the UK diving scene – I don't really think either would benefit by having great designs on each others' territory.

If anyone's passing this way feel free to drop in. Once you're here a bungalow is about 25 pounds per week and you can get a nice meal for 50p! Well time for a cool beer in my hammock to relax in the evening heat. What was a drysuit again?!

Hope everyone's well, Best wishes

ROB PRATT  
Robert.pratt@btinternet.com

## The Return of the Beady Eye

At last a What's Bubbling editor brave and fearless enough to publish a BDI Report; at last a What's Bubbling editor with b\*\*ls enough (only metaphorically of course Nat) to publish a BDI report without subjecting it to heavy usage of the censorship scissors; at last a What's Bubbling editor with \*\*\*\*\* (yes, *I think we've got the message, BDI*).

BDI will confess to feeling very hurt and upset when the previous What's Bubbling editor cruelly spiked and rejected out of hand the Porthkerris masterpiece. A decision was then taken for the BDI to retire to a dark corner, lick my wounds and never write another piece for that unfeeling tyrant of an editor.

Now all has changed, BDI has picked up her, or is it his, pen again - so beware, all your non-diving activities (well the printable ones) are under the *Beady eye* again.

Of course this resurrection had to occur at the end of the diving season didn't it, but never fear (or actually fear) 'cos two reports have already reached the BDI.

The first of these concerns the "Open Weekend" at the Swimmerama. At very short notice ESAC were asked by the management to provide and man (or is that person) a stall on Sat/Sun the 10/11<sup>th</sup> November; the aim being to promote the club and so attract yet more members. Jackie O was seen to blanche at the mere thought of even one more trainee and the need to locate and persuade (ie arm twist) yet another trainer and then find space for them in the pool.

Whatever, Michelle rose to the occasion and produced stand material in a very short space of time. One of her initiatives was to devise a "win a try dive" competition. Saturday passed off with a degree of interest, although the stand was not exactly overwhelmed. On Sunday morning, apparently Craig was heard to boast that by 09:30 he had already got 3 people signed up for the try dive competition whereas there were only 15 for the whole of Saturday. What Michelle was too kind to tell him was that the "signers up" were parents taking their kids to swimming lessons and had only signed up so that they could get past him and get their kids to the lessons on time.

Also Alan R managed to upset the Northolt Phoenix swimming club, our stand neighbours. In an idle moment, and there were many, he wandered over to their stand and perused their pamphlets. He then noticed on one pamphlet extolling the benefits of joining the club the following section "improve your strokes and increase your times". Shouldn't that be "decrease your times" quoth he. "Ah" said the chairman, "we've used this for over 2 years and no-one has noticed that yet". BDI cannot be sure but thought that the chairman departed muttering something that sounded like "pedantic pr\*\*t".

Anyhow many thanks to all who responded to Michelle's persuasion and gave up their time to person the stall. As well as the "Old Regulars" it was good to see some of the new members taking part so thanks to Jim L, Kiran V and Frank M for their efforts.

The other event was the boat maintenance day on 11<sup>th</sup> November. It was reported that Richard A was there at the crack of dawn. Whilst applauding such zeal, some sneak has whispered in BDI's ear that it surely wasn't connected to the fact that Richard's M in L (to steal an idea from Simon Y) was staying that particular weekend.

When Alan R turned up Richard informed him it was unfortunately there was no power to the containers. Later Errol found that the supply had not been plugged it. Unfortunately, even when this advanced and complicated technological procedure had been performed, there was still no power. John O expect a call.

Despite the lack of power the combined efforts of Craig, Richard, Errol, Alan and Paul C (and not forgetting Nadine nor Michelle for her tea run and washing up liquid run) were put to use in hauling out the boats and scrubbing them down and then clearing out the containers. Knowing Alan's technical aptitude Richard put him in charge of the broom and the sweeping out of the containers. When contacted for her comments on this phenomenon Marty commented that it made a change from home. There all Alan's normal contribution to the household cleaning process is to lift his feet out of the way of the vacuum cleaner.

When hearing of all the activities of the boat maintenance day, the somewhat uncharitable - especially in view of the commitment shown - phrase popped into BDI's brain, ie boys and their toys. But as you all know without the boys playing with these toys - NO DIVING. So once again many thanks for all the efforts.

In conclusion, I would report that ESAC seems to have found a human dynamo in Michelle. In addition to her full-time job and being a mum she seems to have an awful lot of energy left over for the club. BDI suspects that this may have something to do with her work as a *research chemist*. Michelle, whatever substance it is that you have *researched* BDI would like to have a sample of it, it seems to work a treat.

PS: reports on any club related activity can be e-mailed to the BDI at [esacbdi@aol.com](mailto:esacbdi@aol.com)

PPS: there is no money in the BDI coffers so libel lawyers will not - hopefully - be interested in pursuing any claims.

BDI  
Dec 01