



WHAT'S BUBBLING?

**Issue 11:
October 2003**

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

**Editor: Natalie Ealand
Tel: 020 8582 0991
e-mail Natalie.Ealand@brunel.ac.uk**

In this issue . . .

Diary Dates	2
Towing Charge Increase	2
Underwater Challenge Draws Nearer	2
The Dive Marshall	3
News from BSAC and the South	4
Committee Stuff	5
Calling all Trainees	6
London Mela Report	6
Family Membership News	7
Forthcoming Attractions	7

Diary dates

- **BSAC 50th celebration**
October 11th 5.15 onwards, Northolt Swimarama
- **AGM**
Nov 23rd 7.30 Northolt Community Centre

Towing charges to increase by 50%

The September Committee meeting reviewed the current towing charge of 10p per mile and decided to increase the rate to 15p per mile. Dominic Watts, Treasurer, hopes that this will be adequate compensation for those who tow the boats to dive sites.

We all depend upon those with tow bars, and very often they get the hardest day of all. Not only does their journey take longer, but they have to get up earlier to get the boat out of the container. Then while most of us are sinking into a warm bath the poor tower is down at the boatyard putting the boat away again as well, making it a very long day.

The new rate will cover nearly all the fuel cost for the journey for the person towing. The Committee hope this will act as an incentive to encourage more people to fit tow bars. Don't forget that as well as the big two, Scuba Doo and Tigger Too, we also have the much smaller and lighter Scrappy. So even those with smaller cars could share the towing burden.

Excitement grows as Underwater Challenge draws nearer **No tickets for celebration of BSAC 50th – T-shirts sold instead**

BSAC celebrates it's 50th Anniversary this year, and branches have been challenged to find a novel way to celebrate. ESAC has taken this to heart with an underwater Olympiad, the like of which may never be seen again. Four teams will battle it out on 11th October to achieve the goal of 50 underwater sports and games in a 3- hour marathon pool session.

There are no tickets for this event, but participants and spectators are being offered unique specially commissioned commemorative t-shirts instead. Adult t-shirts cost £10, and childrens' cost £5, and this includes access to the pool for the games and a fish and chip supper.

Social Secretary, Julie Newton, is encouraging everyone to bring along family and friends to cheer our efforts. It is hoped that a live underwater video camera will be able to beam pictures onto the balcony so that everyone can see the fun. All the divers in the club are encouraged to participate.

The pool session starts at 5.30 prompt and finishes at 8.30. Everyone is then expected to decamp to Northolt Community Centre for the Fish and Chip Supper. There won't be an organised bar at the Centre so everyone is invited to bring their own drink etc.

As always at ESAC events such as this Mike Howard will be running a raffle, with a special 50 related theme. The raffle prizes will be drawn at the Community Centre.

As if this wasn't enough, it is hoped that an ESAC calendar for 2004 featuring scenes from the Olympics will be available just before Christmas. A write up will be sent to BSAC in the hope of winning the dive kit on offer as a prize for the best means of celebrating the 50th.

So sign up for a team, get your t-shirts and get ready for the fun! T-shirts on sale from Natalie Ealand (020 8582 0991), general enquiries to Michelle Burrell (020 8864 0460).

The Dive Marshal

We all belong to ESAC for one reason, to go diving. We're all rightly proud of the reputation that we have as a safe family orientated club. In order to maintain our safety record, everyone is encouraged to continue training and to improve their range and level of skills. More than this, increasing your personal skills and qualifications allows you to take part in more challenging dives and get more of a kick out of diving. As you progress through your training and start to dive with the Club a bit more, you will come to appreciate the role of the Dive Marshal.

All Branch dives are carried out under the authority of the Diving Officer. The responsibility and duty of care held by the DO is passed down to the Dive Marshal for each and every dive that takes place. The DO must be careful who this care is devolved to, and fortunately BSAC have issued guidelines governing who may marshal a dive. These state that the only person who has received specific training in how to marshal dives is a BSAC Advanced Diver. Before you start to wonder how ESAC could ever cope with such restrictions, BSAC themselves recognise that not all branches have

enough AD to marshal every dive. There are therefore some additional guidelines....

If there is no AD, the next best person is an experienced DL who has undergone AD training but not yet finished the qualification. If there is no DL who is nearly an AD, then the competence to marshal a dive is relevant to the amount of training the DL has undergone, with a priority on those who have attended the DPM and PRM courses.

The BSAC Branch Officers (DO, treasurer, chairman and secretary) have been specifically advised that they should consider very carefully their duty of care to Club members if they sanction anyone less than an AD to marshal dives. We are proud to report that due to the active training programme over the last few years, ESAC now meets these standards on all Club dive trips. We intend to continue offering Dive Marshal training to those who wish to increase their skill level and thereby follow BSAC Safe Diving Practice guidelines. If you would like to receive any further assistance with your training, please speak to the TO or DO.

The Committee

A bit of news from BSAC . . .

New Welfare Officer appointment at BSAC HQ

The issue of Welfare of Children and Protection of the Vulnerable is becoming increasingly important for National Governing Bodies in sport. Over the past couple of years the BSAC has been developing and implementing guidelines and adopting procedures for good practice. During this time, most of this work has been undertaken by John Williams, a BSAC Member and Volunteer. However due to increased work commitments, John is unable to devote as much energy and time as this important project now needs. The BSAC has therefore appointed a new Welfare Officer. Mike Clack has now taken-up this role as Welfare Officer for BSAC, effective immediately. Mike is a full-time employee at BSAC HQ and it is envisaged that welfare issues will become an increasing part of his workload over the coming months.

Over the last few months Mike has been working hard to complete the necessary training to take on this role and will continue to work with the external agencies that have helped BSAC to develop its policy.

Mike Clack joined the Technical Department in January 2003, helping to respond to members' technical queries on all aspects of diver training, snorkelling, and branch and school management. Mike is an active diver and instructor - also Area Coach for Shropshire and a member of the West Midlands Coaching Team since 1997 and has also been a past representative for scuba diving on South Staffordshire Sports Council.

Mike Clack can be contacted at BSAC HQ on 0151 350 6206 or e-mail: mikec@bsac.com.

And from around the rest of the country . . .
August 2003

Swanage celebrates naming of new lifeboat

A new £20,000 D class lifeboat was named in a special ceremony of dedication at Swanage lifeboat station on Saturday 30 August. The donor, Mrs Phyl Cleare, had requested that the lifeboat should be named Jack Cleare in memory of her late husband.

Mr and Mrs Cleare have a long history of involvement with the RNLI, and have provided funding for four previous lifeboats: the D class Phyl Clare entered the relief fleet in 1990 before being stationed at Swanage in 1993. A further two boats carried this name (Mrs Cleare's maiden name): the D class Phyl Clare II was stationed at Swanage in 1995, and an Atlantic 75, Phyl Clare III, arrived at Weymouth in 1998. The couple also part funded the Mersey class Robert Charles Brown at Swanage in 1992, and had provided valuable kit for lifeboat crew members on a number of occasions.

Speaking of her involvement with the RNLI, Mrs Cleare says:

'I have always had the greatest admiration for the RNLI and am always amazed at the selflessness and courage of the crews, often in horrendous conditions.

'I never forget their families either, who are also surely deserving of our admiration. I call them 'my family', and I'm so very proud of them all.'

The three man D class lifeboat was first introduced to active service in 1963 and, at less than 5m in length, remains the smallest and most manoeuvrable boat in the RNLI fleet. Jack Cleare is one of the first of a new generation of boats in this class and is significantly faster than its predecessor, having a maximum speed of 25 rather than 20 knots. There is also a revamped chart plotter and global positioning system to give a more accurate read out of the boat's location.

A bit more Committee stuff, chaps . . .

Boat Rules Update

What is a Club Coxswain?

- You may qualify as a Club Coxswain in either of two ways:

You must have successfully completed a BSAC Diver Coxswain assessment using ESAC boats,

OR

You must have attended a BSAC Boat handler course, or similar, and have a minimum of one year's, **current** boat handling experience with ESAC (which should include all aspects of boat transport, launching, recovery, use at sea and washing down). You must prove your competence in all aspects of the use of the boats to the Diving Officer.

- Additionally, you must hold a GMDSS short-range radio operators certificate.
- The Diving Officer reappoints this position annually, based on **current** experience and competence.

What is a Club Boat Handler?

- You can qualify as a Club Boat Handler after:

Attending a BSAC Boat Handler course, and obtaining a GMDSS short-range radio operators certificate.

- The Diving Officer reappoints this position annually based on experience and proven competency to control a boat.
- A Club Boat Handler can take the duties of a Club Coxswain after a *minimum* of one year's experience with ESAC RIBs. This will ensure that new members that join the branch who are already Boat Handlers can become familiar with the specifics of ESAC boats and associated equipment.

Trainee Boat Handlers

- People who wish to train as Boat Handlers may do so only under the instruction of a Club Coxswain.
- **A trainee Boat Handler may have attended a Boat Handling course and/or hold a GDMSS license but with have limited experience with Club boats.**
- Appointment, by the Diving Officer, to Boat Handler will be based on the previous year's boat handling experience and your proven level of competency.
- Where a Trainee Boat Handler is under tuition, they shall not be left in the boat without a Club Coxswain being present.
- Any boat handler training should be entered onto the [Boat Report](#) form, and will be monitored by the Diving Officer for trainee development.

Responsibilities of Coxswains and Boat Handlers

- It is the [Club Coxswain](#)'s responsibility to ensure the boat is safely prepared for towing and the day's event. The Club Coxswain should also ensure that all the necessary boat equipment is stowed. It is not necessary for the person towing the boat to be a Coxswain, but they must be familiar with the legal requirements regarding towing. (Persons who first passed their driving test on or after 1 January 1997, or who have renewed their licence after 1 January 1998 may not be allowed to tow trailers of any size, unless they have attended the governments additional towing qualification)

- A Club Coxswain must be present when the boat is launched and recovered.
- A Club Coxswain or a [Club Boat Handler](#) must be in the boat at all times when it is at sea. Where there is more than one qualified Coxswain aboard, a single Coxswain should be nominated, by the Dive Marshal, as being in overall charge of the boat. It is the responsibility of the nominated Coxswain to specify who is in charge of the boat in their absence.
- Following a dive trip it is the responsibility of the Dive Marshal to return the completed [Boat report](#), the Coxswain's pack with boat yard keys and any boat equipment borrowed. These are to be returned to the Boat Officer at the earliest opportunity and in any event by the Thursday following the dive.

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the boat (i.e. the Coxswain or Boat Handler) to ensure that the boats are operated in a safe manner. This will include adherence to these Rules and observance of the [Boat Operations Procedures](#).

Keeping up to date

- At the start of every season, all Club Coxswains and Club Boat Handlers must attend a refamiliarisation session to be held at the boat yard. This will allow them to refamiliarise themselves with the Club RIBS, the boat's equipment and update themselves on seamanship best practice.
- Based on this session and evidence from the boat report forms regarding member's boat handling experience in the previous year, the Boat Officer will recommend a member's level of competency to the Diving Officer.
- The Diving Officer has full discretion in the appointment of Coxswains and Boat Handlers.
- Coxswains and Boat Handlers will be identified on the current ESAC contact list, obtainable from the Secretary.

News from the Secretary . . .

Dear Trainees

Please remember to bring your qualification book with you each time you do any training, and ensure that your Instructor puts their grubby paw print in the right box as you complete your training modules. It is not your Instructor's responsibility to chase you to give you the signature....they already have their own qualification books signed off!

Your qualification book is the only record **you** have of **your** training, so take good care of it.

London Mela - 17th August 2003

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped out at the London Mela in Gunnersbury Park on 17th August 2003. We were invited to participate by Ealing Council, who know us because of our recent grant applications, founding role in the Ealing Club Network and the Club that organised and hosted the Regional Running Sport Workshops last year.

Tigger Too and Scuba Doo flanked our stand along with notice boards covered in posters, equipment displays and the centrepiece – a try-dive pool provided by Ealing Council. OK, so it sounds impressive but in reality fins were completely surplus to requirements, and the 30 or so brave souls that got into the water crawled along the bottom, an excellent introduction to scuba! Several Club members came along with their families and spent the day talking to interested members of Joe Public, so much so that we handed out over 300 leaflets explaining who we were and how to get involved, and have generated several new members as a result.

The Mela was attended by 25,000 people, and at least half of them passed our stand because of our excellent position on the main path into the Park. Any publicity on that scale is good publicity, and with a selection of fantastic food and brilliant music, we were happy divers indeed.

So not only did the sun shine on us (the water was still cold) but the Club also raised its profile within our local community. And to seal a very successful day, we received a cheque for £100 from Ealing Council as thanks and payment towards our expenses! There are some years when you just can't stop people giving you money! Naturally we have written to the Council assuring them that we would love to take part in any similar event in the future.

Family Membership

For a while now, the Club rule stipulating that non-members who come down to the Swimarama on a Thursday night for a swim should pay £1 per visit, has been generally allowed to lapse. This probably occurs for two reasons, some people don't know about this rule, and generally the Treasurer is too busy to deal with collecting the money anyway. Following the September Committee Meeting, it was decided to introduce a Family membership scheme that would be considerably easier to administer.

It goes like this...

If there is a single diving member within a household, then an annual fee of £10 is payable to make everyone else in the family a social member of the Club. If there are 2 diving members within a family (residing at the same address) then the rest of the family automatically gets social membership.

This will be collected at the same time as your annual subs are paid, and henceforth the £1 per swim rule will be rescinded. Of course, if you would prefer to pay £1 per visit instead, then we rely upon your patience as you wait to hand over your money to the Treasurer....

Michelle Burrell, Secretary

Forthcoming Attractions . . .

- St Kilda Part 2 (is there a Part 3, Richard?)
- News from the TO Down Under
- Porthkerris 2003? Will this one ever be written up? You know who you are!!
- Penzance 2003? Will someone please put pen to paper . . .
- Christmas Event plans
- News (and hopefully pictures) from the 50th Celebrations
- Our Man at the Marathon

Remember: I need ARTICLES to produce What's Bubbling - not just Committee fodder!!

Natalie
Editor, What's Bubbling