



# **What's Bubbling**

Club Newsletter

**Issue XXXII**

**January 2001**

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## EDITORIAL

Cirkewa

Another diving year over, preparations for the next one start next month in earnest. Greg has retired as D.O. after two years service. An unofficial report on the AGM closes this issue.

Jackie has been busy and has contributed much to this issue.

## DISTRIBUTION

Completion and printing What's Bubbling takes significant time. I then hand out copies to family members on subsequent Thursdays. The first I give out about 15 copies, the next about 5 then subsequently 2 to 3 a week. This with about 60 families. The Secretary may later post some of the remaining copies to other club members.

**Thus the notice board/Thursday meetings/e-mail/telephones must be the communication methods for urgent messages.**

I would like details of events two months or more in the future to publish. I need reports on past club events and other items likely to be of interest for club members. This is your club magazine, please try to contribute something to it this year.

David Dooley.

## GOZO 2000

Elizabeth and I headed South for our usual Gozo trip at the end of October. Travel was much as expected. I had booked flights early, as they are usually fully booked for half-term week. However demand was so great that extra Air Malta flights had been arranged. We arrived in reasonable time to catch the taxi to Cirkewa, ferry to Mgarr and taxi to Xlendi.

All had been arranged well by St Andrews Divers. After breakfast at the hotel we went to the dive to collect weights, tanks and backpacks. The hire car was in the car park ready to load.

The weather was good throughout the week, but a little cooler than normal. Winds were light, and would have allowed diving off the North coast more often.

Life seemed a bit different to normal, but this was probably just the normal year to year variation to be expected for wild animals. We saw more large groupers than normal, out in the open, but cautious and out of camera range. There seemed fewer small fish, big fan-worms or cephalopods.

We started with an easy access site, Mgarr-ix-Xini. We went as far as the first cave. here were no octopi, but a variety of fish, fanworms, anemones and many large pinna shells in the seagrass. In the afternoon it was off to Dwejra Bay and the Blue Hole to go through Crack Cave and back. Off the drop-off five jacks menaced the smaller fish.

Next morning we did the Xlendi tunnel and reef dive. The highlight was a shoal of combers by the tunnel exit harrying an octopus foolish enough to be out in daytime. Aided by us scaring the combers away the octopus finally found some rocks to slide under. In the afternoon a trip around the azure window support produced the usual range of fish, worms and anemones.

The third day we went for a deeper target, Coral Cave with the entrance at 28 metres. The roof of the cave is covered with lace-like bryozoa, sponges, and fanworms. My Oceanic computer did not like this and very quickly indicated that I needed an over half an hour decompression. Elizabeth's Suunto was still indicating much no-stop time remaining. Reluctantly we left the cave, going up to 9 and then 6 metres and taking the long way home via the Blue Hole. We sighted a small octopus en route. After over an hour in the water the Oceanic allowed me up to 3 metres but then decided



that it wanted another hour at that depth! I gave up humouring it and surfaced. In the afternoon we did the round trip from the Inland Sea tunnel through the Azure Window to the Blue Hole. At the Azure Window visibility was worse than normal, only 30 metres. Swell was noticeable. At the Azure Window we sighted a large grouper below. I descended slowly, but it disappeared under the large boulders.

The following day the main highlights were a small lobster, a moray, and masses of nereid bristle worms gathered around a dead fish.

Next day we went on the hard boat trip. We dived the small tug that had been deliberately sunk off Cirkewa, Malta, ten years ago. This was a little disappointing, as there was little growth on the ship. The damsels, wrasse and bream mobbed us at one time, presumably having been fed by other divers. After lunch we were taken to Comino Caves where we went through the tunnel and then back outside, looked at the other caves, fed the fish with some spare bread, and then surfaced to argue about which boat of two was ours. We also found a small conger, and near the surface, garfish.

The last days diving was also night dive day. In the morning we saw a large grouper and 3 barracuda. In the afternoon we saw another octopus, and a stargazer bit my glove when I put the hand down on the sand in front of it. The night dive was a relative disappointment, we found no octopus or cuttlefish out hunting. Shrimps, eels and squat lobsters were found.



## TRAINING MATTERS!

I thought it might be helpful to print a copy of the pool training activity so everyone knows who's who. I've found it changes every time I type it up so don't expect it to be accurate by the time you receive it in 'What's Bubbling!'

The lecture programme is now planned - but there will probably be changes. Please try to attend. We welcome SD keen to do the DL lectures, so let me know if you are interested.

I still need to see lots of blue logbooks to transfer the training information to record cards. If you lose your book we can not transfer the information to another if we don't have a record - be warned!

## POOL TRAINING – JANUARY 2001

Trainees	Instructors	Level
Frank Mulcahy	Simon Yardley Adrian Jones	Club Diver
Shailly Malik	Jackie O'Dowd	Club Diver
Start 19 Oct. 2000 Terry Wilson Sarah Pink	Greg Taylor Christine Newton	Club Diver
Start 23 Nov. 2000 Ian Oliver	Rik Nash P.C./Murray Drylie	Sports Diver conversion
Start 21 Sept. 2000 Mark Seymour Terry Seymour	Neville Simpson Judy Fisher (to Jan 2001)	Club Diver
Start 21 Sept. 2000 Mick McInerney Jim Lafferty	Nigel Ealand Alex Woodrow	Club Diver
Start 11 Jan. 2001 Kiran Vyas	Judy Fisher Paul Chan	Club Diver
Start 25 Jan. 2001 Dave Taylor Ben Lee	Rik Nash Murray Drylie	Sports Diver conversion
Start 2001 Jane Tebble Pat Canavan David Corcoran Roberta Ludlow Neil Hedger	Rob Pratt Derek Williams	Club Diver to Sports Diver

## THEORY LESSON PARTICIPANTS

Club Diver	Sports Diver	Dive Leader
Frank Mulcahy (not intro. to BSAC or Physics) Roberta Ludlow (as above) Terry Wilson Sarah Pink Mick McInerney Jim Lafferty Shailly Malik Terry Seymour Mark Seymour Kiran Vyas	Mike Haley Michelle Burrell Pat Canavan David Corcoran Neil Hedger Ian Oliver Dave Taylor Ben Lee	Alan Radlett (revision) John Feeney (as above) Graham Williams Christian Ayres (not 1st, 2nd or last lecture)

## NOTES

Please could any other SD who would like to go on and do the DL lectures please let me know.

The programme is such that anyone doing SD lectures can also revise any CD lecture they wish (except Scuba equipment) or sit in on DL sessions.

The final DL session (Charts, Tides and Weather plus Dive Marshalling and Planning) is again an extension of the DL lecture. We are encouraging all SD and above to attend or repeat this session to enable more club members to plan and organise dives with assistance as required.

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND THE SESSIONS YOU NEED – we will repeat where necessary but would like to keep this to a minimum!

# Lecture Programme

## Club Diver

Date	Title	Time	Lecturer
13/01/01	Introduction to the BSAC	10.00	Jackie O'Dowd
	Break	11.00	
	Physics of Scuba Diving	11.15	Rob Willin
	Lunch	12.30	
	Buddy Diving	13.30	Ann Howard
	Break	14.45	
	Scuba Equipment	15.00	Rob Mills Richard Ayers
17/02/01	Human Life Support System	10.00	Murray Drylie
	Break	11.15	
	Gases under Pressure	11.30	Paul Chan
	Lunch	12.45	
	Adventurous Diving	13.30	Murray Drylie
11/03/01	Ocean Diving	13.30	Judy Fisher

## Sports Diver

Date	Title	Time	Lecturer
13/01/01	Decompression	15.00	Greg Taylor
17/02/01	Diver Safety & Rescue Skills	15.00	Jackie O'Dowd
11/03/01	Diver Rescue	10.00	Neville Simpson

## Dive Leader

Date	Title	Time	Lecturer
13/01/01	Dive Leadership	10.00	Elizabeth Dooley
	Break	11.15	
	Diver Rescue Review	11.30	Rik Nash
	Lunch	12.45	
	Symptoms & Treatment of Diving Disorders	13.30	Greg Taylor
17/02/01	Rescue Management	10.00	Rob Willin
	Break	11.15	
	Adventurous Diving	11.30	David Dooley
	Lunch	12.45	
	Decompression Tables, Air Requirements Review	13.30	Simon Yardley
11/03/01	Charts, Tides and Weather plus Dive Marshalling and Planning	13.30	Nigel Ealand Simon Yardley

## AGM 2000

Despite two postponements about 32 of us turned up for the AGM, almost twice as many as last year.

### D.O.'s Report

Greg announced his resignation as D.O. There had been less diving than normal last year. Events had included the New Year's dive, training, trips to Bracklesham, Bognor, Porthkerris, a mega group at Brixham, Selsey, Swanage, Lundy and Bognor. He thanked Jackie for training work, John Glyn-Woods for work on the boat engines, Rob Mills for help with equipment, Adrian and Rik for trips.

### Certificates Gained:

Snorkel Diver: Emma Gidney, Elizabeth Ayers.

Club Diver: Jane Tebble, Janine Ealand, Dominic Watts, Patrick Canavan, David Corcoran.

Sports Diver: David Broad, Sophie Taylor, Robert Kaminski, Craig Burrell, Chris Da Rocha, Dominic Watts, Janine Ealand.

Big Bottom Time Award: Rob Kaminski, runners up Jackie & Judy.

### Training Officer

Jackie thanked everyone involved in training, with special thanks to Rob Mills for gear and the Taylor family for putting up with her! We now have 11 boat handlers in the club. Judy and Paul completed Assistant Club Instructor courses.

### Secretary

Judy reported all up to date on the admin. side.

### Treasurer

Alan reported a significant increase in funds, a gain of about £3,000 compared to last year. One third of this was due to membership increase (20), and two thirds to savings on engine maintenance due to John Glyn-Wood. Membership was now 65.

### Equipment Officer

John was not present. Greg reported large savings due to maintenance, mainly by John. The boats had performed well right through the season up to the final boat handling course when both had problems. The Humber trailer needs much work over the winter. The boats/engines/trailers need a thorough survey and decisions for the future. As is traditional the boat radios are not working again.

### Swimming Pool

Greg reported an uncertain future. The Council have had a consultant's report with three options:

- 1) Do nothing.
- 2) Refurbish current structure – bad value for money.
- 3) Knock down and rebuild completely – best option, but expensive initially.

No decision has been taken. There is no set time scale. Things may not happen for years.

## NEW COMMITTEE

Diving Officer:	Rik Nash		
Chairman:	Richard Ayers		
Secretary:	Judy Fisher		
Treasurer:	Alan Radlett		
Equipment Officer:	John Glyn-Wood, Assisted by Rob Mills		
Social Secretary:	Debbie Broad		
Training officer:	Jackie O'Dowd		

Debbie announced a pantomime offer at the Beck Theatre.

Rik announced the New Year's Day dive at Black Park at 10:00Hrs.

There will be a dive planning meeting soon next year for those interested in proposing or organising diving.

The meeting ended at 20:30 Hrs..

I hope that I have mentioned everyone who attained a new qualification.

D.B.Dooley