

# The Hyperbaric Times

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## A Message From The Editor

Welcome to this month's issue of the Hyperbaric Times. It was certainly much easier to produce this time—a huge thanks to Alistair Richardson for the time and effort spent on my computer to sort out the issues that I have had in the past.

Sadly, this is my last issue as I have resigned from the committee with (almost) immediate effect—I had to complete this first! I would like to thank all of you that have contributed in the past. Producing the newsletter gave me an opportunity to 'communicate' with a number of members that I might not otherwise have had the opportunity to get to know so, for that reason, I will miss being the Publicity Officer.

I hope you enjoy this month's articles. Thanks to Bob Elliott for allowing me to reproduce his article 'A Day In The Life Of A Diving Instructor'. Bob skipper's the Dive Eclipse in Portland. For those of you that were in Portland on Sunday, 9 July—sorry, I haven't had the chance to write that article but it was a great day, certainly the best UK diving that I have done so far thanks in no small part to Dave Cock who did a wonderful job as Dive Marshall and, of course, to my buddy, Caroline.

I had to make a choice this year—holiday or long overdue work on my house. I opted for the work to be done on my house before the windows fall out! Read the articles on the Maldives and Egypt and you'll see why I am beginning to wonder if the work on the house couldn't have waited another couple of years! Oh well, there's always next year.....

The Dive Guidelines (Pages 13-14) have recently been revised so take a look at them if you're going on any dives organised by the club. By the way, there are spaces left on the two remaining orientation dives if anyone's interested....take a look at the Dive Schedule on Page 12.

Now that the move to a new venue has taken place take a look at the revised Social Diary on Page 15 to see what's planned. There are three more events to be added—Helicopter Training, Search and Recovery, Thames Valley Police and Tides and Charts so keep an eye on the website for confirmation of the dates for those.

Best wishes  
Berni

## CLUB NIGHT HAS MOVED...

With effect from Monday, 7th August Club nights moved to the first Monday of every month and are now held at:

**THE BLACK BOY  
SHINFIELD ROAD  
SHINFIELD  
READING  
RG2 9BP  
FROM 20:30**

In addition, there are also informal gatherings on an ad hoc basis at the Seven Red Roses, Maiden Lane Centre, Lower Earley on Wednesdays from about 20:30. For anyone who doesn't know where this is, it is the pub just along from Divestyle.



The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are personal and should not be taken as representative of The Diving Club or its Committee, unless specifically stipulated to do so.

## AGM 2 OCTOBER 2006 @ 21:00

# A Day In The Life Of A Diving Instructor

- 08:00 Arrive at dive centre with hangover, you celebrate with students especially when they are buying. First job is to prepare classroom for another course. Second thoughts, first job is strong black coffee.
- 08:30 More strong black coffee.
- 09:00 No students yet, better prepare classroom!
- 09:30 Students arrive for 09:00 start...
- 09:45 The students are settling in, visits to the loo, coffee, introductions, and finally we can start the day.
- 10:15 The briefing has been delivered and its time for the first dive. It's amazing how much space 4 sets of kit can take up if you spread it evenly across the car park. Progress is painfully slow; the boat is due to leave at 11:00, think I had better check with the skipper which day.
- 10:16 Wander through chaos trying to look calm, "that BCD needs turning up the other way". Need more coffee.
- 10:17 "If the first stage keeps leaking, try putting it on the same side as the O ring", "If you turn the weights around so that they curve around your waist it will be much more comfortable".
- 10:19 Time to change suits. "When I asked what size you are, I meant today, not 5 years ago".
- 10:30 Check on progress, 2 kitted still 2 to go. Make mental note, order more gravel to top up car park. Modern 2nd stages are supposed to be low volume, but they still seem able to transport a fair quantity of the car park to the sea! Seems that I will have time for another coffee.
- 11:00 Skipper getting lonely on the boat, wanders up to the car park to check progress. He doesn't look impressed.
- 11:15 Skipper goes into shop for coffee as there appears to be time. I didn't know he liked gardening but he muttered something about planting coffee beans. Will they grow in England?
- 11:30 Boat finally leaves. Students usually treat their Instructor like God. I wonder if I have the power to move the tides a bit.
- 11:50 Arrive at dive site. Only 1 student is seasick, could be a good day.
- 11:55 Kitting up time, skipper stands by with spare fin straps, mask straps and snorkel retainers.
- 12:15 Buddy checks complete, the skipper logs cylinder pressures and in we go. Hair now removed from all masks and we can start ascent.
- 12:17 Return to surface to find missing student. He wants more weight. I suggest letting some air out of his BCD instead.
- 12:18 1 down with Divemaster, 2 at the side of the boat and 1 floating, 34lbs should be enough to sink anybody.
- 12:25 2 down with Divemaster, 2 on surface, 1 can't clear, no hang on—3 on surface, 1 down!!
- 12:35 1 lost weight belt. That's the first nickname sorted. Polaris gets back on the boat. Skipper is pleased he's run out of space on the roster slate and is now noting times on his hands.
- 12:40 Start skills, Instructor needs more coffee, Divemaster needs Grecian 2000.
- 13:10 Dive over, students get back on boat whilst Divemaster collects 1 mask, 1 fin and a weight belt from the seabed.
- 14:00 Back to base, we start again at 15:00!
- 20:00 Students in pub celebrating survival. I think I had better join them, after I fill the coffee machine ready for the morning.

**Bob Elliott**  
**Director**  
**Quality Time Training (Weymouth) Ltd**

**Article written for Weymouth & Portland Divers Guide**

## Vilamendhoo, Maldives

As I sit at my computer, looking out at an ashen 'English' sky, from which a light drizzle is falling it is hard to believe that just over a week ago we were in the Maldives. I get a sense of the surreal as these islands are so different from England – a real escape from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and all the pressures we live under.

Our holiday this year took us to the island of Vilamendhoo which is in the South Ari Atoll. Even the journey itself was exciting as you arrive by seaplane and are treated to a truly breathtaking view of the islands spread out before you like little lily pads. From up there it is easy to see why these islands are so under threat from rising sea levels.

As soon as the plane landed everyone kicked off their shoes. For those who have not experienced the Maldives before it is a 'no shoes, no news' destination. You don't need to wear shoes anywhere on the island and it is great to walk everywhere bare footed. On Vilamendhoo the only television is in the TV room which we avoided so we were blissfully unaware of world events whilst on the island too!

Vilamendhoo is a beautiful island. Unlike many islands in the Maldives, it has resisted the temptation to cut down vast areas of its vegetation in favour of increasing its accommodation and does not have unnatural water villas snaking out from it in all directions. In fact, from the sea you can see very little in the way of buildings as the rooms are just behind a thin strip of vegetation which makes the view of the island from the sea far more natural. Yet most of the rooms, with the exception of the standard rooms, are not more than thirty steps away from the beach! The accommodation was basic but comfortable but then we did not spend much time in our room! I would not recommend the standard rooms, however, as these looked very small and were in the centre of the island. Again, unlike



many islands, there is not a huge amount of facilities but what there is, was adequate for our needs. They have a main bar and a sunset bar, one restaurant, a jewellers and a shop, the dive centre and a small water sports area but there is no swimming pool (why would you need one with a fantastic ocean on your doorstep) and no spa which didn't bother us as we had gone for the nature and the diving rather than to be pampered.

The interior of the island is covered with vegetation which in places comes right down to the water's edge. However, it is still possible to walk around the entire island. It is absolutely teeming with wildlife: geckos, lizards, fruit bats, herons, hermit and other crabs, and many birds I couldn't identify. In the shallows you could see baby black tip reef sharks, rays and lots of fish – even if you are not a diver fish can be seen in knee deep water or from off the jetties. It is fun to walk along these at night and see what you can spot! The snorkelling is also excellent as the house reef starts just a few feet off shore in waist deep water. It continues at this depth for about 20 feet or so before plunging down to about 30 metres deep. The reef is a slope on the south side and a wall on the north side. There are entry and exit points marked with buoys and ropes so that divers and snorkellers can make their way safely through breaks in the reef into the deeper water.

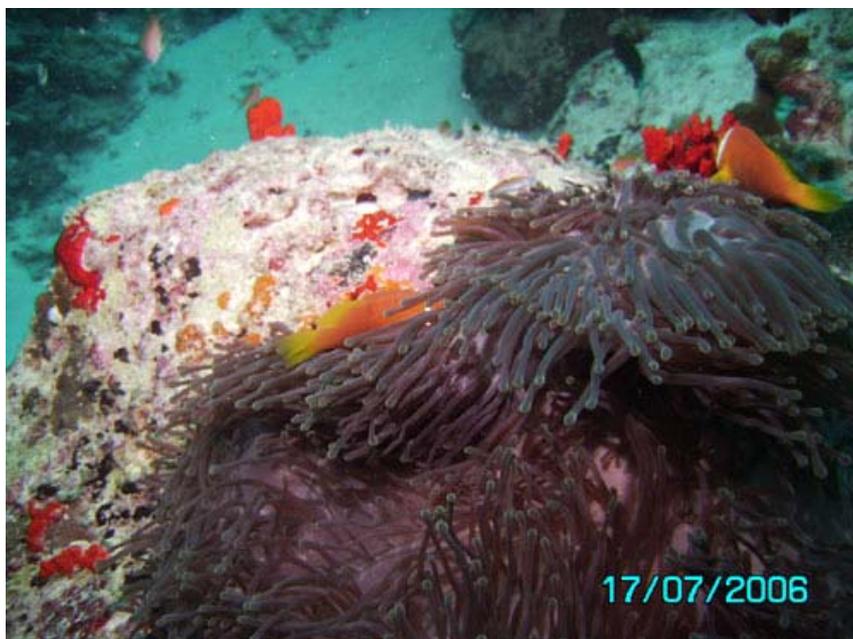
One bloke I saw on the first day had a tee shirt on which it said 'To dive, or not to dive? There is no question – dive'. Take this advice if you are a partner of a diver and you go to the Maldives – learn to dive – in my opinion there is no where better in the whole world. The sea is teeming with fish and there is so much to see. Don't take the word of all the snorkellers who say 'you can see just as much with a snorkel'. Yes, you can see plenty snorkelling BUT if you dive you can just move almost motionless through the water and enjoy the fish who don't move away because you have suddenly lunged towards them in an attempt to get close before you surface for a breath of air!

Unfortunately the dive centre on Vilamendhoo (Werner Lau) is not a Padi one, it is SSI but it is still very well run and offers both boat and shore diving. Diving in the Maldives is so easy – unlike the Caribbean everything is on your doorstep so you don't have long taxi journeys to endure and they offer drying and storage facilities so you don't have your equipment cluttering up your hotel room! The dive centre does a check dive on the first day – they explain their facilities and procedures and then take you on the house reef. You are asked to take off your mask and clear it + demonstrate a hover. They also check out your weights. If they are happy, from then on you can dive unguided on the house reef. There is a list to sign saying what entry point you intend going in at and the compressor boys will take your equipment to the entry point for you. Then when you come out you simply remove your tank, leave it at the exit point, put the rest of your equipment on your back and take it to the dive centre, where you sign to say where you exited. If you don't sign back within 2 hours they send out a search party!



You can also do boat diving and if you have more than forty dives you are classed as 'experienced' and can go unguided. This was my only criticism of the dive centre. Although we passed the 40 dive mark whilst we were there, we felt very uncomfortable about diving on sites we didn't know, unguided! Also, as we only dive annually on holiday, we become very rusty in between and would NOT class ourselves as 'experienced'. In addition to which different areas of the world require different skills: diving in the Caribbean (which is mainly gentle) is very different from the Maldives (which is notorious for strong currents) or England (which is cold and can have very bad visibility)!

We did five boat dives: one of which was a wreck dive, where we saw a very large Nurse Shark, and dived on the house reef nearly every day. There was soooooo much to see, even on the house reef, where we saw Turtles, Moray Eels, Blue Pallet Surgeon Fish, Clown Trigger Fish, Lagoon Trigger Fish and Titan Trigger Fish, Puffa and Porcupine Fish, Clark's Anemone Fish, Maldivian Blackfoot Anemone Fish, Empress Angel Fish, Cleaner Wrasse, Long Nosed Butterfly Fish, Blue Faced Angel Fish, Elegant Firegobies, Schooling Banner Fish, Moorish Idols, Humbugs, Bennett's Butterfly Fish, Chevron Butterfly Fish, Goat Fish, Oriental Sweetlips, Vermillion Rock Cod and Peacock Rock Cod, Lion Fish etc. On one particular dive I was accompanied most of the way by a tiny Cleaner Wrasse who was intent on cleaning my ear out and would not leave me alone!! My favourite fish were the Maldivian Black Foot Anemone Fish and there were a few of these right by the safety stop at exit number two.



I had bought Chris an underwater digital camera, complete with flash (the Sealife DC500 Elite) for this holiday. He definitely needs more practice! Although to be fair it is his first time using an underwater camera and he did get a few good shots which I have included in this article. Trouble is there is a few seconds delay between pushing the button and taking the photo whilst the camera focuses. This is just enough time for the camera shy fish to escape the shot!!!

Whilst on the island we also did a Nitrox course. They were offering this at a special price of \$131 per a person. After which you could have free Nitrox fills with them.

We also did a night dive. Chris desperately wanted to try this out but I have to

admit I was very apprehensive, having never done it before and had visions of getting lost. Hassan, one of the dive masters took us and another English couple on the house reef. In the briefing he told us that night diving was very different from day time diving as you didn't see all the reef and it was better just to choose a few coral heads and poke around them to see what you could see. He told us he had checked the current half an hour before and there was none. We would, therefore, go in at entry 4 and just poke around the coral heads by the jetty for about an hour. No sooner had we descended down the rope when the current caught us. It was VERY strong and we went on a whistle stop tour of the reef, travelling from entry 4 to exit 1 in about half an hour. When we ascended Hassan apologised for the current, admitting it was very strong and joked that at least we had all returned to the surface alive! I thoroughly enjoyed this dive, despite the current, the colours of the reef really come alive in the beam of your torch and it was strange to see so many fish asleep in the coral. At the beginning of the dive we saw a tiny, red shrimp and at the end, when we had surfaced and could stay in one place(!) Hassan showed us how the plankton in the water sparkled like tiny fragments of gold.

Memories of this dive in particular and the other ones will stay with me for many years to come. I would recommend Werner Lau dive centres and once you have dived with them you get 10% off as a repeater guest. They also operate in the Red Sea and Bali.

Vilamendhoo is a truly beautiful island and all the people there are so friendly. I can't wait to return again in the future. As I sit here, looking wistfully out of the window I wish with all my heart I was back there right now. It really was a very special holiday.

**Ingrid Wallace**



## Clare Tackles TDI In Sharm El Sheikh

So a flight's a flight and we got there safe and sound if cramped in a cargo hold. Buy a visa, get it stamped and through we went. I'm in Egypt and its Hot!! Hotel ok, we went for basic but very close to Emperor who we were diving with. Bingo on both scores!! I mean who needs a light in the bedroom? I did ...to find Benjamin some clothes for the morning.

### Day 1 - Shore dive

Breakfast 7.30 and Dive Centre by 8am. We didn't then surface from a classroom until Brian was groaning with me and my dislike of numbers, but he did let me go in the water for the afternoon if I promised to keep trying! This was Roger's first dive in a twin set and my second. Yes there is warm water in the world I thought to myself as we waded out in to a bay of clear water teeming with fish.

After 64 minutes of playing around with skills I was sat waiting, watching Roger twist and turn his way back into a wing with a blacked out mask on, and I realised my knees were knocking...Cold!! This was to be the only time we hung around enough for me to say this all week. It did make the underwater horizontal breath hold swim interesting as cramp hit on my second kick, and again after a restart so I ended up doing a 1 leg kick with a grimace to complete the skill to Brian's satisfaction!!

### Day 2 - Boat - Kastan Sea, dives - White Knight and Fiddle Garden

We were off on a boat as soon as was possible and then in to fantastic water, with fish I could hardly spare time to watch as we were too busy completing the various skills required on the dives. Lunch was a treat to be seen, I'll never lose weight if this is how we are fed!!

Second dive was when I decided to shoot myself so Brian didn't have to. This became his way of knowing if I was aware I'd crashed a test. The look on Rogers face will stay with me for ages when his mask was suddenly removed so he had to get out his spare, and never again will I look in any hole an Instructor points to. He even thought I was going to refuse as I swam over so dubiously. But I got close enough for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reg freeflow drill.

Back at the Centre and Benjamin runs up saying at 100 words a minute that he now understands why we love diving so much, there were Lion fish and Eagle rays off the beach. He was only shut up by falling asleep!!

### Day 3 - Boat - Kastan Sea, dives - Thomas and Jackson reefs

Handed in first exam paper today, one down one to go!!

Not much of this dive went to plan. Stages were added, entry to the water ok. Began the descent and then it goes wobbly. Get Roger with a pint and he can tell you. Narcosis was there in spade fulls and the dive was chaperoned to an end with no drills!!

A good snooze and lunch later, the afternoon dive saw the skills completed and some weight removed. With a debate on me rapidly gaining weight or some plan to shrink the straps for tomorrow. No money on the answer I'm thinking.

Exam was a pass!!

### Day 4 - Boat - Adham, dive - Ras Katy

Handed in final exam today. Lets hope it's as good as yesterdays after throwing a tantrum with myself over the maths on it. Thanks Roy, for taking Benjamin to breakfast.

Still worked up over yesterday but no way will narcosis beat me today. Brian's plan had changed over night and we adjusted the straps with me in and then all the D rings and spare pouches, then he sat back with Rog to laugh as I tried to get on and back in. That accomplished with some bruising of elbows I was allowed to dive!

Dive went fine and no real problems worth mentioning. We were debriefed after with the most fantastic cake cooked on board this morning.

As we left the site Roy and Benjamin sailed in. Shame missed a chat but we will be on the same boat tomorrow I'm told.

Exam ok, tantrum question - Fine!!

Day 5 - Boat - Adham, dive - Shark Observatory.

This is it, sink or swim. Tried to take all on board, or is it over board, which ever!! At the end of an uneventful dive Brian declared it to be our best yet, maybe not the most entertaining, and I still got to shoot myself, and Rog might have slipped a bit low on his SMB release but all was fine and we have temporary cards.

I did today get to see Benjamin finish his Adventure dives, this rated as a nerve racking 45 min as off they went together. My little boy in the big blue sea out of sight, I have to admit that there was a flood of relief as they surfaced, happy and smiling and full of what he'd seen.

We had two lots of cake today as it was a three dive day for some. Yummy!!



Day 6 - Boat - President III, dives - Shark and Yolanda reef then Jackfish Alley.

We can have a fun dive at last!! Gosh isn't the gear light. Where is the long hose? How many dive plans .... Oh fun dive!! Stand, step, splash, in and down!!

Look it was not my fault they never saw the Barracuda, there were loads of them!! So as a result we missed the shark, an Oceanic Black Tip. But we did see the Turtle, which the others, who saw the shark, missed! Can't have everything, we have a tank full in October anyway!

Second dive saw us go in with Benjamin. What a wriggling worm, but his buoyancy was rather good for a nine dive person. We went in a swim through and the light was fantastic. Saw two Trigger fish in close pursuit of each other, dunno what the chased one had done but it did not want to be caught. I left the three men with cameras at one point, but this meant I missed the paddy Benjamin had with Roger, eleven year olds can stamp their feet under water in a tantrum Roy tells me!!

Day 7 - Home.

But we will be going back, just need to spend some money around the dive show.

**Clare Selwyn**

## My Trip To Egypt

Day 1: flight to Egypt.

Today I'm going on holiday to Egypt to do my junior PADI open water and adventure course!  
We will be flying with Monarch Airlines.

Day 1: land at Egypt.

We land at Egypt and collect our bags and get picked up by our bus, and get transported to The Rossetta hotel, where our apartment is. It has a great pool! I did not do any diving that day.

Day 2: confined dives.

Today Roy is going to do my confined dives.

First we did a swim in the pool I did 2 laps too many, then tread water for 10 minutes! Then dives 1234 in the pool they were really fun but I knew that it would be even better in the sea!

Day 3: first 2 dive in the sea.

Now this was what I was waiting for, the dives in the sea. I may still be doing my course but nothing could have prepared me for all the fish.

So now I had to do most of the stuff I did in the pool in the sea! We did it down at Naama bay!

Day 4: last 2 dives for open water.

Today is my last 2 dives of open water course diving.

This time it was more of the things we did in pool, in the sea.

On the way back from the second dive we saw a sleeping moray eel!! That was really cool, but I knew that tomorrow was going to be the best of the best!

Day 5: first of the adventure course - Boat Diving.

Today boat diving! My first boat dive was cool, we did it at Shark Observatory. When we got in the coral amazed me, it seemed to be a huge wall with loads of fish just swimming all over it! We saw barracuda. And loads of other fish.

Day 5: second adventure dive - Fish Identification.

Now I had to spot 5 fish and 3 corals on Shark and Yolanda reefs. This was one of the top ten dive sites in the world because the currents bring lots of food to feed the coral and fish!

Day 6: third adventure dive - Peak Performance Buoyancy.

Today shark reef and I had to tune my buoyancy. This time it was hard.

But I made it, so then I was an adventure diver.

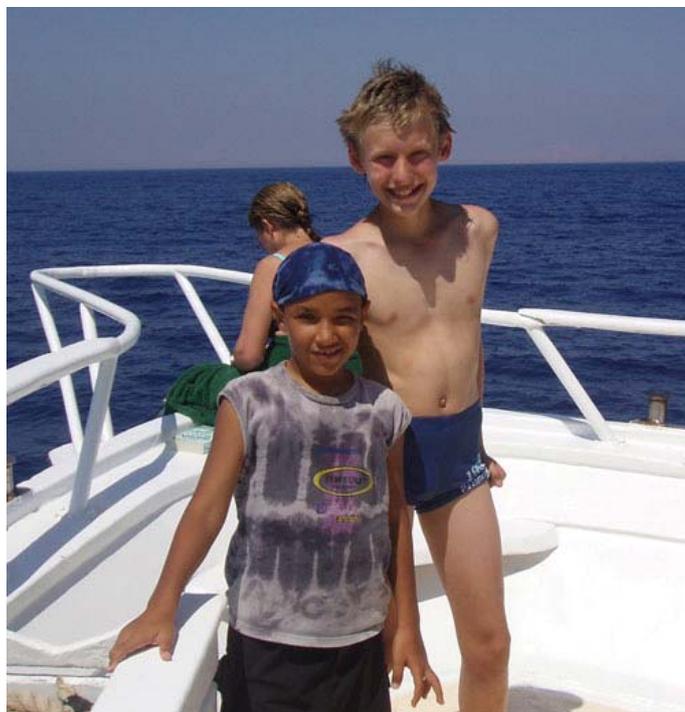
Day 7: last dive but first dive with parents.

Today was my last dive I only did one dive but it was with my parents we got some one to film every one on the boat, but it was mainly us!!

So that was the end of the holiday. It was kind of sad but I did kind of want to go home!

The picture is of me with the skippers son, Abdo.

**By Benjamin J Selwyn age 11**



## Farne Islands 1-3 July 2006

My first club dive!

After a seven hour trip from Reading “up North”, my Yorkshire man buddy Matt and I finally arrived in Seahouses, the village we would dive from - where not surprisingly most of the group was already heading to the pub. We dumped our bags at the B&B and joined them for a nice meal in the Lodge, a pub run by the same family organising the dives and the B&B. The barman turned out to be the skipper... and also the cook! The waitress in the Lodge also served us breakfast, and another also became ice cream lady in town in the afternoon! Everyone was very friendly and professional despite the obvious high workload.



The first dive on Saturday was out past Lindisfarne, a wreck called the Shadowan which was a paddle steamer... so Matt says. I didn't see the apparently still visible bearing pedestals, the boilers and engines – too concentrated on spotting minuscule nudibranchs and comb jellyfish. For the second dive, the Collington, we were dropped right in the middle of thousands of pipe fish.... They were everywhere, amazing.

On Sunday, we did our first dive on the Whirl Rock at 25m, then continued on a wall carpeted in dead mans fingers and urchins, absolutely unreal and beautiful. Hidden in one of the wreck's holes was a gigantic lobster who definitely wasn't going to come out and play, despite Matt's repeated attempts to “persuade” him out (all compliant with PADI's best practice of course). The second dive was near Crumstone, a favourite spot for seals and birds. We saw seals relaxing on the shore, seals swimming around the boat, seals watching us, seals not watching us, seals under water, above water... and even “buddy” seals, following Simon, Morag and Tim everywhere and biting Tim's fins – classic seal behaviour apparently. I really enjoyed swimming along the numerous gullies covered in kelp, very Indiana Jones like... a magical experience.

On the last day, we dived the Somali which raised expectations very high, everybody was excited about the prospect of finding little treasures around it. Mike even came back with what seemed to be an old razor! As there wasn't much obvious life around this wreck, I focused on little things again which kept me amused for the rest of the dive. When we surfaced it was quite foggy, thankfully the boat was close by... The second dive was cancelled for obvious reasons and we navigated very slowly back towards the harbour, which suddenly appeared in the fog only a few yards away from the bow... did the skipper really have GPS onboard?? Very impressive.

But the weekend could not be complete without a well deserved stop for the group at the local Fish & Chip restaurant... my favourite English dish! Why on earth do French people always complain about English food??

Thanks Morag for organising such an excellent weekend – I'll definitely come back next year if I can!

**Geraldine Felix**

## Poole 16 July 2006

Today was another trip with John Sturch on Big Dinghy from Poole – always a favourite location. A sunny day beckoned but we didn't see this initially as we had a bleary eyed start to meet the boat at 0730.

The boat was not fully booked but nonetheless a cheery seven people loaded their kit, revelling in the extra space available and settled down for an hour's ride to the site.

The first dive was the Borgny, an 1100 ton Norwegian steamer that was sunk during the first World War and whose broken remains rest at 32m. We were keen to dive this and as we prepared to roll off the boat, one member of the team was so keen they fell overboard, but by good 'judgement' landed in the water next to the buoy.

Following the shot line we were pleased to find good visibility and plenty to see with lots of fish. Other entertainment was also available as in one of the forays we found a friendly conger which, much to our delight, came out of its home to smile into the torchlight.

Back on board after an enjoyable dive came the time for a big decision – was it too early for lunch? We managed somehow.

There was a choice for the second dive. Another wreck but waiting until the next slack tide at about 4 o'clock or a drift on the way back.

We elected for a drift starting at the Bournemouth Rocks which is the remains of a fossilised forest. There are two levels to this, one at 9m and the other at 14m. We chose 14m but didn't see much that looked like a forest, and then drifted off to be entertained by the life on the sea bed. Another enjoyable dive.

With it still being quite early we thought 'Oh great, we've time for another dive' until it was pointed out that some air might come in handy. Of course there is always a positive side: early start equals early finish equals clear roads – bliss!

Thanks for a great day out to John and the team.

Divers:

Morag Ward  
Alyson King  
Caroline Birkby  
Brian Moseley  
Dave O'Brien  
Tim Burge  
Will Tabner

Borgny information: Divernet magazine – Wreck Tour 43.

**Will Tabner**

## Portland 29 July 2006

"I need a volunteer", she said. D'oh! I thought she meant something about diving, not writing for the HBT. What on earth have I gotten myself into???

Ok, where were we? Portland? Yeah, I think that was it. Portland for a day, 29<sup>th</sup> of July, yes, it's all coming back now, though a bit fuzzy. No, I wasn't drinking that day, it's just that I can rarely remember what I did yesterday, let alone 2 weeks ago. I remember having fun and getting good viz and a big something to swim around and a strange fin-assisted drift that went in small circles and where the heck is the RIB?

The big something was the Countess of Earne, a boat that sank and drowned at some time in the past that now attracts British divers to come visit. Me? It's just another bit of wood or metal or something under the water, but this is an orientation dive and I'm hanging with the crew. It was my second visit to the Countess and the viz was really quite good. Not at all what people keep telling me UK diving is like. We swam around the boat a couple of times in a nice leisurely fashion. Our "guide" lost us for the first 10 minutes but eventually showed up, only to promptly disappear again to go do something else (Photos? Underwater backgammon? Who knows.). A good dive (yes, "good dive" is redundant, ah well).

The second dive was a "drift" in Balaclava Bay. Unfortunately, there was absolutely no current to speak of. I call this a fin-assisted drift. If you don't fin, you don't drift. Without a current to guide us, we swam in circles that gradually took us toward the harbour wall. Not much to see other than some really huge crabs, but about as relaxed as a dive can get. After the allotted time, we looked at each other and said "Shall we go?", or at least made hand-motions to that effect. Agreed, we made our slow ascent back to the air. Ah, look, there's our boat, right next to us. Or is it? Why are they ignoring us? We're only 15 yards away and they ... oh, they're just kitting up to roll in. Not our boat. Shoot! THAT's our boat, way the hell over there. Nuts. Shall we start swimming to cut the distance until they notice us and come pick us up? Ok. After a fin-assisted drift, why not a fin-assisted retrieval?

We eventually made our way back on board and headed back to the dock. It was universally agreed that this had been a "good day". Like a day diving could be anything else?

Happy diving everyone. Let's do this again as soon as possible.

**Bryan Johnston**

## Diving Schedule 2006/2007

Date	Location	Details	Max Depth	Cost	Level	Spaces Remaining
9/10 September	Swanage	Swanage Diver	18m	£35.00 + Entry per day	O	Sat 3/Sun 1
23/24 September	Swanage	Swanage Diver	20-40m	Approx £36.00 per day	C	Full
7/8 October	Poole	Big Dinghy	18m	£35.00 per day	O	Sat Full/ Sun 1 & 1 Exp
16—23 June 2007	Scilly Isles	Moonshadow Charters	Various	Diving £165.00/ Accom £35.00ppn	All	12

\*Two cylinders needed

Please read 'Guidelines for club dives' on the website or contact the Dive Organiser for a copy

Attendance on club dives is dependent on individual's qualifications and experience

A supplement (approx £2.00 per dive) is added to provide a subsidised place for the Dive Marshall on Orientation Dives

Non Club members will be asked to pay a £5.00 supplement per day

For latest information on spaces please check the website

For further information please contact the Dive Organisers:

Club Dives: Morag Ward

07904 207306 [diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk)

Orientation Dives: Andrew Askwith

07786 551462 [diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk)

# Guidelines for Club Dives

## 1. Responsibilities of the Diver

- **Divers are responsible for ensuring that they have the appropriate qualification and experience to undertake a particular dive and that their diving experience is current, i.e. that period since their last dive is no greater than that recommended by their qualifying agency. Evidence of qualification may be asked for.**
- Within these guidelines, the term qualification refers to the combination of the Qualifying agency and Qualification level being used for the specific dive, i.e. PADI Advanced Open Water or TDI Decompression Procedures. The Qualification being utilised for a particular dive can vary from dive to dive, for example a TDI Decompression Procedures certified Diver may configure their kit in accordance with PADI Advanced Open Water Guidelines for a 28m No Decompression Dive.
- It is the diver's responsibility to check with the Dive Marshal the day before to ensure that there are no adverse weather conditions which may prevent the dive from going ahead. The Dive Organiser will not contact divers unless there has been a change to previously given advice.
- The supply of equipment appropriate for the planned dive is to be in accordance with the qualification being used for the dive and is the responsibility of the diver. Any diver who does not have the appropriate kit may, in the interests of safety of the whole group, be refused entry into the water.
- For Club dives, each diver must carry a DSMB and reel and be proficient in its use.
- Divers are responsible for planning their individual dives within the limits of their qualifications and those set by the appointed Dive Marshal.
- Divers are to ensure that their Dive is planned in accordance with the qualification by which they are executing the dive
- In the event of a conflict between the equipment requirements of the Club and those of the qualification, those of the qualification shall take precedence with the exception of DSMBs which are mandatory for all Club level dives.
- Divers are required to complete the Marshalling Sheet before entry into the water.
- Divers must surface no later than 3 minutes after their declared run time (run time being defined as the total time from when the diver leaves the surface to when they are back on the surface) stated on the Marshalling sheet. NB There is a coastguard requirement to notify them if a diver is more than 3 minutes overdue.
- The diver shall respond to their name being called at any roll call. They should not respond on behalf of another diver.
- The decision of the Dive Marshal/skipper is final.

## 2. Booking and Payment

- Dives booked by the club will be published on a schedule which will be available on the club website, the notice boards, and from Committee members on request. It may also be possible to obtain a copy from DiveStyle.
- Bookings for dives will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- When you register your interest in attending a dive with the appropriate DIVE ORGANISER whether by phone, e-mail or face-to-face, a deposit is must be paid within 2 weeks, either by post, online via the club website, or to a Committee member on a club night.
- Any diver who does not pay a deposit within two weeks of booking will forfeit their place unless they have notified the dive organiser of the reason for the delay.
- Once a deposit is paid, the diver is obliged to pay the remaining balance by the due date. If the diver is subsequently unable to dive for any reason, they will only be released from their obligation if another diver fills the place.
- The balance of the dive and any accommodation cost is payable one month before the date of the dive. Any balance not paid by that date will result in the diver forfeiting their place on the dive unless agreement has been reached with the Dive Organiser
- When all the spaces available on a dive are full, a reserve list of those interested will be kept. Those on the reserve list will be approached should a space arise. If they still wish to go on the dive, they will be expected to pay a deposit or full balance according to the guidelines.
- Accommodation is the responsibility of the diver unless indicated otherwise on the dive schedule.
- On Orientation Dives, an additional payment will be incorporated into the published price to provide 3 supplemented spaces for a Dive Marshal and two Assistants. Any diver accepting one of these reduced cost spaces on an orientation dive will be expected to participate in all planned dives unless there are exceptional circumstances (eg injury).
- The Dive Marshal and Assistants will be Instructors, Divemasters or Rescue Divers (or equivalent from other agencies) with a minimum of 30 dives, including UK sea experience.

### 3. Refunds, Cancellations and Changes

- Diving is weather and tide dependant. The club or boat skipper may change boats, dive sites or departure times according to weather and operational requirements.
- If a dive is cancelled due to adverse weather or for other safety requirements, refunds will be made in accordance with the contract the club has made with the boat skipper. Normally, this will either be a refund, or the option of attending a rescheduled dive.
- Dive bookings are accepted on the understanding that if you have booked for a specific site and the weather does not permit diving that location, where possible, an alternative site will be sought taking into account the previously published dive type, qualifications and prepared gas mixes.

### 4. Responsibilities of the Dive Organiser

- The Dive Organiser will attempt to plan the dive sites in advance of bookings being taken.
- Dive details will be published with the approximate depth of the deepest planned dive and a maximum planned depth.
- Orientation Dives will be published with a maximum depth of 18m. Club Dives up to a maximum of 40m.
- The Dive Organiser will appoint a Dive Marshal for each dive. The Dive Marshal will agree to carry out the role and may refer anything to either the appropriate Dive Organiser or Chairman or any other Committee member.
- The Dive Marshal will be provided with:
  - o The list of divers expected and their relevant qualification
  - o Dive information, time, location, planned dives
  - o Appropriate paperwork, including Dive Roster, Emergency Contact List and Marshalling Sheet

### 5. Responsibilities of the Dive Marshal

- The Dive Marshal will be appointed by the Dive Organiser.
- The Dive Marshal may seek advice from the Dive Organiser, Chairman or President.
- All diving activities will be agreed with the Dive Organiser prior to a trip.
- In cases where weather or other circumstances prevent the planned dive going ahead, any changes must not require a qualification increase without reference to the Dive Organiser and/or Chairman.
- Ensure the appropriate club kit is complete and taken: O2 and First Aid, Dive Marshal File.
- A risk evaluation of the site will be carried out, to minimise the risk to all divers, including:
  - o Weather Conditions
  - o Water State
  - o Tidal Conditions
  - o Diving Conditions
- Advice should be sought from an appropriate local source (e.g. the skipper) in the event of a change in dive sites.
- The Dive Marshal will ensure all divers complete the Dive Marshal Sheet before they enter the water.
- If the Dive Marshal is unsure as to the qualification level of any diver they may request sight of proof of qualification level.
- Any diver who cannot provide such proof will not be allowed entry into the water.
- The Dive Marshal may, in the interests of safety, refuse a diver entry into the water
- On Orientation Dives, the Dive Marshal will assist in organising buddy teams appropriate to training and experience. Individual requests will of course be taken into account. For Club diving, the Dive Marshal will, where appropriate, assist in organising buddy pairs.
- The Dive Marshal will ensure that all divers are accounted for before leaving a dive site and/or quayside by a roll call.
- The Dive Marshal will advise the Dive Organiser and Chairman of any problems, or incidents as soon as possible but no later than 6 hours after the incident.
- The Dive Marshal will manage and co-ordinate activities in the event of a diving incident. This will be done in full co-operation with the boat skipper and Emergency Services.

### The Diving Club, Reading 2005

## Membership Matters!

Wow! The water was warm in Sharm and I only got cold once, good going for me!!

Members who have joined since the last newsletter are: Bandna Sood, John Pugsley, Michael Barnard and Luljeta Walmsley.

If you see any of these folks in the pub or on a dive, please make them feel welcome.

We are now at a total of **177** members.

If you have not received an email notification of this newsletter, please let me know – there may be a mistake with your e-mail address.

If your contact details have changed in anyway, don't forget to let us know. You can also change your email address via the website.

Please make a note – the contact info for the membership secretary is:

Home address:	14, The Mews Bramley Tadley Hampshire RG26 5QX
Tel:	01256 882119
E-mail:	membership@thedivingclub.co.uk
Your Club Website is:	<a href="http://www.thedivingclub.co.uk">http://www.thedivingclub.co.uk</a>

**Clare Selwyn**  
Membership Secretary

## Social Diary 2006/2007

### 2006

Monday, 4th September	Food Night/Meet PAM(!)
Wednesday, 27th September	Pool Party
Monday, 2 October	Food Night/AGM
Saturday, 21 October	Blue Planet Aquarium—Diving With Sharks
Monday, 6 November	Food Night
Monday, 4 December	Food Night
Saturday, 16 December	Christmas Party

### 2007

Saturday, 24 March	Blue Planet Aquarium—Diving With Sharks
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**Irina Wade**  
Social Secretary

## THE DIVING CLUB

We're on the web:  
[www.thedivingclub.co.uk](http://www.thedivingclub.co.uk)

Divestyle  
Mike's Waterfront Warehouse  
Maiden Lane Shopping Centre  
Lower Earley  
Reading  
Berks  
RG6 3HD

Tel: 0118 926 2288  
Fax: 0118 926 9616  
Website: [www.divestyle.co.uk](http://www.divestyle.co.uk)

## The Diving Club Committee Members - Contact Details

### President

Peter Wright  
T: 0118 926 2288  
E: [president@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:president@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Chairman

Roy Stevenson  
E: [chairman@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Treasurer

Matt Cook  
E: [treasurer@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Club Secretary

Michelle Darby  
E: [secretary@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Orientation Dive Organiser

Andrew Askwith  
T: 07786 551462  
E: [diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Club Dive Organiser

Morag Ward  
M: 07904 207306  
E: [diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveclub@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Social Secretary

Irina Wade  
E: [social@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:social@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Membership Secretary

Clare Selwyn  
E: [membership@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Publicity Officer

Berni Kehoe  
E: [publicity@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:publicity@thedivingclub.co.uk)

### Webmaster

Roger Selwyn  
E: [webmaster@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@thedivingclub.co.uk)