

**The  
Diving  
Club**



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

**Special points of interest:**

- Copy to be received by 30/01 for inclusion in the February 2004 issue (out 04/02/04)
- Please renew your membership or confirm that you're not rejoining
- Let us know your current details (see P9)

# The Hyperbaric Times

**Issue 103**

**January 2004**

## A Message From the Editor

### Editorial

Hello, and welcome to 2004 - a very happy and prosperous New Year to you all and I hope you had a suitably relaxing Christmas break.

No I hadn't got lost, but somehow due to a shortage (no, really a lack) of articles, battling with the dreaded Fujian flu and sustained pressure of work, I just didn't get round to last month's HT. But I'm back!

Another person who's back is Gary - not only to be found in the shop, but also prolific in his contributions to the HT - two this month! Thanks Gary, keep it up.

I had a message from Will Tabner regarding the Bexhill Wreck Diving wreck survey - apparently it had to be cancelled for the whole survey month due to lack of support.

This month we have the first of an occasional series of prequel reports on some of the divesites the club will be visiting during the year. Gary has put together a comprehensive description of his experiences of diving in Plymouth to help you decide if it's for you.

On the subject of club dives, I've had a request from Morag. Apparently the deposits from those who have booked places on dives are not coming in very rapidly. Since several of them are virtually full, unless deposits are paid very soon then places will be given up to those who are prepared to up. So, unless there's a good reason (and Morag knows of it), if deposits aren't paid by two weeks after booking then she will release places to other divers. Deposits are generally £10 per day and if there's accommodation included it's 50% of that cost also.

Once again there is a reminder that some members haven't yet renewed their annual subscription. This even applies to some who have booked on dives. Remember, if you're not a member, and by definition, if you haven't paid up then you're not a member, then there's a £5 surcharge for attendance on dives. That surcharge is *per day*, so if you go on a weekend dive that's half the cost of your annual membership - so, you know it makes sense! See you soon.

**Peter Winn**

## *The Diving Club* *Dives 2004*

Date	Location	Boat	Max Depth	Cost Per day	Spaces	Level
17/18 January	Stoney Cove	N/A Cold Water Special	Various	Entry		All
29 Feb	Stoney Cove	N/A Shore	Various	Entry	Unlimited	All
28 March	Poole	Big Dinghy*	18m	£35	2	O
17/18 April	Swanage	Swanage* Diver	20-30m	£37	3	C
25 April	Swanage	Swanage Diver*	18m	£32	7	O
22 May	Littlehampton	Michelle Mary*	18m	£39	4	O
23 May	Horsea	SETT	30m	£29	<b>FULL</b>	All
20/30/31 May	Pembroke	2x ribs*	20-40m	£35	4	C
19/20 June	Portland	Top Gun	18m	£34	4	O
				B&B £20-25pppn		
26/27 June	Poole	Big Dinghy	20-40m	£35	9	C
3 /4 July	Selsey	Dive Eclipse	18m	£39	8	O
31 July /1 Aug	Farne Islands	Sovereign II	20-40m	£27 +£20 B&B pppn	<b>FULL</b>	C
14 August	Swanage	N/A	Pier		Unlimited	All
15 August	Swanage	Swanage Diver*	18m	£32	9	O
12 Sept	Poole	Big Dinghy	18m	£35	3	O
18/19 Sept	Lymington	New Dawn Diver	20-40m	£40	8	C
25/26 Sept	Plymouth	CeeKing	20-40m	£100 all inc	5	C
23/24 Oct	Weymouth	Tango*	18m	£39	8	All

\* Two cylinders needed

A supplement (£1.50-£2.00 per dive) is added to provide a subsidised place for the Diveleader on Orientation Dives

Non Club members will be asked to pay a £5 supplement per day

When a dive is shown as full, there will be a reserve list in case of cancellations

**For further information please contact**

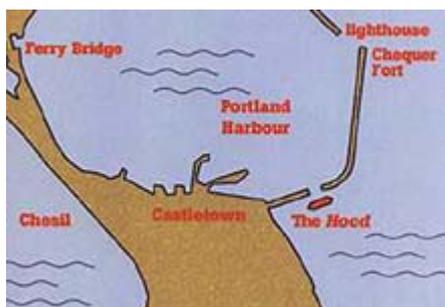
**Morag Ward 07904 207306**

**email [diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk)**

# HMS HOOD BAN

It seems that 2004 has started with another slap on the wrists for the UK diver. According to a report on Divernet, it would appear that Portland Port Authority has withdrawn permission for divers to dive on the *Hood* - a hugely popular block ship, situated in one of the entrances to Portland Harbour. Indeed, I did many memorable orientation dives on this wreck before venturing out to deeper waters.

The report reads; "The move has come without warning and apparently without any prior consultation with the many diving businesses operating in the Portland and Weymouth area. "The first we knew about it was a memo sent round on Thursday 8 Jan" explained Becky from Portland-based dive centre Underwater Explorers.



Portland Port previously clashed with divers by introducing permits to cross Portland Harbour; requiring permissions and, in some instances, advance notification, to dive the wrecks situated within the harbour. Portland Port's own website states:

"The *Hood* today is by far one of Portland's most popular diver training wrecks."

The loss of the *Hood* as a dive site is undoubtedly a serious blow to the UK diving community. Nobody from Portland Port Authority was available for comment today. The *Hood* is listed as no.32 out of Kendal McDonald's 100 best UK wreck dives"

So was it just rumour mongering?, afraid not. I e-mailed the Portland Harbour Master and got the following reply from A Baker, Portland Port;

"PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED

It is confirmed that a temporary halt in diving approval for the wreck of the HOOD has recently been enforced. The reasons for this are as follows:

The depth of water at the South Ship entrance has increased from 2m to 5m in the last few years this has led to:

- a Larger swell conditions through the entrance
- b Increased depth therefore (although the entrance is supposed to be closed) use by larger vessels.
- c An indication that the wreck itself is settling quite rapidly.

It should be appreciated that the Portland Harbour Authority is responsible for the safety of all harbour users; the authority is required under the Port Marine Safety Code to carry out risk assessments on a regular basis. The risk assessment is audited six monthly by an independent marine solicitor who monitors the safety performance of the authority.

Following the recent audit the auditor recommended that some action be taken to recognise the increased risk presented by a, b and c above, the following options are available:

- Do nothing - the conditions that all divers have enjoyed in the past have been changed as in a, b and c above, to do nothing was considered to be an option that would leave the Authority vulnerable.
- Remove the wreck and open up the entrance for fully authorised use - not a desirable option for the authority as vessels entering through the South Ship Channel would cross the commercial vessel navigation routes.
- Restore the original 2m depth and carry out a safety survey of the wreck - the preferred option for the Authority.

The advice to the Authority, given by the independent auditor, was to enforce a temporary ban on diving and to reinforce the prohibition of vessels using the channel until a permanent solution was found. This was carried out using the Local Notice to Mariners (LNTM), the LNTM is the most efficient and speedy method of communicating temporary decisions such as this, all harbour users should be aware that there is no requirement for the Harbour Authority to consult on matters dealt with by LNTM.

Action now is in hand to come to a clear and fully consulted way ahead, it is stressed that full consultation with the Harbour Consultation Committee, upon which all harbour users are represented, will be carried out. Once a final decision is made all parties will be informed through proper channels."

So, that's the story so far. Will keep you posted as we learn more.

Gary

## *Chairman's Message*

Having recovered from the excesses of the Christmas and New Year festivities I was reminded that my putting pen to paper for the Hyperbaric Times is long overdue. The most recent event was the club Christmas dinner at the Snow Ball, Rivermead and it was a hugely enjoyable evening. It was good to see so many club members together, all dressed up and enjoying themselves, even if it did result in a few headaches the following day. I'm sure all those who attended will join me in thanking Viv Baxter for the effort that she put in in organising this event.

Since my election to the committee chair in October last year there has been huge amount of work put in by my committee colleagues in getting together what we all think is a very full and exciting dive schedule for this year. Two of the dives are already full and a few more are very close to being full. There is a wide variety of orientation and club dives scheduled and much thought has gone into trying to ensure that there is diving to suit all levels and tastes. Obviously the success of the year is dependent upon your support for the dive program, so get those nice new diaries out, have a look at the schedule, and get in touch with Morag to reserve your dive places.

There are still quite a number of you who have not renewed your membership, even some who have booked dives for next year. For those of you to whom this applies please send you membership fee (£20) to Nicola Wright as soon as possible. To run a club such as ours requires some funding and without membership fees there is little that we can do. If you have decided not to renew for some reason please let us know. This will help us keep our records up to date and stop us from pestering you for renewal. If there is a particular reason you are not renewing it will give us the chance of doing something about it.

One of the ideas that we have discussed is that of organising a days introductory training with the Nautical Archaeological Society. The day consists of both classroom and pool work with a minimum level of Open Water Diver and the cost is £45 plus travel etc. There are two ways of doing this, either locally if we have enough interest, or down in Portsmouth for a smaller number. If any of you are interested in this please let me know via e-mail so that we look into providing whatever is appropriate.

We are actively looking for members to arrange social events either on a one off basis or to fill the vacant post of social secretary. If any of you feel that you can organise an event of any description please get in touch with a committee member and volunteer your ideas and services.

Finally, if you've made it this far through my ramblings, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe years diving and look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evenings and club events throughout the year.

**Andy Neatham**  
Chairman

## Club Plymouth Trip - 25th & 26th September

I have been diving around Plymouth for the past couple of years now with my Basingstoke branch of the BSAC. During that time, I have not had a bad dive with the visibility never disappointing us. Plymouth is one of the best diving areas in the country, giving a variety of scenic and wreck diving with good visibility, 10-15 metres not being unusual, and a wealth of sea life. There are dives to suit all tastes and abilities.

We have used Richard and his boat the Cee-King for all our dives while staying at his b&b, the Alexander. Richard is a very experienced skipper, very knowledgeable and above all, a good laugh. His wife does a superb packed lunch for £3 which is a meal in itself. Plymouth is quite unique in that it has very minimal tides. What that means to us divers is that breakfast is always served at 8:15am - no early starts!. The Alexander is also a very short walk from the pubs and restaurants that populate the dock side.

### The Alexander



The bed and breakfast is close to the city centre and the Barbican and has a large car park, all rooms have colour a TV and complimentary tea/coffee, some have private facilities. The dinning room is available for your use if you wish bring food in and we have our own bar. Drying facilities are also available!!

### The Cee King

CEE KING is a 32ft GRP Motor Vessel used exclusively as a charter boat for diving parties. The boat is laid out to give the maximum unrestricted space for divers and their equipment with a large open deck. The cabin below can be used for extra storage space. It has two bunks, galley and toilet.

Equipment on board comprises of a VHF Radio Telephone, Decca, and GPS Navigators 2 Echo Sounders (a paper trace and a colour sounder) Magnetometer and a full range of safety equipment including D.T.I. Life rafts, life jackets, flares. Oxygen is carried for divers use. The ladder has been specially constructed for easy boarding and there are a variety of shot lines, buoys and an A flag.



## *What else can you say but COOL!*

Cee King is insured & licensed to carry 12 persons and conforms to the Code of Practice issued by the M.S.A. for both charter & work boat.

Cee King is moored at Queen Anne's Battery, where Sound Diving provides air / nitrox / trimix and equipment hire. Our customers have the use of the marina facilities. Tides are not usually a problem so a 9a.m. start is the norm and we are generally back in harbour by 5p.m.

### The Diving!

Without being biased, the diving is superb. Lots of marine life and we plan to do two famous wrecks over the weekend. The James Egan Layne is a very famous wreck and makes a fantastic second dive



with superb swim throughs. There is very little overheads, giving the wreck an almost cathedral like appearance as you swim through it.

The JAMES EGAN LAYNE was one of the hundreds of liberty ships to be built by the Americans in 1944 (400 feet long and over 7,000 tons). In March 1945 on route from South Wales to Ghent she was torpedoed by U1195. Her Captain nursed her towards Plymouth, but was not permitted entry so he tried to beach her in Whitesands Bay. She sank just a mile short in 21 metres of water, her stern breaking off and lying just 20 metres away. A classic dive, her bow stands 10 metres proud, a home for an abundance of marine life where you can often see John Dory, Bass and many more.

### HMS Scylla

Unless you've been hiding under a rock or not being reading the diving press, the UK is going to get its first artificial reef in the form of the HMS Scylla. This innovative wreck project has only been made possible by the National Marine Aquarium, which had sufficient clout and credibility to step in and make the bid. The motivation for the Aquarium is predominantly in researching the way that marine life comes to inhabit the wreck over time. Planning to be sunk in April, it will also be very close the Eagan Layne as well !



What else can you say but COOL!

# Dive Sites

## Possible Dive Sites

Site	Metres	Type
<a href="#">A7</a>	10-40	Wreck
<a href="#">East Rutts</a>	10-40	Reef
<a href="#">Eddystone</a>	0-40	Scenic
<a href="#">Glen Strath Allen</a>	15	Wreck
<a href="#">Hands Deeps</a>	12-50	Scenic
<a href="#">Hatt Rock</a>	24-55	
<a href="#">Hilsea Point</a>	6-28	Gulleys
<a href="#">HMS Elk</a>	34	Wreck

Site	Metres	Type
<a href="#">James Egan Layne</a>	22	Wreck
<a href="#">Le Puolmic</a>	18	Wreck
<a href="#">Medoc</a>	56	Wreck
<a href="#">Mewstone Ledges</a>	10-30	Scenic
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	34	Wreck
<a href="#">Persier</a>	30	Wreck
<a href="#">Rosehill</a>	32	Wreck
<a href="#">Totnes Castle</a>	43	Wreck

For further information, please go to [www.ceeking.co.uk](http://www.ceeking.co.uk)

Or give me a call at the shop on 0118 926 2288.

See get yourself booked on to what is going to be a great weekend of diving by speaking to Morag or Andy Neatham.

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

See you there

Gary

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## For Sale

Gul "Full Metal Jacket" neoprene drysuit for Sale  
Men's Large Size with 9-10 Boot  
Lycra & Titanium mesh Layer  
Apex shoulder valve and Apex inlet  
Never been used - Yours for £300 (£500 new)  
Contact Paul on 01732 355 675

## *Training Dives*

<b>Open Water</b>	Windsor - 20th Jan	
	Reading - 21st Jan	
OW Intensive Weekends	21st & 22nd Feb	27th & 28th March
Open Water Dives	6th & 7th March	
<b>Advanced Open Water</b>	28th & 29th Feb	24th & 25th April
<b>Rescue Diver</b>	17th & 18th April	
<b>EFR</b>	30th March & 6 April	
<b>Dan O2</b>	1 April	
<b>Specialties</b>		
Underwater Navigator	20th & 21st March	
Drysuit Diver	28th & 29th Feb	
Enriched Air Diver	28th & 29th Feb	24th & 25th April
Deep & Wreck Diver	24th & 25th April	
Underwater Photographer	24th & 25th April	

Full course details are now available on the DiveStyle web site  
[www.divestyle.co.uk](http://www.divestyle.co.uk)

Certain Speciality courses such as Dry Suit Diver and Peak Performance Buoyancy can be run on demand. Just call 0118 926 2288 for full details.

# Membership Matters!

Your Membership Matters!

Hello fellow Divers, Members etc etc.....

Our welcome to new members to the diving club will be published in the next issue of the HT

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

Nicola Wright  
Home address 25, Chaucer Way, Wokingham, Berks, RG41 3BG  
Phone No. 0118 977 3802  
e-mail membership@thedivingclub.co.uk

Your Club Web site is [www.thedivingclub.co.uk](http://www.thedivingclub.co.uk)

The general e-mail address for The Diving Club is [info@thedivingclub.co.uk](mailto:info@thedivingclub.co.uk)

Nicola Wright

## Membership

Please would you all respond to the letters we send out to you as it makes the Membership Secretary's job so much easier if you provide your remittance as soon as possible.

If you are not rejoining please let us know so that we don't have to keep chasing you unnecessarily.



## QUALIFICATIONS & CONTACT DETAILS

In order to get the club records up to date, could we ask you all to reconfirm you're contact details (address, phone, mobile etc, and level of diving qualification).

Please send these details by post (send to the shop to be forwarded to us) or e-mail to Nicola or Peter Winn

For those of you who are still not able to download the HBT, please send a separate e-mail to myself and Peter Winn (Publicity Officer) - there may be a mistake with your e-mail address or that the file is too big for you to download.

If you have changed your e-mail address, don't forget to let us know.



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

DiveStyle  
 Mikes Waterfront Warehouse  
 Maiden Lane Shopping Centre  
 Lower Earley  
 Reading, Berks  
 RG6 3HD  
 Tel: 0118 926 2288  
 Fax: 0118 926 9616  
[www.divestyle.co.uk](http://www.divestyle.co.uk)

The Diving Club and Windsor Divers are chapters of the PADI Diving Society and aim to allow newly qualified divers and existing members a forum to meet and dive with other divers. We are a PADI orientated group, which accepts divers from any diver-training agency (ie BSAC, SAA, NAUI, IANTD etc). We have close ties to DiveStyle, who conduct all our training and offer us use of their pool sessions for equipment testing.

**The Diving Club - Committee Members**



President	Peter Wright	0118 926 2288	07768 726599	president@thedivingclub.co.uk
Chairman	Andy Neatham			chairman@thedivingclub.co.uk
Treasurer	Nick Hill			treasurer@thedivingclub.co.uk
Club Secretary	Brenda Taylor	0118 9775748		secretary@thedivingclub.co.uk
Orientation Dive organiser	Morag Ward		07904 207306	diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk
Club Dive organiser				diveadvanced@thedivingclub.co.uk
Social secretary	Vacant (please contact Peter Wright)	0118 926 2288		social@thedivingclub.co.uk
Membership secretary	Nicola Wright	0118 977 3802		membership@thedivingclub.co.uk
Publicity Officer	Peter Winn	01344 455280	07971 024307	publicity@thedivingclub.co.uk
Webmaster	Grant Gibson			webmaster@thedivingclub.co.uk