

The Hyperbaric Times

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A Message From The Editor

Welcome to my first edition of The Hyperbaric Times. The last edition published was June this year so there must be plenty of stories out there waiting to be told. I've had a look back through previous editions and most of the articles published appear to have been from Committee members. It would be good to get some articles from Club members too.

Tell us about your recent diving holidays. I'm thinking of going diving in Lanzarote in February next year for a bit of winter sun and warm(ish) water diving. Has anyone been there at that time of year and would they recommend it? If not Lanzarote, where would you suggest? Cheap, cheerful and no long flights please.....

Are you looking for like-minded people to go on holiday with? Just send me the details and we'll see what can be arranged.

For those of you who have recently qualified, tell us about your experiences. Dish the dirt on your Instructor or Divemaster. Did they do something really stupid that they'd prefer you not to mention? Tough. Tell us all about it and let's make them squirm. You don't have to name names necessarily, just give us sufficient information so we can work it out for ourselves. If you'd prefer your article to remain anonymous then so be it.....it'll be just between you and me. Trust me.

There must be plenty of Instructors and Divemasters out there too with stories to tell. What's the daftest thing you've seen one of your students do? I think I'm safe in asking

that. I don't remember doing anything *really* stupid during any of my courses but I could be proved wrong. We'll see eh! Might publish it, might not.....

Moving away from telling tales, there used to be a 'Diving Equipment For Sale' section for Club members. If you have anything that you'd like to sell, send me a picture and a description of the item together with your contact details and we'll reinstate that section.

Back to this issue, I've started off by introducing the rabble that is the Committee. The Diving Club meets every Wednesday at the Maiden Over pub in Lower Earley from about 21:00 so come along and join us if you're in the area. The first Wednesday of each month is "food night" so there's a good reason for dropping in.....together with beer of course.

I have also included the revised guidelines for dives organised by the Club. These guidelines cover both Orientation Dives and Club Dives. Please take time to read them and then check out the 2006 Diving Schedule to see what's on offer.

Hoping to see you all at the Christmas party.

Happy reading!

Berni



Copy deadline

Copy to be received by
17 December for inclusion
in the January 2006 edition

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.

Introducing The Rabble Committee

President—Peter Wright



I did my very first dive in Jersey 25 years ago while on holiday and have since completed more than 5000 (or is that 6000) dives. I originally trained with BSAC and went through to Advanced Instructor with them. Then I got into the technical side of diving in the late 80's in the days before it

was called technical, mostly we were known then as Nutters! This brought about access to lots of new wrecks and some pretty fun adventures (ok "fun" being a euphemism for scary, further details available over a beer). During the early 90's I crossed over to the dark side from BSAC and became a PADI Instructor to help fund my diving habit. The late 90's saw me going more mainstream again having acquired certification with IANTD as an Instructor and Trimix Diver and then, just for some

contrast, I also qualified as a Disabled Instructor with IAHD (that's for me to teach disabled people, not being disabled). By the year 2000 Divestyle had grown to such a size that I opened the dive centre in Lower Earley where you will find me based most days. My continuing passions are travelling and diving and I have been lucky enough to have travelled, and dived, extensively throughout the northern hemisphere. I am married with two small dependents, my daughter and Stumpy.

Chairman—Roy Stevenson



I've been diving since 1998 (eek, all that time/money). I started in Egypt as I wanted to learn to dive so I could go to Scapa and dive the German wrecks. Never having done a discover or try dive, I booked a holiday to Egypt to learn to dive and came back with a PADI AOW after a grand total of 6 days diving, including one day of pleasure diving. Then I didn't dive for around a year. I figured I should get back into it otherwise I wouldn't get to Scapa so I looked around at shops/clubs and wandered into a place in Reading where they took pity on me and gave me a cup of coffee. Being the tart that I am (all it takes is coffee, cheap date or what...) I stuck with the crew known as Divestyle and The Diving Club. Anyway, even after a first weekend diving at Stoney Cove with Divestyle and Lauren which saw me tangled up in SMB lines on not one but two occasions on the same day, I worked my way up to Divemas-

ter and spent two years or as a DM. Then in February 2005 I took the plunge and became an Instructor, a very interesting experience. In June of this year, I spent four weeks working in Egypt to gain experience instructing, an experience I found very rewarding and if you want to hear some stories that will shock and amuse and want to see pictures of 'dive gimps', buy me a beer and I'll fill you in. In parallel to the 'professional' stuff, I have also followed a technical diving path, having worked through twinsets, accelerated devil gas or deco and semi-closed rebreathers, to the black art of closed circuit rebreathers or the 'yellow box of tricks' as people refer to it (amongst other names). Oh, and I did get to Scapa, three times! An experience that I have found very awe inspiring and sobering on every occasion but always for different reasons. For a day job I work on various software and hardware systems for NATS Ltd who are responsible for moving airplanes around the UK.

Treasurer—Matt Cook



Hi, I'm Matt and I have somehow been elected Treasurer for The Diving Club, well don't worry, as a Yorkshireman I can promise there will be no rash spending and 'prudence' will be my watch word, but I won't be making any promises about growth!! I've been diving for

about 11 years, my first dive was in Ullswater in April, in a wetsuit. Most of my early diving was done in the North Sea so I'm no stranger to cold water. After University I discovered warm water diving! So most of my diving was overseas in between work assignments, that was until I was sent to work in Dublin for a year. Great craic! The old drysuit was dusted off and I jumped into the beautiful waters of the Atlantic

Ocean. So I spent as many weekends as I could diving my way around Ireland. I was also introduced to night diving in Dublin Bay by the locals, nothing beats living close to the sea and being able to jump in for a pootle on an evening, oh and a pint of the black stuff afterwards to help off gas. It was while I was in Ireland I gained my Divemaster qualification and haven't looked back since. So now back to Reading for the foreseeable future and you're just as likely to see me on a club or orientation dive and on the odd course helping out.



Club Dive Organiser—Morag Ward



I have been a member of the club since about a week after I passed my Open Water course in 2002. I decided to learn to dive after booking a diving holiday and that was as far as it was going to go until I got hooked on UK diving. I completed my Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver

and several specialties during the next few months gained a lot of experience in the first couple of years before qualifying as a Divemaster in August 2003. My experiences as a Dive-

master gave me the knowledge and confidence to become an Instructor, which I did by doing an instructor course in Gozo followed by the exam in Malta in May 2004. A lot of my diving has been in the UK including some in inland sites although most has been in various places along the south coast and further afield such as the Farne Islands, Scapa Flow and Pembroke. I have also done some in various places in the world, including the Red Sea, Turkey, Tenerife, Sardinia, Malta and Gozo.

Orientation Dive Organiser—Andrew Askwith



I am responsible for arranging the Orientation dives for the club. I have been a club member for three years now, approximately the same length of time that I have been hooked on diving and I am now serving my second term on the committee.

Favourite dive: Thistlegorm, although the M2 comes a very close second.

Pastime when not diving: enjoying fine wines

Next diving holiday planned: I am going to New Zealand in January, originally to attend a friend's wedding but it is now turning much more into a diving holiday

Ambition: to dive in Palau, Truk and Yap

Membership Secretary—Clare Selwyn



I've been up mountains in the middle of the night, jumped off them the other side of the world and yet seen almost nothing of the sea. On hearing Roger's brother was emigrating to New Zealand to set up a dive centre with his new wife and PADI qualification I asked to 'have a go'. From that exhilarating evening in a Bristol pool, it took me a year to sign up for my Open Water course. Roger was dragged along too! It was soon clear I feel the cold and my drysuit was ordered in time for my first Orientation Dive in Vobster, May 2003. I gave the Orientation organiser and buddy a few grey hairs that day and took up Wednesday evenings in Wraysbury for a while! By

next spring I found myself thinking I wanted to help others enjoy this diving as much as me. I signed up and became a Divemaster in February this year. The rewards, so far, are great. To see the faces of people who didn't think they could go down just finishing doing so, is special. I'm not sure where diving will take me, the Scilly Isles, Lundy, Pembroke, North Wales (because I grew up there) and The Isle of Man are plans, but abroad is a massive map and uncharted apart from a trip with Morag to Tenerife. I may yet take up another knitting challenge if my knitting friend came too! We aim to let Benjamin, our son, tackle the PADI ladder and keep living life as it appears. I would like to Ice dive, see whales and find where in the world I find warm water, it wasn't Tenerife. So we'll keep buying a lottery ticket as this might help achieve it!

Prior to taking up diving, I spent over 20 years doing English Civil War enactment. However the attractions of dressing up in wool on a hot day had faded, so I thought I'd try rubber instead. I took up diving with my wife, Clare, in early 2003, after being given a £50 birthday present towards the cost of the Open Water course!! Having passed the OW course in Wraysbury in April

Webmaster—Roger Selwyn



2003, we joined the club with the strong intention of creating a new circle of friends. This has certainly proved to be the case. Along with Clare, I did some of the orientation dives through 2003, along with taking Advanced OW and Rescue Diver courses in June and October. The Rescue Diver course was the time that I decided a Dry Suit course was a good idea. Standing on the shore at Wraysbury in October in a wet semi-dry simply isn't fun. The next target was Scapa Flow in July 2004. So for early 2004, the focus was on gaining the skills required, partly through courses such as Nitrox and Deep, and

partly through plenty of deeper diving in the English channel. This resulted in an excellent trip to Scapa which has got to be one of the all time great trips if you are into wrecks. Since then, most diving has been for pleasure, rather than training. However, in early 2005, I started on the 'professional' path by signing up for Divemaster training through Divestyle. However, the main aim has been pleasure, with trips to Scapa again, Pembroke, the Farnes and the Manacles throughout 2005. Up to this time, all my diving had been in the UK but, in July this year, we had a trip to Tenerife. The joy of being able to see the bottom from the surface was immense. Additionally, being able to dive in a shortie was a real pleasure. And the future? More pleasure of course, but also gaining the skills to dive deeper and longer. The reason for doing all this is to get away from the day job which, in the most part, involves trying to sell Computer Services to the UK Government. Fortunately my company occasionally manages to do this and therefore pays me a wage which allows me to go diving.

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Social Secretary—Irina Wade



Started diving 3 years ago when me & Mike got married, didn't like the idea of reg in my mouth. So the diving was abandoned then. Tried the discover scuba diving in Crete in September last year and decided to do an OW course when I got back. The nice thing about my OW was that

Mike didn't know anything about until Christmas when I showed him the certificate. Nice surprise for him. Actually for me too as December was very cold in good old Wraysbury! I'm renowned for being cold all the time. Since then I have done my AOW in Stoney Cove and a couple of specialties, and got

the Rescue Diver qualification just before I went on my first diving holiday to the Red Sea. With so many courses going on I have only managed a few dives in the UK: Portland, Plymouth and Weymouth. I've been diving for just over a year now and I love it. The things that I like most are wreck and drift diving. I'm training now as a DM which might take some time. I'm not so long in the business to be able to tell you 'hot' stories yet.

Professionally I'm a Company Director of a very small cleaning company with a very uncertain schedule. You are probably not going to see me at the pub every night. But I will do my best.

Publicity Officer—Berni Kehoe



My first experience of diving was in Mexico in 1996. I must admit the only reason my friend and I decided to have a go was because we liked the look of the instructor taking the pool session. My friend hated it, I loved it! So, after two pool sessions, I decided to have a go at sea. I hated it! For those of

you who have had the misfortune of diving with me so far and know of my buoyancy "issues" - crash landing, flying high, anybody's guess which way I'll go - you can imagine how that day went! Then, three years ago, I met Peter Wright on a computer course. He invited me along to one of the 'come and try it' pool sessions and I was hooked. The next two years were spent trying to find someone brave enough to sign me off as fit to dive (long story). I finally got clearance and, in July this year, in the murk of Wraysbury, I completed

my OW qualification. Since then I have gone on to complete my AOW and three specialties at Stoney Cove. I've also survived one orientation dive in Weymouth in October (too busy feeding the fish to participate in the second dive—recommendations for good seasickness tablets gratefully received...). I'm off to Kenya for a week very soon and really looking forward to experiencing warm water diving.....and lazing by the pool of course, cocktail in one hand, book in the other. I should hopefully complete two more specialties whilst I'm there and that makes five. Then I just need to do the Rescue Diver course and log 50 dives and Master Scuba Diver I will be.....simple really! Oh yeah, I have to mention the other passion in my life...Reading Football Club. I've supported them for 31 years! When I started diving I was told that divers just don't do football....surely that can't be true....there must be other Reading supporters out there somewhere. To pay for these two costly 'habits' I am an Office Manager for a small risk management consultancy based in Reading.

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.**
- 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 the responsibility of the diver. Standard kit includes (but is not limited to): regulators, (including primary second and alternate second stage), Submersible Pressure Gauge, depth gauge, timing device, buoyancy compensator, cylinder(s), 'personal' kit (e.g. mask, fins etc), emergency signal device (e.g. whistle), cutting tool, Delayed Surface Marker Buoy (mandatory on Club Dives), appropriate exposure protection and weight system. 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.
- Divers are responsible for planning their individual dives within the limits of their qualifications and those set by the appointed Dive Marshal.
- 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:
 - The list of divers expected and their relevant qualification
 - Dive Information, time, location, planned dives
 - 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:
 - Weather Conditions
 - Water State
 - Tidal Conditions
 - 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

Scapa Flow 3-10 September 2005



Stromness Harbour

deed and a slight concern about blowing Loganair's 15kg baggage allowance out of the water. Fortunately they turned a blind eye. I was met at Kirkwall airport by Roy, Matt, Clare and Roger in the Dive Cellar minibus.

Lesson number 2: Believe everything people tell you about the minibus! Turns out canvas makes a good job of gripping the road and who cares if the back doors are held on with string? This is Orkney MOT rules!

On the flight over and in the bus on the way to Stromness I got my first taste of the Orkney landscape. I expected a few islands sticking well up out of the water but it's really a low-lying rolling countryside that happens to be very wet. Doug from Dive Cellar described it as 'a flooded landscape' which I think sums it up perfectly.

We arrived at what was to be home for the week. Two adjacent houses in Stromness High Street about ¼ mile from the boat (less from the pub). Accommodation was clean and tidy. The lounge could benefit from some cash spending on the furniture and it was obvious I would be looking forward to getting back to my own bed by the end of the week but it did the job and the location was spot on. And we had Marlene to cook breakfast every morning, so life was good.

On to the diving. Sunday morning and we set off at 9am (8:30 for the rest of the week) for our first 'check dive'. This turned out to be on the Dresden Light Cruiser at 32m! Over the six days the routine was fairly consistent with two dives separated most days by lunch at a place called Lyness (if you can call a sparse collection of industrial buildings and a quayside a 'place'). I can highly recommend the cakes in the café and a walk around the museum though.

Being a bit slow I usually prefer to do multiple dives on a wreck and get to know it, but being my first time at Scapa it was great to move around and get to see the different types of wrecks and the different condition they were in. The dives included Battleships, Light Cruisers, a block ship and a trawler over the course of the week. OK, I admit I missed the block ship but it was a hell of a current and I had fun doing a high-speed solo drift for a while!

Perspectives from a first timer.

When I joined the Reading Dive Club almost exactly one year ago, it was to do two things; start diving in the UK for the first time after a number of years in warmer waters, and dive Scapa Flow. I needed to gain some experience of diving in the cold and dark first but being a bit of a wreck junkie, this was going to be the diving highlight of the year.

Being a bit of a softy, I didn't fancy the 650+ miles drive so I elected to cash in some airmiles.

Lesson number 1: You can't take pony bottles on a plane. Thanks to Clare and Roger for giving it a ride (albeit a bumpy one, I say no more) in the back of the 'van'. The flight up to Kirkwall on the Orkney mainland was fast (2 ½ hours) and uneventful with a change at Aber-

All the wrecks had their own charm and excitement so picking favourites, it's difficult. I guess for me there are some dives which will stay in the memory longer than others though, due to particular moments or events. The James Barrie trawler at 40m is one due to the great viz and being first into the engine room. A bit of a squeeze to get in but an awesome feeling to hover inside and look out through the 'skylights' behind the bridge.

The Koeln and F2 in particular had some great swim throughs, though no-one would have wanted to follow me and Jim into the barge (next to the F2) after I created a silt-out in the aft cabin – sorry Jim. Think of it as good practice!

Lesson number 3: get buoyancy sorted before swimming into little holes.



And the BIG GUNS. You have to see the big guns! The battleships are upside down and I found it difficult to find a way underneath at first but in the end I managed to see the 3 (out of 5) visible 12" guns on the Kronprinz Wilhelm. These are about 1m across on the outside of the barrel and the turret is so big it looks like a wall until you realize what your looking at. I recon you can squeeze between the turrets of guns 4 and 5 so long as you tie off (a bit dark). It's on my to-do list for next time.

I guess if there is one highlight of the week for me, it was when I realized I was looking at the barrel of the Kronprinz's number 1 (forward) gun.

Gun Breach

Takeaways for the week?

The wrecks are truly magnificent. The sheer majesty and size of these ships is something to behold and it gives you a sense of what it must have been like to be onboard a military ship in WWI and WWII.

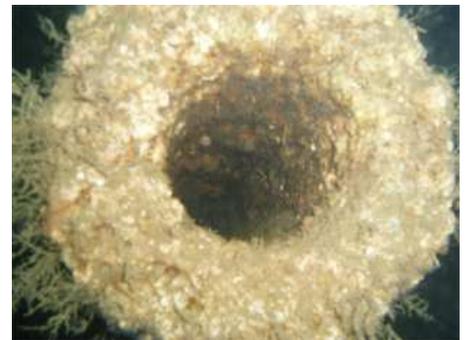
I left Scapa with a real sense of history and the tragedy of the Royal Oak, the Hampshire and others which cost 1000's of sailors their lives seemed very real, even though the ships we had dived suffered little or no loss of life.

The Orkneys has a completely different way of life. No-one locks doors, everyone knows everyone else. It's a real culture shock for someone used to commuter-belt Berkshire. And a good one.

Oh, and I need to take an Advanced Nitrox and Deco course.

So, is it my highlight of the year? Can't see anything topping it!

Nigel Stephenson



Gun Barrel

The Diving Club goes to Deepest, Darkest Weymouth 22-23 October 2005—Orientation Dive

Saturday dawned to the usual 'what sort of a time do you call this' as I prepared to travel to Deepest Darkest Dorset to spend a weekend diving from Tango.

Packed the old yellow box the night before so it's into the car and away we go. At least it's a quite nice 10:30 meeting time on the boat.

So, first the boat, as the name Tango suggests, it's orange and a very nice boat to dive from. Plenty of space and a very friendly skipper. You can even stay on board if you bring your own sleeping bag for around £7 per night using the bunks down below.

The boat is fitted with a lift and when you get back on board you're greeted with hot drinks and hot cross buns, how great is that!

So back to going diving, here we are waiting for the last two to arrive and the phone goes.

Roy – Hello?

- Hi, were next to a big boat, where are you?

Roy – Big boat?

- Yeah, the ferry

Roy – Ah, you've gone to far, come back the other way, follow the tram tracks along the quay wall.

- OK, were just going under the bridge

Roy – Bridge? Are you in a black car?

- Yeah

Roy – Ah, too far, you want that big orange boat with Tango written on it that you just went past

- Oh, OK, how do we get back?

Roy – Excellent question.....

Anyway, after a short interval, we're all present and correct. Quick safety briefing and off we go.

First dive site is the Black Hawk bows. A very pretty wreck around 15m depth and about 40 minutes from Weymouth. On the way out to the site it become obvious that the seas aren't exactly mirror flat, maybe a little lumpy. So, here we are and after a short briefing from me on the site, what to see etc, we suffer the first casualty of the weekend, one of my two buddies for the day. Amazing how green some people can get when everything is rocking from side to side, up and down, side to side, up and down..... ooohh....

Everyone in the water and we discover that the viz may not be that good. However, from what we could see in the 1m of torch beam, the Black Hawk bows look very pretty and quiet good for a rummage with lots of bits that look like a real ship.



Weymouth Harbour

Editor's comment:

I was the person at the other end of the phone. You can't see the orange part of the boat nor can you see 'Tango' from the road...just thought I'd have my say!

Second dive site is supposed to be a drift, however based on the viz for the first dive we changed to the Bombardon unit near Weymouth Harbour. Back in again and I've lost my second buddy, is it something I said or did? Oooh, maybe not, they've gone a very nice shade of green, matches the sea colour.

Anyway, down to the Bombardon unit and the viz is so much better, just like the Caribbean this! Swimming round I find a brilliant hole in the side and just as I was about to swim in, I see this large shoal of excited looking divers pointing at something. So, what are you looking at? Nope, can't see anything apart from grey, ooh yeah and a very large eye and fins, wow! That's a HUGE conger swimming towards that hole I nearly went into!! Close call there.

Swim round a little more and come across some ropes lying on the sea bed, tied onto the Bombardon unit and leading off. Being the curious sort, I lead the way as we swim out along the ropes to find some slightly flattened steelwork, looks like another part of the unit with some quite angry crabs on it. Maybe they have met me before. After around 45 minutes, it's time to call it a day and head back to the surface, all in all a quiet, pleasant dive.

Back to dry land for a shower and of course, beeeeeeeerrrrrr. The evening was spent wandering round looking for a restaurant that would let us in the door and could serve ten. Unfortunately we couldn't find a restaurant that could cope with a party of ten, but did find one that could cope with two parties of four and a couple and they even allowed us to order in one go and pull the tables together. Now the dessert round became a bit of a 'group effort' where Mike ordered a very large 'for two to share' desert and we all piled in.

Day two and we unfortunately lost two of the group. They went home with our knowledge, we didn't leave them somewhere and forget about them. After a group hug and chat, the decision was taken to go somewhere a little different so we went to a wreck called the Binnendyk. Having had people turn up for a 10am sailing, we now didn't need to leave till around midday due to the tides, so some people went for a walk round Weymouth, others had a snooze, others just talked about diving and life.

Around midday we sailed out and as we passed out of the shelter of Portland, we discovered that the seas were bigger than the day before, a good 1-1.5m swell, this is fun! As soon as were at the site, its off the boat and dive ASAP.

Now this was a great dive. 27m, quite dark but good visibility. Everyone seemed to find something different and interesting and to be honest I think most of us only scratched the surface of this one. Some huge lobsters and loads of ship stuff to see. Definitely going back to this one.

Final wreck of the weekend is that old Portland favourite, The Countess of Erne. As we were the only divers on the site, we had some excellent viz on this last dive and it was a very pleasant way to finish the weekend. Loads of tompots and a nice shoal of cod and the like to keep everyone interested.

All in all a good fun weekend with some new dive sites.

Roll on 2006!!!

Roy Stevenson



Diving Schedule 2006

Date	Location	Details	Max Depth	Cost	Level
25/26 February	Stoney Cove	4th Annual Cold Water Special	7-30 m	Entry	All
18/19 March	Poole	Big Dinghy*	18m	£37.00 per day	O
25/26 March	Poole	Big Dinghy*	30m	£35.00 per day	C
8/9 April	Swanage	Swanage Diver	35m	Approx £36.00 per day	C
22/23 April	Torquay	Babbacombe Bay	8m	£5.00 per day	O
7 May	East Wittering	Wittering Divers	18m	£39.00	O
17/18 June	Pembroke	Pembroke Dive Charters*	38m	£45.00 per day	C
17/18 June	Pembroke	Pembroke Dive Charters*	18m	£45.00 per day	O
1/2/3 July	Farnes	Sovereign II	30m	£155.00 (inc 3 nights B&B)	C
8/9 July	Portland	Dive Eclipse	18m	£32.00 per day	O
16 July	Poole	Big Dinghy	40m	£35.00	C
5 August	Swanage	Pier Dive	7m	£5.00 + Entry	O
5 August	Swanage	Swanage Diver	35m	Approx £36.00 per day	C
6 August	Swanage	Swanage Diver	18m	£35.00	O
12/13 August	Plymouth	Ceeking	40m	£108.00 (inc 2 nights B&B)	C
9/10 September	Swanage	Swanage Diver	18m	£35.00 + Entry per day	O
23/24 September	Swanage	Swanage Diver	20-40m	Approx £36.00 per day	C
7/8 October	Poole	Big Dinghy	18m	£35.00 per day	O

*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

Orientation Dives: Andrew Askwith - 07904 207306 - diveorientation@thedivingclub.co.uk

Membership Matters!

Hello all.....

With Christmas approaching, we'd like to welcome everyone who has joined for the 2005/6 membership year. Also, a special welcome to all new members of the club. Members who have joined since the start of the membership year are:

Chris Seymour, George Rowland, James Leitch, James Spillett, William Van Ascott, Nigel Page, Andy Carnegie, Caroline Birkby, Brian Moseley, Joanna Binns, Alex Binns, Caroline Kennedy, Alison Ward, Peter Thomas, Jackie Jarvis

This brings us to a current total of 124 members.

If you have not received an email notification of this newsletter, please let either myself or Berni Kehoe (Publicity Officer) 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:

Clare Selwyn

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



Christmas Party 2005

**Blue Mountain Golf Centre, Binfield, Bracknell
on
Saturday, 3 December**

“Hollywood comes to Blue Mountain in a themed black and white evening”

Programme of events:

19:15 Guests arrive for drinks reception

20:00 3 course dinner

21:30 Dancing to Band & resident DJ

12:30 Carriages

£35.00 per person—includes a welcome drink, three course meal, live band (KC and The Sunshine Band tribute) and disco



MENU

The Scene Setter

Duck and orange pate accompanied with an apple, apricot and sage chutney
and a red onion marmalade

A platter of smoked salmon simply served with cracked pepper and lemon

Duo of melon with winterberries steeped with port

Homemade roasted parsnip soup

The Main Event

Roasted turkey paupiette filled with a pork, cranberry and rosemary farce wrapped in bacon coated with natural jus

Grilled dame of salmon coated with a lemon and dill crust served on a bed of watercress

Roast rack of lamb coated with a port and thyme jus

Baked goats cheese and cherry tomato en croute served with a red pepper coulis

The Conclusion

Traditional Christmas log coated with a sweet brandy sauce

Chocolate parfait drizzled with chantilly cream

Tarte au citron

Selection of cheese and biscuits

Freshly brewed coffee and warm mince pies

If you would like to reserve a table for you and your friends, or would just like to book a ticket for yourself please contact Peter Wright on 0118 928 2288

THE DIVING CLUB

We're on the web:
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

The Diving Club is a chapter of the PADI Diving Society and aims 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 (eg BSAC, SAA, NAUI, IANTD etc). We have close ties with Divestyle, who conduct all our training and offer us use of their pool sessions for equipment testing and practice sessions when space permits.

The Diving Club Committee Members - Contact Details

President

Peter Wright
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E: president@thedivingclub.co.uk

Chairman

Roy Stevenson
E: chairman@thedivingclub.co.uk

Treasurer

Matt Cook
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Club Secretary

Michelle Darby
E: secretary@thedivingclub.co.uk

Orientation Dive Organiser

Andrew Askwith
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Club Dive Organiser

Morag Ward
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Social Secretary

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Membership Secretary

Clare Selwyn
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Publicity Officer

Berni Kehoe
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