

GOING DOWN



The Journal of the Dacorurum
Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC 0713)

OCTOBER
2002

Editorial

Dear all,

Here we are once again. My, how time flies when you're trying to avoid writing articles. The NEC Dive Show will soon be with us and that long sought after new toy will soon be ours. You may, therefore, be wondering what to do with old surplus equipment that you will have lying around after the show. The answer? Put it in Going Down of course! A few lines of carefully constructed prose and your pockets could be fuller ready for that next purchase. Simply send the details to either of us and we'll do the rest. The same applies to that write-up on the last trip that you were going to do, send it along in any format, any shape.

This month sees the usual array of articles and adverts PLUS the first crossword. We are offering a prize for this, nothing major, a bottle or two, that sort of thing. If you have any favourite teasers or puzzles that would look good in the BUMPER Christmas edition then please send it along with the other articles that you are writing.

Till, next time, safe diving and have a good Dive Show!

Tony & Peter

Chairman's View

Hallo again

We are now coming to the end of summer and the diving trips are becoming less, we can look back on a very good season including lots of good trips, this has been a good year for the club, I am very pleased with the amount it has been out, long may this continue.

More trips

There is already a number of trips being organised for next year, once again I am running the Oban trip, the dates are as follows. August 23rd to August 26th I have a great deal of interest and will be taken a deposit soon.

Social

We have run quite a few social events this year all being successful, as we start to think about the winter months it would be nice to have a few things planned, if anybody has suggestions on what we could do or would even like to organise something please let one of the committee know.

Try dives

I am in the middle of planning some try dives. The next one is on the 10th October, I think I have people to fill this one but am always looking for new names, its worth remembering that this does bring in lots of valuable funds for the club. If anybody that's a sports diver is interested in taking a try diver in please let me know.

That's all for now I will speak to you soon.

Barry

Training Officer Report

Phew – a third article within 7 months of the re-launch of the new-look Going Down – those Editors are keen!! I am currently in the "lull before the storm" TO - wise, as pool training is very quiet, and thanks to a few hard-working instructors (thank you to Phil, Gary and Jeanette in particular) the latest CD trainees are getting through their OW lessons. However, it will soon all change, as I'm planning a new Ocean Diver course as soon as BSAC publish the new materials: (probably late October). Hopefully we'll then have the laptop

and projector to present lessons as supplied, in Powerpoint. I will be calling a meeting for all instructors to brief you on the new course when I have full details, so we can continue training with a smooth transition. I've already had several welcome offers of help to instruct on the new course, but more volunteers are always needed! Some members are booked onto Instructor Foundation Courses this autumn; speak to me for details of taking this first step.

I haven't yet caught everyone up to Sports Diver theory, but I'm on the case!

Also, it's been nearly 2 years since the last Dive Leader course and at least 7 members would benefit from starting this grade (normally for experienced SDs). It can't begin until January-ish, but please let me know if you're interested. It will obviously be a new-style course so will cost £20 for crossover materials including a new filofax-type QRB, which have a pocket for the blue book. (This applies for the first course, SD, DL or AD, done under the new scheme – when you "cross-over" to new DTP).

Winter also means it's time for Skill Development Courses, certainly including Oxygen Administration. Others by request?! Last issue I mentioned the need for a new TO (or 2) from next April, and I will be "propositioning" possible candidates soon! Don't be afraid, it's a great job!

If you come to club meetings you'll have seen me bring down the lever arch record card files. This is the only record of your training and grades awarded other than your QRB (which just occasionally get lost ...or even soaked in wine – you know who you are!), so please bring along your QRB to check/bring your records are up-to-date. I do try to keep them accurately, but don't always have enough time, so would appreciate your support.

Lindsey.

TRAINING OFFICER STOP PRESS

The next Sports Diver course begins on October 10th.

I have now received the new Instructor manual and grade materials and can plan the Ocean Diver course to start on 21st Nov. So I would like to meet ALL active instructors on 14th Nov, 9 pm at the Cotterells

Diving Officers Report

Now that the 2002 season is drawing to a close and we will soon be left with the memories of good sea diving and the prospect of winter training at Stoney Cove and Guildenburgh, perhaps its time to reflect on the trips of the last season.

As usual the membership has the regular trips organisers within the branch to thank for organising much of the seasons diving, you know who you are and you have my thanks.

Despite some hard work and good diving things didn't always go smoothly and a one point we were at risk of losing a lot of money when it looked as though boats were going to remain unfilled.

I understand that variety is the spice of life certainly when it comes to diving no one wants to go back to the same sites year after year, that said there is a lot to be said for a good skipper. Above all else I firmly believe that the skipper is often the most important ingredient in a good hard boat diving weekend. His knowledge and skill not only make for good safe diving but his attitude can make or break your weekend, something demonstrated to great effect by Colin the skipper in Lundy despite Lindsey's hard work. It made me very aware of other skipper and perhaps how much we take them for granted. Ian Douglas of Sovereign Diving in the Farnes is outstanding and perhaps as a club could we should look at some method of recognising that.

Continued over the next page

Looking forward to next year there are already quite a few trips planned. A calendar can be found on the back of the notice board. If you fancy diving somewhere different I can guarantee you two things within Dacorum, help with organising it (you only have to ask!) and plenty of interest, all I ask in return is that you consult the calendar and let me know so we can maximize our potential and fill as many boats as possible. Also making a little money for the club that in turn helps to keep membership fees down.

So come on where do you want to go diving?..... and what are you prepared to do about it.... Ask not what the club can do for you but what you can do for your club!.... didn't someone else say that? Just before he was assassinated ! .. Oh dear.

Steve Owens
Diving Officer

Book Release

Dear Dacorum Sub-Aqua Club,

I'm writing to tell you about our soon-to-be-released book, *The Delphinus Chronicles*, which your club members are sure to love. It's a fascinating and widely appealing story about a supercomputer that mistakenly learns to communicate with dolphins at the local aquatic amusement park. It turns out that the dolphins have been harbouring some very interesting information about mankind, which ultimately falls into the wrong hands--but no more on that for now--I don't want to spoil the story.

This book is uniquely suited for your membership beyond the reasons that immediately appear on the surface (smile). The many passionate dolphin enthusiasts among them, used to being limited to a (sometimes rather boring) selection of nonfiction and picture books, will be delighted to find an exciting adventure novel centred on their cetacean pet peeves. Please take a look at <http://www.DelphinusChronicles.com> if you find a few spare minutes, and please don't hesitate to refer it to your membership. Thanks :o)

Rick at Cherry Hill

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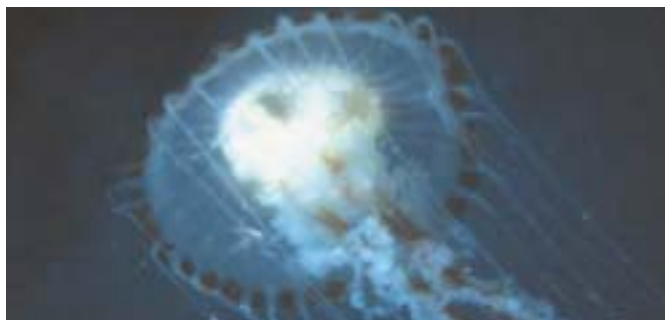
Adventure on Lundy Island

Despite all the stories about last years trip to Lundy, I was still looking forward to going there. Lindsey's information said 'look on it as an adventure'; well as I hadn't had one of those for some time I thought here goes. The hotel in Clovelly was all Lindsey had promised, quaint and a little strange, halfway down the steep hill, with our rooms in the annexe across the road. The receptionist was wearing high heels so had to step very carefully across the cobbles in order to show us to our rooms. (The Clovelly guide says not to wear high heels). The annexe smelt very damp, but despite this the rooms were not bad. There is no access for cars, so our luggage had to be brought down to us by sledge, "don't take too much" was Lindsey's advice, - Pity the Reavill brothers didn't listen to her!

The next morning after loading up the boat we set off for Lundy. The sea was mirror calm, and possibly the best treat of the week was seeing eight basking sharks quite close to the boat. Unfortunately, we were unable to jump in and snorkel with them. It's the first time I've seen them so far for me it was the start of the 'adventure'

We arrived on the Island unloaded our dry clothes and went diving. Not brilliant diving but not bad for the first day.

The skipper, Colin, was different from the skippers I'm used to, and his boat certainly didn't make any allowances for divers. There was nowhere to sit, apart from the top of the engine housing, where four of us could perch, but only as long as you could stand the heat! The Toilet had been built for men and not girls with short legs. (Another part of the adventure?) To enter the water we had to do a backwards roll off the side of the boat, again no concession



Ludy Compass

to those of us with short legs. Imagine trying to hoist yourself on to the edge, whilst clinging on so as not to topple in before your ready, not an easy way to enter, when all it needed was a box or something similar to rest your feet on in order to be able to stabilise yourself before entering the water. The drop from the rail into the water was about four feet. (Another part of the adventure?) Barry invented a novel way of getting in; he half belly flopped and half nose-dived in, much to Colin's annoyance. But then we were the source of his annoyance all week. He reckoned he couldn't let us dive on decent sites because we all carried too much gear! "Why do you need a pony?" he asked, "when you've got an emergency cylinder on you jacket?" He also didn't like picking us up if we didn't come back up the shot line. He liked to anchor on sites and it was down to us to get back to the boat.

Another bit of the adventure was getting out, his fin ladder wasn't in the best position, he didn't think it necessary to take fins off in the water, but on reaching the top of his ladder they usually got caught under the curve of the boat and made stepping into the boat very precarious. Some of us in the end did take our fins off in the water, so he wasn't very helpful when we got to the top of the ladder. Still isn't that what buddies are for? On the second day Colin couldn't get into the harbour so he suggested we could snorkel out to the boat. With huge waves and a fair old current, I declined. That was one part of the



Dogfish

adventure I could well do without.

On the third day came the second treat of the week, we came across a pod of Common Dolphins. The two decompressing on the shot line couldn't believe their ears or eyes when the dolphins swam by. Whilst on deck we were treated to a display of synchronised swimming and leaping out of the water by four of the dolphins. Then they all disappeared, but returned very quickly to play in the bow waves. So even if the diving wasn't brilliant the two treats really made it all worthwhile.

The Island itself was beautiful. Only about two miles long you could walk around it very easily. The 'Quarters' accommodation was very comfortable, and the food at the only pub was excellent. Oh and the last part of the adventure, a 450 foot climb up and down to the harbour everyday.

A massive thanks to Lindsey, for organising the trip, it really did take all the organising skills she has. Now over to the Reavill's for the next instalment!

Margaret Fowler



The Pub



Lundy Jewels

Try drive week



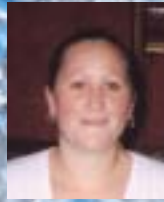
During September Hemel BSAC took part in the National Try Dive Week. We enjoyed the company of six 'bubbli'es' - here they are



Mark



Alison



Joanne



Dawn



Jane



Sue

Mark said it was something he had always wanted to do. Alison was going to Mozambique (lucky person) and was planning to do some diving there. Joanne and Dawn were off to Thailand and they were hoping to do some diving while on holiday. Jane was off to Australia and hoping to dive on the Barrier Reef. Sue, like Mark,, said it was something she had always wanted to do. Below are some pictures of the 'bubbli'es' in the pool. Hopefully we will be gaining some more recruits in the near future.



Chris's kit bit:

Hello there, Have you ever found your self in this position: There's a trip you've been looking forward to for ages. You've looked at the weather and its going to be a lovely weekend. You check your kit over and, "Oh no what's this!!!!", your pillar valve is leaking. You phone your local friendly dive shop, but the reply is: "sorry there's nothing we can do until the end of next week." Annoying isn't it. Maybe you haven't; but if you have, what could you do. One thing you could do, (Apart from resigning your self to a weekend of DIY and hearing how good it was the following Thursday) is hire some club kit. Problem solved. Not just Cylinders but regs, and stab jackets, all for the nominal fee of just £5 per item per day, payable in advance. All cheques made payable to..... "Chris's dive fund" Errrrr, Sorry, worth a try. Payable to: DSAC.

So if you need to hire some kit, come and see me and we'll see what we can do.

But please remember, if you do borrow any club equipment, look after it as if it were your own. As any damage or loss will have to be paid for.

Chris.

Trips planned so far are:

May Half-Term 2003 – Pembrokeshire trip - £208 – See Lindsey Doyle
August 2003 – Oban – See Barry Perton
2003 – Scapa Flow – See Steve Owens



Wacky caption Competition Winner
Lindsey Doyle

"I've had seals and dolphins, now I'm trying to attract the big one....a humpback whale!"

The BBQ Weekend – Lyme Regis

The BBQ weekend was absolutely fantastic. The weather was too good to be true and the group was rearing to dive, water-ski or hold on for dear life on the doughnut. There were a lot of firsts for me that weekend. My first time to quintessential Lyme Regis; first dive in U.K. sea water; first time on the club rib; first time on Colin's super rib – lucky you guys don't run your club in the Australian fashion, otherwise I would be up for 4 cartons (that's beer to you Brits of course!).

We dived the Bay Gatanis that weekend and we were all astonished by the amount of fish life – the hundreds of fish gave the impression that you needed to push them away as you finned through.

A big thanks to Margaret for organising the weekend, Barry and Colin for providing/transporting the ribs and also to Steve and Phil who went out and purchased enough food to feed Lyme Regis. It was a great BBQ and the toasted marshmallows for desert were a treat.

Continued on the next page



Thanks Phil

On behalf of Gillian and myself, I would like to thank Phil for making last minute plans to assist us with our Rescue Diving Practical Lesson in Peterborough. Phil worked twice as hard as we did, having to demonstrate 'towing and blowing' (as Phil calls it), landing the rescuee and doing the whole de-kitting. If only I had a video camera, gee would we be laughing. Seriously though, it was a huge effort, particularly since we didn't get back from West Bay the previous night until 12.30am, only to start again at 9.30am on the Sunday. Gillian and I certainly didn't envy you Phil, but we couldn't have done it without you

For Sale

Protec Dry Suit (Large). Size 12 Boot plus Hood £180
Thinsulate Undersuit with bag £40
Mares Dive equipment bag with wheels £40
Cressi Aquapro 5 BCD (Large) £100
Scubapro R380 Regulator)
Scubapro R380 Octopus) £200
Suunto triple console Sub-Gear Nitrox Computer £50
Weightbelt £20 Ankle weights £5 Gloves £5 Reel £15
Oceanic Mask £10 Knife £15 Mares Avanti Fins (Large) £15
Total £695 Sold as complete package £600 Phone Stuart on 02380 865967 or 07752726853

1/ Gates PRO-AM 1050 in excellent condition, with bag, suit owners manual, and repair kit. £300
1/ 15lt Faber cylinder 232 bar [out of test] in excellent condition. £80
1/ 12lt Faber cylinder 232 bar [out of test] in excellent condition. £60
1/ Aqua Tec 90kgs lifting bag in excellent condition. £25
1 pair of Tusa CELiberator, Fins in PINK, quick release straps £ 20

PHOTO EQUIPMENT

1/ Sea&Sea Sub 50 TTL MM-11 strobe. £135
1/ Sea&Sea 20mm/f5.6 wide angle Conversion lens. £75
1/ Sea&Sea wide angle adjustable Viewfinder. £35
1/ Sea&Sea lens holder. £10 1/ Carrying Case, Underwater KINETICS. £50

Phone Tony King 01442 214856

Date for the Diary:

Innes McCartney Lecture 17th October 2002.

DSAC are paying Innes McCartney to present a talk to us on the battle and shipwrecks of Jutland. The committee had discussed charging an entrance fee, but have decided that the club will fund this event. Entrance will be free to DSAC members. However, in an attempt to cover some of the cost, there will be a larger raffle that evening.

Innes is a professional diving historian, author, speaker and videographer. He is very knowledgeable in his field, and is enthusiastic about sharing his knowledge, so it should be an entertaining and informative evening.

Website: www.periscopepublishing.com

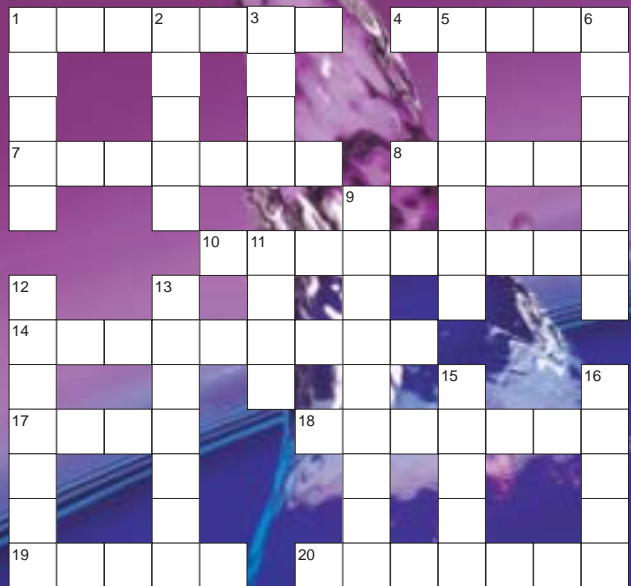
Debbie

LOST PROPERTY

Ps There we be no meeting on the night of this lecture
A plastic writing slate designed for wearing on your sleeve with holes for a compass strap was left on the rib on Saturday 28th October.

Please see Lindsey to reclaim.

Crossword Competition



entries to peter or tony

ACROSS

1. Diving destination in the Caribbean (7)
4. Divert, without drink, to be one of the club? (5)
7. Go on Sal! The enclosed waters are waiting!(7)
8. To eat your eyes? (5)
10. Exact placing at a line of equal height or pressure (2,7)
14. Cyril sends, upset and without compass point, some things for your back(9)
17. Take a hike with the Marines? (4)
18. War alert without a boat to catch fish in (7)
19. Found on wrecks, port and bread (5)
20. Completely cover in water (7)

DOWN

1. Spherical objects often found on buoys (5)
 2. Messy rag on an inert gas? (5)
 3. Boy found inside a Narwhal?(4)
 5. Turns upside down (7)
 6. To bring back to the original condition(7)
 9. More than three Abramis Brama(4,5)
 11. The stationary point of a standing wave, messily done! (4)
 12. Muddled Cyril accounts in part, without addition, for a plastic(7)
 13. Slim pets cling everywhere but not in the South?(7)
 15. To be made conscious of a PADI environmental project?(5)
 16. More money to get up with(5)
- All entries to Tony or Peter. All entries by the next edition December or January 03

winning entry will win a bottle of wine

Stop Press TO stuff:

Sports Diver theory lectures commence on 10th Oct at 7 pm Cotterells Club. All those who have not done them yet please do so now!! (Last time for "old" course. New one involves crossover plus money!) Will take about 5 weeks.

Please include a reminder that the pool will NOT be available on Thursday 17th Oct while Innes McCartney is giving his talk.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jacqui and Mark Murphy on the birth of Luke on 25th Sept.(9 1/2 lbs, ouch!)

Congratulations also to Richard Carter-Saviegar on his 2nd son and Lee Clements on his first, during the summer?

2003 Trip Advert:

Friday 23rd to Mon 26th May, 3 days diving on hardboat + B&B in Pembrokeshire for £208. £70 deposit will secure one of the 4 places remaining for Sports Divers or above. See Lindsey.