

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

<http://www.dacorumsac.org.uk/>

December 2005



**Chairman's report
plus more ...**

Interview with a Diver-New Feature

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

Seasons Greetings!

Another year 'bites the dust' . . . and what a year . . . take a look!

The Weather

It hasn't been great (as I'm sure Dan would agree!!!) . . . this is the first year that I've been to the Farnes without being able to dive! No offence to the organiser: Barry Reavill! but the Castles were nice though! As for Oban, nearly made my self homeless because of the weather (can I come out of the dog-house yet!!! Cris (aka Diced Carrot Award Winner)

Training and diving

Lots of it . . . but I'll let the D.O. tell you all about that.

Compressor

Hard work, sweat and tears . . . but this is Chris's area of expertise.

Social Events

Where to start . . . what socialites we've all been! Bowling, Paintball, The Dogs, Golf Day, Curry Nite, Thai Nite . . . and so much more! But who could forget The Christmas

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Season's greetings to everyone, this is definitely a quiet time of year for filing log sheets...

I haven't received any from the Maldives trip yet though! If you're keen to get wet & cold, you need to have a word, as always, with Vic! He continues with his excellent efforts to put you all through your paces in open water! Thank you, Vic. I'd also like to thank Jeanette again for all her help with organising pool training over recent months.

Please remember that as a branch we will not be undertaking any more training from the old (pre 2002) syllabus after 2005. (As recommended by BSAC). Well done to those who have been working hard to get through before the deadline.

Congratulations also to the following people who have achieved new grades since the last issue (certificates are given out in December at Christmas do and in April at the AGM): OCEAN DIVER - Louise Quinn, Travis Clark and Lee Quince SPORTS DIVER - Lynda Daniel

DIVE LEADER - Cristina Lopes-Pereira and Sarah Jones This issue sees a new rota for pool marshal duties and I would ask, as ever, that you make a careful note of your turns (if you don't miss your duty you are eligible to be entered for the draw to win a free year's BSAC membership). This is a positive way the committee wants to encourage everyone to take their turn. Why not go for a swim some weeks as well; the pool has been quiet recently!

However, you will notice our four new Ocean Diver trainees in the pool - welcome to Steve, Peter, Malcolm and Charlotte plus another new member, Neil, who will dive as an OD until he gets his SD!

Thank you to Graeme for uploading the documents on risk assessment and pool emergencies to the website - please take time to read through them.

Most dive trips planned for 2006 are on the wonderful new website calendar, but I have produced a table summarising those planned so far which may be useful to you when

Dinner & Dance . . . what a great success. A huge thanks to our Social Officer: Angie for all of her hard work.

WOW! What a year! Lets make next year even better.

Our aim for next year is to focus on a promotion drive for the club . . . a few of our initiatives are

- Club Poster - now on display at the Sports Centre (to the left of the changing room entrance)
- Club Flyers - soon to be produced and displayed in the Sports Centre
- Promotional Evening at the Sports Centre - to be held on a Wednesday evening (18:00 - 22:00)
- Club Stickers (fund raising activity) - available soon for all to buy - 50p of 1 or £1 for 3

Please get involved in making this Club a success!

Finally, on behalf of all the Committee Members and myself, we'd like to wish you all . . .

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Barry

deciding what you'd like to do!

December is when BSAC holds the annual Diving Officers' Conference in London - so I got up early on the day of the Christmas party to attend the morning session. This included the National DO's report where she announced some changes. Those qualified can now dive to 80m on trimix, the Megalodon rebreather has been allowed on branch dives (KISS to follow asap) and the boathandling course is internationally approved by the MCA. BSAC's headquarters are being made more efficient, the BSAC school structure has been modified and hopefully, with more BSAC resort centres abroad, members will be allowed to dive in buddy pairs rather than as part of a guided group.

The Dive Marshalling part of Advanced Diver has been made easier to achieve, there will be more rescue training in DL and Nitrox will be taught as part of OD/SD. I have no further details as yet! (Please speak to me if you are interested in starting training for AD, so I can gauge the level of interest for a course).

I also heard the presentation of the Incident Report. After last year's high number of diving deaths, thankfully the figure seems to be back to the 10 year average (unfortunate though it is that there are any at all). There will be between 3 - 24 deaths in 95% of all years. The deeper the dive, the higher the risk of death rather than injury. Brian Cumming highlighted ascents as being a major factor in incidents, including problems with launching DSMBs. The message was to practise buoyancy skills. Also there have been too many problems which would have been prevented with adequate buddy checks - either equipment was malfunctioning or used wrongly (e.g. pony regulator used as primary by mistake). Of course, buddy checks should be in addition to a diver's own kit checks! Thankfully we have maintained a reasonable safety record in DSAC, please continue to take every precaution to keep safe when diving.

Regards, Lindsey.

DSAC DIVING PROGRAMME 2006

All trips are suitable for minimum grade Sports Diver unless noted otherwise. (Deep trips require technical and/or DL/AD qualification). A "Club Trip" is financially backed

by the club, i.e. has the deposit paid and full payment to skipper guaranteed. The club may take a percentage for funds. Many members "advertise" places on boats they are diving from, so not all trips will be solely DSAC members. Please remember to tell the D.O before you dive, whatever sort of trip!

If a hardboat isn't booked for a neap weekend, a club boat handler / the committee will hopefully be organising a RHIB trip.

DATE (Best Neaps / Mids weekends shown if not yet booked)	LOCATION (port and/or dive site)	ORGANISER	BOAT/NOTES	PRICE (Subject to)
March				
11/12 March	Red Sea	Michelle Pilkington		
25/26 March				
April				
8/9 April				
22/23 April				
May				
6/7 May	Portland	John Reynolds	Club RHIB – suitable for OD / trainees	
7 May (Sunday)	M2 Submarine Portland	Cris Lopes-Pereira	Top Gun Leaves 11.00	£25
20/21 May				
21 May (Sunday)	Lymington	Andy Lowde	Wight Spirit (Aimed at new SDs, max depth 25m)	
27-30 May (1 June)	Cyprus (Zenobia)	Cris Lopes-Pereira		
June				
3-5 June	Plymouth	Barrie Pluck		
3/4 June	Lyme Bay – Subs!	Dan Egleton	Club RHIB	
4 June (Sunday)	Aeolian Sky Portland	Cris Lopes-Pereira	Top Gun Leaves 09.30	£30
10/11 June	Lymington	Karl Dancer/ Rowena Donne	Wight Spirit (Deep trip)	£40 per day
17/18 June				
24 June (Saturday)	Salsette Portland	Cris Lopes-Pereira	Goose Leaves 08.45 (Deep trip)	£30
25/25 June	Eastbourne	Karl Dancer/ Rowena Donne	Our W(Deep trip)	£42 per day
July				
3 July (Monday)	Littlehampton Moldavia	Cris Lopes-Pereira	(Deep trip)	
8/9 July	Lyme Bay - Baygitano	John Reynolds/ Margaret Fowler	Club RHIB (Suitable for all grades) BBQ social day	
22/23 July	Sussex - Subs!	Dan Egleton	Club RHIB	
22-24 July	Farne Islands	Barry Reavill	Sovereign II B & B arranged	
August				
5-12 August	Scapa Flow	Barry Reavill	Hardboat + B & B	
5/6 August		Colin/Roy/Richard?	Club RHIB	
19/20 August		Phil Sturdy/ Steve Hardy	Club RHIB	
25-29 August	Oban	Cris Lopes-Pereira/ Barry Perton	Urchin (catamaran) + S/C accomm.	
September				
2 September (Saturday)		Colin/Roy	Club RHIB	
3 September (Sunday)	Lymington	Lindsey Doyle	Wight Spirit Opportunity for DL DPM assessment	
1-4? September	Porthkerris	Peter Dollman	Catamaran/RHIB	
16-24 September		Colin/Roy TBC	Club RHIB	
16/17 September	Portland – Salsette 16th	Karl Dancer &		
	Empress of India 17th	Rowena Donne	Top Gun / Maverick (Deep trip)	£35/dive
30 September / 1 Oct		Phil Sturdy/ Steve Hardy	Club RHIB	
October				
1 October (Sunday)	Portland Alex van Opstal	Cris Lopes-Pereira	Top Gun Leaves 09.00	£25
14/15 October				
28/29 October				
November				
16-23 November	Galapagos Islands	Tony Reavill		

INTERVIEW WITH A DIVER – LOUISE QUINN –



Q1: When and why did you first get in to Scuba Diving?

Only since January, I went snorkelling in the Red Sea in 2004 and had some great conversations with the divers there – so decided to have a go myself, when I got home. Why learn in the Red Sea when you can learn in the exotic climes of Hemel Hempstead hey!

Q2: How many dives have you done? |7

Q3: What is your favourite UK and overseas diving destination and why?

In the UK – Porthkerris – I was amazed by the amount of life there and had a great dive watching the fish feed. Haven't dived abroad yet :

Q4: What is your favourite wreck and why?

The Countess of Erne – my first sea dive!!!

Q5: What has been your best dive find?

A purple stone under Swanage Pier – but I dropped it! (Not very exciting I know. Am hoping to find a dolphin one day :-)

Q6: What is the most expensive item of diving equipment that you've lost/broken?

Nothing ... yet!

Q7: What is your most memorable diving moment?

Erm ... probably my first sea dive at Portland!!
Cos it was totally nerve wracking but bloody exciting at the same time.

Q8: What is your most embarrassing diving moment?

I don't think I've had any ... yet!!!

Q9: Do you have any funny stories that you would like to share with us?

No, I don't think I've been on enough trips ...

Q10: What next ... with your diving?

Yay, I finally get to do warm water diving in April, when we go to Bonaire.

THANK YOU



INTERVIEW WITH A DIVER — LINDSEY DOYLE —



Q1 When and why did you first get in to Scuba Diving? August 1992, I did a Novice course whilst on holiday in Menorca with my sister who was off on a boat diving every day! (I nearly started whilst at polytechnic in 1985, but the queue to join the club was too long)! Joined DSAC to do SD in September 1993.

Q2 How many dives have you done? 660 ish

Q3: What is your favourite UK and overseas diving destination and why?

UK Farnes – its got it all – scenery, wrecks but most of all seals! Overseas – Red Sea for nearness, cheapness and good diving

Q4: What is your favourite wreck and why?

I love the Ulysses in the Red Sea as its been there for so long its become part of the reef – its provided a habitat for loads of life. Similarly the Carnatic, which is much more intact. In the UK, I'd say the Hispania for good vis, interesting to explore. Sorry, can't say just one, there are so many!

Q5: What has been your best dive find?

A rechargeable UK400 torch, worth nearly £100! Still use it years later . . . (just had to get a charger)

Q6 What is the most expensive item of diving equipment that you've lost/broken

Only minor things like snorkels and knives (now fix latter to scabard and don't carry on legs!) But have flooded so many strobes I don't bother trying to carry them anymore! Worst was breaking a fin strap just as Steve Owens had ordered me into the water on DL or AD rescue management assessment!!!

Q7: What is your most memorable diving moment?

Again, many to choose from . . . probably seeing 6m whale shark swim up to me in Thailand! I also loved buddying Gary Sturdy on his first dive abroad (Red Sea) as I knew what an impact it would make on him, and his delight was visible and audible! And I'd have to add, my first dive with optical lenses in my mask (very short sighted but had managed without for ages), it was at Gildy but I thought the vis was brilliant as I could actually see more than a blur and it was amazing!

Q8: What is your most embarrassing diving moment?

Probably the story that has already been published in GD, years ago, but for the newer people . . . it was the day after diving when my vision was impaired. Upon waking, I rang the DM for advice as I thought I might have a nervous system bend . . . until I trod on my right specs lens which had fallen out of the frame thus confusing my brain as it had one eye corrected and one not!

Q9 Do you have any funny stories that you would like to share with us?

Now there really are too many to think of just one or 2! We could have suggestions from the members of how I've amused them over the years! .

Q10 What next . . . with your diving?

Twinset, more for extended range than depth (need some better regs anyway!) Would like to get to a country other than Egypt again soon!

THANK YOU



For sale

TWO 12 litre steel cylinders; each used only once; 8 months old;
(22 months of test life left); 90 pounds each; regards Phil .

MORE things up for sale:

Twin 12 ltr with manifold £250

Twin 10 ltr £160

Single 15 ltr £85

All O2 clean and in service for 2 years

Please call 07989 608843

Cheers Roy

Pool Marshals Rota

29 Dec 2005	Pool closed for maintenance	
05 Jan	Pat Neilan & Michelle Pilkington	
12 Jan	Gillian & Grace Phillips	
19 Jan	Colin Poole & Andrew Lowde	
26 Jan	Peter Blackmore & Lee Clements	Try Dive
02Feb	Alan Squires & Chris Stenner	
09 Feb	Phil Sturdy & Alison Verkroost	
16 Feb	Les Worthy & Jacqui Zugg	
23 Feb	Tony Watt & Darren Wilks	Try Dive
02 Mar	Derek Mander & Mick Martindale	
09 Mar	Karl Dancer & Gillian Dove	
16 Mar	Barry & Tony Reavill	
23 Mar	Andy & Madeleine Bridson	
30 Mar	Dave Allen & Roy Attfield	Try Dive
06 Apr	Emma Davy & Tony Dempsey	
13 Apr	Dan Egleton & Rob Evans	
20 Apr	Mark Finn & Dan Greenway	
27 Apr	Peter Knight & Steve Hardy	Try Dive

THIS COMING YEAR GOING DOWN WILL BE PRODUCED for the First Thursday IN MARCH
JUNE SEPTEMBER DECEMBER AND CLOSING DATE WILL BE TWO WEEKS BEFORE.

New Feature will be a Interview with two divers each edition plus more new features

remember this magazine needs your support to survive