

MOUTHPIECE

"THE VOICE OF THE PAT GIBBON WITH SCANT REGARD FOR YOUR OPINION"

THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2003

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



As the year moves on we finally look like we are going to get some good diving weather!!!! There is more good news -the club is growing and March saw us get the new trainees into the water and we even got them all out again!! So a big thank you must to go to the trainers who have bought them this far and will hopefully get them all to sports diver this year.

Since the last issue of mouthpiece we have had a couple of outside speakers who have provided us with some great talks on historical diving and an expedition to the Antarctic. Hopefully more talks will follow, so if you know anyone please let me know.

If you look to back page you will find that our Dr Nicky will be refreshing our medical skills (or lack of them) I would hope that you all try and make this as you never know when you might need it. Well I'll let you read on and get to the interesting stuff. (some hope of that).

I hope you all enjoy your first dives of the season and here are a few pearls of wisdom - think and dive safely and you'll come back too !!!!

Jane and Grahame get an allotment together IS THIS WEISZ ?

The word has got out in Dive Land, as if to prove that this is indeed a young diving club? Gnomely, that Jane Weisz and Grahame Walker have joined together to rent out a council allotment for a gnominal fee.

Personally, I did not gnou that Jane had so many weiszses. I think that this is a very gnoble act, given the impending Second Gulf War and must take them back to those war years of yester year when they 'Dug For Victory'. Jane will soon get his turnips in order.

Gnomerly, this would go unheralded, but it seemed too good an opportunity to use up lots of gnominisms and weiszisms.

It also gives me a golden opportunity to do something with my silly picture skills. On reflection, at their age, it is a Weisz move.



DO'S COLUMN



Welcome to another year's diving. We, as a club, have a very good safety record. I believe this is due to good training. So, touch wood and whistle with me at the helm and that safety record will remain the same.

The equipment store has now been upgraded .

There are now dry suits available for training and for open water

dives. Use of the suits for training is free . But any club member who needs to use the club dry suits can do so for a nominal charge of £5 per day.

Hard boat dives are filling up fast, so to avoid disappointment, get your name down NOW!!

Have a safe & enjoyable year .

The 20th of February Antartic Expedition Talk from Jerry Pearce was another fine lecture with a good attendance .

The club is looking for interesting talks, so if you have any ideas, please let me know

At the moment we have 8 trainees and have had regular try dives. BUT, and there is always a BUT - the club desperately needs your help with training & try dives now!!

Remember success only comes with effort.

C I & A C I Anybuddy, come on down, we need help.

Chris Knights



CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHY & ALAN GILBERT "A CHILD IS BORN"

And about time too.

Congratulations to Kathy and Alan on the successful birth of their of their second child, a beautiful bouncing girl, weighing in at a healthy 7lb 11oz.

Her name is Heather Joan Gilbert. She was born at 4.52am on Friday 28th March. A bit of an inconsiderate time if you ask me, but, there again, nobody has.

NEWS ACROSS



MV Legend - She may never sail again - well there's a relief

UPDATE ON MV 'LEGEND'

Most of you will recall the incident earlier last year when the dive boat 'Legend' sank in the Solent. I have continued to chase both the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), with little progress to report.

The MAIB have concluded their investigation and decided that any further action would not be 'best use of resources'. They intend to write a Safety Digest article outlining the incident as a precautionary tale. The article will not identify the boat or skipper by name.

The MCA are pursuing the surveyor who was prepared to issue a Certificate for the vessel. This started in September and has yet to be concluded.

Meanwhile, 'Legend' is still on view at the New Haven Marina in Lymington. The only good news is that the MCA issued a restraining order, so that 'Legend' cannot be used commercially without a new survey. It will probably not get a new commercial certificate.

I understand from those that lost equipment in the incident that there has been no progress in their claim for compensation.

All in all, a rather sad story so far.

Grahame Walker

THE CLUB AS IT HAPPENED

SARAH & HAJO UPDATE

FROM NEW ZEALAND & FIJI

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2003 5:39:15 am

From: slsimpson85@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE CARIBBEAN

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2003

4:47:22 pm

From: slsimpson85@yahoo.co.uk

It the lovebirds here.

We are well and alive and kicking around New Zealand at the moment, what a beautiful country. We did some diving here, cold though, but amazing clear blue waters.

Can't believe how the time is flying just over 2 months left.

Great to get all the gossip about the club, we are missing everyone, but Pat especially, cos I love him. We are looking forward to seeing all of you guys too. We leave NZ on the 8th March and we are off to Fiji for a relaxing 8 days, just stop and unpack our bags. We are moving all the time 2 day here and 2 day there and so on....but great. But don't worry it has been pissing down with rain here, but warmer.

Re our website we have had trouble keeping up with it, so you haven't missed much. There will be and update soon, hope this week. www.scubafish.net

We are on the Caribbean Island called St. Eustatia, a very poor island but cheaper than some of the other island. The diving is great, dived a wreck yesterday, great viz, a lot of garden eels and cuttle fish etc. etc.

We will be back in the UK on the 26th April, so we are nearing the end of our world trip - Boo Hoo!!

On Monday the 28th April, Louise and I will be taking my father and step Mum down to Devon, where they are looking for a place to live after arriving from Zimbabwe. So you will see Hajo on the Thursday and not me sorry!! You'll see me the following Thursday.

We are looking forward to seeing you all, but especially Pat, 'cos he is so horny.

Hajo has his job back and for me - eeeekk - I'll need work!

Bit out of date now - they are back with us as of last week - sorry



FROM OUR VERY OWN Sgt. MANDY TO ME, BUT YOU CAN READ IT

Subj: Hi Mr Sexy!!!
Date: Monday, March 3, 2003 4:10:35 pm
From: mandyfenemer@hotmail.com
To: GibbonPat@aol.com

Hello Pat,
Thanks for the e-mail, great to hear from you. No I'm not still in Kosovo, I left there in Oct last year, I then had two months off work, I did visit the club, but I must have missed you. I then flew



ALL FOR CHARITY

Charitable scuba divers took the law into their own hands in aid of Sports Relief at the Dukes Meadows Golf Club in Richmond late last year.

Cashing in on the recent story and controversy over Mark Collinson, who was sentenced to jail (later reprieved) for collecting golf balls from his club's lake, Mick Iles (respect - Equipment Officer), Chris Knights (respect - Diving Officer) and young Christopher Knights (respect - Chairman) raised a wad of money by collecting the golf balls from the their lakes - with the permission and

blessing of the course management - cleaning them and then selling them. All the proceeds went to Portesbury Special Needs School, Camberley, a school for children with cerebral palsey. More than 100 visitors turned up to try their hand at the hole-in-one competition and the raffle.

The Golf Balls are still on sale at Runnymede Dive, Thorpe at 50p each and all money still going to Portesbury School, Camberley to help the kids. **Well done to both Chris' and Mick - a worthy course.**

to Kenya at the beginning of Dec, so I'm now in Nairobi having an excellent time!! I've joined Nairobi Sailing and Sub Aqua Club, I've help teach on the new Ocean diver course and done loads of diving at the coast. The water is 28c, vis 15m, lots of fish including whale shark, mantas etc The coral has been bleached though, not as good as Egypt. I try to do something most weekends, if it's not diving then it may be safari, mountain biking, white water rafting etc. I'm certainly making the most out of being here at the tax payers expense!!! The swimmingpool is next to my office, so sun tan coming on well. Due to come home at the beginning of April, no idea where I will be next!! Hope you are all Ok. If you are off to the Red Sea have a fab time. Say hello to everyone for me. Bye bye from Nairobi where it is a chilly 31°C today!!!

Mandy XXX

STEVE & KATE PASCALL UPDATE

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2003 2:58:49 am

From: steve_pascall@yahoo.co.uk

Dear fellow diving chums,

Just thought I'd drop you a line on the diving news so far. Been diving a couple of places, twice on Zanzibar (east coast of Africa) and 4 times on Tioman Island (east coast of Malaysia).

Generally, the vis has been good with between 15 - 30m but have encountered some plankton bloom (or such). Depth wise has been from 12 - 30 ish metres. Water temp is good here at the moment at 29 deg c.

Plenty to see with fishes (too many to list - but then I don't know their names anyway), turtles, rays and some wrecks. Did the wrecks yesterday and after so much sea life, I was so happy that I was wearing a wetsuit that could be washed out afterwards! The authorities have formed a marine park by sinking 13 Thai fishing boats in one area and thoughtfully linking them with ropes. Some good swim through but lacking on portholes and brass gauges.

I'm glad I leant with a good set of instructors as to be truthful you have to have your wits about you. The last diving I did with a guide, there was no buddy checks and we just got on with it. At one place, I didn't even show any certification - just signed the forms. On Zanzibar we didn't dive with computers (our guide had one) and I got a shock when I had a look at my depth gauge only to notice that it was knackered! Funnily enough, I then stuck like a limpet to the dive guides profile.

Apart from all of that, I can't complain. Looking forward to a bit more adventurous diving though.....

Take care, Steve

Subj: Its all go over here!

Date: Sunday, April 6, 2003 10:52:04 am

Dear all,

I sent mails to some of you in the past couple of weeks, so apologies if you know what we have been up to. For those of you who didn't get a mail, read on!

After Africa we had a few good days in Singapore, relaxing, exploring and Kate had a good go at melting her credit card on new clothes for Asian temperatures! After Singapore we travelled to an island off of the east coast of Malaysia called Tioman. Very nice it was and Kate leant to dive here which is good news for me and my diving!

We then went across land after a week to the Cameron Highlands which is about 1750m altitude, cool and has jungles and tea plantations in abundance. We did a great day of jungle trekking with a guide who was like an old mountain goat. We covered 18km that day and I felt it! Early on in the day we left the tourist paths and went seriously "off road". Fantastic day.

We wanted to get to Thailand as Kates brother is travelling this area as well and had said so many good things about it. We then left the

Cameron Highlands, travelled for 2 days with an overnight rain in between and got into Thailand. (The travel was hard going as I had unfortunately picked up a bad stomach, so it wasn't pleasant!) Next stop was Krabi on the west coast and a long tail boat trip to a secluded beach. Met up with Phil and Nikki (Kates bro and girly), did some diving and had a great time.

We left there earlier last week and are now on Ko Lanta, another island off of the west coast. Friday was my 30th birthday and we had a good day, we hired mopeds and explored the island a bit, had a great evening meal in the main town and then found a beach bar to celebrate. And celebrate we did! One of the local drinks are buckets; half a bottle of whisky, red bull and sprite. Five of these babies (between us) later on and I didn't know where I was. It appears there were sightings of a naked man running down the beach and swimming whilst giggling loudly! ever saw the guy myself.

Today's, Sunday (here) and we have just had a good couple of hours of diving around an island called Ko Haa. All very pretty, vis at 25m and some caves to swim into. (Have to admit, I'm missing my wrecks though!) We're watching a Thai boxing tournament this evening and are off to Ko Sok the national park tomorrow for a couple of days. Then mid week off to Ko Phn Nang to meet some diving buddies from Pompey and do some more diving (and a couple of beers no doubt).

Apart from that we're soaking up the sun and enjoying ourselves!

Hope you are all well - let us know what's happening in Blighty!

BSAC 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

BSAC and therefore us as a club will be marking the 50th Birthday of BSAC this year by holding two charity Try Dive Nights, on Thursday 24th July and the 28th August. All dive leaders or above are requested to help as we are expecting a big interest. From 8.00pm - 10.00pm.

These events will be advertised in the press and hopefully local radio. We hope to raise money for local charities dear to us and will have the added advantage of raising our profile as a local dive club and therefore may attract more members. Chris or Christopher Knights will have more details should you be interested.

If any club member has any other good ideas as to how we can mark this occasion, then please contact the Knights'ssss.

This could be a good one for us as a club.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME DINNER

Friday night 17th January 2003, we held the Annual New Members Welcome Dinner. OK, so it was the first one, but the new members do not know that do they.

It was held in the back dining room at the Bridge Barn, Woking. We welcomed all our new members and got to know them and their partners in more intimate surroundings. Gilly (Mrs. Gibblet) managed to get us a special deal meal at £14.25. very reasonable and a nice do in the depressing month of January.

I always hate those really long table arrangements, but the advantage there is that they at least have a huge round table where 10-12 people can sit, which means nobody gets left out on the end of the table.

I would like to impose a rule that every male has to move between each course so that we are forced to get to know each other - or have a standing buffet where the same thing happens. Of course, I suppose that some people do not particularly want to know others more intimately AND that forcing every male to move every course could create an identity problem for some members, so I left it as it was.

I hope we all had a good time and many thanks to all who came, especially the new members and their partners - we did appreciate your company - thanks

TALK ON HARD HAT DIVING

Thursday 9th January 2003

Story by Pat Gibbon ~ pics by Ed Bolton - What a team

On Thursday evening, 9th January 2003, we were honoured to have Richard Bird talk to us on the subject of hard hat diving, or to be more precise, diving with one of those beautiful heavy old brass helmets that we all love the look of, would like to own but cost a bomb.

The talk began at 7.45pm in the lecture room at the Pool in the Park and despite my having informed everybody by e-mail, as to the talks details, time and place, I still arrived late.

Richard began his talk with a reference to way back in history, when a man donned his armoured helmet in a desperate bid to rescue his horses from his burning barn. Later, in 1823, a man called Charles Deane filed a patent for a smoke helmet. He, with his brother John, then embarked on a series of trials to explore the possibilities of using a modified smoke helmet for diving purposes. Trials were conducted in Croydon Canal. As a result of these trials, the Deane brothers perfected a diving helmet that was "brought to perfection.

In 1830, a German engineer called Augustus Siebe was commissioned by the Deane brothers to manufacture their open helmet. Three years later Charles Deane acquired the rights to salvage the naval ship, The Royal George. They again looked to Siebe to set up a means of manufacturing an improved design of the previous helmet, this time to include an exhaust pipe. In 1837/8, Siebe has been credited with inventing the diving suit, when it was the Harbour Master of Port of Lowestoft, Mr George Edwards who gave him the design of the 'Closed Dress'. This meant that the helmet was attached directly to the diving suit, which fully enclosed the body.

Augustus Siebe retired from his company in 1868, when his son Henry took over.

In 1880, the company changed it's name to Siebe Gorman & Co.

In 1887, Henry Siebe died and in 1904, his business partner, William Gorman died.

The company was finally 'swallowed up' by the Vichers Family who changed it's name to Siebe Gorman & Co. Ltd.

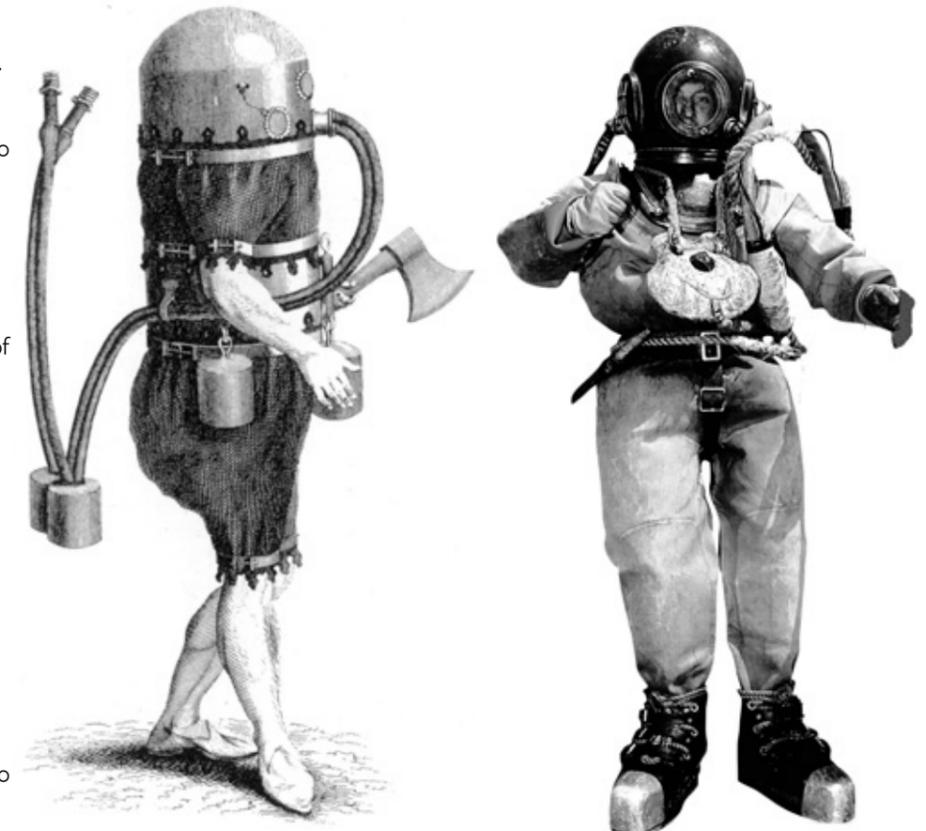
The Original Augustus Siebe Helmet



It is quite incredible that the basic design went almost unchanged up until the 1960's, when two Americans, Kirby and Morgan, designed and began manufacture of an entirely new generation of "Band Masks" and "Demand Helmets".

Richard Jones of General Aquadyne U.S. bought out patents on his own much lighter 'Free Flow Fibre Glass Helmet' in 1969. The helmet, the AH-2 worked on exactly the same principles as the 1838 Siebe helmet. The UK company, Divex, now manufactures the latest free flow helmet design, the AH-5. However, the American company, Kirby-Morgan still dominate the dive market with their Band Mask and Demand Helmets.

I would really like to thank Richard Bird again for giving up his time to educate and entertain us. Brilliant and interesting talk Richard. Thanks from us all, and thank to Chris Knights for arranging. We look forward to future lectures.



DIVING THE SOUTH AFRICAN BIG 4

by John Pos

A recent visit by Angela and I to South Africa to deal with family matters also gave me the opportunity to dive the four top dive sites in South Africa and also visit a game park. My journey started at Smitsvinkel bay near the SW tip of South Africa. We then travelled about 1300 miles to Sodwana Bay near the NW corner of South Africa just south of the Mozambique border. The adventure continued 250 miles to the south at Aliwal Shoal and ended 40 miles further south at Protea Bank.

SMITSVINKEL BAY, CAPE PENINSULA

Tuesday 19 November. I got up at 5 am to go diving. I reached Glencairn at 8pm bought some biltong from the local seven eleven and ate it on Fish Hoek beach. The sea was flat calm and the sky blue. This is what I call diving weather! I went to the Scuba Shack dive shop (www.scuba-shack.co.za), organised tanks and a weight belt for myself and followed their mini bus to the launch site at Millers Point. We were greeted by an amazing site, the sea off Millers Point was full of small fishing boats -the snoek and the yellowtail were running just offshore. We climbed aboard Scuba Shack's large RIB and in ten minutes were above the wreck of the Rockeater.

The Rockeater is a diamond recovery vessel scuttled in 1972 as an artificial reef in Smitsvinkel Bay in about 38m. It has subsequently been joined by the frigates SAS Transvaal and SAS Good Hope and two trawlers. It was sunk with its portholes and brass props in place but these were quickly removed by divers. I first dived the Rockeater on 2 July 1974. It was my third open water dive on my SAUU 3RD Class Divers course (same as the BSAC course of the same name) and I can still remember it as one of my best ever dives. I dived it again on the 10 August 1974 as my 5th open water dive.

The RIB was full of German trainees who were taking ages to get up. The instructors forbade us to penetrate the wreck so I figured I better be the first on the wreck if I was going to get a good look around. My buddy and I jumped into the water and I dropped down the shot line into the gloom, my heart pounding in anticipation. The wreck loomed up and I hit the deck next to the bridge. I immediately sank into the large hatch in front of the bridge and swam length ways through the hold and various passage ways, exiting near the bow and finding my buddy on the deck. We ended the dive on the large helipad tower on the stern when my dive computer alarm went off indicating I was going into deco. As my buddy did not want to pull any deco I headed up the shot line. A really excellent dive. Probably not as interesting as many UK wrecks but the 8 to 10m viz made it a really good dive.

I next dive was at Partridge Point a few minutes boat ride away. We dived on the most sea wards rock and had a fantastic dive with a large colony of Cape Fur Seals. I was amazed at the colour and life, while not the Red Sea or the Great Barrier Reef, we had a really amazing dive amongst large granite boulders and

through tight swim troughs. The rocks were covered with anemones, perlemoen, nudibranks, red bait and soft corals. We ended up in about 16m of water and I ended up getting an hour dive off a 10 litre tank. We surfaced to face a boat load of angry Germans who had all only done half an hour.



John familiarises himself with an essential piece of diving equipment. Very useful for dealing with tiresome dive buddies, sharks, seals, helicopters etc. Unfortunately not available in the UK.

SODWANA BAY, KWAZULU NATAL

Sunday 24 November. On the way to Sodwana things were definitely not looking good. We met about six RIBs going the other way. We had booked for three nights but had fortunately only paid a deposit. Now I had last been to Sodwana 22 years ago. I had spent a week in Jan 1980 spearfishing with my friend Graham Landon. In Jan 1981 I helped my friend Nigel Holloway build a beach buggy, and he, his then girlfriend Debbie, and myself drove up to Sodwana and spent a fantastic week there. I am afraid the reality could not match up to my memories of the place. The sea was so rough it was stupid and the wind blown sand in our faces curtailed our walk on the beach. We had caught Sodwana on a bad day! On a good day Sodwana Bay has the best diving in South Africa, with the most southerly coral reefs in Africa. There are a wide variety of dive sites named in accordance with their distance from Jesser Point namely, quarter mile, two mile, five mile, seven mile and nine mile reefs.

We checked in with Coral Divers (www.coraldivers.co.za) and moved into our on-suite chalet, complete with open air shower. We had agreed to stay one night and reassess the situation in the morning once I had had an early morning dive.

Monday 25 November. 5am I was up for my dive. We all piled onto the back of a large trailer and a tractor took us down to the beach. If anything the waves were bigger and the wind stronger than the day before. The sea was a mass of white spray, the white caps had white caps and this on top of a 5m swell. Surely the diving was cancelled. "Get ready to go diving!" This was a commercial operation. They didn't get paid if we sat on the beach. What is more their novices had to get their open water dives in! We helped push the RIB in the water, held it into the waves and jumped in. Thank goodness for an excellent skipper, he timed the exit through the monster surf as if he had been doing it all his life. He had!



Preparing to launch from the beach at Sodwana Bay We dived on the outside of 2 mile reef on a site called Hot Spot. The sea bed comprised flat rock with scattered coral out crops. Even at 26m depth we were being swept around by the strong ground surge cause by the huge swell above. I called it an oscillatory drift dive. The vis was good however, at least 15m horizontally and we could see the surface from the bottom. When we got back to the beach I decided not to do a second shallower dive on the top of two mile reef after overhearing some divers describing their dive as being inside a washing machine.

Angela's smile was as wide as the Grand Canyon when I told her we were heading south. 400km later I was in Annerly sitting on the balcony of parent in law's flat with a 180 deg view of the sea having a beer (£4 per case 24 x 330ml cans). Followed of course by yet another braai and some of my mother in law's lovely milk tart.

ALIWAL SHOAL

Wednesday 27 November. Up at 5am again to get ready for a dive on Aliwal shoal. Aliwal shoal lies about 3 to 5 km offshore of the Umkomaas River about 50km south of Durban and about 50km north of my in laws at Anerly. Aliwalshoal.com says that Cousteau rated it as one of the top 10 dive sites in the world. Arrived at Umkomaas and went to Aliwal Diver Charters. Some confusion as I had booked the Dive through Aliwal Shoal Adventures (www.aliwalshoal.com) which was right next door

where I waited in vain for 20 minutes until I saw a dive boat go past and I figured I was in the wrong place. Consequently I was then in a mad rush to get my kit together and climb in the landie for the short trip to Umkomaas River from which we were going to launch the RIB. Again the wind was blowing a gale-which it did for the whole week. Again the sea was stupid. It was so rough that it took us about 20minutes to get through the surf. The skipper kept on having to abort the attempt and then try again.

Finally we got out to the shoal. We dived on Raggie Cave or thereabouts, the rough sea made navigation quite difficult.

Because of the large waves a very strong current was running so naturally we had a drift dive. I had arrived late and missed out on the larger tanks and consequently was diving with a 10l. As I normally dive with twin 10s I was feeling quite naked. To avoid the worst of the bottom surge due to the large waves we were diving relatively deep namely about 24 to 26m.

I thoroughly enjoyed the dive. The vis was quite good at 8 to 10 m horizontally and even better vertically. The bottom consisted of gullies and caves

which tended to magnify the strong wave induced bottom surge and made penetration of the caves dangerous. I looked in the caves but saw no ragged tooth sharks (raggies). I was later told that the best time to see them was July to November with August being the best month. I had a 36 minute dive which for a 10l tank I was quite satisfied with. The sea on the way back was even rougher and we surfed a large wave right through the mouth of the Umkomaas river.

The dive shop also happened to be part of a restaurant and bar and I sat with my new found buddies and bought them a round of tall Windhoek draft beers. I also met a Brit Ian Townsend who had bought a holiday house at Banana Beach. Reluctantly I tore myself away from the festivities and headed south. Continued over page.....

RIB returning from the Aliwal Shoal (photo courtesy of Ian Townsend)



PROTEA BANK

Friday 29 November. Up 5am again to go diving on the Protea Bank. Protea bank is another reef complex about 50km south of Aliwal Shoal, a few km off Shelly Beach which is a few km south of Port Shepstone on the southern Kwazulu Natal Coastline. I arrived at Shelly Beach Harbour at about 6am. Funny harbour this as all the boats are parked on trailers. Should rather be called Shelly Beach surf launching site. It does however boast a "port officer" in a small look out tower next to the ramp. Who should I find down at the harbour than Ian Townsend (met at Ukomaas on Wednesday) in his Vereeniging Ferrari (3l Ford Cortina). We decided to buddy up for the morning.

No site of the dive boats (I booked through www.aquaplanet.co.za). It is blowing an absolute gale and we can see large waves breaking on the Protea bank a few km away. Does not look promising. Boat arrives. " We nearly cancelled the dive but the wind is falling so we decided to go ahead." Let me translate: "The sea is f*****!" Stupid but its Friday and we need beer and braai money so we're going diving even if half the silly buggers drown!" Now Sodwana and Aliwal Shoals was rough but this was rougher. I have never been in sea before where the white caps are 4m high and breaking in deep water. On the way to the dive site the wind blown spray was so thick that one could hardly breath. I tried putting my mask on but this was worse as one kept swallowing water.

We had to jump in completely negatively bouyant to try and stick together as we were in about a 2 knot current. We hit the reef at about 33m depth and were swept along over it in a cluster around our guide with the surface marker bouy. If you got separated from the buoy I reckon the boat would never find you again and you would probably be swept down the south coast of South Africa (we were in the Agulas current) before turning east for Australia. Angela would not approve.

It was deep and dark on the reef and quite eerie. We saw no sharks but the water was full of the sounds of a pod of dolphins feeding nearby like a flock of high pitched birds on helium. After about ten minutes we drifted off the reef into much deeper water. We drifted as a group in mid water with the dolphin song slowly fading into the distance. Surreal!

The trip back was so rough that when we reached the shore Ian and I summoned up our last reserves of strength and staggered the 10 paces to the local fishing club bar. After a couple of Amstel largers and some biltong had hit our salt laden gut we began to reflect that maybe the dive hadn't been that bad after all. As our senses cleared we became aware of the monument to all the lost souls that had come before us. It was a giant chandelier made out of about a hundred empty bottles of Red Heart Rum. Our duty was now clear. On reflection rum at 10 o'clock in the morning is not such a good idea particularly when you have to take your in laws shopping.

Thanks John, sounds like a typical weymouth dive to me.

"Quotes of the month"



by
Captain Anonymous
the little bogy man who is
always listening over your shoulder
- so be warned !

Now, let me just tell you a little story.

I was sitting down in the loo to take a call from Tim Housley a few Thursdays evening ago, about some little diving matter. We were just talking about diving in 2004 and places that we might like to go in the UK and I was telling him about Dartmouth and Salcombe and long weekends.

Tim was concurring as to "how nice it all was, going away on live-a-boards, etc....., all boys together, etc....., well girls as well, he said, I suppose", were his words when he got a bit carried away with his mouth and started talking about how, "We can all frolic around together and wear skirts"

Now, I know we are in the very liberal 21st century and all that but - I just thought you should all be aware about this conversation, and where it may lead to.

Just be aware, when Tim is diving, that's all. There, I leave this bit of knowledge with you, but be afraid, be very afraid.

(And I thought that I was scary)

Conversation with Tim and Pat Gibbon
20th March 2003

**GET FIT FOR THE 2003 DIVING YEAR
COME TO THE POOL ON THURSDAY NIGHT**

It is a well know fact that swimming is one of the best ways of getting and keeping fit, exercising your muscles and improving your cardiovascular fitness. It is especially good because swimming is a no impact form of exercise, therefore, particularly good because it does not damage your joints.

So, why don't you come down on a Thursday night, for some serious exercise and get fit for the diving season. You could even bring your loved ones.

It is quite possible to swim 120 lengths during the hour. If you did even a fraction of this every Thursday, imagine how fit you would be - it is slimming as well. However, not for me, but don't let that stop you.

So why not give it a go - there has never been a better time to start a fitness/slimming regime and keep it going all year.

See you next Thursday then.

**SURREY AQUANAUTS
2003 DIVE BOOKINGS ~ ISSUE 12**



NOTE: "R" means that a rolling deposit of £100 has been paid and put onto all dives booked. Dive Marshal are marked in **bold** and should be treated like Gods.

Page 1

PLYMOUTH - CEEKING Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th April 2003 12 places					
Accommodation booked with diving. Cost £100 for 2 days diving with accommodation. Packed lunch included					
Name	Deposit Paid	Notes	Name	Deposit Paid	Notes
Chris Knights	R	Dive Marshal	Roger	£20	
Paul Dawkins	R		Aaron	£20	
Tim Hayter	£10		Gwyn Davies	£20	
Brian Bickell	£10		Gareth Davies	£20	
Tony Sheargold	£20		Colin		
Mick Iles	£20		FULL BOOKING AT 10 divers		
Reserve List: Gareth Morgan (R)					

POOLE - LOYALHELPER Saturday 24th May 12 places					
Cost: £35 per day.					
Name	Deposit Paid	Notes	Name	Deposit Paid	Notes
Carol Hipwell	£20		Tony Sheargold	Nothing Paid	Sat only
Paul Dawkins	R		Andy Shaw		
Grahame Walker	R	Yes			
Tim Housley	£15				
Frank Hoxley	R				
Mick Iles	Nothing Paid				
Reserve List: 5 Places available					

POOLE - LOYALHELPER Sunday 25th May 2003 12 places					
TRAINING DIVE					
Name	Deposit Paid	Accommodation?	Name	Deposit Paid	Accommodation?
Carol Hipwell	£20		Tracy Millett	Nothing Paid	
Paul Dawkins	R		Brian Johnson	Nothing Paid	
Grahame Walker	R		Simon Cooper	Nothing Paid	
Chris Knights	Deposit Paid		Les Anderson	Nothing Paid	
Christopher Knights	Deposit Paid		Andy Lane	Nothing Paid	
David Davies	£20		Colin	Nothing Paid	
Reserve List: FULL					

SURREY AQUANAUTS

2003 DIVE BOOKINGS ~ ISSUE 12

NOTE: "R" means that a rolling deposit of £100 has been paid and put onto all dives booked. Dive Marshal are marked in **bold** and should be treated like Gods.



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WEYMOUTH - OUR 'W' Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June 2003 12 places					
Cost £70 for 2 days diving. Weekend diving only. Accommodation already booked with diving. Accommodation £20 to £23 per night					
Name	Deposit Paid	Notes	Name	Deposit Paid	Notes
Chris Knights	R		Jo Grainger	£20	
Paul Dawkins	R		Peter Grey	R	
Nick Galt	R		Damion Pike	£70 - Paid in full	
Linda Bangle	£20		Carol Hipwell	£20	
Andy Bangle	£20		Claire Garrette	£20	CANCELLED
Steve Willett	£10		Grahame Walker	R	

Reserve List: Sarah Roozendaal. Hajo Roozendaal. John Pos. Tim Housley Sat only

SCILLY ISLES - FULLY BOOKED. Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st June -Reserve list 6 persons

NORMANDY - LOYAL HELPER. Thursday night 10th to Monday night 14th July 2003. 12 places					
Cost: £350 for 4 days diving (8 dives). Includes Travel, Dives, Live-a-Board, All Meals, Air (Mixed Gas available-Extra cost). Drive down to Poole Thursday evening - aboard 9.00pm - sail. Dive Friday to Monday. Sail back Monday night. Dock Poole Tuesday					
Name	Deposit Paid	Confirmed	Name	Deposit Paid	Confirmed
Paul Dawkins	TO PAY	?	Andy Bonz	Paid £350 in full	YES
Gwyn Davies	£20	YES	Frank Hoxley	Paid £100 deposit	YES
Gareth Davies	£20	YES	Tim Housley	TO PAY	YES
Peter Grey	£228	YES			
Damion Pike	£70+£280 Paid in full	YES			

Reserve List: 3/4? place available Nick Galt Cancelled 28.4.03 John Pos C ancelled 1.5.03

PLYMOUTH - CEEKING Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th July 2003 12 places					
Accommodation booked with diving. Cost £100 for 2 days diving with accommodation. Packed lunch included					
Name	Deposit Paid	Notes	Name	Deposit Paid	Notes
Chris Knights	R	Dive Marshal	Peter Grey	R	
Paul Dawkins	R		Damion Pike	£70 - Paid in full	
Pat Gibbon	R		Sarah Roozendaal	Deposit Paid	
Nick Galt	R		Hajo Roozendaal	Deposit Paid	
Steve Willett	£10		Grahame Walker	R	
Jo Grainger	£20		John Pos	R	

Reserve List: Tim Housley, Gareth Morgan

If anybody wishes to go on any of the remaining dive trips. please let me, Pat Gibbon, know as soon as possible. Normandy will be brilliant and nor very deep - as many WW2 wrecks are at only 30m. I am putting together the 2004 Dive Program.

If anybody would like to plan a diving expedition to anywhere new, in the UK or abroad, please let me know soon so that it can slot into our 2004 dive plan.

Thanks.

BRIGHTON - GIRL GREY Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th August 2003 12 places					
Cost: £35 per day. No accommodation booked - assumed travelling each day.					
Name	Deposit Paid	Notes	Name	Deposit Paid	Notes
Chris Knights	R		Tim Housley	R	Sat. only
Paul Dawkins	R		David Davis	Deposit paid	Sunday Only
Steve Willett	£10		Gemma Davies	Deposit paid	Sunday Only
Peter Grey	R		Gareth Morgan	R	
Grahame Walker	R		Linda Bangle	£20 from Weymouth	
John Pos	R				

Reserve List:

DOVER - PAUL CURTIS Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th August 2003 12 places					
Cost: £35 per day. Same skipper as last year, with new boat, which is the same as Dive 69's Defiant. Boat being built now. No accommodation booked yet.					
Name	Deposit Paid	Notes	Name	Deposit Paid	Notes
Chris Knights	R		Grahame Walker	R	
Paul Dawkins	R		Tim Housley	R	
Andy Bangle	£20		Gareth Morgan	R	
Gwyn Davies	£20		Linda Bangle	£20 from Andy's	Eastbourne
Gareth Davies	£20				
Steve Willett	£10	Jo need Accom			

Reserve List: 2 Places available

POOLE - LOYAL HELPER Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 2003 12 places					
Cost: £35 per day. If enough people want accommodation, Skipper will use Live-a-Board Loyal Helper. Please indicate.					
Name	Deposit Paid	Accommodation?	Name	Deposit Paid	Accommodation?
Paul Dawkins	R	Yes	Carol Hipwell	£20	
Pat Gibbon	R	Yes	Sarah Roozendaal	Deposit Paid	
Nick Galt	R	Yes	Hajo Roozendaal	Deposit Paid	
Gwyn Davies	£20	Yes	Grahame Walker	R	
Gareth Davies	£20	Yes	John Pos	R	
Damion Pike	£70 - Paid in full	Yes	Tim Housley	R	

Reserve List: Gareth Morgan

*Please join in the following functions.
Remember, its your club !*

**IMPORTANT DATES
FOR YOUR DIARY
DURING 2003**
Please keep these date free NOW

*Social Events are set in Bold Type
in this column below.
Dives are in Light Type*

- 15th May** Bring & Buy Sale (Starts At 8 in the lecture room at the Pool-in-the-Park). Sell or Buy. Come along, you never know ?
- Saturday 24th May & Sunday 25th May** Poole Dive- LoyalHelper - 6 places available
Poole Dive- LoyalHelper - 2 places available
Sunday is a Training Dive or for those who do not want to go too deep.
- 3rd June** Boat Maintenance & How to get the "bloody thing going". Starting at 7:30pm at Chris Knights Senior's house in Chertsey.
- Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June 2003** Weymouth Dive- Our 'W'
Full both days 'cos it's a bloody good weekend.
- Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st June** Scilly Isles Dive week- Fully Booked.
- Thursday night 10th to Monday night 14th July** Normandy Trip on Loyal Helper.
To arrive back in Poole on Tuesday morning crack of dawn. 4 places available.
- Thursday 24th July** **CHARITY TRY DIVE NIGHT** – dive leaders or above required for help – Chris or Christopher Knights for details. 8.00pm – 10.00pm. Big event for us so be there please.
- Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th July** Plymouth Dive - CeeKing- Full
- Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th August** Brighton Dive - GirlGrey- Full
- Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th August** Dover - Paul Curtis- Full
- Thursday 28th Aug** **CHARITY TRY DIVE NIGHT**
8.00pm – 10.00pm. Dive leaders or above required for help please.
- Sunday 20th July 2003.** **ANNUAL CLUB BBQ AT CHERTSEY.**
Down by the Thames between Laleham and Chertsey as last year. A great time was had by all so please come again.
- Saturday 15th November 2003.** **ANNUAL DINNER DANCE.**
From 7.00pm till 12.45am. Full details to be announced later.

GREENPEACE

Ever thought of joining? We could do with your support in trying to keep our seas clean and alive with fish. Join now by contacting Greenpeace at Canonbury Villas, London N1 2PN or phone for details on Telephone: 0171 865 8100 Fax: 0171 865 8200. E.Mail: gp-info@uk.greenpeace.org Web site: http://www.greenpeace.org.uk

We only have one world, so do help to save it.

visit our web site at

www.surreyaquanauts.org.uk



by

*Captain Anonymous
the little bogy man who is
always listening over your shoulder
~ so be warned !*



*" You have to put your mouth
right over it and suck really
hard "*

Angela to Jo
Chris & Darr's Part,
10th August 2002

*" No, no, no. You have to
work your tongue round to
loosen it then suck hard "*

Jo to Angela in reply ?
Chris & Darr's Party'
10th August 2002

*"You can give it to me in the
shower "*

James Brown to Steve Willett
24th October 2002

**THURSDAY
EVENING
SEASON TICKET**

Did you know that the you can a season ticket for the pool from Sally Walker and save a fortune. It only costs £....., so a good saving can be made in the year and it will encourage you to swim and keep fit !

**I WANT YOUR
E-MAIL ADDRESS!**

Just send it to me at gibbonpat@aol.com so that we can update the e-mail database. Also, please reply with your home, work and mobile numbers.

**If I have not e-mailed you
in the last four weeks,
THAT MEANS YOU.**

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR NEW MEMBERS SO DO
YOU KNOW ANY DIVERS WHO
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR
CLUB OR ANYBODY WHO
MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN
SCUBA DIVING AND WANTS
TO GIVE IT A TRY ?**

Phone **Freefone 0800 0186431**
for more details