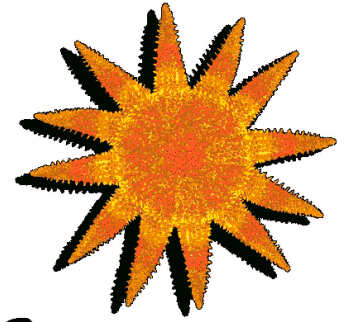


July/August 2003

# SubScript

*The Sunstar Sub Aqua Newsletter*



## Sunstar Sub Aqua

### Apologies

A combination of circumstances has resulted in this delayed and slim issue of SubScript. I guess you've all been too busy diving to write anything (or even ring me up and ask what's happened to it!), and my daughter's wedding at the beginning of September has limited my time in extracting input from you and in its production. Hopefully you'll soon be swamping me with material about your summer exploits to provide material to fill the next few issues.

It's surprising how quickly the year passes – the end of November sees the Sunstar AGM and the (re)election of your club officers. *Now* is the time for you to start thinking about how you can contribute to the club next year, how you want to see it develop and which post *you* are going to stand for.

David Parkinson,  
Communications Officer



A very large Tonna Snail

### Club Officers

These are the current club officers you should contact if you have any questions or suggestions with regards to the club.

Post	Holder
<i>Chairman</i>	Robert Spray
<i>Diving Officer</i>	Raj Mistry
<i>Training Officer</i>	Christina Dowdeswell
<i>Secretary</i>	Eric Nelson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Duncan Jay
<i>Expeditions Officer</i>	Bob Crawley
<i>Communications Officer</i>	David Parkinson
<i>Minibus Officer</i>	Craig Snowling
<i>New Members Rep</i>	Andrew Osbourne
<i>Boat Officer</i>	Andy Auchterlonie
<i>Equipment Officer</i>	Mark Smyth

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## Lost in Littlehampton

by Bob Crawley

I was desperate to go diving but only three of us were lined up for the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> July weekend. This would have been OK for me as both Raj and Dave Lock are coxes so one of them would have had to stay with Calypso while the other buddied with me but in practice this wasn't going to happen. Fortunately an email from the Bury Club came just in time on the BSAC Eastern Newsgroup advertising two spaces on a club trip for twelve to Littlehampton. When I saw that Dave Lock took one I took the other.

We travelled down on Friday afternoon and arrived after a reasonable three and a half hours at the Nelson Hotel which has, as it's one and only saving grace, a position directly across the road from the quayside. Dave thought his luck was in when he was booked into Shani's room with a Four Poster bed. It was not to last though as she evicted him when she arrived. The Nelson is actually a pub and has notices around it stating



“Smoking Policy – Smoking is allowed everywhere”. As an ex offender this did not endear me to the place. After a sit down Fish & Chips just next door and a pint in the town it was a reasonably early night as we had an 06:15 start the next day.

Our Charter was the Michelle Mary a Lochin 38 She was comfortable with twelve divers aboard and actually had a loo (head) on board. The Skipper, Ivan, managed to drive and throw in shot lines despite having no left arm. The only problem with the boat was the fact that Ivan is a chain smoker which made the wheelhouse a no go area.

The group from Bury were easy to get on with and made us most welcome although there were

strange references to “blue jobs” which eluded me. It might have had something to do with the fact that at least two of them were in the police and one was an ex army riot control instructor. Shani, the DO, is also a Sunstar member. All in all they are a likeable crew. All the dives were scheduled to be not more than 20m as there were some Ocean divers in the group. That said we did get to 25m on the trawler on Sunday.

We loaded the boat at 06:15 on the Saturday and discovered that we had lots of spare time to faff around although I'd have preferred a lie in.. My buddy for the day was Ed who agreed to let me lead the dives as practice for my Dive Leader qualification. I don't know if they'll count but it was good experience. The boat ride out was leisurely and reminded me that not all boats were as quick as Calypso. Our first dive was onto an Iron Ore carrier about ten miles offshore. When we got onto the wreck it felt like we'd come down into the wrong sea, the visibility was at least 8 metres and we were in the middle of a large shoal of Pouting/ Bibb (I think). We saw a couple of Congers, perhaps 2m long, and some large Lobsters. I've yet to successfully pick one up but Ed later explained how to do it with a sweeping, inverting motion. Dave Lock seems to have no problem with this although the one he got did only have one claw. A very enjoyable dive.

After a decent interval we did a drift dive on Kingsmere Rocks. A reasonable 65 minute dive complicated by my mask leaking and being foot heavy probably because I was over weighted, I fixed this on the next dive by moving weight around.

So that was it for Saturday. It would seem practical to me to have had another dive at the next slack but I suppose the skippers want to get back. After an afternoon in Littlehampton there was nothing for it but to go for a Curry in the one and only Indian. A pleasant evening marred by the slow service and mediocre curry. It might be worth trying the Silk Road Turkish next time. The Italian is, I'm told a good standby.

We managed a lay in on Sunday as we started at 06:45. After loading all the re-filled cylinders onto the boat we discovered we were one short. Guess whose it was! Our first dive was onto a trawler about 11 miles out. My buddy for the day was

Caroline, a Sport Diver, and she agreed to let me lead the dives again. As I was on a borrowed 12L and she was on a 15L and probably had better air consumption than me I knew we'd have to come up on my air. We did and I managed to surface with exactly 50 bar. The trawler was a reasonable dive with nothing special to report although I took the opportunity to try my, as yet unused, knife out on some old net which it cut through easily.

Our fourth and last dive of the trip was where it all went pear shaped. This, again, was a drift and we had to use an SMB. I'd borrowed a plastic one from Ed and attached to my reel. The mistake I made was, I think, to not have enough line let out (I was afraid of it getting snagged in the boat). As we descended I saw the end of the line descending with us. When we got to the bottom I thought, no problem, I'll launch my DSMB. There was a reasonably strong current and it was difficult to stay still on the bottom. Caroline held the DSMB while I inflated it and let it go. After a couple of seconds Caroline got snagged in the line and went up with the buoy. Leaning point is keeping your buddy upstream on the current. I followed her up, checked we were both OK and we decided to abort the dive. So we only got a three minute dive but did learn something.. Plastic SMBs are not for me after this. We weren't the only pair with problems. Shani came up shivering after having had her suit flood and one of the Petes had missed his dive through not being ready. Also whilst in the boat we found a free floating SMB in the sea. I thought we'd be lucky and be able to use it to replace the lost one but unfortunately it was claimed by Ian who had had a line break.

On the way back we called at the dive shop and discovered my cylinder waiting patiently for me which was a relief. All in all it was a good weekend of diving with fine company in excellent weather. I would have preferred to dive on the East Coast from Calypso (or indeed Littlehampton) as probably the diving would have been as good and the cost would have been at least half. Let's hope we can get some trips together soon. We'll certainly invite the Bury club in future as they are a decent bunch and fun to dive with.

## For Sale

**Long hose.** I've decided to give up cave diving so if anyone wants a 2m Octopus hose it's for sale.

Bob Crawley

## Coastguard's Advice Regarding Flares

by Andy Collicott



During the recent visit to the Coastguard at Walton-on-the-Naze they provided the following advice regarding flares.

Out of date flares aren't reliable. They can fail to go off, they can misfire and go off at strange angles, or they can half ignite and go off when you pick them up. These situations are all potentially very dangerous and a fire risk - not what you want when you've already got an incident on the go! If your flares are out of date you should replace them.

Disposing of out of date flares - take them to a Coastguard that has a disposal facility. (This is a safe trunk which is periodically emptied by the Royal Navy who then destroy them.) The Coastguard at Walton-on-the-Naze has a disposal facility. Some flare suppliers may also have disposal facilities.

Don't set off flares unless it's an emergency or under controlled and organised conditions (see below). Don't set off flares on 5th Nov because they cause unnecessary confusion to the coastguards who struggle to differentiate between these and the real thing. Some people think that setting them off inland overcomes this problem but they do get noticed and somebody will have to respond to them. They are also a fire risk because flares are very hot and can cause a fire (eg thatched houses). Furthermore, there's also all the hazards mentioned above regarding the out of date flares.

Demonstrations of flares are arranged by various clubs eg RYA - not sure about BSAC. These give people an opportunity to set off flares in a controlled and safe environment. (They do not use red flares.)



# The Bom Rei (aka The Bowbelle)

by Steve Lowry

When the TV aerial lines up with the banana tree and you could see the upstairs window of the second house it meant that we were above the wreck. These transits were used for our dive on the Bowbelle off Madeira's south west coast. Dietlef, our German skipper used these rather eclectic references because of the close proximity of very steep cliffs, in these circumstances GPS readings do not always work.



The Bowbelle had a chequered history. After the collision in August 1989 with the pleasure cruiser Marchioness in the Thames and considerable loss of life amongst the partygoers on board, it was established that the captain of the dredger was drunk in charge. Under this cloud the Bowbelle was renamed Bom Rei and went to Madeira to start a new life working the coastline. This continued until March 1996 when another incident occurred, resulting in its sinking in 31m of water. All crew were rescued apart from the same captain who was on the bridge and was reputed to have suffered a fatal heart attack as the boat went down.

In the rib with me was a multinational collection of divers from Hungary, Portugal, Germany, Finland and Belgium. Buddied with the Belgian Marc, I went through my familiar checks ending with the bsac " air tastes good – no deflection, ok to go". Over the side we went, grouped ourselves in pairs and descended.

The wreck sits upright and we found the shot perfectly positioned in the sandy bottom of the hold. We swam around the perimeter, noticing the steel hull cracked almost from keel to gunwale and across the deck. Paint is still evident on some sections and the decks are strewn with heavy chains, pipes and machinery offering homes to spindly arrow crabs and small shy fish. It is so recent a shipwreck even the winch control levers still snick into position when pushed. Inevitably I imagined myself a crewman on board as the ship foundered, as I do on most intact wrecks. The spare propeller remains fixed on deck surrounded by shoals of silver sea bream and the ubiquitous black and electric blue fish that mirror the colours exactly of the spiny urchins they swim around. The infamous bridge area is well lit and available to penetrate if suitably qualified although, because of the many cables hanging from the ceiling waiting to trap the foolhardy, I declined and contented myself with looking through the doorway. Now I was the captain on that fateful night in London, drinking with the first mate and looking forward to a warm bed as the dark silhouette of the Marchioness hove into view.



Diving a 12ltr nitrox mix at this depth meant that I was low on gas before I incurred decompression penalties, I found Marc my Belgian buddy with his head in a porthole and signaled up, we returned to the shot and began our slow ascent to six metres. As we rose the wreck became more ghostly as

the viz clouded. I was left with the memory – some ships are just not meant to grow old.

Dived with Tubarao Madeira 5 7 03.

# Gozo Arrangements

by Rob Spray



So you want to go to Gozo, here's all you need to know... all the little bits are easy, its only keeping track of the arrangements for 20 people in several parties arriving at four different times, staying in 3 houses and using a total of 7 vehicles that gets tricky!

**Diving:** My favoured hosts are Gozo Aqua Sports (known as GAS) who are very relaxed and flexible. On most sites you can make a simple choice of depth, only on a couple is the main object of the dive deeper and there will generally be alternatives. A real luxury abroad is the choice of 10, 12 and 15l 200bar and even some 300bar 10l tanks, all DIN compatible and steel! No annoying aluminium comedy dive balloons.

One of the other outfits in Marsalforn is a BSAC school who can do assessed training dives for £25 (if you have all your kit) so doing all 5 Ocean Diver training dives would add £75. Its not a bad ideal, trainees can dive in the same kit with the same weight as they would in the UK. Early season temperatures are about the same as the summer sea in the UK, not just blue water training – its reasonable to use drysuits.

The diving is varied and the main interests are the spectacular underwater architecture and the weird wild life. Once you've got your eye in there's so much to see, and its rewarding to spot the hidden highlights. We rate communing with the cuttlefish right at the top of our diving and many people had their opinions of night dives completely changed for the better by the wildlife in Mgarr Ix Xini. Its not coral diving, and none the worse for that.

**Medicals:** You need a medical to dive in Malta. The new divers self-certification doesn't normally count, unless it has been countersigned by a medical referee. Maltese medicals are cheap and easy, people don't fail unless they should and occasionally the doctor spots something unexpected.

**Cars:** A Maruti Jeep is just about ideal thing to run around in, they are slow and noisy but can just about carry 7 people and get down the roughest tracks. These cost about £16 a day. Families and non-divers are probably better off with normal cars or people carriers. No one will ask about licenses or mention insurance...

**Flights:** This year we flew with Air Malta, British Airways took us out last time. BA are cheaper but didn't have enough flights for us all. It was cheaper booking through an agent, Choice Holidays than direct or online.

## Rough costs per person were:

Big farmhouse	£18 day
Flights	£199 adults £144 children/£31 infants
Car hire	£3 per day when shared out
Minibus transfers	£12
Dives	£6 independent £11 accompanied £25 for training dive

So about £500 +food for a 10 day 15 dive holiday, not bad and you can do it cheaper if you cut back on the housing – but that's parts of the fun.

## Contacts

I booked diving and accommodation separately, next time I might be tempted to ask GAS to sort it all out.

Joseph Buttigieg, was the contact for the accommodation, hire cars and transfer.

Contact - [ghalvin@yahoo.com](mailto:ghalvin@yahoo.com) Phone: +356.21559084 Mobile: +356 7999 5050

Gail at GAS sorted our diving, they can do cars, transfers and houses too.

Contact - [www.gozoquasports.com](http://www.gozoquasports.com) on +356 21563037

The 2001 trip is available on video (rated PG for infantile behaviour and mild peril) and there are lots more pictures on my web site

<http://rspray.tripod.com/Dive/GozoMay03/>

# Gozo – The Families

by Craig Snowling

We had a relatively early start on the Thursday morning if you call 06.00am an early start; my family and I had decided to travel separately of the main group, with two children who were full of beans in the morning we did not want to subject the rest of the bus to our little terrors just yet (that would come later). The airport remained fairly uneventful along with the plane journey, apart from trying to occupy an 18-month-old little boy for 3 hours in a plane seat when all he wants to do is run around is nearly impossible.

Arriving in Malta to find a MK1 ford Transit as our transport to the ferry terminal was a bit of a shock especially as the Maltese don't seem to wear seat belts or have seat belts fitted to the rear of their vehicles. We had a short journey across Malta to the other ferry terminal because we were told the main terminal was too windy to cross from.

Now some of you may have already had experience of Rob and his timescales, but when we got to the ferry terminal and we were told that the ferry crossing would only take 20 minutes, you tend to believe that it will take 20 minutes, so when you are 1 hour and 15 minutes into your ferry crossing which was very bloody rough I can tell you, and you are only just coming into port you tend to treble Robs time estimation on things.

Rob worked very hard to organise this trip and it showed when we got to our Villa (sorry Palace) it was wonderful. It was a very newly built villa with it's own (very deep) pool and large bedrooms.



**Hollie and Me in our Villa Pool with the lesser spotted Gozo Shark.**

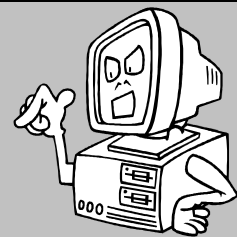
The Friday morning was spent at a leisurely pace sorting out our kit at Gozo Aqua Sports, this is when I realized had brought far to much kit with

me but my excuse was that I was bound to lose or break something so “what the hell” I thought. G.A.S is an excellent dive shop, very friendly BUT do not lose or misplace Patrick's (the owner) tanks inserts or Allen key what ever you do (guess who did and who had to purchase another one!). The one rule that the Maltese government enforces is that any diver who is below sports diver has to be accompanied by a guide from the dive shop. This meant that Andrew had to dive with a guide but it was an experience that Andrew said he benefited from.

Of course no dive that I do would not be complete without some problem arising, I was having problems sealing my first stage onto the tanks that we hired ~ it turned out that the tank inserts in Gozo were smaller than my first stage causing a leak.

All this was eased when Duncan turned up without his regs and then promptly, on his first dive, his dry suit sprang a leak - so it seems that my jinx has passed onto someone else! (Sorry Duncan). Overall this was an excellent holiday, so much so that Heidi is already planning next year's trip. The diving is fantastic, we had excellent viz all the time and the wildlife was just amazing.

This is just a thought to leave you with, but the both times that Rob has visited Gozo he seems to break all the hire jeeps he drives ~ is this a trend you are bringing back to the UK Rob? Or are you a secret racing driver at heart.



## SubMit

If you've been up to something interesting or would like to publicise something in relation to the club please contact me. *SubScript* is fuelled by your input, so put your fingers to the keyboard and get typing! The preferable method of submission is electronically – just text in an email will do but a Word document would be better. Pictures are a bonus and enhance any article. Including these as separate .jpg files helps any manipulation that may be necessary to suit the production and printing process.

Email: [dparkins@alien.bt.co.uk](mailto:dparkins@alien.bt.co.uk) or  
[comms@sunstar.org.uk](mailto:comms@sunstar.org.uk)

# **Gozo**

## ***a non-diver's view***

by Claire Horne

When Rob said did we want to go to Gozo it seemed such a long way away I said yes! I didn't even know where it was or if I could get the time off work at one of our busiest times of the year. I kept asking who I knew would be going and it came back that none of the people we had met on our last trip to Egypt would be going apart from Rob and Dawn!

After all the flights and transfers we arrived at a very beautiful farm house up a tiny dirt road. We each grabbed what we thought was the best rooms and went off to look at the blue hole! I'm sure the divers will be able to explain this better but for me it was a very scary looking place! The high winds were blowing the sea right into the 'best' diving place on the island and the divers didn't look all that happy! From a non diving perspective it made for some great photos!

Bones (Richard) and I planned to just bum about for the 10 days. I had booked a couple of mopeds that were due the following morning so our plan was to bumble about and see the island from terra firma! We rose well after the masses had headed out to the dive shop to see where to dive in the morning and we were in and watching TV by the time they got in. Most mornings consisted of sitting by the pool (it was freezing so only tempted the faint hearted once or twice!) deciding where to go. Putting on sun tan lotion then heading out with trusty mopeds to find the worst dirt track we could on the steepest hill to go down, just to see if the 50cc 'super' bikes could handle it!

We did take our snorkels and fins and found some really great sites. I was tempted by the seemingly bottomless clear water of the bay behind 'Fungus Rock'. We first spotted it on day one but couldn't work out just how to get to it! Many of the bays had almost sheer cliffs which made access to the water tricky unless you fancy a 100ft plus drop and a bit of rock climbing to get out! But on the day we made it to the bottom we had arrived at the top from a different approach. We spied a very small set of stairs and tried to work out where they started. After a bit of cliff walking we found the top and made our way to the 6ft wide boat slip way that I like to call the beach! Donning my swimsuit I made my way to the edge down the very slippery boat ramp and found a small step. I managed to get my feet into my fins

and I was off to play with the catamarans that had chosen to stop in the bay. Bones stayed on shore to keep an eye on things so it was just me and the boats. I have no idea just how deep the bay is but I could only really see light and dark shapes so I stuck to the rock walls for something to look at. At first it was just a few of the many nameless 'small white fish' that no one has yet been able to name for me then I saw a few wrasse, some bright orange cave fish and a starfish the size of a sink! It was huge and black! David has since told me it was more likely to be red or orange but without the aid of lights to me it was black!

Following this we had to find somewhere that we could leave the bags without worrying that they would slip into the sea so we headed for the only proper sandy beach on the island. This was a kids paradise as the slope was gentle and the sand deep and just ready to bury people in! Here we could both snorkel and go out as far as the temperature would allow! This was the beach where we saw surprisingly the best octopus! I had never seen one in the flesh so this was a great find. He / she was minding its business, sitting on the edge of the reef that skirted the edge of the main swimming area. I guess it thought it would be well away from pointing fingers but with the help of our snorkels we found it. A couple of pokes and he was spiky and trying to hide but I managed to point it out to Bones before we started to get cold and went back to shore.

We had found one or two other sloping 'beaches' but the best one for me was on the last 'diving' day. We had tried to meet the divers on trips before but had always arrived just after they had gone or before they got there so I had asked Ken to send me a text message when they knew where they were heading so maybe we could watch them go in or at least see them get out! Well, on this day it worked, we made it to the washing machine just in time to watch Rob and Dawn's bubbles disappearing, David and Duncan jump over the side and watch Ken and Karen walk back from the edge! A few expletives later Ken said they were going in but not from the edge. If we moved down the road a bit there was a slipway where the group would exit from and they would go in from. It looked like a great spot for snorkelling (and having wedding photos done as well as watering your horse!) so we parked up the bikes and dived in. The water was warmish on most of our swims but this bay seemed relatively bath-like in places and like Felixstowe in others, so we snorkelled about finding the warm bits to watch Ken and Karen make their way in to deeper water. It quite funny as a non diver watching people dive. I

mean here I was in a swim suit and a mask, snorkel and fins seeing all that they could see in hundreds of pounds worth of kit!

Once they had gone into the really cold water I swam back towards the shore and saw a sort of white blob on the bottom. I dived down to find a lump of stone and another very shy octopus! After watching it sit there for a little bit, I then managed to get Rob's camera and take a snap or two but they were a little shaky to say the least but I know my little octopus was down there!

All in all it was a great holiday, even for us land loving snorkeler's and I would love to go back. I did toy with the idea of 'working at home' from Gozo when floating in this bay but I guess even I would have to visit the Gardening Which? office once or twice a week and the thought of a days commute each way made me think twice! Maybe the 5 hour trip to London and back each day isn't so bad! But when is the next trip planned? Maybe Egypt would be good to try again.....

## **Come and Join Us!**

If you like what you've seen in this month's newsletter, why not think about joining Sunstar? Divers of all levels and persuasions are welcome! The club has great facilities for all kinds of diving, and offers a wide range of training and courses. We also organise loads of diving trips each year, both in the UK and abroad. Check out our website at <http://www.sunstar.org.uk/> to see what facilities we have (Minibus, Boats etc), what we do and what we have done (back issues of *SubScript*).

We have several schemes you could join under - varying from complete beginner to first-class diver. New Trainees normally pay ~£230 for the year (includes BSAC training materials and use of club equipment), whereas experienced divers pay ~£140 p.a. (inc BSAC subscription) with some discount available if you work at BT and already pay ATLAS membership. Please contact **Eric Nelson**, club secretary for Membership forms and the exact payment details on 01473 606592 or [info@sunstar.org.uk](mailto:info@sunstar.org.uk).

Alternatively come and meet us on Monday nights in Ipswich at the Fore Street swimming pool (8:30-09:45pm) or afterwards in the Lord Nelson Pub.

## **Gozo Diving: Xlendi Bay - My best ever dive.**

by Dawn Watson

Xlendi is a long, thin, gently sloping bay on the South West corner of the island. We had already dived the site once in a three with David, so the layout was fairly familiar. The plan was to swim straight across the sandy bottom, through the 70m tunnel and into the next bay, where we would spend time exploring the rocky reef. The tunnel is fairly big and has a maximum depth of only 8m, so even I wasn't too stressed by it, especially once I could see the light from the other end.

We paused at the far end of the tunnel so that Rob could take some atmospheric silhouette shots of me in the entrance. This mostly involved him becoming increasingly frustrated with my inability to follow his hand signals, whilst I peered back into the blackness, wondering if he was still there and holding my breath in case a photo was occurring.



We had a look in a smallish cave just along the reef, but the roof was too low for my liking and I backed out fairly speedily. As Rob emerged, wondering what was up, I spotted a cuttlefish over his shoulder and began gesticulating excitedly. This only confirmed his opinion of my mental state, so I managed to calm myself enough to do the international (in Rob and Dawn land) signal for 'cuttlefish' and point behind him.

It was quite a big, frisky sort of cuttlefish, and it nipped from one large rock to another as we followed it quietly. It wasn't really afraid and eventually stopped about 3 feet away from us. We stopped too and did a few cuttlefish attracting hand movements. They work! The cuttlefish (hereafter known as 'Derek') crept closer and closer to us, looking from one to the other with great interest. Rob had the camera, so I was free to do the best signals, tempting Derek to come

right up and give my fingers a good feel with his tentacles. He then moved to my face and had a good feel of my mask, I tried not to think about the amazing crushing power of his beak.



Derek

Rob was taking loads of pictures, so I tried to breathe as little as possible, I was afraid of frightening Derek away anyway. Derek became bored with my face and moved up onto the top of my head (he was surprisingly heavy and solid), then settled on the DIN fitting of my regulators. I was finally able to exchange wide-eyed looks of amazement with Rob, as I was no longer distracted by the workings of his skirt and siphon (not Rob's).

Soon, Derek lost interest in me altogether and moved over to explore Rob and the camera. He seemed to really like the lens, I'm not sure if he could see his reflection in it. It was fun to see another person experiencing him close up, it really was a great experience. Finally, Derek rose above our heads, apparently enjoying our bubbles, and drifted away. When I looked at my computer, we had spent 20 minutes in his company.




Hand-in-hand leaving the tunnel

We continued our dive, feeling really elated as we swam round the headland and back into Xlendi Bay. As we began to make our way back across

the sand, we debated whether to surface. Rob thought we should hang on for another minute or two, so that we could have a dive time of one-and-a-quarter hours.


We began to poke around in the sand, attracting a shoal of silver bream. Suddenly, Rob pointed excitedly into the distance. He had spotted a flying gurnard sleeping on the sand, a fish I had never seen! We finned over and annoyed it into displaying its beautiful pectoral fins, very much like the patterns on a butterfly's wing. It soon tired of our attentions and glided away.

We surfaced with a dive time of one and a half hours and Craig and David helped us carry our kit back up to the jeep. 'Was it good?' asked Craig. 'A cuttlefish sat on my head!' I replied urbanely.



**ORDERING  
OF  
SUNSTAR**

**SUB AQUA LOGO  
GARMENTS**



If you've seen members walking around sporting garments with the club logo and wish to make an order then you need to see me, FrancEs Cook. I am usually down at the pool/ Lord Nelson pub on Monday club nights. I have only one catalogue book to show but it is worth looking through its extensive range of garments, hats and accessories.

Ordering is quite simple. Just choose garment type, size, colour (garment and logo) and let me know. For an extra charge of £3 you can even have variations of the logo eg. Sunstar logo on one side of the garment and the lettering of *Sunstar Sub Aqua* on another side.

Prices seen on the price list does not include VAT or postage and packing. I share out the cost of P&P between those who have placed an order.

It can take up to a month to receive your garments as the company has to order the garments in and they are also slow in sending an invoice so please be patient. But as many members will tell you it's well worth the wait.

The garments are good quality and wear and wash well. So do come down on a Monday and fix yourself up with some clothes that will make you proud to be a member of Sunstar Sub Aqua.

**FrancEs**

## Sunstar Diary 2003

### September

19 – 22	Farne Islands Northumberland	Bob Crawley	M club
21 - 22	Dover Dive Trip - possibly	Helen Johnstone	M C
22	National Free Try Dive Event Fore Street Pool from 8:30 p.m.	Eric Nelson	
27 - 28	Boat Handling Course	Bob Crawley	C B
28	Practical Rescue Management SDC <i>Alton Water (start time 9.30AM)</i>	Raj Mistry	sport
29	Committee Meeting <i>Lord Nelson 7pm</i>	Eric Nelson	

### October

4 – 5	Lyme Bay - Neap Weekend	Susie Young	sport
18 - 19	South Coast Neap Weekend <i>South coast</i>	Bob Crawley	M C sport
27	Committee Meeting <i>Lord Nelson 7pm</i>	Eric Nelson	

### November

9 - 16	Red Sea - Sharm el Sheikh	Mick Morley	club
15 - 16	NEC Dive Show	Craig	
24	Committee Meeting <i>Lord Nelson 7pm</i>	Eric Nelson	
26	Sunstar AGM <i>tba</i>	Eric Nelson	
29 - 30	BSAC Diving Officer's Conference <i>To be confirmed</i>	Tracey Skirrow	

## 2004

### February

1 – 28	New Zealand - Top to bottom. With bonus Mozambique?? <i>All of New Zealand</i>		Rob Spray
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### April

10 – 13	Warmish, Easter- ish trip	Bob Crawley	club sport
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### May

20 - 29	Gozo A Go Go!	Craig Snowling	M training club sport
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### Key

C	Calypso	club	Only suitable for Club Diver upwards
B	Buzo	sport	Only suitable for Sport Diver upwards
M	Minibus	dlplus	Only suitable for Dive Leaders and upwards
training	Training event	Full	Fully booked