

September 2004

SubScript

The Sunstar Sub Aqua Newsletter

www.sunstar.org.uk



**Sunstar
Sub Aqua**

AGM time

November 25th is a key date for your diaries - the Sunstar AGM! It's that time of the year when we look back on the year past and, more importantly, the year to come. It's when *you* elect the people who will be running the club (and spending *your* money) in the year ahead. Come along and air your views, both during the meeting and in the pub afterwards.

You'll have seen the e-mail from Duncan announcing that he is standing down as Treasurer as he's done his three-year stint. May be you can help by standing as treasurer for the coming year? Maybe you fancy one of the other Committee posts? Chat to the present post holder if you want to know more of what is involved. Whilst a certain amount of succession planning goes on the Committee posts are actually filled by elections at the AGM. If you want to make your mark and contribute to your club come along and stand!

David Parkinson,
Communications Officer



Diving Officers Conference 2004

**Saturday, 4th December 2004
Institute of Education,
University of London
20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL**

This year the National Diving Officer, Clare Peddie has produced an exciting, informative programme which all keen divers and instructors will find entertaining and educational. As well as the BSAC Incidents Report and BSAC presentations and awards, Dr Peter Wilmhurst will be talking about "Fixing PFO's", Andy Hunt, Andy McLeod and Phil Smith will talk about "Going Diving" and Linda Dunk will present the Annual Photographic Award and talk about "Photography tips for all divers". John Pierre Imbert will become one of the highlights of the day as he presents "New thoughts on Decompression" and Tony Marshall will show extracts from the BSAC film archives.

<http://www.bsac.org/services/doc2004info.htm>.

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Norfolk Broads

By FrancEs Cook

We had such a great time last year on the Norfolk Broads trip we decided we would go for it again on Saturday 18th September this year. As I recall there was much hilarity when some of us got stuck and had to have a motorised boat pull us free whilst others couldn't moor up and were playing hide and seek with the branches of a tree by the water's edge. We wondered whether we could improve our handling of the sail boat this year now that we had a wee bit more experience.

The weather didn't look too promising that morning with grey skies and a stiff breeze when Dave Tonge with Howard Westlake gave us a lift to Martham Boatyard in Norfolk where we would be meeting the others. However as we got into Norfolk the weather turned sunny though there was still quite a breeze.

Three boats were hired for our group which were two down from last year. Sunstar dive club had organised a trip to the Farne Islands that same weekend so we didn't have as many members show up. Apart from John and I as full members of the dive club the rest were from the Sailing club with Dave Tonge in both camps.

Having strapped on our buoyancy jackets we proceeded to the boats where we had to prepare the sails ready for the trip. It all looked very complicated with sails and ropes everywhere and I just didn't know where to start to help with the preparation. It was complicated because it was agreed that the sails needed to be "reefed" (made smaller) because of the plentiful wind.



Preparing the boats

However our ever competent skipper, Commodore Dave showed us the ropes figuratively and literally and after some while (some people wondered whether we'd make it to

the pub before it stopped serving) the boats were on their way. From Martham we sailed to Hickling Broad via a narrow waterway with reeds on both sides. Apart from the wind in the sails there was something magical about moving on the water with no engine sound to intrude on the natural surroundings. Along the way we saw a kingfisher fly past and dragonflies flitting above the water. Occasionally we passed the odd boat and steered clear of the anglers fishing by the water's edge. Dave encouraged all 5 of his crew to do the helming and manning the sails. We soon arrived at Hickling Broad but it was just a tad too early to go to the Pleasureboat Inn so our ever enthusiastic skipper and crew sailed up and down the Broad trying to miss or mow down the windsurfers who were zipping along at a fair old rate.



Under full sail on Hickling Broad

After a while most of us got rather wet from the water breaking over the bow. It was worse for the person manning the fore sail at this point and that chap was John. The stupid thing was we all had waterproofs neatly tucked away in our bags on the boat but we didn't think we needed it when we set out. The excitement wore off once we got wet so it was a unanimous decision to head for the pub. Dave gave us instructions on mooring up and it all went very smoothly much to our pride.

The rest of the group soon joined us but one of the boats had developed a problem. A shackle that connected one of the control lines to the top boom had broken during sailing, suddenly letting the mainsail and top boom fall down. Fortunately nobody was hurt. Whilst waiting for the fault to be fixed we had drinks and lunch in the pub garden. John was so wet from the boat he left a huge wet patch on his seat when he got up. Knowing his penchant for stripping off those of you who are wondering will be disappointed (or glad) to learn he did not.



Lunch at the Pleasureboat Inn

The young chap who came to fix the problem had to be supervised as he didn't have much clue about the boat. He also brought the wrong sized fixing and the wrong tool for the job. Luckily it all got sorted out eventually and the group then prepared to leave for Horsey Mere. Getting away from the pub last year was a nightmare with the wind pushing us in all directions apart from the one we wanted. We ended up with on-lookers dishing out advice but we suspect it was mainly to keep us from hitting their boats and not at all helpful in pointing us in the right direction. This time we just sailed away from there without a hitch much to the skipper and crew's delight.

Somehow we managed to negotiate the narrow channel to Horsey Mere mooring up by the windmill/pump (National Trust property) As the highest point for miles around the view from the windmill was of flat land.. no surprise there. The weather soon turned drizzly but that did not stop some having an ice-cream nor did it deter a rather determined old codger from collecting mooring fees. He's just the person you need for organising a fund-raising event. No one escaped his attention and when John mentioned one of our crew might have paid and he was going to find out before paying him this sweet man told him he can well afford to pay twice anyway. He didn't get his beer money though as we found out later we hadn't paid twice.

The journey back to Martham Broad proved the most challenging of the trip with the wind direction not in our favour and we had to do a lot of tacking. On the very narrow waterway we were criss-crossing it to try to catch the wind in the sails narrowly missing colliding with the reeds mostly but every now and then we had to push off from the reed bank. It got to the point where we decided it would help to use paddle power and so with this combination we very slowly got to Martham. There was a bit of a race going on

between the boats and at one point we lost all wind power and were rowing when another boat came sailing by and overtook us. I guess our jaws just dropped as we wondered how they managed to sail whilst we were rowing.



Mooring at Horsey from the top of the windmill

However after a bit of tactical manoeuvring we managed to be the first back at the boatyard. Having left the boats as we found them we then made our way to the Eels Foot pub at nearby Ormsby for drinks, food and warmth. It was a really good day out and I look forward to the next time when we shall be even better prepared (wearing waterproofs for a start!)

Thanks to the organisers and the company there. I hope this will tempt those who have never sailed to come along to the next event and just have a good time with a few laughs thrown in.

Christmas Dinner

It is at the Fynn Valley Golf Club, Witnesham on the 11th December at 7pm. Price of tickets is £22 Deposits (£10) being accepted now, so get in touch with Catherine or anyone seen to be waving tickets around at the pool on a Monday evening.

Theme: film come as what you want relating to film you could be James Bond in Black tie. Why not come as King Kong or Batman (the choice is endless....)

Weybourne

7th & 8th August

By Helen Gallagher

The Weekend started early for Martin and I as we set off to North Norfolk on Friday afternoon. As the rest of the crew were living it up at the Jools Holland night, we offered to tow Buzo up. This was strange as we are used to towing a 1.5ton load and Buzo just bounces along as though not even there.

We eventually found the campsite, which seemed to be somebody's back garden (that's because it was). It suited us down to the ground, the owners were both friendly and very helpful, and there was nobody else there!

Although I have worked around the North Norfolk region, Martin and I have never really visited or explored the area before. We were quite impressed, quaint villages, nice pubs and a couple of fords to play in with the Landrover.

Saturday: (low winds, flat water and lots of Sun!)

Once in the water (bit of a struggle getting boat and kit across the shingle), we were off. As Martin and I have only recently qualified as Ocean Divers, and have not dived unaccompanied, it was decided that the morning drift dives would be, Martin and Dawn, Catherine and Michael and Rob and I. Visibility was good and there was plenty to see, mainly crustaceans. Due to the current, and probably my lack of experience, there wasn't much chance to stop and look at anything in much detail.

After lunch we were off again, this time Martin and I had our first dive as a buddy pair. Again plenty to see. I struggled a little due to getting cold after about 20mins. Although the water temperature was a very nice 20 degrees, I realised that membrane suits require an under suit all year. Unfortunately, or fortunately as the case may be, I don't have a lot of natural insulation so a good woolly bear is definitely on my list of must haves!

Following a hearty meal it was back to the farmer's garden, oops I mean the campsite, for a good night's rest.

Sunday: (Lots of sun but strengthening winds).

Again an early start but I was determined I was going to have my bacon buttie! David P and Chris B met us at the beach at 8, I was relieved to have an extra couple of chaps on hand to get the boat and kit down to the water. Girl power is all well and good but hey I know my limitations!

Dive One: The Rosalie

20 extra layers under my dry suit! Superb Visibility! Well I have to say that this is the sort of diving I could really get to like. Some may call me a wuss or a philistine. I was not at all interested in the big chunks of metal, however the things happening and living in said chunks of metal were fascinating! Lobsters of all sizes: crabs, velvet swimming, shore, and edible, bib, wrasse (huge ones, well I thought they were!), red mullet, ling, all sorts of anemones and lots more!

Martin had fun trying to pick up lobsters (his chat up lines were the problem!), but this made my mask fill up with water, as I couldn't stop laughing when each time the lobster won! Then there was the rather large edible crab who was definitely not going to be dinner. Martin was pulling his claw and he was wedging himself tighter and tighter into his hidey hole. Guess who won. Correct, the Crab! All in all I loved it!

Dive Two: The Rosalie

The wind had really picked up and the sea was now somewhat choppy. Not normally one for suffering from motion sickness this was a new experience: kitting up in Buzo in choppy water, the sun beaming down and me wearing heaven knows how many layers under my dry suit. I started to feel like a boil in the bag cod in parsley sauce (white and a little green in parts).

Once in the water I spent the descent and the first five minutes wondering "what happens if you lose your lunch at 8-10 metres?" (it wasn't covered in my training). This unsettled me somewhat and with greatly reduced visibility from the morning's dive I did not enjoy it as much.

Still lots to see and this time we bagged a lobster and a crab (Martin's prowess restored!). For those techies amongst you - I did recognise the propeller! On our ascent Martin was dealing with the DSMB so gave me the bag with the lobster and crab. As I've mentioned in the past I'm a bit of a wuss, so when they started wriggling that was it. I shot to the surface like a Polaris missile. Fortunately this was from about 3 metres following a maximum depth of 10 meters, so no harm done. I understand logic says a nip from a crab and the bends is a no brainer but Hey!

All in all, a great weekend. I will definitely go back and would strongly recommend this as an excellent training site for both beginners and those like myself who may be a little nervous or just want to improve their skills.

BSAC News

GREAT NEWS FOR DIVING IN MALTA!

New regulations governing scuba diving in Malta have been passed this year.

Scuba diving is now governed by the Malta Tourism Authority (diving was previously regulated by the Department of Health). The principal changes involve the introduction of sensible health and safety regulations designed to ensure and maintain the high standards of dive centres.

Also included in the legislation are important issues that will be of great interest to BSAC members:

* **Medical Self Declaration**

There is now no longer the requirement of divers needing a current medical certificate signed by a doctor. Divers self-declare their fitness to dive on arrival at a dive centre. If a diver declares certain conditions, a medical examination will be required (a similar process to the BSAC system).

* **Diving independently without a dive centre guide.**

The previous issuing of the Maltese Dive Permit (C- card) and associated cost, is now discontinued although you must still meet the minimum qualification level of sport diver or equivalent if you wish to be allowed to dive independently. The dive centre will also require evidence of the diver's qualification (if members would prefer not to take their qualification record book on holiday, plastic diver grade cards are available from HQ at only £10.50).

* **Nitrox and Trimix**

These gasses are now sanctioned by the authorities for recreational scuba diving and many dive centres have installed the necessary blending equipment. This is good news for the many UK mixed gas divers that flock to Malta each year.

* **Minimum age for diving**

The previous minimum age regulation of 14 no longer applies.

The minimum age for diving in Malta is now determined by the restriction on age set by the Certifying Agency. Dive centres are also obliged by law to supply suitable equipment if providing diving for children. Under 18s will still need written approval of a parent or legal guardian. This is welcome news for the BSAC recognised Schools in Malta - now able to deliver the Ocean

Diver course to 12 year olds - great for a diving family!

DIVING IN SPAIN AND THE CANARIES

Foreign visitors to Spain do not need a Spanish Dive Permit if they have a current diving qualification issued by a national federation recognised by the World Underwater Federation (CMAS) and are covered by their own national federation's third party liability insurance policy. Current and qualified BSAC members comply with both requirements. Members should take with them on their holiday to Spain evidence of BSAC qualifications, current membership and fitness to dive.

The BSAC recommend that members should always check well in advance directly with any overseas dive centre of the current legislation.

RISK ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTRE

A [new section](#) was added to the www.bsac.org website in July.

Various documents have been prepared to give guidance to members on how to perform risk assessments appropriate to their diver training and diving activities for all environments. There is a wealth of reference material available to view and download from this section.

DIVING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2004

Just a reminder that this years **Diving Officers' Conference** will be held on **Saturday 4th December** at the Institute of Education, London, WC1H 0AL.

Ticket prices and booking details will be available soon via the Website or contact Jenny or Odette on 0151 350 6259/6221.

Club Officers

Post	Holder
<i>Chairman</i>	Robert Spray
<i>Acting Diving Officer</i>	Robert Spray
<i>Training Officer</i>	Craig Snowling
<i>Assistant TO</i>	Sarah Miller
<i>Secretary</i>	Eric Nelson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Duncan Jay
<i>Expeditions Officer</i>	Dawn Watson
<i>Communications Officer</i>	David Parkinson
<i>Minibus Officer</i>	Kevin Canham
<i>Boat Officer</i>	Chris Nixon
<i>Equipment Officer</i>	Paul Unsworth
<i>Social Secretary</i>	Catherine Bacon

Farnes

by David Parkinson

Early in the year I booked Wavedancer for this trip. In the event I was a little disappointed with the number of people signed up for the trip (seven) as it made the diving a little expensive, but as this was compensated for by the cheap accommodation (£6.66/night) I decided to go ahead as planned. We stayed at the Waren caravan park near Bamburgh – the same place as last year. These caravans are at the top-end of our caravan experience with central heating, towels and bed linen being provided.



Wavedancer in the lee of the Outer Farnes

The forecast didn't look too promising but at least the winds were offshore so we headed up the A1 to Bamburgh. Sure enough we found it very windy when we arrived and almost every night we felt the caravan being buffeted by the winds which made us wonder about the next day's diving. However, on arriving at the harbour at Seahouses, we were greeted by Davey with a "no problem!". Well, not strictly true as our diving was restricted to the outer side of the outer Farne Islands.

In the event we got three days of diving (Friday through Sunday) and returned early on the Monday as nobody was venturing out of the harbour due to the forecast 70mph winds.

Friday morning was supposed to be a wall dive, but when Paul and I got down there was no sign of any wall! Anyway we had a gentle pootle around, were visited briefly by a seal, and came up where the skipper didn't expect us to. As a result I suffered for the rest of the weekend before every dive from the repetition of "Keep the wall on your right (or left) David". We dived the same spot on Saturday morning and this time Davey put in a shot to ensure I found the wall – a nice bit of Political Correctness to help the Navigationally Challenged!

As we had elected not to return to the harbour between dives (An additional £50 charge¹) we sat out the surface interval on Wavedancer before doing our second dive. Due to the weather constraints these were all in the same general area (Wamses) close to a seal colony, but there was sufficient variety to ensure each dive was different.

We were back in the harbour soon after midday, and after sorting out air fills, had the majority of the afternoon to visit the various local attractions.

Friday and Sunday evenings we ate in Bamburgh and Paul cooked us a very enjoyable meal on the Saturday.

All-in-all a very pleasant trip despite the wind and my thanks to all who came along. Especial thanks to the seals for turning up as advertised and making it an unforgettable experience for the Farnes virgins.

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.

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.

¹ Blamed on the Harbour Master restructuring his charges this year.

Unexpected wet suit experience

By Dawn Watson

We all felt sorry for Martin on the Farnes trip, shivering away in his wet suit. Several people had taken along extra suits for him, so that we could feel less guilty in our nice warm dry suits, but he was determined to tough it out. It's a man thing.

On the second day, I was diving in a three with Rob and Catherine, all trying to get some good shots with our cameras. As I jumped into the water, there was an odd 'bursting' sensation at my left wrist. I peered at my hand and could see small bubbles coming out of my glove. It didn't seem too serious, so I decided I must have a tiny hole in my suit cuff. On the sea bed I pointed it out to Rob, assured him I was fine and took his advice to keep my hand low, to prevent the air from escaping.

We set off across a field of boulders, looking for exciting wildlife. My arm began to feel quite cold, but no more air was escaping from my cuff, so I assumed a little water had got in. There was a lot to look at in amongst the rocks; squat lobsters, hermit crabs and prawns, tiny flat and scorpion fish and plenty of decorator crabs covered in sponge. Every time I took a picture, a fresh jet of water shot down my arm and my chest began to feel quite cold. I folded away my arms and stopped taking pictures. I still thought the leak was fairly small, though the bubbling sensation whenever I put more air in my suit was a bit of a worry.



Nobody had told Derek it was a formal party!

Rob kept coming over to ask if I was ok; each time I signalled back that I was, but a bit cold. I was actually feeling very cold indeed and quite keen to head for the surface. I knew that Rob

would (probably very wisely) never let me surface on my own and we were only 20 minutes into the dive. The others were clearly having a good time and I knew I'd done the same dive in a semi-dry suit and managed to stay down for over an hour, so I gritted my teeth and carried on. As the water reached my more sensitive areas, I suddenly became desperate for a wee. Trying to decide whether it would be considered reasonable behaviour by the poor soul who unzipped my suit kept me occupied for ages.

By now, the water had reached down to my knees and I was swimming with my feet above my head to keep them dry. Just as I was turning to Rob to signal that I had to go up, I saw an octopus sitting on top of a rock out in the open. I pointed excitedly at it, taking on quite a lot more water as I managed to guide Rob's attention to every possible wrong spot in the surrounding area. Just as I thought the cold was making me hallucinate, Rob and the octopus locked eyes and began some kind of calendar shoot together. I flopped over to Catherine and made signals which apparently meant 'There's a huge jellyfish over there, don't go near it!', though Rob was eventually able to tempt her over. I must work on that jellyfish/octopus signal.



The Octopus

Finally, Rob gave the signal to ascend and we began to head for the surface. All the water ran into my boots and I was able to estimate that I was carrying at least 100ml of water, safe in the knowledge that keeping my feet dry had been a complete waste of effort and a bit stupid.

The others let me get back on the boat first and I realised that I must be very tired, as it took me two attempts to climb the ladder. As I sat and waited for Rob to climb aboard, I noticed that my legs were much fatter than I remembered. The suit was full of water up to about waist level, which explained the problem with the ladder. I

couldn't seem to think straight and initially refused to take my suit off, as I didn't want to get cold. Rob eventually managed to persuade me that I would be allowed to sit in the cabin and borrow some clothes, so I reluctantly climbed out of the suit and Rob held it up by the boots. The resulting wave crossing the deck was very exciting for Davey the Skipper and I immediately became an honorary crew member.

Mike Elliot and Davey lent me lots of clothes and Rob found me a hat and made me tea with about 10 sugars in it. Everyone who came into the cabin tried to make me wear more clothes and tell them how many fingers they were holding up, 'Two' seemed to be the best answer.

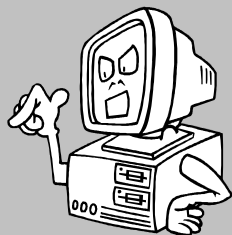
I had to miss out on the second dive of the day, but I did find out that the second mate was the all-Scotland karate champion and that all divers (except me) are a complete bunch of idiots and have no idea of how to get back on a boat. I also saw a seal jump clean out of the water to grab the top of someone's DSMB and disappear into the depths with it. Most entertaining.

By the time we got back to the harbour, my undersuit had almost dried out and I was able to patch the inch long gash in my cuff seal with our repair kit. I tried to get replacement cuffs at the air station, but the only ones they had slid easily up to my elbows, I'm not sure who they were made for!

This does show the importance of always carrying a spares and repairs kit. If we hadn't taken it, I'd have to have sat out the remaining dives, or gone in wearing Rob's semi-dry with the legs rolled up. I'd still have been warmer than Martin though!

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

Close Encounters of the Seal Kind

by Paul Unsworth



As a virgin seal diver I found the experience in the Farnes elevating even whilst descending. No sooner had we descended than a real babe of a seal with 'belle Donna' eyes joined us. I was amazed at how confident they are in coming up to divers but then considering the relative prowess in the water perhaps this is no surprise. Having swapped addresses and e-mails we moved on. A few minutes later feeling a tug on the fin to turn around and find another seal attached to my fin again confident and friendly. On this occasion it even let me scratch it under the chin and stroke it, a great experience!



What also amazed me were the numbers of starfish and the purple versions of our club logo. David and I also came across a horizontally challenged flat fish which preferred swimming up vertical cracks in the rocks and annoying squat lobsters to floundering around the bottom. Views up the rock wall with the dead men's fingers and kelp silhouetted in the sunlight and the grey shadow of seals swirling around will also stay in my memory banks until the next time.

The apres diving was also good, great lamb shanks at the Castle Hotel. I even got a little 'nixer' whilst there. (club quiz for the non Irish, what's a nixer? First one to get it right and I'll buy you a pint of Guinness) All in all a brilliant trip well done David and thanks everyone for the great company on my 21st birthday weekend.

Plymouth (aka Not the Scylla)

by David Parkinson

Craig had organised this trip. I thought it would be interesting to see the Scylla in its early days of development and there is also the James Eagen Lane nearby, another popular wreck I haven't dived. There were ten of us down for the trip, but we ended up as nine as Catherine unfortunately developed a cold and had to withdraw at the last minute. The weather forecast didn't look too good (15-20mph winds from the SW) but off we went.

On the Saturday morning we turned up as arranged at the dive shop for an 08:15 departure and the nine of us plus kit clambered on to the RIB. We set off up the sound to round the headland and head for the Scylla. As we got closer to the headland the size of seas increased and it became obvious that we weren't going to get there so there was a quick change of plan. We ended up doing a drift dive in the lee of the headland – nothing special but at least we were getting wet!

Once we were all back on the RIB we had an "interesting" ride back to the harbour. Once there the general consensus was to head back to the caravans for food and tea/coffee before returning for our 12:45 slot.

For the second dive we went round in circles – we dived the round fort behind the breakwater. Once again nothing particularly exciting but plenty to find if you went looking for it.

The forecast for Sunday didn't look good and the dive shop said they would make a decision about whether they would be going out after listening to the 6pm forecast – and to ring them then.

We had a very pleasant visit to the Aquarium in the late afternoon followed by an Italian meal in the evening. Obviously an excellent choice as a lot of the tables were already booked.

The phone call was duly made to discover that there would be no diving on the Sunday. The majority decided to make their way home on Sunday morning, but the minibus crew (David/Rob/Dawn) and Matt decided to make our way home via Swanage to see if we could manage a dive on the pier – a new experience for Matt.

Sunday morning started with a small problem – some of us had cylinders in with the dive shop for fills. They said they'd be open at 9am so these could be collected. By 09:30am they were still



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, Catherine Bacon. 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.

Catherine

closed and quite a crowd was collecting outside. A phone call confirmed that they should have opened at 9am, but they'd apparently "lost" the guy with the keys to the shop and were desperately trying to find him. They ended up opening a little before 10am.

Our splinter group duly arrived at Swanage pier in the early afternoon. Conditions looked reasonable but once we were under the pier the viz was the worst I've known it at 1m-2m. We had a pootle around, managed to spot a cuttlefish and various other critters despite the murk. My excellent navigation on our last visit was obviously a flash-in-the-pan as Matt and I ended up surfacing at the wrong end of the pier! We climbed a ladder and walked back due to my hate of long surface swims.

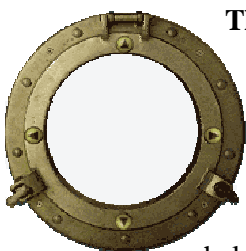
Christmas Awards

Those of you who have been with the club for more than a year will know that its the traditional season for Dawn to become threatening/wheedling whatever works for the annual Sunstar awards.

Old hands can skip the next paragraph but new members should read on....

Each year at the Christmas meal, we give out some awards to people who have been particularly great during the year. These consist of 'The Golden Porthole' for the person who contributed most to the club, 'The Steve Jensen Trophy' for the person who arranged the best trip and 'The Rubbish Ashtray', - the title of the award being 'best newcomer'. It is a "charmingly" engraved dish with BSAC logos etc. It really is worth winning! . In addition, there are a selection of 'turkey awards' for people who have been notably stupid/unlucky/amusing in some other way.

I will send out the shortlist for all the serious awards on Monday night and you will have until my return on the 12th of November to vote. Consequences are dire for those who do not. What Dawn needs now are nominations for:



The Golden Porthole. No need to vote at this point, I just want to draw up a shortlist. Cast your mind back over the year and send me the names of anyone that you think was particularly helpful/hardworking/selfless

within the club. It doesn't have to be a committee member or instructor, any member is eligible. I

need to have these names by next Monday (I may not be at the pool) as we are off on holiday on Tuesday morning.

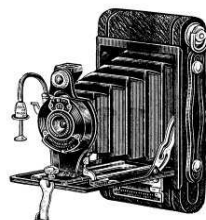


Turkey Awards. Can I also have some turkey nominations? A short description of what happened and a suggestion for an apt award please. A good example from a previous year is Craig getting some mittens on a string because he lost

everything that wasn't physically attached (and some that were) to him. It's an opportunity to laugh at ourselves, grass someone up and to remember that, as divers, we learn because we make mistakes, not in spite of them!

Any questions?

Photography



No doubt there will be the usual photography competition this year – or at least an opportunity to show off your best pictures – so start reviewing your year's efforts to find some suitable

candidates.

The last photo night arranged by Rob was very popular and a lot of people found it very useful. It turned into a fairly technical chat and he thinks that now would be a good time to have a show and tell night to see some of the results.

Please let Rob know if you've got anything you'd like to show off! Whether you have a collection to be proud of or would like some advice on some you wish were better I'm sure we can have an entertaining evening.

He's thinking that perhaps December or January would be a good time to try so let him know if you are interested!

Sunstar Diary 2004

October

2	HMS Scylla and National Aquarium <i>Plymouth</i>	Dawn Watson	M C club D
10	Go carting <i>East Anglia</i>	Catherine Bacon	M
12	Committee Meeting <i>Lord Nelson Pub 7:00 p.m.</i>	Eric Nelson	
22 ^{Oct} - 6 ^{Nov}	Sipadan and Sulawesi <i>Malaysia and Indonesia</i>	Rob Spray	ocean sport D
25	Committee Meeting <i>Lord Nelson Pub 7:00 p.m.</i>	Eric Nelson	
30 - 31	Dive Show, NEC Birmingham	David Parkinson	

November

1	Sport Diver Lecture <i>Fore Street</i>	Craig Snowling	training sport
8	Sports Diver Lecture <i>Fore Street</i>	Craig Snowling	training sport
8	Committee Meeting <i>Lord Nelson Pub 7:00 p.m.</i>	Eric Nelson	training sport
15	Sports Diver Lecture <i>Fore Street</i>	Craig Snowling	training sport
22	Sport Diver Lecture <i>Fore Street</i>	Craig Snowling	training sport
25	AGM <i>BT Adastral Park - Crucible Theatre</i>	Eric Nelson	
29	Sports Diver Lecture <i>Fore Street</i>	Craig Snowling	training sport

December

10-16	Red Sea Liveboard- <i>Northern Itinerary</i>	Pete Young	
11	Xmas meal <i>Finn Valley Golf Club</i>	Catherine Bacon	M

2005

April

28 ^{Apr} - 1 ^{May}	Get Wet in Sussex! <i>Littlehampton</i>	Rob Spray	M C training ocean sport D
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May

26 ^{May} - 3 ^{Jun}	Wake me up before you Gozo	Rob Spray	training OD SD
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June

24 - 30	Wet 'n' wild in Wales <i>Most of Wales</i>	Rob Spray	M C ocean sport D
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July

16 - 17	Weybourne - diving off the beach <i>North Norfolk</i>	Rob Spray	M B training ocean sport D
30 - 31	Weybourne - more sun and fun <i>North Norfolk</i>	Rob Spray	M B training ocean sport D

August

6 - 7	Umpire Weekend - off shore Norfolk <i>North Norfolk</i>	Rob Spray	C training ocean sport D
20 - 26	Irish Stew! <i>County Kerry</i>	Rob Spray	ocean sport D

Key

C	Calypso	ocean	Only suitable for Ocean 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