

# SUBSCRIPT

The newsletter of the BT Research Sub Aqua Club, September 1996 issue

## **Steve Jensen - my good friend and buddy** Dave Tonge

I first met Steve in 1990, when I was still something of a novice. Steve was then a Sports Diver, and had been diving for a number of years. I liked Steve on our first meeting: what mostly impressed me was his patient and helpful approach, especially with divers less experienced than himself.

In the ensuing months, we became good friends, and decided to advance our skills together with the longer term aim of becoming Dive Leaders. It wasn't long before we were beginning to plan expeditions to Stoney Cove, the Farne Islands, and later, the Red Sea. We had become dive 'buddies'.

My affection for Steve grew as we got to know each other better. Steve was always cheerful and positive, and could always see a bright side to an otherwise dark situation. On one occasion, on surfacing from a dive in the Farne Islands, so cold as to barely be able to speak coherently, Steve commented with a mischievous smile 'Well, that decides it, my next Christmas present is definitely going to be a dry suit!'.

Steve was great fun to holiday with, and he always brought along a collection of games to play. These often resulted in riotous sessions in the pub after the day's diving. He first introduced me to 'Pass the Pig' on the plane on the way to Egypt on our first Red Sea holiday. This became a firm favourite in the hotel bar each afternoon (though I never could understand how Steve always seemed to reach 100 before I did!).

On another holiday to the Farne Islands, Steve produced 'Jenga' where you have to build a tower of wooden blocks - the last to touch the tower before it falls over, often with a tremendous CRASH, is out of the game. This caused great hilarity in the pub, and quite rightly reinforced the locals\* view that everyone from south of Yorkshire must be complete idiots!

As our friendship grew, Steve and Joy became more frequent visitors to our home, and they also got to know Maggie, Holly and Hannah. Steve had a natural way with the children, and as Holly loved playing games as well, they too became pals, and had several enjoyable sessions of Jenga and Connect-4 together.

Steve and I had some tremendous times diving together. On one occasion in the Red Sea, Steve was the first of us to spot a reef shark in the Straits of Tiran. I was swimming along admiring the clouds of Jacks and Barracuda patrolling the upper reef, when I felt a sudden tug on one of my fins. Turning around, I saw Steve excitedly pointing downwards. Sure enough, there 10 metres below was the metallic glisten and streamlined outline of a shark swimming directly underneath us. This was the one and only shark we saw on the holiday, and I would have missed it without Steve's keen eye.

Later, on the same holiday, we were privileged to be able to swim with turtles and a Manta Ray. Steve also spotted an ENORMOUS Moray Eel in

a hole in the reef. On this occasion, he seemed happy to delegate the task of making an introduction to me! We very much cherished these experiences, and often spoke about them.

Whilst holidaying in the Farne Islands, we had the tremendous experience of diving together with seals. Often these don't bother with divers, but every now and again they decide to play. On this occasion they were decidedly playful! They would sneak up behind us and pull gently on our fins. When we reached the bottom, we sat transfixed whilst they cavorted and entertained us with a programme of underwater aquabatics which would make an airbound Olympic gymnast look clumsy! In one truly memorable moment, one swam right up to us, and looked, puppy like, right into our masks, as if to say 'Come on, surely you can chase me around a bit faster than that!' We spent the whole of that dive with the seals, who continued to play hide-and-seek amongst the kelp with us, right up to the time when we surfaced and swam back to the boat.

As well as being great fun to dive with, Steve was also a very careful, thorough and professional diver. On more than one occasion under water, when we were really enjoying the dive, I would bid for more time down than we had originally planned. Steve would wag his finger at me in mild admonishment, and point to his watch to remind me of our agreement. Of course he was right - though it didn't dissuade me from trying to negotiate a suitable compromise!

He would never skimp on a buddy check before diving. Again, I can remember a time in the Red Sea when I tried to hurry things along on the basis that 'Nothing has changed since this morning's dive.' Steve quietly insisted 'Come on, sir, lets do this properly shall we?'. Much to my chagrin, I found I had forgotten to don my weight belt! Needless to say, I learned an important lesson from Steve that day.

As we developed our diving skills, we both became more involved with training and leading others, and so, inevitably, spent less time actually diving together. Despite this, we continued to be

diving 'soul-mates' and always regarded each other as dive buddies. We continued to take safety and rescue aspects of diving extremely seriously, and spent many days together in inland sites trying to perfect our rescue skills. Even on the Devon holiday, we would, when completing a dive together, practice a rescue ascent, rather than just making a normal ascent back to the surface. We were both quietly confident that, if needed, we would be able to help each other (or any other buddy) out of almost any diving predicament. It is a cruel twist of fate, that the circumstances of his loss whilst diving provided neither myself, nor any of his diving buddies that day, with the opportunity to assist him, or put such well rehearsed drills into practice.

I will miss very greatly, a much loved friend and buddy.

..Dave

*Dave is planning an annual award, called the Steve Jensen Trophy, to be presented at the Christmas meal each year.*

*If anyone has any photos of Steve, please let Dave Tonge know as he is compiling a collections of Steve enjoying himself to pass on to Joy and Steve's mum. Two copies of any photo are needed, together with details of when/where taken.*

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*Information as of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1996:*

On the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> September the body of a diver was found at sea off Start Point, Devon. Although the identity has not yet been formally announced by the authorities, divers from our club have identified the equipment and there is no doubt that this is Steve Jensen.

There will be a funeral service on 30<sup>th</sup> September at 12:45 in Hull

If you are unable to get to Hull on that day, there is another opportunity to pay your last respects. In recognition of the large number of friends that Steve had in the Ipswich area, there is to be a memorial service to be held on 12 October at 2:30 p.m.. This is to be held in St. Augustines Church, Ipswich. If you intend to be at this, please tell Dave Tonge by 30 September (by email or fax to 01473 649127)

01473 322278 work  
713065 home

### ALTON WATER PLATFORM

email from JimWilliamson

Just a note to keep you all posted.

Roy Lobbett and I undertook a mapping exercise on Saturday morning to orientate the tubes in relation to each other. For those with MSMAIL I attach a Power Point file with two drawings on showing this.

Its still hoped to commence the next stage of construction early in September, but I will keep you all posted.

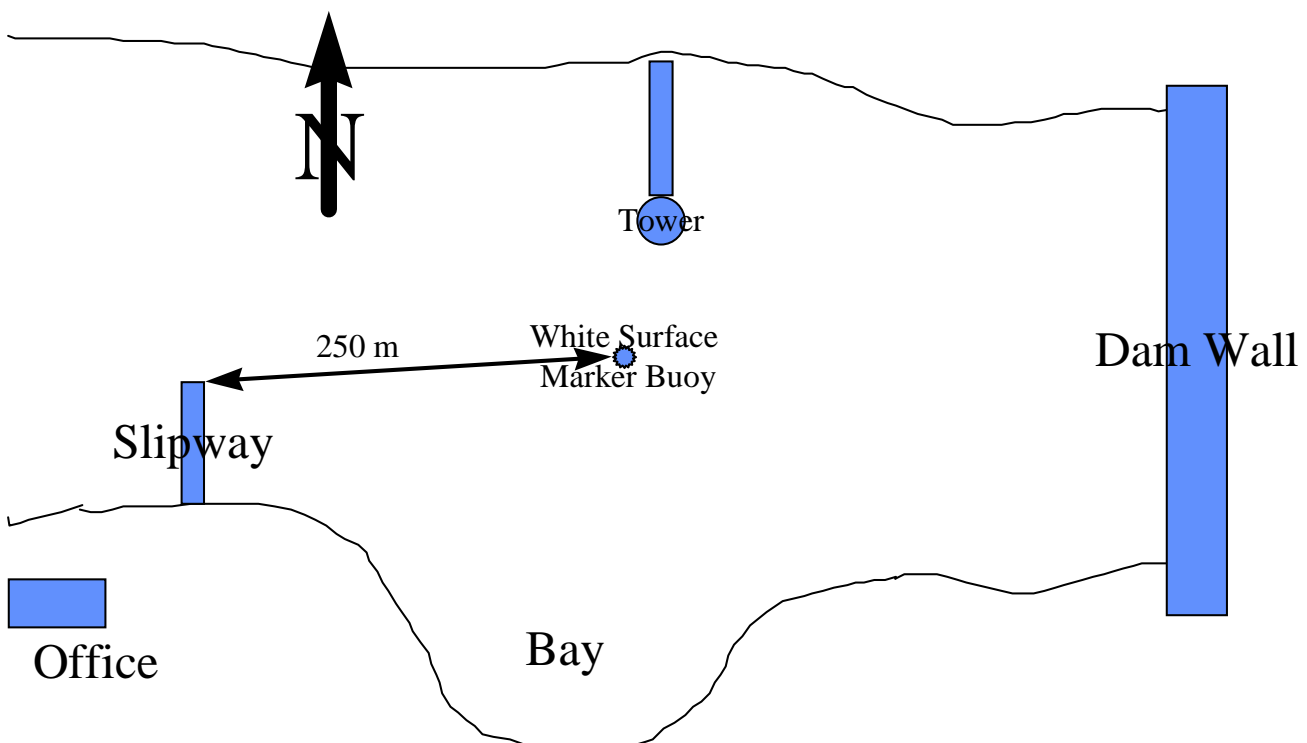
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### WANTED!!

Cheap 15 ltr bottle or steel 12 ltr

Richard Lee

## Alton Water Diving Platform Location





## BOOK REVIEW

### 'Outboard Troubleshooter'

This is a small volume, 93 pages, but a worthwhile read for every user of outboard engines. How many times have you known an outboard cough or splutter or not start immediately? Would you know how to go through basic faultfinding procedures to rectify a problem and get home safely? This book attempts to explain the workings of an outboard and gives 20 common problems, how to diagnose and how to fix them.

The chapters are split into useful areas such as choosing an outboard, attaching it to the boat, which propeller to choose and buying second-hand. Each chapter is easily readable and full of useful information. It also shows some horrific photographs of the inside of a gearbox after somebody has been over-energetic with the gear change lever. It also covers areas that are not often considered in books on this subject such as sacrificial anodes and steering controls.

The book would make a useful addition to any boathandlers bookshelf and would make interesting reading over the winter. It would be useful to take some of the problems and solutions, copy them onto a waterproof medium and put them in the boat emergency kit.

Outboard Troubleshooter is written by Peter White and is published by Fernhurst Books. It costs £11.95 and its ISBN is 1-898660-23-9.

Dave Lock

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO SARA ELLIOTT  
AND JOHN KENNELL  
WHO RECENTLY  
MARRIED**

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## -Wanted: Alton Towers mystery tour report

Does any one remember an underwater sight-seeing tour of Alton Water reported in Subscript many moons ago(2 years)? Anyone keep old copies of Subscript?

Richard Lee 01473 713065 hm 322278 wk  
& ansaphone

## THE BSAC OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Dave Tonge

Earlier this year, I attended a BSAC Open Water Instructor Course. This was held at Holbrook school, with practical sessions at nearby Alton Water. The aims of the course are to help existing Club Instructors develop their skills for teaching in open water.

Of course, many of the basic skills will already have been covered in the pool. There are, however, important differences in moving to open water. For many trainees, this will be the first time they have used full open-water kit, and the whole experience will feel very different from that in a heated pool. A full suit often feels restrictive when donned for the first time. A heavy weight belt will be needed to compensate for suit buoyancy. Gloves may be needed if the water is cold, making it more difficult to deal with buoyancy controls. Visibility may be poorer, causing additional apprehension. Open water fins will be needed, and these often feel much more cumbersome than slipper (pool) fins. I can remember the first time I used open water fins - it felt as if someone had strapped 2 enormous pieces of plywood to my feet! Entry to and exit from the water may be rather different to that of a swimming pool.

In addition to these differences, there are, of course, some skills and experiences which can only really be gained in open water. This will be the first opportunity for most students (unless they have taken advantage of the Colchester or Broomhill sessions) to really practise ear and mask clearing (or experience squeeze if unsuccessful!). More realistic practise of rescue skills is again only practical in (progressively) deeper water. First hand practise of underwater navigation, descending and ascending shot lines, or the use of a

surface marker buoy (SMB) are again only possible in open water.

It can be seen, therefore, that some considerable thought must be given by instructors to how they migrate their skills from the pool to the open water environment. How does the course help you to tackle this?

The main emphasis (after first reviewing the above differences) is on planning and preparation. As in pool training, the aim should always be to break down the skills into basic components, and then teach these in a progressive manner. Later, individual skills can be combined into more demanding exercises (eg shared-air ascents, or mid-water navigation exercises). Each lesson should be carefully planned to include the following components:

1. PLAN - preferably before leaving home!
2. BRIEF - outlining the objectives of the lesson, and based on the well known SEEDS acronym (Safety, Exercise, Equipment, Discipline and Signals)
3. KIT UP and BUDDY CHECK - again using suitable aide memoire such as BAR, for Buoyancy, Air and Releases

#### OPEN WATER LESSON PLANNING SHEET

##### BRIEF

- Safety .....
- Exercise (what/why) .....
- Equipment .....
- Discipline .....
- Signals .....

DEPTH .....

ENTRY .....

##### PROGRESSION

DRY RUN                      IN WATER

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

4. ENTRY to water, maintaining class control
5. LESSON - taught progressively, with steps repeated or reinforced as necessary
6. EXIT from water, again maintaining class control
7. DEBRIEF - with emphasis on positive reinforcement. SEEDS can again be used to help review all aspects of the dive.

To assist with lesson planning, a sheet was handed out during the course. I found this particularly useful, in that it encouraged you to break down each skill progressively, and think carefully about what should be covered BEFORE going into the water. Practising compass navigation, or examining how an SMB reel operates, are obvious examples of things best covered on dry land first! A copy of the lesson planning sheet is appended, together with my own derivation of the list of basic skills that I am using to help me progress novices towards Sports Diver.

I can thoroughly recommend the course for Club Instructors who wish to improve their open water teaching skills.

Information on the forthcoming programme of courses can be obtained from Debbie Polden at BSAC HQ on 0151 357 1951.

4. ....
5. ....
6. ....

EXIT

.....

DEBRIEF .....

WHAT NEXT? .....

CHECK LIST FOR OPEN WATER SPORTS DIVER TRAINING

1. Revision - use of tables to plan dives/contingency arrangements
2. Revision - buddy monitoring, signals
3. Equipment care review
4. Familiarisation with full open water diving kit
5. Entry and Exit variations
6. Use of instruments, esp air, depth & time monitoring
7. Recording time in, time out, max depth, to report to Dive Marshal
8. Descending and ascending over a sea/lake bed
9. Use of shot line to assist ascent/descent
10. Flood/remove/clear mask
11. Remove/purge DV
12. Controlled Buoyant Lift (CBL)(from 6m, 10m)
13. AV on surface (static)
14. Towing a casualty/combining with in-water AV
15. Landing casualty/AV on land
16. Surface and underwater navigation
17. Use of Surface Marker Buoy (SMB)
18. Use of Alternate Air Source (AAS) for self
19. Use of AAS to share air
20. Assisted Ascents (ie CBL + sharing AAS, from 3m, 6m, 10m to 6m)
21. Static air-sharing from a single DV

Who's who .....



..... an occasional series for the benefit of newer members featuring important people.

Guess who is this well loved personage? As a guide, here are the results of a recent caption competition. The names have been removed to protect the guilty.

- "You bought a what! They arec\*\*p"
- "I'll just hang about until you lot get in the water"
- "There was so much prating about, I just had to do it myself!"
- "Don't talk to me. I'm in a good mood."
- "If I can't eat it or drink it, I don't want to know."
- "Two pints and be quick about it!"
- "I tend to use more beer per dive than air."
- "I'll sign anything if you buy me enough beers."
- "This club .... it couldn't find a wreck if it was parked in the Lord Nelson!"

# **BTRSAC AGM - 6th Nov 1996**

The AGM is your opportunity to find out more about the activities of the club during 1996 and to voice your opinions regarding matters that will affect next year's activities including the club's fees for 1997.

The following information is available on the club WWW page or from the secretary (details of these are on the contact list):

- Job Descriptions for committee members
- the current version of the BTRSAC Club Rules
- minutes of 1995 AGM

Further information will be distributed in October. The information below is to give you advance notice etc and take advantage of this issue of SubScript to get this information to you. If you want clarification of any aspect of the AGM please contact me.

Andy Collicott  
11 Sept 1996

The details of the AGM are as follows.

Date & Time: 6th Nov, 7pm (prompt)  
Venue: Small Lecture Theatre, BT Labs, Martlesham Heath.

Motions - ALL motions MUST be submitted to the secretary before 30th Oct. Proposers and seconders are required for all submitted motions and at the AGM.

Motions may be submitted on paper or by email. A pro-forma is included below.

Nominations for Committee posts - these should be made using the process for motions described above. (Deadline is 30th Oct.)

Agenda - the draft agenda is included below. Any requests for changes or additional items should be sent to me asap (no later than 30th Oct.).

Security - Anyone not holding a BT Labs pass card will have to arrange for entry. All relevant people should contact the secretary before 1st Nov.

-----form for motion-----

Motion for 1996 BTRSAC AGM

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Motion:

Proposer:

Secunder:

Date:

Note - ALL motions MUST be submitted to the club secretary before 30th Oct. 1996.  
Motions should be sent to: A Collicott, SSTF 304, BT Labs, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 7RE or emailed  
to: collicad@BTLIP03.bt.co.uk

# draft AGENDA

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Date: 6th Nov 1996  
Time: 7pm (prompt)  
Venue: Small Lecture Theatre, BT Labs, Martlesham Heath.

1. Count members present to check we have a quorum.
2. Apologies for absence (Andrew Collicott).
3. Approve minutes of previous AGM (8th Nov 1995).
4. Actions and other matters arising from previous AGM (8th Nov 1995).

5. Committee Members' reports

Pete Young	Diving Officer
Mick Morley	Training Officer
Andrew Collicott	Secretary
Daren Wood	Treasurer
Andy Saunders	Equipment Officer
Suzanne Sheppard	Newsletter Editor
Frances Cook	Social Secretary
Raj Mistry	New Members Rep
Ken Gould	Boat Officer
Howard Westlake	Chairman

6. Election of new Committee (Howard Westlake).
7. Proposal - that the Club membership fee for 1997 is £??TBD?? (Daren Wood)
8. Proposal - that the club Boat fee for 1997 is £??TBD?? (Ken Gould/Daren Wood)
9. To formally adopt new issue of Club Rules (Andrew Collicott).
10. Other Motions (Andrew Collicott).
11. AOB.
  - iii) Suggested date for 1997 AGM - 12th Nov (A Collicott)

----- E N D -----

## SDC'S 1996/7

Dave Lock

I am in the process of planning Club Skill Development Courses for the next year. In the pipeline are Equipment Maintenance and Outboard and Boat Maintenance, I have names for these and will be finalising dates shortly. I am keen to get a Basic Lifesaver course planned but have been disappointed by the response from club members. This consists of 4-5 weeks pool work followed by a short exam so it is cheap! Also I intend to set a diver/cox exam so those who are interested get the boats out and practice. There are some Regional Courses planned for the end of this year, they are:

Practical Rescue Management	November 16	Guildenburgh
O2 Administration	November 17	Guildenburgh
Boathandling	November 2/3	Felixstowe?
Diver/Cox	November 2/3	Felixstowe?
Chartwork and Position Fixing	October 26/27	Felixstowe?

I need feedback to plan the club courses so if you have a need for a particular SDC or you want any information on those already planned please contact me.

Dave Lock

## DIARY DATES

### Subscript deadline

15 November 1996.

Early submission of articles appreciated.  
Editor reserves the right to correct spelling mistakes.

### Events, courses and holidays

Date	Event	Contact
30 September 1996	Novice training starts	
5 October	Barn Dance 6:30 til late	Frances Cook
6 November 1996	AGM 7.00, Small Lecture Theatre, BT Labs	Andrew Collicott
7 December 1996	Christmas meal 7:30 for 8:00	Frances Cook
August 1997	Skelligs holiday	John cook

### Committee Meetings

14 October 1996, 7:00, Malt Kiln

Newsletter produced by Suzanne Sheppard.