

SUBSCRIPT

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

DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS MEAL ON 7 DECEMBER!!



Simon Keating and friend

LOBBY LOBBED BACK!

Simon Keating

Here is a picture I scanned in from one of the dives I did with the club this year off Eastborne. It's the largest one (lobster - Ed) I've caught so far. I was diving with Pete Young at the time and he refused to allow it anywhere near his bag (what a chicken eh?). I strained my wrist holding it for 1/4 of an hour while we decompressed.

We put him back after the photo cause it would be a shame to kill something so old. It would be really tough to eat besides the problem of finding a pot to cook it in.

POOL CLOSED (for a few weeks)

Daren Wood

Fore Street Pool will be CLOSED for essential maintenance and re-decoration from 16 December to 26 December 1996, reopening on Friday 27 December.

However, we have not booked a session for the following Monday 30 December 1996 as it is expected that most members will be away for the festive season.

The last pool session for this year will therefore be Monday 9 December 1996. The first pool session of the new year will be Monday 6 January 1997.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Orkney Islands (the HOT holiday! - Ed)
- Diary dates
- Complete Minutes of the AGM!
- And other bits as well...
- Octopus
- SDC list for next year

Editor's bit

Phil Sheppard



[Sorry no SCUBA kit!]

Having been manoeuvred into taking on the task of Subscript editor by the previous editor (aka my wife) I am now faced with having to do some work on it! Firstly, thank you to Suzanne and all those who have contributed to Subscript this past year. There have been some excellent articles which have

been well worth the time taken to read them.

I would like to take this opportunity to get reader feedback on Subscript and ask for any suggestions for improvements. Above all Subscript depends on articles written by you the members of the BTRSAC - please contribute! I would particularly like to encourage more recent joiners and non-committee members to put in articles (e.g. diving holiday experiences, impressions of training courses, interesting facts/figures/anecdotes or whatever).

Finally, we are going to try a different means of distribution this time;

- electronic copies will be held on the BTRSAC WWW pages and notification of publication will be sent by email,
- paper copies for those who haven't got access to the WWW or who otherwise want to receive it on paper. (note WWW = World Wide Web, i.e. the Internet, you will need a web Browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer)

The change is being made because email distribution can be unreliable and I am not sure that so many people are reading it when received electronically (although I know some prefer this). Several people claim not to have received the last issue (September) so I will put it on the WWW as well (the article about Steve Jenson by Dave Tonge was very moving - do read it if you haven't already).

Anyway enough of my words and thanks in anticipation of your next contribution.

Want to do a VHF course?

Sudbury Scuba are holding a VHF course/exam in February. They have 3 or 4 spaces for this 1 day event, cost c.50 pounds including lunch. If we need more than 3-4 spaces I will consider running a course/exam for our club only, cost will be the same. **Dave Lock (Tel. 605622)**

WWW - have a browse!

Don't forget our World Wide Web pages are at the following URL:

<http://archimedes.bt-sys.bt.co.uk:8080/httpd/docs/BTRSAC/>

These pages are maintained by Tim Stevens and contain a host of useful information about the club and diving in general. But **don't worry** if your not "on the Internet" (perhaps you have better things to do with your time anyway) because Subscript will be supplied in good old paper format for you. I am also planning to serialise some of the information for future issues of Subscript. - Ed.

OCTOPUSH

Paul Skirrow



Anybody joining the club recently might have been intrigued by the strange splashing and thrashing that often takes place before the pool training. Although it might look scary it is actually the thoroughly enjoyable game of Octopush and not as bad as it looks...

Unfortunately you can't really see much from the surface so it isn't really a spectator sport. The game is played with two teams of ideally six people, although we play with anything from two to eight players per side. Each team starts at their own end and on the shout of Go swims towards the small metal puck (or squid) which starts in the centre of the pool. Each team has to push the puck to their opponents goal which we define as being between the two centre black lines at each end. The puck is pushed with a wooden bat which can also be used to flick it to a team mate if you are about to be tackled or if you run short of breath.

Octopush is very exhilarating and once you've played it a couple of time you'll want to play every week. New players are always welcome and we'll make sure you know the rules, and the basics before you start, and then we'll give you a gentle introduction. If you would like to try just turn up at 8.20pm on a Monday evening and we'll show you what it's all about.

We haven't been playing much Octopush recently because we have been short of players, protective hats and bats, and I'm pleased to report that we've now solved the latter two problems.

I now have hats and bats for sale and I'm keen for regular players to buy their own. I also intend to keep a few spares for anybody who would like to play on an occasional basis. The hats are £9 each and the bats are £8 each and will be available on Monday evenings.

TRAINING CORNER

John Cook



After a hard fought campaign and an exciting and closely contested election battle at a tense Club AGM it seems I've just managed to become the new Club training officer. Well it might not have been *quite* like that but the outcome was the same. Suffice it to say that there are few enough members that can contradict my

account from first hand experience!

After the Club's training has spent three years in Mick's safe hands I have quite a hard act to follow. Mick has diligently guided the Club's training programme through a tumultuous period of upheaval in the Club's history whilst at the same time organising many other diving activities. I am sure you'll agree that he has more than earned a period of respite from service on the Club's committee. Knowing Mick's enthusiasm I'm sure though that he will continue to contribute much to the Club's activities, and I hope at least he will be able to help me occasionally while I find my feet. Fortunately Mick has left me in a very strong position as far as the organising of training in the Club is concerned. We have a well structured training programme both for Novice and Sports diver training and plenty of well trained and up-to-date instructors to carry it out.

Although with luck the Club's immediate future will not be as demanding as have the last three years' nevertheless there are still challenges ahead. Despite a massive effort by many members put into try-dives in the past months we haven't been able to attract as many novice members as we have in years gone by. The reasons for this are much debated but not clearly understood. What is clear is that the long term impact

on the Club could be serious and needs to be thought through, and fixed if possible.

To help me with this and other problems over the coming months Raj Mistry has agreed to act as my assistant for which I am very grateful. Our first task is to organise one last try-dive for the year, on the 25th of November, in an attempt to gather a few more novices for the spring session. This will be quite an effort with many members still out of action for lack of gear after the minibus fire. As I write this the try-dive hasn't happened yet but as you read this it's probably already history. I hope it will have gone well and I'm sure many of you will have helped us. I also hope I can continue to rely on your help in the future.

Club rules changed

Following agreement at the AGM the club rules have been changed. Amongst the changes is the addition of day membership for visitors. The revised set of rules are available from the club WWW page or from Andrew Collicot (club secretary).

CHRISTMAS MEAL

Don't forget!

Date: 7 December 1996

Time: 7.30 for 8.00

Location: Marlborough Hotel, Henley Rd, Ipswich

A Holiday in the Orkney Islands

OR How to Replace Your Tired Old Diving Kit in One Easy Step

Raj Mistry

The job of writing up the events of a holiday is a welcome task so I volunteered to record the details of the club's trip to Scapa Flow this year. Funnily enough I was only going on this trip because another person dropped out. The thought of diving amongst First World War wrecks of the German Navy was too attractive to miss.

The Trip up to Scotland

We left from BT Laboratories on Friday 13th September. An auspicious date you might think. I couldn't possibly comment. Pete turned up with the minibus just after I had arrived. The remaining travellers arrived in ones and two over the next half hour. We loaded the minibus with the diving gear on the roof rack. The mini bus complement was Pete Young, Dave Lock, John Cook, Frances Cook, Jonathan Legh-Smith, Paul Brannan, Ken Gould, Ian Gould and myself. It was a calm sunny day. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect start to the holiday.

Some 35 to 40 miles into our journey we had our first event of this memorable trip. There a loud flapping noise coming from the top of the minibus. A stop in layby soon revealed that the tarpaulin we had used to cover the diving gear had ripped all the way from front to rear. A quick re-shuffle and retying of the gear and we were on our way again.

A Night in Glasgow

We arrived in Glasgow for an over night stop at about 7.00 PM. We were picking up Donald and Jamie (of the Scottish Sub Aqua Club) here and they had offered the floor of their flat for a kip. Little did we know but these two would provide us with all the entertainment during the week. More about them later. Having introduced ourselves and unloaded the gear, the majority decision was to find somewhere to eat. Surprise, surprise we decided to go for an Indian. Donald gave us directions, twice. "Out of the flat, turn right, down the hill and turn right again. Follow the road until you come to a fork and bingo there is the restaurant and just round the

corner is a good pub". Maybe we were all tired or it was because Ken had presented the confident 'I know where I'm going' look, that we followed him. After all he had looked at the Glasgow A to Z. Any way he insisted on turning left at the bottom of the hill which took us completely in the opposite direction! After a short while Ken lost that confident look and rushed back to the flat to check. He returned after a while to confirm that we had gone the wrong way. This must surely qualify him for an award. "Navigator of the year" perhaps?

A few pints and a meal later we eventually returned to Donald's flat at 11.30PM to settle down for some Zed's. Ken woke us up at 6.45 AM the next morning as he ran for the loo. The thing about curry is that there is usually a reaction the next morning. A 'Botty Burp' from Dave confirmed that it was time to get up. As the others were getting up our host told us about the famous eel and diver incident which was re-enacted on BBC's 999 programme. Apparently this was in a nearby lake and the eel was well known by the local divers. Not to be out done by this story Ken promptly proceeded to the loo and left his own eel behind. It required a great deal of breath holding to use the loo after that I can tell you.

After breakfast we reloaded the minibus in preparation for our onward journey. During all this activity we noticed that Jonathan was frantically searching for something. He thought he had left his DV and computer behind. We all started searching too. After ten minutes Ken popped his head over from the top and said "Oh that stuff, I put it up here so that it wouldn't get lost". Jonathan breathed a sigh of relief as his heart rate came back down to normal. We eventually set off again with pungent aromas emanating from certain members of the group.

Steve Webb joined us in Inverness as he had managed to get his company to pay for a return flight. After a short break in Inverness we continued our journey to Thurso. Upon arrival at the ferry there was an almighty shout "F*?k!" from the front. Our DO had calmly taken out the cigarette lighter (after pressing it in) and stuck his thumb on the end "to see if it was hot". Well it was. A few seconds later he was walking around with a bottle of pop on the end of his singed thumb muttering obscenities. Another one for an award don't you think?

All this and we hadn't even touched any water yet.

The ferry journey was quite pleasant due to an unusually calm sea. About three hours later we arrived in Stromness which was to be our main base for the

remainder of the week. We found our boat “The Karin” and stashed our gear on board. The Captain was not about but it looked like the boat in the description we had been given and it had the right name. After all the hard work of unloading the minibus we wondered of to the local pub where we drank too much before getting off to bed.

First Days Diving

I awoke early the next morning with a slight headache. We assembled in the galley after breakfast to discuss our first dive. Most of the others looked a little rough too but were happy to start diving. I decided to sit this one out just to be on the safe side. The first dive was on the wreck of the Köln at 35m.

And so we come to our two Scottish companions. Prior to the dive Jamie asked Donald to trim the neck seal of his new dry suit. Donald looked in his tool box and found a Stanley knife. This would do just as well as scissors surely. A fine incision was made in the neck seal. Unfortunately the incision carried on all the way to the suit. Poor old Jamie would not be diving in this suit today. As luck would have it the skipper was the same size as Jamie and offered his dry suit.

The second dive of the day was on the wreck of the gun boat F2 at 16m. I had recovered by this time and felt more enthusiastic about going into the water. Dave was my buddy. A very pleasant dive with quite a bit of sea life in and around the wreck. All in all a very sedate start to my weeks diving.

The rest of the week

On Monday we dived the “Dresden” at 36m in the morning and the “Karlsruhe” at 24m in the afternoon. The Dresden was a light cruiser which was scuttled in 1919. A very large ship when you get to see her. This was also my first Nitrox dive.

Pete was my buddy for both dives. Another good days diving. Only the attempts of the soup I had for lunch trying to come back up slightly marred the second dive

In the evening we stopped in Burray. A small village which consisted of a pub, a post office and a few houses. Little did we know that this was the centre for sporting activity. We had finished eating and had decided to try a game of darts. I introduced Ken and Ian to a game called “Killer”. A little while later the local women’s darts team arrived having just been defeated by the darts team in the next village. We were invited to have a game which we accepted. Needless to say some of the ladies were on the large side which brought forth

some humorous comments from Pete Young. Ken said “They’re only jealous because we managed to pull some local talent”. Pete’s reply was “I don’t know, you’d need a landrover to pull some of them”. We all fell about laughing.

On Tuesday we dived the “James Barrie” at 42m and the “Rodean” at 16m. The “James Barrie” was a fantastic dive. This must be one of the most clearly visible wrecks I have experienced. Visibility was at least 10m-15m. The enormous wheelhouse was almost cathedral like in size. I felt a bit “elated” at this depth. Probably from the excitement or was I a little marked? My buddy on these dives was Dave Lock. After venturing into various nooks and crannies we surfaced to find Dave’s cylinder covered in tar. He didn’t notice this until after he had helped a few people out of the water and had covered them with some of the tar. Some frantic cleaning with detergent was necessary to remove the offending substance.

Meanwhile somewhere on deck Donald was having a second attempt at sticking on a new neck seal on to Jamie’s dry suit.

The second dive was very different. Most of the wreck was broken up and scattered on the sea bed. The boiler room was the most intact bit of the remains.

Wednesday saw us on the “Brummer” at 34m and a return to the “F2” at 16m. I was with Pete again. The Brummer was fairly intact and covered in brittle stars (a kind of star fish). Her gun was quite visible near the shot line. Jamie was trying out the new neck seal which seemed to be more water tight. At least this was the case on the boat. It was a different story in the water. On his return from the first dive he was completely soaked.

The second dive was a bit crowded as there were two other boats with divers also intent on joining us. We swam around for a bit and then headed off to a barge nearby. A swim inside revealed a row of shelves for holding nuts and bolts. There was even a work bench with a vice still attached to it. When we came out there was a lot of silt being thrown up. Swimming through the crap we discovered it was Jonathan stirring up the sea bed with his unique buoyancy and finning techniques.

The two wrecks on Thursday were the “Kron Prinz Wilhelm” at 36m and the blockship “Gabor Nador Bores” at 18m. The first thing you think when you see the “Kron Prinz Wilhelm” is “It’s huge!”. It was enormous. The vis was not that great and we had to use

torches. At one point I thought I was next to a giant pillar. I soon realised that this was one of her guns. The blockship was an altogether different dive. Much shallower with plenty of sea life to see and holes to swim in and out of. In the evening we all headed off to Kirkwall to visit the "Highland Park" distillery.

On the final day I dived with Frances. We returned to the "Dresden" for our penultimate dive. We decided to take things easy and have a leisurely dive. The last dive was on a blockship at the entrance to a channel. None of the previous dives had prepared us for what we were about to experience. The wreck does not have a buoy as strong currents develop due to the tide. We were dropped off near the wreck and were instructed to descend quickly otherwise we would miss it. At first there was a slight current. Frances and I were able to swim along the side of the wreck. As we swam to the bow of the ship Frances tried to tell me that she had seen a Seal. I didn't understand and we carried on. We entered the wreck through a hole in the ship's side and saw Pete with Dave. The current was getting stronger now. Later Dave remarked that this was his first ever drift dive inside a wreck. As we exited at the top the current was so strong that I had to grab hold of Frances and to help her over the side. Once she was safely over I pulled myself over in to the sheltered side of the wreck. At the end of the dive I deployed my SMB as normal. However the SMB ascended slowly in the sheltered part until it hit the current which carried it off at high speed. I must have deployed at least 25m of line before I managed to stop it, grab Frances' hand and get carried off in the current. As we were drifting with the current we saw the Seal circle around us. Suddenly it was gone. After a while we started to slow down so I reeled in as much of my line as I could. Just as I thought I was succeeding we drifted into another strong current and off we went again. As we drifted I pointed to Frances to warn her of the wreck we were approaching. She turned around just in time to see it and stop herself. My SMB was now over the top of the wreck and in seconds the line had broken due to the sharp edges. We descended to the sea floor at 12m and I asked Frances to give me her SMB. This was deployed slower this time and as I felt the current starting to act on the SMB I grabbed Frances' hand again, placed it on the line and we drifted off again. What a drift dive!. The current soon eased off and we did a safety stop at 3m before surfacing. We were quite far from the ship but not that far from where we entered the water. Forget the roller coaster rides. If you want excitement then dive this wreck!

The Return Journey

We left Stromness on Friday. Steve went back with Donald and Jamie as he was flying from Inverness. We made our way back in the minibus. Everyone agreed that we should get back in one journey. By 11.00PM we had reached the A1. A stop was made near Grantham as there was a need to refuel. There were no signs of problems with the minibus during the stop. We got back on the road and had travelled some three or four miles when a passing motorist was frantically flashing his lights. Ken, who was driving, stopped at the next layby where we noticed what looked like steam coming from the engine compartment. Naturally we thought the minibus was overheating so we got out. It wasn't until we went round to the front that we realised it was smoke. Someone touched the bonnet and discovered it was very hot. We decided not to open it. It was now a couple of minutes since we had stopped. Pete asked me to use my cellphone to call the fire brigade. I couldn't find my phone so I took my small clothes bag out of the bus to look for it. Some of the others had started to remove the cylinders. A passing taxi driver on the opposite side of the carriageway stopped and radioed to the police. By this time flames were starting to appear in the front of the van and inside the cabin. Jonathan shouted to everyone to move away from the minibus. In seconds the flames had engulfed the inside. The minibus was ablaze when the police and fire brigade turned up. Passing motorists were slowing down to look at the fire unaware of the danger they were in from possible explosions. It was all over in twenty minutes. By the time the firemen had put the fire out it was gone 11.30PM. All that was left was a wreck full of burnt kit. During this incident the police stopped a driver who was trying to pass the blocked road. He was later breathalysed and charged for drunk driving. We even had to push start the police car as the batteries had died. It certainly turned out to be an eventful night. Fortunately no one was hurt and we all got home safely.

Some Personal Thoughts

We all had a great holiday in Scotland. Other than the incident with our minibus, the week had gone quite smoothly. This experience has certainly made me think about getting proper insurance cover for equipment. Most people would be surprised at the total worth of their equipment.

Thanks for organising the holiday Pete. Just leave out the fire next time!

1997 Eastern Region Coaching Scheme SDCs

[this information supplied by Dave Lock ↓, looks like someone's going to be busy next year - Ed]



January 18/19	Advanced Nitrox	Ipswich
January 25	First Class Theory Prep	TBA
February 8/9	Oxygen Admin.	Havering
March 8	First Aid for Divers	TBA
March 9	Oxygen Admin.	TBA
March 22	Equipment Care	TBA
March 23	Decompression Workshop	TBA
April 5/6	Search & Recovery	Ipswich
April 26/27	Boathandling & Diver/Cox	Ipswich/Felixstowe
May 17	Practical Rescue Management	Guildenburgh or Ipswich
June 28/29	Dive Planning and Marshalling	Portland
September 13/14	Chartwork and Position Fixing	Ipswich/Felixstowe
September 27	Practical Rescue Management	Guildenburgh or Ipswich
October 4/5	Boathandling & Diver/Cox	Ipswich/Felixstowe
October 18/19	Advanced Nitrox	Ipswich
November 22	Oxygen Admin.	Norwich?
November 23	First Class Theory Prep	TBA

TBA = To Be Announced

SDC = Skill Development Course

DIARY DATES

Subscript deadline

30 January 1997.

Early submission of articles appreciated.

Editor reserves the right to correct spelling mistakes.

Events, courses (SEE ALSO the SDC list on the previous page) and holidays

Date	Event	Contact
7 December 1996	Christmas meal 7:30 for 8:00	Frances Cook
February 1997	Red Sea / Jordan holiday	Roy Lobbett
August 1997	Skelligs holiday	John Cook

Committee Meetings

2 December 1997, 7:00, Malt Kiln

MINUTES OF 1996 BTRSAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Author: Andrew Collicott; 20 Nov 1996

Held on 6 Nov 1996 in Small Lecture Theatre, BT Labs, Suffolk.

Those present (total of 17 people; all of which were members):

Frances Cook, John Cook, Dave Lock, Raj Mistry, Mick Morley, Ken Gould, Howard Westlake, Daren Wood, Suzanne Sheppard, Phil Sheppard, Paul Skirrow, Charles Newbigging, Andy Saunders, Kaz Tchorzewski, Richard Lee, Tim Stevens, Andrew Collicott.

1. Count members present to check we have a quorum.

Yes.

2. Apologies had been received from:

Dave Tonge, Pete Young.

3. Approve minutes of previous AGM (8th Nov 1995).

Motion that minutes of previous AGM be approved.

Proposed - Raj Mistry Seconded - Daren Wood

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Actions and other matters arising from previous AGM (8th Nov 1995).

The following issues were raised at the 1995 AGM and discussed in Committee last year. The results of discussion and findings were presented.

Do we have sufficient Ipswich residents to qualify for a reduction in the charge for Fore Street pool?

Daren Wood investigated this in Nov 1995. We had 53% of our membership living in Ipswich and the council require 75% before they will give discount. (Daren Wood)

Can we get a (larger) grant from RSSC?

Daren did this. We applied for £600 and we were given £500. This was used to purchase STAB jackets. (Daren Wood)

Secretary to hold paper archive of SubScript; add to secretary's JD.

Done (Andrew Collicott)

Secretary to be responsible for keeping archive (how long?) of annual club accounts and any other important club information (preferably electronic else paper)

Done; treasurer holds accounts for 6 years. (Andrew Collicott & Daren Wood)

Objective that SubScript editor provides electronic copy of SubScript to secretary.

Done. Where possible, distribution of SubScript is now performed electronically and members can obtain electronic copies from our WWW site. (Andrew Collicott)

Pool Attendance To be further investigated (Howard Westlake).

Everyone agreed that the attendance at the pool has improved and that this is currently not a concern (Howard Westlake).

Selection of Club Logo - to be publicised through SubScript and selected at the Christmas dinner. (Frances Cook)

Done by Frances.

Date for 1996 AGM - is 6th Nov (Andrew Collicott)

Done.

5. Committee Members' reports

The following reports were presented. Details of these reports are contained in Appendices 1 and 2 at the end of the minutes.

Dave LockDiving Officer
Mick MorleyTraining Officer
Daren Wood.....Treasurer
Andy Saunders.....Equipment Officer
Suzanne Sheppard.....Newsletter Editor
Frances CookSocial Secretary
Raj MistryNew Members Rep
Ken GouldBoat Officer
Andy Collicott.....Secretary
Howard Westlake.....Chairman

NB Diving Officer report was presented by Dave on Pete Young's behalf

Issues arising from the above reports (where necessary, to be raised at next committee meeting):

- Number of dives looks lower than reality. This probably because people have not been reporting them to Pete Young. Action: Dave Lock to chase Dave Borthwick for details of Red Sea dives. NB All dives arranged by club must be reported to the dive officer.

- The fact that the club scuba kit is not insured was discussed. This was a decision made a few years ago when the cost of insurance was considered in light of the cost of replacement. The recent loss of kit in a vehicle fire following a club holiday raised the matter for consideration again. After discussion the meeting agreed that this was the best approach. It was also stressed that people hiring club kit should be reminded (by the equipment officer) that it is their responsibility to take care of this kit and do everything possible to ensure it is not damaged or stolen.

- Use of mentors for new members was discussed. Raj will discuss this with the incoming new members' rep for implementation in the future. Action: Raj to feed back to Committee.

- Method of distribution of updated new members' pack needs to be determined. Action: AC to include in a Committee meeting agenda.

6. Election of new Committee (Howard Westlake).

Howard started by thanking all those standing down.

People standing are below. No other people standing.

Diving Officer.....Pete Young
Training OfficerJohn Cook
Secretary.....Andrew Collicott
TreasurerDaren Wood
Equipment Officer.....Andy Saunders
Newsletter EditorPhil Sheppard
Social SecretaryFrances Cook
New Members Rep.....Kate Potter
Boat Officer.....Ken Gould
Chairman.....Howard Westlake

Motion - that the above be the committee for coming year.

Proposed - Paul Skirrow; Seconded - Charles Newbigging

Motion Passed unanimously.

7. Proposal - that the BTRSAC membership fee for 1997 is £78 and that an early payment discount of £11 be applied for full payments received within 31 days of the due date.

This proposal does not include members' BSAC subscriptions and levies to the RSSC (where applicable). The early payment incentive does not apply to payment by Standing Order.

Proposer: Daren Wood. Seconded - Tim Stevens
Motion Passed unanimously.

8. Proposal - that the following rule be added to the club rules (as new section after section 6):

Members may elect to pay all or part of their subscriptions by Standing Order; in this case, any early payment incentives that are in operation at the time shall not apply.

Proposer: Daren Wood. Seconded - Andy Saunders
Motion Passed unanimously.

- The period for standing orders is currently 12 months. Should this be less (eg 6 months)? This to be discussed at a future committee meeting. Action: AC to include in a Committee meeting agenda.

9. Proposal - that the following rule be added to the club rules (as new section after section 6):

Full Members & Non-resident members who are not members of the BT Research Sports and Social Club (RSSC) shall pay a levy equal to the current RSSC annual subscription. This levy, shall fall due at the same time as the BTRSAC membership fee.

Proposer: Daren Wood. Seconded - Ken Gould
Motion Passed unanimously

10. Proposal - that the following class of membership be added to the club rules (section 5):

Day Membership for visitors will be offered for a daily fee equal to the current boat fee. In addition to this normal boat fees and running charges will apply.

Proposer: Daren Wood. Seconded - Paul Skirrow
Motion Passed unanimously

- We must check that rules exist to ensure that those using the club boats are qualified coxes. Likewise, that those diving are qualified and insured etc. This to be discussed at a future committee meeting. Action: AC to include in a Committee meeting agenda.

11. Proposal - that the BTRSAC boat fee for diving during 1997 is £5 per person per dive plus boat running costs (such as launch fees, petrol, towing). (Non-members shall also have to pay the Day membership fee.)

Proposer: Ken Gould. Seconded - Richard Lee
Motion Passed unanimously

12. Proposal - that the BTRSAC boat fee for club boat training/familiarisation (excluding external SDCs) during 1997 is £5 per person per day plus boat running costs (such as launch fees, petrol, towing). (Non-members shall also have to pay the Day membership fee.)

Proposer: Ken Gould. Seconded - John Cook
Motion Passed (For 13, Abstain: 1)

This was discussed - the issue was that we cannot make this charge to members of other clubs attending Boat Handling SDC.

- A limit should be placed on the number of times in a year that the boat is used for Boat Handling SDCs. This to be discussed at a future committee meeting. Action: AC to include in a Committee meeting agenda.

13. Proposal - that the club rules be amended to include the following at the end of section 5ii, “(except for when a Snorkelling member is, as a Guest, taking part in a Try-Dive; see section v below).”

Proposer: Andrew Collicott. Seconded - Richard Lee
Motion Passed unanimously

14. Other Motions (Andrew Collicott) - no other motions submitted

15. AOB.

i) Date for 1997 AGM - 12th Nov (A Collicott)

ii) Raj announced a Try Dive on 25th Nov or 2nd Dec. Raj wants assistance please.

-----end of main section; appendices to follow-----

Appendix 1 - Full reports from Committee Members

Pete Young (Diving Officer)

This is the Diving Officer's report for 1996. It covers four topics:

- Number of dives logged this year;
- Qualifications gained;
- Skill Development Courses attended;
- and what will be happening next year.

Number of logged dives

Here are the number of dives logged during the period 1st January 1996 - 23rd October 1996. These totals are only for members of BTRSAC and do not include the number of dives done by members of other BSAC branches or other organisations. A small number of dives between the last AGM and 1st Jan 96 will not be included in these figures.

68 inland dives were recorded, in comparison with 82 in 1995. I suspect that this figure is an underestimate and I hereby call upon all trainers to make sure that log sheets are submitted to the DO following a day's training.

127 dives were recorded on UK-based chartered hard boats. Most of these arise from the Branch holiday to Scapa Flow. The figure does not include non-branch dives by individuals or guest divers on BTRSAC branch dives. Last year's total in this category was 216.

262 dives were recorded outside the UK. This represents two overseas holidays to Egypt in February and April. It does not include dives by 2 guest divers on the second holiday. Last year 287 dives were recorded.

233 dives from the club's boat were carried out by BTRSAC members. There was also a very small number of guest dives. Of these, 134 dives were done from Starfish and 99 dives were done from Buzo. The figure for Starfish includes dives done from the hired rib on the Hallsands holiday. The Buzo figure is composed entirely of dives done at Weybourne. It shows what an important contribution Buzo makes to the running of the club.

The total number of dives for 1996 is 690. This is very slightly down this year in comparison to the last 2 years. Use of the branch boats is more-or-less back to the level of 1994 after a very lean year last year. The weather this year has still not been ideal, and this year's good figure represents a great effort by the boat officer and his assistants to keep the boats, engines and trailers in good condition: and to the dive marshals for making the most of conditions. My thanks to them all.

Qualifications gained

The following qualifications have been recorded as complete by me during 1996:

- Novice Diver - 9
- Sport Diver - 3
- Dive Leader - 2
- Club Instructor - 3

Mick Morley and Dave Tonge both completed the Open Water Scuba Instructor training course, but have yet to complete the required number of hours training.

Skill Development Courses

The following attendances at skill development courses have been recorded during 1996:

- Navigational Aids - 12
- Chartwork & Position Fixing - 8
- Practical Rescue Management - 3
- Search & Recovery - 3
- Dive Planning and Marshalling - 3
- Oxygen Administration - 1

Navigational Aids and Chartwork & Position fixing SDCs were run by Dave Lock for the branch.

My thanks are also due to Dave Lock for all his hard work in running these courses, and organising numerous boat handling practise sessions.

Other attendances were at courses run by Eastern Region BSAC and other regions.

Next year

Holidays already organised include:

- Jordan - please contact Roy Lobbett for further details
- Ballinskelligs, Ireland - please contact John Cook for further details
- The Hebrides on the MV Jane R - contact Simon Keating for details
- Pete Young will be organising something, somewhere - you still have an opportunity to make suggestions

Any member of the branch can organise a holiday - please contact me if you have somewhere in mind.

A dive marshalling seminar will be held in the new year to pass on briefings from BSAC, discuss techniques to make diving operations safer and so forth.

Dive Leader and Advanced Diver training will continue next year with training programs being tailored to individual needs, particularly for Advanced Diver. Please discuss your requirements with the Diving Officer.

The scope of the records we keep will be expanded next year through increased use of the Divedata software, which was reviewed in Diver magazine a few months ago. This will allow detailed recording of dives, qualifications and sites. This will help us plan dives and training requirements, and replace lost or damaged qualification books (although you should still keep photocopies of your log books as backup).

So that accurate records can be kept, for 1997 it will be essential for Dive Marshals to make sure you get details of all your dives to the DO as soon as possible, and for all Branch Members to co-operate with the log-book audit which is currently going on.

Please pass your qualification books to the DO if you have not already done so.

It is also a good idea to notify the DO of any SDCs you do, particularly those which are organised outside the branch.

In summary

- It's been a very difficult year for the branch, but we've survived;
- The total number of dives is slightly down, but is on a par with the last 2 years;
- The use of the branch boats is back to an acceptable level;
- Lots of diving and training is already planned for next year.

My thanks to

- Steve Webb (assistant DO);
- Dave Lock (for organising loads of SDCs and helping me in all sorts of ways);
- Ken Gould and the assistant boat officers, for keeping the boats going all year;
- Roy Lobbett and his assistants, for providing safety cover at Broomhill Pool;
- All the dive marshals, for making it happen.

Mick Morley (Training Officer)

1995/96 Training Year

Review

New Intake

A total of 14 trainees undertook training to Novice 1. This was in three intakes, starting in October, April and, for the first time, June.

All completed the skills section and all but two younger recruits also passed the theory exam. Despite three attempts at taking different Novice papers, with much personal tuition from both the TO and Dave Tonge, neither seemed to be able to gain sufficient understanding of the basics to pass the exam.

The summer series involving 3 trainees was particularly successful with pool training being completed in just 10 weeks, despite being over the holiday period. Congratulations to Kate, Bob and John and to Raj for keeping the cell moving.

Of the 12 Novice 1 divers, only 7 went through to open water training and to qualify as Novice 2. Of the remainder, one returned to USA, one decided to wait until his son was older and could retake the theory and two felt that they were not currently in a position to buy the extra equipment needed.

3 of the Spring intake have gone on to complete (very shortly) their Sports Diver series. Congratulations to James, Mark and Phil for qualifying within the season despite several cancelled dives.

The 3 from the Summer intake have completed their Novice 2 dives and have started the Sports Diver series.

We therefore have 6 divers with their own suits and some equipment, at or on their way to becoming Sports Divers from the intake of 14. This is a better success rate than recent years but still represents an unfortunately high drop-out rate. It is very frustrating, particularly for the instructors who give up considerable time to prepare for and deliver training sessions, and we should continue to strive to improve it.

Sports Diver

A new approach towards the SD theory lectures was tried, held as four two-hour lectures after the Summer intake Novice lectures on Monday evenings. This seemed to work well with 6 successfully taking and passing the SD theory exam.

The training cell approach was adopted for open water training with varying degrees of success. Two of the cells worked very well, with the benefits of the family group of trainees and instructors helping each other through, paying great dividends. The other two cells did not get started however, despite repeated attempts and encouragement from the instructors. We would have seen more success if a planned weekend's diving in Norfolk did not, unfortunately, have to be cancelled.

Try-Dives

John Cook went to considerable trouble to organise five try-dive evenings to recruit much needed new members for the 96/7 season. In excess of 50 people attended, earning over £500 for the club and further enhancing our reputation for safety and professionalism. The time and effort that this takes cannot be overstated and the club owes John a major vote of thanks for this work.

Unfortunately, only four new members have been recruited so far as a result of the three autumn events. Reasons for this have been analysed and the committee is currently considering options for improving the conversion rate.

We also organised a try-dive for the disabled students from the Thomas Wolsey school. As last year, this was an enormous success and the pupils and staff of the school have asked me to forward to all those involved their grateful thanks. It is difficult to describe the value and sense of achievement that they get from the experience, and they were thrilled with the photographs which Dave Garrett kindly arranged. Many thanks to all those who gave their time to supporting the event and particularly to Andy Collicott for covering all the sponsorship and press coverage arrangements.

Thanks are due to all those who gave lectures, instructed or loaned equipment for all of these events. Especially to Andy Saunders for preparing, transporting, sorting and controlling the SCUBA kit.

Instructors and Assistant Instructors

I am delighted to report that Steve Webb, Raj Mistry, Paul Brannan and Daren Barton successfully completed the Club Instructor course to become Assistant Club Instructors. In addition, Karl Godden, Andy Mordecai and Steve Webb have gone on to pass the national CI assessment and qualify as Club Instructors.

Open Water Instructors

Dave Tonge and Mick Morley attended OWI courses held at Holbrook and Alton. This was felt to be a very valuable extension to the instructor skills and it is hoped that other CIs will be able to attend next year. Following confirmation of 12 hours of open-water skills instruction, Open Water Instructor qualification will be gained.

Newsletter Articles

Finally, an apology to all, particularly Suzanne, for the Training Corner entries in the newsletter, which have been conspicuous by their absence. I had managed to produce articles and diary dates for each edition over the previous two years, but I have only managed to contribute to two this year. There are all sorts of excuses, but no real reasons - sorry.

1993-1996

A Retrospective

Changes Introduced and Experienced

1993	1996
Impromptu suck&sees	Structured try-dives
Waiting list to join	Difficult to fill courses
One intake of 20; Crowded pool	Three intakes of 4 to 8; Swim lane
Lower initial cost , high weekly charges	High initial cost, zero weekly charges
Pool & equipment charges collected (?) each week	Included in membership & training
16-50 weeks pool training	10-12 weeks pool training
Internally set, more demanding, wider skills, high (variable) standards	BSAC international standards
Different trainers each week, different approaches, different standards	Training cells, more progressive, more planned, qualified instructors
High drop-out and absenteeism	Focused, committed teams
Straight from pool to open water	Deep pool experience
No planned open water training	Safer, progressive, planned transition
Learn by doing	High drop-out before open water

Personal Thoughts

Over the period that I have been TO, a total of 53 novices have been trained, of which 23 are now regular divers, possibly more with other clubs. The club has completely changed its approach to recruitment and training, including transferring from SAA to BSAC. The quality of training in the club has always been high but we have managed to add a degree of consistency and professionalism, possibly not there previously. This has only been possible as a result of members being willing to give the time and money to train as Club Instructors, of which we now have 14 CIs or ACIs.

Throughout the period I have worked closely with and enjoyed enormous support from the DO team of Dave Lock and Pete Young. Many others have been involved in and willingly helped introduce significant changes to most aspects of recruitment and training. I would particularly like to thank John Cook for taking on so much of the work load and Dave Tonge whose friendship and advice I value very highly.

I am pleased that the training has been left in such capable hands - good luck John!

Daren Wood (Treasurer)

see Appendix 2.

Andy Saunders (Equipment Officer)

The club has bought four new Buddy STABs (without emergency cylinders although they do have facility for fitting cylinders).

We also have four ABLJs; two are 8 yrs old and the other two are 4 yrs old. Two of these will be sold and the other two kept as spares for club use.

Two club DVs were lost in the recent minibus fire. These will be replaced in the near future.

There has been minimal hire of the club kit (other than pool training); we have had only £60 income from such equipment hire.

Suzanne Sheppard (SubScript (newsletter) Editor)

Five issues of SubScript have been produced since the last AGM. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles over the last year. All these SubScripts were produced using MS Word, enabling Andy to use electronic distribution for many members of the club and reducing the burden of distribution.

I am having to give up my committee post next year, but I hope that everyone will continue to submit articles, and I would particularly like to encourage newer members of the club to contribute in the future.

Frances Cook (Social Secretary)

A total of Five social events were organised during the year.

Christmas Meal 1995 This was held on the 1st of December at the Marlborough Hotel, Ipswich. Forty-seven people attended for the meal and nine more for the after dinner entertainment. The hotel provided excellent accommodation, giving over their entire restaurant to club use, and also provided a good choice of fare to a very high standard. After dinner we chose a new logo for the club.....



Club Logo A new club logo was selected at last year's Christmas meal. I approached Lionheart Designs, a company that specialise in embroidered personalised clothing who quoted a tooling charge of £75.91p. In order to recoup this cost £1 has been added to the prices of the garments ordered. The Club is almost halfway to recovering the tooling cost but I would like to see more interest and I am still taking orders. Thank you to all those who have bought club logo garments.

Curry Evenings Two curry evenings were held. The first was not well attended due to heavy snow having fallen on the chosen day which was in January. The second held in April had a better response and most people were impressed with the venue and menu at the New Delhi restaurant in Woodbridge.

BBQ and Observatory Tour In August a BBQ was held at the Orwell Park School, Nacton. It included the use of the warm outdoor swimming pool which was much appreciated as the day had turned out fine. As darkness fell we had the opportunity to be in the Observatory and gaze at heavenly bodies through the telescope. My thanks to Roy Lobbett and Peter Richards for organising the Observatory tour.

The event was a success with sixty five adults present as well as several children. Proceeds from the sale of tickets went to the school { £65 }, Orwell Astronomical Society { £27 } and BTRSAC { £27 }.

Barn Dance In October a Barn Dance was held jointly with the Martlesham Rollerskating Club. It featured Pete Young and "a Rowdy", Tim, with Dave Tonge calling. The band played very well and Dave's calling was so good we were not in the least confused, honest! The evening was a huge success with many more people turning up than anticipated and everyone including the children enjoyed themselves. Our Club sold fifty six tickets to adults and the other Club sold forty five tickets. On the bigger social events I have tended to allow free admission to children under fourteen to encourage family participation.

BTRSAC made a profit of £254.65p which was highly embarrassing for the Social Secretary as it contravened her job description of making social events break even rather than make a huge profit. With the approval of the Committee it was decided to offer Joy Gould £100 to help with expenses of the reception after the memorial service for Steve Jensen. The remainder of the profit will be used to subsidise this year's Club Christmas meal and Awards ceremony. Special thanks go to Pete, Tim, Dave and all who helped to make this event so successful.

Christmas Meal 1996 Will be held Saturday 7th December at the Marlborough Hotel, Henley Rd, IPSWICH. All club members should have received an advert and order form by hand or in the post. Please reply on or before November the 18th.

Raj Mistry (New Members Rep)

INTRODUCTION

The New Members Representative's post is unlike the other committee post in that most of the activities tend to be face-to-face familiarisation with the new intake and getting feed back from them on training or other issues. As a result there is not a lot to report for the year. However a number of specific items aimed at new comers have been progressed and this report presents a the current status of each item below.

NEW MEMBER ISSUES

Ideas for getting New Members to attend Club Nights

Problem: Novices who have completed training were tending to drift away.

Solution: 4 possible ideas were briefly discussed as follows:

- a) Provide spare kit
- b) More club events
- c) "Be gentle to Novices" Octopush
- d) Teaming up Novices with experienced members (mentors) in the club

Status: The status of each of the above is as follows:

- a) We have recently purchased some new kit and novices can use this if it is not being used for training. Additional kit may be loaned by members of the club but will require Novices to get this for themselves. The impression I got from the committee was that novices should be thinking about buying their own kit as they approach open water training.
- b) The Social Secretary has organised a number of events which very well attended. No further action was necessary regarding additional events.
- c) We have had a number of novice Octopush session and these will continue. Their success is limited however as not all novices wish to take part in the sport.
- d) Did not see the need to pursue this as most of the novice now seem to be attending club nights. I believe this is as a result of including the pool fees in the membership fees or perhaps we have all got better at making novices feel more welcome.

New Members Introductory Pack

Problem: New members did not have general information about the club.

Solution: Produce a New Members Introductory Pack.

Status: An Introductory Pack was produced for the January intake. This was based on an existing pack produced under the SAA. The Pack needs to be updated to include changes in the membership costs. It might be better if responsibility for this resides with the club secretary as it contains a information which is similar to that handed out at the try dives.

Articles in SubScript

Problem: The club required a way of introducing new members to existing members.

Solution: Introduce new members via "SubScript". This can also be used to highlight any issues that the new members may have.

Status: A new column has been started in SubScript and has appeared in the last two or three issues. However this depends on the new members providing a short paragraph about themselves which is not always easy to get from them.

CLOSING REMARKS

As stated in the introduction, this post requires mainly face-to-face involvement with new members. Where possible the items highlighted above have been progressed to get new members involved with the club. Some items have been implemented successfully whilst others are no longer appropriate.

Over the last two years we have had a number of new members join the club and I hope that I have made them feel welcome. I am standing down from the post as I now wish to concentrate on diver training. I also feel that this post is more appropriate for someone who has recently been through our new training course.

A big thank you to all those people who have helped me over the last two years, especially Paul Skirrow who has run some of the Octopush sessions for the novices.

I am happy to say that Kate Potter will be taking on the role of New Members Rep and wish her all the best in the post.

Ken Gould (Boat Officer)

Improvements over the year:

No major changes to the boats and ancillary equipment this year. The only change of note was the addition of a superior in line fuel filter on the club's rib - Starfish.

I have also sold off the third of the club's inflatable boats and trailer that wasn't 'dive fit'. This unit wasn't insured and was just taking up valuable space in the boat hut.

Qualifications:

Club Mates - 23 (2 less than last year)

Club Coxes -14 (same as last year)

This means that over *half of the club are qualified* to drive the boats.

Boat Officers Ledger:

There has been no unexpected expenses on the boats this year which is reflected in the bottom line running costs of approx. - £530.

More detailed accounts are available on request, but sufficient to say that the major outgoings were on engine servicing and insurance which were balanced by some exceptional income from diving, particularly Weybourne.

Outlook for next year - Boat improvements

Increasing the range of the rib, Starfish, to allow safe diving up to 20 miles off the coast. This will involve:

1. Adding a *built in fuel tank*. This will also be safer than decanting fuel whilst at sea.
2. Increasing the size of the *main engine* on Starfish, proposals for at least a 90 hp engine

Provide some guidance notes for mates being assessed for as a club coxswain.

Round up

Thank you to all those that have assisted over the year and a big plea for further assistance from all members of the club whether you have any boating qualification or not.

I'll always welcome any help - Thank you

Andy Collicott (Secretary)

Membership: we now have 75 members; 19 of these joined in 1996. (Number of members in 1994 was 74. This implies a churn of 18.)

The Contact List has been maintained and is regularly distributed with the SubScript magazine. The use of email to distribute these has been increased; the purpose of this is to make the distribution quicker and easier.

We have continued to use the Adline and the notice boards for general information distribution. Thanks to Paul Brannan for regularly updating the Adline very efficiently this year.

Our WWW site has also been enhanced and includes many useful items including copies of SubScript, the club rules, policy decisions, minutes of committee meetings and many useful links. Thanks to Tim Stevens for continuing to support this site.

Thanks also go to Pete Young for improving and maintaining the email distribution system.

Howard Westlake (Chairman)

Howard thanked all members of the committee and the meeting offered a round of applause. Special thanks went to Mick, Suzanne and Raj who are leaving the committee. Howard explained that "Raj will increase his training support activities next year as an assistant training officer, Suzanne will, no doubt, be helping her replacement in the newsletter production and Mick steps down having completed the maximum three years of office permitted under the rules". Recognising everyone's efforts in the past year, Howard gave particular thanks to Mick who, with the valued support from instructors and other club members, has directed and moved the training programme in the club from strength to strength. Mick presented the progress made in the last three years in his report to the AGM and this showed clearly the advances we have made. Mick's leading of the arrangements for the events for the Thomas Wolsey school have brought enjoyment to many disabled youngsters and to those in the club directly involved.

Of the events of the past year Howard said, "we cannot go through this meeting without thinking of the events of the past year. This year has been particularly difficult with some people experiencing more than their fair share of injury and equipment loss. Then there are the events of the South Devon trip this year, a tragedy which has hit so many of us deeply. Yet we are still together as a club and I am thoroughly impressed by the determination and resilience of our members when confronted with these difficulties. We pull together and help each other in these situations and I feel we are a closer group of people as a consequence. I hope that next year will be kinder to us."

Appendix 2 - Treasurer's Report 1995/96

Introduction

Welcome to this year's Annual Statement of Accounts. As this is my first year as Treasurer, I've largely kept to the accounting principles of previous years with just one or two minor changes as detailed in the body of this report. I have continued the previous treasurer's practice of producing electronic accounts. This makes basic book-keeping much more accurate and End of Year analysis much easier. This has also enabled me to maintain a monthly income and expenditure statement on our World Wide Web pages. I owe particular thanks to Sue Young (c/o Pete Young), whose advice has proved invaluable in the preparation of these accounts.

Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows how the club generated income and the major expenses incurred during the period 1st October 1995 to 30th September 1996.

Membership

Income from members' subscriptions increased by 7% compared with last year.

The main reason for this was the increase in BSAC (full diving) subscriptions from £23 to £30; whilst the BTRSAC subscription (excluding pool fees) remained at £32. Hence the membership income retained by the club increased by 3%.

Some members took advantage of our new Standing Order facility spreading their payments throughout the year albeit at a higher subscription (£11 on top of the basic subscription).

Pool

Income from the pool increased by 61% compared with a fall of (25%) last year. This was almost entirely due to the collection of pool fees as part of members' annual subscriptions rather than the collection of cash at the pool.

Hire charges increased by over 7% this year, taking the amount we pay for the hire of Fore St. to £2,045.10. Last year's increase was 10%. Pool expenses, which are paid quarterly in advance, also include the one-off hire of Colchester "Leisure World" pool for Novice I training.

Equipment

For the first time in over three years, income has exceeded expenditure on the club's SCUBA by £803.11. This is to be expected, since old equipment is now being replaced. No additional equipment has been purchased this year.

This income does not include an additional amount of £114 from Try Diving.

Boat

Income from boat hire increased by nearly 21% compared with last year.

However, this year's boat maintenance costs were only (9%) down on last year's. No capital items were purchased this year although the Avon inflatable and its trailer were sold for £150.

Boat income has made a loss for the second year running; although this was more than offset by the profit made on equipment and other income.

Boat income does not include an additional amount of £128.50 from Skills Development Courses or the sale of the Avon inflatable and its trailer.

Grant

We obtained a £500 grant from the RSSC to replace a number of ABLJs with STAB jackets. A further £75 was obtained from the BT Support Scheme towards the cost of the Disabled Diving event.

An application was submitted to Ipswich Borough Council for a £600 grant to replace ABLJs with STAB jackets for the benefit of the Disabled Diving event but this was not successful.

Skills Development Courses

For the first year we generated a net income of £266.88 from various Skills Development Courses (SDC) run throughout the year.

This is a new and valuable source of income for the club. Growth in this and other areas of revenue would help stabilise (and maybe even reduce !) membership subscriptions in future years.

Social

We always endeavour to break even on social income and expenditure, and an under-recovery of £26.41 this year (less than 10% of social turnover) is acceptable.

Try Diving

For the first year we generated a substantial income of £560 from various “suck it and see” (S&S) sessions run throughout the year.

Whilst these sessions may not have attracted the number of new members we would have hoped, this activity has generated a significant income for which there is clearly a demand.

Other

Income and expenditure on other items included some small donations to the club, expenses for attendance at the Diving Officer’s Conference, reimbursement of course and exam fees for Club Instructors, the purchase of “DiveData” software for the Diving Officer, a donation to the RNLi accrued from previous years, the purchase of a video of the Red Sea and the repair of a member’s equipment which suffered minor damage during a Try Diving session.

Introduction to the Balance sheet

This statement gives a snapshot of what BTRSAC is worth at 30th September 1996, that is the net book value of our assets and the cash in the bank.

We have fixed assets with a Net Book Value of £4,289.00 and current assets totalling £11,081.24 with a current liability of £108.00. We have completely repaid the RSSC loan and have reserves from this and prior years income of 15,262.24.

Allocation of Reserves

This is not included in standard accounting practice, but it represents the money set aside to replace worn-out equipment and the money required to be maintained as working capital. The general reserve represents the money available to purchase new items without requiring a new loan.

Overall

For 1995/96, our net income is £3,908.59. We have purchased no fixed assets and completely repaid our RSSC loan. Due to a major revision of our asset register, which now does not include assets with an original purchase price of less than £100, we have removed (£2,649.66) from the asset register and released reserves of £1,041.08 which would otherwise have been held against depreciation.

We can therefore declare an income of **£2,300.01** compared with a deficit of (£2,240.07) last year.

I would therefore recommend that the members accept the statement of accounts as presented.

How much income do we need next year ?

We will have to replace two regulators at an estimated cost of £500 which were destroyed by fire and replace four ABLJs with STAB jackets at a cost of £1,000 so must set aside a working capital of £1,500.

As an absolute minimum, we would need to generate enough income to pay for next year’s hire of Fore Street pool (forecast to be £2330 at 10% increase) and provide £762 for the reserve fund (as determined from the Asset Register) to provide for depreciation.

Assuming the boats and SCUBA break even next year together with other income and expenditure, we will need a net income of £3,092 next year to avoid dipping into our general reserve.

BT Research Sub-Aqua Club**Income and Expenses Statement from 1/10/95 to 30/9/96**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Total</u>
Membership			
BSAC	£2,036.00	£2,194.00	
BTRSAC	£2,397.67		
RSSC	£108.00	£108.00	
Total Membership	£4,541.67	£2,302.00	£2,239.67
Pool	£2,775.61	£2,094.80	£680.81
Equipment (SCUBA)	£998.00	£194.89	£803.11
Boat	£1,305.50	£2,151.14	(£845.64)
Skills Development	£545.00	£278.12	£266.88
Try Diving	£560.00		£560.00
Social	£268.65	£295.06	(£26.41)
Bank Interest	£330.65		£330.65
Grant	£575.00		£575.00
Other	£13.50	£688.98	(£675.48)
TOTAL	£11,913.58	£8,004.99	£3,908.59
Plus:	Revaluation of fixed assets	(£2,649.66)	
Less:	Depreciation adjustment	(£1,041.08)	
			(£1,608.58)
Income arising through normal activities this year			£2,300.01

BT Research Sub-Aqua Club

Statement of Source and Application of Funds for the year ended 30th September 1996

Net Income £3,908.59

Sources of funds

From sale of assets (Avon & trailer)	£150.00
Standing Orders yet to be collected	<u>(£445.25)</u>
	(£295.25)

Application of funds

RSSC loan repayment	(£607.00)
Advance payment for pool fees	(£529.20)
Owed to RSSC for 1/1/96 to 31/12/96	<u>£108.00</u>
	(£1,028.20)

Total movement of funds **£2,585.14**

Opening bank and cash balance as at 01/10/95 £7,521.65

Closing bank and cash balance as at 30/09/96 £10,106.79

£2,585.14

BT Research Sub-Aqua Club

Balance Sheet as of 30th September 1996

Statement of Accounts. Presented by Treasurer Daren Wood
(account period 12 months 1 October 1995 to 30th September 1996)

Auditor S J Young ACMA

Balance sheet	94/95	95/96
Net capital employed:		
Fixed Assets		
boat equipment	£13,368.66	£14,263.66
revaluation		(£2,649.66)
additions/(sales)	£895.00	(£150.00)
	£14,263.66	£11,464.00
Depreciation		
prior years	£6,877.08	£8,216.08
this year	£1,339.00	(£1,041.08)
	£8,216.08	£7,175.00
Net book value of assets	£6,047.58	£4,289.00
Debtors:		
Membership yet to be collected		£445.25
Pre-payments - Pool fees 1/10/96 to 31/12/96		£529.20
Bank and cash in hand		
Deposit A/c	£6,771.75	£9,096.79
Current A/c	£728.68	£364.10
Boat A/c cash in hand		£614.60
General A/c cash in hand	£21.22	£31.30
	£7,521.65	£10,106.79
Current liability:		
RSSC subscriptions		(£108.00)
Total capital employed (Equity)	£13,569.23	£15,262.24
Financed by:		
Net Income	(£131.07)	£2,300.01
Reserves (prior years income)	£13,093.30	£12,962.23
Loan outstanding from RSSC	£607.00	£0.00
Grand total	£13,569.23	£15,262.24
Allocation of Reserves		
depreciation	£6,421.30	£7,175.00
working capital	£1,100.35	£1,500.00
general	£0.00	£1,431.79
Total	£7,521.65	£10,106.79

The financial statements shown give a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the club.

.....S.J.Young ACMA Date.....

Asset Register

The Asset Register for 1996 shows that we have accumulated reserves of £7,175 and need to set aside additional reserves of £762 next year.

1996		Year of purchase	Estimated useful life	Original purchase price	Accumulated depreciation for	Depreciation for	Net Book Value
Description						1997	
Boats:	18' Humber Atlantis hull	1988	20	£2,556	£1,022	£128	£1,406
	14' Humber inflatable	1986	20	£952	£476	£48	£428
Engines:	Yamaha 60hp & fuel tank	1991	5	£2,600	£2,600	£0	£0
	Mariner 40hp & fuel can	1989	9	£925	£719	£103	£103
	Yamaha 5HP & fuel tank	1992	5	£125	£100	£25	£0
Trailers:	4 wheel braked trailer	1993	20	£600	£90	£30	£480
	14' unbraked trailer	1988	20	£100	£40	£5	£55
Electronics:	VHF Radio	1994	10	£313	£63	£31	£219
	Decca Navigator	1988	10	£650	£520	£65	£65
	Magnetometer	1989	10	£1,210	£847	£121	£242
	Echo Sounder	1989	10	£334	£234	£33	£67
	GPS	1995	10	£345	£35	£35	£276
	Portable VHF Radio	1995	10	£420	£42	£42	£336
Other:	Oxygen kit	1992	5	£386	£309	£77	-£0
	Actar EAR doll	1992	5	£98	£78	£20	-£0
TOTALS				£11,614	£7,175	£762	£3,677

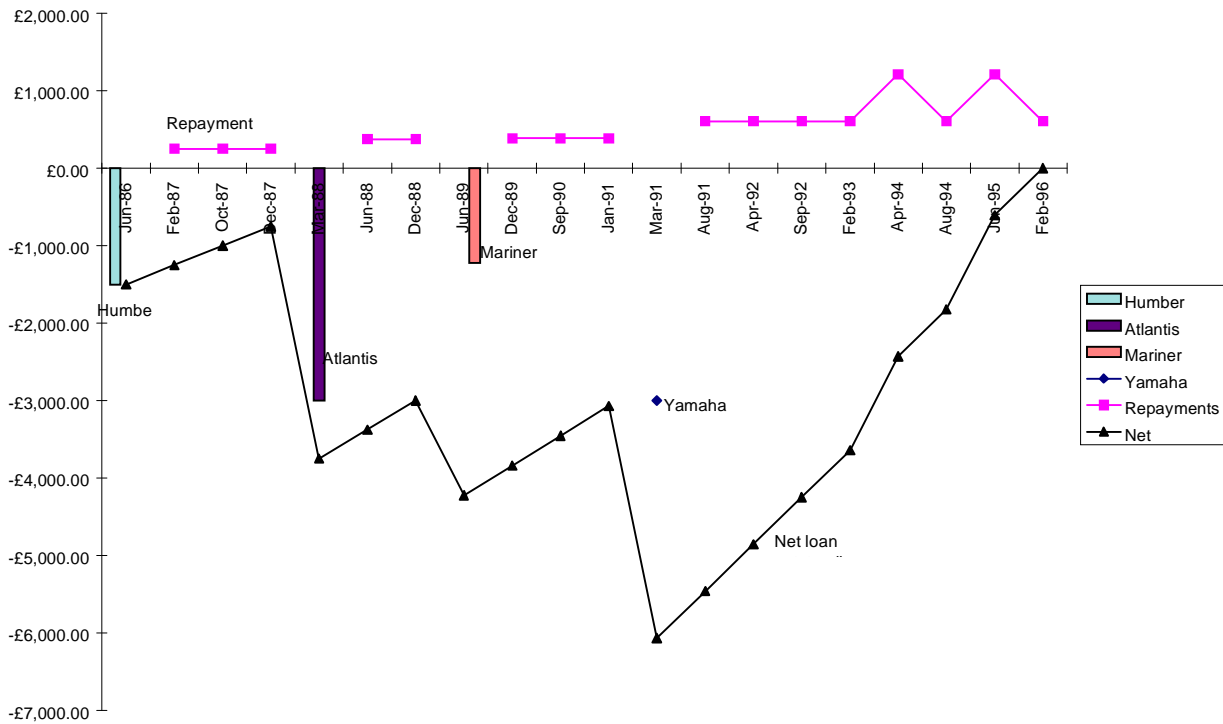
Outstanding Loan as of 30th September 1996

The RSSC loan was finally repaid in February 1996; a total of £8,725 over 10 years without interest.

This facility has traditionally been used by the club to finance the purchase of major capital items of at least £1,000. A notable exception to this was the purchase of the magnetometer in 1989 for £1,138 which was financed directly from club reserves at the time and has 3 years estimated useful life remaining.

The latest major capital acquisition was the Yamaha 60HP engine in March 1991 which has now come to end of its estimated useful life.

The Humber inflatable and Humber Atlantis RIB, purchased in 1986 and 1988 respectively, have estimated useful lives of 20 years.



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