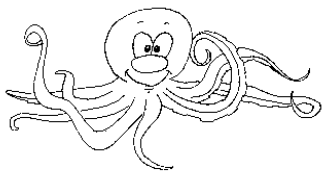




BT Research



Sub-Aqua Club

# SUBSCRIPT

The newsletter of the BT Research Sub Aqua Club, **October 1997**

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Social events galore
- Novice experience at Weybourne
- First Class Diver
- DO Doings
- Diary dates
- Monitor II plus recall
- ...and other items of interest

### Further information:

#### Internet WWW

From inside BT:

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

From outside BT:

<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/2473/>

**Adline (01473) 644474**

## AGM

*Andy Collicott*

The 1997 Annual General Meeting of BTRSAC will be held 7pm sharp, Wed 12<sup>th</sup> November, in the Small Lecture Theatre, BT Labs, Martlesham Heath. All members are encouraged to attend to hear reports on the year's activities from committee members and to vote on replacements for committee members standing down this year. Contact Andy Collicott for passes if you are non-BT.

## FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

*Frances Cook*

### BARN DANCE

BTRSAC in collaboration with Martlesham Roller Skating Club are holding a Barn Dance on Saturday 15th November 1997. This will be held at Bealings

Village Hall from 7pm-11pm. Music will be provided by our own Pete Young and the Rowdies with Dave Tonge calling. Food is provided and a Bar available (note the license is now granted!). Tickets are £5 each, children under 14 free. Tickets are available from FrancEs and John Cook on club nights or call 01473 711122 (evening)

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL AND AWARD PRESENTATION

This takes place on Friday 5th December 1997 at the Marlborough Hotel, Henley Road, Ipswich. 7pm for drinks and the meal at 8pm. The Award Presentation will be at around 9.30pm for those just attending this. The cost of the meal is £19.50 and for those just wishing to attend the Awards Presentation it will be £2. The menu is advertised in Subscript [SEE THE MENU ON THE LAST PAGE - Ed], and everyone will get an order form sent to them through the post. Please let me have your menu choice on one of these order forms by Wednesday 12th November 1997. I would also appreciate any suggestions for the Awards, the earlier the better. As last year I shall have a photo caption board so any interesting and unique photos to me please with your name so it can be returned.

### DANCE WITH "WORDS AND MUSIC BY LENNON AND MACARTNEY"

BTRSAC in collaboration with the Orwell Netball Club are holding a Music and Dance evening featuring the band as titled above. They are brothers who performed splendidly at Paul and Tracey Skirrow's wedding reception playing Beatles music and are definitely worth going out for an evening's entertainment. The date for this event is Friday 23rd January 1998 starting from 7.30 pm onwards. It will be held at the Trimley Sports and Social Club on High Road, Trimley. Bar facility is available. This promises to be an enjoyable evening and I hope that many of you can make it.

### AND FAREWELL.....

Sadly this is my final year as your Social Secretary and I do thank all of you who helped and supported the





events I have organised over the past three years. My job would have been a lot harder and less enjoyable without your kind support. It has been a great pleasure to get to know not just the many members of the club but also their families and friends through my duties. As yet no one has stepped forward to fill this important club role in my stead but I can assure anyone who is too shy to come forward that it is not too onerous a job and any club member can apply so please do contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

## **Novice Weybourne experience**

*Stephen Maule*

It was Saturday Morning 8.30 and I found myself on the beach at Weybourne, assembling my kit, chatting to the other novices and starting to warm up after a cold night in a borrowed tent (I'd cleverly forgotten my sleeping bag).

While we were waiting for the Instructors to take us in for the first open water dive, I asked several people how much weight I should wear on the belt to compensate for the semi-dry suit I was wearing, I decided to take 20lbs (I'd needed 8 in the swimming pool to go straight to the bottom).

It was soon my turn to go in and I was feeling a bit nervous, I'd done a try dive in Israel, but it was nothing like this, there the beach was sandy, not sloping and the sea was flat calm, you could put your fins on in the water, here the beach was steep, stony and not easy to walk on fully kited up. We had to put our fins on at the waters edge, supporting each other, the waves were coming in waist/chest high.

After doing the buddy checks, we decided to walk in backwards, not easy with the full kit on, stones moving underfoot and being pounded by waves.(I got knocked over and had to be helped up by Ross and David wading in from the beach. Eventually we got out beyond the surf, Daren gave me the ok signal followed by thumbs down. I returned the signal and dumped all the air from the stab jacket, nothing happened, the stab jacket was completely empty and I was not descending. I tried to duck dive and fin down, but it didn't work. We decided to go back in and get some more weights. I got knocked down several more times trying to get out of the sea, but eventually we got the extra weights (Now carrying 24lbs) and tried again. Still no joy, I could not descend, we had to go back in again and let the other novices complete their dives.

The buoyancy control problem was starting to wind me up so I borrowed some weights from another club member and increased the poundage to 32lbs on the belt.(I felt sure that would be enough to get me down to the wreck that afternoon)

The trip to the wreck in the inflatable boat that afternoon was something else, trying to climb aboard fully kited up carrying 32lb on the weight belt with the boat pitching up and down and the waves crashing in.

I was starting to feel a bit queasy due to the exhaust fumes, pitching of the boat, and the cramped conditions, but this passed as we got out of the surf and on our way. When we arrived at the wreck buoy, we had to wait for the other divers to clear the boat before we could get our fins on. Carl gave me the nod to go and I went backwards over the side holding on to the rope.

This was nothing like the pool, you've got waves slopping over you, and the reason for keeping the DV in your mouth becomes pretty apparent. Carl gave me the thumbs down signal and I empty the stab jacket and try to descend the shot line to the wreck, again nothing happens and I am breathing pretty hard due to apprehension and trying to fin down.(Part of the reason I was so apprehensive was, I could not control my buoyancy, I didn't know how far the bottom was, It was pretty murky down there and I didn't know if I was going to go into uncontrolled ascent)

Carl suggests that I should pull myself down on the wreck and sure enough after a couple of meters I started to descend. My right ear was starting to hurt like hell and I had to ascend a meter or two several times to clear it. Eventually I found myself on the bottom and actually saw some fish, I checked my contents gauge and found that it was less than 50 bar I showed Carl the gauge and we ascend to the boat. The pool training stood me in good stead at this point as taking tank and weight belt off before getting back in the boat is a good idea.

On day two, thanks to Dave Tonge's patient efforts, I got down to the wreck with enough air to stick around for a bit and see some of the crabs, anemones and fish that everyone had been telling me about.

Day 2 and we're on the Beach again, Dave Tonge has volunteered to help me sort out my buoyancy problem and get me onto the wreck again. We borrowed some more weights (I am now wearing 32 pounds on the belt and 11lb on each ankle) we got kited up, did the buddy



checks and waded backwards into the surf. We got clear of the surf and Dave gave me the thumbs down signal, I returned it and emptied the stab jacket, I started to descend slightly and using my hands to push against the water I managed to descend about a meter, the visibility was bad just outside the surfline, and I had started spinning, while in a vertical position (I now have some idea of what it feels like to be inside a washing machine), I lost sight of Dave and headed for the surface, Dave surfaced just after me and we headed for shore. He thinks that if I relax my breathing and Fin down that I should be able to descend to the wreck OK.

Out at the wreck buoy later that morning, I got the nod to go, and I did a backwards roll entry again holding on to the line, Dave gave me the OK and thumbs down signal and we started to descend the shot line, this time its much easier and I can actually descend albeit with a bit of finning and pulling myself down the line. The wreck loomed up out of the green murk, it was covered in weed, and anemones that looked like white flowers, there was no way I could tell that this had once been a ship, to me it looked like a sunken ruin, with lots of columns sticking up. My right ear was starting to hurt again and I went through the clearing routine, giving the not OK signal and pointing at my ear to Dave. I cleared it OK and we got to the sea floor, I checked my contents gauge and I have about 130 bar left.

We start to fin through the wreck, flushing out crabs and looking at the anemones and things that looked like plants but were actually some kind of worms, there were also a few stripy fish swimming around. I was now enjoying being down there, I had relaxed my breathing and was getting used to finning along. I saw the giant ships propeller and what looked like the remains of the bows. As we swam around the bows I suddenly felt cold and realised I had crossed into a current, Dave clipped a buddy line onto my stab jacket and gave me the thumbs up signal and we make the ascent to the boat. Day 2 had been a success, and thanks to the patient efforts of my instructors, the buoyancy problem had been sorted out, and I had gotten over the apprehension and pain barriers and seen all the marine life that people had been telling me about the day before.

## Editor's bit

*Phil Sheppard*

Well here we are nearing Christmas again. This season isn't a great one for diving in the UK but there

is always the Red Sea! To compensate for the reduced amount of diving there is the AGM and a host of social events to attend (well done Frances again - a great way to bow out!)



I would like particularly to thank Stephen Maule for recounting his experience of diving Weybourne as a novice which didn't start successfully but with perseverance ended well. I should say in case people try this for themselves that most people don't need to wear 34 pounds of weight

to get under the water!

I would also draw your attention to Dave Lock's article about his experiences taking and passing the BSAC First Class Diver qualification - a significant achievement, no doubt obtained with a great deal of hard work. I have heard it rumoured that his theory result was one of the best in the country.

Finally, thanks to all those who continue to send me articles - all welcome.

## First Class Diver - Personal experiences

*Dave Lock*



The BSAC First Class Diver is arguably the highest of all grades offered by any diving agency throughout the world. The

definition is as follows: *an Advanced Diver who has attained a higher than average level of diving knowledge and ability, assessed through nationally conducted examinations, and is able to lead divers in order to achieve major tasks or project objectives.*

Lizzie Bird has expanded this explanation as follows:

What is First Class?

Above Advanced Diver



A person with excellent diving and dive leading skills, able to cope with different diving environments.

A First Class Diver :

- makes it happen - by organising
- makes it happen - by good planning
- makes it happen - monitoring time constraints
- makes it happen - by being able to pick up and run a plan
- makes it happen - if it doesn't!!
- makes it happen - with honed background skills
- makes it happen - with second nature diving skills

Needs to be/have : Good Diver  
Good Dive Marshal  
Good Assistant Dive Marshal  
Good Crew Member  
Good Boat Handler  
Good Seamanship  
Good position Fixer/Navigator  
Good Equipment Handler

Knows : When to be a leader  
When to be part of a team  
When to be flexible  
How to adapt to other plans

A First Class Diver fails if :  
Unsafe  
They are arrogant  
They back bite in public  
Blames others for their failings  
Inflexible to suggestions  
Cannot organise a piss up in a brewery

Late in 1996 I was conned into applying to be examined this year. There were a few people locally who were going to take the exam with me so that we could support each other through this stressful time! At the time of the exam all of these friends couldn't be seen for violent fin movements in the opposite direction! As normal I have Ali White to thank for the initial mad idea, the immaculate timing of her encouragement, after a few beers and the stitch up that resulted.

The exam is split into 3 sections, a theory test, a 15 sided document describing a weekends diving and a 2 day practical session. I will look at each section and then look at the theory test in detail in subsequent newsletters, if there is demand.

### Theory Test

This takes place twice a year in March and September and is a 3 hour long written exam on any aspects of diving. This year the format changed so that there were 7 questions, 3 being mandatory and allowing a choice of answering 2 out of the remaining 4. The mandatory questions were on Decompression, Medical and Chartwork. The other questions this year were on Weather, Dive Planning, Equipment and the famous question 1. This is 20 short questions that really test your background reading and diving knowledge. Here is the first four from this years paper:

*What fish belongs to the genus Labrus?*

*What is the Kisman-Masurel Code used to grade or score?*

*What does Entonox contain?*

*What is a Bodok Seal and where would it be used in diving?*

As can be seen from these examples I needed to do quite a bit of revision before my exam in March!! I started at Christmas as it seemed a useful way to spend the time positively rather than just eat and drink to excess. BSAC produce a reading list for aspiring First Class Divers and you can get copies of past papers to set the level of your revision. So I spent many hours revising from the many diving books I have, plus library books on A-level Physiology in preparation for this demanding session. About 2 weeks before the written exam 3 aspiring candidates got together with Ali to pool our knowledge and frighten ourselves silly with how much we didn't know! It was strange that everybody was more confident of my depth of knowledge than I was!! During the next 2 weeks both the other candidates conveniently found something else to do on the day of the exam!!

However on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March I turned up at Bubbles Dive Centre in North London for this gruelling marathon of a test. I sweated blood for 3



hours and was so exhausted at the end that I didn't even fancy a pint. Now it was sit and wait for the result for several weeks, although I felt reasonably confident that I would scrape a pass in the theory session. Then the results arrived and I was pleasantly surprised to have gained a merit in this section, must have studied the right areas I guess.

### Dive Planning Scenario

On passing the theory test you are invited to attend a practical session and to write a plan for a weekends diving at the chosen venue. This is for 12 First Class Divers with 2 distinct and conflicting interests, e.g. wrecking and photography. You are to use a hard boat of your choice, make the weekend interesting and challenging and include all and not use more than 15 sides of A4. The plan was to include all accommodation choices, safety and diving information for 3 dives a day. I just managed to fit this in the required space by keeping to a 12 point font in my plan!

The plan is marked over 11 aspects from budget to task allocation and each section has to be passed!! Unfortunately you don't know the areas that are being marked so you have to guess and take chances on the required aspects.

### Practical Test - 2 days of hell.

This was held on 16/17<sup>th</sup> August in Weymouth when the tides were early for slack water on the many wrecks in the area.. We met on the Friday evening where we were split into 2 groups of 6 and set our tasks for the weekend. The diving is split into a hard boat day and a small boat day. My group was to dive from the hard boat on the Saturday and to provide an enjoyable and challenging days diving for First Class Divers. There are sections that you are tested on so we had prepared a rota so we could all show our expertise at marshalling, dive leading, emergency procedures, first aid etc., etc. So off we set the first task being to get everyone plus their kit to the boat pick up point. Harassment is usually thrown in at this point with the examiners wandering off and getting lost. However we took this as an opportunity to show our skills in knot tying!! Eventually the boat set off for our chosen dive site, it was even on time! I had been volunteered

to navigate to the first dive and proceeded to plot courses and generally try to look like I knew what I was doing. Unfortunately the chief examiner decided to take the opportunity to challenge my knowledge of this skill for the 75 minute journey. We then dived the wreck - sod the photographers! and tried to show our skills at briefing, dive leading, wreck orientation etc., etc. After the dive my "buddy", the chief examiner (who had I upset?), decided to feign a broken leg after climbing up the ladder. Fortunately the 3 of us on board dealt with this situation as the others surfaced and got onto the boat.

We then moved off to the next dive site, I was seen to relax for 3.5 milliseconds and was pounced on by another examiner! In depth knowledge of first aid and first aid kits was prised from me in a determined fashion, thankfully there were only 4 examiners for the 6 of us poor pupils. The next dive was completed but was not considered challenging enough, a drift about 100 metres from Portland Race!! During the rest? periods opportunities were taken to question us about our knowledge on other diving related matters and to slip in a DCI incident just to keep us on our toes. The day ended with a de-brief session and a planning period for the next days diving.

This section was marked in 11 different areas and a pass was required for each part. Some of the comments I received were as follows:

*Contribution valid but quiet personality makes recognising it difficult.*

*You are quiet but effective. Try to raise your profile a little more when actively in control of operations.*

So now its official, at one point I was in control and I have a shy retiring nature! Its a good job the shot line was long enough!! However I will be altering my personality to compensate for my shortcomings - beware all of you!

On the Sunday our group of 6 operated from 2 RIBs. The idea was to survey 30 square metres of a wreck that the other group had found and positioned a rope grid on during Saturday. The grid was then to be recovered without losing



anything and without tying everyone in knots. We were also to find the boiler of another wreck and sketch transits so that this could be found again. There were the ongoing questions again but at least there were only 3 examiners today, we might get 5 millisecond rest periods! At one stage I was question on the workings of GPS and proceeded to give a technical explanation. Unfortunately I was considered a smart-arse and made to drive the boat with a coat over my head as recompense. Don't you just love National Instructors!! All to soon the day ended and we set off for a final de-brief before a long journey home.

Again you are marked on 11 sections so I'll give you some of the examiners comments for your pleasure:

*You supported the team well giving relevant advice where necessary.*

*Calm and steady approach. Considerate to ask buddy for preference instead of just telling them what to do.*

The is also 2 more areas that are examined in during the 2 days and an overall assessment to give a final grading. Well the person who sat the exam passed but I'm still not sure that it's me!! However I'll take the messages of support that I've received and be giving lessons on standing on water during the next few weeks.

The exam is challenging and makes you sort your skills and theoretical knowledge to a high level. In fact the official view is:

- 1) *further develop your personal diving skills*
- 2) *to elevate your diving activities, from within branch or club diving, to diving at a national level such as becoming involved with other divers outside the branch or involved in major projects and expeditions*
- 3) *to develop your leadership qualities so that you are able to lead activities at a higher level.*

### Pass Rates

Usually only about 50% of applicants pass the theory test and only 50% of those manage to pass the practical sessions, so there are bound to be disappointed divers about at the end of the exams.

### Benefits

The main benefit must be that you get to improve your skills in all aspects of diving and dive management. Additionally you get exposed to other ideas and ways of completing tasks underwater. Plus you get to meet some new friends and dive with like minded people. The final benefit must be that you get bought lots of beer (hint) for your shy retiring personality and for giving kind considerate advice to your fellow divers. I'll stick to my side of things if you stick to yours. Another benefit was the look on the chief examiners face when our pre-arranged helicopter arrived. Even the students were able to laugh at this one. It's a story well worth hearing, collar me in the pool or pub sometime and I'll tell it to you.



*I'll be taking on the opinions of the examiners and becoming more outgoing in the future. I'll try to project my skill and be a little more extrovert then my contribution level would increase.*

### **Dave being extrovert! - Ed**

As always I'll be available to help anyone what wants to try and achieve the lofty heights of First Class Diver. The entry level is quite high - Advanced Diver, Rescue Specialist, plus lots of other things. The main thing you need is commitment and a spare year or two to prepare yourself. If anyone wants more details please talk to me and I'll try and help. I'll even buy a pint for the person who first gives me the correct answers to the theory questions printed at the start of this article. I'm quite happy to publish all the theory paper questions with correct answers in this newsletter if anyone is interested. I could also break down the practical tasks and give advice on the planning and diving techniques used to complete underwater tasks. Phil or I need your feedback to be able to plan future articles so please tell us. I have also put together lots of



information that could act as the start point for anyone considering the exam.

#### What comes next

Well there's National Instructor but then you have to become like Ali White, not sure if I'm qualified for that. The exam consists of a First Class Theory paper followed immediately by a one hour paper on instructional theory. This is followed by a four day practical test where there are no 5 millisecond breaks! If you see me being bought a pint by Ali in the near future, please come and rescue me as I'm sure she'll be working on my shy retiring nature.

## **Book Review - The Wreck Diving Manual**

*Dave Lock*

This non-BSAC book is written by Lizzie Bird, a well known BSAC National Instructor and Chief Examiner for Open Water Instructor. It is well laid out and covers most areas that a diver needs to know about locating, diving and researching wrecks. I'll split this précis into the three main areas covered by the book although this isn't done in the book itself.

#### Before the Dive

The introduction covers what constitutes a wreck and why divers are attracted by them, the book starts with a useful explanation of flotsam, jetsam, derelict and lagan. The book then progresses with a very clear definition of latitude and longitude, position fixing and tides. In this section shots and their deployment are discussed in detail with Lizzie giving practical knowledge of some of the problems encountered when trying to shot a wreck. Decompression techniques and the use of deco stations and deco bars is covered in the final part of this section. Again there is a lot of practical knowledge given by somebody who has tried all the techniques shown. This differs from most of the articles published in other books and magazines.

#### Diving the Wreck

Again much practical advice is given on conducting the dive and what specialist kit to use. This section is let down by some poor quality photographs, not Lizzie's fault. The accent in this

section is safety but covers wreck penetration, alternative air sources, equipment configuration and delayed SMBs.

#### Wreck Research

This is a really useful chapter for the diver who wants to find out about the wreck he has been diving. It gives references, addresses, examples and a flow chart. I believe this sections main contributor was Lizzie's husband, Jack who worked at Lloyds for many years.

This is a very useful book for every level of diver including the experienced wreckhead. Of particular interest to people in BTRSAC are the chapters on wreck research, wreck location and marking the wreck. After all what's the point of getting all your personal dive gear configured correctly and making safe dive plans if you can't find and shot the wreck?

Dave (Tongue in cheek) Lock

[I read this as "Dave Tonge in cheek" the first time, what a thought! -Ed]

## **DO Doings**

*Pete Young, BTRSAC Diving Officer*



BSAC has a world-wide reputation for the quality of its diver training programme. However, the organisation is not complacent and is continually seeking to improve its training methods. In the wake of the launch of BSAC

International's Ocean

Diver qualification, BSAC is reviewing the branch training programme and in particular the Novice Diver qualification is the latest to come under the scrutiny of the National Diving Officer, Bob Boler.

BSAC has been criticised in the past for not seeking enough feedback from the branches, and are determined not to repeat that mistake. As the first stage in the consultation process, a small number of Diving Officers and Training Officers from around the country were invited to BSAC HQ at Ellesmere Port to take part in a 'brainstorming' session on the future of elementary diver training. I was invited by Ali White to go and represent the region, along with Colchester



BSAC's training officer. Presumably someone has told Ali that we are a typical branch!

So it was that 10 DOs and TOs convened under the watchful eye of Bob Boler, assisted by Deric Ellerby, on a windy Saturday morning at the beginning of September. We began by reviewing the training materials produced for the Ocean Diver course, and comparing the content to the existing Novice and Sport diver training programme.

For those of you who haven't had a chance to read Ocean Diver, it has been designed by BSAC International specifically for BSAC Schools to compete with PADI in the world market. It will be taught over 5 days and consists of 5 theory sessions, 5 practical sessions in sheltered water and 5 open water dives. Supporting material includes workbooks, Sport Diving, a copy of BSAC 88 tables and a professionally produced video of very high quality, an added bonus being that John Bantin is not in it. There is also a video for instructors and a third video to accompany 'Experience Scuba', which is a new name for 'Try Dive'.

The course is very thorough and covers nearly all of the material covered in the present Sport Diver grade. The exceptions are that no tuition in AV is given in Ocean Diver, and there are fewer dives. For Ocean Divers who wish to continue diving within the branch structure, there is also a crossover module which can be taught by schools and branches.

Ocean Divers who have completed their qualifications will be allowed to dive together in resorts despite having no training in AV or first aid, and this proved to be a major concern with most of the branch representatives. What would happen when those Ocean Divers joined a branch, where they would not be permitted to dive together? There was some discussion, but it seems unlikely that the BSAC membership will allow a relaxation in the requirements for AV skills to be part of basic training if the collective view of the brainstorm session is an accurate reflection. There are other less fundamental differences too: Ocean Divers don't require a medical and don't need to join BSAC.

We concluded that the Ocean Diver syllabus would translate quite nicely into 10 evenings of a lecture followed by a pool session, plus the 5 dives. This would be a very similar commitment to the existing Novice 1/Novice 2 programme, and would have the advantage of being a more widely recognised qualification than the current Novice 2 award.

My own view is that the existing Novice Diver/Sport Diver should be replaced in the branches with Ocean Diver and the crossover module, but this is unlikely to happen unless the question of whether two Ocean Divers can dive together in a branch setting can be resolved. I think this is a small problem in comparison to the difficulties inherent in running two parallel schemes for training divers.

Although this session was primarily about what to do with the Novice Diver grade, there were also some useful suggestions about additions to the Sport Diving programme. These included the use of the delayed surface marker buoy and some practical experience of diving to 35m, since this is the recommended range for a qualified Sport Diver. It remains to be seen whether this will be taken on board.

We have been asked not to reveal too much about the outcome of the brainstorm session. It does seem likely that the Novice training will be altered, and the new training program will be introduced as soon as possible. If nothing else, the Novice 1/Novice 2 split will be replaced by a single grade, and the name will almost certainly change. A revised version of some of the training materials, including the videos, will be made available to the branches.

The next stage in the process is to be a presentation to a wider audience at Underwater World (formerly known as the Diving Officers Conference) in Harrogate during November. The target is to launch the revised scheme in time for Autumn 1998, so this winter's group of trainees may be the last to receive instruction under the present scheme.

John Cook and I will be attending Underwater World along with several other branch members. There are a number of very interesting speakers confirmed for the event and I'll provide a full report of events in the next DO Doings. We have an additional reason to make a big effort to attend this year: Dave Lock will be presented with his First Class Diver award and deserves to receive a warm hand on his entrance. Ooh er missus!

Jesting aside, I'd like to offer my congratulations to Dave on achieving one of the highest-ever overall marks in BSAC's senior diving award. It's also a good time to thank Dave for his unstinting efforts to improve the skills and diving practices both in the branch and the region. I can't think of a single member of the club who hasn't benefited from Dave's



experience, either directly or indirectly. Thanks Dave and here's to the next 30 years!

## **Felixstowe Inshore Coastal Patrol**

*Helen Johnstone*

If you don't already know, John Cresswell has launched a new voluntary service, the Felixstowe Inshore Coastal Patrol. He is looking for volunteers to join the Patrol. Volunteers do not have to be RYA-qualified - John will ensure you get the necessary training (and qualification) for RYA Powerboat Level 2. We need members to drive the RIB and/or the LandRover, as well as other areas.

Below is a short synopsis about the Patrol. If you want some RIB practise/qualifications, or simply want to help out of the kindness of your hearts, get in touch with John via DiveLine (01473-715533), and volunteer.

### ***Felixstowe Inshore Coastal Patrol***

The *Inshore Coastal Patrol's* aim is, as the name implies, to patrol the shores of Felixstowe in order to provide help and assistance to people on the beach and in the water. This includes re-uniting lost children with their parents, bringing back people who have floated out to sea on small dinghies and lilos, rescuing wind-surfers, and ensuring that Jet-Skiers do not intrude onto the surf-area near bathers. In fact, anyone who requires assistance will be helped. For example, the Patrol is taking up the issue of the large waves that are hitting Felixstowe, caused by the new Sea-Cat. Last year, the Coastguard patrol was withdrawn from this area, despite it being the busiest patrol in the country. A Volunteer Coastguard who was part of the Felixstowe Coastguard, John Cresswell, has spent many months planning and setting up the volunteer *Inshore Coastal Patrol* in order that there is safety cover for Felixstowe.

Through donations, we have managed to buy and equip a small Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and a short-wheel-based Landrover. Both vehicles are fully kitted to cope with most emergencies and situations. This includes sub-aqua diving gear, resuscitation and first-aid equipment, VHF radios, spot-lights, flares, rescue harnesses, mobile phones and so forth.

The *Inshore Coastal Patrol* now regularly patrols the shores of Felixstowe from Landguard Fort to the Felixstowe Ferry. It is currently patrolling on weekends and bank holidays - when tourists and the local community most heavily use the beach. We took part in the recent Felixstowe Carnival day, providing rescue cover. We also put on an event during the carnival, where one of our members who was 'drunk' fell off the Pier and had to be 'rescued' by the RIB. The Landrover came to provide assistance with 'resuscitation' and 'first aid' until the Ambulance came and took over.

All members are volunteers - there are no 'joining fees'. The local Police Force and Ambulance Service are providing coaches to teach the Patrol members how to handle the various situations that they may encounter. This will lead to our members becoming qualified in first aid, at a minimum. John Cresswell himself is a RYA Instructor, and will teach

and qualify members to at least RYA Powerboating Level 2 qualification, in order that they can handle the boat safely and competently. Next year, we hope to get local children involved on the beach, so that they can also do their part towards making Felixstowe a safer place for the local community. Soon, we are being allowed to use a small hut at Felixstowe, where we can train new members, and use it as our base of operations, allowing the controllers to keep in touch with the RIB, Landrover and foot patrols. The plan is to get a social bar set up as well - BBQ's, a bar, etc. Hell, we could even give BayWatch a run for their money :-)



## Weymouth diving next year

*Dave Lock*

Anyone interested in some diving out of Weymouth next year? The options are a hard boat or RIBs for weekends - this will have to be booked now, or a mid-week trip based on a hard boat. The diving can be arranged to suit all grades but I would expect the experienced divers to be able to take time off for some real diving away from the less qualified divers. Could you e-mail or ring me with your preferences and I'll start to set something up. The minimum numbers are 12 for a hard boat and 4 for a RIB, I don't know costs yet but expect £22 (hard boat), £12:50 (B&B), £2:50 air.



## Monitor 2 plus dive computer - RECALL

*Pete Young*

I've just been handed a Fax from Aqualung UK via Diveline, Ipswich. It appears to be genuine. Diveline are taking it seriously. Posted here without Aqua-lung UK Ltds permission or knowledge, but I think it might be important to some of you.

-----Begin Faxed message-----

### **Important Notice**

All owners and users of the Monitor 2 plus, a dive computer manufactured by Uwaterc and distributed by Aqua-Lung UK Ltd since 1995, are **STRONGLY** advised to stop using it **IMMEDIATELY** and return it to the point of sale where it was bought (not Aqua-Lung UK Ltd) as your computer may have a defect.

The returned Monitor 2 Plus will be re-imbursed to you on presentation of the relevant invoice, only at the point of sale.

Only the Monitor 2 Plus is concerned. The preceding generation (Monitor 2) and subsequent (Monitor 3) computers are not involved in this recall.

Any user who decides to keep his monitor 2 plus will be personally liable for any damages resulting from its use.

For further information please contact Aqua-Lung UK Ltd on the following telephone number: 0116 251 4200

-----End faxed message-----



## DIARY DATES

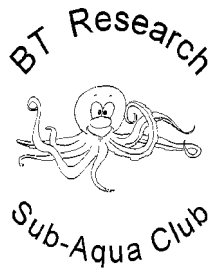
### Subscriber deadline

10 January 1998.

Early submission of articles appreciated.

### Events, courses and holidays

Date	Event (all holidays!)	Contact
12 November	Annual General Meeting SLT, BT Labs, 7pm	Andy Collicott
15 November	Barn Dance, Bealings Village Hall, 7pm - 11pm	Frances Cook
20 November	Red Sea, Sharm El Sheik	Mick Morley
5 December	Club Christmas Meal Marlborough Hotel Henley Road, Ipswich 7pm for drinks, meal at 8pm, presentations at approx. 9.30pm	Frances Cook
23 January '98	Dance with "Words and music by Lennon and Macartney", Trimley Sports and Social Club on High Road, 7.30pm onwards	Frances Cook
February '98	Red Sea	Raj Mistry
TBA '98	Weymouth	Dave Lock



## Club Christmas Dinner

Friday 5th December 1997

The Marlborough Hotel, Henley Road, **IPSWICH.**

7:00 pm for drinks, 8:00 for meal

with after dinner entertainment,

Speeches (short) and Awards Ceremony (short)

Caption Competition (Please send candid photos to

Frances with your name if you need to have them returned)

Partners and Friends Welcome

~ Menu ~

Cauliflower Soup (with melted cheese) or  
Salad of Seafood, fresh and smoked, (with three dressings) or  
Game Terrine (with Pistachio and red currant sauce) or  
Mushroom, garlic and herb Flan (with balsamic dressing)

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Free Range Norfolk Turkey (served with all the trimmings and Apricot Stuffing) or  
Fillet of Salmon (with leek and prawn sauce) or  
Guinea Fowl supreme (with bacon, wild mushroom and brandy sauce) or  
Pork Loin with Stilton & herb crust (and port wine sauce) or  
Spinach and Ricotta cannelloni (with tomato and herb coulis)

All the above are served with a selection of fresh market vegetables

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Home-made Christmas Pudding (with brandy sauce) or  
Rich Chocolate and Raspberry ganache tart (with vanilla cream) or  
Prune and Rum creme brulee (with home-made shortbread biscuits) or  
Fresh fruit salad

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Coffee with miniature mince pies

£19-50 per person or  
£2-00 for Awards Ceremony only (starts ~21:30)  
fill in order form (which will be mailed to you soon) to  
reserve your place or contact  
Frances Cook 01473 711122 or  
John Cook 01473 642084  
ON OR BEFORE NOV 12th