

The

# LONDON



# DIVER

JOURNAL OF LONDON BRANCH  
BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB

Price 6d.

THE LONDON DIVER

THE JOURNAL OF LONDON BRANCH  
OF THE BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB

VOL. 1, No.1

May-June 1959

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Dear Member,

It is with some diffidence I appear as sponsor at the baptism of "London Diver" for I know the father, Michael Brennan, but not the mother. Would she be Galatea?

However, this long-awaited arrival in Branch Magazines is welcomed all the more fondly because it is a little late. May the rosy promises of its young life be more than realized. Not all of our Members are able to spare the time to attend regularly at Seymour Place or venture on expeditions, but they would like to know what is going on. So fill your pens, please, ladies and gentlemen, and let us have contributions to Your Magazine. Let our artists art, and our Scientists pronounce, and our writers just write that newsy stuff which will ensure a long and virile life to "London Diver".

On your behalf and on my own I wish "London Diver" and its Editor every success.

H. A. M. CRUIKSHANK

President London Branch.

[R.S.V.P. "For the love of Mike"]

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the Chairman ....."

At long last, thanks to Michael Brennan, London has its own magazine.

There has been a long felt need for us to produce a regular magazine, especially as we have lagged behind other Branches who have been issuing them for some time. When I mentioned this in my Chairman's Report at the beginning of this year, I little thought that my request for an Editor would be met, so promptly and so ably, by Michael.

That there is need for a Branch magazine is unquestionable. We hope that it will do as much to bind the Branch together as "Triton" has done for the Club. In it you will read not only articles of general interest, but more especially London news, past, present and future.

Your Committee had a long discussion on the subject of sending the magazine out free, by post, as if it was the newsletter. It was eventually decided to do this with the first number and thereafter a charge of sixpence a copy would be reasonable as this keep the costs down, and enable six issues a year to appear.

I hope that you will support "London Diver" not only by purchasing it regularly, but also by contributing articles, news and ideas, and thus ensure the great success it deserves to have.

One last cry from the Chairman's heart! We urgently need a clubroom, preferably, but not necessarily near to Seymour Hall. Will anyone who knows of any suitable place, or who has any ideas on the subject, PLEASE get in touch with me immediately.

HARRY GOULD

"PAGE ONE"

Editorial

Modestly I have backtracked to enable the President and the Chairman to have their say first. Not all that modestly, of course, because I have cunningly left their pages un-numbered so even in this first issue, the Editorial is in its proper place - PAGE ONE.

To produce a magazine of adequate coverage of London Branch activities is not only a heavy labour, it is also a heavy expense. So this, my friends, is the free sample. Delivered to the door, to present enthusiastic Members and to listless, luke-warm, about to be ex-Members alike. It will NEVER happen again.'

All future issues of the magazine will be sold at the less-than-cost price of 6d. and will ONLY be available at the entrance to the pool on club nights. As vie am a bi-monthly publication (alternating with "TRITON"), we feel that all sufficiently interested parties are likely to attend the pool even just once in two months. So - if you want to know about future activities - come to the pool and buy the "DIVER". Reasonable requests for posting to Members who are to be away for long periods will be accepted individually.

I have said that I was modest, and in the terms used by England's greatest cigarsmoker to describe Earl Attlee, you may think that I "have a great deal to be modest about". It in my intention to make this the liveliest diving journal in world - and I can't do that without you all.

This first number is a cock-shy. I have tried to assemble the sort of material in which I thought you would be interested. Let me know where I have succeeded let me know I've failed, but I warn you - destructive criticism will be met with a challenge to write better stuff yourself!

Don't forget YOU'll be reading it, writing it, and PAYING for it!

## REVOLUTIONARY NEW LUNG DEMONSTRATION

On Friday, April 3rd, London Branch played host to about seventy guests from sixteen Branches, in the Lecture Room at Seymour Hall when the NORMALAIR lung was demonstrated for the time. (Incidentally, NORMALAIR supplied the oxygen-breathing sets carried by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing on, their successful conquest of Everest.) Without sponsoring the lung in any way, London Branch gave the makers and Messrs. Lillywhites the opportunity to bring the lung, to an important representation of the diving public.

Commander R.F. Harland, R.N.(ret.), who described the set, invited questions which seemed, in the main, surprisingly slow in coming. Perhaps the D.Os. and Equipment Officers present were waiting for the practical demonstration to follow. A question on CO2 build-up in a full-face mask was obviously expected by the Commander, and he claim that this oft-heard cry was an anachronism, a hangover from "hard hat diving" with the large area of the old fashioned diving helmet. A small shortening of the, endurance of the air supply was all that could happen, since the area of the face mask could only produce a slightly faster rate of breathing until the condition had been rectified.

The full face mask which incorporated a speech diaphragm and (in prototype) a built-in snorkel was shot at from the angle of the lungsharing drill laid down in the Club. The Commander boldly stopped that one in its tracks by suggesting that shared air could be taken from the end of the. snorkel. At the moment only an interesting theory, but if he is right it would be reassuring to many.

After the dry meeting, the wet The lung was ably demonstrated by Mr. Dan Maskell who told me that he had made over seventy dives with it, including one with a visor which was badly cracked when a heavy packing case dropped on it. He immediately dived to 100 feet with it without leakage.

Then /...

Then came an impossible piece of organization by Jim Phoenix. Forty dives in fiftyfive minutes with only four sets! No wonder Jim asks "Is this a record?" Most people played fair and had about four minutes each.

When my turn came I found that however revolutionary the set was in design, the makers had not solved our dependence on air. The bottle was empty. Surfacing massively in the shallow end and falling flat on my back in the process I had my bottle changed in under half a minute without removing the apparatus!

I liked the comfort of the weightbeltless harness, the speech dia phragm which really works, the introduction of "awareness" to the sidelines of vision, the ease of breathing. I would like to know more about the built-in snorkel and of course to have a longer trial in open water.

After the wet meeting Messrs. Normalair and Lillywhites thoughtfully provided another wet meet, at which the following Branches avidly discussed the Normnalair lung, and the food and drink: Southsea, Ipswitch, Guillardford, Hownslow, Imperial College, Kingston, Ilford, Oxford, University of London, Brighton, Northampton, Westminster Sea Scouts, Reading, Bromley, and Medway. The A.D.G. of London Branch was well-represented.

Our thanks are due to the firms concerned to those Members of our Branch who made arrangements at our end, not only for a most interesting and entertaining evening, but for proving, once you have anything that you want to bring to the notice the diving world - come to London on Branch.

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The Diving Officer's Notes

by  
JIM PHOENIX

A New Year for the Club, a new newsletter - I wish "THE LONDON DIVER" all possible success - I shall do my part to ensure that London Branch's diving activities live up to the new name.

Temporary change in Training "admin.": Ron Goodwin has had to take time out, so Tom Elleman is Acting training Officer, and Jack Jolliffe his Acting Assistant. Both appointments until Ron Goodwin returns to the fold.

I am sure that everyone who has been on a Course recently will agree that the continued smooth running of the Training programme is not only due to the T.0s. but also to the unselfish work of the Both Marshals.

Reminder to Members on the issue of aqualungs. The Equipment Officer is issued with a list of trainees by the Training Officer, and also some reserve names. Trainees who arrive after 8.35 p.m. Wednesdays or 5.35 p.m. Saturdays are liable to find that their lung has been taken by one of the reserves.

All Members who have passed the intermediate Tests and who wish to take the aqualung course should give their names to Tom Elleman

Another Third Class Divers' Course has just been completed successfully. The next Course starts on May 9th. Lectures are every Saturday at 4 p.m. Meeting place - the foyer of the Small Pool.

Lectures in the Courses follow a plan. If you missed one by not turning up, don't expect the rest of the class to wait while the lecture is repeated especially for you. The only solution is to fill in the gap when the next Course starts.

Please /...

Please report for lectures on time. It distracts both the lecturer and the rest of the class to have latecomers clambering in, however politely.

The Bronze Medallion class for Life Saving is in course of instruction. The Training Officer will be pleased to receive names for the next Course.

The Advanced Diving Group's open night when the new NORMALAIR lung was demonstrated is described elsewhere.

We recently gave a demonstration at the first Boy Scouts' skindiving camp. This was extremely well received and the event received national Press coverage, while Ted Blackett, Mike Busutilli and Gordon Lissner were filmed by B.B.C. film unit for the Television newsreel.

Diving expeditions have continued regularly throughout the Winter at Laughing Water, Arlesey and Torquay, in spite of weather hazards. The A.D.G. did a night dive at Laughing Water using underwater floodlights. This to be repeated in the Autumn.

The Whitsun Club week-end dive will be at Portland, as arranged at time of going to press.

The qualification to attend the A.D.G. lectures and meetings is passing the Intermediate Tests. It likely that this qualification will be raised in the near future.

Members wishing to join the A.D.G., please see me.

Anyone who has unsolved queries who doesn't come and speak their piece is likely to have his problems unsolved. V= not a mind reader. Let me know and I'll do my best to help.

Keep diving! And keep diving safe!

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The London Branch, Quinquennial Dinner

Garrick Hotel, April 4th, 1959

by Ken Pretty

To one Member "Quinquennial Dinner" conjures up a vision of the Diving Officer stirring up a bubbling cauldron of squid and seaweed with his service-worn snorkel, and feeding starving Third Class Divers with morsels fished out with his diving knife.

Full marks to Jim Phoenix who laid on an evening which will go well with the other landmarks of Branch history which our chairman mentioned in his speech.

That doyen of the sub-aqua world, Oscar Gugen, gave us the European Federation into its flippers.

Tiny Cruikshank welcomed our visitors who had come from as far afield Belfast, Chelsea and Kingston; and Jack Taylor (Chairman, Chelsea Branch) replied in as bright an off-the-cuff speech as I have heard for a long time.

A glimpse of the higher (or lower) planes of diving was given by Arther C. Clark who told the company a little of the great things going on in warmer waters of the U.S.A.

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Editor's Note:

The above strictly factual and somewhat sparse account of the Dinner is all I have been able to extract from the mists surrounding the event. I can only surmise that it was a hell of a success!

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No. 1 Branch EASTER DIVE

By JOHN SKINNER

I hear that Paddy Mangin has written a piece about the Easter expedition to Torquay. Readers may, therefore, welcome a factual account.

Twenty-seven members of London Branch were packed with a large quantity of gear in a twenty-nine setter coach. This was cramped but economical.

The first dive on Good Friday took place at Oddicombe Beach to which divers and equipment were conveyed by funicular. The water was calm and fairly cold and the visibility was only three feet. Depths up to twenty feet were reached. Diving continued from 3 cm. until dark.

On Saturday at Anstey's Cove diving commenced at 11 a.m. and conditions were very much better. The water was warmer and the visibility about eight feet. Two Members of Torquay Branch Joined us on this occasion and depths of up to forty feet were recorded. Although conditions were by no means ideal, a number of underwater photographs were taken, and it will be interesting to see the results. Quite a few fish were seen, and an anchor was found and salvaged by Mike Busutilli and Harry Gould. One of the ladies was so intent on her duties as safety lookout that she was stranded by the tide and had to be rescued. As diving ended for the day a school of porpoises was seen just outside the cove.

Easter Sunday, as you will have heard, was unsuitable for diving and the day was spent on social activities, and Bank Holiday in travelling home. Expedition Leader and D.O. - Jim Phoenix Assistant D.O. - Jack Jolliffe. Treasurer - Mike Busutilli. Accommodation organizer - Tom Elleman. A well-organized and successful weekend except for weather.

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## GIRL'S EYE VIEW

by

Paddy Mangin

Fifty minutes late, a hilarious coach ride through the night to Torquay left Seymour Hall for the Easter Dive. It's a wonder we didn't get into trouble with the law for running gambling in the street because within seconds of casting off, impatient card friends had rigged a table of kitbags and cases in the rear of the coach.

A five hour session until 3.30 a.m. was only interrupted for a snack in Wilt., Hamp., or Som. Gradually either the players or the cards wore out until only three hard-bitten gamblers were left playing poker dice for all our matches. On arrival at Torquay (6 a.m.) Roger Broadbent had enough boxes to go into business.

The Organizer's theory was that we should have five hours' sleep, about lunchtime and dive in the afternoon. Unfortunately, in my case, all three girls on the trip were in the same bed, safe, matchless and very sleepy. So naturally we had a heart-to-heart natter until brunch.

On, Good Friday afternoon Jim Phoenix and the D.O. (Torquay Branch), Mr Bennett, who also manages to manage the hotel, okayed the wind and waves in Oddicombe Bay. They were right, a fine afternoon's diving for all. Vivienne Porjes, being on her first dive christened her underwear with a leaky suit.

In the evening the decant party went to work with a will, but being assigned as social reporter, I went to work (without Will) by accompanying the drones into town. We returned early, but not to sleep. Everybody visited everybody, and nobly did their share of decanting air - but not into bottles.

Saturday's /...

Saturday's bright start clouded over, but Jim Phoenix managed to keep it fine until the last dive of the day. Vivienne, being on her second dive, christened more underwear with another leaky suit.

Sunday, it poured and diving was impossible so a visit was made to the fish behind glass in the Aquarium, and later we went to Kent's Cavern. Jack Jolliffe presented the Aquarium with a sea anemone which he had persuaded to leave its natural habitat, and one of the fish showed its appreciation by giving a demonstration of egg laying. The caves, reputed to be the oldest dwelling of pre-historic man in England, have now been immortalised by Colin Robinson's hoary gag about Tiny Cruikshank's age and by the splitting of my jeans just as a group photograph was being taken. Copies of this photograph will NOT be on sale.

Sunday evening, like Saturday, was spent in movies, dormitory larks for some, while other more serious students concentrated hard on Pontoon until 3 a.m. chez MikeBusutilli and Ted Blackett. Its is understood that they were practising for the long journey home on the morrow.

Despite the disappointing weather, the crippling loss of matches, the apple-pie beds, the persistent leaks in Vivienne's suits , it was a grand weekend. Those who didn't come because they couldn't, and those who couldn't because they wouldn't really missed something, and I should like to thank everyone concerned who worked so hard to make it so enjoyable.

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I.L.J. = L.S.  
THE LIFE JACKET CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!  
by Jim Phoenix

New Members on London Branch expeditions will have noticed the orange coloured lifejacket, which is compulsory wear for free divers and snorkellers alike.

The wearing of these jackets has a number of advantages. First and most obviously, inflation in an emergency. This is obtained by squeezing a lever which punctures a small cylinder of carbon dioxide gas which is under pressure. This fills the jacket and is sufficient to support a fully equipped diver INCLUDING WEIGHT BELT!

The second use might be called "self inflation" although this is open to misunderstanding. The wearer blows through a easily accessible tube, fitted with a one-way valve, and can easily inflate the jacket. This is extremely valuable when there is no immediate crisis but, for example, you are over-tired, out of air, and have a long way to snorkel back to boat or shore.

A third advantage is COLOUR. The bright orange jacket ensures that the safety cover sees you surfacing.

It is commonsense, but it sometimes needs saying, that the lifejacket goes UNDERNEATH other equipment, so that if you have to jettison you don't lose the lifejacket. Of course one must ensure that the harness straps do not impede inflation, and in fact they fit easily around it. There is a tendency to trap the collar between valve and your back, and this must be watched.

Maintenance is simple. Check for rubbing. wear on both jacket and webbing. Make sure that no water has entered the jacket. Return to the makers for overhaul every two years. They make a nominal charge for this but remember that a properly maintained life jacket may save a life in an emergency and

IT MAY BE YOURS!

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## DIVERS TALES

### 1. "Teddy Tucker's Treasure"

"Full fathom five thy father lies,  
Of his bones are coral made."

When Shakespeare wrote "The Tempest" and the song quoted above, he had a real wreck in mind. Around London Town broadsheets had been published about the foundering of the "Sea Venture" on a Bermudan reef. This was Sir George Somers' ship, owned by the Virginia Company and carrying settlers to America. It is certain that this news item gave him the idea for the play, and from internal evidence in the script it seems probable that he met some survivors, perhaps in the Mermaid Tavern.

The actual location of the wreck which happened 350 years ago (1609) has never be-on pinpointed until this year, although a section of the Eastern reefs is known as "Sea Venture Flats".

An American, working in Bermuda, Edward Downing, a descendant of one of the original ship's company, became fascinated by skindiver Teddy Tucker's fabulous treasure finds from a Spanish galleon in 1956-7, and he determined to find the wreck of the "Sea Venture" which was the direct cause of the founding of Britain's oldest colony.

Earlier this year, working together Tucker, he found it, right where it should be, in Sea Venture Flats, near "Five Fathom Hole", in exactly thirty feet of water - so old man Shakespear was right!

For a change all the available records seem to have been accurate. She was described as being lodged between two reefs she was. She was cannibalised to build a ship to the survivors to Virginia, but enough remained for divers to survey and superimpose on existing plans for comparison. Amongst other relics a loaded cannon was found with cannon ball, flaxen wadding and wooden plugs in perfect condition, in with coral growth. This cannon is inscribed

"Richard /...

"Richard Phillips facit" (made by Richard Phillips). He was a famous London gunsmith in the 1590s.

But fascinating as this most recent and valuable historical discovery certainly is, I find the story of Teddy Tucker's Treasure., which sparked it off, even more interesting. I have pieced it together from current accounts, from personal observations made to me by Teddy Tucker, and by Freddy Hamilton whose beautiful colour photographs of the treasure were published by the world press.

Teddy still maintains great secrecy about the actual site, probably because he had a certain difficulty in persuading various interested Governments that what he found was his, and partly to preserve his preserves from poachers.

In 1955 while spearfishing, Teddy noted a round piece of coral in quite shallow water (reputedly about twelve feet). Diving to investigate this unusual formation he found it was breech end of a cannon upended in the reef and overgrown with coral. It would seem that a chance in a million had preserved the treasure from the scattering action of the tides. When the reef tore the bottom of the wooden Spanish galleon, the heavy cannons on deck crashed down and anchored an as yet undiscovered (or undisclosed?) amount of "loot" in pocket of the reef where it waited some 363 years to be found. Crockery, sea-blackened jewellery, bones - human and animal, a gold cross set with seven large cabuchon emeralds gold ingots and coins, and a gold bar stamped with impressions of pieccs of eight and the name "Pinto", indicating that it was alluvial gold from from the River Pinto in South America. A blackened earring of Venetian glass with a twisted wire securing the hoop. What beautiful woman was wearing it when the ship went down? A large round egg of the South American ostrich and the fragments of another. What freak of tide preserved the one and smashed the other?

One /...

One of the finest examples of cast-iron cannon ever found was as big as a barrel with encrustation. After much chipping away, Teddy Tucker soaked it for a year in fresh water, then used sodium hydroxide and zinc to pull the oxygen out. He says it is hard now, but it was so soft when it was raised, that a rope would have cut it and a scrubbing brush rubbed it away. Beside the gun was a piece of wooden carriage from which a reproduction mounting has been made, and painted with resinous paint FOUND IN THE WRECK!

Not only is there secrecy about the site, but methods of diving and raising are deliberately vague. I gathered however from Feddy Hamilton, the photographer, that much of the diving was with snorkel and mask only and that oil drums inflated from air bottles were used to raise the cannon.

All these things and relics from many wrecks are now in the recently-opened "Wreck Museum" on East Broadway, Hamilton, Bermuda, which is an obvious 'must' for any diver lucky enough to have an American business trip in view, since you can be routed via Bermuda without any extra charge. If you have no chance of a business trip, and are still determined a Tourist air return ticket is around £220 - so start saving!

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In our next number : DIVERS TALES - No. 2  
"Matter of Twelve Dollars"

Readers are invited to submit their own entry for this series. Since divers are notoriously gabby about their experiences - we ought to have enough material to run this series for years. Any type of story, so long as it fits the main heading - DIVERS TALES.

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## "THIS IS YOUR LIFE"

by Paul Howden

On every wall, on every desk, on every page of every diary by an international business concern is the one word. THINK They even have a THINK song,, which in taking things a bit far we - er, think.

But let us stop and think for a moment. About diving. About diving. Diving has its own fascination for us all - wonder, excitement, the spice of danger that gives zest to life. Alright. But how much unnecessary risk do you. take by using carelessly-handled equipment? That demand valve covered in mud, the valve that was knocked against the side of the bath, the chipped and rusty cylinder, the suit perished for of a good rinse and a penn'orth of french chalk? The list is endless, and it is your bad luck if you have to face an emergency which is basically caused by somebody else's carelessness. Your bad luck, but it is not luck at all - it need never have happened.

The purpose of this not is not to say that the equipment-must-be-looked-after-as-if-it-were-your-own. It is to say two things only:

- (i) The Equippers can see external damage as well as anybody, but they cannot test every item after use. Please report any defect, or apparent defect so that we can investigate it and put it right. This includes, accidental knocks which may have caused internal damage.
- (ii) Remember that it may be, weeks or even months before that damage creates an emergency - and it could be you having it. Equipment is precious. So is your life....

THINK

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### UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

We apologise that the first of a series of articles on this subject (dealing with the basic principles of constructing camera cases) has been unavoidably held over, until. we have solved the problem of reproducing the necessary diagrams.

CLUB DIRECTORY

<u>President. London Branch</u>	-	H. A. M. Cruikshank
<u>Chairman</u>	-	Harry Could
<u>Honorary Secretary</u>	-	Starter Thomas, 37a Huntley Street, W.C.1 Telephone MUSEum 2291.
<u>Treasurer</u>	-	Byron Cowie
<u>Act.Tr.Officer</u>	-	Tom Elleman
<u>Equip. Officer</u>	-	Paul Howden
<u>Social Secy.</u>	-	Dennis O'Reilly
<u>Editor</u>	-	Michael Brennan
		<u>Diving Officer</u> - Jim Phoenix
		<u>Act.Asst.Tr.O.</u> - Jack Jolliffe
		<u>Dry Meetings</u> - Ken Pretty
		<u>Scientific</u> - Bob Bannerman

Bath Marshals

Ricky Best	Don Sizer	Tony Sugden	Bill Butland
Mike Dearman	Pat Craddock	Gerry Walters	Tom Elleman
Harry Gould	Mary Bruce	Jack Jolliffe	Ron Goodwin
Ken Pretty	Stanley Jones	Mike Busutilli	Jim Phoenix

Assistant Bath Marshals

Paul Howden	Paddy Mangin	Bob Rivcs	Martin Woodford
Ted Sheldon	Rowena Ker	Rip Walcott	Ted Blackett

"THE LONDON DIVER" EDITORIAL OFFICE

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TRAINING	RESULTS	AT	TIME	OF	GOING	TO	PRESS:
	<u>Test</u>			<u>Passed</u>		<u>Failed</u>	
<u>January 1959</u>	Swimming			13		2	
<u>23 Lessons</u>	Primary			6		-	
	Intermediare			-		-	
<u>February 1559</u>	Swimming			5		4	
<u>40 Lessons</u>	Primary			2		1	
	Intermediate			2		2	

MAY

Friday, May	1st	Advanced Diving Group	Small Pool	7.30
Saturday	2nd	Training Programme	Small Pool	5.30
Wednesday	6th	Training Programme	<u>Large</u> Pool	7.30
Friday	8th	Advanced Diving Group	<u>Large</u> Pool	7.30
Saturday	9th	Third Class Lectures commence	4 p.m.	
		Training Programme	Small pool	5.30
		Film Show 8 p.m.:	New Ley Kenyon film	
		<u>and</u> Dunlop "Disc Brakes"		
Wednesday	13th	Training Programme	Large pool	8.30
Friday	15th	Advanced Diving Group	Large pool	7.30
Saturday	16th	Branch Expedition to Portland.	<u>NO POOL</u>	
Sunday	17th	" "	" "	
Wednesday	20th	Training Programme	Large pool	8.30
Friday	22nd	Advanced Diving Group	Large pool	7.30
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Third Class Lectures	4 p.m.	
		Training Programme	Small pool	5.30
Wednesday	27th	Training Programme	Large Pool	7.30
Friday	29th	Advanced Diving Group	Large pool	7.30
Saturday	30th	Third Class Lectures	4 p.m.	
		Training Programme	Small Pool	5.30

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N.B. These events were the available information at time of going to press. Please consult notice board for additional events not yet finalized, and ALSO FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES.

E V E N T S

JUNE

Wednesday, June	3rd	Committee Meeting		7 p.m.
		Training Programme	Large pool	8.30
Friday	5th	Advanced Diving Group	Large Pool	7.30
Saturday	6th	Third Class Lectures		4 p.m.
		Training Programme	Small pool	5.30
		Film Show		8 p.m.
Wednesday	10th	Training Programme	Large pool	8.30
Friday	12th	Advanced Diving Group	Large pool	7.30
Saturday	13th	Third Class Lectures		4 p.m.
		Training Programme	Small Pool	5.30
Sunday	14th	Branch Expedition		Details later
Wednesday	17th	Training Programme	Large pool	8.30
Friday	19th	Advanced Diving Group	Large pool	7.30
Saturday	20th	Third Class Lectures		4 p.m.
		Training Programme	Small pool	5.30
Wednesday	24th	Training Programme	Large pool	8.30
Friday	26th	Advanced Diving Group	Large pool	7.30
Saturday	27th	NO SWIMMING. POOL CLOSED FOR GALA		

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In addition to the events detailed above for May and June, Members are reminded that Coffee is served on most Saturdays after swimming, in the Church Hall.

You can always arrange to show your slides or film, and these informal events frequent. SO DON'T MISS THE SATURDAY GET - TOGETHER!

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

We recently held a Quinquennial Dinner to celebrate the first five years of London Branch's existence from the official date of 4th May, 1954. In fact the Branch existed from the very foundation of the Club - 15th October, 1953.

A Committee Member from the start, I was Equipment Officer in those days, becoming Hon. Sec. in November '54. I was Chairman for one year, but after the glory - it was back to the grind.

The Large Pool reopens on Wednesday, 6th May, and is reserved for us every Wednesday and Friday in Summer months, 8.30-9.30, Admission 1/6. Please note - Friday is for Advanced Diving Group only. Spectators are admitted on other days free of charge, rights of admission reserved.

Swimming continues in the Small Pool every Saturday throughout Summer, 5.30-7.30, Admission 2/-, EXCEPT for a few when dates when galas are being held. In the immediate future the only one of these is June 27th. NO SWIMMING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH.

I was recently contacted by the New South Wales offices in London, as they propose to have rules established in Australia for the specification and operation of underwater breathing apparatus. Our Diving Manual and rules and instructions may well be the basis of new legislation in Australia.

Ernest O'Shaughnessy (until lately our Treasurer) was recently presented with a Parker pen set by the Branch. In his letter of thanks, he and his wife Audrey suggest an expedition to visit them in Florida. Water temperature currently 80 °F.!

Surgeon Lieut. Cdr. Wyndham Davies' book "Skindiving for Boys" is recommended to parents. Obtainable direct from 36 Seymour Street, London W. 1. price 1/6 plus 3d. postage.

STANLEY THOMAS

## "MEET THE PEOPLE"

In my first weeks as a Member of London Branch I made acquaintances, most of whom I could only recognize when they were wearing their diving masks. When masks were off (after swimming, I mean) I knew only a few Christian names, there seemed little opportunity to develop the somewhat limited relationship possible on the bottom of the pool. I have therefore taken it on myself to introduce our Members to each other in the pages of this magazine, and so to speed up the process of new Members becoming old friends.

So picking at random on the night I dreamed up this feature, I found new Member FRANCES BIGG training for the Intermediate Tests and I introduced her to HAROLD GOULD.

HAROLD GOULD has been a Member of the Club since October 1954, and is one of our few First Class Divers, so to reverse the Army phrase, he has certainly had time to get his number wet.

As a Chartered Accountant dealing with (to us) mysterious and dry as dust figures all year, Harry always looked for a type of holiday in complete contrast. In Summer 1953 he went with the Club Mediterranee to Paleo Kastritza, Corfu. Greece - and that sealed his fate. He made his first acquaintance with free diving, and has been paying for it ever since with great chunks of his spare time.

Always active in the administration of the Club, he became National Treasurer in 1946, is the University Liaison Officer, and is Chairman of London Branch.

But we are not the only people Harry kicks around. Local government is his other abiding hobby and he has been a Holborn Borough Councillor since 1956. Incidentally by time you this he will be in the throes of another election (May 7th) and I'm sure we all wish him success (if that's the kind of thing he likes!). His success in local

government /....

government is actually a matter of concern for us all for, apart from obvious jobs like being Chairman of the Finance Committee etc. he is also on the Baths Committee (as is our other admin. expert Councillor Stanley Thomas, our Hon. Secretary).

Getting Harry's head out of Council chamber and into the water is not a very difficult job. A regular attender on Club expeditions and at pool training sessions, he has dived at Palinuro (Italy), and Santa Giulia (Corsica) as well as Greece. His main underwater interests are "just plain looking" (and you have to go out of England for that) and underwater archaeology. This Summer he plans to go with Branch Roberto Lasagna to La Spezia (Italy) to look for wreck. As La Spezia is Roberto's home town, I am sure they will find some, and not only in the water!

HARRY - THIS IS FRANCES ....

FRANCES BIGG is an Orthodontist. When I climbed back out of the water, she explain that this is a Dental Surgeon who specializes straightening children's teeth, and she holds an appointment at the National Dental Hospital.

Her primary interest in recreation was Rowing, followed closely by Swimming, and since she had reached International Class before Polio knocked her out of the boat, some of us had better look to our laurels now she is concentrating on Swimming. Rowing in eights and in fours, Frances represented United Universities and London University, and in 1953 rowed for England in the European Championships at Copenhagen. Chosen again for the Duisberg meet in 1957 she contracted Polio and had to withdraw. Congratulations on your recovery Frances, and welcome to the Club.

When I /....

When I asked newcomer ALFRED LEECH what had first attracted his interest in free diving, he told me it was seeing some of Hans Haas's films. I was reminded that this was the same answer that MARY BRUCE had given me. I wonder just how many Members Haas and the "Club Med." are responsible for between them: I bet its more than Mike Nelson.

MARY BRUCE is a schoolteacher and has been a Club Member for two and a half years. Her diving interests tend towards archaeology (whose don't?) and she has a treasured piece of a wine amphora to prove that she visited the wreck of an ancient Greek galley at Paleo Kastritzta. Her dry land hobby is Dramatics, so if any enterprising amateur producer is looking for a leading lady, who speaks The Queen's English, has brains, a piece of an amphora and is good looking into the bargain, his search is ended.

I started introducing ALF LEECH to Mary, but understandably got carried away, so let's get back to Alf who has been with us only a month. He serves in the London Fire Brigade after a fourteen-year stretch in the Royal Navy. As London Branch's only submariner, who is also a qualified Naval diver, he is now adding the Aqualung to the types of apparatus with which he is familiar.

His hobbies all seem to come under the heading 'Athletic'. They include Rugby, Boxing, Rowing (Stroke for FireBrigade in whaler racing against R.N. and Metropolitan Police in the Fishmongers' Cup), and track events (100 yards in 10.7).

Alf has swum and dived in many places from the Orient to the Arctic Circle (!) where a fatherly Navy considered getting used to the cold water to be part of Arctic Convoy training in the War.

When my /...

When my teeth had stopped chattering at the very thought of it, he told me of an occasion when he was swimming with other Naval personnel at Reykjavik (Iceland) muffled up to the eye-lids. They could hardly believe their eyes when they saw a pretty girl swimming with no more protection than that afforded by an ordinary bathing costume (and that 's not much). It turns out that volcanic geysers create currents of warm water which, in spite of the latitude, can provide Mediterranean type bathing, providing you don't stray out of them. Personally I'd rather bathe in the Mediterranean and risk running into a cold patch caused by a freak iceberg!

Alf's ambition apart from owning his own lung, is to have more join the Club to train in our kind of diving to enable them to answer more efficiently the calls they receive at all stations anywhere near canals etc. They will be just as welcome as you are, Alf.

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IN OUR NEXT NUMBER MORE OF YOU WILL BE  
INTRODUCED TO YOU, AND YOU, AND YOU!

## THE TECHNIQUE OF FIN SWIMMING

by BIRBECK

Three things go to make a Free Diver:

- 1) The Person
- 2) The Breathing Apparatus
- 3) The Method of Propulsion.

The propulsion is obtained by the means of fins, and the efficiency of a Free Diver's mobility depends on how he uses his fins.

The correct use of fins also decides how far a diver can travel before becoming tired and out of breath. To be in this condition when too far off shore, or a diving tender, may decide whether the diver will get back at all. So for safety's sake train to reach a high standard of fin swimming ability, and train regularly to maintain this standard.

"TRAIN FOR SAFETY, TRAIN FOR STYLE,  
TRAIN TO SWIM AN EASY MILE."

Streamlining plays a vital part in any swimming stroke; particularly underwater swimming. Yet it is rarely heard mentioned.

When a free diver harnesses an aqualung to his back he spoils his streamlining considerably, so that should pay particular attention to the perfection of what is left.

To attain the best fin swimming technique one must first practice without an aqualung. Then the lung can be added and the final stages of training consolidated. But all the time there should be regular reversion to the earlier practices, which in themselves can be interesting and stimulating.

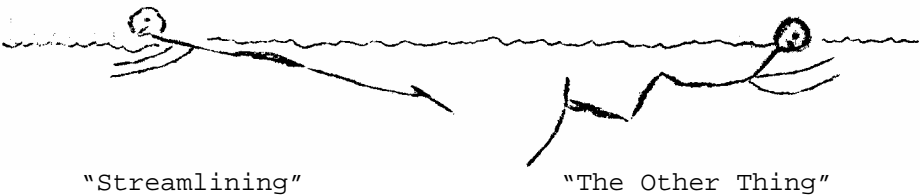
Therefore we have two things to consider:  
Streamlining, and Leg Stroke Technique.

Streamlining /...

Streamlining means the swimmer's form and position in the water. It is very important.

If one takes a thin wooden skewer, pointed at the forward end, floats it in a bath of water, and gives it a tap at the rear end it will shoot forward and glide to a standstill.

If this skewer weighed one ounce, and then cut a cube of the same wood, also weighing one ounce, and vie went through the same process, using equal force, the distance travelled would be much shorter. More force would be required to make it equal the distance. Why is this? Because of the resistance due to lack of streamlining! What is the moral for the fin swimmer? Save energy by streamlining your body position in the water.



Remember this:

1. Stretch out in the water to streamline.
2. Streamline and go faster and farther with the same of effort.
3. Streamlining saves steam and air.

Assuming that a force of one pound is required to move a swimmer through the water for one foot, the following table shows the fantastic build up of force required to overcome resistance:

1 ft. per sec. = 1 lb.	2 ft. per sec. = 4 lbs.
3 ft. per sec. = 9 lbs.	4 ft. per sec. = 16 lbs.
5 ft. per sec. = 25 lbs.	6 ft. per sec. = 36 lbs.

IN NEXT EDITION : "Technique of Leg Stroke"

"WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE -  
AND NONE WORTH DONNING A SUIT FOR."

by RON GOODWIN

During the past months I have unfortunately not been able to participate in any outdoor branch activity, due to that unpleasant necessity - WORK.

My occupation takes me to a quayside of London Dock, where a very busy import-export trade is carried on between U.K., Mediterranean, and Continental ports.

It is sometimes the case, that during loading or discharging operations, "Things go SPLASH in the dock, tra la." Then the opportunity arrives for me to renew contact, in working hours, with the dock diver and his band of attendants.

The liquid silt, usually referred to as dock water, is so noxious, that apart from swimming being contrary to dock regulations, an accidental immersion results in a trip to the local "bone yard" for two days observation! This is probably to find out WHY the submergee has not caught leprosy, galloping rabies, or Sweetwater Canal disease.

From the above you will gather that visibility is poor. At the surface, up to six inches or so on a good day. With no ship movements, eight to ten inches! It can almost be guaranteed that the water will be free from dead dogs, and if the local collector of aquarium food has had a successful swish with his net, the water bugs will be missing too. Driftwood and all the other debris remain to complete the sordid scene.

Circular search procedure is the one invariably followed, since much of the information regarding the positions of sunken cargo is vague. Consequently, after the tidal wave has subsided, the spot where the bubbles appear is considered to be the area where the diver will commence underwater Blind Man's Buff. Diving equipment is standard dress, with hard pump air supply. Constant contact is maintained by a tele phone amplifier system, left operating on the "diver-to-tender" circuit.

Bearing /...

Bearing in mind that the shallower levels of mud and silt are anything from knee deep upwards, the effort of trundling around in this "pudding", wearing Augustus Siebe's "sandals", is really hard graft. Even in the winter months (twelve every year ), when the dressers collect the diver's fingers as they snap off, he works up quite a sweat in his "tin" hat.

The really educating part though, is listening to the telephone amplifier, hearing the grunts, groans, grasps and the latest adjectival Anglo-Saxon nouns issue from the set. This is particularly so, when the diver groping in the mud with his hands for something small, collects the hectic 'bon voyage' party empties in the shape of broken glass. Similarly, one, hears words of rare beauty, when the diver trips over odd lengths of steel wire rope, which have been presented to the dock bottom on dark night by a departing with the compliments of its Chief Mate.

Most of the divers employed by the Port of London Authority are ex-R.N. types, and having had benefit of training on H.M.S. VERNON, they are fitted to meet any eventuality, from bombs to bottles, daylight or dark, and a pretty fair old vocabulary to express their opinion.

Underwater visibility in this country being rarely up to tap water standards, Branch dives are planned from time to time in dark water. This may not sound interesting but is very good against the time when visibility deteriorates unexpectedly.

Members are recommended to make a point of reading the article on poor visibility on Page 50 of the DIVING MANUAL - when it finally gets delivered.

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## SCIENTIFIC REPORT

"The year has been noteworthy for the absence of scientific achievement by the Club as a whole." Thus the opening sentence of the report of the B.S.A.C. Scientific Committee! I hope that London Branch will quickly play its part in remedying this sorry state of affairs. With the wealth of scientific and technical knowledge that must lie concealed among our Members, there is no reason why we shouldn't do so if we try.

At the moment I think something could be got going along the following lines:

1. Underwater photography: If we can get together and build up a body of information on case construction and underwater exposure it will be of help to everyone, beginners and experienced photographers alike.
2. Communication between divers: Some Members have already given a good deal of thought to this problem, and now we need more assistance on all the technical aspects involved, such as microphones, transistor amplifiers, etc.
3. Physiological tests: I would like to see simple tests carried out regularly on a group of divers. It might be possible to detect an increase in fitness with training, and something like this would add interest to the weekly swimming sessions. Are any people in the Branch who could do this?

These are just a few ideas for a start. No doubt you will have others of your own: I would be glad to know of them and to have the of interested parties.

R. C. BANNERMAN

Scientific Officer

## SIREN SONG

Down through the azure sunlit tropic see,  
Gravity sped, yet gravity free,  
Body exchanged for a pair of eyes,  
To see the Glory, wonder feel, yet oddly not surprise.  
Downbreathing my way to the coral reef,  
A drowned steel mirror has become my sky,  
In dreamlike calm, wonder begets Belief.

Into a valley with graceful walls I glide.  
Dancing in time to the swelling tide  
Purple seafan deeper beckons me,  
Now veiling, now displaying treasures of that crystal sea.  
Flowerlike obelia. Shawls of pearly lace.  
Puffs of stardust from the sandy floor.  
Star coral cameos, in red velvet case.

Startlingly, an attacking arrow's flight  
Arcs towards me with the speed of light,  
The frightened cloud of fry flees a pack  
Of powerfully graceful, ruthlessly snapping amberjack.  
Unseeing in their ago old fear, the, fry  
Shatter in a million glass splinters,  
Reform their ranks, jink on their way to die.

The rift in the peace for the moment healed  
Life reappears, which jungle walls concealed.  
Spanish hogfish, pompano, speckled hinds,  
Pinfish porgy, sennetts, white beaked parrots of many kinds,  
Sealawyers, doctors, red snapper enflamed,  
Florescent angels in Joseph's coat,  
Names like colours, and colours not yet named.

Now on the stardust floor I see a gem,  
A jewelfish with turquoise diadem.  
A gaunt barracuda champs his jaws  
Guarding a lone, limed cannon of the Conquistadors.  
Sole relic of a once proud ship it bides,  
A worthless hint of what once was there,  
A treasure scattered by a thousand tides.

Does memory mock with a diver's tale?  
Beside reality would it pale?  
That first reef dive, was it really so?  
Or would returning there at once dispel the glow?  
This subtle doubt is the Siren's Song  
That calls me to once more cross the world  
To that same reef, to KNOW if it was wrong.

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COMPETITION PAGE

"A Wreck of Our Own"

Reading an old copy of Brighton and Worthing Branch's newsletter I was filled with envy. Every easy, possessive reference to the wrecks "Indiana" and "My Own" rubbed sea water into my wounds, and made me realize anew the advantages of a coastal branch. BUT THIS IS LONDON, No. 1, THE MOST IMPORTANT BRANCH. WE MUST HAVE A PROJECT OF OUR OWN OF MORE INTEREST THAN A RUSTING AT ARLESEY.

Prizes then of four, two, and one week's free entrance to Seymour Hall Baths on Club nights for the three best suggestions for such a project. ENTRIES IN WRITING PLEASE TO THE EDITOR at the address shown below.

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"Literary" Competition

On another page you will find some rather poor verse attempting to describe a dive and a personal reaction to it. Very little writing is done on this very BIG subject. Similar prizes to the above, then, for the best attempts to do better in prose or verse, with a maximum of 250 words unless you want to see your brainchild hacked about by the Editor's cruel knife.

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Address entries to Michael Brennan, Chimneys, Rosemary Lane, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey.

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A feature in which Members can say what they think, and express any degree of (publishable) opinion.

Too Much Social Activity?

Dear "Diver",

When I joined the British Sub-Aqua Club I was under the impression that the objects of the Club were to further under water exploration, science, and sport.

It is now apparent that many Members have forgotten this and treat the Club as a 'social' club while revelling in the additional glamour of calling themselves divers. Of course, we do not want a Club of hermits, but may I ask that certain people keep in mind objects of the Club?

(signed) Keen Type.

Dirty Water

Dear Editor,

As a new Member I must say I find Seymour Baths disgusting! The water over the last few weeks seems to get mistier and mistier, and as for the muddy wet floor in the changing cubicles - it is almost impossible to dress without making clothing filthy. Can nothing be done about this?

(signed) N.D.

Fair Deal Wanted

To B.S.A.Club London Branch,

I am a Saturday diver, which means I am unlucky. I have yet to pass my Intermediate Tests because, although I get along most Saturdays, I find that very often no lungs are available because the air is reserved for Sunday expeditions. It seems to me ( and I am not the only one) that even if only two people were going on a Club "do" they would take all the airbottles with them and deprive us of our training. How much of our subs. is used for new equipment? Can't we buy some more bottles and RESERVE them for training?

(signed) Browned Off.

## "THINGS WE'D LIKE TO SEE"

### Wanted - Badly!

A mechanical draughtsman to assist the Equipment Officer in preparing for our own compressor service. He could also help "The London Diver" by transferring drawings illustrating technical articles onto the stencils.

### Bright Idea

Discussing underwater communication with Freddy Nicholls of Torquay and Brighton Branches, he suggested the use of the deaf and dumb sign language. Anybody volunteer to experiment?

### Holiday time is getting near

"The London Diver" is going to need your story of your holiday - with details of costs etc. Don't leave it until you've forgotten all about it: make a note at the time.

### Instructional films

Let's have more films, professional and amateur, and more still records of diving expeditions. (Anyone wanting an audience please see Ken Pretty so as to avoid double bookings.) Why not re-runs of some of the past films? Many Members haven't seen them.

### Gadget Corner

Will somebody organize this for the magazine? We have a number of fertile hands but none of them hold a pen. They come up to me in the cubicles and produce some weird gadget and expect me to write about it. Paper description, please, and "How to do it". I hope shortly to be able to reproduce simple line drawings. (See paragraph 1 above.)

### More Contributors

"Don't be fright" - plenty of people write worse than you. So please come forward, and having come forward - keep your promises, unlike some people we know!

### The next edition of the magazine.

Whether there is one or not is up to you. The deadline for delivery of copy will be June 27th.

## Bargain Basement

Like everything else about this number, this one is on the house. Hereafter we shall be glad to publish readers "Wants" or "For Sale" adverts., and the price is a nominal bob an item.

### DIVING MANUALS

Older members who were not issued with the manual, or who wish to give a suitable present to their non-diving wives, should hurry to obtain one of the last few copies in stock - at the Bath on club nights, price 10/-.

### CAR BADGES

Have you seen it? It will stick on anything - even your air bottle! British Sub-Aqua Club car badges, only 10/- each available now from Dept. N.1, 27 Sefton Road, Petts Wood, Kent.

### SOUTH OF FRANCE HOLIDAY

The Diving Officer of Northampton Branch, R. W. Gray, has taken a villa at Trianon, Juan les Pins, for the month of June. He seeks a couple to share it with his family for all or part of the month. Transport, compressor and lungs provided, but he is looking for rubber dinghy and outboard. He can be contacted at 3 The Avenue, Wellingborough.

### BOAT FOR HIRE

D. Brokenshire, 3 Albany Beach Mansions, St. Helens Parade, Southsea, is running boat trips out of Portsmouth. A 65-ft. M.L. taking 25-30 on day trips at 12/6 per head, Weekends and Weekly trips carrying eight passengers only from 3½ guineas to 12 guineas, all in, except air. Use of six diving sets is included in price. Contact Portsmouth or Mr. Stanley (WHITEhall - London, 7007)

## DIVING - AND PAID FOR IT!

Congratulations to Ricky Best who not only got his Second Class ticket but also pulled the job of Diving Instructor at The Devon Coast Country Club for fifteen weeks from Whitsun. Hope the weather keeps fine for you, Ricky!

## TYPICALLY PLEASANT CLUB EVENING

After swimming on April 18th, Ken Pretty arranged with the Club Med. to show us a film of their Santa Giulia (Corsica) camp. It was gorgeous to see the sun again, and the colour of that Mediterranean water.

After they had discovered which way up the slides went, some interesting and amusing slides of the Branch Easter expedition were shown by Gordon Carter, Gordon Lissner, and John Singer. Thank you all, and Club Med. please come again - soon.

'Tiny' Cruikshank made a well-deserved presentation to Tom Elleman. Tiny was deputizing for some of the lady members and presented Tom with a razor. Tom was tickled by the attentions of the ladies - or should it be vice versa?

Last but not least, apart from Ricky Best's ticket referred to above, Arthur Wicks and Brian Hesketh were given Third Class logbooks and a handshake by Harry Gould.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor, who stuck his neck out by volunteering, expects no thanks, but feels it imperative to say that this first number could not have found its way to Members without the help of

All who contributed,

Dorothy Svendsen who typed all the stencils,

Paddy Mangin for 'turning the handle' and banging the staples,

Tom Elleman for supervising the cover printing,

Mrs. Stanley Thomas for giving us house-room and teaching us to use the duplicator

Statnley Thomas for his usual ready aid, and

All our Readers - THANK YOU.

STOP PRESS !!!!!

No doubt many of you will have read the recent article in the "Sunday Express" on Diving, by Kenneth More, Britain's biggest box office Film Star. You may also have heard that he is an experienced diver of many years' standing.

It is with particular pleasure therefore that "The London Diver" is able to announce exclusively that Kenneth More has accepted our invitation to join London Branch.

M.B.

