

The

LONDON



DIVER

JOURNAL OF LONDON BRANCH
BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB

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July-August 1959

Editorial

"Kicks and Ha'pence"

With our hand on the cash register we present the second number of our magazine, the first to be sold for gelt. In fixing a price for the MAGAZINE where other Branches give their NEWSLETTERS free, we are not only trying to minimize the loss to Branch funds, but also trying to widen our scope to include new features which are (financially) impossible at the moment. To this end we opened our covers to advertisers, and had a pleasing response. We apologize to them and to our readers that the current printers' stoppage has prevented the necessary blocks being made.

The first number got off to a good start, with many congratulations arriving, including a blessing from our National Chairman. To our wellwishers, most grateful thanks.

Indeed, there was so much congratulation and so little complaint that we began to worry at this unnatural state of affairs. We need not have worried.

The Editorial blood pressure was hardly moved by a letter of criticism for publishing a letter of complaint. As the letter was written in his private capacity and not as an official of the Club, we were even glad to receive it and publish it, with what we hope is an appropriate comment on another page. But out of this normal situation in a the give-and-take of the readers' letter section, arose other people's criticism which enpurpled the Editorial neck by denying the right to conceal identities under initials or pen names.

The right to sign or not vie look on as an essential liberty, and editorially we are only interested in the interest of the subject matter. But no doubt we shall hear more of this anon.

The Diving Officer's Notes

by JIM PHOENIX

Midsummer has gone but there is no mid-diving date in London Branch as we dive all the year round. Since the last number of the magazine we have had a successful (I hope) expedition to Portland. Diving was carried out on two wrecks. Visibility was not all that we could have desired but we were grateful for what we got - about 12 ft.

I should like to congratulate Ken Pretty on the Club dive he organized to Arlesey. Every eventuality was foreseen except sunburn, and surely a Dive Leader can leave that to individuals.

On most expeditions things run pretty smoothly, but although I hate to disillusion some of our Members, I have to repeat that WE HAVE NO PAID STAFF. For the benefit of new-comers I would like to re-cap the process of a Club dive so that they may know where THEY CAN HELP. Apart from the Initial organisation which includes the provision of transport (an item which some people think is free) we come to the loading at Seymour Hall before the expedition, the unloading at the site, the loading at the site, and the unloading at some kind Member's home. It should be known that to get the back into Seymour Hall on the same night would mean stopping diving at about 2 p.m.!, in order to unload before the staff at the Hall go home. Kind members store it until the following Tuesday or Wednesday evening, when it has to be transported to Seymour Hall and once more manhandled. All of this hard labour is the responsibility of everyone who goes on the dive. But what happens? A typical recent case was that out of 35 people on the dive, only 2 turned up to finish the job. Fair on the faithful few? I don't so. So don't think so. So don't forget on the next dive, pull your weight before, during, and AFTER the event.

I'm sorry to hand out more rockets, but we are still bothered by Members who leave clothes in cubicles, when the local regulation specifically forbids it. It is for your own protection. At a recent public session a large sum of money disappeared.

A course /....

A course of Third Class Lectures has just been completed. Details of the next course will shortly appear on the notice board.

We are always looking for fresh diving sites. These are the requirements: (1) 40-50 miles from London, (2) minimum 25 ft. of water, (3) reasonably accessible by road. We will always send a reccy party out to investigate any possibilities, so please keep us informed.

A word of warning about HOLIDAYS. Quite a lot of Members are going on diving holidays, both organized and private. On organized trips, remember that the management are liable to expect you to be a good diver, so check your equipment AND YOUR BUOYANCY. Some of the equipment may have been "well used" and its maintenance sketchy, so CHECK! On private holidays don't slacken your safety precautions. Dive in pairs and watch for the signs of fatigue from cold. Don't ignore them until too late.

CONTINENTAL EQUIPMENT can differ from our own. Two common differences are that the quick release on the weightbelts is not so positive, and that the Inlet and Outlet sides are sometimes reversed. Make sure you can operate the release quickly and that you can clear easily.

Good Holidays, and Good Diving.

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Diving Programme.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 10th, 11th, 12th July | A.D.G Portland |
| 19th July | Branch Dive, Arlesey |
| 1st, 2nd, 3rd August | Branch Dive, Portland |
| 16th August | Branch Dive (P) |
| 30th August | A.D.G. (P) |

(P) = Provisional arrangement.

FOR NEW MEMBERS:

Training and you
by TOM

Swimming Test

This is just to prove to us that you can swim. Don't be afraid, and don't treat it as a trivial matter. Swim your best and you'll be alright.

Primary Test

In this your ability to use fins, mask and tube is about the most important part of your preliminary training. Once you pass this, you should be of a sufficiently high standard to warrant the use of a lung.

Aqualung

This instrument is in great demand in the Club (60 people on the waiting list!). To obtain one you must place your name on the lung list, after seeing me. When your name mounts the ladder until it is in the first eight, you become "on course", below this you must still wait your turn. If you miss four lessons in succession, your name will automatically go to the bottom of the list.

In order to get people through more quickly, but without lowering the required standard, you must take the Test after a maximum four lessons. Failure means starting again on the waiting list. This may sound hard but is our only way of dealing with the ever-lengthening waiting list.

Please remember to be on time to collect your lung, the Equipment Officer wants a swim as well as you.

Collection Times Wednesdays 8.15 p.m.
 Saturdays 5.15 p.m.

You must return all equipment after use!

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WATERPROOF WATCHES

Zodiac, Sea Wolf or any other make. If you are thinking of buying, or have any watch troubles, why not have a chat with me? Telephone WOR.4468 at any time, or ask any Wednesday at swimming.

ASK FOR PETER ZELEPUKEN

(Advert.)

"MEET THE PEOPLE"

This time, alas, we have fewer people to introduce to each other. For some reason or other the ladies are missing. On the evening I devoted to collecting these notes I found none of the fair sex at the pool to interview. There was one charmer, and I spent a long and pleasant time talking to her, but somehow it didn't add up to an interview. It didn't add up to anything else either: she had someone waiting to take her home. So in what appears to be strictly a male world underwater, "Jim - meet Jim".

Jim Phoenix. As we have a lot of new members, I may be forgiven for mentioning that he is our Diving Officer. I don't know what your number looks like (mine's huge!) but Jim's number is precisely 12. Except for No. 1, I expect it could have been even lower, because it was dished out at the inaugural meeting of the Club in 1953. About seventy people turned up, of whom some twenty joined on the spot, and amongst those twenty-odd was Jim.

This, however, was not the start of his diving career. In 1953 he already had five years' diving experience. It had all started in Mombasa when he was serving as a Corporal in R.Es. While out swimming he met a Frenchman who had a lung, one pair of flippers, one mask and one snorkel. Finding that they understood each other in more ways than one they started diving together.

The method of buddy-diving used was interesting. The one with the lung wore the mask. The one with the snorkel wore the flippers, and followed the bubbles blindly. Simple - even spartan! Sounds like a drill devised by the Camden Town Group, but this was sheer necessity.

On returning to England, Jim first dived in the murk and chill of U.K. waters in 1948 and broke all the rules by diving solo until 1953 - except that there weren't any rules in existence then.

Once again chance played a great part in this diving history. The day before the founding of the Club, of which he was blissfully ignorant, he went into Cogswell & Harrison's

in/...

in Piccadilly to buy another pair of fins, met Teddy Holden (another one of the first handful) and was asked to the meeting.

In order to enable people with common interests to get together, I usually ask about work. Jim is now a Technical adviser to International Computers, so if any of you have a couple of hundred thousand Pounds to invest in getting your pools coupons correct - see Jim.

From the Member of long standing to the new one. Jim Rogers. Chance played such a part in the diving story of Jim Phoenix that it would be nice to say that the taxi that took him to the Aldwych Hotel, for the inaugural meeting, was driven by Jim, Rogers, but Jim No. 2 has only been driving a cab for three years and before that he was in the army.

That he is an enthusiast will become plain, but first my usual question "What started you off wanting to dive?" Once again Hans Hass, plays a part. His, and other films, especially colour ones built up his interest until one day, driving past Lillywhites, he saw a window full of diving gear. Parking his cab (you can tell he's a cabbie, who else would have the nerve to park THERE!) he went in, enquired, and was directed to us.

Prior to driving a cab, he soldiered in the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars, and served fourteen months in Korea, so he has the comparatively rare campaign stars, the United Nations and Korean Star.

I said he was an enthusiast - now I'll prove it. He has only been a Member a month but already his log book proves he has completed all lectures and tests and is only two dives short of his Third Class Certificate. In one month? - that needs enthusiasm!

Footnote: Although Jim Rogers joined the Club because of what he saw on movies and TV, you should hear him now on Mike Nelson's methods.

"Jim - meet Jim."

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SCIENTIFIC REPORT

by Bob Bannerman

I am very pleased to report in this issue that an encouraging number of people are showing an interest in scientific activities of one sort or another, and I hope many more of you will discover a similar interest in the months to come.

I am also pleased to say that a small but active group is now tackling the problem of underwater speech communication, and has even been seen in the Small Pool producing strange noises from a throat microphone. This project has the official 'blessing of the B.S.A.C. Scientific Committee, and Michael Goldsmith has kindly passed on to us a barium titanate transducer and amplifier system for underwater use, together with a great deal of useful information on this subject. This project could result in a very useful device if we can overcome the many problems involved.

Under the able guidance of a Graduate in animal physiology, Ian Unsworth, I hope to have some fitness tests started soon on a representative cross-section of the diving population. This means that volunteer guinea-pigs will be wanted, but if you are worried too much by the animal aspects I will add that Ian is now studying medicine. The less fit you are for this, within reason, the more interesting the results will be.

And finally, remember that if you are working on anything from a snorkel tube to a self-propelled cine-camera case, other people would like to hear about it too. So either let me know about it, or write it up for "The London Diver".

-oOo-

"Extramural Studies"

"Honours degrees in underwater swimming can now be taken in the United States! A chair of skin diving was recently founded at the University of Oregon and studies are due to begin this summer in Honolulu."

"5s. Shark Bait"

"Lowestoft Fisheries laboratory asks anglers to help them catch sharks, so that tags can be fastened to the dorsal fins and seasonal movements studied. A 5s. reward and the tag as a souvenir, will go to finders of tagged sharks."

THE NATIONAL OPEN SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Arrangements have now been finalized regarding the 1959 National Open Spearfishing Championship of Great Britain. The Club is co-operating in the organization with the Looe Underwater Fishing Club and the competition is being held at Looe on 25th July commencing at 9 a.m. The programme is as follows:

- 9 am Briefing period, stating rules, competition area, precautions, and replying to questions.
- 9.45 am Assembly at the Main Beach, East Looe, and the allocation of boats.
- 10 am The Official Start to the National Open Spearfishing Championship of Great Britain.
- 3.30 pm Warning shot by gunfire to announce thirty minutes remaining.
- 4 pm End of the National Championship. Double cannon shot, flag raised on Main Beach, East Looe, to announce that the competition is now closed. Weigh-in of all catches.
- 5 pm The presentation of trophies.

All competitors and marshals must be at the briefing session at 9 a.m.

Full rules may be obtained from "Restmore", Downs View, West Looe. Cornwall.

The competition this year has the backing of the "News of the World" and coverage has been promised by other newspapers. The B.B.C. have arranged to send down a film unit for a television report.

There are 100 motor boats, each with 1½ h.p. engines, capable of taking four persons each available to take competitors and marshals out to airy fishing ground chosen, provided it is within 1½ miles of Looe. They can go anywhere out to sea - even to the Eddystone Light if they think they can be back in time!

There will /....

There will be a major award for the largest individual catch, presented by the "News of the World" and each member of the winning team will also receive an award. In addition, there will be separate awards - namely the Lillywhite Trophy and the Oswald Bailey Trophy for Members of the B.S.-A.C. who are taking part. It is hoped to get one of our Club Vice Presidents to present one of the awards and probably the Chairman to present another. Mr. Brace Marshal, Member of Parliament for Looe, will present one of the Looe Club prizes and there will be other celebrities to present the rest of the prizes. In all, it should be a really magnificent affair this year, and we all want to stress that Members should send in their applications as quickly as possible so that the necessary arrangements for dealing with numbers can be put in hand.

There are numerous camp sites in the area and, if Members wish the Looe Club, who are on the spot, to arrange camping facilities for them, it may be possible to reserve a field for groups in advance. It is intended to hold a grand Competition Supper in the evening.

To make the Competition more interesting, it has been decided to make up teams of four, and it is hoped that Branches will pick their best team of four and send them down so that some element of inter-Branch competition will be evident, but if individual competitors enter they will be allotted to a team by the organizers on the day according to where they want to fish. This system of teams of four will also aid the safety factor, as each boat will be equipped with lifejackets. Competitors may, of course, swim from the beaches at Looe if they prefer, or they may take out a boat halfway through the Competition, having commenced the Competition from the beach.

If an individual enters or if a Branch cannot make up a full team of four, the organizers will arrange for the grouping together of such entries into teams of four.

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The Sea,
Its undulating form moves on
In graceful Majesty,
Its glazen surface scarcely marred by breezes light,
Moves on most silently.
But lo its surface is now scratched
By flying fish, escaping from some hidden enemy,
Or jumping for the joy of living,
While, sea moves on.
The sea moves on,
In gently undulating lines
Its deep blue or turquoise depths inviting all
To linger on,
And share its mysteries.

To silently slip beneath its waves,
And. hang there poised
Divorced from all the world,
The deep inviting blue beneath, above and all around,
And there, be gently lulled
By one's breath
Roaring mutely, behind, above,
Sending great streams of silver bubbles
Dancing towards the sky,
And still the sea moves on.

The undulating sea moves on;
That ball of golden fire, the sun,
Slides to its rest, the day is o'er,
The edges of the glassy, moving sea
First harden, showing all who care to look
That this world is round and small,
A single unit of the work,
Then slowly, merging, as the dusk grows thicker,
With the sky.

The Sea,
Takes on that look of smooth thick glass,
And radiates a light, yet not its own.
The coming night is still, except for swish
Of water on the sides of this our ship,
The gentle plop of jumping fish,
The mighty sea moves on, and on.
Sighing gently to itself,
Impatient for the wonders of the night.

S I G N A L S
by JIM PHOENIX

The codes of signals in use all over the world are many and varied, and diving in other countries pre-supposes a knowledge of the local code. Slowly, however, the signals are becoming standardized, an obvious blessing. This is due in no small measure to the publicity given by the B.S.A.C. in "Triton" etc. With the growth of the Federation we may hope to see one universal system, which may differ in part with that with which we are familiar.

Until such time as this, however, it is essential to be adept in our present code. Always have a quick run through with your partner BEFORE you dive, just to make sure.

In this article I will deal with surface signals, i.e. Diver to Snorkel-cover / boat-cover and / or Look-out.

1.) The "O.K." - ONE arm waved slowly from Left to Right.

2.) The "In need of assistance / Exhausted / in danger / Come and get me" - ONE arm raised motionless above the head for as long as possible.

If the "O.K." is given nothing will happen. If the "Come-and-get-met" is given, the diver will be got. If, however, a diver surfaces and gives NO SIGNAL, all covers and lookouts will assume that there is an emergency and take appropriate action.

It is therefore absolutely essential to signal on surfacing, and I would impress on my readers that a call for aid carries no disgrace with it whatsoever.

It does not matter how experienced the diver is, they CAN get into trouble, and it is better to be safe than sorry.

If you think you may be in trouble, signal "Come-and-get-me" BEFORE it gets worse - IT CERTAINLY WON'T GET BETTER !

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Reports of Club Diving Activities

The diving activities of London Branch are many and varied, and although - thanks to Dorothy Svendsen, John Skinner, Mike Busutilli, Jim Phoenix and Tom Elleman - we have a pretty good coverage, we know that it is not in any way complete. We need reporters badly. If you are going on a dive please see the Editor and offer to cover it. You don't need to be a great writer, just to keep your eyes open and watch what other people are doing, make a note and give it to us, we'll do the rest.

Mucking about in pools and the Sub-Aqua Jet Deported by Mike Busutilli and John Skinner

The morning of Sunday, 3rd May, saw a band of the Advanced Diving Group converging on the Oasis Swimming Pool in Holborn. Fourteen people and their gear had seven cars to carry them. Perhaps the bait was the presence of BBC TV cameras.

We queued up at the diving boards determined to jump in "like Mike Nelson did last Sunday". Jim Phoenix gave us several reasons why we should not do it this way, and showed us "the" way from the 16ft. board.

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) Place one hand over mouthpiece and mask to keep them in place.
- 2) Hold the strap below the bottle with the other hand to keep it from tapping you in the back of the neck.
- 3) Jump with legs crossed, but straight, and with fins pointed.
- 4) Regain mouthpiece from somewhere above head., mask from the bottom of the pool, and stop nursing demand-valve shaped hole in back of head before surfacing with a smile.

After perfecting this technique before the TV cameras we demonstrated the three Sub-Aqua jets. One of these would only function spasmodically, and this did not speak well for their reliability. In the main a great lack of power became apparent. We feel that in a heavy sea this could be insufficient. Another model was too heavy in the nose, requiring considerable effort to move horizontally or vertically upwards. We are now able to

Answer /.....

answer the question asked at the Boat Show, "What happens if the battery compartment leaks?" The answer is "Leave the machine with your weightbelt!"

While all this had been going on we had been haunted by a rare mirage in the form of a diver without a suit. It turned out to be Mike Dearman, R.M. A more frozen leatherneck we have never seen, although the water temperature was a steaming 54°F. On this point we may add that Jack Jolliffe was wearing the latest suit in foam neoprene which kept his inside-suit-temperature at 72°F. Although these suits have, up to now, been regarded as "mid-season" suits, it is suggested that they may be suitable to the coldest conditions.

Operation "LONGSWIM"
Reported by John Skinner

On Sunday, 10th May, the ADG carried out Stage 2 of Operation "LONGSWIM". The plan calls for taking depth and temperature readings every ten feet along a marked line. Mike Brennan and Ken Pretty laid the line across Arlesey Lake from a canoe, which was a considerable improvement for speed on Stage 1 when it was done, from the rubber dinghy.

The first dive swam along the route taking depth readings. The second dive recorded temperature. Underwater slates and chinagraph pencils were improvised for the occasion.

The maximum depth recorded was 45 ft. The temperature on the surface was 61°F. and 59°F. at a depth of 10 ft. From 10 ft. to the 20-25 ft. level temperature was a constant 51°F. From this point to the maximum depth recorded there was only 1°F. drop.

By some mischance the records gleaned from this operation show that there is a mountain in the middle. As there was no visual evidence of this, we hope to do further research to solve this interesting scientific riddle.

Whitdive, Portland
Reported by Mike Busutilli

The Whitsun weekend dive at Portland can well be described superlatives; the largest number of Members on a London Branch dive, forty-one all told; certainly the best and some of the deepest dives logged on trips. We /...

We followed the setting sun westwards towards Portland and arrived at the 'Jolly Sailor' in Castletown at ten to two, just six hours after leaving Seymour Hall. We were split between two hotels but I think everyone slept well that night.

Saturday's diving was from the Mulberry Harbour and the boat had to make two trips to get everyone out there. As the second boatload arrived they could see that the first party had already got down to the serious business of sun-worshipping under their High Priest, Harry Gould. Diving soon got under way and many sea-squirts from the wreck found themselves travelling home in one of Bryan Plunkett's polythene bags. The visibility just below the surface was about thirty feet but we knew we could not hope for this on the bottom. The Navy entertained us with displays by Venoms and Helicopters and we hear they were also holding three Navy Days.

On Sunday we dived from a jetty further along the harbour wall onto another wreck. Once more the sun-worshippers made many converts while those more interested in diving visited the wreck and found depths of seventy-eight feet beyond it. This was a new site to most of us and probably the highlight of the week-end.

As were returning on Monday we had to pick a site on our way out. Chesil Beach was chosen and did indeed seem a good site until we had to carry all the gear back up a 2:1 slope and shingle at that. We had to leave at about, three o'clock and when it came to packing the coach we were once more thankful for the presence of Colin Robinson. The diligence with which he performed this feat can be demonstrated by the fact that the only bag to fall out of the boot on the way home was his own, but we can thank a passing motorist for warning us that the boot was open and for retrieving the lost bag.

We had several visitors on the week-end. These included Frank Brooker of Bournemouth Branch and his family, two Israeli students who were staying in Portland and were anxious to learn our methods, and a photographer from the "Sunday Graphic".

Girl's /.....

Girl's Eye View of Whitsun Dive

Reported by Dorothy Svendsen

This time we left Seymour Hall only a quarter of an hour late, for the Branch's Whitsun dive at Portland. In spite of what he told us about not usually driving and being only the fitter in the garage, our Coach Driver was first-class and we had a very comfortable and quick journey both ways, even if we got tangled up in Wool. We got to Portland about 2 a.m., hours after the scooterists whose tent we had on board, and all ready for sleep. Some perhaps were haunted by the amount of their losses because the old hands wore on the back seat again with a pack of cards.

Our party was split up into two hotels as there were so many of us, and we all met next morning at the Admiralty Steps by the Sally Anne, where our boat made two trips with us and equipment out to the sunken Mulberry which is about fifteen feet out of the water, and thereon and therefrom we had a wonderful day's diving, and sandwich lunch. Back to the hotels, wash and brush up, and out for the evening meal where we liked. Our Driver took a few into Weymouth where, we are told, they had wonderful meals. Most of us seemed to be gathered in 'The Breakwater' where we obeyed Rebikoff's injunction "A good diver should not neglect the pleasures of the table".

Sunday was very very dull - at least up until 9.30 a.m. then it completely reversed for the rest of the day again. This time we were taken out to the Portland harbour wall ("H.M.S. VERNON Pier") with the mighty ocean on one side and 75 ft. of crystal visibility and the wreck (in 1914) of the HOOD on the other. Another wonderful day's diving and sunbathing, and incidentally two diving visitors from a foreign navy. We showed them a thing or two: after all, dives over 65 ft. in English waters and with such clear visibility are certainly something.

On Monday we had spectators and their 'professional' comments up with which to put, as it was spent diving in the open sea from Chesil Beach itself. Altogether each day's experience was novel, and the wind changed direction in favour our comfort every joy.

We will /....

We will all remember the highlights of the week-end: our front-stalls view of the fly-pasts during the Navy Days: those traffic lights, particularly red ones, getting out of London: our Indian friend suggesting that London Diver would be saying "even our Indian friend was sunburned": a rubber suit being passed from a every short fat Diver to a very thin tall snorkeller and still fitting: our sympathy with Colin's chagrin at an injured toe which prevented him from diving the whole week-end: the sailor's frank signal in reply to "Get your hair cut" as we passed them on board at Sunday Divisions: the anguish of the girls on the Mulberry: our Chairman's astonishment on realizing the dive he had just made was his Hundredth: the six-foot shark that we really saw: how unwittingly appropriate the signal turned out to be, made by snorkellers who had lost their divers ("Wash Out"): lashings of steak and chips or chicken at 'The Breakwater' in the evenings: the gradient of Chesil Beach, particularly carrying equipment: the smart Roadhouse where we pulled "In", and then "Out" again quick when we saw customers and waiters all in evening dress: the shortest member of our expedition waiting behind the tallest for snacks when we stopped on the return journey: a swan on the nest outside Dorchester, horses in the New Forest, and a Chinese baby at the roadside ("every fourth baby is Chinese"): the souvenirs - a perfect bucket with no bottom which reminded somebody of a chestnut of a story "You think there is a bottom to that bucket, Miss, and there ain't", and the beginner's luck to find beneath the surface a brand now never-been-issued R.N. matelot's hat. And there is no truth in the story that because of his hat, Mike was stopped in Weymouth and asked for a 3d. cornet and 6d. wafer!

Compared with some hilarious expeditions I suppose this one would be called quiet. It was a quiet journey too with no coach singing on this trip, and even the person who had packed a mouth organ had it taken away from them. Quiet, but very enjoyable and happy, with no prima donnas, no raised voices, and no hard feelings anywhere. In fact hardly anything to write about (no gossip): but it was a wonderful week-end diving expedition. And the weather? Well, we had several cases of sunburn and one case of sunstroke, and oven our Indian friend was sunburnt.

Official assistance given at Arlesey

Reported by Jim Phoenix

Recently I was approached by the Bedfordshire Constabulary to give assistance in recovering the body of a diver from

Arlesey /....

Arlesey Lake. I contacted various members of the ADG who were available, and formed a team consisting of Butland, Goodwin, Hesketh, Cowie, Jolliffe, Skinner, Howden, and myself.

During the third dive we located the body and brought it ashore. At the Inquest a verdict of Death by Misadventure was recorded. But for divers it may be instructive to give the full story of the events which led up to this verdict.

Two divers decided to have a 'private dive' at Arlesey. One ran low on air and began making his way back to shore ALONE. The other continued his dive ALONE. When this second diver surfaced he was told by a spectator that his friend had gone under, apparently in trouble. Although he, and divers of another Branch who were present, searched they were unable to trace the victim. The rest you know.

Several points came to light. There was no snorkel cover, no boat cover and no lookout. The divers did not wear lifejackets, and the one who regrettably lost his life wore a home-made weight belt. The quick release of this belt proved on examination to be absolutely useless. It does not matter how experienced a diver is. Accidents can and will happen. I sincerely, recommend that before use, ANY homemade equipment is vetted by experienced personnel. They may spot some simple thing that the maker has overlooked. Once again I must preach the invariable use of lifejackets. Many divers would still be alive to-day including, possibly, this one if he had worn one.

If anyone is planning a private dive and does not own a lifejacket, ask our Equipment Officer, Paul Howden, if it is possible to borrow one.

Shoreditch Carnival Week Demonstration

Reported by Tom Elleman

A successful demonstration, which gained us two new Members, was given by Paddy Mangin, Ken Pretty, Don Whitelaw, Barry Geddes, Gordon Lissner, Brian Hesketh, and myself. An amusing commentary was broadcast to the audience by Colin ("Teddy Diver") Robinson.

I arranged a thirty-minute programme which consisted of six rain items and a certain amount of horseplay. From simple snorkelling, through lung-sharing, life-saving, suited dives, and the finale, everyone played their part without a hitch, and I was particularly grateful to Paddy who stepped in at the last minute without time to rehearse.

DIVERS TALES

2. "A Matter of Twelve Dollars"

"So you think you can face up to sharks?" said Genial Gene with a smile as false as his teeth

Will Sir" said I, "I would very much like to learn the use of an aqualung and"

"Do yah HAVE to talk like that?" he interrupted.

I remembered the quaint convention of speech foisted on us by visiting American film producers, and in my very best 'mid-Atlantic' dialect I said

"You make wid their lung lessons and I figger I can fix any shark that swims in the sea. They gotta pass the camera before dey get to me."

"Dat's better," smiled Gene. "Anything else is horse."

"Chicken" I agreed.

"Swell," he said.

Having thus ensured my living for the next nine months in a filmed TV series, to be made in Bermuda, I went home and told my wife. "You're mad," she said, and burst into tears, "Still - now we'll be able to modernize the kitchen." She dried her tears. I packed.

On arrival at the film studio in Bermuda I was handed the first three of the thirty-nine scripts we were to make, and hastily retiring to my dressing-room, I skimmed through them.

The very first one contained some quite elaborate under-water scenes. It was the one about the wrecked aircraft with a secret instrument aboard. Against all orders I go down with a lung. The wrecked plane is on a ledge at forty feet I get in it to unship the instrument. Meanwhile our hero, who knows nothing of all this, hears about it. (This also serves as a re-cap for the morons, after the first commercial.)

"The stupid, crazy, wonderful fool." he says, "Doesn't he, know that at that depth (unspecified) his air will only last another six minutes?"

"Captain," /....

"Captain," calls the snorkel cover in muffled tones through her tube, "It's gone. The plane's gone. It must have tumbled off that ledge into a hundred feet of water." Quick as a flash our hero knows that I am now trapped and have only two minutes air left.

"Break out another lung." he cries, as the hurry music starts and we have a minute and a half of production value of him stripping and getting kitting-up. Over the side he slips - or, rather, his double does - and swims down to the wreck - with me underneath. And so on, and so forth. We used the story, so has Mike Nelson, Larry "Buster" Crabbe, and any other series that I have been fortunate enough to miss. But I claim ours is the original, we call our secret invention FX 3. The others are FX 100 and Z 109 respectively.

Well there was the commitment, and fun to do, say you? But remember that at this time I hadn't even had a weightbelt on, so off I go to find producer Gene.

"Why, highya, Mikeyboy! How's tricks?" says this outstanding exponent of the Queen's English, "I seeya got 'Rescue from the Deep'. A great story that! Though I say it myself. You gotta great opportunity, boy."

Restraining my natural instinct to ask for what, I brought the subject up to date.

"What about those diving lessons, Gene?"

"Oh, say. that's right" says Gene, "Come into my office. Mike, I wanna have you meet Francois." The name sounded like a kind of soup, the way he said it. Francois, it appeared, was to double for our leading man, and he was one of the 80,000 to 100,000 Frenchmen who pioneered with Commandant Cousteau, and who are now instructing in the hotel swimming pools of every tourist trap in the world. As an additional chore he would instruct me in the art, but not until he left the hotel and came on our payroll. If he gave me a lesson in their time the cost twelve dollars, but not to worry, because we would not shoot those scenes for weeks, and everything would be taken care of before then.

In typical film company style it was. Two days later when we were out to sea in our schooner, the director pointed to a contraption and told me to put it on, sit on the rail, and do a frogman backflip off into sixty foot of water, out of sight of

Land /.....

land. I didn't find out until afterwards that the director couldn't swim.

On went the bottle and demand valve. On went a weightbelt with about ten pounds too much lead on it. Over my head went the breathing tubes. "Suck this." said someone.

As I sat precariously on the rail, all the previous knew-nothings now turned know-alls, and while they confused me with garbled versions of things they had heard, I wondered miserably why actors were such clots as to allow themselves to be imposed on in this manner.

The director then came forward. "Mike, this is the scene where you go down"

"What about the scene where I come up?" I was being bitterly sarcastic, but he took it seriously.

"Good idea - we can shoot them both in one and put the scissors in afterwards."

Now the boy genius with the box Brownie took over, waving his lightmeter in front of my face, having some of the chrome fittings puttied down to stop reflection, and trying to get me to predict where exactly I would fall in. I limited myself to saying loudly what I thought I had already fallen into.

Finally, the standby, and a warning to stay down long enough for Mary (a character) to tell the second mate that she was worried about my inexperience, and that she will provide snorkel cover. She wasn't the only one worried on this point.

"Roll 'em."

"Rescue from the Deep' 155 take 1."

"Speed."

"Action."

Splash!

But the story, obviously enough, doesn't end there - after all, here I am. Down I went, and without any preparation or knowledge I was translated to the most beautiful part of Technicolor County, and I had to force myself up. Literally because of those overweights, and metaphorically because it was hard to think about anything like work.

"Great? /"

"Great, Mike. Now swim about thirty yards away, dive down, and on 'Action', surface - in distress."

'This aqualung lark was easy' - I thought 'I'll show them', and down I went. But this time it was into a world of horror, because suddenly I breathed water, I was out of air. I panicked and fought my way up. When I made the surface I floundered around without anybody doing anything to help. They all thought I was giving a good performance of being distressed. I was.

More dead than alive I got myself back on board, and lay shivering, belching out the seawater my stomach couldn't do with. "Quick as you can, Mike, get into your dry rig. We want to go again. The camera missed you when you came up!"

When I got back to the studio, Genial Gene said "Gee, Mikey, I was fit to be tied when I heard you'd shot those scenes. I didn't know." Of course he did, because he had to approve the call-sheet. "Well, anyway, it means we shan't want Francois now. That saves us twelve dollars."

Face up to sharks? Me? Give me the fishy ones every time: I figure they couldn't care less about the money.

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In the pub and similar places, divers loosen up and tell tales. We want your stories. Even if you don't feel equal to writing them, grab the Editor, he'll buy the drinks - and tell him. Then our next number will contain No. 3 of the series "DIVERS TALES" - your story, written for you, in death-defying prose.

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SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

1. Training and Aqualungs

This summer has seen the highest number of lessons given by our hard-working training staff, all - let me emphasize this - volunteers. I believe that the number of lessons given last month, for example, was about 166. From the comments made to me, and of course, complaints as well, one would think that aqualung training was the right of a Member, having paid his or her £2 subscription.

The difficulty with all B.S.A.C. training is always administrative and also that of finding workers. With all the demand for aqualungs the Equipment Officer cannot get more than one or possibly two persons who will come to the Baths an hour before time to assist in decanting air cylinders to prepare aqualungs for training. If you want training see Paul Howden and offer to help. You will get a lot of satisfaction from doing so - once you have done the job.

The policy of the Committee up to a year or so ago was training in the baths from October to May, then the place for aqualungs was on expeditions not in the swimming pool. Bear this in mind when you want to complain that you are sixty-fifth on the waiting list. These comments and views are mine, I have not even heard any complaints from the training staff!

2. Stanley Jones

We were very sorry to hear that Stanley Jones has had a serious illness and although now convalescing and much better, he has been warned that he will not be able to swim again. Many of you know his record in the Club but for those who do not, he joined in June 1956. He took an active part in training and was Assistant Diving Officer with Don Moody. He probably did more than anyone else to develop the present system of baths training. In addition, having been an active R.L.S.S. man for some years, he really got London Branch going on life saving and the numbers who have qualified for the Bronze Medallion and other awards have a lot to thank Stanley for. Not satisfied with all this, he developed new methods of life saving with fins, mask and tube and it is more than probable that these methods may become a standard method in swimming circles. Stanley served on the London Branch Committee for two years and was Vice Chairman during 1957. His interests extended to the Club as a whole and he is on the National Diving Committee as advisor on Safety and rescue Methods. Everyone will wish him a speedy return to good health again.

3. /...

3. Swimming Arrangements

Swimming on Saturdays in the Small Pool is from 5.30 to 7.30 P.m. with the exception of the following dates when it will be from 6.45 to 8.4.5 p.m.:

- Saturday, 25th July
- Saturday, 12th September
- Saturday, 19th September.

There will not be any swimming in the Large Pool on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 9th September
- Friday, 11th September (A.D.G.)
- Wednesday, 16th September
- Friday, 18th September (A.D.G.)

Alternative arrangements have been made for swimming for all Members but aqualungs will not be available on these dates:

At Marshall Street Baths, Marshall Street, W.1
Large Pool, on Wednesday, 9th September, 1959,
from 8.30 to 9.30 P.M.

At Buckingham Palace Road Baths (almost opposite the entrance to No.17 platform, Victoria Station, in Buckingham Palace Road) on Friday, 18th September, 1959 from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. ALL MEMBERS are welcome on this occasion., not just the Advanced Diving Group.

STANLEY THOMAS

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THE LONDON DIVER

Our next edition will be published around or about the middle of September. A little late in order to let everybody have plenty of time to work up those holiday stories. How and where did you dive, and what did it cost? Would you recommend anyone to go on a similar holiday next year, etc. etc. All these details we want, but also your STORIES!

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ANIMALS AND PLANTS AT PORTLAND

by BRYAN PLUNKETT

Biologically speaking two kinds of habitat were seen during the Whitsun dives at Portland. Firstly, there was the sea-floor off Chesil Bark consisting of shingle down to about 11M. and sand with occasional rocks below. These were unstable surfaces so that- plants could not become established though there was a distinctive fauna. Secondly, there were the wrecks and harbour walls at the Mulberry and H.M.S. VERNON Breakwater. These represented a firm substratum on which many animals and plants were flourishing. The bottom at 16-22M. was muddy and largely devoid of plants and larger animals.

At Chesil, Hermit crabs (*Eupagurus bernhardus*) and occasional spiny spider crabs (*Msia squinado*) occurred on the sand with Dahlia anemones (*Taelia feline*) and Snakelocks anemones (*Anemonia sulcata*) on the large stones. The last anemone, usually apple-green in colour with violet-tipped tentacles, is easily recognized because it is unable to withdraw its tentacles when touched.

An outstanding feature at the other site was the wonderful array of 'Large sea-squirts or Tunicates (named thus because of their tough tunics) which encrusted the rigging and plates of the two wrecks. They are related to the animals with spinal columns (vertebrates). In the larval or "tadpole" stage, though lacking a true backbone, they have a skeletal rod which is a sort of rudimentary backbone. One would never suspect any affinity with vertebrates in the adult sea squirts which we saw. They are essentially a stout bag with two openings. Through one of these water enters. Inside, microscopic food particles (mainly plankton) are filtered off and the water and waste products leave by the second opening. Among those collected were *Ciona intestinalis*, which is soft, transparent and yellowish or pale green; *Ascidiella aspersa* with a very stiff greyish tunic; and the smaller *Ascidiella scabra* which has a tough coat

With /

with rosy-red tints towards the openings. Some divers noticed Botryllus schlossoeri, the Star sea-squirt in which many yellow individuals, arranged in typical star-shaped patterns, were embedded in a layer of jelly, forming a colony.

Another colonial animal found on the wreck of the Mulberry was superficially rather like a sea-squirt, but its true allies are the jelly-fish, the sea anemones, and the corals. This is Dead men's fingers or Soft coral (Alcyonium digitatum). Out of the water it appears as flesh-coloured lumps submerged its surface is covered by numerous minute colourless anemone-like polyps. Several spiny spider-crabs were seen here and, as at Chesil, the common jelly-fish (Aurelia aurita) was abundant.

The most promising site for plants was the H.M.S. VERNON breakwater. Unfortunately the organizational problems of a Club-dive did not permit systematic collecting. Griffithsia corallina, a beaded red seaweed; Desmarestia viridis, a honey-brown seaweed which turns bright green after a few minutes in the air; and Codium tomentosum, like repeatedly branched green spaghetti, were common. These, like most of the animals mentioned, are only occasionally found in the inter-tidal zone, but in the sub-littoral waters of the harbour were common down to depth of at least 16 M.

The depths given were not determined in relation to a tidal datum level and the collecting was not thorough. This is inevitable unless scientific enquiry is made the prime object of a dive rather than an incidental activity,

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PART I The Camera Case Body

The trouble with writing an article on u/w photography is that there are many recognized text books. Because of this I am going to write about my own many failures and few successes, together with a few of the conclusions.

A box camera, can compare favourably with a more expensive model u/w, it even has a few advantages. All that is needed in the camera is a lens (f16 at 1/25 or f14 at 1/50), a pair of flash terminals, simple wind-on and a shutter release in an accessible position.

The u/w camera case can be made of a variety of materials, metal being the best. Unfortunately, as most of us do not have facilities for working in this medium we have to resort to something that can be made on the kitchen table with a minimum of tools. Perspex is an obvious choice; it is easily worked; easily stuck together and unfortunately easily scratched and broken as someone sure to drop a weightbelt on your case. Perspex can be used very satisfactorily in lens ports, as an observation window or an exposure-meter covering, and its advantage as a case material is obviously weight.

A very compact unit is obtained by putting a box camera in a perspex case, but do not sacrifice the thickness of plastic used for a lighter unit as water pressure tends to make thin sheet bend (see first diagram). This leaves the joints in a sorry state as can be seen. Sheet not thinner than 3/8" thick should be used, remember the thicker the side the better it withstands the pressure.

Resinbond Fibreglass may also be used in case construction all you have to do is to build the various components into the side as you go along. After a few submersions metal and glass parts tend to work loose, this is probably due to water penetrating between resin and the metal surface, so make sure if you use Fibreglass that you anchor your various components firmly down in the resin. My second camera case was made in this way and apart from a few creaks when I pressurised it with a bicycle pump, it has not leaked as yet.

Another fairly good material is wood, a hard close grained type being the best. So long as you paint it in a good outdoor enamel, with an undercoat, you cannot go far wrong.

Making up the case so that your camera fits nicely inside can be a real problem. The best solution is as follows:

(1) Take the maximum dimensions of your camera, this gives

the minimum internal size of the case.

- (2) If the camera is an odd shape when looking at the top, trace around it on a piece of paper. Remember to keep notes of the sizes unless you wish to make about four wrong cases.
- (3) See how you can fit in the flash electronics and a bag of silica gel (used for drying air inside case) into the shape drawn on the paper, without taking up too much room.

This should now give you a minimum set of internal dimensions. N.B. Do not forget that a lever has got to work the shutter release.

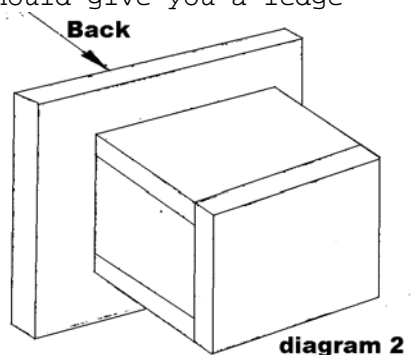
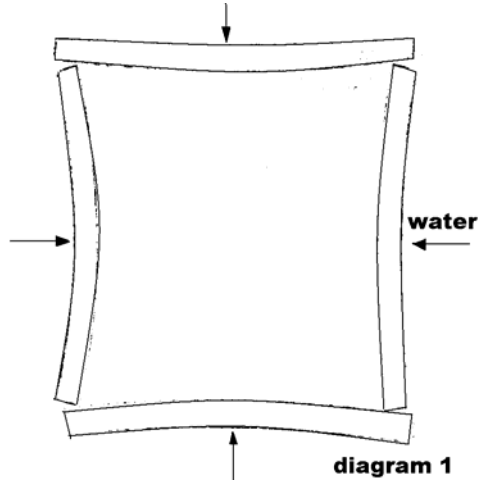
As you probably want a smallcase I will tell you how to make one from perspex (remember a large surface area bends); so get some more paper and calculate the internal dimensions.

Draw what you want the case to look like (diag.2) and then, taking into account the thickness of the perspex ($3/8$ " or more), calculate the sizes of the sides. As one side has to be removable (the back), make this side longer in each of its dimensions so that bolts can hold it down this should give you a ledge $3/4$ " wide all the way round when you put it on the end of the case (diag.2). When buying the perspex a piece 1 ft. square by $3/8$ " costs about 15/-.

To cut the perspex a hacksaw or small tenon saw is necessary, the points to watch are

- 1) You make a clean square cut.
- 2) The perspex is well supported as it cracks.

Do not remove the protective paper as you get a scratched surface. You should now be ready to stick the sides together. By dissolving perspex chips in chloroform a good cement is obtained, it can be bought under the name of 'Tonsol'.



(Continued on p.29)

Coat /....

Camden Town Capers
by RON GOODWIN

The following exercises are an additional "torture", devised by the Camden Town Boys, to tone one, up for the first, Trans-Atlantic swim!

The exercises are NOT compulsory, but are thought to be a means of sharpening techniques and finning ability. It is noted, particularly among Members coming forward for aqualung training that the biggest single stumbling block, is failure to clear masks of water. This is probably due to a mis-spent waiting period, during which mask-clearing is little practised, if at all.

Try to perfect one item listed each week, either in the small pool, or over a short distance. DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES force the issue. If you are not successful practising any item, and feel like a breather, take one. These drills are NOT, repeat NOT, to be treated as an underwater competitive issue, because of the dangers of Anoxia.

Anoxia gives no adequate warning to an underwater swimmer, except perhaps as a desire to surface to breathe. Should this need to breathe be ignored, and a swimmer continue his exertions underwater, a blackout will result.

NEVER practice hyperventilation (overbreathing) to excess, thereby flushing the lungs clear of CO₂ (one of the stimuli to breathing), prior to any underwater swimming effort.

Please check your Diving Manual's Bulletin No.21, page 24, and Bulletin No. 24, page 27, for the details.

Here then are the notes of the CTG which have been passed around various officials, and finally to me for action. Whilst some of the drills may toughen up those who wish to partake, I do want to emphasize the need for taking things easy underwater.

Ten Ways /

Ten Ways of Improving Your Technique
devised by The Camden Town Group.

1. Wear mask without strap, keeping it in position by suction.
2. Corkscrew along surface, exhaling whilst tube is under water and inhaling immediately tube breaks surface.
3. Exhale enough air to sink to the bottom of the, deep end. Surface, clear tube and continue to breathe without taking head out of the water.
4. Reverse snorkel and breathe whilst submerged on back.
5. Dolphin at least two lengths, pushing off bottom with each breath.
6. Swim two lengths, surfacing for one breath three times in each length.
7. Swim to the bottom of the pool holding mask. Fit and clear mask before surfacing.
8. Place all gear on bottom. Surface dive, fit gear correctly and clear mask before surfacing. Then clear snorkel without taking head from water. A weightbelt may be used to give the swimmer neutral buoyancy, if thought necessary.
9. Place gear at intervals (say, 10 ft.) along the bottom. Swim along bottom. Do not surface until gear is correctly fitted. Clear tube as before.
10. Place gear on bottom on one side of pool. Enter pool at the other side, swim under water to gear. Fit gear as before and back to other side of the pool without surfacing. Clear tube as before.

.....

(continued from p.27) Coat both edges in this cement and press together, keep then square on the edge of a book while they dry, try to apply some pressure; build it up one side at a time and allow everything to dry hard before you start handling it. Do not stick the back on, it has to be removable. When the case is completely dry and the joints hard, you can then fit the camera.

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

The Usual Channels

Dear Mr. Editor,

May I first congratulate you, Sir, and your band of helpers, on Vol.1, No.1 of "The London Diver". It is first-class. Mr. G. L. Hughes, Superintendent of Seymour Hall Baths, in writing to me expressed how thoroughly he had enjoyed reading the articles until he reached "N.D." 's contribution on page 31. He asks, more in sorrow than in anger, why on earth did "N.D." nurse his complaint for several weeks and not raise the matter with a Member of the Committee so that the matter could be dealt with through the usual channels. Personally, I could not agree more. Our relations with the Seymour Hall authorities have always been most cordial, and they have gone far out of their way to assist London Branch in running our organization smoothly since 1954. I hope, therefore, we will not have further complaints against the Bath Authorities published in our magazine without an appreciation of the full facts, the possible repercussions and first ventilating the matter through the 'usual channels'.

It may assist in getting these matters into perspective if I recall that my first job on the Headquarters Committee carried the title "Baths Restrictions". In those days, 1954, many Baths refused to permit the use of masks and fins in public swimming baths. Others refused to grant Branches permission to hire the pool after public hours. This attitude delayed the formation of branches in some areas, and other branches folded up after a period of travelling 10 miles each way to get to a bath they could use. It was my job to bring the two sides together and that often meant both gave way a little and appreciated something of the other's difficulties, not the least of which is staffing.

The cardinal point I wish to press home is that "Public Baths" are provided out of the rates and often run at a loss for the benefit of the ratepayers and population of the district providing the baths. We, members of the B.S.A.C., very often come from a much wider area and are, or should be, grateful that a particular Baths Committee have granted us the use of their Baths, sometimes to the exclusion of other Clubs.

We like /....

We like to get into the baths at the earliest possible moment, hence we go in immediately the public session has ended. A warm day and a crowd of public bathers are bound to churn up the water and make it misty. If we want cleaner conditions then we must allow some time to elapse for a dose of chlorine to be passed through the water. Similarly, if we want the cubicle floors washed down after the public have gone out, again a gap in time must be allowed. But do we not ourselves contribute to mistiness by our very act of underwater swimming, disturbing the loose hair, cotton wool, adhesive tape etc., which careless or inconsiderate bathers have brought into the bath? Do not our masks magnify the mistiness?

I know of no other public baths which caters for such a variety of calls on its accommodation and services as at Seymour Hall, and none that gives so much assistance to a branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club. I hope that no Member, new or old, will endanger the happy relationship which exists at present. Should any Member, however, have a reasonable grouse and be able to suggest a reasonable solution, I hope he or she will send it to the Secretary of the Branch to be dealt with through the usual channels.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) H.A.M.Cruickshank

Comment.

We are glad that Mr. Hughes enjoyed our first Number, but feel unabashed by the implied reproof. In our view (editorial plural) Tiny mistakes the purpose and function of such magazines as this.

This magazine is written by Members of London Branch for Members. We insist that it is a very proper and usual channel through which a Member can communicate with the Committee and vice versa on matters of general interest.

In the case of "N.D." 's complaint, we believe that if the Committee thought there was substance in it they would have officially informed Mr. Hughes, who as far as we know is not a Member of our Club, and therefore not officially a reader of this magazine.

(Editor)

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Another Reply

As someone who has been closely connected with London Branch training, I would suggest to "Browned Off" that a Saturday diver is possibly just as unlucky (if that is the correct term) as the sometimes non-aqualunged Wednesday diver. The problem is one which confronts the diving and training programmes during each busy Summer season, when "Holiday Trainees" and now await the opportunity to commence aqualung training. The situation is too many people chasing too few (?) aqualungs and is one that is NOT treated with apathy.

Club bottles are filled by an air service, with additional decants from BOC cylinders to help out. Being a members' club, we have not the luxury of hired help, consequently until some welcome assistance is given in regard to air decanting, expect the bottles to be minus air on at least one occasion during the month; this the minimum.

Obviously the Branch that does not dive in open water cannot rightly claim to be truly sub-aqua, but just a training circle, similar to a knitting circle!!

Outdoor meetings only concern themselves with taking the necessary minimum of equipment. It is not a case of loading everything in sight just for the exercise.

Thinking back to "Cloakroom ticket" training sessions of yesteryear, I can appreciate the frustration of waiting. Members in this category should make every waiting second count, train and train hard at snorkel and fins. Complete all lectures, read all pertinent books, so that when THE day arrives, Intermediate Training time will not be wasted because you lack primary efficiency.

Purchasing additional bottles for limited use is a matter for everyone to consider very carefully. Restricting the use of bottles purely to training would pose the problem of what happens to them during the hibernation period - October to April ornaments in Room 33?

In conclusion /....

In conclusion, the phrase "deprive us of our training" is in rather poor taste, and indicates a shallow point of view. There are many other Members of this Branch equally entitled to use aqualungs. Perhaps the outcome of being "Browned Off" was due to Dolce far niente. If so Sir/Madam, you joined the wrong outfit. In this Branch it is strictly callouses before cushions. No passengers and no free riders.

(signed) Ron G.

Snorkel Snorters

Dear Sir,

Is there no way to gain protection from those thoughtless types who insist on clearing their snorkel tubes towards any poor soul standing on the side of the pool and trying to keep dry until he wishes otherwise? It is probably these same people who insist on breaking the bath rules by jumping into the pool during training periods. They should consider the comfort of others.

(signed) "Wet Spectator

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ANOTHER ADVERT.

Those Members of the Club who feel that the plastic car badge is not ritzy enough for their barrow should take a look at the badge-bar or, the Editor's Diving Tender or Passion Wagon. One of the more useful Members cut him a brass backing and had it chromed at small cost. The result is really rather Bond Street. A few more Badges still on sale at the doors, 10/ - each (That Is the plastic - make your awn arrangements about tile rest).

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THREE LITTLE MERMAIDS
by Silvia Congedo

Three little mermaids under the sea,
Feeling happy and fancy free,
When all of a sudden to their surprise
They saw a group of strange looking guys.
"Why strike me pink, if he didn't wink!"
Said Mermaid One to Mermaid Two
"Don't be silly, Maisy dear,
I'm quite sure he's not winking at you.
He's having trouble with breathing tube,
If you hear noises he's not being rude.
"Oh, you mean its the Sub-Aqua lot,
Gee, I'm excited we're right on the spot!"

For when the divers saw those three
Glamorous ladies under the sea,
They completely forgot the spot they were in
(The leaky tube and the vanished fin),
Quite ignored their soaring gauges
And the warnings on the pages
In the books of Kenyon and Cousteau,
Which they'd often read with gusto.

Three little mermaids very surprised,
Gazing up with wide open eyes,
To see - was it Tiny, Stanley and Hits,
And Messrs. Smith, Whatdoyoucallit and Syke
Leave their worldly worries behind
(Had they completely lost their mind?)
In order to reach those glamorous three,
Free, little mermaids under the sea.

Quite a few mermen under the sea
And that is the last, my friends, that we
Heard of a certain Sunday dive,
When a group no more was seen alive.
So, for those who want a good dive,
And furthermore get thrills but survive,
The moral of this story is:
NEVER DRINK LIQUOR or LEMON FIZZ!

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COMPETITION PAGE

Entries for the competitions set last time were disappointingly few. Tim Ingram gets the first prize in the "Literary" Competition for his verse description written while on watch at sea.

The Best Project Competition was not entered in writing, nor by one person, so claimants please see the Editor.

The idea is that "Operation LONGSWIM" should be extended in scope to include a complete survey, above and below, of the Arlesey Lake. A proper chart should be drawn up with depth contours, positions of huts, cranes etc. This, one of our Members has undertaken to print for sale to any interested parties in or out of the Club, to the benefit of other diving clubs and to our own funds. Any interested Members who would like to work on this project, and particularly those with ideas as to method please contact the Editor.

This Month's Competition

The other night the Editor was seen to kit, himself up meticulously, test everything before leaping into the pool. When below he drew breath, and got water, so he cleared his tubes, drew breath and got more water. Manfully restraining his panic, he tested all his apparatus without avail. Purple in the face he beat it up fast for the surface, and examined his mouthpiece, only to find that it was his snorkel! The idea of trying to clear a snorkel under water seems apt for a witty limerick from some of the smarter ones. So - once again three prizes - 1st One month's free swimming at normal Club sessions, 2nd Two weeks' ditto, and 3rd One week's ditto.

Entries in writing please (yours or someone you can trust) and marked "COMPETITION" - then I don't need to read them until they are all in.

... fin ...

