

# londondiver

SEPTEMBER 2004

THE MAGAZINE OF BSAC LONDON NO.1 BRANCH



# editorial

Please email all submissions to  
jhesketh@\*\*\*.com or phone me on 07787 5\*\*\*\*9  
for my address details



The folder on my PC at home for this issue bears the name, somewhat optimistically, "July 2004". The duplicate on my machine at work is a more realistic "August 2004", though the fact that I'm writing this in September and you're probably reading it in October betrays a certain amount of slippage in reaching the printers. A depressingly short time ago I wouldn't have let that happen for a number of reasons. As it stands that number is getting smaller.

I have always thought that *London Diver* should be a reflection of the Branch, and have thus endeavoured to make this so. It is perversely with a sense of regret that I might admit to doing a good job here - this issue is smaller than it's ever been since I've been editor with less articles written by less people, and little or no enthusiasm to get it out on time. My thanks however, as always, go to those who have contributed, more so when this has been unprompted.

Nevertheless, there are some pieces which might give you an idea of some of the diving we've been doing this year in case you missed it which, statistically, you probably did.

There's also a rather sombre but necessary article from Dave, which rather more graphically than a shorter than usual magazine can portray, provides some thoughts as to where we might be heading as a club. I hope you all take the time to read it.

By way of reminder, the Branch AGM is being held on Tuesday 19 October 2004 in the upstairs room of the Perseverance starting at 8:00pm. If you are a member, please make the effort to attend.

The AGM party will be held the following Saturday (23 October) at the same venue, at which the awards will be presented (instead of at the AGM itself as is usually the case). If you were the recipient of an annual award last year, could you please bring it in, or give it to someone else to bring in, to the clubroom soon, so we can have them all engraved in time for the 23rd. Again, let's all please try and make the effort to attend here - as with the diving this year, the most successful trips were the ones where a decent number of people turned up.

Joe

Tuesday evenings come to...

## THE PERSEVERANCE

for beer, food, news, gossip, etc.

11 Shroton Street, London, NW6 6UG

**Copy deadline for next issue:**

**Friday 10 December 2004**

# chairman's chatter



## *What on earth is going on?*

**Y**ou will all have seen the motion put forward by the Committee.

Motion: *That the branch shall discontinue its hire of the pool, equipment room and compressor room at the Seymour Centre, and that all related Branch equipment shall be put into storage.*

It is a very sad fact that to most members of the Branch this Motion has “come out of the blue”. The fact that it seems to have “come out of the blue” is in itself a large part of the problem!... Read on.

## *The hard facts*

London Branch at the time of writing this has 39 full members (of these 6 are new members this year and are either undergoing training or have completed their training), we also have 4 swimming/social members and 5 *London Diver* subscribers.

Attendance at all the Branch dives this year has been at an all time low. Every dive except the Easter Plymouth dive and the August bank holiday Plymouth dive not even having a boat load of people on site. In fact, in any other year the majority of dives would have been cancelled due to a lack of numbers!

There were three hardboat dives booked this year for the experienced divers. The Branch has failed to fill these boats with Branch members on every occasion. That remained the case even when we opened up the dives to less experienced divers.

On most Tuesdays there has only been one or two people in the pool, if any! In fact on several occasions the Seymour staff have asked the lone swimmer to leave the pool for “safety reasons”.

On most Tuesday nights there have been very few people showing up at the equipment room and even less going from the equipment room to the Percy.

In this past year there has only been three regularly attending qualified instructors and

two regularly attending qualified assistant instructors on Tuesday nights.

## *The yearly costs:*

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Pool Hire: (£323 per 10 weeks) | £1,400.00 |
| Equipment Room Lease:          | £1,200.00 |
| Equipment Room Insurance:      | £350.00   |

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| TOTAL: | <u>£2,950.00</u> |
|--------|------------------|

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income (training new members): | <u>(£1,100.00)</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|

Of the eleven people on the current Committee (representing over 25% of the Branch!) only three are standing for re-election. Of the three regularly attending qualified instructors, one is going travelling and the other two will not have the time to dedicate to the Branch next year. And one of the regularly attending qualified assistant instructors who has recently qualified as an instructor has just started a new job and will also not have the time to dedicate to the Branch next year.

So where does that leave London Branch...? Without qualified active instructors is the answer in short. That means no income from training. That means a cost of approximately £75 out of our Branch membership fee of £150 per person (assuming we retain our current membership level, which is unlikely) to keep a pool and equipment room we simply don't use.

## *So much for the hard facts...*

From here on I am speaking on my own behalf and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the committee.

What about the emotions? This Motion is certainly an emotive one. But it is hard to argue with the facts... With a declining membership, London Branch can't afford to keep something we don't use.

I can hear old members and indeed some of the not so old members saying, “but we have

always been a training branch” ... “we need novices so that they can come through the Branch and take over the running of it in the future” ... “we have been going 50 years...” ... “we used to have two pool nights and they were both packed” etc., etc.

Well I have a great deal of sympathy with the feelings that such statements evoke. For those of you who don't really know me. I am one of the few people who have been D.O. for three

consecutive years as well as having another go later on. I have been Chairman on and off for three years, Equipment Officer for a couple of years, and I was probably one of the first “novices” to be on the committee back when I first joined the club. Not counting this past year, I have been a qualified *and*

*active* instructor for coming up to ten years... In short I do care about our Branch.

However it is sad to say that I can't honestly say that I care as much now as I used to. Personally I don't think that the Branch's problems are financial (at least not immediately, but they will be if we continue as we are now!). No, in my opinion its not quite as simple as that. Our main problem is a

general lack of enthusiasm from the vast majority of the Branch members. Too few people doing too much work to keep things running, and perhaps more importantly a lack of enthusiasm from the people who have been running the branch for the past ten or so years (I'm sure I don't have to name us all individually... look in your qualification books we did most of the training as well!). hence, too few people doing too much work.



As most of you know, a while back “We” went through a little “revolution” and most of us just got plain fed up with the politics. Running the Branch ceased to be fun and coming down to the Branch on a Tuesday night was just setting yourself up for yet another futile argument. On dive sites we were so busy being “politically

correct” that it too started to feel like work. So we stepped back (none of us stood for committee) and let the Revolutionaries run the Branch. It only lasted a few months before they were arguing amongst themselves rather than with us, but in that time the love, enthusiasm, caring, call it what you will, for the Branch was knocked out of us. I must say that I still felt a sense of duty to try to do my

bit for the Branch, hence standing for Chairman last year. With hindsight that was a mistake as I too no longer have the enthusiasm or the time to put in the enormous effort that is required to save our Branch from winding up in the next few years. Below is an extract from my speech I gave at the last AGM.

*It is often mistakenly thought that new members or rather trainees are the lifeblood of this club. We have all heard it said "we need new members" that same phrase has been chanted since the club was first established 50 years ago... look at old copies of London Diver and the minutes from the sixties and seventies when our membership was counted in hundreds! It was still the same old story "we must get new members" True enough their training fees help keep us solvent, and new members bring in fresh ideas and enthusiasm and eventually of course they become old members and end up running the Branch. But in reality it is the instructors that are the lifeblood of this club. Without them there would be no training or the income we receive from it. Without them we would attract less new members in fact without our instructors this club would be a very different place indeed. So if you feel ready for it but still haven't done your Dive Leader and any of the varied instructor courses and exams available to you... you should ask yourself why not? We*

*need new instructors as much as new trainees to keep this club healthy.*

That is certainly ringing true today. If we had the instructors available we could be more aggressive in our search for new beginners to join us. They bring in much needed funds and enthusiasm, however as we stand, if we do get new members who need training I can't think how we would train them. This means we either need ready trained new members, or we need to bring back old/existing members just to keep up our numbers and if that is the case what do we need the pool for? And who is going to organise the sort of diving the experienced people want?

I can't put forward a good argument to keep the pool, just a feeling that maybe "You" rather than "We" should give it one last try. Get your instructor qualifications, stand for committee, get off your ass and come down to the club and make it work. you just might lure a few of us back into harness!

One of the worst outcomes of this motion would be for things to stay the same... It is up to you.

Safe Diving,

*Dave*



# a sad goodbye and many thanks

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**A**s you know from the last edition of *London Diver*, Percy 1 was to be put up for general sale if a member of the Branch couldn't offer her a home or a buyer.

We are no longer able to keep her in TJ's garden free of charge as he has finally retired and is turning into a travelling gypsy. He and Shirley are taking their caravan on an extended tour of Europe and goodness knows what else he will get up to with his new found "free time". It simply wasn't sensible to keep Percy 1 if we had to pay storage to keep her. She has served us well and it feels rather sad to see her go but I think that the time was probably right.

I am sure that anybody who knows TJ will not be surprised to find that he somehow managed to extract £4,000.00 out of some poor unsuspecting person in exchange for Percy 1 and being the good egg he is he even took this bloke out for "sea trials" so there can be no comebacks!

Seriously, many thanks to TJ for all his efforts in giving her a home and keeping her shipshape in the past and sprucing her up so as to get the good price he did for her.

Well done and all best wishes for your retirement.

*Dave*



# the d.o. reports...

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**H**i everybody. Since my last report, the Branch has done a fair amount of diving from as far afield as North Berwick, Scotland to Pembroke, Wales and Penzance, Cornwall.

The first dive was Pembroke, South Wales. This was marshalled by myself. However, I stood back and let Jonathan Chopper *[a wonderful misspelling of Honest Jon's name there Keith - I think this should become permanent...Ed]* do all the organising, and a very good job he did too. He was extremely thorough doing all his homework on the slacks, dive sites, etc. - thanks very much Jonathan.

Diving was varied with scenic dives and wreck dives. I think all who took part enjoyed the diving, although the first and last days were quite windy, so we could only dive in Dale Harbour.

We did not use the regular campsite this year but one I had previously used. The views from this site were spectacular but the facilities left a lot to be desired. However, I think everyone was in good spirits and enjoyed the weekend.

The next weekend after that was Rescue Scenarios at Portland. I personally could not be there but those who went informed me that it had been well run and all who went said it was worthwhile going and found that they had learned a lot from the various scenarios they took part in, and recommended more of the same in the future. Thanks to Dave, Mel and Jamie and to all who helped to make the weekend a success.

The following dive was North Berwick, Scotland, marshalled by Tobias. The weather was not too kind to us that week, with storms mid-week, stopping us diving for two days. Most took the opportunity to go sightseeing in Edinburgh on one of the days - a bit of a shame to have gone so far and get blown out for two days.

That week was the first week for the new GPS, which has a chart plotting display. A lot of time was spent by a few people learning how to use this new bit of kit.

The boat launching and recovery caused a few problems over the week and we all learned a lot about what is or is not possible when launching the boat from a beach. I feel we all learned a lot from this week and although the diving was curtailed by the weather, it was an enjoyable week. Thanks to Tobias *[I seem to recall there may have been an assistant marshal as well. Can't remember his name, good looking though, and clever too... Ed]* and everyone else who helped.

The following dive weekend was Swanage, listed as a training weekend. Not a great deal of training went on but Matthew got his first shore and boat dives. Richard got more dives under his belt and Tatiana a lot more practice with her new dry suit. It was a good weekend. A big thank you to all who came and to Jonathan especially for all his marshalling.

The Cornwall Dive - unfortunately I was unable to be there, but reports from those who went said there was amazing viz, the diving was excellent and they even found a new dive site. I believe Nigel said it was the best dive he had ever done in the UK. I'm really sorry I couldn't have been there.

I have not heard much about what happened at Gildenburgh Water, but I'm sure that it went well too.

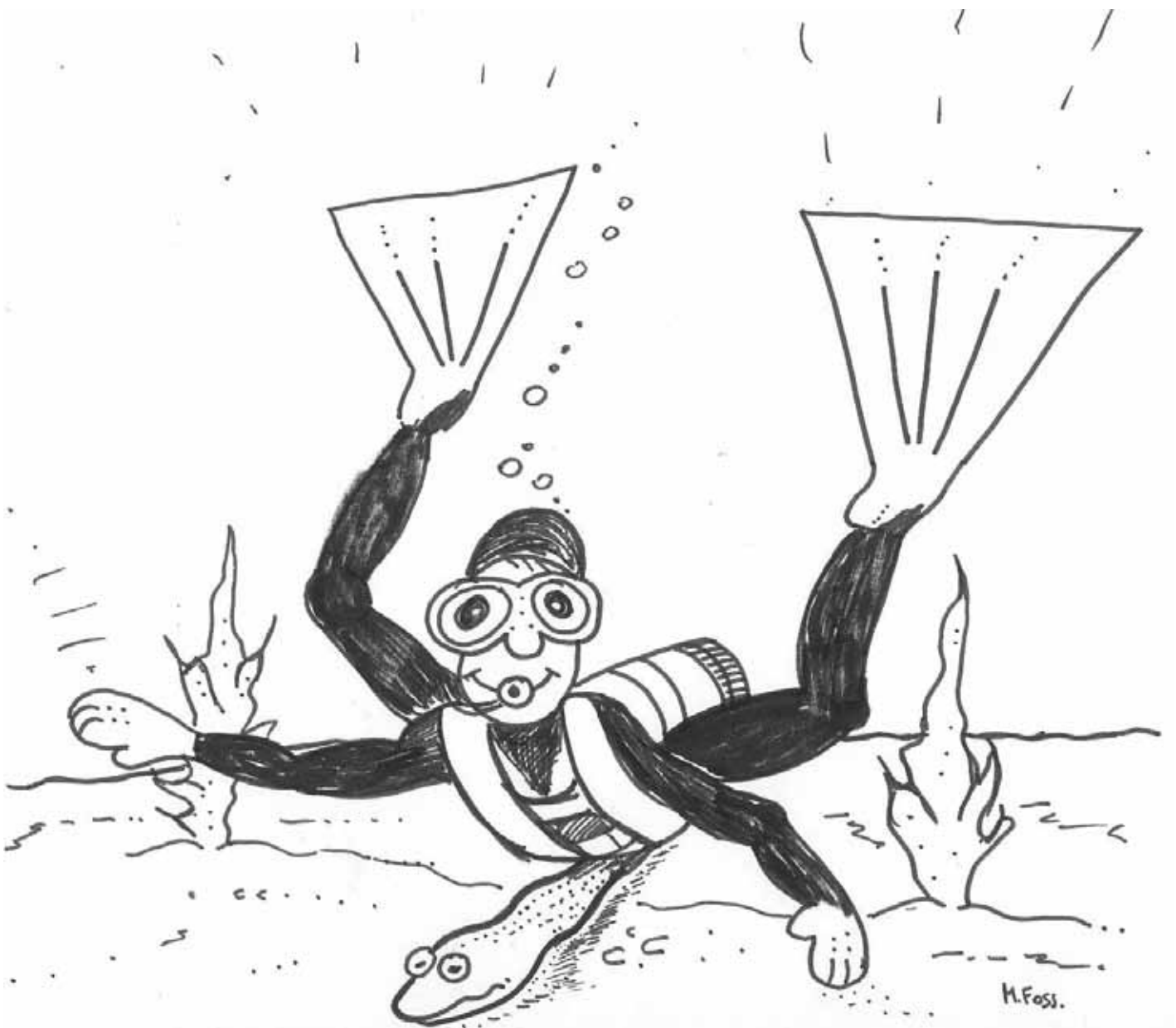
Overall it has been a varied couple of months' diving, with lots of excellent dives. The turn-out on dive sites has been down this year with most dives barely filling the boat - a shame that with a Branch which has such a good boat and van and a new state of the art GPS chart plotter, that we could not make more use of them. It would be great to see more of us out there diving. Perhaps if not this year then maybe next year we can all get out more and do a few more dives, and get the best out of our equipment. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Cheers.

*Keith*

# carn base, at last, 2004

*...or how Conger Dick was nicknamed.*



I've dived in Cornwall nearly every year with the club since 1987 when I joined, we've had some great weeks diving, and some rough weeks camping!! With Cornwall it's usually one extreme or the other.

We have attempted to dive Carn Base several times but, due to the difficulty in finding 'the spot' and the difficult weather and tides, have not had any success. We once found the site but had misjudged the tide. We dropped the shot and I think I could have water-skied in the current! Fortunately, we now have a chartplotting GPS on the boat

which makes locating the site much easier, (just ask Jeff where the Bucks are...), and now there is also a bloody great buoy on the seaward side.

Anyway, this year we thought we'd have a bash again. The weather was superb, the sea was calm and we had an idea of when slack should be. We set off from Lamorna, taking extra vigilance around the newly discovered Outer Buck, and set a course in the direction of Carn Base (head for the Longships and turn left a bit). The new chartplotter guided us directly to 'the Base' and after scouring the

general area for a bit we located a promising looking drop off and prepared the shot line. At the spot the shot was dropped and we circled it to establish the strength of the current, disappointingly it was too strong but we knew we were early so things should improve. Our attention was attracted to the buoy in the distance, and were surprised how far it was away, and it's size when we got there. With time to kill we made the most of some photo opportunities whilst waiting for the current to slacken.

I was to dive with Richard, whose diving was coming together quite well as the week progressed. We returned to our shotline to check the current and things were now looking promising, kitted up and after the usual checks we dropped in and made straight for the buoy, a swift exchange of OK's and we started our descent into the 16 metres below. The bottom came into view as I descended first and then I caught sight of a large free-swimming conger eel. I dropped to the bottom and pointed at the eel for Richard. I could see he had seen it as he was watching it with

interest, getting closer and closer as he descended. I thought, how brave, getting so close to a large eel on your initial dives. He kept getting closer and was now putting his hands out as if to grab the eel. I thought whoa!! that's not what your supposed to do. At the last moment he had second thoughts and decided not to touch it, with a lot of back paddling with his hands he just crashed straight into the bottom with his knees akimbo with this magnificent conger escaping from between. Strangely, since this incident his buoyancy control has quickly improved. Oh how we laughed!!.

The rest of the dive was impressive to say the least. Ten metre gullies with bright white sand at the bottom, loads of life and jewel anemones

everywhere. All too quickly, and after all the excitement, Richard, sorry Conger, was getting low on air so it was time to surface.

At the BBQ that evening the story was re-told and Marian came up with a nickname to be proud of ... Conger Dick.

*Nigel*





## pembrokeshire

This year's Pembroke trip got off to an inauspicious start with nearly nowhere to stay. The regular campsite, Foxdales (rubbish toilets, great breakfast bar...), had suddenly decided this year that it didn't like divers, or at any rate was of the opinion that they didn't mix with families. Those keen on maintaining a ruffy-tuffy image would no doubt derive some satisfaction from this expulsion (a certain Groucho Marx quote springs to mind). However, despite the charm offensive mounted on 'Mrs Foxdales' by tough city lawyer (and assistant marshal on the trip) Jon Chapper (I believe the argument ran along the lines of "...no, but we're really very nice, honestly...") local obstinacy won out and we were forced to go elsewhere.

An alternative campsite was found closer to Martin's Haven. One of only a few groups on the site, its unpopularity was not hard to fathom as you trekked a quarter-mile across knee high grass to a shower block even more condemned than the one down the road.

Only five of us were around on the first day's diving, though conditions being pretty marginal we restricted our diving to sites around the Haven (just out from Dale Harbour). After some judicious guesswork (abandoning the GPS marks which seemed accurate enough only to place you in the correct hemisphere, we followed some ill-remembered details about a couple of

southerly cardinals) we 'located' the wreck of the *Dakotian*. At around half the stated depth and somewhat less impressive a vessel than the description Jon had read from the book, my dive (with Tobias and Gillian B) was pleasant but a little disappointing. Uncorroborated by Jon and Keith who followed us in only to spend half an hour on a featureless bottom, it wasn't until later that evening when Jon checked his guides that we worked out that we'd located and dived a different wreck (that of the *Behar*) completely by chance.

Much later that evening (thanks to some apparently awful traffic), everyone else arrived. Morgan, sensing it was getting late and that he was leaving civilisation behind him had sensibly stopped off to buy some sustenance at the last petrol station before Marloes. So what do you buy when you are tired and hungry after a seven hour drive - a 12 pack of beer obviously! Equally prepared was Tatiana who, on arriving at 01:00AM, then stood in the driving rain reading the assembly instructions to her tent. The girl guides clearly never made it as far as France...!

Not a bad trip all round, and despite some Olympian faffing (even by London Branch standards) on a few days we even made it into the water before noon... Some other highlights:

Gillian B wading back out to the boat with her drysuit zip undone. Those of us who'd



spotted this from the beach might well have been able to shout out a little sooner/louder, but where's the fun in that...?

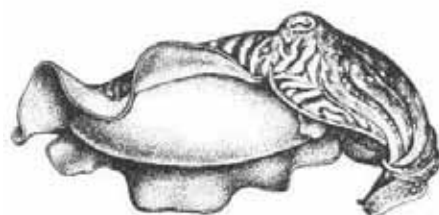
Megan, who after three or four unsuccessful attempts at climbing into the boat whilst it was held in the bay, finally managed to clamber in, receiving tumultuous applause from the assembled crowd of bird watchers waiting to catch the Skomer ferry.

Jon playing underwater swapshop, managing to lose two knives and one glove but find a UK400.

Alex, who after many months free of gastric calamity at sea, finally succumbed to old habits and was left helpless as his lunch did an encore in the waters of South West Wales. Those who might for whatever reason like to keep track of such things will be pleased to know he has since completed the tri-nations by polluting Scottish and English seas as well.

Tobias, who most embarrassingly got lost on the drive home. After phoning me to chart my progress and receiving the response, "I'm on the road to Fishguard" then proceeded to drive all the way to Fishguard himself, miles out of his way and in completely the wrong direction. He has since been forced to spend hundreds of pounds on an 'Anti-Fishguard Device' (a GPS unit for his Palm Pilot) in order to maintain enough navigational dignity to be able to continue to bait Morgan for his now legendary directional dysfunction. He'll no doubt try to tell you that I got lost too, though this is, of course, complete rubbish! Ha ha, to (mis)quote Mel Brooks, sometimes it's good to be the editor...!

*Joe*



# rescue scenarios weekend

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In early June, a group of us made our way down to Portland, following the bouncing acid head directions from our hotel's website (to quote Joe, "it's the coolest damn map I have EVER seen (and I'm not easily impressed...)"), for the rescue scenarios weekend. Arriving at 9:30pm, we managed to interrupt a mammoth session in the hotel bar by Tobias and Alex and gave Alex an excuse to wimp out – the only time I've ever seen him leave a pint unfinished!

The following morning, buddy pairs sorted, we headed out to the breakwater for what seemed to be a normal dive. One by one, we were called up to see Dave and Mel in the bow for our secret briefings, while Morgan 'volunteered' to be the first boat handler/response co-ordinator.

Ten minutes later, Tobias surfaced, having managed to lose his novice, Jamie, who happily carried on having an enjoyable dive on his own. Morgan ably managed to locate all his remaining divers, had some fun driving the rib at top speed *[followed by a slap on the wrists as divers were still in the water at the time... Ed]* and the 'novice' was recovered with no harm done.

I managed to be incredibly unsympathetic to my two divers suffering from a bad air fill and then proceeded to leave Joe floating face down on the surface for, I am assured, 4 minutes and 36 seconds. That'll be a hint to get some kit in a colour other than black, then! *[Never! - Ed]*

Morgan demonstrated that the hours spent in front of his bathroom mirror planning the acceptance speech will not have been spent in vain, with an Oscar-winning performance of a diver with a missing finger.

Unfortunately he not only left behind part of the finger, but also failed to bring up the lobster which removed it, meaning that we had to head into Weymouth for the evening meal. This took a while to be served, leaving time for several rounds of drinks and much hilarity over Alex's confusion between hamsters and guinea pigs (think Richard Gere - allegedly -

and you'll be in the right ball park). Following the meal we ordered the dessert to share, with 9 spoons, which came in a three gallon bucket and was demolished by the group in 10 seconds, despite Gillian Brown showing unexpected territorial possessiveness, not to mention amazing tug-of-war skills.

Gillian and I were sharing a room and she managed to alarm me by stating that she never sleeps past 6:00am and likes to be up and out soon after for her open air tai chi. Needless to say, the stress of all the accidents managed to take the edge of Gillian's plans and I actually had to wake her up in time for breakfast – I'm sure that it had nothing to do with the bitter in the bar the night before!

Tobias, waiting for the signal to surface, gave a fantastic performance of a diver turning purple with the need to pee, and missed out on his Oscar only because there was no acting involved! Still, he now has a pee zip fitted, so we'll not have to witness the speed disrobing onboard the boat again!

Dave exhibited the patience of a saint teaching me how to reverse the trailer onto the jetty *[an amusing concept if you know Castletown beach - I assume you meant to say slipway?! - Ed]*. My thanks to him and also to the owner of the camper van parked directly opposite for unselfishly providing me with an obstacle course to test my to-an-inch manoeuvring. Having managed to get the trailer down to the water edge, Joe drove the boat on, managing to mangle a prop on the sea bed in the process, although apparently the engine dropped down of its own accord. Many of those viewing obviously thought this looked like fun and were later tempted to try damaging props or jockey wheels of their own. There will be some intense competition for the rubber prop this year...

Overall a really enjoyable and well organised weekend, helped by the good weather. We all made some mistakes, had a few laughs and learnt a hell of a lot.

Megan

# north berwick, 19-27 june



Last year's trip to North Berwick had a sense of the unknown about it. A new site to the branch, we went with a small band of divers and discovered some fresh sites that we all got quite enthusiastic about. There was of course a little incident with the boat, but Jamie doesn't like me mentioning that, so I'm not going to (doh, too late).

This year, we planned to return, intent that the trip would be bigger, better and longer. Well we did stay for longer that's for sure, but how else did we fare?

Bigger? The sign-up sheet was a work of art. Nearly everyone had put their names down at some stage during the year, only to later cross them off due to one (or fewer) reason(s) or another. A spate of eleventh-hour cancellations and an un-communicated no-show left the trip woefully undermanned. Despite there being no shortage of space on Percy II, justifying this was at times hard.

A perfect illustration of this was on the first morning. Whilst waiting for enough water to put the boat in, we started talking to another dive group who were kitting up in the harbour car park. This turned out to be being led by a chap called Gary Lawson, one of North Berwick's two commercial dive operators. An ex-police boat driver from Ireland, Gary is a

genuinely helpful guy but, er, what's the polite way of saying this, very 'to the point'. Taking one look at the three of us (the two others had gone off to find someone else to ask dumb questions of), and then at our huge boat, then at the word "LONDON" emblazoned across my rugby shirt, he opened with a gruff and



*Braised seal pup with a puffin side salad...mmm*

unbelieving, "You've driven THAT all the way up from London...?". "Er, yes" we said, trying not to look stupid. Laughing, he then said, "you do realise you could have hired my boat for £12 each per day, and I could've driven you's t'all the best sites an all...?". "Oh..." we said sheepishly, "...that does sound like good value, doesn't

it. Still we're here now...". After an awkward pause, Jim asked him another question. I could see it coming, and although Gary was admittedly the most appropriate person there to ask, my best "we may look like townies who've just pitched up without a clue but we're not, honestly" expression, which I was desperately trying to keep up, crumbled as the words came out, "So, when do you think we might be able to launch our boat then?" Nooooooooooooo!

Better? Well, we didn't get to dive with any seals and the deepest low pressure system for 60 years completely wiped out two of the days,

but all said and done, we got some pleasant diving in. Most of this was around Bass Rock (or simply "the Bass" as its known locally). An interesting site especially if you're boat handling, where boat positioning is a careful balance between keeping the SMBs in sight, usually close in to the rock, whilst maintaining a sufficient distance from it to minimise the guano fall-out from 100,000 gannets hell-bent on white-washing everything in site.

The rock now also has the distinction of being the site where Tobias managed to lose the boots from BOTH of his cylinders (I can't help but be reminded of Lady Bracknell here). Perhaps more remarkable is that both of them were retrieved on subsequent dives later in the week, though having bought another one in the interim (or more precisely Jim, Jon and myself having driven round Edinburgh ALL

afternoon in the pouring rain to buy him one...), he went from having a severe boot deficit to boot redundancy within the space of a few days. So, if anyone wants to buy a boot - "8 inch, rubber, one misfortunate (or is that careless!?) owner" - please speak to Tobias, who I'm sure can do you a deal.

The weather was certainly a challenge. One morning in particular, I momentarily

contemplated getting out of bed to check the weather forecast, but opted to go back to sleep, safe in the knowledge that the fact the caravan was being violently rocked from side to side by the wind was probably as good an indication as any! The comedy value continued as Jim knocked on our door, having walked the 10 yards from his own caravan, dressed from

head to foot in full-on Musto offshore oilies. It'll be raining as well then!

It did clear though. Not quite enough to remind me that this was meant to be my summer holiday, but enough to be able to dive, and that is ultimately what it's all about. I had a great time in Scotland, and my warmest thanks go to Keith, Alex, Tobias, Jim and Jon for helping to make it so.

Perhaps the final word should go to the Bass, though. When everyone's sharing the same rock, there's a lot of squawking, it

stinks, and inevitably if you stick your neck out for too long you'll end up getting crapped on. And although everyone complains about this, if you just jump into the water, in an instant, all that goes away. Sounds familiar, doesn't it...?

Happy diving, wherever that may be.

Joe



# plymouth in august

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*Shot in a billion (above) – a rare moment of simultaneous smiling never to be seen again.*

*John Dory on HMS Scylla (right)*



# classifieds

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*Advertise for free in London Diver. Please contact the classifieds editor: Jamie Obern*

## EQUIPMENT

For sale, compressed air tanks, suitable for scuba diving, ex-military. All tanks in test – only slightly dented. Email Rambo-divers@freedom.org.

**KIT RECALL:** All Second-Skin model 2 and 3 dry suits. Please return to any registered dealer. **WARNING: DO NOT USE** in seawater – suits will shrink by up to 30% after 10 minutes immersion.

Do you want to dive with the big boys? BatSpray shark repellent – all you'll ever need to stay cool and calm when sharks are around. Available in aerosol or cream. Send US\$20 to Sea-Safari Industries, PO Box 22, Capetown. S.A.

PEEZIP problems? BlockIT technologies announce a breakthrough in diving comfort. Immo+. Never again will you need to wee in your wetsuit or cramp in your crushed neoprene. Immo+, Guaranteed to keep the natural urge at bay. Available without prescription, send US\$15 to BlockIT technologies, Watershute way, Riverside, Peeton, USA.

## LOST AND FOUND

Stolen; 7m Tornado rib, red and black, 'LUCKY'. Last seen in moored off Bognor. Reward offered for any information leading to recovery. Call Steve on 07777 123 456.

Found drifting off Littlehampton, 7m black and red rib. Phone Bob on 01234 567890 with name and description to claim.

## SERVICES

**LOG-BOOKS:** Having trouble completing those awkward qualification dives that some

organisations ask for? Struggling to amass enough underwater time for that instructor qualification? Always wanted to talk the talk about the world's great dive sites? Qualifications verified, completed logbooks available and guides for those dives you always wanted to have done. Why bother when you can do it cheaper and easier than the real thing. Contact Tim at GPdiving on 0898 112233.

Personalise your dry-suit! Individually designed machine embroidery available at reasonable prices. Special discounts available for clubs. Contact Daisy@fluffybunnies.co.uk

LOOK the part. Do you sag in your suit? Do you dream of looking like an instructor? Are you always the last diver to make up a buddy pair? Specially designed shoulder pads and corsets available in all sizes, guaranteed to give you the dive body you've always wanted... Contact Tim at GPdiving on 0898 112233.

Unable to find a buddy who'll listen? Friends and family tired of your diving tales? Call 0898 900 9000 now – 100's of like minded adults just waiting to hear your story. If your partner won't listen we will.

GO-PRO! Always fancied the high life? Always wanted to be a god to women? Become a dive instructor NOW! Go-Pro can offer you fast track training to a professional diving qualification. In just 3 weeks go from being a nobody to being somebody. Contact Tim at GPdiving on 0898 112233.

BENT! Have you suffered DCI? Someone else is to blame! Contact Vulture Solicitors for your no win no fee professional legal service. 020 71234 666. "Where there's blame there's a claim."

CONFIDENCE? SHYNESS? ESTEEM? Feel confident now. Whether you are an old or new instructor, don't put up with those lecture nerves. Contact the Confidence Clinic at GPdiving on 0898 112233.

VISIBILITY? How many times has you dive been ruined by bad visibility? Don't waste your weekend - contact MERMAID MINNIE, the underwater psychic. No one has a better track record for seeking out the silt. Call MERMAID MINNIE on 07000 987 654, calls cost £3/minute.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

TEST divers wanted. World-renowned mathematician Dr. B. Entdiver seeks divers interested in participating in a new field study of his latest decompression algorithm. Full health insurance provided. Please send SAE with full qualification details to The Clinic, PO Box 99, Panama City.

MODELS wanted for underwater shoot for women's glamour magazine. Good pay, all equipment provided. Applicants should not be too susceptible to shrinkage when cold. Contact Babs on 020 7878 1234

PADI/BSAC INSTRUCTOR required by Sea-Safari Dive School. Good pay, all accommodation and equipment included. See details to SSDS, PO Box 22, Capetown S.A.

COMBAT DIVERS wanted; join the action against the planet's poisoners. If you ever wanted to save the planet then NOW is your

chance. Email [divepirates @ clearblue.org](mailto:divepirates@clearblue.org), or contact Marjorie at Bedlam Hospital, London.

### OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Thomas Thompson - who as a dive-guide and instructor with Sea-Safari Dive School introduced many new divers to the joys of shark diving. Tomtom, as he was known to his friends, was the instigator of the world famous 'Great White banquet dive' recently started off the South African coast. Also instrumental in developing 'The BatSpray' shark repellent, Tomtom had recently patented his invention and was expected to be a millionaire within weeks. He will be sadly missed.

### GENUINE ADS - FOR SALE

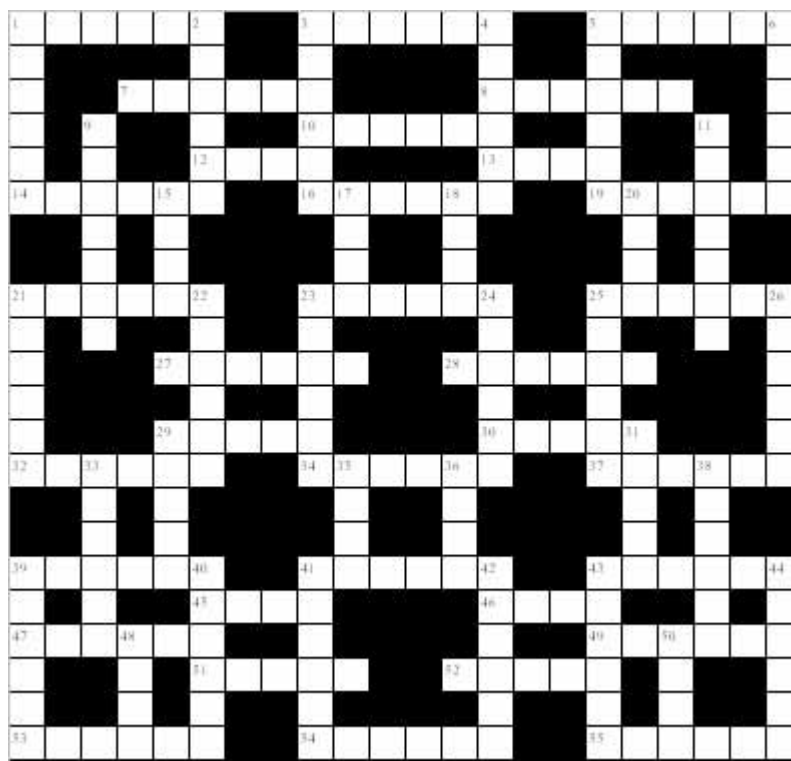
WETSUIT - Cressi-sub 'Castoro 2' 5mm steamer, gents size 3 (medium), black with grey and yellow inserts. Bought new 12 months ago, worn on two trips only. Very 'clean' inside. Ideal for the Med or low season Red Sea, etc. Yours for £50. Contact Joe on 07787 5\*\*\*\*9.

MARES/DACOR spares - three fin straps and five ABS system buckles (total retail value £40). Stock up now on these flimsy overpriced bits of "technology" so you're not caught short the next time they fall to pieces on you. Sale price only £25. Offer includes free gift of two Mares Quattro fins, still attached to buckles (yellow, size: regular). Perfect for holidays! Contact Joe on 07787 5\*\*\*\*9.



# and finally...

*This month we have another crossword, again kindly compiled by Jamie. Have a go, send me the answers and you could win a dive guide – 'Dive Scapa Flow' by Rod Macdonald. Congratulations to Megan who won the logic puzzle from the last issue. She wins a line cutter.*



## Across

- 1 Lead
- 3 Found on most scuba tanks.
- 5 Remember your physics lectures - temperature, pressure and .....
- 7 Father of the BSAC's president.
- 8 Bombardment
- 10 Buccaneer
- 12 Small island.
- 13 Needed to moor up a boat.
- 14 Mixed gas made up of 21 across and 43 across.
- 16 White water.
- 19 Nurses, angels and goblins are all in this family.
- 21 Together with 43 across they make up 14 across
- 23 Crustacean
- 25 Pacific island owned by France.
- 27 Entry, possibly favoured by giants.
- 28 What you have to do if the outboard breakdowns.
- 29 Greek island.
- 30 Water vapour.
- 32 County on the south coast of England.
- 34 Of the sea.
- 37 Mollusc.
- 39 Useful if your dive computer breaks.
- 41 Popular wreck diving destination.
- 43 Together with 21 across they make up 14 across
- 45 Part of our name.
- 46 Film title - 'Finding - '
- 47 Beat
- 49 Bivalve aphrodisiac.
- 51 Harbours
- 52 Doctor?
- 53 Naval flag.
- 54 Group of ships.
- 55 Ship's rope.

## Down

- 1 There is a lack of this in UK diving.
- 2 Combination of 22 down plus 43 across.
- 3 Smoked herring.
- 4 Baby eels.
- 5 Pressure control devices
- 6 Used to locate wrecks.
- 9 Greek or Roman warships.
- 11 Mythical sea creature.
- 15 Dribble
- 17 Curve.
- 18 Part of the ear.
- 20 Hawaiian dance.
- 21 There are four of these.
- 22 Oxygen enriched air.
- 23 Combines with chloride to make the sea salty.
- 24 Flat fish.
- 25 Type of powder.
- 26 Country bordering the Red Sea.
- 29 Stop
- 31 Dimwit
- 33 What Australian divers drink after a dive.
- 35 Technical diving organisation.
- 36 Midday
- 38 Sea creature - relative of the sponge.
- 39 Type of reptile
- 40 Type of boat of oriental origin.
- 41 Northern sea.
- 42 Wound
- 43 Surface supplied diving.
- 44 Surface '-----' buoy.
- 48 Water or blackcab.
- 50 Vomit



# He'll face 30ft waves, blizzards, force 9 gales and sub-zero temperatures.



Andy Huggitt: 2nd Coxswain and Deputy Mechanic, Eastbourne Lifeboat.

Photography: Murray Langdon

## All we ask of you is £20.

To: The Chief Executive, RNLI, FREEPOST (BH173), West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1XF.

RT03/11

I wish to join the RNLI. My first annual donation is:

- £ \_\_\_\_\_ for Shoreline membership (min £20 p.a.)  
£ \_\_\_\_\_ for Joint Shoreline membership (for partners - min £33 p.a.)  
£ \_\_\_\_\_ for Governorship (min £66 p.a.)  
£ \_\_\_\_\_ for Joint Governorship (for partners - min £116 p.a.)  
£ \_\_\_\_\_ for Life Governorship (once-only payment - min £1,500)  
£ \_\_\_\_\_ for Storm Force membership (under 16's - min £5 p.a.)

Please attach name, date of birth & sex of child

I do not wish to become an RNLI member but I enclose a gift of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to: Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tick here to increase the value of this donation and all future donations by almost a third through Gift Aid. For every pound you give us we get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue. To qualify for Gift Aid what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must be at least equal to the amount we will claim on your donation in the tax year.



### Lifeboats

www.lifeboats.org.uk  
Reg. charity no. 209603

We never give your information to other organisations. Your details will be used by the RNLI and passed to RNLI trading companies only. If you do not want to receive information about other ways to support the RNLI, tick here. *CJ/PA*