

# Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

Nov 2004  
Issue 82

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Cover Photo Courtesy of Ian Jennings



# Editors Bit...

At all good Newsagents now.....  
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**It's not just adults that go on dive trips, Larry above loves nothing better, apart from food, warm carpet, attention, swimming, than to go for a long walk; as here along the cliffs at St. Abbs.**

Here we are at the end of the dive season and the start of the festive season, starting 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. with Guy Fawlk's Night. Soon to be followed by the quiz night then the annual diner. Some where in between comes Xmas and the New Year which means lots of new toys to play with and trial before the start of next dive season.

Don't forget that there are lots of awards given out each year, so even thou the committee decide you can always make suggestions to any committee member. The Volney award in particular needs nominations, so any good story pass on to who ever won it last year.

Any articles, news, gossip, jokes and the like should be sent to the Ed at

[pete.barnard@power.alstom.com](mailto:pete.barnard@power.alstom.com)

Back issues can be found on the club web site

[www.lsac.co.uk](http://www.lsac.co.uk)

Pete

# Page 3 Luvlies

A special Luvlie this month.

Having failed to deliver the promised article for the magazine after numerous reminders and broken promises the editor takes great delight in nominating Claire for this months Luvlie.

**Could this be the front cover of next year Club Calendar?**

Don't forget it's better to nominate rather than be nominated. So get those Luvlie photos to the Ed, keeps him happy and possibly keeps you off page 3 !

If you would like to become Miss or Mr Dec or know someone who should be, then please email me with the photo and a brief description of why the person should be a page 3 lovely.

**pete.barnard@power.alstom.com**

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# Chairman's Report

Well this is my first proper chairman's report and I hope you are ready for it. You will all be pleased to know that I have been burning the midnight oil for the club, working tirelessly for the betterment for all you members. I must be the hardest working chairman ever, so next time we are down the pub you can show your appreciation. My first official engagement was last month's committee meeting, which went very well, Nigel though, ended up with getting the chairman's finger as he tried to hurry the proceedings too quick, but apart from that everybody else behaved themselves. It was my first time at the committee and it was good to see that many issues were discussed properly and the well being of the club is in good hands. It made me realise that a good number of people within the club put a lot of their time into the club and this also includes people who are not on the committee, this is why we have such a good club.

Though on saying all that we must not be complacent, we have record numbers of members, but some are to leave or thinking of leaving, (if it is anything to do with me being chairman, I can change, honest!) It would be a shame to lose anyone of them, so don't do it! What I would like to happen at the committee meetings is that the membership would get involved by submitting any suggestions for improvements, any complaints or things we can strive for over the coming year. The more we talk the better we will become and this especially applies to our newer members, so don't be shy.

One thing came out of the meeting that we must continue to be careful at the new swimming pool, a tile has been chipped already, not by us I must add and the people at the pool realise this. We are looking at ways of eliminating potential problems, like the lead weights that we use. If one of these were dropped it would definitely cause damage, so it is being looked into if we can put a neoprene cover over these weights to help soften any falls if the unthinkable happened.

The diving is starting to slow down now apart from trips abroad or the Cove, but it doesn't mean that the club activities are to slow down, we have our annual social evenings planned. The next one will be the quiz night and interestingly the photo competition will be held at the same time. This year I know that there are a number of members that have cameras and I am expecting a record number of people to go for this competition. So don't be put off if you think people have got better cameras than you, I saw last year's photos and they were rubbish. Whoops! The dive planning meetings will be started and the big hope this year is that more people will become involved in organising new trips. It is actually good fun and a steep learning curve in becoming aware of what diving is all about. Well that all for now and I hope I have not offended too many people, if there are any criticisms please direct them to Dave Wilson who I have just nominated as my complaints manager.

Chairman Jon.

# Diving Officer's Report

Hello all, well sadly this year is fast slipping away and the Dive Season is largely over, for trips to the coast at least. Anyway don't forget the cove which is right on our door step and any instructors that can help finish of some dive qualifications for trainees would be gratefully appreciated.

Whilst the winter sets in there is also the pool at your disposal on a Tuesday night. So if you want to try out some newly bought dive gear, keep your skills up to date or just swim then please do use this great facility, we all pay for it.

On the subject of the pool we still need to be very careful with what we do. It has been pointed out to us that there are a number of chipped tiles. I suspect that a lot of these chips aren't down to us, but caused by a result of the taking in and out of the swimming pool lanes and starting blocks as used by the swimming club.

I think the bottom line is we need to be whiter than white. Some time ago I issued a document on the use of weights in the pool and this has also been submitted to the pool as part of a document put together for their information. Could I just bring your attention to this document again as seen below.

About now is a good time to start thinking about next years dive season and what we want to. Anybody wishing to run a trip please come forward, there is a wealth of experience within the club and people who can help you run these trips. There will be a dive planning session on 16<sup>th</sup> November to get the ball rolling and three further sessions early next year starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Safe Diving

Neil Brown

## Use of Weights In Stab Jacket Pockets

Use of weights in stab jacket pockets.

1. If the stab jacket has a zipped pocket, providing the zip is in good order and securely closed
2. If asking the student to get out of the water will seriously impact into the lesson then weights may be used in pockets providing they are secured to the stab jacket.

Whilst securing the weight can we ensure that common sense prevails and that the weights are secured at the shallow end.

The above goes for training in the swimming pool and 'Stoney Cove'. Whilst it is tempting to put rocks into students pockets for extra weighting this should also stop. So if instructors are unsure of the weight that a student requires, can they please carry a couple of additional weights for their student.

For club use there will be a number of weights available with cord on (see below) and should be used in the following way. Please do not be tempted to remove the cord from these weights.

All the club stab jackets have the ring pointed out in the pictures below. There are no rings inside the pockets. If a student has purchased a new jacket then there may be rings inside the pockets, please check.

And one last note, if there have been any problems during dives can you please let either of the following three people know as soon as possible.

Neil Brown    Dive Officer  
Jon Bill        Chairman  
Neil Tomlin    Training officer



Neil Brown  
Dive Officer  
08-12-03



Pass the cord through the small D ring adjacent to the pocket. On one side there will a clip for the hoses as shown above



Secondly pass the weight through the loop in the cord



Thirdly secure the weight back in the stab jacket pocket.

## Kirkby Lonsdale “Dive” Trip

The annual pilgrimage to Kirkby took place 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Due to the overwhelming influx of articles this report is the editors take on some of the photos supplied courtesy of Steve Ward. (It should be noted that the Editor was not present on this trip)

The group poses for a well-earned rest at the peak, on route to the pub, to take in some stunning views.





Proof that some diving did take place, with kiting up in full flow.  
Where did Richard get those legs ?



It's time I got a new mask  
this one keeps flooding



Mirror mirror on the wall who's got the most colourful suit of them all ? Is it the Blue Watch or I'm too sexy for my suit ? This could be a new club annual award, i.e. Club Fashion Icon of the Year. The ed stands a fair chance of getting this one, I know I can count on Black-eyed Bob's vote.



Having descended the shot line Pete makes it to the bottom. The current is fast flowing and vis is poor, a quick glance at the computer shows that all is not well no depth, time or deco information is showing. The decision has to be made abort the dive or use the BSAC 88 tables indelibly etched into the memory, well the back up watch is working and the echo sounder gave the depth I've come all this way so on with the dive.

With the fast flowing current and poor vis this scenic potter had become an exhilarating drift. Progress was slowed by frantic grabbing of rocks and sheltering behind the boulders along with the local salmon, shopping trolley, beer can and other treasures. The previous wreck dives on the "Bicycle" could not be attempted in such testing conditions.

All too soon the end had to come. Time to head for the surface and ignoring the need for deco stops or the speed of ascent Pete got to has knees and lifted his torso elegantly above the water and safety.

After the dive the elder Statesmen, below, sat to discuss the days adventure



Pete: "Kev are you playing pocket billiards?"

Kev: "Yes, but I need a longer cue"

Pete: "Well your not borrowing mine !"

## DIVING THE ZENOBIA (CYPRUS)

### HISTORY

On the 4th May 1980 the 12,000 ton Swedish roll-on roll-off ferry Zenobia shipped her moorings in Malmo, Sweden and sailed for Syria, the intended destination. The ship had 104 huge lorries and trailers on board, full of cargo intended for the middle eastern and Mediterranean markets. With freight and passengers to collect en-route, the Zenobia finally entered the Mediterranean through Gibraltar on the 22nd May. Her first port of call was Heraklion in Crete, where after a two-day mooring, she proceeded towards the Port Piraeus in Greece.



About mid-way between Crete and Athens, the Zenobia started to list to the port side. A check discovered that the pumps controlling the water ballast system had put too much water into the ballast tanks. In Piraeus, where after four days the water had been pumped out and, it was thought, the problem was solved. Again she sailed on towards Syria, this time stopping at Cyprus, where on the 3rd June she stopped at Larnaca. However, the problem with the water ballast was still troubling the Zenobia. This time it was discovered that the computers controlling the water pumps were suspended. Worse news came to light - water was still being pumped into the side ballast tanks and it couldn't be turned off!

On the 4th June the Zenobia, now with a serious side list was towed out of the Larnaca harbour to caution possible collisions inside the port. She was towed 2000 metres offshore where the water depth was 42 meters and left at anchor awaiting a possible solution. All the crew were taken off on lifeboats. On the 6th June, local residents of Larnaca could view the unusual sight of a huge 172 meters roll-on roll-off ferry leaning heavily on its right side for the third night.

At 2.30 am on Saturday the 7th June 1980, more than two hundred million pounds-worth of vehicles and cargo sank slowly to the final place.

The real cause is a mystery. Rumours and speculation abounded: there was a huge cargo of drugs that could not be found; the Zenobia was carrying Russian arms and missiles for Palestine Liberation Organisation and so on. None of these have been proved and today the Zenobia is at rest.

Undoubtedly she is the best dive in the Mediterranean and is officially listed as one of the top ten wreck dives in the World! With no salvage work being allowed and over 100 Scania Lorries, industrial machinery, cars and cargo ranging from paint to air conditioners, timber to Tonka toys and especially one container of a million eggs, most of which now litter the stern of the wreck, the Zenobia really is a diver's paradise.



## THE DIVE;

Twenty four years later at 6.45 am I am standing outside the hotel in Paphos waiting to be collected by a local dive centre (P.W. Marine) for the two hour journey to Larnaca.(Can hardly wait). The dive boat is a 40ft Catamaran crewed by Russians. We unload all the kit at the bottom of the pier onto a trolley then up to the boat, unload on to the boat, marine divers like to get on the left hand side next to the gate, so as for easy entry.

Kiting up straight away as it only takes 20 minutes to get to the wreck and moor up. Looking over the side of the dive boat into the clear water is my first glimpse of the Zenobia, blue and bold 20 meters down. The excitement is building and just want to get down there!

Four of us enter the water off the side of the catamaran with the guide from P.W Marine. Down we go to the side of the wreck at 20 meters, we re-group, and then its over the hull to the props! They are that big four divers were behind one prop blade, so a photograph could be taken. Looking down another 15 meters below was the second prop, from

there we swam around the stern of the ship, where the big ramps are still in position, at this point we are at 30 meters. We then turn on to the upper car and lorry deck, what an amazing sight!! lorries still hang suspended on there fix down chains, where they have fallen from there mountings. They litter the sea bed, eggs and more eggs everywhere you look.

We enter the wreck on the upper car deck, keeping high at 26 meters looking down at the wreckage of lorries all complete with cargo. We exit at the bow, just above the deck by a door.

Dived the Zenobia 4 times over two days. Entering the wreck and seeing all the accommodation area, restaurant area complete with toasters and microwaves, the bridge area, life boats which are still all intact. The restaurant is still carpeted intact, all except for the small piece in my office! I can confirm it is still in excellent condition.

The Zenobia has got a lot of soft corals forming all over it, complete with fish life including large schools of amberjacks, who do like bread and biscuits, Groupers and Barracudas. Once back on the boat after the dive the crew serve up a good meal. Then back to the harbour and the long drive back to Paphos.

Undoubtedly she is the best dive in the Mediterranean and is officially listed as one of the top ten wreck dives in the world. As well as the Zenobia I dived 5 other sites all from the shore, but looking at coral and rocks does not compare with the Zenobia.

All dives were done with:

P.W Marine

4. Aristo Coral Bay Complex

8575 Paphos

Cyprus

Tele: 0362 26 623082

Kev Parker

Tuesday Night Schedule:- Be There or Be Square ☺

DATE	INTRO/OCEAN DIVER	SPORTS DIVER	DIVE LEADER	SKILL DEVELOPMENT	INTEREST EVENINGS	POOL TRAINING
31-Dec-03	<b>NO CLUB - HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>					
13-Apr-04	<b>NO CLUB - EASTER</b>					
20-Apr-04	OT1 / INTRO - Neil Tomlin	ST5 - Jon Brewis		Boat Handling Course Lecture	St.Kilda Video	Intro Course
27-Apr-04	OT2 - Martyn O'Driscoll	ST6 - Neil Brown	DT1 - Nigel Spickett			OCEAN DIVER
04-May-04	<b>NO CLUB - MAY BANK HOLIDAY</b>					
11-May-04	OT3 - Phil Turney	Catch up week	DT1 - Nigel Spickett		Dive planning evening	OCEAN DIVER
18-May-04	OT4 - Phil Turney	Catch up week	DT2 - Steve Ward			OCEAN DIVER
25-May-04	OT5-Steve Ward	REVISION - Neil Tomlin	DT2 - Steve Ward		Lundy Breifing	OCEAN DIVER
01-Jun-04	<b>NO CLUB - WHITSUN BANK HOLIDAY</b>					
08-Jun-04	OT6 - Richard Green + Neil B.	Exam Neil Brown	DT3 - Pete Woodcock			OCEAN DIVER
15-Jun-04	OT7 - Richard Green	ST2 - Neil Brown	DT3 - Pete Woodcock			OCEAN DIVER
22-Jun-04	Catch up week	ST3 - Richard Green	DT4 - Neil Brown		Dive planning evening	OCEAN DIVER
29-Jun-04	REVISION - Neil Tomlin	ST4 - Fran Duinker	DT4 - Neil Brown		Red Sea Diving-Alex Bullard	OCEAN DIVER
06-Jul-04	EXAM - Neil Tomlin	AIM	AIM		Talk on Towing AIM	OCEAN DIVER
13-Jul-04	Exam review - Ian Jennings	ST5 - Neil Brown	DT5 - Jon Brewis		Instructor review	OCEAN DIVER
20-Jul-04	EXAM - Neil Tomlin	ST6 - Richard Green				OCEAN DIVER
27-Jul-04	Drysuit Intro - Nigel Spickett	Catch up week	DT6 - Steve Westwood		Dive planning evening	OCEAN DIVER
03-Aug-04	Drysuit Introduction - Neil Tomlin	REVISION - Neil Brown			St. Kilda Breifing	OCEAN DIVER
10-Aug-04		EXAM - Neil Brown	DT7 - Neil Tomlin			
17-Aug-04		Exam	DT7 - Neil Tomlin			
24-Aug-04			DT8 - Neil B. Pete Woodcock			
31-Aug-04	<b>NO CLUB - AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY</b>					
07-Sep-04		ST1- Phil Turney	DT8 - Fran Duinker			
14-Sep-04		ST2 - Steve Ward	DT9 - Alex Bullard	Advanced Diver exam		
21-Sep-04		ST3 - Pete Woodcock	DT9 - Alex Bullard		Instructor review	TRY DIVE
28-Sep-04	<b>AGM</b>					
05-Oct-04	OT1 / INTRO - Neil Brown	ST4 - Richard Green	DT10 - Phil Turney			Intro Course
12-Oct-04	OT2 - Ian Jennings	ST5 - Alex Bullard	DT10 - Phil Turney			OCEAN DIVER
19-Oct-04	OT3 - Bob Mulholland	ST6 - Fran Duinker	DT11 - Martyn O'Driscoll		Astral Navigation-Steve Westwood	OCEAN DIVER
26-Oct-04	OT4 - Janet Roelandts	Catch up week	DT11 - Martyn O'Driscoll			OCEAN DIVER
02-Nov-04	OT5-Mark Scott Simons	Catch up week	DT12 - Neil Brown			OCEAN DIVER
09-Nov-04	OT6 - Robin Sherratt	REVISION - Neil Tomlin	DT12 - Neil Brown		Instructor review	OCEAN DIVER
16-Nov-04	OT7 - Nigel Spickett	EXAM - Neil Tomlin	Catch up week			OCEAN DIVER
23-Nov-04	Catch up week		REVISION - Neil Tomlin			OCEAN DIVER
30-Nov-04	REVISION - Neil Tomlin		EXAM - Neil Tomlin			OCEAN DIVER
07-Dec-04	EXAM - Neil Tomlin					
14-Dec-04	<b>Quiz and Social Night</b>					
21-Dec-04	<b>Christmas No Meeting</b>					
28-Dec-04	<b>New Year No Meeting</b>					
	<b>INTRO/OCEAN DIVER</b>	<b>SPORTS DIVER</b>	<b>DIVE LEADER</b>	<b>SKILL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>INTEREST EVENINGS</b>	<b>POOL TRAINING</b>