

Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

Apr 2007
Issue 111

In This Months Issue

Red Sea – March 2007: Part 1

Cover Photo Courtesy of Ian Jennings



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Free

It should be

Free Flow

Editors Bit...



A nightmare for Neil Calver, with so many to choose from !

Buddies

The Red sea has come and gone, but only in real space and time. In that great storage cabinet we call the brain are a multitude of images, sounds and smells filed away for recall or replay on a continuous loop that defies real space and time.

Yes I'm back in sunny Blighty, have stopped swaying but my mind is still full of images and I still smile at some funny remarks, one in particular courtesy of Richard Lakin.

The most important thing about a dive trip is that everyone returns intact without injury or harm. Anything after that is a bonus, not a right, but something that must be earned, primarily achieved through training and practice.

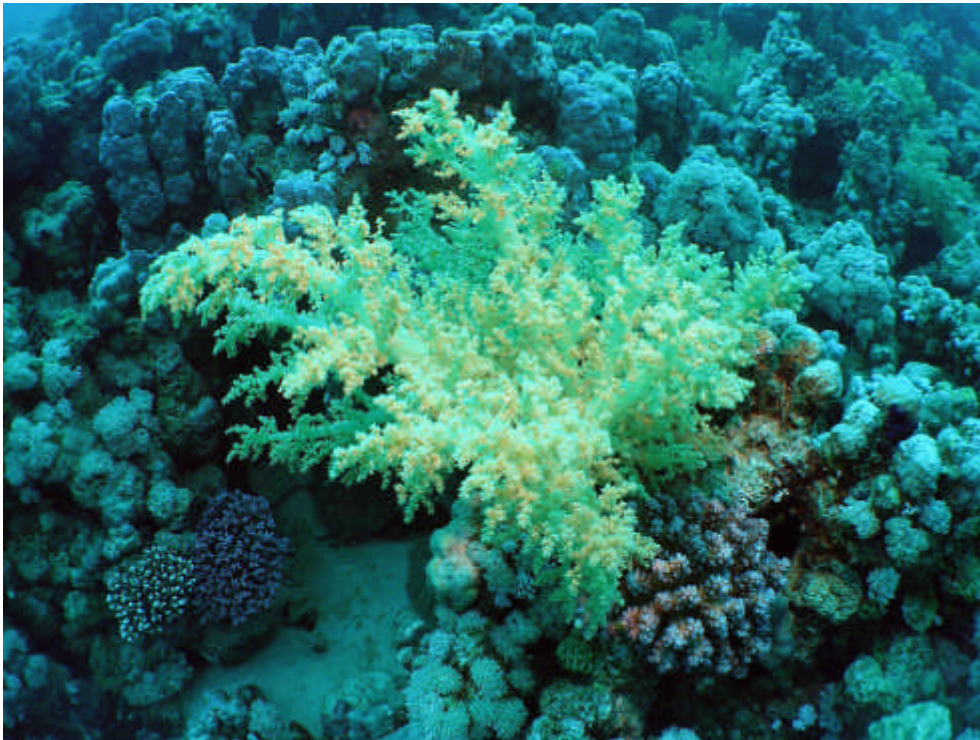
So my message is simple, keep equipment and body dive fit and ready for action.

Special thanks this month to Ian for supplying the photos. Without whom this edition would not have been issued.

Ed.

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This month's luvlies are some of the Red Sea flora. I for one am just beginning to understand how important they are for marine life being both food and shelter for so many species. Previously I viewed coral, for example, purely as a fascinating living organism competing for space and existence. In reality it's more than that; it's food, its home, it's a nursery in short I've seen the light; Coral Reefs Need Our Protection.

If you would like to become Miss or Mr Apr. 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

Chairmans Knock

The dive season is hotting up fast with Steve's first Rib trip (which was hopefully a success and good run out for the boats) and the Red Sea liveaboard trip now complete (surely worthy of another Red Sea special edition - Ed??).

The interest night seems to have been a success so far this year with most Tuesday nights filled up (thanks to everyone who has volunteered their services so far), I will be looking at the calendar for the next six months in the near future with maybe an interest night on every other week so that club members can also get chance to just catch up (there's always the pub as well though!).

Please also make use of the pool if you want to try out old or new kit prior to your first dive of the year (there are also plenty of instructors who will be willing to jump in with you as well if required).

The interest night schedule is looking pretty full for the first 6 months, but any volunteers for the

latter part of the year are greatly appreciated, please email – scubaroj@tiscali.co.uk.



Dobbin's Corner

This month's Dobbin comes from Fran's roving reporter. Who would have thought that the Red Sea trip would generate so many Dobs, they started from the moment we arrived at Manchester airport to the day we left so lets just give you the list. Not a bad list for a single week.

1. Ian Jennings for needing to ring his phone at the airport to find where he had left it.
2. The DO for forgetting his log and qual books nearly causing him not to be allowed to dive.
3. Sue Calver for getting the wrong entry stamp in her passport meaning a lengthy delay getting it amended
4. Mike Flatt for using the "No Wt Belt" excuse for bobbing on the surface and missing the 2nd dive.
5. Roger Holmes for doing the Buddy check.
6. Richard Sykes for trying to put on the wrong wet suit, yes a much smaller one.
7. Nigel for popping his dry suit hose during a dive.
8. Richard Sykes for his stylish "lets fall off the exit ladder" routines, 3 times on the same dive.
9. Rachel Thomas for forgetting to recharge his torch and borrowing a torch from a PADI diver.
10. Rachel Thomas for dobbing herself in for No. 9.
11. Richard Lakin for kneeling on a Lion Fish, loosing buoyancy whilst reading his gauge
12. Roger Holmes for sitting with his ear right next to Mikes exploding high-pressure hose. Pardon !!!
13. Neil Calver for forgetting to untie his cylinder before trying to stand up, 3 times in one day.
14. Rachel Thomas for not realising that 5 mins to deco comes before 3 mins to deco.
15. Richard Lakin's "Does Ian know its his Birthday"

Diving Officers Bit

The first two trips of the year have now taken place.

Steve arranged a Club RIB trip to Weymouth, and agreed to test out both boats after the winter work. A few snags, which are now being attended to, but in general, they performed well.

The next RIB trip is the Boat Handling/Diver Coxswain course at Poole, which Ian and I are both going on, so the remaining items will be sorted during the trip.

I think Ian is doing an article about the boats, and the changes later in this edition of Freeflow.

The Red Sea trip has come and gone and was greatly enjoyed by all who went. Many thanks to Kevin for all the organising. He says he is 'resting' the trip next year, but I'm sure he will resume sometime in the future. There is of course nothing to stop someone else from arranging a trip.

The annual diving statistics are already well underway and no doubt Ian will include an update within this newsletter.

This analysis is very useful; in as much as it encourages members to submit dive log sheets, which keeps me up to date with the diving that is going on. However, please remember that although there is a token prize at the end of the year, this is an exercise for interest only, and not a competition. The last thing I want is people undertaking dives they really don't want to do, or extending dive times just to get that extra few minutes,

The whole thing really is about enjoying ourselves.

The dive calendar is still looking a bit sparse.

Why?

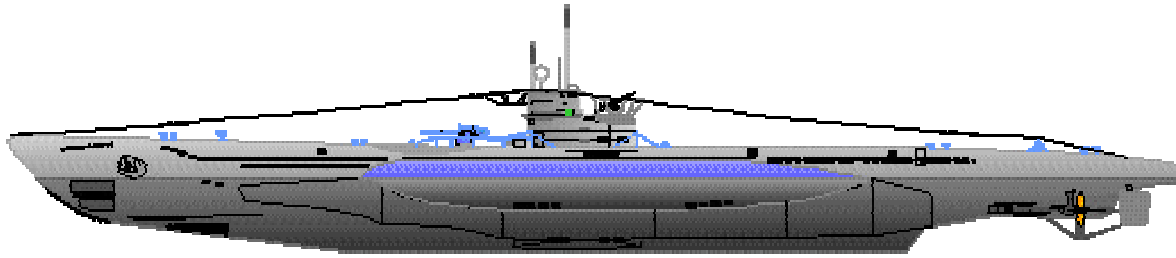
Is it due to the January/February weather? And the general depression it causes in all of us, or perhaps people are waiting until the boats are fully tested. Either way, the weather is improving, (Easter looks as though it's going to be good – and this is the first Easter ever we have not had a trip), and the boats are about ready following the fullest overhaul since we have had them.

Lets see a few more RIB trips. If you haven't arranged a trip before, or are uncertain about how to go about it, talk to me.

Good Diving.

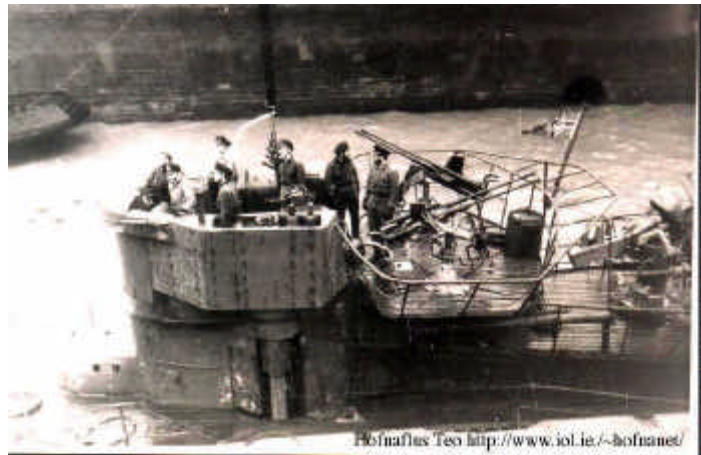
Nigel

My Favourite Dive – Pete Barnard



Like the previous contributors to this section its difficult to choose the favourite dive. So have opted for the dive that not only was a great dive but the weather was great, the trip back to port skimming across a mill pond and topped off by several pints of Guinness watching the sun set over the harbour. As they say on the TV Price Less.

The U260 a German VIIC class submarine sank on 12th March 1945 whilst on patrol off the South Irish coast and rests about 20 miles east of Fastnet Rock. Built in Bremen by Vegesacker in March 1942, with twin screws, was 67.1 metres overall length and a displacement of 1,070 tons. She presently lies on a sandy bottom at 42 metres, intact with some bow damage and lists 60° to port.



There are 2 versions of her sinking. Officially she sunk after hitting a mine, but local history suggests she was scuttled by her captain and crew in exchange for a cosy internment for the duration of the war. I don't profess to be an expert on maritime sinking but if the U260 struck a mine the blast damage has been repaired very well.

Diving her involves an hours trip by rib so requires a calm sea and can only be dived on slack water. A shot line is essential both to locate the sub and for ease during the safety and deco stops. Dropping down the shot line she suddenly emerges from the dark and if shotted mid section can be seen in her full glory. Twenty minutes bottom time gives time to get all the way round, but not time to dwell anywhere for long. The main hatch is open supporting the view that all crewmembers evacuated safely.



There are at least 3 resident congers living between the corroded outer hull and intact pressure vessel. They seem surprisingly bewildered by the light from the torch, and probably don't see many divers. Before long its back to the shot line and a welcome cuppa waiting back on board.

Red Sea Report – March 2007: Part 1

The Red Sea brigade rendezvoused at Manchester Airport before the hop to Sharm-el-Sheik. The eagerness to get aboard was not overshadowed by the journey or delays at the Immigration desk or the tight security at the port, where everyone has to disembark and pass through an x-ray detector whilst the bus and luggage passed through without hindrance. Then onto the boat, the Typhoon, ready for a drink and supper. One of the great features of these Live Aboards is the copious amount of high quality food.



The other great features being a) the dive guides Mickey and Juan briefed, guided and generally took care of things during the week notwithstanding bouts of gastroenteritis, b) Mike Ward our wreck historian gave informative presentations every evening, c) efficiency of the dive deck crew, d) seamanship skills of the skipper and crew.



After the shake down dive at Ras Katy, a really nice bimmble, it was off to the first wreck of the week the Dunraven. The one dives the Dunraven the more incredible a wreck it becomes, although well dived with much of the marine growth kept at bay the structure of the wreck makes for an interesting swim through giving the chance to examine the boilers and steam engine. Ending the dive with a gentle drift along the reef proved quite delightful, so much so that another dive on the Dunraven was requested later on in the week.

The 1st night dive on Mahmoudat reef introduced us to one of the delights of the Red Sea, yes we're talking about a Spanish Dancer. This large colourful Nudibranch is sometimes seen swimming freely but on this occasion just chilling waiting to pose for passing photographers.



Next day saw the first of what I call Aquarium Dives, you know the ones I mean, crystal clear water teeming with life, with each area of coral having its own personality with shoals of vividly coloured fish darting in and out of the coral in rhythm to the exhalation and inhalation of the diver. My vocabulary doesn't do it justice, drifting slowly past such beauty should inspire such words of poetry but at least the poetry is set in images indelibly etched upon the brain. Ending the drift along Mahmoudat reef through Small Crack into the lagoon where the boat was waiting at anchor to ply us with chocolate and breakfast.



Next up the Thistlegorm, which, as revealed by Mike Ward, means Blue Thistle. 3 dives, afternoon, night and morning, allowed me to visit areas not visited in previous years and noticed more fish life than I have seen before, particularly at night with shoals coming home to rest after foraging in the open seas during the day. Of particular note was on the night dive, with Neil and I, having the ship to ourselves finding a turtle resting on the deck probably settling down for the night, although on our return to the shot line the turtle was no longer in the same place.

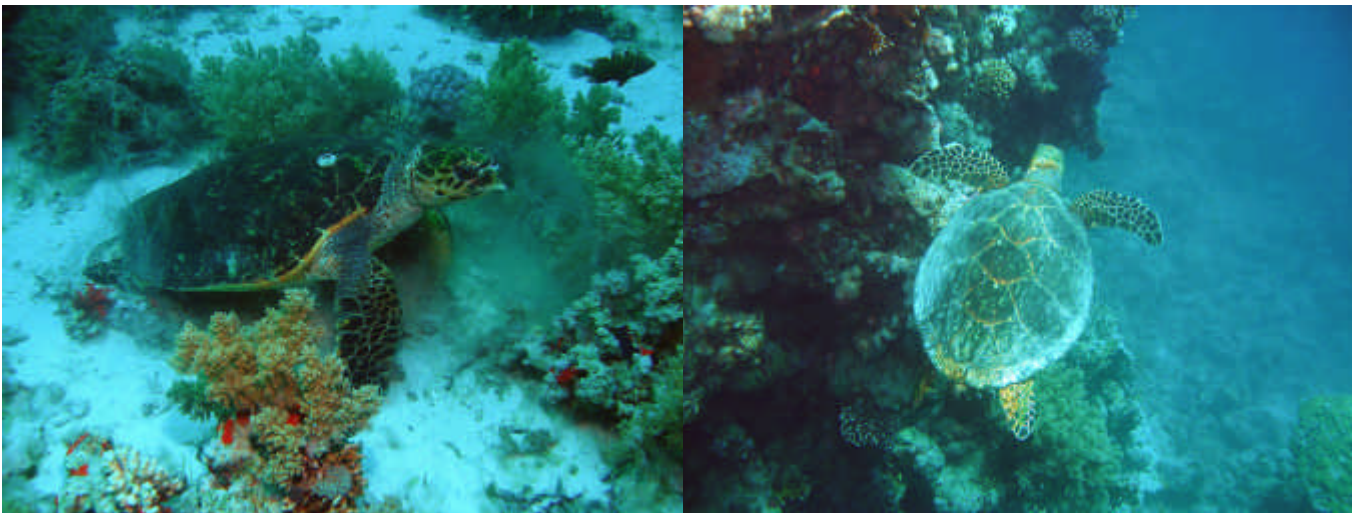


To follow were a series of wreck, Kingston, Christola K., Carnatic and Ulysses. The Kingston was the worst dive of the week with a strong current making it difficult to make progress around the wreck and the resulting drift across pristine coral beds absolutely frustrating going too fast to be able to close enough to look at any detail. The Christola K, aka The Tile Wreck, is one of the world's most beautiful wrecks and an absolute delight and is one of my Top Ten dives. From the Sand Eels, Pipe Fish, Glass Fish through the tile filled holds to the engine room, wide and open to allow a good old nose about, to the bow up on the reef at about 4m. The light streaming through the wreck is a photographers dream and a must visit is the mast, were you could spend a whole hour just sat in one location. The Carnatic and Ulysses again lovely dives teeming with life the most notable being the Scorpion Fish, Bird Wrasse and a wonderfully named Splendid Flatworm. (Photographs of these dives are still in Egypt as we go to press so in the next edition I shall do a part 2)

Then we come to the Big One, i.e. The Rosalie Molier, sitting on the bottom at 45m with most of the dive below 30m is considered to be a serious dive. Having dived it 5 times before and knowing my way around was able to have a good ferret around through the prop, up into the blast hole, crawling across the coal filled holds, managing to get snagged twice so needing reverse gear, visiting the engine room and cabins before the call of extended deco draws one past the funnel back to the shot line. It is surprisingly relaxing wearing a wet suit rather than a dry suit on a safety and deco stop, particularly when deco extends beyond 20 minutes, i.e. the screaming bladder is just not an issue; what a warming thought.



The penultimate dive being back to the Dunraven, for another cracking dive. To finish off the trip, on route back to port, a visit to my 2nd favourite dive site namely Shark and Jolander reef. In previous years have always stayed on the outside of the reefs but this year had the experience of visiting the shallow lagoon behind the reefs. Being a nature reserve with a no take policy the whole area of the reef is magnificent. We had been told that you often see Turtle's in the Lagoon feeding on the soft coral and as if to order were not disappointed. We even found one swimming past at the end of the dive as we deployed the DSMB, providing me with my 2nd most memorable safety stop of all time.



Once back on land it was back to town via the x-ray machine. A power nap, shower and bite to eat before heading for town and the Camel Bar then the Hard Rock Café. Once the rest of the team return from Sharm there will be more stories and photos so part 2 of the story next month.

Text: Pete Barnard Photos: Ian Jennings



Pathfinder 2007

Trying to get people to enter the Pathfinder Competition can be difficult. Over the past few years we have tried

- Setting a course on a specific day
- Setting a general course
- Navigation Knowledge quiz, with limited navigation exercise.
- Knowledge of Stoney Cove

Recently these have all had limited entries and indeed the last one had only one entry (me!). So this year I am trying something different!

What seems slightly more popular is nominating people (for the Volnay Award) so this year I'm trying a nomination type of competition.

If you have been impressed by someone's navigation on a dive (for whatever reason) then nominate him or her for this award.

To give a couple of examples from last year there was:

- Kev Parker who, when we were trying to return to the boat in limited visibility Estartit (and I didn't know where we were) almost hit the boat with the delayed SMB.
- Pete Barnard who took me straight to the mini at 35m which I had failed to find on a few occasions.

Of course you could nominate people for 'interesting' navigation e.g. Richard Larkin who when navigating on a dive in Stoney manage to go due South each time he took a bearing from his compass. (These interesting examples of navigation will probably be passed onto Fran for consideration for the Volnay award!)

Consideration will be given to the grade of diver so an Ocean Diver finding the APC at first attempt could well win over a 1st Class Diver doing something much more difficult.

Nominations can be given to me in person, posted to me at: 14 Stewart Avenue, Enderby, LE19 4LN or e-mail me at: ian.jennings@alstec.com

So, **NOMINATE YOUR BUDDY** for navigational abilities (be they good or 'interesting'!)

Ian Jennings

Members Dives 2007 - So Far

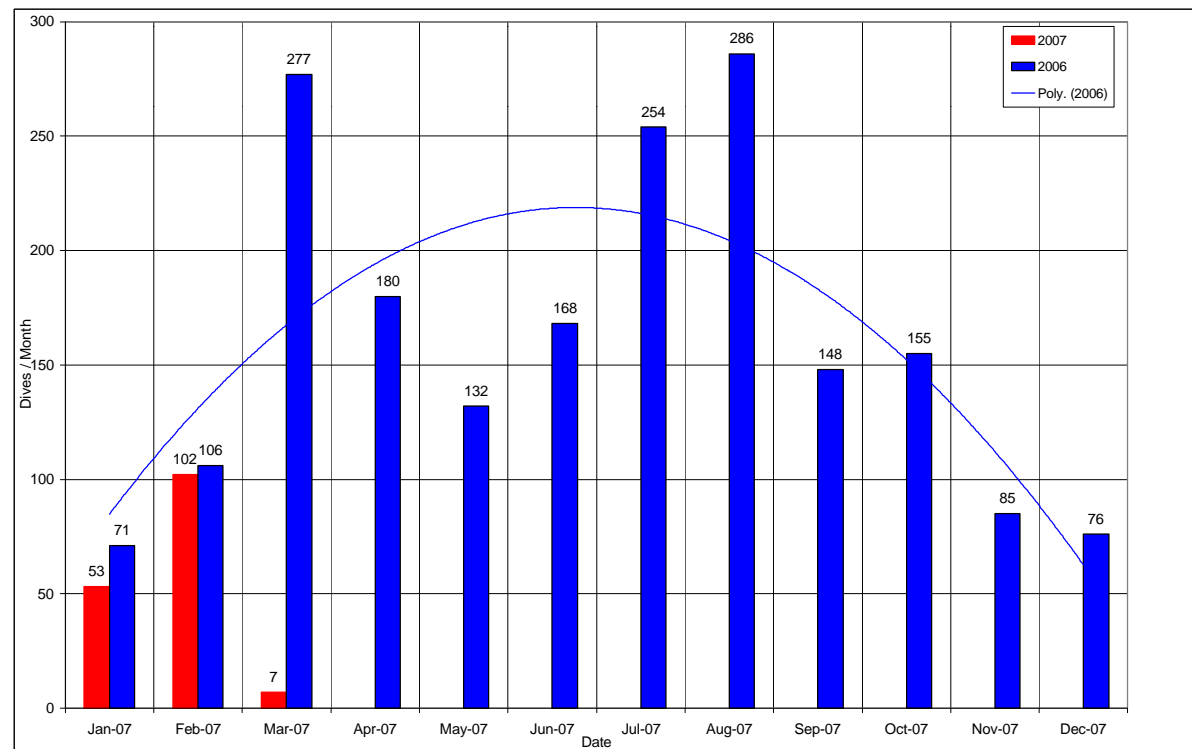
Two months into the year, the coldest part of the year but the hardiest of us are still going diving! – in fact we have 162 dive statistics from 29 divers.

This month I have included the statistics table for all dives so far, As you will see Fran is leading (again), but there are some other notable statistics. Mike Flatt and Gary Rose still hold the longest dive at 76 minutes (though with the Red Sea coming up I imagine that could change). I, along with Pete Barnard, now hold the shortest dive at 2 minutes (due to my camera flooding – but that is another story!). The deepest dive is claimed by Neil Calver at 37.5m – which is impressive in Stoney!

The number of dives is slightly down relative to last year, as you will see from the graph on this page.

late, as I will not look favourably on statistics coming in from then!

Safe Diving and please get the dive details to Nigel promptly



The main difference being the number of dives done in January, I hope that is not due to the statistics coming in

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
1		Number of Dives	TOTAL TIME (Mins)	TOTAL (Hours)	Instructing Time (Mins)	Time x Depth Total	Club Dives	Personal Dives	Inland Dives	Coastal Dives	Foreign Dives	Wreck Dives	Reef Dives	Drift Dives	Other Dives	Night Dives	Training	Training Instructor	Maximum Depth	Average Depth	Minimum Dive Length	Maximum Dive Length	Average Dive Length
2	Duinker Fran	18	571	9.5	229	9944	10	8	14		4	1			17	1	12	9	29.9	14.3	15	70	32
3	Jennings Ian	15	515	8.6	145	13908	15		15						15		4	4	36.3	25.5	2	44	34
4	Barnard Peter	12	434	7.2		11884	12		12						12				36.3	25.8	2	52	36
5	Holmes Roger	10	372	6.2	210	4807	10		10			2			8		6	6	22.0	13.8	4	60	37
6	Calver Neil	9	366	6.1		9120	9		9						9				37.5	25.4	33	52	41
7	Rose Gary	6	307	5.1	122	5665	4	2	6			1			5		3	3	27.0	16.7	38	76	51
8	Thomas Rachel	8	271	4.5		5554	8		8						8		4		32.0	21.1	4	60	34
9	Appleton Steve	7	269	4.5		5036	1	6	3		4				7		3		27.0	12.8	15	70	38
10	Sykes Richard	7	259	4.3		4464	7		7						7		2		35.0	16.5	20	50	37
11	Hall Kath	6	249	4.2		6254	4	2	6						6		2		32.9	24.6	18	61	42
12	Spickett Nigel	8	220	3.7	113	5448	8		8						8		5	5	36.3	22.9	8	43	28
13	Bagshaw Mark	5	206	3.4		2188	5		5						5		5		14.8	10.6	36	46	41
14	Simpson Adam	5	206	3.4		2184	5		5						5		5		14.8	10.6	36	46	41
15	Urch Vicki	6	204	3.4		1708	6		6						6		6		9.7	8.1	20	45	34
16	Hall Richard	4	200	3.3		4938	2	2	4						4				32.9	24.1	34	61	50
17	Parker Kevin	4	190	3.2		3296	4		4						4				35.0	18.3	40	64	48
18	Flatt Mike	4	161	2.7	62	2529	4		4						4		3	2	26.0	11.4	23	76	40
19	Calver Susan (Su)	6	160	2.7		3189	6		6						6		6		21.7	19.5	8	40	27
20	Lakin Richard	3	143	2.4		3315	3		3						3				35.0	26.2	35	64	48
21	Walford Barry	2	105	1.8		2218		2	2						2				21.6	21.2	49	56	52
22	Duncan Clarke	2	84	1.4		1396	1	1	1		1				2				21.0	13.0	23	61	42
23	Hill Michael	3	82	1.4		863	3		3						3		3		15.0	10.3	23	31	27
24	Stockdale Claire	2	79	1.3		1624		2	2			1			1	1			21.0	20.6	39	40	40
25	Turney Phil	2	74	1.2		2139	2		2						2				36.2	28.9	37	37	37
26	Drake John	2	71	1.2		1988	2		2						2				35.2	28.1	35	36	36
27	Wilson Dave	2	62	1.0		1699	2		2						2				33.6	27.4	31	31	31
28	Wileman Martin	1	48	0.8		466	1		1						1				9.7	9.7	48	48	48
29	Hill Lawrence	2	43	0.7		364	2		2						2		2		10.0	8.5	21	22	22
30	Burke Jason	1	29	0.5		406	1		1						1		1		14.0	14.0	29	29	29

Ian Jennings
4th March 2007