

In This Months Issue

Diving with a Purpose

The “Love Love”

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Issue 144

Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

Photo by Ian Jennings



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Free Flow

Buddies

Welcome to this latest edition of Freeflow.

No stats this month, not sure if there have been many sheets handed in, but I'll pester Ian for some next edition

Time to get the trips sorted for the new dive season, so get yourselves organised and put forward you ideas for your favoured dive sites. As a little boost this months front cover sums up what diving's about, yes getting wet and making bubbles, before retiring for some welcome re-hydration.

Since last edition the committee have decided to sell Skinny Dip, not an easy decision, so if you know anyone looking for a rib please let us know.

No rants or letters of complaint from Pitchfork for some time, so if anyone know who he/she is give them a poke.

PeteB



The world can be both cruel and funny. Some will see the funny side of the above whilst others ooze with sympathy and rush to aid this stricken sailor.

One or two words of warning in that we tend to fill in the unknown bits of a view from our past experience leading us to jump to conclusions. All revealed later.

DO's Bit

A happy New Year to everyone and wishing you all a busy and safe dive year for 2011.

I've been busy preparing the boat booking diary and the trip planning sheet ready for this year and am looking forward to seeing plenty of trips planned for the coming season. There will be a trip planning evening at club soon – just waiting for the date to be confirmed so watch this space and start thinking of dive sites that you would like to visit this year. Just a note of warning though, we may have a problem getting Chilly and Skinny to the Red Sea or the Caribbean.

Please remember to fill in your Dive Manager sheets each time you've been diving. I know it can seem a bit pointless but these provide interesting details of the diving activity within our branch – different types of diving (eg. Training, Wrecks, Reefs, Shore, Boat etc.) and different dive sites that our members visit. It is this information that can attract new members to our club. Divers want to be part of an active club that supports a wide range of diving – something I know we in Lutterworth do.

If anyone has any ideas for an interest night please speak to a member of the committee – don't feel it's only up to us to arrange things – LSAC is your club, it's here for you the members.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this year and give us plenty of dry days and calm seas, so here's to full cylinders, clear waters and safe diving!

Rich Hall
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Looks like some kind fellow sailor has come to his aid and towed him back to harbour, could even have been the Coast Guard, but there's more to come.

DIVING WITH A PURPOSE (and a dolphin or two!)

This January saw the Halls off to the Red Sea to suffer a week's diving holiday. We were joining Blue O Two's boat Blue Melody on a Reef Clean Up Week. This week is called 'HAYAH' which apparently is Arabic for life.



The trip is not for profit and is subsidised by HEPCA, Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association, and is an organisation whose aim is the protection and conservation of the land and marine ecology around the Red Sea area. The route followed the North and Ras Mohammed itinerary with the added plan of carrying out two or three clean up dives during the week. As usual the first dive was a shakedown dive and after our last two dives having been in Stoney with a water temperature of 4 degrees, it was a bit of a shock having to jump into clear blue water with a temperature of 24 degrees!!

The weather for the week was a bit mixed to say the least with it ranging from warm and sunny to rain through thunderstorms, high winds and even mini tornados. Apparently, this isn't normal for Egypt. The problem came when you finished your dive. You're still wet and you need to get out of your wetsuit and into your dressing gown before the wind found you and made you think of home! It was then a very quick dash for the hot shower – lovely.

We carried out two clean up dives during our week – there would have been a third but due to the changeable winds three dives were cancelled. The clean up sites were chosen in advance by both the dive guides and people at Hepca. They have a number of sites that are known problem areas and clean ups are carried out on a rota basis. These sites are common mooring sites for many of the liveaboards that operate around this area and not all boat operators are environmentally friendly. Their idea of waste disposal is over the side – they can't see it any more so no problem! It must be said though that it isn't only the liveaboards, there are also the local water users such as the fishermen and the many commercial ship operators that use the Red Sea.



Picture courtesy of Blue O Two

The rules to collecting the rubbish was quite simple; if it had life growing on it or in it – leave it alone; if it was liable to hurt someone (eg. Sharp) – leave it alone; if it was too heavy to be lifted safely – leave it alone. When carrying out these dives the divers were organised into small groups and each group was given a goody bag (to put the rubbish into). We dived with two guys from Southampton on a beautiful reef that had seen the demise of the Emperor Fraser boat during the winter of 09/10. This was a liveaboard that was boat onto the reef where it was holed and promptly sank! Luckily everybody survived although most of their belongings didn't.

The area around was littered with a range of items from yoghurt pots to bottles to the occasional piece of cutlery to an engine cowling! The goody bag soon filled up but the thing to consider was buoyancy – as the bag got heavier it was necessary to put more air into my BC. This wasn't a problem until I started to get cramp in my hand and needed a rest. So I needed to pass the heavy bag over to Rich. A case of pass bag over and dump air out of jacket in one swift movement with Rich having to take hold of bag and quickly put air into BC before he crashed onto the delicate reef below. A good lesson in buoyancy control!

On this one dive it was estimated that approximately 200 kilos of rubbish was collected – and that was in less than one hour from one small dive site by around 24 divers! How much more rubbish is sitting out there? We were told how, on a previous clean up week, divers had surfaced with a wheel from an aircraft! The search is now on for the rest of the plane...

The rest of the dives were on classic sites such as the Thistlegorm, Kingston, Giannis D as well as Shark and Yolanda Reefs, Poseidon reef and my own personal favourite site, the Barge. Two of the dives were made all the more memorable by the addition of dolphins joining us – magical!

As added entertainment during the week there was a series of 4 lectures given over 4 evenings by one of the dive guides, Chris Gooda. Chris's lectures were on coral reefs and their ecology. These talks were very informative and certainly made me look at the reefs in a different light. It gave a better understanding of the complexity of corals and how they support the huge range of life that is found on a coral reef.

All in all we had a fantastic week's diving seeing some of the classic sights of the northern red sea and gave something back as well.



Kath Hall

References: www.blueotwo.com www.hepca.com



Safe and sound back in port. Time for a drink and a good laugh, yes there's more to come.

2011 Dive Trips

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Organiser</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Diver level</u>	<u>Places</u>	<u>Accommodation</u>	<u>Advanced Diver</u>	<u>Towing</u>	<u>Anticipated Cost</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Trip confirmed</u>
29-30 Jan 11	Plymouth	B Johnson	Hard Boat	Any	10	B&B	N Spickett	N/A	£90 aprox	£45	Yes
12-13 March 11	Weymouth	M Flatt	Boat Handling	Any	10	B&B/Camping	R Hall	R Hall & M Flatt	£110	£10	
23 April - 2 May	Cornwall/Scotland	M Flatt	Ribs	Any	Unlimited	B&B/Camping	C Brown	M Flatt & ?	?	?	
14-15 May 11	Plymouth(Night)	R Hall	Ribs	Ocean + Night	10	B&B/Camping	R Hall	R Hall & M Flatt	£45	£10	

2011 Boat Booking

2010	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Sunday					1							
Monday					2			1				
Tuesday		1	1		3			2			1	
Wednesday		2	2		4	1		3			2	
Thursday		3	3		5	2		4	1		3	1
Friday		4	4	1	6	3	1	5	2		4	2
Saturday	1	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3
Sunday	2	6	6	3	8	5	3	7	4	2	6	4
Monday	3	7	7	4	9	6	4	8	5	3	7	5
Tuesday	4	8	8	5	10	7	5	9	6	4	8	6
Wednesday	5	9	9	6	11	8	6	10	7	5	9	7
Thursday	6	10	10	Weymouth	7	12	Plymouth	11	8	6	10	8
Friday	7	11	11		8	13		12	9	7	11	9
Saturday	8	12	12		9	14		13	10	8	12	10
Sunday	9	13	13		10	15		14	11	9	13	11
Monday	10	14	14		11	16		15	12	10	14	12
Tuesday	11	15	15		12	17		16	13	11	15	13
Wednesday	12	16	16		13	18		17	14	12	16	14
Thursday	13	17	17		14	19		18	15	13	17	15
Friday	14	18	18		15	20		19	16	14	18	16
Saturday	15	19	19		16	21		20	17	15	19	17
Sunday	16	20	20		17	22		21	18	16	20	18
Monday	17	21	21		18	23		22	19	17	21	19
Tuesday	18	22	22		19	24		23	20	18	22	20
Wednesday	19	23	23		20	25		24	21	19	23	21
Thursday	20	24	24		21	26		25	22	20	24	22
Friday	21	25	25		22	27		26	23	21	25	23
Saturday	22	26	26		23	28		27	24	22	26	24
Sunday	23	27	27		24	29		28	25	23	27	25
Monday	24	28	28		25	30		29	26	24	28	26
Tuesday	25		29		26	31		30	27	25	29	27
Wednesday	26		30		27			31	28	26	30	28
Thursday	27		31		28				29	27		29
Friday	28	Plymouth			29				30	28		30
Saturday	29				30					29		31
Sunday	30									30		
Monday	31									31		





The Love Love was built to look as if it is sinking. French artist Julien Berthier has designed a fully functional boat to look as if it is sinking. The 6.5m (21ft) yacht was cut in half with a new keel and motor added so it remains in the sinking position while being fully functional. He describes it as "the permanent and mobile image of a wrecked ship that has become a functional and safe leisure object." The Coast Guard of course enjoy the laugh every time they get called out.