

# Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

July 2004  
Issue 77

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Dive Trip Reports

Lancaster in the Lakes ?

Cover Photo Courtesy of D & T Adams



# Diving Officer's Report

This Dive Season is the busiest and active I have ever seen since I joined the club 8 years ago. It's great to go out and do what the club is all about.

On the subject of diving it is meant to be fun, but lets not take leave of our senses and keep it safe. Following a recent trip to the cove a trainee and Sports Diver who hadn't dived for some considerable time nearly ended up diving together. Luckily I was there on that occasion to put a stop to this happening. I have checked with Mike Clack at BSAC HQ and the very minimum standard that two divers can dive together is Ocean Diver. There are, however provisos on this and these are as follows:

-that the sight should be actively marshaled in as much there is someone checking you in and out and recording dive details,

-the dive site is a safe one.

Here at LSAC we have adopted a policy in the past by where the minimum standard is two Sports Diver diving together, unless cleared by the DO. This last rule I am going to enforce, this doesn't mean that I will turn down a sports diver and Ocean Diver wishing to dive, however I will want to know what your dive plans are and probably restrict your dive to a 6 meter limit.

Also any diving buddy pairs of Sports Diver or above, out of courtesy, need to let me know of your dive plans so I am aware.

I can be contacted by one of the means below

Email [Neil.brown@bigfoot.com](mailto:Neil.brown@bigfoot.com)

Mobile 07867838726 Test or call  
07753696020

Home 01455 273532

This is not me playing big brother, this is because when affiliated to LSAC you do represent the club and any accidents can reflect back to us and potentially land the DO in court. Of course any diving carried out should be within in your qualified limits and within the safe diving practices laid down by BSAC. I would also urge anybody who is going to embark on a trip who has not dived recently should start off by testing kit out in the pool and doing a number of build up dive to get 'dive fit'.

I think that about all for me, so please do enjoy your diving

Regards

Neil Brown

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# Free Flow

## Editors Bit...



Not quite the front cover but the Ed  
wishes Mathew, Ann and Andrew all the  
best

Now that we are well into the dive season the  
dive reports should be coming in thick and  
fast.

Both ribs, Lucky and Skinny, have been on  
active duty more this year than ever before.

Mathew Jacks the next generation of divers  
nearly made it onto the front cover but the  
picture of the squid courtesy of our down  
under cousins just piped baby Jack's to the  
post. What I'll do just for Ann (proud mother  
of Mathew) is promise to put the next Jack on  
the cover, shall I pencil that in for say 12  
months ?

Don't forget to regularly check our web site  
for what's going on, etc including listing of  
dive trips, availability of boats etc.

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

Pete

# Page 3 Luvlies

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July 2004**



2 sleeping beauties this month, who would have thought that messing about on boats could be so taxing.

If you would like to become Miss or Mr Aug 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](mailto:pete.barnard@power.alstom.com)**

## Caption Competition



**Lots of potential for this months  
entry, e.g.**

**“Let’s get to the point”**

**“And your point is ?”**

**“Does the right hand know what the  
left hands’ up to ?**

**If you have a caption send your entries to Pete. All entries will be published in the next edition so keep it outlandish. The winning entry as judged by The Editor will be awarded a packet of scratchings.**

## The Farnes 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May

For some reason I seem to have ended up writing this report, I'm not sure why? As usual I've left it until I've almost forgotten about the weekend, so I'll have to rely on the photos that I took, and my dive log off course.

A select little band of divers headed up to the Farnes on the Friday night, Steve Garbet & I were the last to arrive, As we drove through Banburgh we saw Lucky Dip safely tethered opposite the pub, so we knew Nigel & Gill had arrived safely. We found the campsite quite easily, but it was far more difficult finding the tents, even Skinny Dip seemed to be hidden. Nigel had said, " over the far side of the camp site, well there are a lot of far sides if you don't know which far side it is. Luckily we spotted all the others sat in the pub! ~ I know surprising isn't, the night before a dive, luckily they were all drinking shandies or straight lemonade.

Saturday Steve, Richard, Mike and I were relegated to Skinny Dip, (a bit like the boat handling course). The usually diving followed. Good clear vis, lots of fish, flat calm sea AND seals. Well, it's surprising what a seal can do with a delayed SMD, but it seemed to have a good time. Mike had forgotten to take his camera in. ~ Oh well.

Both boats went very well and everyone had a good time driving them. Skinny Dip didn't like the waves in the morning but went better in the afternoon.

Saturday night was BBQ night up at the campsite; the smoke certainly helped to keep the midges away. Sunday, Bob had seen how well Skinny went on the Saturday afternoon and decided that he should give the boat a try out! So off he went Sunday morning on a flat calm sea. With 4 divers in and a flat sea Skinny performed very well, Bob's navigation seemed a bit strange though as at one point he was headed away from the dive site at full speed grinning from ear to ear.

Diving on the Sunday was the same as usual, Lots of sunshine, excellent Vis, lots of fish, and seals to play with. Thanks to Nigel for organising such a good weekend, the sunshine, the flat calm sea, the good visibility, lots of fish to see, plenty of seals to play with, but what happened to the herd of dolphins that I thought you said were due to turn up?

Fran

## **Lundy 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

Well I thought that since I'd already written two dive reports this year, it was time that someone else wrote this report, but everyone else said that they couldn't write. So I came up with the idea that it could be a joint report with everyone adding comments in the pub at night. They may not be able to write but given a few pints they can certainly talk.

### **Saturday 4pm and so far:**

(Sat in the pub) John Lester put his ferry ticket safely in his bag which was then put in a crate and put onto the ferry without him..

Nigel hadn't spotted when launching the boat, Ian had pulled up behind him. Nigel started to reverse at high speed, luckily Ian could shout loudly, and Nigel has good reactions, he did stop 2" away from the bumper, as they say a miss is as good as a mile. Nigel then surpassed it by dropping the trailer keys onto the beach at Watermouth at low tide, luckily he also has good eye sight and found them again.

Eddie drove the boat across saying he'd done his boat handling course at Rutland and that this wasn't a bit like Rutland. Stewart didn't have anything to drink on the ferry, but he was looking a bit green when he arrived. Jill had gone a lot past the green stage and now was looking a lot better, and thankful to be on dry land again.

Stewart said that he hadn't done anything wrong at all so far, but everyone pointed out that for something to go wrong you have to do something ~ and he hadn't done anything at all, except drink a couple of pints.

### **Saturday 7pm:**

Now sat outside the pub. John noticed a very pretty lamb with a pink beauty spot. When John called her she looked up at him, John named her Julia. When everyone else went for a walk John decided to stay behind.

On our walk we decided to climb up the old light house, well there were a couple sat quietly in deck chairs reading their Saturday papers, but we soon managed to disturb their peace. To make sure that their peace had been totally disrupted a swarm of microlites came flying along side and landed on the grass beside the lighthouse.

### **Saturday 10pm:**

Sat back at the pub. Gerry said that she normally performs on a Saturday night, she added that it was with other women and people usually pay to watch..... Eddie said that he came once a long time ago..... Eddie said that he does like

cross dressing ..... Two mountain goats appeared at the wall of the garden, John was overcome with ..... something, mounted the wall after them, but after closer inspection decided to remain faithful to Julia. .... John offered his cherry in front of the whole group, and she accepted ~ again in front of the whole group.

### **Sunday:**

We went diving, Usual sort of things were organised by Nigel; clear blue sky; sunshine; flat calm sea; good vis; lots of fish; crabs & lobsters; seals round the boat & underwater; basking sharks under the boat.

John decided that he wasn't going to use his weight belt, when he was persuaded to, there wasn't enough weight on it.

Ian asked Nigel to sort himself out at the back, Nigel refused but sent John to help who obliged eagerly.

Eddie didn't know who he was ~ there was a different name written on every bit of his kit.

.Bob Mulholland's name seemed to crop up quite a lot, something to do with a boat.

Stewart's reel fell apart, when we got back to the dive shack, he stood there looking helpless, so a girl from another group took pity and started helping him sort it out.

### **Sunday 7pm**

In the pub. Jill and Gerry announced that they had lived out the day in the one and only episode of "Divers Wives". "We won't run to a second" "We spent an exhausting day shopping ( 1 shop) and reading the complete history of Lundy (4 pages) for a test later this evening"

John asked Ian if he liked spanking his scrubber and whether it was necessary.

Stewart" Adam was in a complete mess ..... Well it happens to us all ..... it happened to me today.

### **Sunday 9pm**

In a different room of the pub, we decided to play Genga.

Eddie " it all depends on how tight it is at the back"

John " I'm going for a girlie one then"

Stewart" Even if you get it out it won't stay up"

John " Go on Jill, tug it"

Jill tugged it and it did stay up.

John to Fran " You've got to know when to stop pulling it"

Stewart " It's very tight isn't it.

Eddie " Hang on I'm still holding it"



Gerry " How did you get it up there?"

Fran " He's been after the bottom one all night"

### **Sunday 10.30pm**

Back to our original places in the pub. Most people were drinking the local brew, Lundy Experience this being marginally less strong than Lundy Old Light.

So we had a full experience ~ pint ..... half experience ~ 1/2 pint ..... small experience ~ 1/2 pint ..... lost experience ~ empty pint ..... regained experience ~ new pint.

### **Monday**

We went diving, Usual sort of things were organised by Nigel; clear blue sky; sunshine; flat calm sea; good vis; lots of fish; crabs & lobsters; seals round the boat & underwater; basking sharks under the boat. Sight seeing tour round the island with Stewart providing the running commentary ~ I never knew that Lundy was carved out of polystyrene.

### **Monday 7pm**

In the pub. It wasn't so crowded tonight, the climbers were on the balcony being very noisy, and the divers from Tamworth hadn't arrived yet.

John said " that he hadn't tugged at it hard but it had just come off in his hand.

Ian volunteered to tell Ben the warden.

### **Monday 9pm**

The beer garden. It was far too cold to stay there for very long.

The front of the pub. Here we could watch everyone come out of the church were Ben had been giving a talk about the flora and fauna of Lundy above and below water ~ not that we'd gone, we were just worried that no one else had gone either.

Eddie said that Ben's legs were really long and straight , when questioned he said that he'd only viewed them from the rear.

### **Monday 10.30pm**

In the pub, back at the usual table. The climbers were still on the balcony and the Tamworth divers had just come in, noise level very high. The rest of the evening was spent discussing Stewart obsession with a Tenacious D a band in which he

thought Ian played as the lead guitarist. Stewart also tried to hold a discussion about a film with dwarves in, but he couldn't remember the name or what the film was about. The most important decision made was what time breakfast should be.

### **Tuesday 9am**

In the pub ~ fooled you they also serve breakfast! We had to be out of the houses by 10am, so it was back for a bit of packing and then a bit of wild shopping before going for a walk round the island.

### **Tuesday 12 noon**

In the pub. Time for a last drink before trudging down the hill and packing the dive kit for the ferry.

Many thanks to Nigel for all the superb organisation; the good diving; good vis; clear blue skies; lots of fish; seals; herd of microlites; and excellent company. But where was the shoal of dolphins? I thought after the Farnes you said you had ordered them for Lundy?

Fran

## Lancaster in the Lakes

I first heard about a bomber wreck in the Lake District about 10 years ago. At the time it was a Wellington in Derwent Water and it was supposed to have crashed during training for the Dambusters raid. Now, while 617 Squadron (the Dambusters) did use the Derwent Valley for training before that epic mission, the aircraft they used were Lancaster bombers, not Wellingtons. So that settled that.

However, I soon heard that the plane was in fact now a Lancaster, but that it had moved. It wasn't in Derwent at all, but in Wast Water. So I started to investigate. Wast Water is quite a popular lake for diving, and has a number of sites used by local groups. From what I gather, the visibility is usually pretty good, and although most of the sites are scenic stuff, there is supposed to be the wreck of a Hudson bomber in 24m and the tailfin of an Avenger in around 12m. There are also rumours of three Catalina flying boats that were scuttled in around 65m, but nothing is really certain.

The rumour is that a Lancaster bomber lies in 77m towards the Wasdale Head Inn end on the lake. The story has been taken so seriously that several technical divers have been out looking for it. It has even appeared on some aircraft heritage website forums. However, there are no records of a Lancaster crashing into Wast Water, and the person who is said to have found it has since moved abroad. Why is it that so often when something is found by one individual, they later seem to melt away?

My impression is that the story of the Dambusters wreck from the Derwent Water has migrated to the Wast Water, and in the process been confused with the Hudson bomber and the Catalinas. If any of these aircraft are there and have been dived, people are keeping very quiet, which I think unlikely. And putting the wreck well beyond safe recreational diving limits is a convenient way of keeping such rumours alive, without serious risk of it being found except by technical divers - the depth is well within their mission limits.

The lack of reports concerning the wreck speaks volumes. An aircraft lost at sea might go unreported but a crash near such a well-known and long established hotel would surely have been noted. Fighter and bomber wrecks can be found spread across the hills and valleys of the north of England, but most of these are accounted for in crash records.

I don't believe that the Wastwater Lancaster exists but like the many who keep the myth alive; I would love it to be true.

If it's there, I'm sure someone will find it.

[Reproduced from Dolphin Newsletter June 2004, courtesy of Denis & Trish Adams]

Eds note:- Does anybody have any knowledge of the above ?