

# Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

June 2006  
Issue 101

**In This Months Issue**  
Open Forum Notes  
Baltimore Trip

Cover Photo Courtesy of Indira Barnard

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Free

It should be

# Free Flow

## Editors Bit...



Happiness is a calm sea, blue sky, a cracking day's diving and the prospect of draught Guinness whilst sitting overlooking the harbour watching the sun set.

Is this a smile of contentment or what ?

Still awaiting 4 promised dive reports namely Loch Fynne – Sue Calver; Djibouti – Fran/ Steve; Barbados – Gary Rhodes and Cyprus – Kev Parker. All 4 trips have contributed significantly to the dive times for the club competition.

The cover photograph this month features Robin a potential new club member who seemed to take a lot of interest in our dive kit.

For those that don't know, Baltimore (the Irish one) is the ancestral home of the O'Driscoll clan. This could make a good Tuesday evening interest lecture, coupling a little of O'Driscoll history, with current day diving activity.

Pete



# Page 3 Luvlies

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Sorry guys but as this edition is predominantly about the Baltimore trip, these just had to figure.

If you would like to become Miss or Mr May 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)**

# **The Chairman's Knock**

With the world cup now upon us hopefully some members will still be diving, with St. George flags attached to cylinders of course! (sorry better check that with D.O first for a risk assesment!).

## **Try dives**

The next lot of try dive nights will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, so please spread the word and encourage friends, family members, passers by in the street, etc to come and have a go. We will be looking at various advertising options soon, but any ideas, volunteers, etc. would be gratefully appreciated.

## **Open Forum**

The recent open forum notes should be somewhere in this issue of freeflow.

## **Depth Progression**

The next dive leader depth progression dives are going to take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at The National Diving Centre, near Chepstow, if anyone is interested then please let me know (you must already be a qualified dive leader and dive fit).

## **Pub**

Unfortunately the numbers of club members going to the pub is in decline, this is an ideal place to meet up and socialise, find out the latest gossip and after a few beers plenty of dive trips are organised! So please make the effort to come along.

*Calling all Lutterworth Locals*, at the recent open forum a possible change of drinking establishment was mentioned, could all locals please forward to me ([scubaroj@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:scubaroj@tiscali.co.uk)) details of possible alternatives (including pros and cons), thanks.

## **Interest Nights**

As I'm sure your aware I'm always on the lookout for members to give interest night talks! These don't have to be fantastic in presentation, last anything from 20 to 60 mins in duration. If your interested in putting on a talk or require help then please catch me at the club to discuss.

Regards

Chairman Roj!

## **Lutterworth Sub-Aqua Club**

### **Notes following the Open Forum held on 9th May 2006.**

- Tuesday Interest Nights - Busy calendar but more volunteers always needed.
- Social Events - volunteers wanted for ideas/to organise some social events this summer (if we have one!!).
- Trainees were reminded to keep their training logbook books up to date and get instructor signatures straight away.
- New BSAC rules for lifesaver and resuscitation are to be rolled out to Instructors then rest of the club - dates to be advised by Richard Green.
- Exam papers are normally always available on a Tuesday night if you want to have a go at them.
- The new Alliance and Leicester saving account has now been opened and the sinking funds for the boats have been transferred.
- The financial position of the club was raised, i.e. having too much money. Nigel is currently looking into a cost for replacing Lucky Dip as it stands now so that the value of the sinking fund can be judged (i.e. whether it is too low, high or about right for future boat replacement). When all of the info has been gathered a brief article will be in Freeflow.
- Lucky Dip - boat replacement was talked about, with a view of maybe 3 years time depending on boat condition, value, etc.
- The steering on Skinny was queried following a problem at Loch Fynne, this is now working okay.
- The location of AAS on club kit was raised, Gary is to query with D.O.
- Members were reminded that they should bring back club cylinders filled (for which they will be reimbursed).
- All membership (club and BSAC) queries, issues, etc should be taken up with Ian Jennings (membership secretary).
- The common renewal date for memberships should be in place for 1st April 2007.
- Bonus Ball Game - Starting soon (3rd June) with only 10 numbers left.
- The attendance of the pub was raised as a concern (i.e. falling numbers) a poll is to appear in freeflow asking locals for other pub alternatives.
- The next open forum will be held in the pub - at a members request, with all of the chairmans drinks paid for (oh well it was worth a try!).
- Club cylinders, the storage was discussed, and this is to be organised by Gary as he see's fit.
- Boat fuel tax reclamation was discussed, do we have a tax expert in the club?

Next open forum date to be advised.

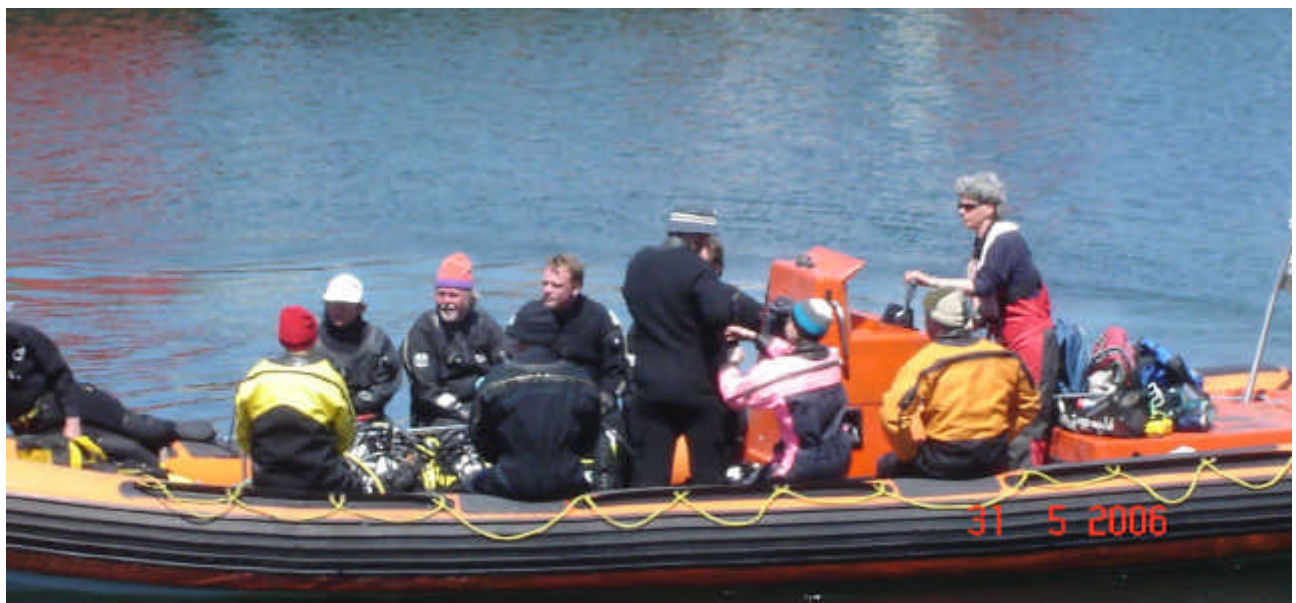
## **Baltimore, Cork, S. Ireland**

What started out as a trip to collect Ann-Marie and bring her stuff home after another stint on Sherkin Island, off Baltimore, turnout to be a cracking week. After a dash to Swansea on the Friday evening to meet the ferry, Neil Calver, Martyn O'Driscoll, Indira and myself settled down to our first glass of guiness, shortly followed by a second before heading for lounge seats for the night.

Arriving in Cork early on the Saturday morning allowed a leisurely tour through the West Cork countryside, arriving in Baltimore for the Wooden Boat Festival. This meant lots of small boats, stalls, street entertainment and loads of people milling around enjoying the warm spring evening.

Diving started the next day with a morning shore dive at Tranabo Cove, which proved to be essential to me since with a new suit it took 3 goes to get my weight right, hence the unkind nickname of Bob. Having completed our check out dive we were able to contribute to the local prosperity but joining in with the weekend festivities for the rest of the day. It helped with the Wooden Boat Festival being sponsored by Guinness, with a free plate of mussels and langoustine with every pint of guiness, consequently the Murphy's and Beamish had to wait until later on in the week.

Monday we joined a group of 6 divers from Chester SAC and the start of proper diving with a reef dive and then a wreck dive, Alondra, on Kedge Island. These were beautiful dives, but fairly conservative coming off springs. The Alondra is fairly well broken up but with its nickname of the "Brass" wreck there was lots of large bits of yellow coloured shiny stuff safely encrusted to the reef/sea bed. Martyn showed his Advanced Diver qualifications by trying to attached/attacked Neil and myself with large spider crabs.





Tuesday introduced Andy Howard, a BSAC Diver Leader, from ?????? who joined our group for diving. Two more very beautiful dives although the viz was lower than expected, 3-6m, the whole area is covered in anemones. The first dive being on a wreck, Illerian, of Cape Clear who's demise with considerable loss of life lead to the building of the Fastnet lighthouse. The second dive a drift along Spanish Reef, off Spain Point named after the Armada fleet, many of which came to grief along the coast line of Ireland, with the Spanish Admiral miscalculating the effect of the Atlantic drift on navigation, i.e. the Spaniards were unaware of it so were much closer to the coastline than their calculations had shown.



The first dive on Wednesday on The Pinnacles, Black Point, was a sloping reef down to 40+m. It was fascinating to see how the fauna changed with depth, with definite sudden changes in the types of anemone from Plumrose at depth to Daisy and Dahlia above 25m. Feather stars and Dead Men's Fingers flourished from 30 to 20m with kelp dominating at above 15m. Anyway enough of all this pretty stuff the afternoon saw the start of seeing real lumps of metal with a trip to the Kowloon Bridge, one of the largest wreck in the world, it is huge. Dropping down on to the bow deck at around 6m, due to the low viz your truly lead Neil and Andy towards the stern rather than the bow so the dive plan went in reverse dropping down the superstructure to the first hold, eventually through the V split on the port side and round to the bulbous wave breaking bow. Absolutely covered in life and stunningly beautiful. (I know it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> time I've used this description but I don't like to use the word awesome). It would have been nice to dwell on the bow but Andy was off on a mission up and along the port side causing Neil and me to follow. Back to the superstructure and bow desk for a safety stop on a swelly bow desk, with the current picking up rapidly. This shows how critical it is to dive this wreck on neap tides at slack water.

After a leisurely shower and meal saw the departure of Martyn and Neil back to ~~work~~ home. Those of us left, namely Ann-Marie, Indira and myself had to take a consolation stroll to the pub for a few pints of Murphy's.

Thursday was the day I had been looking toward too for the last 9 months, i.e. it was U260 day. Due to timing of slack the morning dive was at Illaunbrook Cove, Sherkin Island my first dive with Ann-Marie who turned out to be an excellent spotter. The first thing being a heavily camouflaged Scorpion fish shortly followed by an Octopus, only the second one I'd seen in the wild. With my eyes now trained a minute Pipe fish and Eelpout followed hiding amongst the Daisy and Jewel anemones. We deliberately kept ahead of deco in consideration of the afternoon dive.



All I'm going to say about the afternoon dive is **TOTALLY ABSOLUTELY AWESOME**. 20 minute bottom time with a slow ascent of 45 minutes before surfacing. **PLEASE CAN I GO AGAIN NEXT YEAR.**

Friday ended up as a bonus day with a dive on the Fastnet Rock. It is estimated that the lighthouse rock can only be dived on average 6 days a year. Even though it was like a mill pond on the run out, around the rock it was still swelly. We should have stayed at 20m but as we got to 15m the swell made life a little more interesting let's talk washing machine. Hanging on to the kelp prevented us being buffeted too much although from 4m we got spat to the surface and was surprised not to get a black arrow on my computer.

Luck was certainly on our side for after the dive we plunged in and swam to the rock for a look around only to find that one of the 2 weeks a year when the lighthouse is being maintained coincided with our visit. Consequently a real life lighthouse man gave us a tour of the rock. Although not allowed into the lighthouse; yes a previous visitor sued after cutting themselves so a blanket ban is imposed (if you guessed the nationality of the visitor to be American you'd be correct); we spent half hour looking around.

The afternoon was spent climbing the hill overlooking Loch Inne. No wonder the O'Driscolls settled in this idyllic landscape one needs such experiences in order to regain the meaning of life.



Saturday we became tourists again winding our way through the country lanes ending back at Cork for the ferry home and 2 pints of Beamish. Standing on deck in the failing light as we left dock we past the same sight of Cobh Cathedral as many emigrants to the New World saw as they left their homeland behind some to prosperity some like the fated passenger of the Titanic never to see land again.

Pete Barnard



## Members Dives To the end of May 2006

Little has changed in the leading positions since last month Steve led briefly but Fran regained the lead quite quickly. This month instead of concentration on the leading positions I am reporting the positions of ALL divers.

The overall positions are:

1st Duinker Fran 2643 mins, 2nd Appleton Steve 2492 mins, 3rd Parker Kevin 2243 mins, 4th Holmes Roger 2098 mins, 5th Barnard Peter 2051 mins, 6th Rose Gary 2001 mins, 7th Stockdale Claire 1790 mins, 8th Jennings Ian 1723 mins, 9th Brown Neil 1695 mins, 10th Duncan Clarke 1521 mins, 11th Flatt Michael 1507 mins, 12th Calver Neil 1486 mins, 13th Spickett Nigel 1155 mins, 14th Sykes Richard 1056 mins, 15th O'Driscoll Martyn 906 mins, 16th Wileman Martin 877 mins, 17th Hall Kath 869 mins, 18th Green Richard 858 mins, 19th Hennessey James 840 mins, 20th Hall Richard 805 mins, 21st Hennessey Peter 746 mins, 22nd Twigg Natalie 692 mins, 23rd Turney Phil 493 mins, 24th Walford Barry 466 mins, 25th Rose Hayden 454 mins, 26th Thurman Chris 420 mins, 27th Drake John 413 mins, 28th Burke Sean 409 mins, 29th Wilson Dave 399 mins, 30th Barnard AnnMarie 318 mins, 31st Litchfield Phillip 276 mins, 32nd Hunter Andy 256 mins, 33rd Walford Mike 247 mins, 34th Bill John 190 mins, 35th Clarke Erica 179 mins, 36th Barnard Laura 119 mins, 37th White Christopher 113 mins, 38th Pearson Mary 106 mins, 39th Tomlin Neil 101 mins, 40th Castleford John 65 mins, 41st Calver Susan (Su) 45 mins, 42nd Brewis Jon 42 mins, 43rd Clarke Danielle 35 mins, 44th Dawson Andrew 28 mins, 45th Forster Kevin 22 mins, 46th O'Driscoll Alice 16 mins, 47th Hall Rob 6 mins. These are shown graphically on the next sheet.

If you disagree with the above totals (and you have submitted your marshal sheets) then let me know and we can sort it!

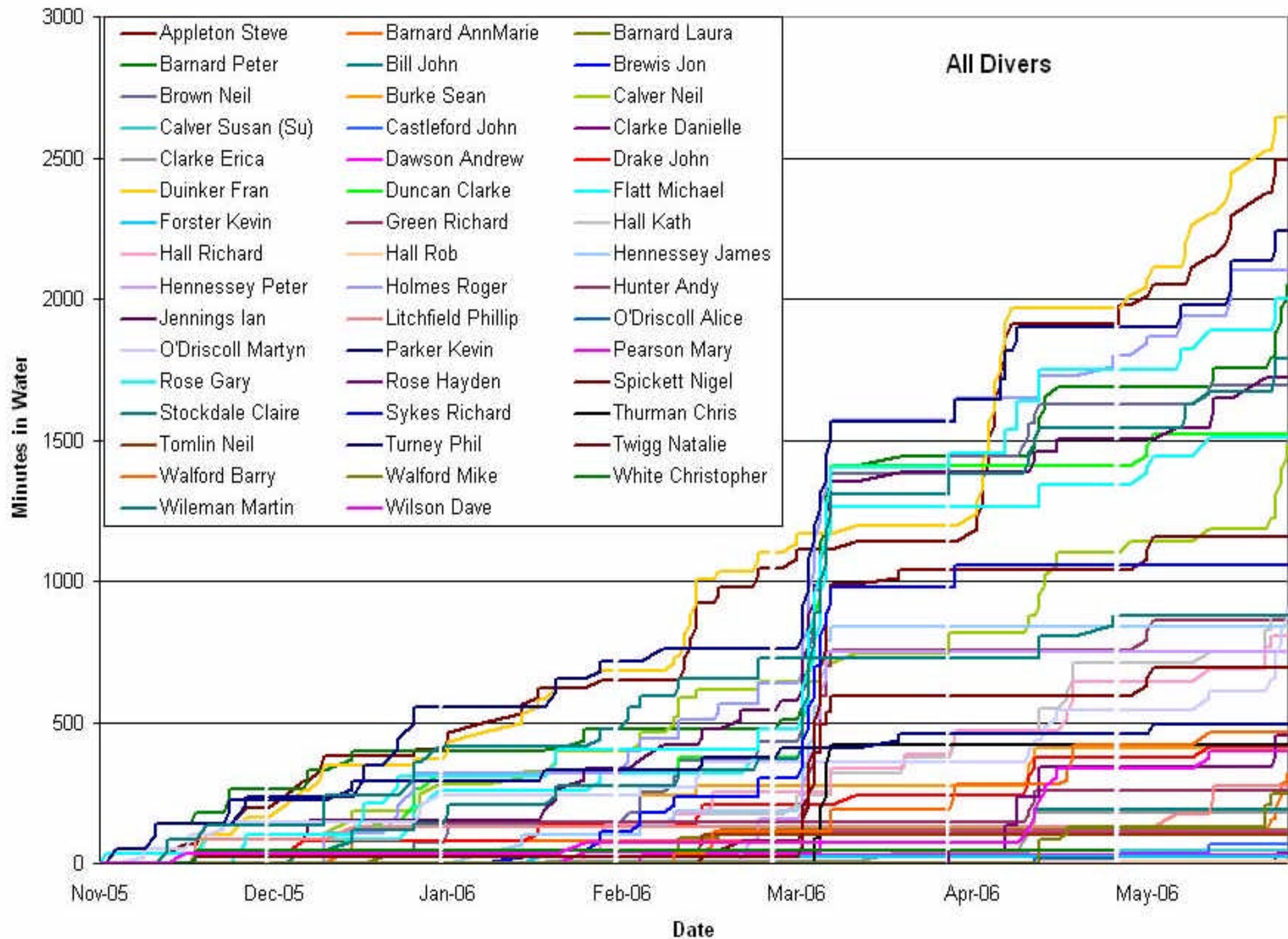
I reported at a recent committee meeting how many people (47) have done at least one dive out of the eligible membership (72 - i.e. excluding Social members etc) which as a percentage (65%) I thought was pretty good. However Roger thought it rather low, so if your name isn't on the above listing then watch out for Roger – he might try and drag you in for a dive!

I note that the number of dives actually dropped last month compared with the previous, I guess the enthusiasm of getting into the water has waned slightly, but I would expect that with the weather improving the number of dives will return to their higher levels.

November-05	61 dives
December-05	74 dives
January-06	69 dives
February-06	115 dives
March-06	270 dives
April-06	171 dives
May-06	123 dives

Ian Jennings 31/5/06

Keep the sheets coming in.



**2006 Dive Planning Click on the name of the Organiser to Email**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No.of boats</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Spaces</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Est.Cost</b>	<b>Deposit</b>
4th-5th Feb	Plymouth	Neil C and Pete B	Club Rib	1	SD	10		B+B	70	Expired
5th -12 March	Red Sea	<a href="#">Kevin Parker</a>	Hardboat L/A	1	SD	20	Full	Liveaboard	765.23	Expired
13th-24th April	Loch Fyne	Dave Wilson	Club RIBs	2	All	Unlimited		Camp + Caravan	TBA	Expired
5th-8th May	Plymouth	<a href="#">Nigel Spickett</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	2	Camp	TBA	10
20th 21st May	Farnes	<a href="#">Fran Duinker</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	Full	Camp	TBA	TBA
27th May - 3rd June	Baltimore - Eire	<a href="#">Pete Barnard</a>	Charter RIB	1	SD	6	1	Self Catering	250	None
2nd-5th June	West Bay	<a href="#">Mike Flatt</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	1 TBC	Camp	TBA	TBA
9th-11th June	Weymouth Chart work	<a href="#">Phil Litchfield + Neil Brown</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	TBC	Camp	TBA	TBA
23rd-26th June	Lymington	<a href="#">Nigel Spickett</a>	Club RIBs	1	SD	6	Full	B+B	TBA	10
1st-8th July	St.Kilda	<a href="#">Nigel Spickett</a>	Hardboat L/A	1	DL	12	Full	Liveaboard	675	100
14th-17th July	Lizard Cornwall	<a href="#">Phil Turney</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	3	Camp	TBA	TBA
12th-19th Aug	Scapa Flow	<a href="#">Pete Barnard</a>	Hardboat L/A	1	Exp. SD	12	Full	Liveaboard	350	TBA
25th-29th Aug	Farnes	<a href="#">Mike Flatt</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	Full	Camp	TBA	TBA
8th 9th Sept	Kirkby Lonsdale	<a href="#">Bob Mullholland</a>	River	n/a	All	Unlimited	Unlimited	B+B	TBA	TBA
15th Sept	Salsette	<a href="#">Neil Tomlin</a>	Hardboat	1	DL	10 or 12	01-Jan	n/a	TBA	TBA
16th 17th Sept	Weymouth	Neil Brown	RIBs	2	oc	10	8 TBC	camping	TBA	TBA
23-24 Sept	Plymouth	<a href="#">Martyn O'Driscoll</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	10 TBC	Camp	TBA	TBA
30 Sept 1st Oct	Plymouth	??	Club RIBs	2	All	10	10 TBC	camp	TBA	TBA
October	Estartit	<a href="#">Fran Duinker</a>	Hardboat	1	SD	10 or 12	1 TBC	Apartments	TBA	TBA
TBA	Brixham	<a href="#">Fran Duinker</a>	Club RIBs + Shore	2	All	Unlimited	Unlimited	Camp	TBA	TBA
TBA	St.Abbs	<a href="#">Bob Mullholland</a>	Club RIBs	2	All	10	10	Camp	TBA	TBA
TBA	Anglesea	<a href="#">Ian Jennings</a>	Club RIBs	2	TBA	10	10	TBA	TBA	TBA