

Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

Mar 2007
Issue 110

In This Months Issue

Diving Stats for 2007
Pathfinder 2007
Survivors of their first few dives

Cover Photo Courtesy of Anonymous





Free Flow

At all good Newsagents now....
Hence only downloadable from lsac.co.uk

Editors Bit...



Here's an interesting fish/eel snapped by Clarke Duncan.
How about someone identifying what it is and let me know.
This is probably one for Helen or Ann-Marie.

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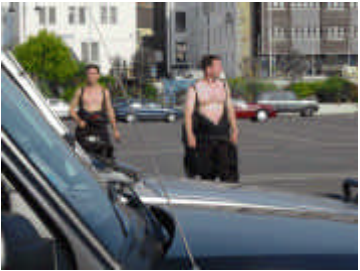
Buddies

Message in from Phil Biggs:-

"Just been looking through some old Freeflows and came across the Dec '06 issue. Name the helmsman, you said. Pembroke 2005, you said.

I've no idea if anyone has done so yet, but I think you'll find the helmsman is called JK and it was the Penzance trip of 2003, returning from either the Hellopes or the Mulberry Dock dive into Penzance Harbour. Crew: JK, me, you, Laura, Claire, Neil and the MIB!"

And for those that can't remember the MIB (Men in Black) see below, luvvly !



Ed.

Page 3 Luvlies

Free Flow
Mar 2007



Talking of Men in Black, (see editors bits), reminded me of some old page 3 candidates waiting for an appropriate moment to surface. If I've issued these before then put it done to age, if I haven't then I have now.

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

Its starting to get to that time of year again, the coves full most weekends (except for you lucky weekday divers), meaning the UK dive season will soon be starting.

Steve's organising the first trip of the season on 24/25th March, unfortunately a few of us are heading for a sunnier place and can't make it!!

Trips seem to be filling up fast so please get your names down and deposits in as soon as possible.

If your currently in training make the effort to get diving so you will be qualified and can then gain some valuable dive experience this season. There are lots of instructors in the club so get chasing them down for dates to take you! Alternatively contact Richard Green to arrange training.

Some of us have uploaded photos onto www.ringo.com, if you would like to access these please drop me an email.

What's On

6/3	-	Boat Troubleshooting (class) - Nigel
13/3	-	Drysuit repairs - Fran
20/3	-	Buoyancy - Alex
27/3	-	Marine Biology - Anne-Marie
3/4	-	Diving Bulgaria - Erica
10/4	-	NO CLUB
17/4	-	Boat Troubleshooting (practical) - Nigel

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

It doesn't seem like a month ago that I wrote up January's Dob of the month. Once again there's not been a great deal of diving, only the fool hardy ones of us venture out into the cold. There's not been any boat trips where there's usually a tale or two to tell. In fact the boat trip in February was cancelled due to the snow and sleet.

So what has happened?

Well there's always Saturday 3rd Feb. I was diving with Steve and Mike, Kev and Vicky were diving together or well should have been.....

Kev checked his unit and a cell went down so he managed to get another cell and it all was well so he put is unit together and kitted up, the trouble was he could hear a hissing noise, and the oxygen kept kicking in. After a few minutes of not being able to find out what was happening he decided not to dive, so off we all went. Well when we came out Kev was smiling; it would have helped if he had screwed all of the screws tight! It works a lot better that way.

Well what else.....

There's been a spate of people putting their wallets in the dry suit pocket and taking them diving, I watched Steve do that on Sunday and then talking to Ian afterwards he said he had done the same earlier in the week!! It takes a while to dry out everything.

What else

Well last week Ian and Pete decided they would practice some CBL drills, Pete would lift Ian to 6m and then Ian would lift Pete from 6m to the surface. So off they went for their dive, and near the end but quite a way from the exit, Pete indicated that how about now? No said Ian as it would be a long surface swim, so off they went again, Ian was ahead of Pete. Now would be a good time thought Ian, so without telling Pete went into unconscious diver mode! Scaring Pete who thought it was for real!!

Whoops!

Keep them coming folks!

Diving Officers Bit

Another Try Dive approaches. We have decided that this will be a 'low key' event and we will not be spending much on advertising. The reason is that this is not a popular time of year for attracting members of the public to come and have a go, and persuading them to part with the money needed to take up the sport - cold weather, no money after Christmas, generally a depressing time etc.

We have also gained a number of members during the winter, and our membership is at present quite buoyant.

We have however gained some publicity through Miss Blaby's Try Dive, and we will be publishing some A4 posters, which will be available for you to display at work etc. (thanks to Steve).

If you know of anyone who is interested in coming along on either of the Try Dive evenings, please let me know. Remember that our biggest source of new members is through personal contact of existing members.

The annual service and refit of the boats is nearing completion. The boats had a lot of use last year and required a lot of hard work (and expense) over the winter.

Apart from the usual servicing of engines and trailers, both boats now have new radios, which are identical and have GMDSS facility, which is also interfaced with the GPS. This means that in an emergency the boat's position is automatically transmitted with a distress call.

The Lowrance echo sounder on Lucky Dip has been scraped, and the differential GPS, which has never functioned reliably, has been removed. In their place a new, second Garmin GPS has been fitted. The unit is very similar to the original but a fraction of the price. We now therefore not only have a backup echo sounder but also a backup GPS.

Both boats have had the throttle and gear controls either renewed or serviced so that they now operate freely.

Skinny Dip has also had a new steering box. It was getting stiff and when it was dismantled the main gear wheel was found to have a section missing.

The fuel supply on Lucky Dip has been revised and re-routed, and the electrics rewired.

All in all a very busy time for Ian who seems to have spent most of the last couple of months camped at Gilmorton, and an expensive time for the Club. We are not however reluctant to spend this money on the boats, to provide the reliable dive platform that the Club needs. Much of the Club's diving calendar is based around the boats and hopefully this year will be even busier than 2006.

We must also bear in mind that to date we have got off very lightly as far as maintenance and repairs are concerned. This is entirely due to the careful use by the Club's members.

We will be holding a couple of workshops on boat use and trouble shooting shortly.

Finally, the usual DO's reminder. With the Red Sea and other trips approaching, please make sure that you and your kit are fit and ready.

My Favourite Dive (well one of them).

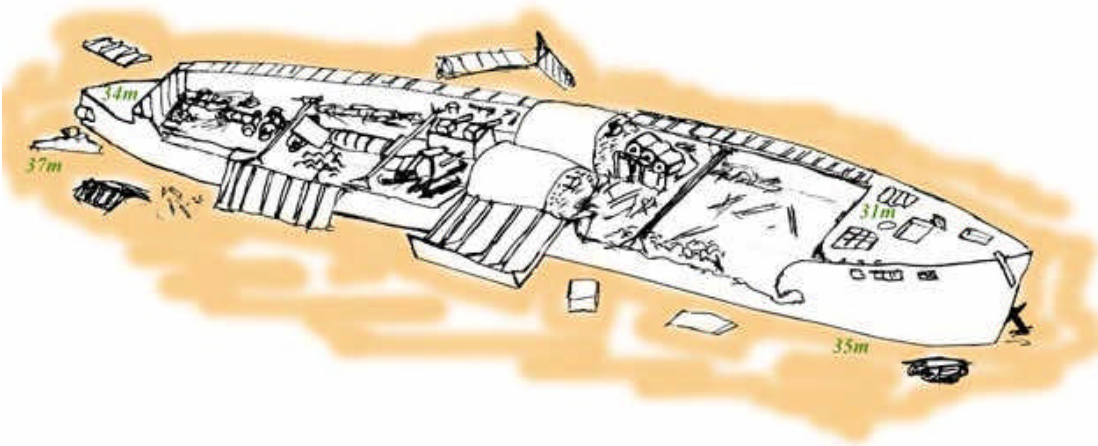
Like Phil who presented the Moldavia in last month's article, I had great difficulty in coming to a decision as to which dive was my favourite.

How can you compare a challenging UK wreck dive with a wreck dive in Cuba with 50 metre plus visibility, or with a midnight dive in the Arabian Gulf with a water temperature of 34 degrees, free swimming morays, large rays everywhere and cocooned parrot fish.

Eventually I decided on a fairly recent dive in the Shetlands, in the summer of 2006.

The Guadlamena.

Gwladmena
© John Liddiard 1999



There were a number of reasons for choosing this wreck as a favourite.

Apart from the fact that it is an excellent wreck that I have wanted to dive for a while but have never got round to, it is also very close to the slipway and the evenings organisation was excellent.

I have friends in both the dive clubs in Shetland, The Sullom Voe Dive Club based in Brae at the North end of the Mainland, and The Shetland Sub-Aqua Club based in Lerwick. Both have excellent facilities with their clubhouses right next to the slipway and jetty.

We were in Shetland for a wedding and having got over the three-day event, I was spending time with the dive club in Lerwick.

We were due to dive on the Wednesday evening, and as the guest, I was asked what I would like to do.

I chose the Guadlamena, but said that I needed to be back in Aith (on the West Side) by 8 o'clock as friends were coming to dinner. No problem as it was only 10 minutes from the harbour. We'd even have time for a pint.

There were only 4 of us diving so it was decided to take the club's RIB. A fifth member came along to drive.

One of their members has a hard boat, which he charts for both diving and bird watching trips, this takes 12 and is surprisingly fast considering its shape. RRSAC used it during their recent Shetland trip.

We met at the club house at Bod of Gremista (the small boat harbour) at 5 o'clock and I put the boat in the water (I was moaned at for dunking the back of Fiona's car in the harbour – I am used to a much higher ground clearance than an ordinary estate)

Kit and divers get loaded on to the boat in the shed and are launched with the boat.

The wreck of the Guadalmena is in The Sound of Bressay between the Island of Bressay and the Mainland just out of Lerwick.

SS-AC have their own buoy on the wreck and it's only about 10 minutes out.

Speed is carefully regulated to conserve fuel. Petrol in Shetland has been over £1 per litre for more than 2 years now, and I got the impression that considerable research had gone into the most economic revs.

The shotline is attached to the stern where we started the dive. I dived with Janet whose husband was driving the boat. She is probably the most 'laid back' person I have ever dived with, using about half the air that I did. She knew the wreck like the back of her hand and made a good guide.

Visibility on the way down was disappointing due to a plankton bloom, but at 10 metres it cleared, and although it was quite dark due to the plankton above, it was beautifully clear.

The deepest part of the wreck is the stern post. There is no propeller but a rudder. Back up onto the deck we worked our way forward past two boilers. The triple expansion engine lies on its side within the hull. Most of the superstructure has gone so access into the hull is easy.

We went out on the bow, which is completely intact, and 'Titanic' like.

From there back to the shotline and just a 5-minute decompression stop.

Back to the harbour, recover the boat, flush and wash, store kit and into the Westings pub about 8 miles from Lerwick and on the way home by 7:30.

(We in fact had 2 pints)

My thanks to Fiona Watson who arranged this and in fact all the other dives.

Depth 39.4 metres

Dive time 30 minutes

Water temperature 12 degrees.

The following write up is the 'official' description included in the Scotsac website and in fact produced by Fiona who arranged the diving.

The Gwladmena was at anchor in Breiwick, Lerwick in January 1918 when she was involved in a collision with the Flora, and subsequently sank. A favourite with local divers due to her accessibility, a permanent buoy is maintained on her bow. Diveable at any time, no tide ever runs over her. She was built in Hartlepool in 1878 for a Liverpool company she was an iron screw steamship of 896GRT. 220 feet in length she lies upright and generally intact at a maximum depth of 39m. The shotline is tied near the bows, the fo'c's'le store, a cave filled with concreted tins and blocks, now unidentifiable. The bulkhead between the store and the hold is corroded away, swim aft underneath, amid the coal she was carrying. A ladder still leads down from the deck. The bee-

hive like stump of the mast is still there, directly beneath the rounded hole in the deck, now leaning over at an angle, about ready to fall in. A winch has fallen through nearby. Swimming aft, at about 36m, the triple expansion engine has been lifted off her mountings and over the boilers and lies on the port side of the hold on it's side, confusing at first, it gives an unusual opportunity to examine the workings of it. The side by side two boilers fill the full width of the ship, some wreckage lying off the wreck on both sides at this point. As you swim over, a tangle of pipe-work and machinery as what is left of the ruins of the engine mountings and engine room are there. An unusual feature of this wreck is the lignum vitae still covering the entire length of the prop-shaft, still there running all the way aft. At the stern, the gun lies on the seabed on the starboard side, easily missed unless you know it's there. The prop was removed at the time of sinking. The stern section was ripped open in Feb 1998 by the anchor of the klondyke, 'Silver Harvest'. Whilst it undoubtedly hastened the speed at which the wreck is collapsing it also opened it out, and made it more interesting in many ways. An ideal wreck for Nitrox 30, visibility is often good, particularly in winter where it can be as far as 25m, although plankton blooms in summer can make it dark. She makes a superb night dive for the more adventurous, in mid winter, I have memories of swimming off the wreck in crystal clear conditions watching the whole wreck lit up by the arc of the dive lights of the other 4 on the wreck.

Nigel

Norway

5th - 12th July 2008



A departure from our regular destinations, I am arranging a liveaboard trip out of Bergen in Norway.

We will be diving mainly wrecks, but with a few scenic sites as well.

The boat - the 'Gaelic Rose' is smaller than the Hjalmer Bjorge, the boat we use for the St.Kilda trip, and is not as luxurious, but has a good reputation and an excellent skipper.

The cost of the charter is £600 which includes all food, cylinders, weightbelts, and air.

The ferry from Newcastle to Bergen will be about £250.

Interested?

For further details, contact me by email or phone, or come and talk to me on Tuesday.

Nigel

PITCHFORK – From the sharp end – Ramblings of a country Yocal

I thought I'd start an irregular contribution to the mag so as to swell the editors paper allowance! My first duty is to thank Phil Turney and Peter Hennessey. A few weeks ago we got together at my place and spent the best part of a Sunday marking up a CHART of the Weymouth area with all the recorded diving sites we could find. This has been an objective of mine for a while, as we now have a base for finding and marking on the boats GPS the various sites thus, hopefully, making it easier to find some of the marks when we go to dive the area. This will be the next part of the exercise and hopefully we may get a chance to go and locate some on Steve's trip later this month. If anybody out there is interested in helping organise another trip with the same objective, feel free to get in touch.

The marking up of the chart was very interesting as it gives you the opportunity to put into practice some of the things we learnt on the Chartwork course and really gives a good insight to the area before putting to sea. We treated it as a bit of a social and finished off with 'light refreshments' and a few glasses of tonic! The exercise is ongoing so anybody interested knows where to come, also anybody who knows of any interesting sites, would be gratefully received. Any trips down to Weymouth can be organised at short notice as I have accommodation down there with a private slip.

Steve's trip later this month will be the first opportunity this year to try the boats out.

A few of us were talking over a pint or two last autumn and one of the things that came up was the maintenance of the boats (surprise surprise). We thought that over the winter months we could run a couple of work parties and help the boat officer get the boats prepared for the season. Kev has in the past volunteered his electrical expertise (untapped?) but unfortunately this year he had work obligations. I have volunteered a nice big workshop that could be used and there must be some untapped resources within the club (auto - electrical, mechanical etc!) who would lend a hand. It could be run similar to our chart marking i.e. work and social!! Any more volunteers? So far nobody has asked to use the workshop!!

Phill The Farmer

Dive Kit for Sale

Pete,

As we have not had any responses to Ann's 12l Cylinder, please could you put it in the next FreeFlow. I think it's going for £75, comes with green mesh, a Handle and has just been serviced (end of January)

Thanks



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

Survivors of their first few dives

Here are some photos of Mike and Lawrence on their first few dives.
Well done to Lawrence He's in a semi dry suit!!!!!!!!!



Well we have now skirted quite a lot of the 6 meter shelf, we've looked at the first and gone through the windows of the pub.

Lawrence is going to be a very hardy diver as he's now survived two days diving in a semi dry and he's still coming back for more.

Members Dives 2007 - So Far

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

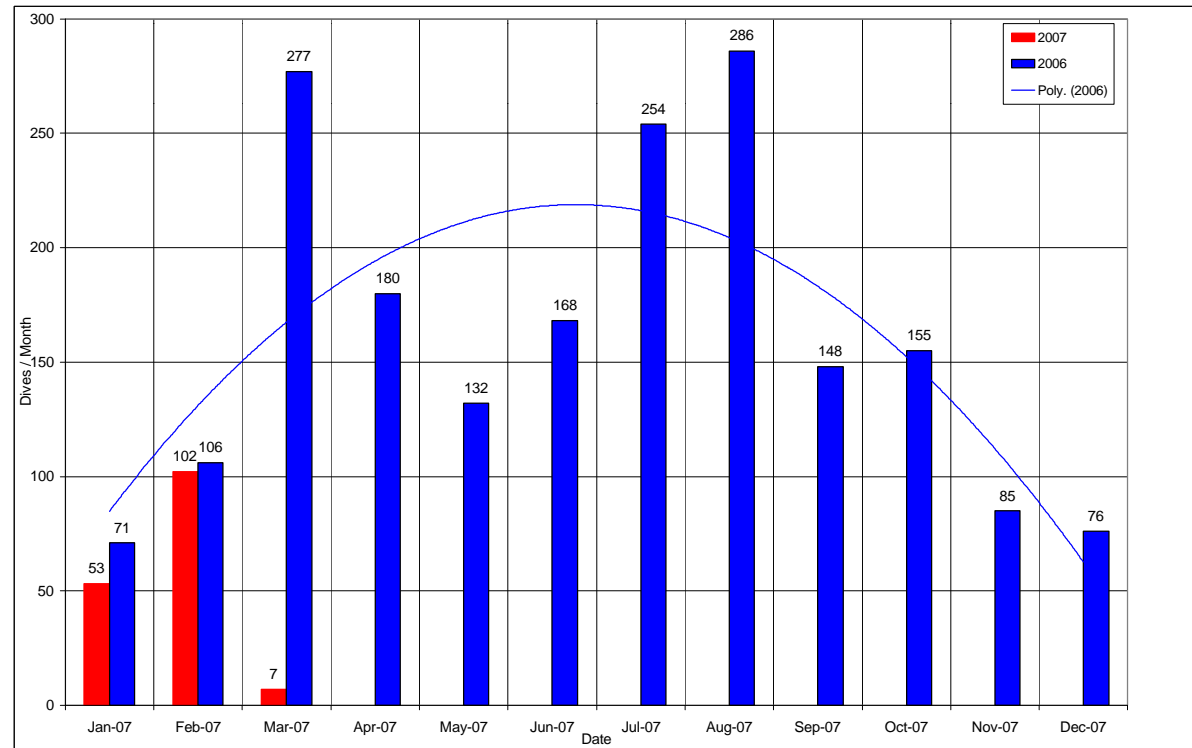
This month I have included the statistics table for all dives so far, As you will see Fran is leading (again), but there are some other notable statistics. Mike Flatt and Gary Rose still hold the longest dive at 76 minutes (though with the Red Sea coming up I imagine that could change). I, along with 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.

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

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

Safe Diving and please get the dive details to Nigel promptly



	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

To all LSAC members just a reminder that we are coming up to the first Branch Common Renewal date 01/04/06. As myself, Neil and Ian will be away 27th March; I would like to remind you that without renewal you will not be insured to dive.

I shall be at the club on the 6th and 13th and at the pool side on the 20th(another sneaky work commitment). I know there are a lucky few of you out there who have already renewed for the coming year, so of course you are excused until next March.

I will be bringing Fitness to dive forms with me to the club each week, these need to be completed as well.

Finally, please be patient with us as this is the first year we have done this. I hope to set myself up on a small table outside the main meeting room to save disruptions and a rush at the end of the night.

Trips, hope to put out a list in the next couple of weeks with dates and availability on planned trips. Don't forget if you're interested in a trip, speak to the organizer, pop along and see me sign the form and pay your deposit.

For the newer members, trips can be paid for weekly or monthly bit by bit, less of a shock on the wallet. All we ask is that final outstanding monies from trips are received within 4 weeks off the trip taking place.

Su (Treasurer)