

May 2007
Issue 112

Fancy do for 8 in the boat
it was fun
see me
For me



In This Months Issue

Lucky Goes to School

Cover Photo Courtesy of Barwell School

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Free Flow

Editors Bit...



Close up of Nemo, from Clarke Duncan, which reminded me of the fact that all fish have their own character. This cheeky chappie has a "Look at me" personality and makes a bee line to anyone with a camera.

Buddies

All about Lucky going to school this month, thought it was about time to get some education.

As part of the schools history curriculum they were dealing with boats, namely types past and present. So the appearance of Lucky Dip brought some reality to the proceedings.

In a few months time the RNLI will be doing a day on water safety as part of the health and safety curriculum. The fact that Lucky had already been in will act as a refresher for the history and tie the two core subjects together. So the day fitted in perfectly to the kids education, so well done to Nigel and Indira for co-ordinating.

You will note that my favourite dive is missing this month, primarily because I thought that this months Freeflow was getting a bit on the large size. But don't worry it will resume next month.

Ed.

Page 3 Luvlies

Free Flow
May 2007



9:59am

I like the anchor when it is heavy
love from I luvd the bot



This month's luvlies sum up the purpose of the club. Namely education and development of our future.

If you would like to become Miss or Mr June. 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 UK dive season is hotting up (quite literally!) with Steves recent trip and Frans boathandling trip, which has resulted in several more boathandlers and a diver cox (well done Rich). There is still plenty of space on the trip/boat calendar so get planning.

The boats have had a lot of work carried out on them during the winter (thanks Ian) and the recent troubleshooting nights were useful for anyone going on a club boat trip.

I'm looking at running another diving/rescue weekend later this year, which is a great chance to practice those necessary skills (date to be confirmed, let me know if your interested).

The Tuesday schedule and trip calendar have both been added to the club website and Richard is in the process of updating the rogues gallery and trip photos (so please send your photos to him), some of us have uploaded photos onto www.ringo.com, if you would like to access these please drop me an email.

All of the clubs current social do's seem to be around xmas so who's up for some summer fun? BBQ at Rutland water or even a summer ball (Ullesthorpe was a great location for the dinner dance), please let me know how much interest there is and I might get organising.

We have had a very busy interst night schedule so far this year (thanks to everyone who has helped out) and I will be planning the next six months soon, so beware!

What's On

1/5	-	NITROX WORKSHOP - Fran/Richard G.
8/5	-	NO CLUB – BANK HOLIDAY
15/5	-	Ice Diving - Steve/Fran
22/5	-	Tidal Power Generation - Pete B's guest
29/5	-	NO CLUB – BANK HOLIDAY
5/6	-	Diving Spain - Richard G.
12/6	-	
19/6	-	Northern Ireland (Salutay etc) - Steve
26/6	-	Vietnam - Richard G.

Regards

Chairman Roj

scubaroj@tiscali.co.uk



Dobbin's Corner

If you know of any particularly good events that you wish to share, please do so, it saves you being named!

Well another month has passed and this month we haven't got a big trip like the Red Sea to keep us amused!

So I thought that to make a change I'd do it like a quiz and not name names but let people guess.

? Which ex boat officer when showing people how not to tighten the jockey when on the boat and saying "this is how not to do it" broke the lever off?



? which experienced diver and instructor decided that summer had come early and went in which his dry suit on summer setting?

? Which experienced diver let him do it ?

? Which experienced instructor decided they didn't need their stab jacket when going diving and had to send someone to fetch it ?

May 2007 – D.O.s Bit

Congratulations to Richard Hall on passing his Diver Coxswain assessment, and to Kath, Barry, Rob, Jezz and Steve on completing the Boat Handling course.

When I did my Boat Handling course in the early 90's, it was held on Rutland Water. These courses were moved to the coast to be more representative of real diving conditions. Quite right too.

However, it was actually rougher on Rutland Water when I did my course in the middle of winter (it was also snowing) than it was last weekend in Portland/Weymouth.

Thanks to Fran for running the course, and to Pete for doing the Diver Cox. Assessment. Also to Steve and Ian for their shoreside support.

This is a very busy time for the Club, particularly on Tuesday evenings, with not only the Ocean and Sports Diver courses running, but also Nitrox, Lifesaver, and Dive Leader training underway. Please help the instructors get through all the lectures and exercises by arriving on time and missing as few as possible.

For anyone who wants to work towards becoming an Instructor, it's a good idea to sit in on both theory lectures and pool and open water sessions to get experience.

Richard Sykes is currently working through the website updating out of date sections. The Tuesday program and Dive trip programs are now up to date, but if you do want to get on a trip, you need to speak to the organiser to check on spaces and reserve yours.

Unfortunately, I have had to cancel the VHF course due to lack of interest. Despite having 8 people on the list, this came down to 1 person. This is a shame as it was to be locally run in Lutterworth. Don't forget, you need to hold a VHF licence to become a Club approved Diver Coxswain.

Safe Diving.

BARWELL INFANT SCHOOL



15th March 2007

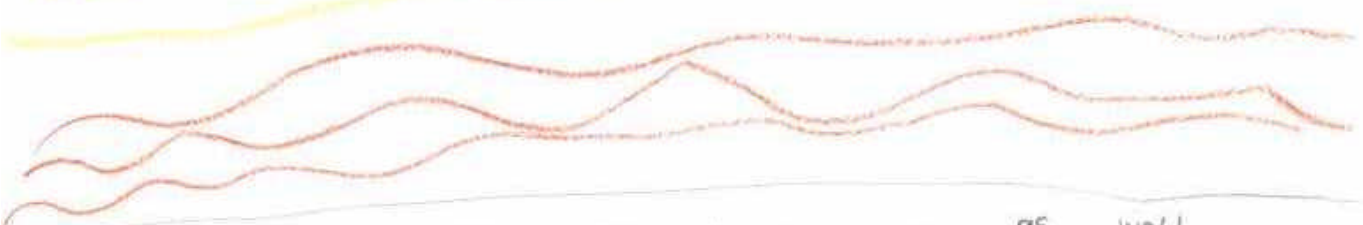
Dear Nigel,

Thank you very much for spending so much time with us today with your smashing boat! Every child I've spoken to today has been speaking about it - it's a rare occurrence in land-locked Barwell!

Indira was so worried about our being able to accommodate it - but it's been really worthwhile.

Thank you again ~

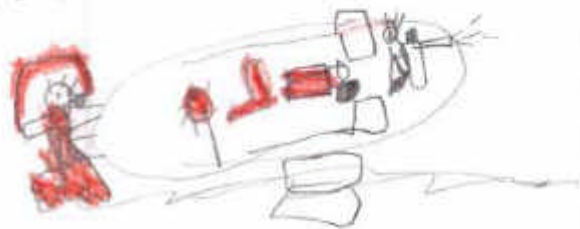
*Jane Sanchez
on behalf of Barwell Infants*



I enjoyed the Boat and it was fun as well
 of the Boat I like when you show what you can
 doore. did you no that horn it was so loud!
 is that Boat (a fast? Stid) take you fully letting
 me no. I like you Boat it was wudfull Boat
 The horn was verely loud Land
 It was a lucky Boat
 Love from



Thank you
for letting
us on your
boat I
love every
thing on your
boat.
From



To Nigel

I am so happy because you brought
your boat in. It was ^{no} could seeing _{on it}
and I liked the anchor too.

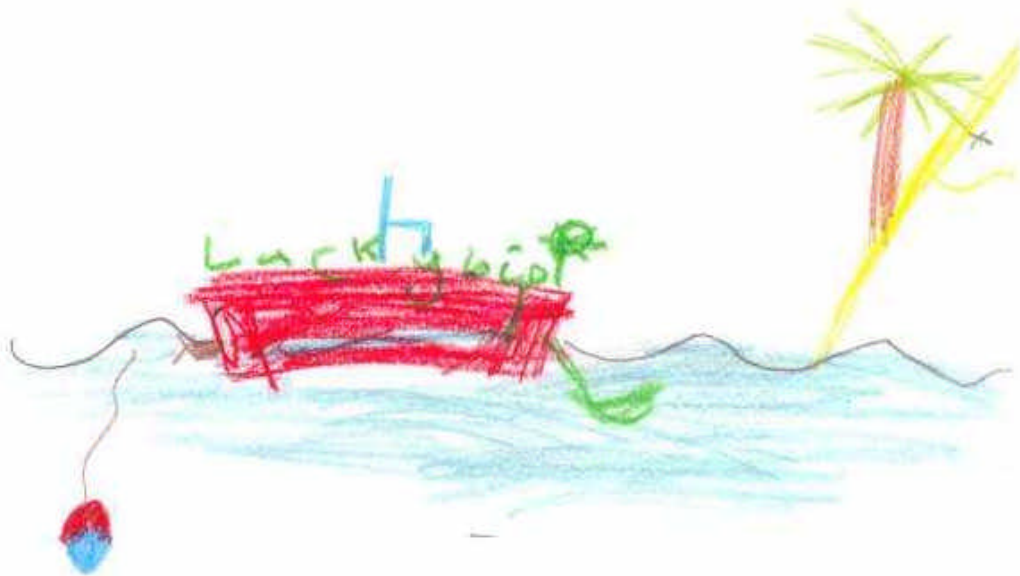
From

~~So good~~ what a good boat it is. I wish I was you.

I liked jumping off the Lucky Dip and



x I had such
fun thank you it
was lovely. Come
again. The best
bit was the horn because
it was so loud.
loud.



Dartmouth July 06

A while ago Steve & I were sat in the dive shop in Rugby, as you do, when Phil asked if we'd like to go diving from Dartmouth. He was organising a trip and had some spaces left. Definitely, was the reply.

Well finally many months later the weekend arrived. We were diving Sunday and Monday, as Phil has the shop open on Saturdays. The time came to start loading the car, well the sky had been looking iffy for quite a while, getting blacker and blacker, but it waited until the moment Steve said "I'm going to pack the car now" for it to start to pour. We did wait for a while but it carried on raining. So the car had to be packed in the rain. Oh well, not the best start to the weekend.



As we drove down to Dartmouth, the sky cleared up and the sun started to shine again ~ just as well since we were camping. Just as well as we had brought our new tent and had never put it up before. We stayed on a campsite just outside Dartmouth, at a small place called Stoke Fleming. It was an excellent site with good facilities including a pub and a swimming pool, not that we had time to use either.

On the Saturday night we went into Dartmouth and met up with Ian Noble the skipper of the boat, Samuel Irvin III and Phil and his wife Anne in a pub called the Windjammer. Phil had told Ian that we had a 10 metre limit, so he was trying to work out what we could dive! He was quite relieved when he found out Phil had been on a wind up. It was decided that on the Sunday we'd dive the Bretagne and a scenic dive.

We met up at the boat at 9.00am, a very civilised start to the day. Now for those of you who haven't been to Dartmouth, they have horrendous parking problems and in the summer months all the parking is free but limited to 2 hours, or you park in the Park and ride well out of Dartmouth and quite expensive. The only exception is the Market square where it's free all day parking but it's very busy. Ian told Steve of a free parking area at the top end of town. Now Dartmouth is a very vertical town, it just goes up and up. It was fine parking in the morning as he got a lift back to the quayside.

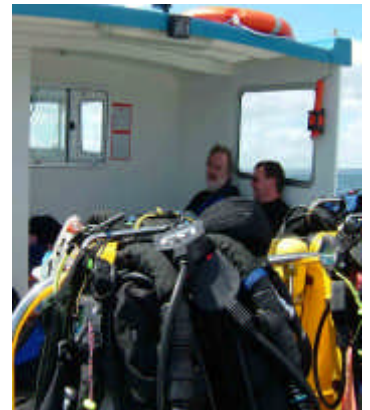
Off we went in the boat. It's a very spacious Catamaran with a



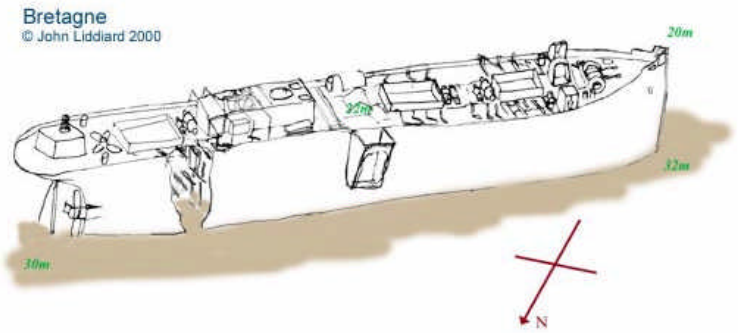
sheltered sitting area, a toilet, good wide kitting up benched and a LIFT. I definitely like lifts.

What did feel strange was that there were only inspirations on the boat, but everyone was slightly different, different ages and different modifications had been made.

There were also only six of us on the boat so loads of space.



In the morning we dived the Bretagne. The vis wasn't that good but it was still 5 metres and it was quite light. It was full of life; there was Bib, Sea Bass and even cod and Pollack and my favourite's lots of Blennies. Typically I didn't have my camera with me! It had what Steve calls a Titanic bow. It's still very solid and hasn't fallen apart yet. There was only one major



hazard with the wreck and that is lots and lots of fishing life. When we came up after our decompression we found that there was even a boat fishing the wreck as we were diving it., even though the skipper had warned them and asked them not to fish.

The afternoon dive was a drift dive just outside Dartmouth, the vis wasn't brilliant but enough to see a whole range of sea life including several large dog fish which appeared as shadowy shark shaped figures out of the gloom. There were loads of crabs about; it was the mating season, so they were all out in the open.

We were back at the quayside tied up by 4 pm, so we thought that it would be a good idea to have a decompression stop at the Dolphin. Steve then had to climb the hill to get the car, while I guarded the kit in the Dolphin ~ I almost volunteered to get the car, honest.

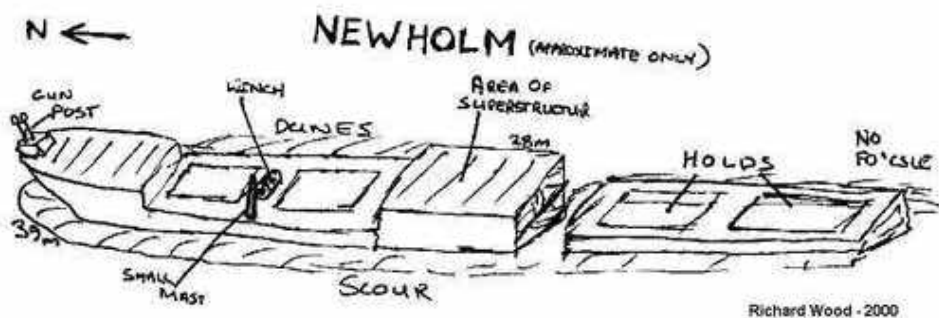


On Sunday night we met at the Windjammer for a quick drink before climbing up a hill to a pub called the Cherub. It was a tiny little pub up a windy little street. There were 10 of us eating altogether. It was upstairs we were told, so up the windy staircase we all went, at the next floor we were told it's upstairs! So up we went again, into the attic of the pub, it's a good view from the top, but isn't there something about not going to altitude after diving? The waitress became a bit harassed as we rearranged the furniture so that we could all sit on the same table. She pointed out that there was also a couple booked to eat in the same room as us. (They were found a space on the

floor below)

A good time was had by all.

The downside was that we had to be on the boat by 8 am the next day! The upside was that we found a space in the market square, so it wasn't far to walk to the boat.



On Monday the day was even hotter than it was on Sunday. It was flat calm and the world felt very good.

In the morning we were diving the Newholme. This is a wreck in 40 metres max.

The shot was in the middle and as we went down the line the wreck opened up before us, the vis was about 15 metres and the wreck lay on a sandy bottom which made it very light. The holds were full of sand with lots of swim throughs swimming from one part to the other. It reminded Steve very much of the James Egon Layne in the remaining structure, but with sand in the holds rather than the cargo being visible. The fish life was plentiful, with a big conger eel greeting us at the bottom of the shot.

We first went to the stern where the rudder was still in place but the prop had been removed. There was just enough of a gap for Steve to swim through. As we started going back along the other side of the wreck we noticed that the tide had definitely turned and it was starting to run. We decided that it would be better to go back inside the wreck and shelter from the tide. We headed towards the bow and managed to get across the break in the wreck but by this time the tide was running well and we decided that it was time to head to the surface.

The afternoon dive was a drift dive to look for scallops we were dropped off for a high speed scallop gather. The vis wasn't brilliant but it was an excellent dive. The fish life was excellent and it's a dive site well worth doing in better vis the rock formations and the life living in the crevices was fantastic. It was a bit difficult stopping to look at anything. It was an excellent weekend.

Phil organises quite a few weekends throughout the year and he quite often has spaces on the trip, so anytime you're in his shop it's worth having a look at the notice board to find out what's going on.

Fran & Steve



Pathfinder 2007

Since publicising this new type of competition (nominating your buddy for interesting navigation rather than actually doing some navigation yourself) the number of nominations has underwhelmed me...

A grand total of 0 (Zero, None, Nilch, Nil Nada, SFA – i.e. Not Many)

Well from my statistics I know that there have been over 500 dives – over a quarter of anticipated dives for the year. Surely someone must have done something worthwhile of nomination (?)

So if you have been impressed by someone's navigation on a dive (for whatever reason) then nominate him or her for this 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, or posted to me at: 14 Stewart Avenue, Enderby, LE19 4LN or even e-mailed to me at: ian.jennings@alstec.com

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

Ian Jennings

April 2007

My First Dive(s)

Sue Harman

Having (finally) passed my Ocean diver theory it was time to 'take the plunge' and get into Stoney Cove. Thursday was 'free' and I was persuaded to join the 'old codgers' Thursday club (though to give it its due respect there was also a couple of teenagers there!). With borrowed kit (Thanks Ian & Fran) I turned up to Stoney on a glorious sunny day.

All too soon I was dressed up in Fran's spare drysuit and felt I couldn't move!



So feeling a bit like a beached whale I hesitantly entered down

the slipway into the water expecting the shock of being instantly cold - but I wasn't, I remained warm and cosy. In the water my feet wanted to stay on the surface - a pair of ankle weights and that problem was solved (thanks Mike for your assistance).

On this first dive Ian took me across to the submarine and I looked in under the pub balcony, then across to the cockpit, the bus-stop (I saw the 'Bus Stop' sign) and saw lots of fish! (Ian knows how to show a girl a good time!) All too soon the

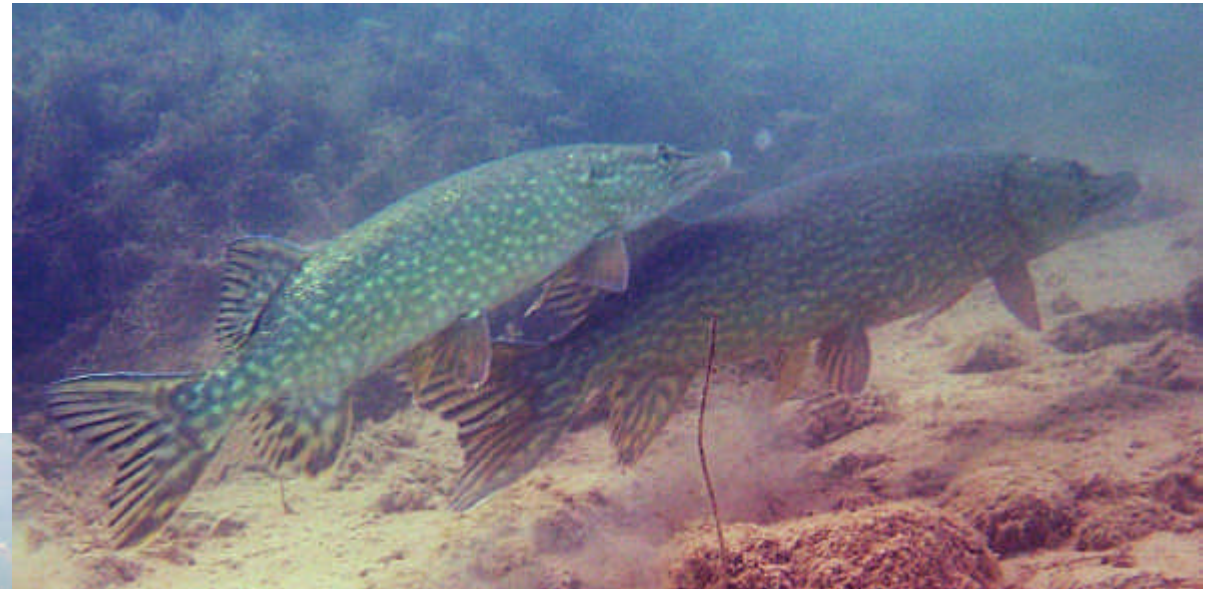
dive was over - I couldn't believe we had been underwater for over 30 minutes.

FANTASTIC - There's so many words I could use to say how good I felt... but I'd only bore you all, so 'fantastic' will do!



After bacon butties and coffee, Fran took me on my second dive, this time we entered by the Bus Stop. "Stepping into the unknown" was a bit scary. We went to similar places, but this time Fran found us a couple of Pike to look at, they were huge and hovering really close to us. I didn't realise what beautiful and colourful fish they are.

(All photos courtesy of Fran)



With all this enthusiasm I persuaded Fran to take me in the following Sunday. Another glorious day, but LOTS of other people also thought it was a good day to go diving so it was VERY busy. We were lucky someone was leaving as we got there so we managed to get a spot in the bottom car park. This dive was memorable for the six (YES SIX) Pike that we saw, we did some exercises including a mask clear (reminding me that the water is indeed cold!).

Thanks to all for my training to date, Fran and Ian for guiding me and for the loan of the kit (Sorry about the wrist seal Fran!) and I just hope that all my dives will be as memorable as the first ones!

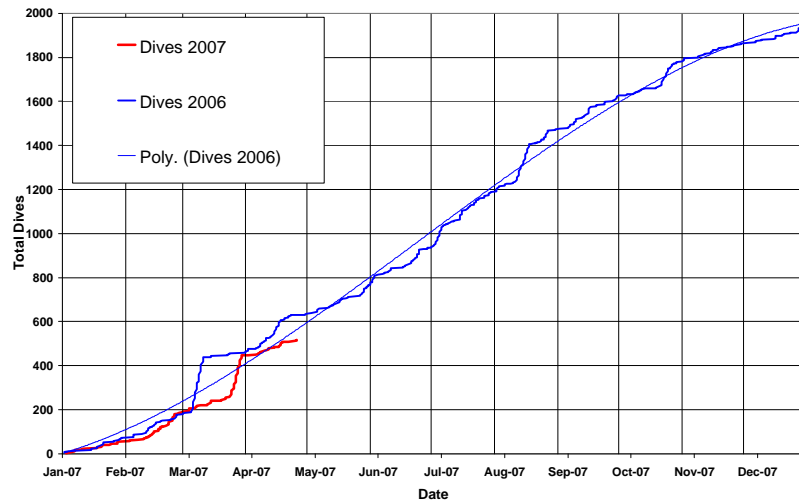
All the time spent in Stoney I never felt unsafe (scary at times) but confident with my guides: Ian & Fran. Thanks buddies and I can't wait to go again!

April 2007

Members Dives 2007 - So Far

Hi all. Firstly my apologies for last months report – I didn't get it to Pete in time for publication. I'm not taking any chances this month.

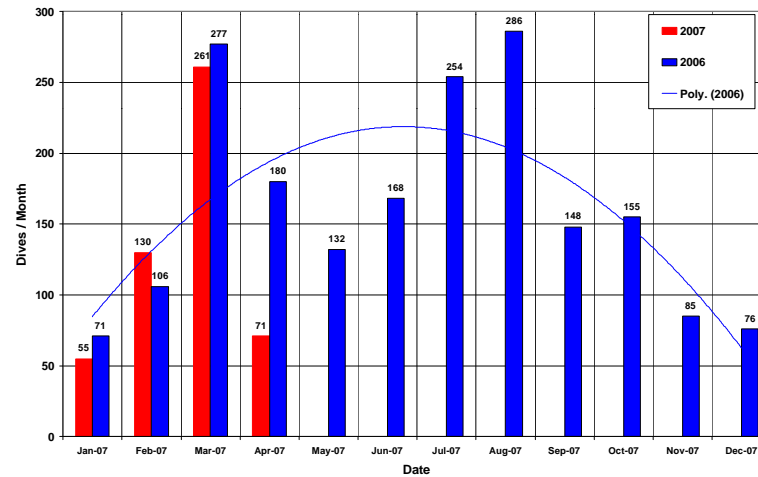
The most notable feature over the past two months was the Red Sea trip. A total of 188 dives (almost 172 hours underwater) certainly made a jump in the total dives chart:



The increase in dive numbers from the Red Sea trip can be clearly seen, but the chart also shows that we are behind the number of dives we had done last year – by about 100 dives.

Again this month I have included the complete statistics table for all dives so far – people saying that it is easier to read than my charts! Huh! Just for that you can have two little charts!

This second chart shows that the main shortfall relative to last year was in April – I hope that's not just due to the details coming in slowly (?)



Back to the main chart (overleaf), I have highlighted the leaders in the main categories (reminding you again that 'It's not a competition!') but congratulations to Gary!

I've had dive details from 40 divers but with the warmer weather I expect this number will increase.

Almost a quarter of the dives to date has been training dives which reflects the active nature of our training programme – and Fran in particular.

Safe Diving and please get your dive details to Nigel as soon as possible

Ian Jennings
27th April 2007

