

Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

Sept 2004
Issue 79

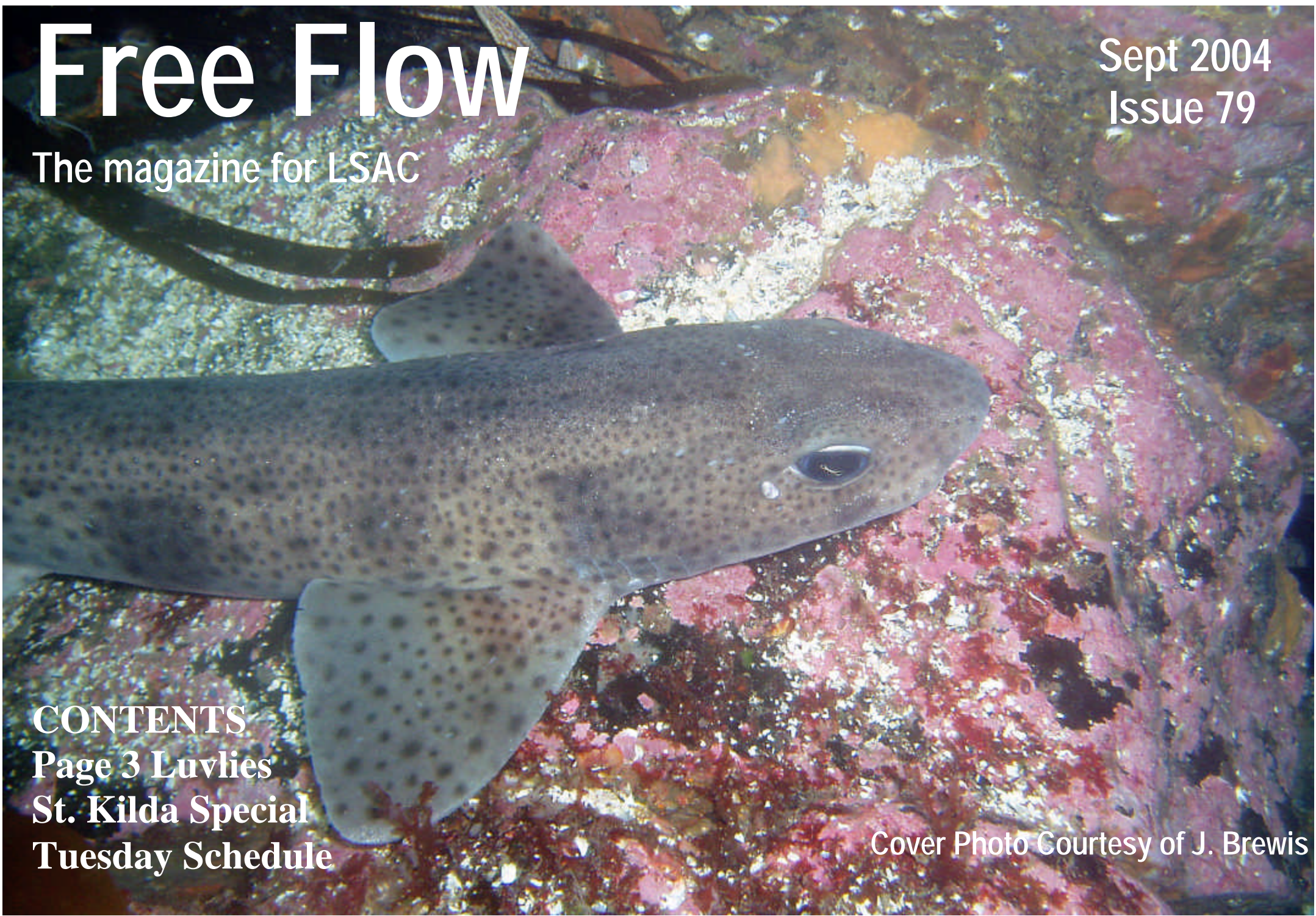
CONTENTS

Page 3 Luvlies

St. Kilda Special

Tuesday Schedule

Cover Photo Courtesy of J. Brewis



Editors Bit...

At all good Newsagents now.....
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Free Flow

CONTENTS

- Page 1 Cover
- Page 2 Editors Bit
- Page 3 Page 3 Luvilies
- Page 4 Chairman's Report
- Page 5 50's Club
- Page 7 St Kilda Report
- Page 14 Questions and Answers
- Page 15 Tuesday Scedule



I never thought I'd see the day; a used car salesman being taken for a ride.

Last months freeflow there was an item on "Lancaster in the Lakes". Thanks to Chris White for this response

The Dambusters Training flights took place mainly in The Derwent Valley of The Peak District, using the Howden and Dewent Dams which had similar features to the German Dams they were to attack. Dewent Water and Wast Water are natural lakes and therefore have no dams.

The training flights were all undertaken using Lancaster Bombers, The Wellington Bomber was used in the initial testing of the bouncing bomb but on a coastal bombing range at Reculver Bay not inland.

As far as I know there were no reports of Dambuster Aircraft lost during training flights either in The Lake District or The Peak District. If there is a Lancaster or a similar sized bomber in Wast Water then until someone finds it we will not know for sure.

Don't forget all the club information is on the web site, including trips and Tuesday night's timetable

www.lsac.co.uk

Pete

Page 3 Luvlies

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2 pictures this month one luvlie and one very scary, (well it gave me nightmares).

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

Chairman's Report

The End of an Era

The Floppy – Swift Diver – has finally been sold.

After some hard fund raising, we bought the inflatable – a 4.6 meter Avon – in the early nineties. The boat was bought, secondhand, in London, the engine, a Suzuki – also secondhand, in Derby, and the trailer was purpose built in Huncote.

The trailer was not in fact ready for the boat's first outing – an Easter trip – so the boat was transported in bits in Alan Edward's van to Maenporth beach, then carried to the water's edge and assembled. (it's a very long beach).

However, once it was in the water, we were the proudest dive club on the South coast. Very few clubs had boats, and whilst Swift Diver (named after the River Swift in Lutterworth in case anyone didn't know) could never be described as 'state of the art', it transformed our diving. Instead of stumbling through the waves on shore dives, we could actually drop divers on the site and provide proper surface cover. We even had a VHF radio, and an echo sounder.

After a few years use, the old engine became unreliable and therefore the boat unpopular. A decision was made to replace the aging Suzuki with a reconditioned Mariner, giving the boat a new lease of life, until after some even harder fund raising and lottery assistance we got the new RIB – Lucky Dip.

The floppy has given us good service, but has finally worn out, and has been replaced with the second RIB – Skinny Dip.

Nigel

50's Club

Above I mentioned the fundraising needed to buy the Club's first boat.

The principle tool used in this fundraising was the '50's Club'.

This little 'Scam' was devised, and initially run by Phil Biggs. Members who wanted to take part (knowing Phil, I seem to remember that all members were involved), paid £2 per month for their chosen number between 1 & 50. A draw took place at the end of each month when three cash prizes were awarded, totalling about half the money taken, the remainder going into the boat purchase fund.

After Phil's original departure to Cornwall, several people have run the 50's Club, but it was finally abandoned a few years ago.

It has been suggested that we revive it to make a contribution to our fundraising account, which is now empty following the purchase of Skinny Dip. Whilst we do not have a specific project at present, I am sure it will not be long before someone decides that the Club needs something for which money is required. It is also advisable for the Club to hold a small reserve to cover for emergencies. (The sinking fund is ring fenced and specifically for the replacement of Lucky Dip).

A number of ideas have been put forward for it's format, from money being added to the monthly standing order (not a method I particularly favor), to spot draws on a Tuesday evening.

Has anyone got any ideas?

Does anyone want to have a go at running it?

Or should we just let it sleep?

Nigel



AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Lutterworth Sub-Aqua Club will be held on Tuesday 28th September 2004 at 19.30 in Room H27 at Lutterworth Community College.

Nominations for Committee positions together with any motions to be debated should be handed to the Secretary or Chairman, in writing, by Tuesday 14th September, latest.

Try Dives

This Autumns Try Dives will be held on Tuesdays 21st and 28th September at 21.00 at the Leisure Centre.

Anyone wishing to take part should meet us in the reception area between 20.45 and 21.00

These try dives are open to anyone, whether they intend joining the course or just want to have a go.

If you have any friends, members of your family, or people you work with who would like to have a go, bring them along.

You may also like to publicise the event yourself.

If possible please let Neil Brown, Neil Tomlin or Nigel know if you are bringing anyone along.

St Kilda Trip 14th to 20th August 2004

8 Brave Souls ventured North of the Border, but quickly as possible circumnavigated Glasgow to find solace in the Western Isles. The Brave Souls include Nigel "2 bunks" Spickett, Fran "cuddles" Druker, Bob "Black-eye" Mulholland, Jon "Belittle" Brewis, Pete "Pockets" Barnard, Ian "Slim" Jennings, Janet "Char walla" Roelandts and Robin "Farmer" Sherret.

Safely aboard the Hjalmar Bjorge, skippered by Mark crewed by Racheal and Heather (the chef, more about her later), the 8 Brave Souls meet up with Christine and Pete a smashing diving couple from down South, (Peckham and Poole).

Black-eye and Belittle roomed in the anchor locker so as to get an early morning wake up call as we up anchored. Char walla and Farmer played Mr and Mrs. Pockets and Slim roomed together and for some reason Cuddles decided not to join 2 Bunks, both of whom enjoyed solitary accommodation.

06.00 Sat 14th pick up by Slim, on to 2 bunks then motorway. Oban 13.30 aboard 15.30 ish. 17.45 left Oban for an overnight stop at Canna (23.15), oh sorry Black-eye and Belittle did the drop anchor wake you up. Weather and scenery fantastic, sea was a mill pond. Supper(1st/main/dessert/dessert 2) Sweetcorn/Steak/Strawberry's & Cream/Cheese & Biscuit. Oh did I forget to mention the waitress service, the candle light tables and free flowing wine.

Day 2:- Dive buddy Black-eye

06.00 Anchors up. Porridge and fry-up at 08.00. Whilst passing Neist Pt, Isle Skye, stopped to dive the SS Doris. Fish city, Wrasse, Mackerel, Bib, Pollock, plus, plus, plus. Crabs, nice friendly conger, Boilers, prop, plates covered in deadmen, supper little warm up dive 20-30m dive in a current of ~ 0.5 kts.





Steam across to St. Kilda from Skye, chucked it down with rain before clear up to meet up with our first Orca sighting; two separate pairs, one being two females and the other a large male and a juvenile (as usual the male doing all the work whilst the females are off nattering probably having afternoon tea). Dived the Sgarb Stac at Boreray, approx. 6 km NE St Kilda, a huge arch as big as a hanger with the top at 30m the bottom at 60m and a length of 30+m. The walls were covered with life and with slack water a beautiful place to be.

Slim found that trying to take photos with a pair of pants was not very successful. His explanation was that the pants inside his housing were to check for leaks, and I'm sharing a room with him !!!

Anchored up at village bay, Hirta (the largest island of St Kilda). Supper Haggis neaps with whiskey sauce/trout/apple cake/pub/cheese & biscuits. Everyone went ashore to visit the settlement/go to the Puff Inn/ buy post cards. Black-eye nearly had to swim back for beating the Skipper at pool

Day 3:- Dive buddy 2 bunks

08.00 Porridge, fry-up. 10.00 in water Eiffel tower, St Kilda, a cave and chimney dive, with the chimney going from 45 to 8m. Everyone bottled out from doing the chimney so did a wall dive from 50m upto 20m before 2 bunks did the DSMB duty on which we drifted on a current of 1kt. Another excellent dive with large shoals of fish, probably Herring, some huge Lion's Mains, my second seal under water and Ross coral at 50m..

Moored up in Glen Bay for lunch of Fahittas.

Second dive of day Amplanstier, St Kilda, another swim through an elongated 's' shaped tunnel from 20 to 8m, only to be dived on slack. (For some reason "slack" water is always 10.00 and 16.00 around the Outer Hebrides). Nice current flowing

particularly through the tunnel so 2 bunks and I opted for the scenic wall dive. First pair through, Slim and Belittle saw Slim spat out the tunnel straight to the surface and Belittle clinging on for dear life. On the scenic side lots of lobsters, shoals of Saithe. As I clung to the kelp watching a shoal of large Saithe, 2 bunks on the DSMB was dragged away by the current. 3 of the 5 dive pairs were separated on this dive.



On both dives picked up a black arrow during the safety stop, probably due to the heavy swell that had started. Decided not to dive the next day and have a day of rest.

Back to village bay to overnight. Mussels with trout/ chicken and ham pie/ chocolate roularde/ pub/ cheese & bisuits. I was only going to walk around the Island but the midges forced me into the Puff Inn.

Day 4:- "Day of Rest"

Due to in coming storms opt to run for shelter around Harris & Lewis. Porridge and Kippers for breakfast. Fortunately I had some porridge, at least that gave my stomach something to throw up. My day of rest spent hanging over the side being incredibly sea sick

(Dive details from Belittle) First dive was SE wall of Stac Lee, Isle of Harris. Kelp down to 20m, then huge wall to 40m covered in Daisy Anemonies and other pretty stuff. Big rock with hole in it which had a Rainbow Wrasse, first time Belittle had seen one. Viz 30m, lots of fish in kelp.

Lunch consisted of filled rolls, a pleasure which for some reason didn't fill me much enthusiasm. Then came the most fantastic treat, a Sun Fish some 10m off the Starboard side, only to have the Orca's make an appearance at the same time. The skipper choose to follow the Orca's, with the 2 females paralleling the boat approx. 20m off to Port for several minutes. Even thou still feeling sea sick it right cheered me up.



Second dive was an unknown wreck off Muishinish Pt., Isle of Harris. A50's-60's small trawler, broken up on sand. Landed on stern, where there was a slightly flooded sink. Loads of fish of all sizes and sorts. Pro, winches and mast all impressive, as was a good swim through. Bow was intact on it's side and covered in life. Very pretty, though quite small. Congers, lobsters present too.

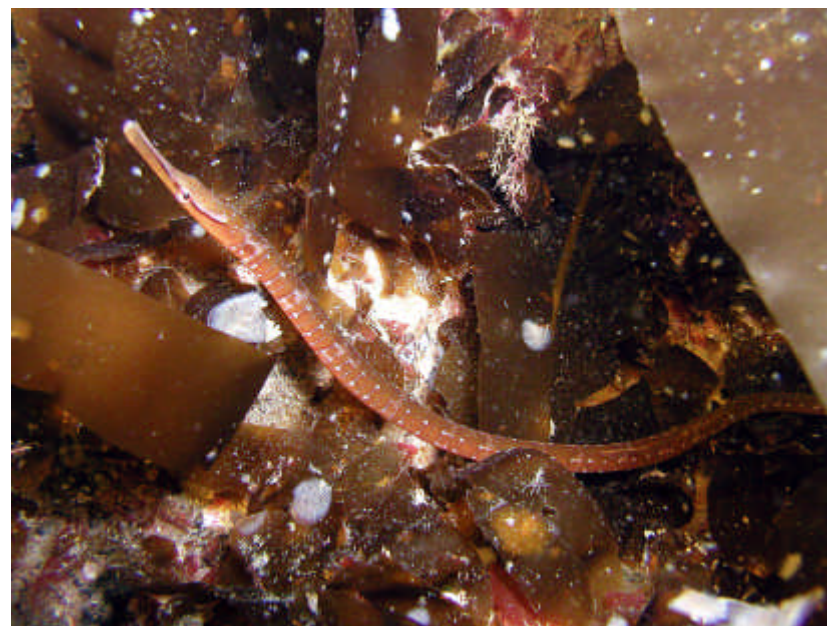
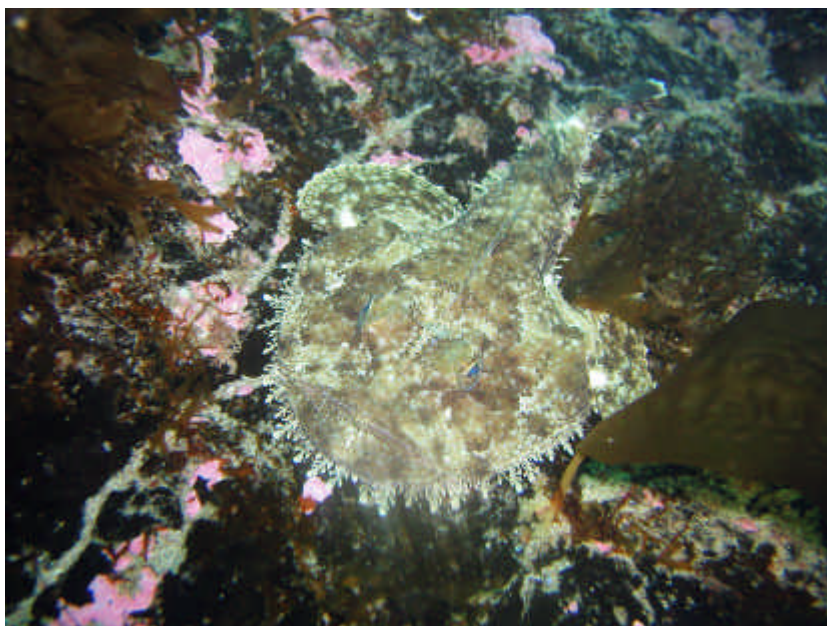
Moored overnight in Taransay Bay, site of the TV series Castaway. After watching a quite exquisite sunset over Elizabeth G, a companion dive boat that followed the Hjalmar Bjorge virtually the whole time, we tucked into mixed Greek salad/roast lamb/cheese cake & fruit/cheese & biscuits. Yes your truly was ravenous and with the aid of a magic device, "ReliefBand" loaned from the Skipper gladly tucked into supper with relish.

Day 5:- Dive buddy Belittle and None Diving buddy ReliefBand

Breakfast as usual was porridge and fry up. After running the Minch, sea state 6-7, dived a wrecked coalier, the Chadwick, at Neist Pt., Isle of Skye at around 12.00. This was a very pretty and relaxing dive, unlike lots of previous dives there was no current. With lots of collapsed plates, fairly large boilers and a 4m prop. this was fish city shoals of whiting, ling, cod etc, conger large crabs and the ever curious wrasse.

Lunch was another first, Kedgeree, a sort of risotto but with fish and boiled eggs.

Second dive was another wall dive , An Dubh Sgeir, Isle of Skye. Dropped down to the sea bed straight on top of four large crabs having a fight. Cuddles having tried to attached several of them to me decided to take one for the captain's table (later returned to the bottom from the surface). The rocks at the bottom of the wall was crab city, I've never seen so many. As we drifted slowly along the bed and up the wall we took in loads of fish, pink prawns, pipe fish, dog fish, a huge lobster and a conger. Lumpy ride on the surface with seas and wind 5-6.



We overnighted in Gesto Bay, Isle of Skye, being feed with fish mayo salad on oat biscuits/cumberland sausage and mash/rhubarb crumble/cheese & biscuits.

Day 6:- Dive buddy Cuddles

Black-eye made a special effort this morning; had a shave; well he was buddying his roomy Belittle !!! After poridge and fry up did a 30m wall dive at Weay Island.

Loads of rocks at sea bed equals fish city, including a Wrasse nursery, large shoal of Saithe, conger, lobster, pink prawns, lions manes. Kept just ahead of deco as Cuddles started to deploy DSMB at approx 13m when a Black Shag joined us circling eyeball to eyeball some 3ft away, a real serial moment for me and what a buzz. During the ascent saw another 2 further shags. On the surface with a sea state of 5 and winds whipping the spray Cuddles, Char Walla and Farmer joined hands to prevent separation and have a bit of a sing song. This goes down in my top 10 dives.

Spag Bol for lunch before running from the storm to Tobermorey; lumpy ride in places upto sea state 7.

Stopped on route to wall dive a Spit on Loch Sunart. Really mucky dive viz approx. 5m, but forced you to concentrate on whats in front of you, e.g. loads of languistines, small fish, sponges, etc. Got excited by a sponge that looked like a Seahorse. Black-eye kindly dropped a starfish on my head and then tried to kick my mask off.

Moored over night at Tobermory on Mull; melon smoked ham with grapefruit sauce/beef bougenyon/ toffee fudge cake with chocolate sauce/pub/cheese & biscuits.

Day 7:- Dive buddy Slim

Early morning dive, 07.45, on the Hispania in the Sound of Mull. Down the shot in low viz. In and out the holds, loads of debris and covered in anename and light bulb squats, took in the rudder, before heading back to the surface as the tide started running.

As the boat continued back to Oban had bacon cobs for breakfast.

Last dive of the trip was the Breda, Oban. Although the viz was poor, about 5m, this was a nice potter, with the holds nicely open. Lots of cargo debris, e.g broken glass. Found a nice goody bag some one had dropped so that was a bonus.

Load the car and on the road at 16.00 home by 23.15.



In summary

Boat – clean, excellent, well equipped

Crew – professional, friendly

Food – top drawer, 5*

Diving – fantastic

Scenery – tranquil but brooding, a landscape that captures the soul and leaves an indelible mark

Buddies – a good bunch

My list of First's on this Trip

- 1) First time dived on the West Coast of Scotland
- 2) First real live-aboard
- 3) First real dive trip with Twin Set
- 4) First sighting of Orca's in the wild.
- 5) First seal under water, at Sgarb Stac, Day 2. Even thou I'd been to Farnes 3 times.
- 6) First time I've had Whiskey sauce with Haggis
- 7) First sight of Ross Coral, at 50m Eiffel Tower, St. Kilda
- 8) First time to get black arrows on consecutive dives
- 9) First sighting of a Sun Fish in the wild.
- 10) First meeting with Kedgeree
- 11) First sighting of a diving bird under water

Words by Pockets, Photos by Slim, Black-Eye, Belittle and Christine.

Eds Note:- Now this is what I call a dive report/article.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Follow on from last months question)

Q. I have a leak in my dry suit.

After every dive my left arm is soaking and the rest of my under suit varies from damp to dripping wet. Although I have tried with empty pop bottles and a football to inflate the suit I cannot find a leak. I also have tried over inflating whilst in the swimming pool with no success. Can you advise how to find the leak or is there any other issues (poor technique etc) I may have. I have over 200 dives in the suit and very few (less than a handful) have been dry. The suit is a membrane one and has an auto shoulder dump.

A. To find the leak:-

Turn the offending arm inside out. Dry the inside of the arm (which is now on the outside) and give it a good dusting with talc. Bung up the wrist seal with a milk bottle or some other smooth round container. Leave dump valves as if set for diving, ie don't seal them or close them off. Weight the suit down on top of the freezer so it won't slide off easily and let the arm dangle. Fill the arm with water taking care not to get any onto the talc and wait for a wet patch to appear in the talc or at the dump valve. If none appear, chances are you have a wrist tendon problem. Stop clenching your fist at your buddy/ hanging tightly to the shot line, but if you must, make sure your arm is pointing down when you do it!

Answer from Phil Biggs

If you have any questions and can't get sense from other club members, or are afraid to ask, then drop me a line and I'll see what I can do. – Ed

Tuesday Night Schedule:- Be There or Be Square ☺

| DATE | INTRO/OCEAN DIVER | SPORTS DIVER | DIVE LEADER | SKILL DEVELOPMENT | INTEREST EVENINGS | POOL TRAINING |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 31-Dec-03 | NO CLUB - HAPPY NEW YEAR | | | | | |
| 13-Apr-04 | NO CLUB - EASTER | | | | | |
| 20-Apr-04 | OT1 / INTRO - Neil Tomlin | ST5 - Jon Brewis | | Boat Handling Course Lecture | St.Kilda Video | Intro Course |
| 27-Apr-04 | OT2 - Martyn O'Driscoll | ST6 - Neil Brown | DT1 - Nigel Spickett | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 04-May-04 | NO CLUB - MAY BANK HOLIDAY | | | | | |
| 11-May-04 | OT3 - Phil Turney | Catch up week | DT1 - Nigel Spickett | | Dive planning evening | OCEAN DIVER |
| 18-May-04 | OT4 - Phil Turney | Catch up week | DT2 - Steve Ward | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 25-May-04 | OT5-Steve Ward | REVISION - Neil Tomlin | DT2 - Steve Ward | | Lundy Breifing | OCEAN DIVER |
| 01-Jun-04 | NO CLUB - WHITSUN BANK HOLIDAY | | | | | |
| 08-Jun-04 | OT6 - Richard Green + Neil B. | Exam Neil Brown | DT3 - Pete Woodcock | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 15-Jun-04 | OT7 - Richard Green | ST2 - Neil Brown | DT3 - Pete Woodcock | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 22-Jun-04 | Catch up week | ST3 - Richard Green | DT4 - Neil Brown | | Dive planning evening | OCEAN DIVER |
| 29-Jun-04 | REVISION - Neil Tomlin | ST4 - Fran Duinker | DT4 - Neil Brown | | Red Sea Diving-Alex Bullard | OCEAN DIVER |
| 06-Jul-04 | EXAM - Neil Tomlin | AIM | AIM | | Talk on Towing AIM | OCEAN DIVER |
| 13-Jul-04 | Exam review - Ian Jennings | ST5 - Neil Brown | DT5 - Jon Brewis | | Instructor review | OCEAN DIVER |
| 20-Jul-04 | EXAM - Neil Tomlin | ST6 - Richard Green | | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 27-Jul-04 | Drysuit Intro - Nigel Spickett | Catch up week | DT6 - Steve Westwood | | Dive planning evening | OCEAN DIVER |
| 03-Aug-04 | Drysuit Introduction - Neil Tomlin | REVISION - Neil Brown | | | St. Kilda Breifing | OCEAN DIVER |
| 10-Aug-04 | | EXAM - Neil Brown | DT7 - Neil Tomlin | | | |
| 17-Aug-04 | | Exam | DT7 - Neil Tomlin | | | |
| 24-Aug-04 | | | DT8 - Neil B. Pete Woodcock | | | |
| 31-Aug-04 | NO CLUB - AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY | | | | | |
| 07-Sep-04 | | ST1- Phil Turney | DT8 - Fran Duinker | | | |
| 14-Sep-04 | | ST2 - Steve Ward | DT9 - Alex Bullard | Advanced Diver exam | | |
| 21-Sep-04 | | ST3 - Pete Woodcock | DT9 - Alex Bullard | | Instructor review | TRY DIVE |
| 28-Sep-04 | AGM | | | | | |
| 05-Oct-04 | OT1 / INTRO - Neil Brown | ST4 - Richard Green | DT10 - Phil Turney | | | Intro Course |
| 12-Oct-04 | OT2 - Ian Jennings | ST5 - Alex Bullard | DT10 - Phil Turney | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 19-Oct-04 | OT3 - Bob Mulholland | ST6 - Fran Duinker | DT11 - Martyn O'Driscoll | | Astral Navigation-Steve Westwood | OCEAN DIVER |
| 26-Oct-04 | OT4 - Janet Roelandts | Catch up week | DT11 - Martyn O'Driscoll | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 02-Nov-04 | OT5-Mark Scott Simons | Catch up week | DT12 - Neil Brown | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 09-Nov-04 | OT6 - Robin Sherratt | REVISION - Neil Tomlin | DT12 - Neil Brown | | Instructor review | OCEAN DIVER |
| 16-Nov-04 | OT7 - Nigel Spickett | EXAM - Neil Tomlin | Catch up week | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 23-Nov-04 | Catch up week | | REVISION - Neil Tomlin | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 30-Nov-04 | REVISION - Neil Tomlin | | EXAM - Neil Tomlin | | | OCEAN DIVER |
| 07-Dec-04 | EXAM - Neil Tomlin | | | | | |
| 14-Dec-04 | Quiz and Social Night | | | | | |
| 21-Dec-04 | Christmas No Meeting | | | | | |
| 28-Dec-04 | New Year No Meeting | | | | | |
| | INTRO/OCEAN DIVER | SPORTS DIVER | DIVE LEADER | SKILL DEVELOPMENT | INTEREST EVENINGS | POOL TRAINING |