

Free Flow

The magazine for LSAC

Sept 2007
Issue 116



In This Months Issue

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Baltimore July 2007
Diving Stats

Cover Photo Courtesy of Ian Jennings



Free Flow

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Hence only downloadable from lsac.co.uk

Editors Bit...



One Scorpion Fish courtesy of Phil Turney. It's one of those intriguing questions that tempts, namely if you touch do the spikes really hurt as much as they say or it is a urban myth. If anyone knows from first hand knowledge please let me know.

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Buddies

AGM time which means its time to pass judgement upon the performance of the committee, from a diving, social and financial viewpoint. It's also the time changes to the constitution are voted upon and any motion put to the members for consideration. The final bit of the AGM is to approve the accounts and elect and/or re-elect committee members.

In short it's our time moan, bitch and/or complement. It's no point spending the rest of the year complaining if you don't turn up and give our opinion where it matters. I shall ensure that are political reporter will be there as well as the gossip columnist so make sure your there as well.

Ed.

Page 3 Luvlies

Free Flow
Sept 2007



These pictures remind us not to use your head to shut the car boot and there is always the palmist to predict your future.

If you would like to become Miss or Mr Oct. 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

Although the overall number of club trips has been down this year September looks like a busy month with trips organised to Weymouth (hardboat dive on the pomeranian), Plymouth (survey on the Elk) and Plymouth again at the end of the month (diving and rescue work). Ive also heard rumours of a trip being organised in October so please support this by getting your names down.

The AGM is fast approaching (Tuesday 25th Sept) and if you are interested in becoming a committee member and taking an active part get yourself nominated and get the completed forms into Fran.

Thanks to Vicky who organised a great day out a couple of weeks ago which included a bbq and numerous games being played including rounders and rugby, which also resulted in several members injured!!

Try dive nights are fast approaching (4th and 11th September), so please be prepared to either help out beforehand (advertising etc) or on the night (welcome/dry/wet instruction). If you have anyone interested in a try dive remember you can bring them along any club night.

We have had a very busy interest night schedule so far this year and I am currently looking at planning out the next six months. If you have any ideas or would like to put on an interest night talk then please contact me. When the rooms not in use please come along and make the most of it to catch up, plan trips etc.
What's On

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 4/9 | - | |
| 11/9 | - | Technical diving pros/cons – Phil Turney |
| 18/9 | - | |
| 25/9 | - | AGM |

Future ones awaiting dates

Dive statistics – Ian Jennings
Swimming technique – Mike Hill
Saudi Arabia – Nigel Spickett
Northern Ireland/Salutay – Steve Appleton
Jordan/Aqaba – Phil Lichfield
UK winter diving – Roger Holmes

Regards
Chairman Roj scubaroj@tiscali.co.uk.

Notice of Lutterworth Sub-Aqua Club Annual General Meeting

I am writing to inform you that the Annual General Meeting for the Lutterworth Sub-Aqua Club will take place at Lutterworth Swimming Pool (Creche Room) on September 25th 2007 at 19.30hrs.

I hope you will be able to attend. In case you do not know the composition of the current committee, it is as follows:-

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Chairperson | - | Roger Holmes (Standing for re-election) |
| Secretary | - | Fran Duinker (Retiring) |
| Treasurer | - | Ian Jennings (Standing for re-election) |
| Diving Officer | - | Nigel Spickett (Standing for re-election) |
| Training Officer | - | Richard Green (Retiring) |
| Equipment Officer | - | Gary Rose (Standing for re-election) |
| Boat Officer | - | Ian Jennings (Retiring) |

Club Representatives: Phil Turney, Richard Sykes, Neil Calver

The meeting will involve the voting in of the new committee for the forthcoming year. As a club member it is your responsibility to ensure that the new committee consists of people who will represent what you want from the club over the coming year.

Also enclosed is a nomination form for the new committee. If you feel that someone is an ideal candidate for a position on the committee then nominate that person, get that person's agreement that they wish to stand for that position and get another member to second your nomination. **Then return the form to the secretary (Fran Duinker) by 11th. September 2007 .**

AGM Motion proposed by:
.....
.....
.....
.....

Further motions for consideration at the meeting must be proposed and seconded and delivered to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM.

Many thanks for taking the time and trouble to read this article. I hope to see you at the AGM. Your vote and endorsement of the future of the club is vital.

Chairman Roger



Committee Nomination

| Position | Name | Proposed | Seconded | Accepted | Nominated D.O. approval |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Chairman | | | | | |
| <i>Secretary</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Diving Officer</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Training Officer</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Equipment Officer</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Boat Officer</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Committee Member</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Committee Member</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Committee Member</i> | | | | | |

Diving Officer's Bit

We're now two thirds of the way through this year's dive season and unfortunately another Bank Holiday has passed without a dive trip. I know that the weather this year has discouraged all of us from venturing to the coast, particularly towing the Club's RIBs, but there were less advance bookings for the boats at the start of the season.

We have spent a considerable amount of money on the boats this year sorting out all the little problems. We even have a new trim and tilt switch on Lucky Dip. Both boats have new radios, and a new back up GPS/echosounder has been fitted to Lucky Dip. Having said that the 'old' main unit is now playing up, but most boats only have one unit and we are now getting it sorted out.

We have two first class reliable boats, so lets use them and justify their cost.

This Autumn/Winter, I would like to repeat the exercise of dive planning for the 2008 season. There are already 2 liveboard trips arranged to Norway and the Red Sea, and a couple of other RIB trips planned.

Just because you are not an Advanced diver does not mean you cannot organise a trip. If you have an idea and need help or advice, come and see me and I will find an Advanced diver to assist you.

One of the first trips I would like to plan is Easter. This year was the first in the Club's history that an Easter trip did not take place. I intend making sure that there is an Easter 2008 trip. If you have an idea for a venue, or even if you fancy running it, again give me a call.

Finally, one advantage of Ian's dive statistics exercise is that I get to see all the dive record sheets. Recently I have noticed a number of dives that have been beyond people's qualification. This raises a number of issues, not least that where these dives have been carried out abroad, any insurance cover would be withdrawn as virtually all insurance companies now cover you to the depth of your qualification.

Please stick to your depth limit. If you want to dive deeper, get qualified to do so.

Nigel

Baltimore July 2007

Prior to the convoy setting off for Holyhead, there was the usual shuffling of kit, cloths and personnel between the vehicles; the usual discussions regarding routes, departure times and pick-up points; the usual discussions regarding what kit, cloths, foot wear, etc to take. All of which I should add done with much grace and humour.

The convoy consisted of Martyn O’Driscoll’s of the dive kit and a hired minibus with most of The term convoy being a loose term, since the hour before the minibus. Not withstanding the toilet, fuel and food stops objective 1 was approximately an hour to spare. Note should be enormously enjoyable Pork Pies from Dobbies, Shrewsbury, which coincided with the pick up Andy Hunter.



van with most the personnel. van departed an traditional achieved with made of the on the A5 at location for

The 3½-hour crossing to Dublin Port allowed the party to replenish stomachs, bladders and tuck bags for the onward journey. Sean, who for some strange reason navigated by the various, and numerous, public houses along the route, provided local knowledge through the streets of Dublin. Along with Sean’s stories from the “I used to work there”; “Up there is where my Aunt lives”, “That’s were the Garda went in the front and the moonshine went out the back” catalogues. I’ll not regale the tales of Totty chasing and heavy liquor, after all this is a family publication.



The target destination, Baltimore in County Cork, was achieved just before midnight so not much time was spent on pleasantries rather veiled threats of “see you later” were mumbled. Following a relaxed morning, for some persons a relaxed afternoon, off we set for Barloge Harbour, recently renamed Nivea Bay, for a weight and kit check dive. As the minibus squeezed down the single tracks, often visiting the same track more than once, it was realised that not taking Ann-Marie, our local guide, was perhaps not the best of decisions. Eventually having arrived, later than planned but at

least the rain had stopped, as per the experienced phaffers we are we crawled into action, with everyone getting wet, down to the dizzy depths of 4m max.

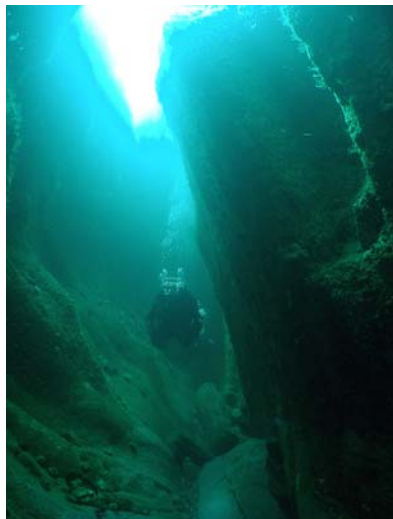
On return to base camp the mystery of the Nivea Box unfolded. Where had Phil “No Pigs” Litchfield left his Nivea Box, filled with his battery charger. To cut a weeks story into a paragraph, some of the none-divers returned to Barloge Harbour, a few days later, and low the box was where expected left in the grass were Phil had left it. At this point it is worth noting that Phil arrived there some 10 minutes later to find it gone and those unnamed none-divers secreted said Nivea Box. For the rest of the week mention was regularly made of the newly named Nivea Bay, much to the chagrin of Phil and merriment of the rest of the party. Fortunately for “No Pigs” it was Bill’s birthday on the final days, and his expression as Bill unwrapped his present, yes a lovely big blue Nivea Box and guess what was inside. “No Pigs” general questioning of our collective



parentages and appearances akin to Pigs was a rewarding result, well done Alice and Emily.

Proper diving commenced the next morning aboard the Wave Chieftain, a spacious hard boat for 12 persons complete with plenty of kitting up area, head and lift. Most of the early part of the week was gentle scenic diving sheltering in the lee of various islands from the general swell of the Atlantic rollers. When we did venture further a field a rocky uncomfortable, for some in terms of proximity to feeding the fish, so much of the diving was conservative, i.e. sheltering in the lee of various Islands.

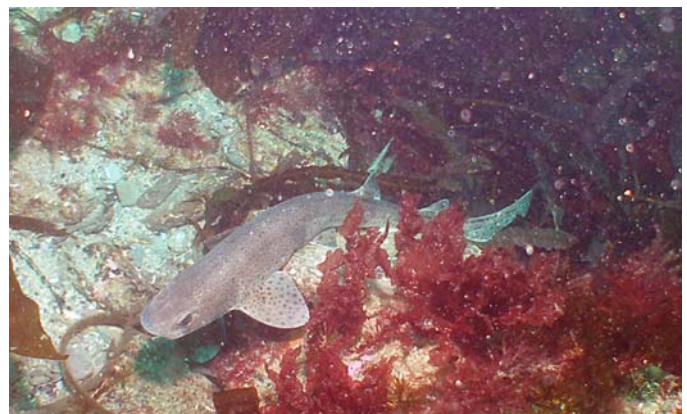
The first dive, Tonelonga Reek, Clear Island was a fairly pleasant bumble with the most notable incident being a somewhat unfortunate DSMB deployment as my octopus decided to free flow at the same time. It is the first time I have had to deploy in a complete whiteout. Naturally buoyancy went out the window but the ascent was halted by 6 meters and a normal safety stop was executed. The next deployment at North Harbour, Clear Island, was almost textbook, with a well-controlled ascent with 3-minute safety. Both these dives were scenic lots of fauna but a lack of large fish, the visibility was reasonable at around 10 meters.



The next day saw us back on Clear Island but this time diving a wreck, the Illunia. She is well broken up and although the visibility was only around 6 meters still managed to find the main boiler with a nice little swim through. We then headed towards Anemone City a cave like crevice where the overhangs near bridge allowing a shaft on sunlight to penetrate. This city is home to some Elephant Ear Anemones and the largest concentration of huge Spider Crabs that I had ever seen. This was heading to be a fantastic dive until Sean decided to save us the bother of deploying the DSMB by being one himself. The second wreck of the day was the Dido, on Spanish Reef, again with poor visibility mainly due to the Atlantic swell stirring up the bottom. We needed to sweep the area before finding the anchor and then the main debris field, namely keel, ribs and plate. We followed this with a general meander through some gullies rising for a swell enhanced safety stop on top of a 6-meter

reef. Yes this meant a very unpleasant surface swim away from the reef before the boat would come close enough to pick us up.

By the third day, due to the swelly sea state and family commitments our contingent started to diminish. Through the week we varied between 9 and 4 divers. The morning dive was a beautiful scenic dive on the North side of Kedge Reef, a regular haunt for the resident seal population, with the reef covered in gullies. Saw a few large Wrasse and myriads of tiddlers but no seals. This turned into a very nice dive, although the run out and back was a tad lumpy. Due to the choppy sea, and thundering stomachs we



decided to play safe with a return to Clear Island, this time Gascanne Sound. With a slight tide running a gentle drift across a stunningly colourful reef with every imaginable colour of Anemone, Fans and Sponges. The dive was complete with an encounter to a large Dogfish totally nonplussed by our presence and wasn't going to move, what a beautiful creature.

Day four saw us venture out again this time to dive Spanish Reef itself. This proved to be a mistake with the visibility varying between 2 to 3-meters and the water full of milky fallout from the battered kelp. After 20 minutes neither Dave nor myself needed a second bidding to abort the dive.

The afternoon saw us back to the safety of Gascanne Sound, which proved to be just as pretty as the previous days dive. Dave even found a crab to play with, but being an area of no taking, Dave must be congratulated for his self control and containment of his base instinct, i.e. if it moves and has a shell Eat It. During this dive was the weird sensation of light and dark as broken clouds past quickly overhead, the weirdness was doing night dives during the middle of the afternoon.



The final day saw some good weather, which allowed us to head for the wreck of the Alondra, Kedge Reef, in the morning and the Kowloon Bridge in the afternoon. The Alondra was a cracking dive although the water was milky finding the boilers, engine, crack etc. Martyn and I were even introduced to a Trigger Fish, by Rianne the owner of Aquaventure who had taken in a novice diver. I didn't know until after the dive how rare it is to see a Trigger Fish in the cold waters around Northern Europe. Now I know where it lives I hope to get back to have a proper look, having not been sure of what I was looking at. We had all looked forward to the afternoon dive, but for me was somewhat disappointing. The Bow section previously up to 6 meters was a perfect place to start and end the dive, one to get your bearings and two as a place to deco. During the winter the entire bow section down to 18 metres had fallen to starboard and lay on the bottom. The shot was dropped into the 1st hold and rather than heading West, to the bow we went East over large areas of plate and iron ore pellets, with not a lot of real points of recognition or interest. Having dived the Kowloon Bridge 3 times before she is now a shadow of the wreck I remember.

There were of course a number of none divers, who apparently had to cope with some wicked weather, and seemed to enjoy themselves, but I can only report this second hand. Even though it was a dive trip it was very much a family holiday as well.





NOMINATIONS WANTED

Someone, somewhere **MUST** be doing some 'above average' Navigation.

I haven't had many nominations to date, so there must be lots of people not finding things you set off to look at, or having long swims home!

(I could nominate myself on the 'bad navigation' side of things...:At 6m on the shotline above the Stanegarth I

Ian Jennings - 1st September 2007

Pathfinder 2007

managed to 'navigate' us in completely the wrong direction...

I realised just before we hit the far wall! And yes that was a long swim home – Sorry Mike!) – Please don't tell Fran about this... it might become a 'Dob-in'

But if people are doing the good navigation, their buddies aren't telling me about it, so if you have been impressed by someone's navigation on a dive (for whatever reason) or it's just simply 'above average', 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 their navigational abilities (be they good or just 'interesting'!)

Members Dives 2007 – To The End of August

Hi all.

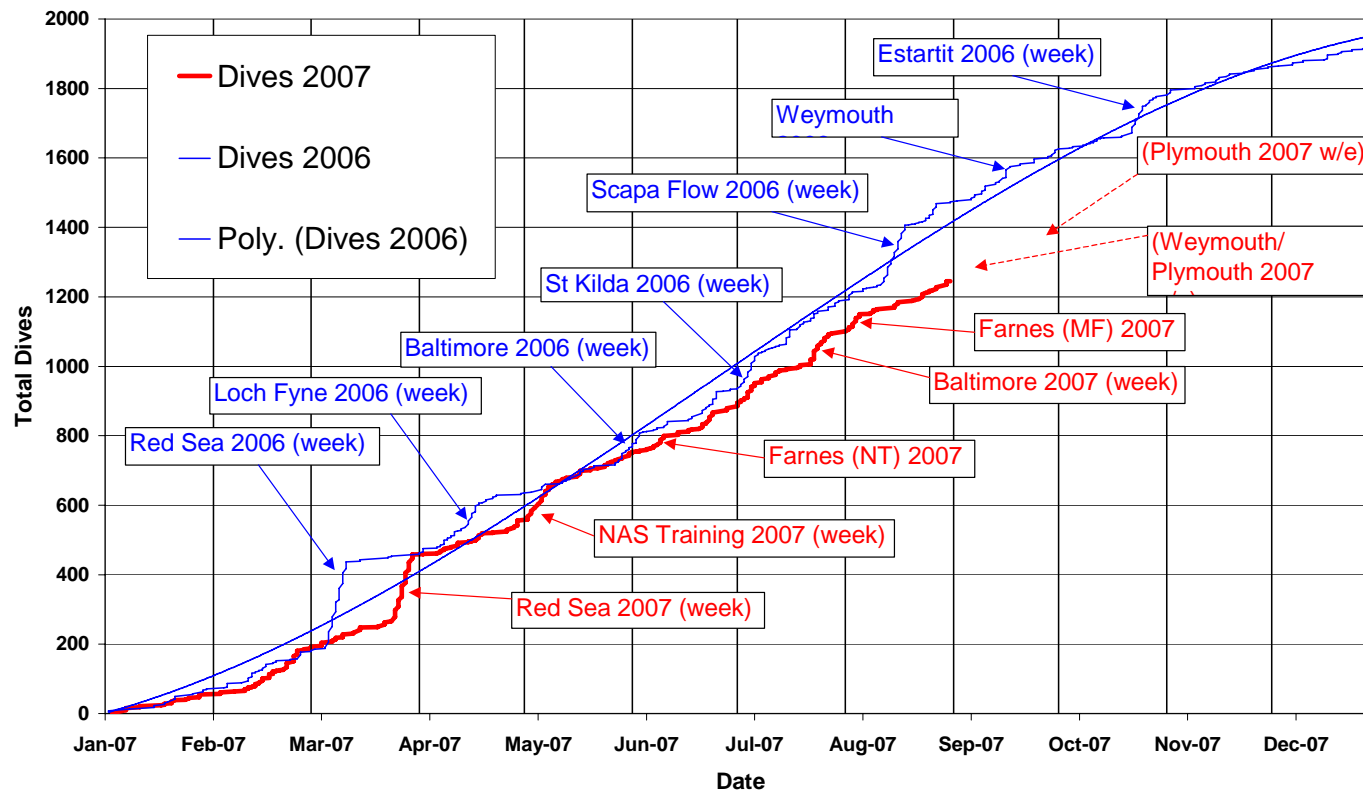
The end of the main diving season is coming up fast and it is apparent that we, as a club, will not be doing as many dives as we did last year. Considering this, I started allocation the trips to the 'lumps' on the dives done graph (see below).

You can hopefully see that the blue 'last year' and red 'this year' lines have now diverged to over 200 dives - this being mainly due to there being a Scapa Flow trip

last year, whereas there wasn't an equivalent trip this year.

However looking at it as a whole it is apparent that there were also more trips lasting about a week last year compared to this year!

There are only three more (weekend) trips planned this year so I forecast we'll be lucky to reach 1500 dives!



The main statistics chart is given overleaf and the is as up to date as possible (but Fran and Steve have just come back from a week's diving – so there might be some changes when their dive statistics are added!)

Ian Jennings
2nd Sept. 2007

