

WaterSpout

Spring 2013



2013 Dive Program

The Magazine of Bournemouth & Poole Dive Club
Established 1954 and celebrating 59 years of Safe Diving

Bournemouth and Poole Dive Club is open to ALL qualified divers (we ♥ PADI!) and owns a 7.25m RIB, kept at Parkstone Bay Marina. It's fuelled and ready to go and you could be onboard.

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Cover Photo – Saeed Rashid – Pout Shoal on the Fleur Swanage

Chairman's Blog

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to Waterspout, the annual magazine and Dive Program of the Bournemouth and Poole Diving Club. As you can see the club continues to offer adventurous, safe diving on each and every Saturday and Sunday from Easter to Halloween. This year we will continue to dive from our own 7.5 metre diesel-inboard RIB based conveniently at Parkstone Bay Marina, one of Poole's premier boating facilities. The boat is fully maintained, fuelled and launched by the marina making it readily available whenever required. Remember, membership of the club gives you a part-share in this fantastic arrangement and together with our price banding approach, makes diving with us affordable and convenient.

As the enclosed Dive Program shows, Saturdays will continue to provide a sound, developmental environment with easy local diving which is "Done by Lunchtime". Sunday's dive sites will appeal to the more adventurous wreck diver who is able to devote more time to their sport.

Our expeditions continue to offer a wider spectrum of diving with trips already planned to Bovisand and the Red Sea. Our close relationship with the RNLI also gives us access to their superb Training Pool which we are able to utilise for pre-season warm ups and training as required.

The club will be socially active this year and will offer a range of diving related events to keep you interested throughout the year. We are also proud to continue our mutually beneficial relationship with Dorset Diving Services. This enables divers to receive professional training and equipment advice and then provides a supportive, active local diving organisation within which to enjoy the sport.

So, to established and prospective members I say. "Join us and Dive"

Adrian King (Chairman)

60th Anniversary Celebrations

Next year will be the clubs 60th anniversary, so the committee will be thinking of ways of celebrating this event and in some cases will need to book things this year to secure venues/dates etc.

I've been having a think about ways in which we commemorate the Clubs Diamond anniversary:

- A 60th dinner. A bit of an obvious choice, but we did this on the 50th anniversary at the Royal Motor Yacht Club on Sandbanks. From what I remember it was a great night with old and present members attending. A few stories were remembered and retold, perhaps my favourite was the tale of Johnny Hoy crashing a plane in Poole Bay one morning then diving the new wreck in the afternoon! I think a 60th dinner, with a guest speaker, possibly at the RNLI would be a good night out and one to remember till the 75th anniversary. We are checking out the venue during the visit to the RNLI pool on the 22nd of March;
- Attempting to visit 60 dive sites in the year, this would be good motivation for people to get out and do a few more dives. The target represents over a dive site a week, but with a few trips away, and some imagination easily achievable;
- An overseas expedition – we haven't done a big club trip abroad for a while, so this could be the ideal opportunity and also help towards the target of 60 sites. I'm going to check out the Isle of Coiba in Panama whilst on holiday, which is described as the poor mans Galapagos;
- A special 60th copy of Waterspout, incorporating some of the classic articles from the 60 years worth of back copies, plus members new accounts of favourite dives etc;
- A new club T shirt/Sweat shirt.

Just a few ideas to get the ball rolling, but let the committee have some feed back to make 2014 a year to really remember in the clubs history.

Expeditions Officer

Yung Leung has taken over the role of Expeditions Officer, so will be looking for ideas for next year's trips and possibly some trips later this year. You should be able to catch him in the Fiveways most Monday nights.

The Black Art of Navigation

Diving is a pleasure but for me it's only part of the challenge of being on the water. The other big attraction is the boating it involves. It is possible to do boat handling courses through the club and one aspect of these is navigation. Most of our boating is done out of Poole where we rely upon local knowledge to get from the yard to the sea and back, but in an unknown port a need of basic navigation and pilotage is required. About a third of the club's members have done some boat handling but to the others it must seem a bit of a black art.

So, as a revision to the well informed and as a learning exercise to the, as yet, uninitiated I thought I would set a short quiz together with some short explanations. So why not have a go?

1. Which side is Port?
2. Which side is Starboard?
3. What colour are Port hand buoys?
4. What colour are Starboard hand buoys?
5. What's a good way to remember this?
6. What colour buoys go on which side on your way into port?
7. What shape is a red buoy?
8. What shape is a green buoy?
9. Why is this?
10. What's a good way to remember this?
11. What type of marks have black triangles on the top?
12. What type of marks are yellow and black?
13. What do these marks indicate?
14. Which side of them should you pass?
15. How do you remember what the triangle combinations mean?
16. How do you remember what the Yellow /Black combinations mean?
17. How can you tell where the four points of the compass are without a compass?
18. Where does the sun rise?

19. Where does it set?
20. Where is it at midday GMT?
21. Which direction does Poole harbour mouth face?
22. What can a buoy tell you about the tide?
23. What can't a buoy tell you about the state of the tide?
24. What can a known post tell you about the tide?
25. What do you need to know to safely get past the chain ferry?
26. What's the speed limit in Poole Harbour?
27. Where does the speed limit end?
28. When does it apply?
29. Trick question. Where is the Poole Fairway buoy?
30. Where did it use to be?

Answers at the back

Scallops

no its true!

Here is a belter of a recipe for scallops. I've served this up loads of times and you just can't go wrong.

Ingredients for 4 starters

8 Scallops, cleaned and out of their shells.

400 ml (3/4 of a pint) of milk.

40 g (1 ½ oz) butter.

60 ml (4 level tablespoons) plain flour.

100 g (4 oz) strong cheddar cheese.

Salt & Pepper

Bread Crumbs.

Cut each scallop into 2 or 3 pieces, cover with some of the milk and simmer till tender about 5 minutes (the recipe says 10 but it's better to under cook them). Drain from the milk (**keep the milk**) and set to one side.

Melt the butter in the pan, stir in the flour and cook for 2 or 3 minutes. Take the pan off the heat and add all the milk slowly, stirring so it doesn't get too lumpy. Put back on the heat, slowly bringing it to a simmer, stirring all the time, until it thickens. Add 75 g (3 oz) of the cheese to the sauce and mix it in to the sauce, add salt and pepper to taste.

Divide the scallops into four small oven proof dishes or use the cleaned scallop shells (a much nicer touch) pour the sauce on top and sprinkle the breadcrumbs and remaining cheese on top, brown under a hot grill and prepare for the praise which will follow.

This recipe works well with frozen scallops - we had them as a starter for Christmas Dinner. Also you could quite easily make this a main course by tripling the quantities.

He's How Old??

On December 7th 2012 our erstwhile training officer turned 80 years old! John Mears is a remarkable individual, not only is he still diving at 80 but he is our most prolific diving member. The rest of us should be hanging our heads in shame! About 20 club members got together to celebrate and John was presented with a certificate and an engraved tankard with which to remember the occasion.



Dorset Diving Services

“Next Generation of Divers”

Select Diving had a good year last year (despite seeing the sun for about three hours) with over 100 new students qualifying on different courses.

One thing that we didn't see many of was the 'next generation', which is where we are focusing our efforts this year. Courses start from 8 years old with the Bubble Maker and Seal Team Courses and from 10 they can complete the Junior Open Water Course (*Emil starts his course on the 22/2/13 – Vic*).

Going diving with my family are some of my fondest memories, memories that I hope you can share with your family as well.

Safe and happy diving everyone.

Ellis Watson

Club Group Spaces Guide

The clubs currently runs and manages all diving and events through the Groupspaces website.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the club and diving off the Dorset Coast can join our Groupspaces site at <http://groupspaces.com/BournemouthandPooleDivingClub/>

Simply click “Join Group” and enter your details. If you plan to actually dive with us, then you will need to enter your emergency NOK contact details. Only dive marshals and club officials can see these details, and nothing inside the first welcome page can be indexed by Google etc.

When you have applied, there will be a short delay whilst a club official authorises you.

The three most important tabs you will see are

- Club information – virtually everything you may want to know about the club
- Calendar – updated throughout the year with events. When a marshal lists a dive trip, you can click on the calendar to see the details and click “attending” to tell everyone you are going. The boat will wait for you so please update correctly.
- Dive program – which will show most of our planned dives throughout the year. This is subject to change by the dive marshals depending on who wishes to go.

There is also a forum, where you can ask, sell or discuss just about anything diving related. If you click the archive tab, you will see all previous messages and emails sent out.

The site is there for you to use, so please do use it.

How Much Air Do I Need

When did you last calculate the amount of air required for a dive, was it when you did your sports diver training? Most of us find as our experience progresses monitoring air consumption and depth and time are sufficient controls for our dive needs. Dive patterns become second nature, because for example, like our club we get a good knowledge of local sites and usual buddies. Additionally, diving equipment has changed; many divers now carry a redundant air supply which covers most eventualities, such as twin 10 litre cyls. Technical improvements also help; some dive computers will do it for you, taking your breathing rate and cylinder capacity and beep an alarm when your air is reaching its reserve levels.

However, knowing your personal air consumption rate can be useful and a reminder of the factors that affect our breathing rate on a dive is helpful, when discussing with a buddy planned dive duration and decompression requirements.

Factors affecting air consumption are:

- Are we a little less fit than last year?
- Could the dive be a bit dark and induce anxiety?
- Might the dive include a degree of hard work or a lot of finning?
- The use of a lift bag will mean you have a lot less air for your dive.
- If the dive is in cold conditions more air is normally required.
- Are you doing a deeper or longer dive than usual?

A personal note - I have dived with a 12 litre tank and my buddy has got through a 15 litre cylinder in a short space of time. It all comes down to your personal air consumption rate.

Physically we all vary and we all breathe greater or less air for a given activity. Running for a bus with friends quickly illustrates this.

DETERMINING YOUR EQUIVALENT SURFACE AIR CONSUMPTION (SAC)

Practical approach using a slate and a square profile dive gather the following information on a non decompression dive.

Note the pressure of air in the cylinder, depth and the time, at each stage of the dive.

That is:

- At the surface.
- When the maximum depth is reached.
- At the start of the ascent.
- At the first stop usually 6 metres.
- When you are back in the boat.

Do this for a number of dives to obtain an average.

Remember Boyles law - Pressure X volume = a constant (K) where a constant temperature is maintained.

Remember Absolute pressure - Absolute Pressure Equals the pressure at depth plus atmospheric pressure.

To start take the recorded depth and time for the deepest part of the dive. Say 20 metres for 20 minutes

195 bar at the start (at depth) 80 bar at start of ascent = 115 bar used.

Volume of tank 12 litres

Therefore the volume used was 115 bar X 12 litres = 1380 litre of air used at depth.

Over 20 minutes this is 1380/20 = 69 litres/ minute.

At 20 metres depth, the absolute pressure is 3 bar.

The equivalent surface air consumption would be

$69/3 = 23$ litres per minute.

Once you have done this for a number of dives a personal average can be used as a guide to the time that you can spend at depth.

The same procedure can be used to calculate the air used for decent and ascent.

e.g. say 4 bar used on descent then take half of the max depth 10 metres for calculation purposes.

Descent takes 1 minute

4 bar X 12litre (cyl. capacity) = 48 litres of air breathed/minute

At 10 metres absolute pressure is 2 bar

SAC = $48/2 = 24$ litres/min

Consumption on ascent can be calculated in the same way.

Having arrived at our average surface air consumption we can quickly see how long our 12 litre tank might last.

How does this help in practice?

- An idea of the amount of air used at every stage of your dive.
- Use of air for ancillaries e.g. DSMB
- Decompression stage.
- Safe reserve.

Using a 12 litre tank filled to 232 bar as an example the amount of air used at depth on a no stop dive would be.

$232 \times 12 = 2784$ litres

A reserve must be kept for ascent and emergencies this varies with depth.

Using 80 bar as an example then

80 bar X 12 = 960 litres reserve

Using the above $2784 - 960 = 1824$ litres and 23 ltrs./ min. SAC

DEPTH	SURFACE VOL.	VOLUME REDUCTION	AVAILABLE AIR LTRS.	DIVE TIME MINS.
0	1824	1	1824	79
10	1824	.5	912	39
20	1824	.333	607	26
30	1824	.25	456	20
40	1824	.20	365	16

The above table shows how the volume of air decreases the deeper underwater we are. It must be remembered that even though more oxygen breathed in at depth the amount that the body metabolises is the same. The excess inspired is not used.

The volume of air, at any depth is calculated by

Volume litres = $1/P$ pressure (bar)

Since we must deal with absolute Pressure we must add one bar to include atmospheric pressure to the above.

Volume at depth (litres) = $1 + 1/P$ (Pressure at planned depth)

To recap taking note of time, depth and pressure at each stage of a series of dives gives us the means to determine our equivalent surface breathing rate in litres per minute. This can be used in estimating the air and time available for a planned dive.

John Mears

Training Officer

Dive Program 2013

The Dive program is open to non-members, dives can be booked anytime, but club members take priority till the Thursday before the weekend. The Marshal can show discretion if non-members are members guests and are traveling a long way. All Dive sites are provisional on weather and experience of divers, **the dive marshal will attempt to meet everyone's needs. If you want to go diving irrespective of the dive site phone the Marshal!** The Boat will go out diving with a minimum of two divers and an approved boat handler, so why not organize a few evening dives. **If you are down as marshal and can't make it contact John Lewis or Vic. If no marshal is assigned then why not arrange a dive?**

Day	Date	HW Dover Local Time		Arrive for Slack Water	Approx departure time	Proposed Dive site	Dive Band (cost)	Marshal	Telephone no.	Mobile no	Notes
		hr	min								
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friday	29-Mar-13	12	10	11:10	9:40	Tanks					
Saturday	30-Mar-13	12	49	11:49	10:19	Poole Patches					
Sunday	31-Mar-13	14	32	13:32	12:02	Betsy Anna					
Monday	01-Apr-13	15	20	14:20	12:50	Fleur/Tanks					
Saturday	06-Apr-13	8	59	13:59	12:29	Poole Patches					
Sunday	07-Apr-13	9	58	14:58	13:28	Tanks					
Saturday	13-Apr-13	13	43	12:43	11:13	Swanage Bay					
Sunday	14-Apr-13	14	17	13:17	11:47	Kyarra/Firth Fisher					
Saturday	20-Apr-13	7	30	12:30	11:00	Peveril Ledges					
Sunday	21-Apr-13	8	38	13:38	12:08	Tanks/Fluer					
Saturday	27-Apr-13	12	49	11:49	10:19	Peveril Ledges					

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>HW Dover Local Time</u>		<u>Arrive for Slack Water</u>	<u>Approx departure time</u>	<u>Proposed Dive site</u>	<u>Dive Band (cost)</u>	<u>Marshall</u>	<u>Telephone no.</u>	<u>Mobile no</u>	<u>Notes</u>
		<u>hr</u>	<u>min</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday	28-Apr-13	13	32	12:32	11:02	Carantan					
Saturday	04-May-13	7	24	12:24	10:54	Peveril Ledges					
Sunday	05-May-13	8	32	13:32	12:02	Besy Anna					
Monday	06-May-13	9	30	14:30	13:00	Kyarra					
Saturday	11-May-13	12	48	11:48	10:18	West Bay	TBC	V			
Sunday	12-May-13	13	22	12:22	10:52	West Bay	TBC	Vic			
Saturday	18-May-13	17	50	16:50	15:20	Mile Markers	B				
						TBC					
Sunday	19-May-13	7	39	12:39	11:09	Borgany					
Saturday	25-May-13	11	45	10:45	9:15	Kimmeridge	TBC				
Sunday	26-May-13	12	31	11:31	10:01	Kimmeridge	TBC	M			
Monday	27-May-13	13	19	12:19	10:49	Kimmeridge	TBC	M			
Saturday	01-Jun-13	18	10	17:10	15:40	Swanage Bay					
						TBC					Possible Afternoon Dive
Sunday	02-Jun-13	6	50	11:50	10:20	Firth Fisher					
Saturday	08-Jun-13	11	56	10:56	9:26	Kyarra					
Sunday	09-Jun-13	12	31	11:31	10:01	Betsy Anna					

Day	Date	HW Dover Local Time		Arrive for Slack Water	Approx departure time	Proposed Dive site	Dive Band (cost)	Marshall	Telephone no.	Mobile no	Notes
		hr	min								
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saturday	15-Jun-13	16	10	15:10	13:40	Kimmeridge	TBC				
											Dive
Sunday	16-Jun-13	17	4	16:04	14:34	Kyarra					
Saturday	22-Jun-13	10	39	15:39	14:09	Kyara/Mile Mar					
Sunday	23-Jun-13	11	29	16:29	14:59	Borgany					
Saturday	29-Jun-13	16	30	15:30	14:00	Poole Patches					
Sunday	30-Jun-13	17	30	16:30	15:00	Venezuela					
Saturday	06-Jul-13	11	2	16:02	14:32	Swanage Bay					
						TBC					Possible Afternoon Dive
Sunday	07-Jul-13	11	40	16:40	15:10	Baron					
Saturday	13-Jul-13	14	59	13:59	12:29	Poole Patches					
Sunday	14-Jul-13	15	39	14:39	13:09	Aparima					
Saturday	20-Jul-13	9	26	14:26	12:56	Kyarra					
Sunday	21-Jul-13	10	25	15:25	13:55	Sargasso					
Saturday	27-Jul-13	15	6	14:06	12:36	Poole Patches					
Sunday	28-Jul-13	15	53	14:53	13:23	Galia					
Saturday	03-Aug-13	9	54	14:54	13:24	Poole Patches					

Day	Date	HW Dover Local Time		Arrive for Slack Water	Approx departure time	Proposed Dive site	Dive Band (cost)	Marshall	Telephone no.	Mobile no	Notes
		hr	min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday	04-Aug-13	10	42	15:42	14:12	Ajax					
Saturday	10-Aug-13	13	58	12:58	11:28	Peveril Ledges					
Sunday	11-Aug-13	14	32	13:32	12:02	Hartburn					
Saturday	17-Aug-13	8	4	13:04	11:34	Kyarra					
Sunday	18-Aug-13	9	16	14:16	12:46	Baron					
Saturday	24-Aug-13	13	54	12:54	11:24	West Bay		Paul Bluett			
Sunday	25-Aug-13	14	34	13:34	12:04						
Monday	26-Aug-13	15	16	14:16	12:46						
Saturday	31-Aug-13	8	19	13:19	11:49	Swanage Bay					
Sunday	01-Sep-13	9	24	14:24	12:54	Kyarra					
Saturday	07-Sep-13	12	59	11:59	10:29	Mile Markers					
Sunday	08-Sep-13	13	31	12:31	11:01	Avanti					
Saturday	14-Sep-13	6	27	11:27	9:57	Pevril Ledges					
Sunday	15-Sep-13	7	55	12:55	11:25	Derna					
Saturday	21-Sep-13	12	50	11:50	10:20	Swanage Bay					
Sunday	22-Sep-13	13	27	12:27	10:57	Venezuela					
Saturday	28-Sep-13	18	49	17:49	16:19	Kyarra					

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>HW Dover Local Time</u>		<u>Arrive for Slack Water</u>	<u>Approx departure time</u>	<u>Proposed Dive site</u>	<u>Dive Band (cost)</u>	<u>Marshall</u>	<u>Telephone no.</u>	<u>Mobile no</u>	<u>Notes</u>
		<u>hr</u>	<u>min</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunday	29-Sep-13	20	13	19:13	17:43	Galia					ht dive
Saturday	05-Oct-13	11	58	10:58	9:28	Poole Patches					
Sunday	06-Oct-13	12	31	11:31	10:01	Aparima					
Saturday	12-Oct-13	4	51	9:51	8:21	Kyarra					
Sunday	13-Oct-13	6	18	11:18	9:48	Venezuela					
Saturday	19-Oct-13	11	51	10:51	9:21	Swanage Bay					
Sunday	20-Oct-13	12	27	11:27	9:57	Baron					
Saturday	26-Oct-13	16	34	15:34	14:04	Poole Patches					
Sunday	27-Oct-13	16	51	15:51	14:21	Carantan					

Stoney Revisited

Going back to Stoney Cove last August was a nostalgic trip for me as I hadn't been there for nearly ten years and at that time, for the Club I was in, it was a regular training venue. So



before I moved down here to the coast, I was up there quite often. So when a visit to relatives in Milton Keynes was coming up I took the opportunity to meet up with old dive buddies to go there. A mid week trip was agreed because at weekends it gets rather crowded.

VIEW FROM TERRACE LOOKING BACK TOWARDS THE SHOP AND THE ENTRANCE

We arrived at about 09-45 to find some of the party just going in for their dive so we got changed quickly so that we could provide surface cover.

30 minutes later it was our turn to dive. Our plan was to navigate across the lake to the sunken bus from the jetty, via the fuselage on the six metre ledge, then reset the bearing to get to the Stanegarh, (a sunken River Severn tug boat) then reset to get to another sunken boat, the Defiant. Reset bearings again to get back to the Jetty slipway via the now rather tatty Westland Helicopter - divers have carved so many bits off it that it is now skeletal. The bearings were 220 degrees to the bus, 120 deg to the Stanegarh, 130 deg to the Defiant then 90 deg back to the jetty slipway. The dive went according to plan and the best bit was holding the bearing as we dropped off the cliff at the edge of the six metre ledge, dropping from six to 22 metres. Keeping the bearing allowed us to hit the bus spot on. The other targets were found as easily. There are fish to see: Perch, Carp, Pike and the now rare white clawed crayfish. We didn't see the Pike on this trip but some of them are impressive. Then it was back to the slipway by the jetty for a slippery exit. It's alright once your fins are off as you can get some purchase as you place your gear on the Jetty. We took our tanks up for refills, went and got tea and a roll at the cafe and waited out a surface interval until it was time for the next dive.

John Mears

Diving Officers Report

Now into 2013 I can sit back and reflect on 2012 and now thoroughly depressed I can reach for the bottle and drown it all out – well not all of it. It started pretty badly with a trip to the tanks that was so rough, we ended going out to the Betsy Anna as we thought it was the only thing we had a chance of finding! Great minds think alike on a pretty dismal day we found ourselves sharing the site with one of the Swanage boats. With divers in the water we found ourselves in the middle of a yacht race, where the A flag seemed to mean nothing – robust action was needed and taken to keep them at bay. I only got in the water because the idea of staying on the boat was worse. The only saving grace was if we were having a grim time, the hard boat divers were having a much worse one being tossed all over the place, a greener crew I have rarely seen!

The next trip provided entertainment in the form of a dolphin escort out from the harbour entrance. If you want to see a bunch of grown men acting like teenage girls, look up “Poole Bay Dolphins Bournemouth and Poole Dive Club” on youtube its quite depressing.

Having avoided the potential new wreck site until John Lewis could make it for the first couple of dives, the lure eventually proved too much, unfortunately the clear echo trace had vanished, probably a ghost net, who knows, so we ended up on the Carantan.

Unfortunately it didn't get any better, with West Bay having to be cancelled, which for once hindsight proved to be exactly the right decision. We did manage to squeeze a few dives in at the end of the season, with a good days scalloping off Kimmeridge, on a cold day with blue skies and a flat sea for the intrepid few. 5 dozen scallops apiece and the oversized discard into Swanage Bay will hopefully pay dividends in the future. The booty taken home provided sashimi and au gratin on the night (see recipe in this issue – you just can't go wrong) plus a Christmas dinner starter.

I think the major learning point from the last few years is that the weather seems to be better at the beginning and end of the diving season. So we need to fill our boots while we can, the elusive summer never seems to arrive when we expect it. On this basis I'm going to get my cylinders into Daves in the next few weeks ready to start diving as soon as the weather permits.

To quote the ubiquitous Professor Brian Cox (of D Ream) “things can only get better” (how ironic that this was the campaign music for the labour party under Tony Blair) on the weather front, 2013 will be the new 2006, the year of weekends of blue skies and flat seas – my glass has always been half full with a pint on its way! (even if it has been lime and soda on Monday Nights recently)

Safe Diving

Vic

A Personnel History on A Page



Probably being the most seasick person on the planet, many wonder why I took up diving.

It all started back in 1979 when I met Neil at a mutual friend's birthday party. He was already a diver & I was a keen swimmer, but being at Uni couldn't afford the dive fees or kit costs.

My first job was in Bedford, probably the furthest point in the country from the sea. Training done in the pool (which came to my rescue many years later) and then it was off to

various lakes & quarries (including Stoney Cove on many occasions).

I completed my 3rd class (back in the old days) diving with Bill Wreatham who dragged me under the water like I was on a water ski! We spent good times in Salcombe on a house boat & it opened my eyes to see how you guys act on a boat. One of the many comments I remember is from Stu Ching (one of the blubber brothers but not any more) "You're are not a woman, you are a Jacki"

Anyway I survived & many other ladies like me... Sue Minchin, Jenny, Alfie, Lou, Charlie & other girlies xx

Anyway, going on, I achieved various qualifications & got to open water instructor.

The instinct doesn't stop as when I was on a holiday and a pair of Japanese divers got into trouble, instinct kicked in and an assisted lift rescued the day.

My diving demise has to be put down to that too. I remember the day well... a dive on Kyrra to take some trainees on their last dive of the season, where my trainee was leading me, but I had an ear problem. I pushed it & thought all was well. Got through the dive & the first thing Vic said to me that "Hey Jacks, you hair dye is running" Well guess what.....

I have now had a perforated ear drum for 5 years, which is why I haven't been in the water, either the pool or sea, but hope to see you at RNIL in Feb

Jacki Campbell



No Wrecks, But Plenty of Riches

I've written a couple of these travel reports in the past when I go somewhere I've not been to before and last year, at the end of August, was another first for me – Taba in Egypt.

Taba is almost as far up the Gulf of Aqaba as you can go with mountains of granite behind and the waters of the gulf in front. On the border with Israel and Jordan, and just across the short stretch of water from Saudi Arabia it is still a developing area and although a small resort there are plenty of places to eat if you don't go on an all-inclusive holiday. Whilst I am going to concentrate on the diving there are plenty of other activities on offer including, quad biking trips through the granite gorges and day trips to Jordan to see the city of Petra carved into the red mountain rock.



The first thing you'll notice on your transfer to the resort from the airport is the number of Egyptian security forces. The border with Israel is volatile but any trouble tends to occur further north and there haven't been any incidents here since the bombing of the Hilton Hotel in 2004. However, because of the proximity to Israel, there are some restrictions on the diving out of Taba – boats can only access sites that are no more than a certain distance from the shore and there is no night diving allowed – I was told this is because the Israelis are paranoid and the Egyptians clearly don't want to aggravate them.

Taba has one dive centre – Red Sea Waterworld. This is a large, well run centre with several boats catering for all levels and offers PADI training courses if required. Open buses shuttle between the hotels and dive centre every ten minutes so getting to and from your hotel is no problem. It also has a house reef which I am assured is a good dive although I never did it myself.

And now to the diving. For those hardened wreckies amongst you Taba will disappoint. There are no wrecks in the area. However, in my view this is completely compensated for by the sheer abundance of life and the healthy reefs. I saw things here in numbers I had never experienced before. For example, on one dive alone I spotted at least 8 nudibranch including 3 different types. I think I had only spotted one or two in all my previous trips to the red sea. The area is also renowned for frogfish and it didn't disappoint – I had only ever seen one frogfish in all my years before this trip – I saw 2 in a week in a Taba! Morays galore, stone

fish, crocodile fish, scorpion fish, schools of barracuda – it's all there on virtually every dive and in numbers.

The water temperature during my two weeks was a steady 28C with the usual fantastic Red Sea visibility – a 3mm shorty will suffice as most dives will be in the 45 – 60 minute range. With the exception of Farun Island, which is about a 45 min boat ride, most of the sites are within 10 – 25 minutes boat ride away. There are very few currents and the strongest I encountered was on Zak's Tables. All dives were done on a single 12 ltr cylinder and I stuck to 21% all week. Some the dives I've listed below were done a couple of times.

MUQABLI – Max depth 21 mtrs, dive time 51 mins. Lovely reef close to the shore. Bags of life, green and grey scorpion fish, morays everywhere, schools of barracuda, great coral.

ZAK'S TABLES – Max depth 17 mtrs, dive time 52 mins. This is a flat sandy area punctuated all over with huge table corals and coral ergs smothered in life. Clown fish everywhere you look, Morays galore, turtles and a large stone fish (another first for me)

RAS AMIRA – Max depth 24 mtrs, dive time 45 mins. Drop into 8 mtrs and down a sandy slope with coral outcrops to the reef wall. Lots of life and colourful coral.

MAXWELLS – Max depth 20 mtrs, dive time 51 mins. Another sandy bottom dive with coral ergs and outcrops everywhere, bags of life, lovely coral.

AQUARIUM – Max depth 19 mtrs, dive time 58 minutes. This site is very close Maxwells and is a similar dive, however, here we found a white frogfish and it's well worth just hanging in the water and watch them crawl around on their fin legs for a while.

FJORD – Max depth 26 mtrs, dive time 55 minutes. This is a strange site. You drop into about 6 mtrs of water and swim over a lovely reef to a depth of 12 mtrs whereupon you are confronted with a huge hole in the sea bed. The hole is about 25 mtrs across and descends to 26 mtrs. There is no life at all in here but there is a fresh water spring coming up from the bottom so there is a distinct thermocline and halocline and you descend. Near the top of the hole we did spot a beautiful red anemone with resident clownfish but that's about all the life there is the hole. The surrounding reef however, is full of life and colour.

FARUN ISLAND – Max depth 20 mtrs, dive time 58 mins. This is the site of an old fort which is still there. A spectacular dive following the wall of island – fantastic reef covered in swarms of fish in gin clear water. It can get a bit a busy here on the surface as this is a popular spot for snorkelling day trips but as there is only one dive centre in the area it still remains quiet below the surface.

FARUN COVE – Max depth 18 mtrs, dive time 55 mins. This is the cove next the island and starts out over a sandy bottom before you come to an area covered in low coral outcrops. Crocodile fish, octopus, nudibranch and morays everywhere a fabulous dive for life.

ANGELS NET – Max depth 22 mtrs, dive time 52 minutes. Another site which is covered in coral outcrops and ergs and smothered in life. Stone fish, scorpion fish, nudibranch, moray etc – all can be seen here amongst the healthy reefs.

Simon Bevan (unhappy stone fish face – like the one he had on the Betsy Anna last year!)



Navigation Quiz answers

1. Port is left
2. Starboard is right
3. Port markers are Red
4. Starboard markers are Green
5. Think, "There is no more red port(wine) left"
6. Red buoys go on your left side on the way into port (as per the flood tide)
7. Red buoys are slightly tapered with a flat top
8. Green buoys are conical with a pointed top
9. If the sun is in your eyes you can't tell what colour a buoy is, but you can tell its shape in silhouette
10. Green buoys are conical like a pine cone
11. Cardinal marks have 2 black triangles on the top
12. Cardinal marks are always yellow and black
13. Cardinal marks indicate the safe side of a danger
14. The Cardinal mark should always be between you and the danger
15. Both pointing up =North. Both pointing down = South. Both pointing at each other, looks like a woman's waist = West. Both pointing away from each other, looks like an Easter egg= East
16. Think, the tips of the points = black
17. Use the position of the sun
18. East
19. West
20. The highest point in the sky, draw a line down to the horizon and that's south. (this is 11am during BST)
21. East
22. Which direction, and how fast its flowing
23. A buoy can't tell you what state the tide is in, i.e. high, low or mid-tide.
24. The tide mark on a known post can tell you what state the tide is in, i.e. High low or mid-tide
25. What direction the tide is going
26. 10 Knots, 6 in the area of the port
27. At the western end of the training bank where it meets the land (not at the ferry!)
28. All year around! Excluding the main channels from 31 Oct to 31 March.
29. On the Holes Bay roundabout next to MacDonalds!
30. At the seaward end of the Swash Channel

West Bay Weekends – the Next Move

Most of you will know about the Club's annual pilgrimage to West Bay (and if not – unless you have been involved with the Club for less than a year – well, shame on you!) but in essence, every August Bank Holiday weekend we up sticks, trail the boat down the coast and enjoy a few days of varied diving, camping and socialising. As best as I can find out, the first, very experimental trip was back in 1992; following a great deal of research, checking out campsites, slipways, potential dive sites and (it must be said) pubs, nobody was really sure how well it would go. Giving up the comforts of home for a flimsy shelter on a damp field was a big ask, especially for those with a family in tow. Would the diving really be worth the effort? What was there for the non-divers? Just how local were the local amenities? What about getting cylinders filled? And so on. Basically, would enough people turn up and would it work?

The answer seems to have been an emphatic 'yes'. After all, we're still going back.

Things have got easier with repetition of course. The manager of the campsite knows us so well now that we ring up beforehand, get an update on the condition of the field and get him to tape off a favoured section for us. We know roughly how long it takes to get to many of the dive sites and can be much more flexible with the programme. We've even managed to blag permission to leave the boat on a mooring overnight, saving the daily grind of launch and recovery. The village has proved to be a perfect location: compact, easy to get to, shops and pubs only minutes walk from the campsite and close enough to Bournemouth for people to drop down just for the day if they can't spare more time – and, it must be said, to bolt for home if the weather turns seriously vile. And we've always managed to get everybody, pushchairs and all, in somewhere for a meal on the Sunday night.

Back in the early noughties we flirted with other locations, once at Buddleigh Salterton and then at Salcombe; it was okay but there were issues. The campsites weren't within walking distance of anything except another field; transporting divers and all their gear to and from the boat could turn into a hair-wrenchingly frustrating business; water-taxis out to the boat were unpredictable; the floor tiles in the showers were cause for some reflection (eh, Tina?) and we just hankered after the easy, familiar days of West Bay again. One thing did come out of all this though; isolated in a field miles from anywhere there was no chance of 'just nipping into the village' for something to eat on Saturday evening, we all had to cook and pretty much everyone ended up hunched over a spluttering barbecue, either their own or using a bit a space cadged from somebody else. And it worked. Out of nowhere, we had conjured a collective, mass cook-up (no, that's not a typo) and major social event. Beer flowed and wine gurgled. It was great. So on our to return to West Bay the following year, the Saturday night group barbie concept was improved, enlarged, simplified and, eventually, turned into one of the major events of the weekend – and a small income generator to boot.

So now, the West Bay weekend is a central pillar of the club calendar both for diving and socially. In a decent year, over the three days diving we can get more than 40 dives completed and even when you take out fuel and harbour dues, that an awful lot of the folding stuff going into club funds. The barbecue, as well as being a great social event for over fifty

people has also been known to bring in another £150. The Sunday evening restaurant meal is a great get-together when nobody has to do anything other than put their name down and turn up. Over the whole weekend, more club members spend more time diving, boating, fishing, walking, eating (yes, drinking) and talking with each other than at any other time of year. It's that big. And after two decades of evolving to what it is now, it's changing again.

More to the point, West Bay has changed. It must be said that a great deal of socialising used to go on in the evenings over a few beers in one of the three village pubs. All three of which can only be described now as gastro-pubs; food is the priority, dining tables have taken over from bar-stools and comfy chairs, menus from beer mats. If you're not eating, they're not really interested and as for a couple of dozen divers turning up mob-handed, complete with kids, only after liquid sustenance – that's not what they want to see. A table's worth at a time who will eat, drink and then be on their way is more their line. Locals (who like what has happened even less than I do) reckon the nearest 'proper' pub is now the Crown, up on the roundabout on the main road.

And the Sunday night meal out, where nobody had to shop, cook or wash up – is also in jeopardy. Neither the restaurant we used to use nor the three pubs are willing to take such a large group booking, even if we stagger the arrivals (sometimes, sadly, in more than one sense) over the evening.

So, for those who have already enjoyed all that's great about our West Bay weekends and for those who hope to do so in the future, we need ideas. What, if anything, can we do in lieu of the Sunday night out? What of the dearth of decent watering holes? Can cans on a camp-site compete with the conversational conviviality created in the cozy corner of a convenient pub? (Who writes this stuff?)

The West Bay weekend has evolved over the last twenty years; it is still evolving, though this time through no action of ours. What do you want it to become and what do you want to get from it?

Over to you!

Paul Bluett

Paul and Lynne Invite You to West Bay 2013



Diving – contact Paul Bluett

Saturday 24th August:

Barbecue on the campsite, provided by the social committee.

£10 per adult/ £5 per child

Please let us know on the Saturday morning if you want us to cater for you.

Sunday 25th August:

Festivities to be arranged.