

# CamBS-AC News

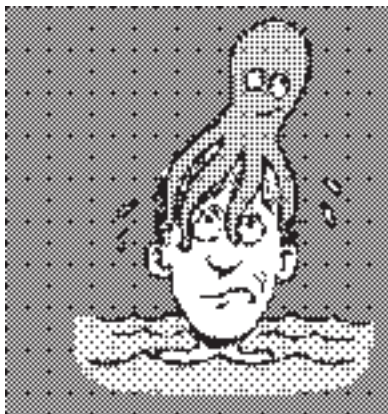


Newsletter of the Cambridge Sub-Aqua Club

April 2001

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### Editor's notes

Apologies for the delay in the appearance of this issue, and for the rather indigestible nature of some of it. My contributors promise me more articles of the style of the first four articles, rather than the last two for the next edition!

Derek

## BSAC240 Making a Mess in Menorca

### THE CAST

*Chalet 1:* Auntie Emma Faid (Batgirl); Neil Burgess (Robin); Steve Batchelor (Pads).

*Chalet 2:* Grant Armstrong; Jon Schneider (Muffin); Sally Carroll (Squirt); Ian Ross (Rossy).

**The Resort:** Cal 'n' Bosch, Menorca. Our host for the holiday, Crystal Seas Scuba, was situated in a breezy ghost-town of boarded up pizzerias and bars and the wind carried the haunting sounds of music and laughter from summers past ..

**Training:** Pads and Grant took advantage of the slightly warmer water and clear viz to successfully get their Sports Diver tickets. Well done lads.

**Disasters:** Thankfully there weren't too many disasters. But after a 64 minute dive on day two I had an emergency mission to get to shore for the most desperately needed pee in the entire universe. In the mad panic to get my suit off, my dry-suit neck seal ripped in half. Now you wouldn't have thought this was too much of a disaster EXCEPT no-one had a spare and there were no neck seals on the entire island.

The only option was Plan B. To arrange for a seal to be couriered out by the next day. But that meant a £55 delivery charge from DHL, together with the £16 for the seal kit and two days travelling - plus time to fix. It would have resulted in only two days diving in the mended suit.

SO - plan C - wetsuit hire ( Now I've been diving in a drysuit for some time and nothing had prepared me for the shock of icy water streaming across my small, wintered, English body as I plummeted over the side of the rib. It

was 13 degrees. By the end of that day my rubber fetish was satiated by a full legged body, a long-armed top and two shorties - all in increasing sizes. I chose to ignore all comments on how lardy I had got, refused to go anywhere near a mirror, gritted my teeth and determined not to let it spoil my holiday. But I wasn't a happy bunny and ended up with some nasty blisters on my shins from constant salt water immersion and chaffing. And I had to pay money for the privilege.

Moral of the story? Carry a spare neck and wrist seals with you if you go away diving in a dry-suit for a week or longer. Thanks to Dave Smith for putting on a new one on for me.

**Our Accommodation:** Two luscious chalets - walking distance from Crystal Seas. Fully furnished, lovely tiled bathrooms with power showers, fully equipped kitchens, comfy beds, open fires, patios with recliners and roof top gardens which looked out over the sea. Oh yes - we really appreciated those chalets ...

1. On arrival we visited a supermarket and carted bags of goodies back for the weeks consumption. We then all met on the roof top with our favourite nibbles and beers and started an olive stone spitting competition and gleefully chucked pistachio nut shells on the floor. The holiday had begun.

2. The trip's trouble-maker (you know who you are!) took it upon them to devise techniques to find wood for the fire!! Small wooden objects and items of furniture were surreptitiously nicked from Chalet 1 and smuggled back to Chalet 2.

3. By the middle of the week Chalet 2 was getting that lived-in, messy look. So, we all invited ourselves round to

## -- *Messin' in Menorca* --

Chalet 1 - fully armed with pistachio nuts and beer - for a bit of social banter. Strangely those nut shells just seemed to fly from our fingers and all over the room. I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise to Chalet 1 on behalf of ALL the Chalet 2 culprits for being so naughty.

4. The cats were very friendly. They loved Chalet 1. It wasn't till later our chalet neighbours realised it might have been to do with the tuna juice trail leading up to their door and the two opened tins hidden under their sofa .

5. The milk seemed to upset the cat's tummies and sloppy presents were found in the corner of Chalet 2. Still it was easily cleaned up and throw over the wall onto Chalet 1's patio .

### The Night Life

Gin will never be poured again without chanting '1,2,3,4,5,6,7.' Generous portions with lots of ice and tonic were thirstily drunk after a day's diving.

We alternated between cooking in our chalets and eating at the resorts only open restaurant.

Our two big nights out were my 21st (what?!?!?) birthday meal with cake and champagne (and an embarrassing Spanish happy birthday tape). And on the last night a bumper meal with unlimited wine and gin based deserts, and then a drive to the main town for **CARNIVAL TIME**.

It was a night to remember - Menorcans and divers certainly know how to party!

The great bars were all free access and had lots of room for dancing. Everyone was dressed up as witches, super-men, ghouls, wedding dresses, spanish dress etc.

Unfortunately one member of our merry band couldn't contain their excitement at the end of the evening and after dancing on stage in front of hundreds of people, wet the wheels of some cars in a public car park, then voraciously vom-sprayed the trousers of their fellow divers in the back of the van on the way home (the person involved is very, very sorry!!)

Oh yes - **the diving!!**

It was mostly caverns around the

coastline, RIB travelling distance from our resort.

The throbbing power RIBs rides added excitement to the whole dive experience. Sunglasses and woolly hats were obligatory as the sun shone bright whilst we whisked through the waves.

The highlight for many was **Pont en Gil** - a cave heaven with surfacing areas, stalegmites and stalegites, halo clines and swim throughs. But the wreck, **The Malakoff**, went down well with everyone - it was teeming with life including moray eels and large shoals of barracuda.



Other fantabulous dives included the **Ocean Diver** with a bike (now without handles!), a washing machine, cooker and scorpion fishies. Cave penetrations on afternoon chill out dives were most satisfying as we didn't just rub around the edges but dived right in and got on with it.

A few experienced their first cucumber squirt. There was some fabulous underwater sword fighting and deep-sea champagne quaffing on my birthday.

One day we were dropped off on a deserted beach with a packed lunch as part of a days expedition out which was pretty special.

So - the sun was warm, the water cool, the caverns cooler. We had a lot of laughs, a lot of gin and even more pistachio nuts. Thanks for organising everything Emma, it was a great holiday, just sorry some of us were so naughty!!

Sally Carroll

## Angel Shark Delight!

It was our last dive. We had spent a week over New Year diving in Fuertaventura. Having dived in the Mediterranean before and been disappointed at the lack of marine life, the Canaries had more than met my expectations. Throughout the week, I had been surprised at the variety and abundance of aquatic species and been thrilled at seeing Angel sharks for the first time.

My buddies were Jon and Sandra. Our flight home was early the next morning, so we were limited to a shallow potter of 6 metres next to the stone pier. We descended and on reaching the bottom we headed to the pier.

Here, we found many large green blennies. We also came across one inside a bottle with its head peeping out. On putting your finger near to its head the blenny quickly disappeared inside, but as soon as the finger was removed, its head came straight out again.

Moving along the pier, we found a friendly cuttlefish. It was like a small hovercraft, iridescent in appearance with a fluorescent green underside. As it moved from the rocks to the sandy seabed, it changed colour to blend

in with the surrounding. Sandra befriended the creature and it sat in her hand and allowed her to play before swimming off.

The highlight of the dive was finding an angel shark that had just come to rest on the sandy bottom. It lied still as we watched it before starting to submerge itself in the sand. We stroked its fins to feel the rough texture of its skin. Within a minute, the shark was completely covered with only its outline in the sand as an indication of its presence. Sandra was feeling brave. She picked its tail up from under the sand and gently lifted it up. The shark was not perturbed and stayed on the seabed where we left it. Away from the pier, we found a wrecked yacht. A drum had fallen off the yacht and beneath it was an octopus with only 6 legs. The other 2 had been lost in fights with its predators. We tried to coax it out from under the drum, but, not surprisingly, it was very shy. Jon and I broke open

a few sea urchins as bait. This enticed a shoal of fish over who gorged on the octopus's meal. The octopus peered out from under the drum to see what all the attention was about, but was too cautious to venture out completely. Our dive time was now one hour. We had agreed that this was the limit so we had to make our short ascent to the surface. It had been a great dive to finish the holiday.

*Simon Denny*

### **AIC - Advanced Instructor Course or Am I Crazy??!**

Having got my Advanced Diver grade in November 1999, I had decided that 2000 would be the year I would try for my Advanced Instructor grade. With this in mind, I looked into the Combined Courses being run. These involve going away to somewhere warm and sunny and doing both the AI course and exam in 5 days. So my choices were Gibraltar, Aquaba, Antibes or Gozo. Mmmmmm..difficult choice ;- ) I finally decided on Gozo as it was the last one being run in the year (October) and this would give me more time to revise. It was also being headed by Jack Ingle, a God in the world of diving and highly recommended by Jon as a good instructor on the AI course.

The weeks before the course were spent revising everything I had ever learned during my diving 'career'. And I mean everything!!! Chartwork, Physiology, Boat Handling, Dive Tables, Air Requirements...the lot!! Still, I'd learned all this for my Advanced Diver theory so it couldn't be much harder that that - could it?? I didn't know anyone else going on the course, which added an extra element of excitement to it all for me - would I meet any other like-minded, totally crazy people on the course?

We all met up at Heathrow Airport and the first thing I found out was that I was one of the few who hadn't taken the theory test in advance of going on the course. And the horror stories I heard about it made my toes curl! Anyhow, the flight to Malta was good fun and I sat next to one of the

### **-- Instructors in Gozo --**

instructors, John Pederson. He had cleverly sat himself in between the only 2 girls travelling from the UK on the trip who were not with their boyfriends/husbands! We had a very deep and meaningful discussion about the possibilities of 'penetration' at 50m (no wrecks involved, if you get my drift) and it just went downhill from then on!!

At Malta Airport, there should have been a helicopter waiting to take us to Gozo, but apparently, this had been cancelled due to high winds!! Negotiations began and suddenly, a helicopter was available for a limited number of people. So most of us and all the luggage were finally installed in a rather old and cranky Russian helicopter for the short flight to Gozo. We were met at the Heliport by trucks from the Dive Centre we were to be diving with and we finally arrived in Marsalforn Bay. We were allocated our room mates and apartments and had some dinner and a few well earned beers. I was sharing with Claudia, who had sat on the other side of John on the flight over from the UK and we hit it off immediately :-)

The next three days (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday) would cover the AI course, with Wednesday being a 'day off'. As well as the AI course and exam, a combined Club Instructor course, exam and OWI course was being run. There were 11 of us doing the AI course and 7 doing the CI course with 5 instructors between us. We were split into groups and these were to be the people we would train with as well as be examined with so we had to work well as a team. My fellow team mates were Claudia, Colin and Mike. Our instructor was Martin Sampson from Anglesey Diving College and on Sunday morning, we all went off for a 'shakedown' dive before the course proper was to start.

There were four main parts to the course and exam: a boat dive, a shore dive, classroom teaching and surface teaching. Over those three days, we practised each of these and Martin was fantastic with all the help he gave us. We all worked really well as a team and helped each other out

the whole time.

As well as the basic instructional parts of the boat dives, we had to think about additional teaching we could do and any safety aspects of the diving. As a group, we had to plan the whole afternoon on the boat - where we would each be diving (we would each dive individually with Martin for our given lesson), how we would get there, how long the dives would be, surface intervals etc. The surface teaching involved teaching something while on the boat, such as how to pick up divers, knots, how to make up a shot line etc. While we were on the boat, someone had to be teaching something all the time and the only break we got was while Martin was diving with one of the group!!! We worked out what each of us was good at and each had two possible things we could teach so that we could fill the time.

The shore diving was basic instructing such as compass navigation, AAS, CBL etc and involved each of us taking the group in. And last, but not least, the classroom teaching involved a 15-minute lecturette, with lots of student participation and the use of unusual props to be encouraged!!

Our days would start at 9am and we would be on the go constantly! We usually finished at about 8pm and hit the restaurants and bars before heading back to our apartments. The days were long and it was hard work but we also seemed to be having fun!! The whole group - instructors, AI and CI students - really got on well and we had a great laugh together.

Our 'day off' on Wednesday was anything but!! Four of us did our theory exam in the morning and, having had the fear of god put into me by some of the others, it wasn't half as bad as I expected. And I passed! We then spent the morning practising our teaching methods and practised pilotage, simple lifting exercises, circular searches and how to deploy an SMB!! We then practised our lectures and finally had a group chat about the exam - gulp!!

Thursday morning - 5.30am..and Claudia and I were both awake,

## *Last dive of 2000, first dive of 2001!*

putting the finishing touches to our lectures!!! Our examiner was Phil 'Mad Dog' Clifton, who turned out to be more of a pussycat (don't tell him I said that!!). We did our lectures in the morning and our boat teaching in the afternoon. The other groups were out on the boats in the morning and were late back so our plans had to be constantly revised and most of our surface teaching was done sitting on the harbour wall while we were waiting for the boats to get back!! Even though we were an hour behind time to start with, we got back in time, all having done our boat dives and our surface teaching - impressive, eh??!! We were knackered that evening but thought it had all gone well..so far!!

The final part of the exam was the shore diving on Friday morning. We were each allowed to sit out the lesson before the one we were to teach so we had 40 minutes thinking time, which was gratefully accepted by all!! We had finished by mid afternoon and spent the rest of the day washing, drying and packing our kit away. I managed to convince myself that I'd failed the exam so that when we were finally handed out our results at about 6pm, I refused to look at mine for ages - but I'd PASSED. In fact, we all passed and the party began :-)

We all had dinner together that evening and had a great time!! Unfortunately, we were being picked up at 3am to be taken to the Heliport for our journey back home :-)

Well, we ALL had a great time and EVERYONE came home as either an Advanced or Club Instructor. We all wished that we could have had a couple of days extra to do some more diving and partying and some of us are planning to get together again soon. Most of us met up at the Diving Officer Conference last December and have stayed in touch by phone and e-mail!!

I would say to anyone thinking of going for their AI to go on the Combined Course. I'm looking forward to going on another one someday - as an instructor :-)

*Sandra Castro*

I have just joined the club having moved into the area, so am only starting to get to know you guys and as yet have not dived with you. However, I thought I would let you know how I ended 2000 & saw in 2001 with a group of friends mainly from Edinburgh.

30 Dec - Left Therfield near Royston @ 9:30 en route to Ardesie (Little Loch Broom) up near Ullapool in the north of Scotland; snow & ice being the order of the day. Quick stop at Motorway Services at Leicester to pick up 2 massive pork pies from Ted who had at last minute decided not to go, but wanted to send seasonal cheer.

Drive fine until Aviemore where fish-supper stop precipitated snow which lay heavily on icy B roads. Last 10 miles a bit hair raising even at 15mph. Arrived at 7:30 at cottage to find others already stuck into the cakes and ale. New drinking game invented called "minesweeper" with ridiculously convoluted rules, involving 2 decks of cards, a couple of coins and two "chalices" (one you would want to drink from and the other with a revolting concoction). Next day, no one could fully remember the rules so I guess we will have to reinvent it on another trip.

New Year's Eve - Thank goodness for Simon Moss' landy to launch the RIB (Alpha One aka Alpha Scum), otherwise we would have been shore diving. However, we managed 50m dive on Isle Martin cliff. Unfortunately, our bit of cliff ran out at 35m so Sarah and I follow Crawford's (aka Silt Boy) trail down the slope to 50m. Quick chorus of Auld Lange Syne and a highland reel and then back up. Viz really good - no need for torches (honest). Good thing about diving at this time of year is lack of kelp whilst off gassing in the shallows. Quick pint or 2 in the FBI (Ferry Boat Inn in Ullapool) and home to welcome in the New Year.

Evening started very formally with a six course dinner with different folk being responsible for each course. I was in charge of the cheese course; so I now know what they think of my cooking.

Still, a very very large round of stilton went down well.

New Year's day - somewhat slow start - only 3 hardy souls go diving, others go walking or just vegging. Shore dive from Badruallich Jetty. 12m max - not much to see until we come across 2 old cars about 15mins swim out... bizarre sight so far from shore... probably fell of very small ferry that tootles across the loch. Decided not to "Beastie Boy" the decals on the VW Passat as did not want hassle of reporting our booty to Receiver of Wreck :-)

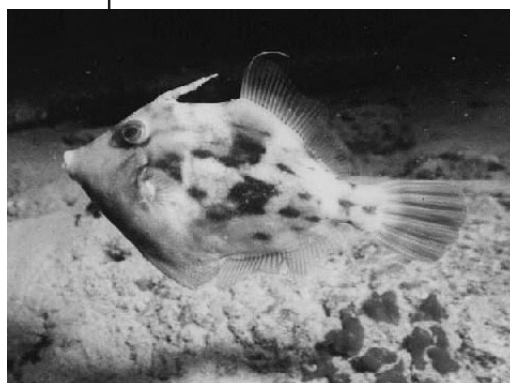
Collected large bag of scallops which became part of the evening's curry extravaganza.

2 Jan - Dive on wreck of the Innesjura - 38m to seabed - viz great; no torches required. The wreck is small enough to get round easily and still have a good plowter around. Stops a bit chilly. Best part was after the dive, back on the RIB chatting about the dive whilst consuming a flask of last night's curry, one of the aforementioned Melton Mowbrays and a bottle of Port. Not best practice I know, but it was magic especially after the echo sounder was bodged and no one could remember the transits: we ended up grappling for the wreck and got it on the 3rd pass.

3 Jan - Up and out of cottage for the long drive home. Left at 9:45 and "home in time for tea and medals" despite the best attempts of a feral goat who tried to jump in front of my car about 2 miles from the cottage. Round trip of over 1200 miles & no speed traps triggered en route.

Oh yes, did I say that the cottage has no electricity; gas lamps & open fire the order of the day. All in all a magic trip.

*Simon Nash*



## -- AGM Report --

Held at the Boathouse Public House,  
20:00 on Monday 12 February 2001

*An abridged version by Derek Brownjohn of the minutes taken by Sally Carroll. The full minutes are available from Sally.*

22 members were present, a bare quorum.

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted, and a few minor matters arising were dealt with. Changes to the committee during the year were reiterated. Paul Kelly resigned as Secretary due to work commitments and was replaced by Sally Carroll. Andy Mell resigned as Assistant Diving Officer due to going to work in New York and was replaced by Derek Brownjohn. Greg Carroll resigned as Boat Officer and his duties were taken up by Pete Flaxman.

### **Committee members' reports**

#### *Chairman*

Pete made the usual thanks and noted that the committee had only fallen asleep once during a meeting when he and the Treasurer were having one of their "discussions" over boat and van finances. On more serious matters he expressed his disappointment that some projects he'd set out at the start of the year had not been completed, and as chairman accepted responsibility. The main outstanding jobs being completing the equipment list, getting all the club kit insured, a club members' qualifications database and the efficient collection of kit hire fees.

Pete also reported that the van had been well used in its second year, and said he hoped the treasurer could confirm it had more or less paid its way.

He thanked Greg for his work early in the year on the boats. Pete explained that there were some problems with the use and maintenance of the boats during the year, and felt that we should try and resolve these problems by setting out some clear guidelines and procedures on use of the boats, and having a workshop for boat handlers. In replies to questions from the floor, Pete said first aid kits were being acquired for the boats, and a new wheel lock was to be purchased for the trailer. In reply to a question about

van running costs, Chris Scott said there was a major service during the year, but that otherwise running costs had been small and the insurance premium had gone down.

#### *Diving Officer*

Dave Smith reported on over 1000 club dives during the year on many UK and several overseas trips, including 2 training trips to Brixham & Swanage, and thanked members who'd organised them.

Dave also reported on a total of 7 branch run SDCs during the year, the club gaining some SDC instructors in the process, and thanked all the instructors who'd helped on the courses. He hoped this year we would be able to run Nitrox courses, and Pete Flaxman is now a qualified gas blender so we should soon be able to provide nitrox fills too.

8 club divers, 10 sports divers, 3 dive leaders, 1 advanced diver and 1 open water instructor gained qualifications during the year, and several more ocean divers joined us and went on to complete sports diver training.

#### *Diving incidents*

Sadly Dave had to report 2 diving incidents during the year, fortunately neither with serious long term consequences. The first was engine failure on Cam Diver while the anchor was out and buoyed, and there was insufficient equipment on board for any further self help. Lesson learned was to make sure safety equipment was on board.

The second more serious incident was an uncontrolled buoyant ascent from 37m by a buddy pair. Both required decompression chamber treatment, the more serious of the cases suffering a cerebral and spinal bend. Fortunately after intensive treatment no serious permanent injury was sustained, due in part to prompt action taken by the crew on the boat, which highlighted the value of O2 and PRM courses.

Dave expressed concern about the number of other 'near misses' during the year, particularly with loss of buoyancy control and out of air situations. He intends before the coming season starts to run workshops on safe diving procedures,

and to review the club rules thoroughly and add guidelines for charter boat diving.

Dave then gave the usual thanks to everyone who'd helped with the diving, instructing and organising during the year.

A discussion then ensued on the costs of boat diving following a suggestion that income from boat dives had halved and maintenance had doubled. Pete Flaxman & Chris Scott explained that this may not have been an entirely accurate picture due to the way the information from trips was collated, the lag in collection of monies and the way the accounts were presented. It was suggested that the boats should be used more, and that this was more likely to be done if newer club members had more information about how to organise trips. Another suggestion was to have an expeditions evening to plan trips for the year ahead.

#### *Training Officer*

Kim Phillips reported on 2 club diver courses run during the year (26 trainees), another just started this year, and a sports diver course run for 10 trainees. She also reported on several training trips to Gildenburgh & Stoney Cove, 2 training weekends in Devon & Dorset, as well as all the SDCs Dave referred to in his report. Kim thanked all instructors and others who have helped during the year, and hopes to encourage new instructors. In response to a question from the floor she said 3 trainees had dropped out during the year.

#### *Equipment Officer*

Alan Covill reported that we no longer rent the garage in Barnes Close, and we are looking for a prefab one to put up next to the compressor shed. He also reported on some problems with the new Apex equipment and on the purchase of 10 steel 12l cylinders. Following the aluminium cylinder problem it may be possible to get our newer ones retested and back into use. All the equipment has now nearly been logged, once this is finished it can be insured.

#### *Compressor Officer*

Jon Schneider thanked the operators, especially Pete F and Alan C. In

## ***AGM & Dolphins***

response to a question he said we charge non-members £1 for a fill. Pete Flaxman said once we have purchased the appropriate equipment we can do nitrox fills. A question was raised about operators not staying for the full duration of their duty, and it was suggested a better rota system be organised. Pete F agreed procedures needed to be tightened up.

### ***Treasurer***

Chris Scott presented the accounts for the year. He noted slightly lower income and increased expenditure, mainly due to boat, equipment and van maintenance. The boat expenses were high because of the refurbishment of Cam Diver, van costs higher because 2000 was its first full year. £1700 was spent on new regulators and cylinders. The overall result was a negative transfer to accumulated funds, which while not too serious Chris noted that we should make an effort to increase income, with try-dives and better control of trip monies. He suggested a small increase in branch subs. The accounts were passed by the meeting, with 2 abstentions.

### ***Election of new committee***

The new committee was unanimously elected as follows:

Chairman	Pete Flaxman
Diving Officer	Dave Smith
President	Paul Kelly
Equipment Officer	Alan Covill
Treasurer	Chris Scott
Compressor Officer	Jon Schneider
Training Officer	Kim Phillips (assisted by Emma Faid)
Boat Officer	Peter Willey (assisted by Ian Ross)
Secretary	Sally Carroll
Committee Member	Nic Vasilipoulos
Committee Member	Dave Crane

### ***Any other business***

In a discussion about diving procedures it was generally agreed that the club had become lax, and that there is a need to tighten up on safety and general procedures on trips. The committee clarified that there would be a new kit hire procedure which would hopefully allow closer control of fees, and ensure that individuals who hire equipment have responsibility for returning it clean and

in working order. There was some agreement from the floor that club subs should be increased.

### **DOLPHIN SIGHTING!**

The BSAC240 Dive Planning & Marshalling course was held in Portland on the weekend of 10th/11th March. Those who successfully completed the course were Neil Burgess, Sally Carroll, Simon Parker and Kim Phillips. And thanks to instructors Dave Smith and Ian Ross. On the way out to the last dive on Sunday a shoal of five dolphins came leaping up the boat - followed it for a short time and were then seen leaping off into the distance.

When the group arrived at the dive site they re-appeared just as everyone was getting into the water. Special moments like that make you realise just how lucky you are to dive.

*Sally Carroll*

### **Committee meetings of 12 Dec 2000, 24 January and 27 February 2001.**

*A few items and bits of news still relevant from the last 3 committee meetings.*

#### **Club kit**

Pete Flaxman & Alan Covill will check the US Divers regulators and attempt to file down the shoulders of the A-clamps where they are too thick to fit some cylinder pillar valves. Advice taken suggested this wouldn't compromise the strength of the A-clamps. The club tool kit has gone missing, please could people check that they don't have it. The kit inventory is still ongoing.

#### **Boats**

The RIB engines were wintered, and the floppy engine serviced. Various minor problems with Cam Diver to be seen to before the start of the season. A new radio for Chunderbird was purchased at the Boat Show - it is Global Maritime Distress & Safety System (GMDSS) compatible for when GMDSS comes in (possibly in 2005 - current VHF operators' licenses are valid until all boats are required to use the new system.

#### **Training**

Fees for training crossover divers were

agreed. The new Club diver course started in February, and a Dive Leader course is to be run soon. A PRM course was run at the end of March as part of the DL course, as was a dive planning and marshalling course. A safe diving workshop will be held before the start of the new season as part of the drive to tighten up our diving procedures.

#### **Accounts**

See the AGM report for a general account.

#### **Compressor**

Following concern about oil deposits on a couple of people's regulator filters, the compressor was serviced and checked. The engineer reported no problems with oil contamination. It is likely that the oily filters were caused by fills from other compressors. However, it is also possible that one or two of the new cylinders have oil in them, so please could anyone who has experienced oil in their regulator filters please let Jon Schneider or Pete Flaxman know.

#### **Kit store**

Expansion plans at the school may put our continued use of the kit store at risk. We will seek to get our agreement with the school extended and re-signed. We have permission to erect a garage next to the shed to house more of our equipment. Alan Covill is currently looking for a 2nd hand prefab garage, if anyone knows of one for sale could they let him know.

#### **Miscellaneous items**

There may be a new landlord at the Boathouse soon, so it is possible though unlikely that we may have to move. The committee would welcome suggestions of suitable alternatives. The committee agreed to reimburse Dave Crane for 50% of the costs of the repairs (£100 est) his landrover suffered when boat towing last year.

*Derek Brownjohn*

## **-- Club Rules 2001 --**

### **1.0 General Diving Regulations**

1.1 Any branch member who has not taken part in an officially logged dive in open water for a period exceeding three months, must give their name to the Diving Officer or his/her Assistant, at least ten days prior to their intention to dive. They may be asked to carry out some pre-dive pool training and/or have their first dive monitored by a branch instructor at a sheltered site.

1.2 All branch dives must have the approval of the Diving Officer or, in his/her absence, the Assistant Diving Officer. Dives which do not have this approval are not classed as branch dives.

1.3 Buoyancy compensators will be worn on all branch dives.

1.4 All full branch members wishing to dive must have a currently valid medical as recommended by the BSAC, and this should be available for inspection by the Dive Marshall.

1.5 Any incident occurring on a branch dive must be reported to the Diving Officer or his/her Assistant within 24 hours of return. A written report must be submitted within 7 days of return. Where appropriate, the Diving Officer will prepare an incident report which will be sent to the BSAC incident adviser.

1.6 All branch dives must have adequate safety cover and accurate contemporaneous logs must be kept. Oxygen administration equipment must be available for emergency first aid treatment on ALL branch dives. Where this is not provided by others, the club portable sets MUST be taken. If the diving is from boats the sets MUST be on the boats.

1.7 Log sheets must be completed for all branch dives and these must be returned to the Diving Officer or Assistant within 7 days of return.

1.8 Non branch members diving with the branch should be either BSAC members or hold adequate 3 party insurance cover.

1.9 Within 4 weeks of a club expedition, all money due to the branch for kit hire, van hire and boat dives must be paid to the club treasurer.

If possible, a written report should be submitted for publication in the club news letter. This could include details of coordinates for sites, transits and other information which may be of use to future expeditions.

### **1.10 Dive Marshaling**

Any branch member can organize a dive trip but ALL branch dives must be controlled by an appointed dive marshal. The Diving Officer or his/her assistant should approve the dive marshals.

The minimum requirements for dive marshals is listed below :-

1.10.1 Coastal shore dive : Dive Leader + Dive Planning & Marshaling SDC

1.10.2 Club boat dive : Advanced diver

1.10.3 Charter boat dive: Dive Leader + Dive Planning & Marshaling SDC

1.10.4 Inland site : The marshal must be a BSAC NQI for qualification dives otherwise a dive leader.

### **2.0 Pool Training**

2.1 Smoking is not permitted in the pool area, changing rooms or classrooms.

2.2 There shall be no running at the pool side.

2.3 Over-arm strokes must not be used in the pool unless by prior arrangement or if there are no cylinders being used in the pool.

2.4 Diving into the pool is not permitted if cylinders are being used in the pool.

2.5 The use of club pool equipment (e.g. aqualungs) is reserved for trainees under instruction unless otherwise authorised by the Training Officer.

2.6 Diving cylinders are not to be taken into the showers to be washed.

2.7 There should be a Pool Marshall in attendance at all pool sessions.

### **3.0 Club Equipment**

3.1 Items are hired out on a charge per day of use basis. The hire rates currently in operation will be posted in the Compressor Room. ALL equipment hired or taken for open water diving MUST be logged out in the register provided and the equipment officer or his/her assistant must approve the hire.

3.2 After hire, equipment must be returned clean, in good working order and in time for the next pool training session (except when

hired for holidays). Equipment returned late will incur a 'fine'. Any faults must be reported to the Equipment Officer or the Diving Officer. Hire fees must be paid to the equipment officer.

3.3 The club trailer is only to be used for carrying club equipment.

3.4 Club equipment may only be hired for use on club dives or otherwise at the discretion of the Equipment Officer.

3.5 The portable compressor may only be hired for use on club expeditions, and at least one expedition member must have demonstrated competence in its operation to the compressor officer. There shall be a charge for its use, excluding petrol, the current fee will be notified by the compressor officer.

3.6 The proton magnetometer may only be hired for use on club expeditions, and at least one expedition member must have been fully instructed in its operation.

### **4.0 Compressor operation and Cylinder Testing**

4.1 Cylinders in use will have a current test certificate according to the relevant specifications and will be clearly marked with the working pressure, test date and owner's name. No details, no fill!

4.2 Cylinders will not be overcharged to allow for pressure drop on cooling.

4.3 Only trained compressor operators may operate the club compressor.

No person, other than the Compressor Officer or his/her assistants, will be allowed in the compressor area during cylinder charging except at the operator's discretion.

4.4 All cylinders requiring charging must be identified as such, as stipulated by the Compressor Officer. Charged cylinders will be indicated by tape across the 0 ring.

4.5 Charging times for cylinders will be posted in the compressor room and on the club notice board.

4.6 Cylinders belonging to non-members may be charged at a rate which is posted in the Compressor room.

4.7 In the event of a compressor breakdown the Club will not be liable for the cost of obtaining air elsewhere.

4.8 No smoking or running of engines in or in the vicinity of the compressor room at any time.

4.9 The compressor must not be left unattended while cylinders are being charged.

4.10 Nitrox cylinders must have valid oxygen clean certification and can ONLY be filled by a person qualified as a nitrox gas blender.

### **5.0 Club Boats**

5.1 The boats may only be used on club expeditions and at least four names will be required for booking a boat. A £100 deposit is required per expedition, to be held as a cheque with the cheque guarantee card number written on the back. This deposit is to be held by the Boat Officer and refundable on return of undamaged boat and full tank of petrol.

5.2 Applications for use of club boats should be in writing to the Diving Officer via a booking form, and should include the name of one Advanced Diver with boat handling and chart work qualifications to oversee the trip. The application should also include the name of a registered coxswain for each boat applied for, plus the names of the other club members going on the trip. Once the application is authorised, the boat(s) will be booked by the boat officer.

5.3 Two boats may be allocated if the expedition has ten or more full Club members. If an expedition has six to nine full Club members, it may be allocated one boat initially and a second boat 28 days before the departure of the expedition provided that no other qualifying group has made an official request in the meantime.

Three boats may be allocated if the expedition has sixteen or more full Club members; if an expedition has ten to fifteen full Club members it may be allocated two boats initially and a third boat 28 days before the departure of the expedition provided that no other qualifying group has made an official request in the meantime.

5.4 Once a boat has been allocated to an expedition the booking will not be cancelled unless conditions 5.1 to 5.4 cease to apply.

5.5 Each boat must have a registered coxswain when it goes out to sea. This role may be delegated for instruction under supervision. The register of approved coxswains will be maintained by the Diving Officer. Boats should also have a licensed VHF radio operator and a trained Oxygen administrator.

5.6 Boats and their equipment will be issued to specified individuals

### ***Club rules, cont...***

who are responsible for their safe return on the day agreed intact and clean. The boats and equipment will be logged both in and out by the Boat Officer. Any loss or damage is the responsibility of the expedition and must be notified immediately to the Boat Officer. The committee shall determine the extent of the expedition members' liability to the club.

5.7 The cost of transportation and fuel will be shared between the individual members of the expedition. It is recommended that those towing boats be reimbursed between one third and a half -. of their fuel costs out of expedition funds.

5.8 A set charge will be made for a boat dive. To be published by the Committee.

5.9 The Zodiac (soft-bottomed inflatable) shall only be used for towing in emergency situations.

5.10 The register of registered coxswains shall be maintained by the Diving Officer. A registered coxswain is a person who has completed the BSAC Boat Handling course and VHF radio course or has relevant experience.

#### **6.0 Club van**

6.1 The van may be hired from the club for the following :-

6.1.1 Towing club boats on club dive trips. 6.1.2 Transporting club members & equipment on club dive trips.

6.1.3 Club members may hire the van for private use, but at the discretion of the van officer and club dive trips always have priority.

6.2 All requests MUST be made to the club van officer who will authorize the booking.

6.3 The driver must be 25 yrs or older and a paid up branch member. Drivers must also hold a valid, 'clean' drivers license.

6.4 The van officer will inform applicants of the hire charges. These must be paid to the club treasurer.

6.5 The van must be returned in clean condition and all rubbish removed. Hirers must also complete the log book which is kept in the van.

*March 2001*

The rules above are reconfirmed by the new committee annually, and this year have been redrafted bearing in mind the lessons learned from last season's spate of incidents. The above are still in the draft stage and may be subject to minor changes, but please read them and look out for more (possibly an article from the Diving Officer) on diving and boat safety procedures in the next newsletter.

### **Small Ads**

#### **Wanted**

*Club tool kit* - gone missing. If anyone has any clue to its whereabouts, please tell Pete Flaxman.

#### **Wanted**

*Prefabricated garage (2nd hand)* - for club use at Chesterton school. The club hopes to erect a garage next to the compressor shed to store some of our equipment and is on the lookout for a 2nd hand bargain. If you know of any for sale please let Alan Covill know.

### **Kit Hire**

As mentioned in the AGM report, a new kit hire procedure has been instituted in an attempt to simplify matters, and facilitate the more efficient collection of due monies!

There will now be a looseleaf folder in the compressor shed. Every club member will have a page each in the folder on which must be recorded every item hired, including identification number or letter where appropriate. A list of hire charges will be displayed at the front of the folder. Kit may only be distributed by an appropriate club officer.

#### **Branch Web site:**

<http://freespace.virgin.net/cambsac.diving/>

#### **Email list**

Send mail to:

[majordomo@list.metadigm.co.uk](mailto:majordomo@list.metadigm.co.uk)

with the following line in the body of the message:

subscribe bsac240

## **CamBSAC Diary 2001**

10 April	Committee meeting, 2000, The Boathouse
13 - 16 April	<b>Easter Novice trip, Brixham - Kim Phillips</b>
21 - 22 April	Boathandling practice, Levington - Emma Faid
28 - 29 April	Boathandling course, Levington - Pete Flaxman
5 - 7 May	<b>Pembrokeshire trip - Kim Phillips</b>
7 - 14 May	<b>Red Sea liveaboard - Pete Carpenter</b>
26 May - 2 June	<b>Challaborough trip - Chris Scott</b>
2 - 9 June 2001	<b>Norway liveaboard trip - Ian Ross</b>
18 - 28 August 2001	<b>Trip to Shetlands - Manchester club, Ian Ross</b>