

CamBSAC



CamBSAC 240 Newsletter

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**On the 14 Sept 1966 the club voted to join BS-AC.
Hence Became BS-AC Branch 240 in 1966**

That is almost 40 years ago

**To celebrate all those years we would like to invite
members past and present to an big anniversary
celebration in November**

**When the details are finalised they will be published
on
www.cambsac.com/40years**

Plymouth Trainee Trip May 2005

Well where do I start? As a new member of the club and a new diver this was my first taste of the sea and of diving off of RIBS.

We had an early start on Friday morning heading off to the Mount Batten Centre, which was to be our base for the weekend. When I heard about last year's trip I was not sure what to expect but I need not have worried. The trip started well although some of the instructors (most of them actually) looked a bit worse for wear on the Saturday morning, and after some discussion it was decided that there should be warning signs on tow hooks of caravans to help some people (you know who you are)!

To break us in gently, the first dive was off the front of the breakwater. Putting on kit in a moving boat was a new experience for me but well worth the effort although there was not much to see there was good vis and it was a lot warmer than the bog.

We headed back to the caravan park which was our base. The fixed vans were comfortable and close to the Diving Centre and after a few hours sleep we headed out again on the Sunday morning onto the boats. We shot round to the wreck of the James Egan Layne. What can I say about this other than what a great dive. This was my first wreck dive and hopefully the first of many more to come. It has certainly wetted my appetite for more.

In the afternoon the boats went in different directions with two heading over to the Scylla and the other to the breakwater fort. I did the breakwater fort dive and although the vis was a bit poor in places it turned out to be a really good experience with loads of life, lots of stuff and enough small gaps to keep us all happy for a lot longer than our air supply would allow.

Plymouth Trainee Trip May 2005 Cont

All in all there was a good selection of dives over the time we were there. The weekend ended with a good meal on Sunday in the local pub (where else could we end the weekend?) where we could all discuss the weekend's diving.

As you might guess I am not a budding journalist so I will end by saying after my first club trip I cannot wait to go on another one. The trip was well organised and I am sure all those who went would like to join me in thanking the instructors who made it possible. Thank you for a great trip.

Tim Clifforde

St.Abbs Trip, May 2005

As a recently qualified Ocean Diver I was keen to further my diving. When the opportunity of going on the St.Abbs trip came along I jumped at the chance.

It was a very late decision so I had to quickly re-arrange my work schedule, organise the necessary dive kit and scrounge a lift, which with a little help from my dive club friends all came together well.

The trip started at 4.45am Thursday morning setting off with Amanda, Pete and Sara towing 'Chunderbird' where we arrived approximately 9 hours later at the Scottish Borders. At this point we met up with the rest of the group at the very picturesque Harbour at St.Abbs. We quickly launched the boats and set out for our first dive.

My first dive at Cathedral Rock was incredible; I was hooked as soon as I reached the seabed with my 'buddy' Ivan and discovered we had 10-15m visibility and started swimming around the rocky reefs which were covered in all kinds of marine life. The amount of brightly coloured Anemone, Urchins, Brittle and Sun Stars we saw throughout our dive was breath taking.

During the four days at St.Abbs we dived at six different locations around the coastline marine reserve. The boat journey to each dive site riding along side Guillemots and various Gulls was exhilarating, watching the Guillemots diving into the ocean for fish at close quarters was a privilege. There was something different to see on each dive, and the high light for me was searching around the rocky reefs and finding a Lump Sucker and a number of the elusive Wolf fish.

The trip to St.Abbs was an excellent experience. I couldn't have asked for better diving. As a newcomer I was made very welcome and was well supported by my fellow dive club members, by the end of the trip I knew this was the kind of diving I wanted to do, and I would recommend the diving in this location to you all.

Rob Clarkeson.

Southwold In Summertime

On a glorious Saturday morning in mid June we got a phone call from a friend to say that they were diving off the coast of Southwold and the diving was excellent, did we want to grab a boat and crew and join them?

YES!!! Several phone calls later we had managed to gather enough reprobates who were prepared to shelve all plans and responsibilities to come diving. Apologies to those who were busy with more mundane things and found messages on their voice mail inviting them to come diving!

Sunday morning dawned hot and sunny (it turned out to be the hottest June day on record). Having decided that getting there for the early slack was a bit beyond most of us we opted for just one dive on the later slack. We arrived at Southwold at 11am in time to see the other boat returning from their first dive. Time for a fantastic 'lardy girls' breakfast (full English) at the café. Worth the journey just for the breakfast!

You need to pay a visit to the Harbour mistress to pay your harbour dues. Beware her very ferocious German Shepherd dog – he just about managed to lift an eyelid when we walked in and certainly wasn't getting off the sofa.

Then it was time to get ready to go diving. It is easiest to put all kit into the boat before launching as access to the slip is very limited and the movement of water is fast, so no time for hanging around.

We arrived at the dive site a little early (never trust a first class diver to plan slack water!) and it was a little bumpy. Neil was complaining of over-heating; a couple of bottles of nice cold sea water over his head soon cooled him down or at least it shut him up.

At last, time to dive. Dive time was limited to allow everyone to get some of slack water. We were told it was a munition ship but there was no sign of anything explosive. Great care had to be taken not to stir up the very silty bottom as it would easily ruin the vis for the next pair. An excellent dive, 32m for 36 mins. which passed far too quickly.

Time to return boat to harbour, where there are several conveniently positioned hose-pipes so the boat could be washed straight away. Then off to the pub for a post dive briefing, beer and some excellent fish and chips before returning home.

All in all a fantastic day!

Suzie Wenham

August Bank holiday in Newhaven

Saturday

The first wreck of the day was to be the Devon Coast. The team was Neil B, Donald A and Barry, with Simon our DO & trip organiser coxing the boat. We dropped in and down to the wreck, the vis was about 1.5 metres. "Umm, typical of Newhaven diving" I thought (I was so wrong as you will discover later). On descending I moved the shot so it was free of the wreck and we started to explore the wreck. I then stumbled upon a large folding grapnel anchor with rope stuck in a hole. After a fight with it I managed to collapse it and took it back to the shot, tied it on and smiled to my self muttering "I am glad I am not hauling that lot up". (We later discovered that you should not dive this wreck if it has rained in the last 2 weeks as all the crap from a near by estuary flows out for about 2 weeks afterwards.)

The afternoon dive was on the City of Brisbane. The team had shrunk to Donald and me plus our cox'n Simon. We arrived on the wreck, as usual other boats had arrived before us, so we used their shot. Wow, what a difference, about 15 meters vis, only obscured by the sheer number of fish. I have only seen so many fish on a wreck once before. The wreck is at an average depth of 24 metres. The dive must have been good as a 10 minute deco. stop was required before surfacing.

Sunday

Sunday started with the sea like a mill pond!!!! Today's team was Sam W, Kim S, Neil B, Donald A and Barry. The first wreck of the day was the T R Thompson at a depth of 29 metres, another fab dive with lots of fish, in fact I wish some of them would bugger off so I could see the wreck and work out what the vis was.

For the afternoon, Simon decided to potter off and see Lyndsey so Sam and I would have to cox'n the boat. Donald was given the boat to drive out. The plan was to dive the Clan McMillan. After an extensive search we could not find it, so to avoid missing slack we switch to our back up plan and whizzed over to the City of Brisbane again. There was a collection of boats on the wreck so we were able to use their shot. Another fantastic dive was had. It was starting to get dark by the time the second wave (Sam & Kim) surfaced. We headed back and had to wait for the ferry to exit the harbour so by the time we entered Newhaven harbour it was past lighting up time. Fortunately we had got light fitted on the boat last year so they were used for the first time. Back to the camp-site for a curry.

August Bank holiday in Newhaven Cont

Monday

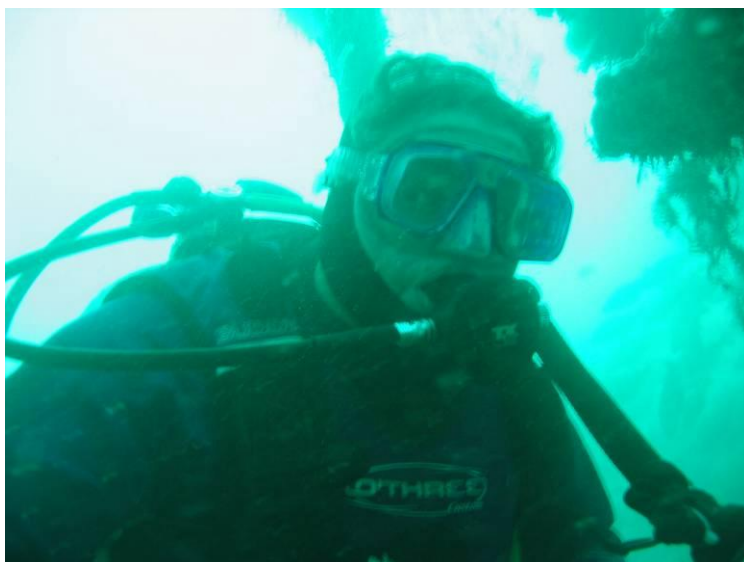
Monday started with a very light breeze causing a very slight ripple on the water. The team for today's diving was Suzie W, Dennis W, Neil B. "Um three advanced divers diving together, this could be carnage under water", was my first thought. Simon (our cox'n) decided we were to dive the Fortuna. After an 8 nautical mile smooth boat ride we arrive at the dive site slightly behind 2 other boats that had already shotted the wreck. After a quick greeting and a check they were happy for us to use their shot line we kitted up. Descending to the wreck and commenced



exploring, it did not take very long to find our first conger. After a photo opportunity we moved on and found another Conga this was followed by another and another. Ok, I lost count of them, no joke, it was conger city. The visibility was good, about 12 metres, although this was reduced by the sheer number of fish on the wreck. They started to get in the way of seeing the wreck again. The view was also helped by the wattage generated between the three of us from our Kowalski torches (anybody for fried fish) this may have been a bit excessive, but was fun. Tea was collected by Dennis and me before heading back to our first stop, a short 7 minutes stop at 6 metres. The wreck is intact at 29 metres.

We then whisked back on a still smooth sea under baking hot sun to recover the boat have a cup of tea and start the bank holiday drive home.

I can't believe most of you missed out on a fabulous weekend's diving while Chunderbird was left sitting in the Willey's garden and Camdiver was only half full. Those of you that did not come missed an excellent diving weekend.



A VERY BIG THANKS TO SIMON FOR ORGANISING A FANTASTIC TRIP, WEATHER AND SEA STATE. We will, of course, expect the same next year (when he's diving again)!

Neil Burgess

Training Past, Present, Future, And the Team

Past

Since I took over as Training officer the instructing team has had a very busy time. We started on 17 February with a new intake of 7 trainee divers (Carolina R, Craig R, Elina S, Jose R, Timmy C, Steve M, Steve R) unfortunately we seem to have lost 3 of them. The rest have progressed well through their 7 classroom lessons, 5 pool lessons, passed the multi choice exam, and have either completed or almost completed the 5 open water lessons.

Once the water warmed up we started open water training at Gildenburgh. During March, April and May, the Instructor team could be found there most weekends, taking people for Ocean diver or Sports diver open water lessons.

This was followed by a sports diver course for 6 students in June. The course consists of 6 classroom lessons, 1 pool lesson, and 6 open water lessons, plus theory exam. So far all class and pool lessons have been completed, and some members have already started open water lessons.

So far this year we have qualified:-

6 Ocean Divers (Cathy F, Craig R, Jim S, Rob C, Steve R, Timmy C)

9 Sports Divers (Bryony H, Cormac O, Donald A, Doug M, Clare I, Kim S, Nick G, John R, Stephanie R)

2 Dive Leader (Ivan B, sally C)

1 Advanced Diver (Suzie W)

5 Chart work & nav. aids course (Cormac O, Gawain E, Neil B, Stephanie R, Suzie W)

8 Dive planning and marshalling course (Amanda W, Chris S, Ivan B, Jon S, Pete W, Sam W, Sara H, Suzie W)

6 Boat handling (Craig R, Ben P, Cormac O'c, Stephanie R, John R, Suzie W)

4 Nitrox Course (Mike M, Sara H, Kim S, Cormac O'c, Stephanie R)

As in other years the instructors take a well-earned break during the summer from teaching and "GO DIVING", after all it is diving season!

Future

As the diving season comes to a close, we will be continuing training. We are already well underway with a full intake of 14 trainees. At the moment all the instructors will be found in the pool or classroom every week teaching. Ian T is running a Dive Leader Course, to bring on our Sports Divers.

Boat Handling Course

A boat-handling course took place on 1st and 2nd of October 2005. Another course is planned for early in the new year. Costs will be approximately £110 per student which includes, course materials, launch fees, boat fuel & towing costs. We can only take a maximum of 6 students on a boat handling course. It is open to club members of any diver grade.

Nitrox Course

A combined Nitrox course is planned for early in the new year. Costs will be approximately £75 per student; this will include, course materials, gas, etc. We can take a maximum of 12 students. This course is open to all Sports Diver and above, but you do need good buoyancy skill to pass this course.

Instructor Team

Meet the instructor team:-

Nationally Qualified Instructors (NQI)

OPEN WATER INSTRUCTORS (OWI)

Neil Burgess – Training Officer

Open Water Instructor
Advanced Diver



Tel: 01353 722217
Tel: 07986 281818
Email: dive@neil-burgess.co.uk

Mike McLaren

Open Water Instructor
Advanced Diver



Tel: 01223 233486
Tel: 07762 011199
Email: mmclaren@waitrose.com

Ian Thorburn

Open Water Instructor
Advanced Diver



Tel: 01763 226182
Tel: 07769 715482
Email: ijthor@waitrose.com

Robert Young

Open Water Instructor
Diver Leader



Tel: 01223 234698
Tel: 07850 046049
Email: RobertYoung02@aol.com

ADVANCED INSTRUCTORS (AI)

Dave Smith

Advanced Instructor
Advanced Diver



Tel: 01954 260628
Tel: 07795 014618
Email: dsmith02@tycoint.com

Emma Faid

Advanced Instructor
Advanced Diver



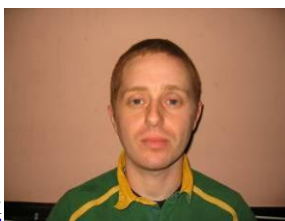
Tel: 07801 533325
Email: E.L.Faid.84@cantab.net

Assistant Diving Instructors (ADI)

(All training to be overseen by NQI, and log books to be signed by NQI from above)

Ivan Brownstone

Assistant Diving Instructor
Dive Leader



Tel: 01223 709624
Tel: 07743 434651
Email: ivan_brownstone@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Pemberton - Compressor Officer

Assistant Diving Instructor
Sports Diver



Tel: 01223 574977
Tel: 07966 473429
Email: b.pemberton@thermoteknix.com

Jon Schneider

Assistant Diving Instructor
Dive Leader



Tel: 01223 423941
Tel: 07973 796374
Email: jon@jschneider.net

Dennis Wenham – Diving Officer

Assistant Diving Instructor
Advanced Diver



Tel: 01223 872858
Email: dennis@wenhams.co.uk

Suzie Wenham - Chairperson

Assistant Diving Instructor
Dive Leader



Tel: 01223 872858
Email: suzie@wenhams.co.uk

Training Past, Present, Future, And the Team Cont

As you may notice we are a very small team, and we all have busy lives outside the club such as families, children, houses to run, businesses to run, and other hobbies. Of course we do occasionally just like to go diving. One of the things you could do to help the club is to become part of the instructor team. The more instructors we have the less training we each have to do, and the more people we can get qualified.

To encourage members to become instructors the club has added the following benefits to instructors.

- 1) Free entry to Gildenburgh if you are going there just to teach. You must get ticket before going to Gildenburgh as refunds after the event will not be given. The training officer holds a supply of entry tickets.
- 2) The club will reimburse the exam fees for any instructor exams passed. This will be in the form of a refund against their membership renewal 12 months after the exam. Currently the exam costs are:-
 - a. Theory Open Water instructor exam, £25.00
 - b. Practical Open Water instructor exam, £35.00
 - c. Theory Advanced instructor exam, £10.00
 - d. Practical Advanced instructor exam, £70.00
- 3) The club has set aside £250 to contribute towards the costs of members attending the Instructor foundation course (IFC). This will be to a maximum of £50 per person. The refund will be deducted from membership renewal 12 months after attending the IFC provided that the member has helped with training in the time since completing the course. The next IFC in Cambridge is on 15th & 16th October; these courses fill very quickly so you need to book several months in advance. The course is open to Sports divers and above, and will teach you all you need to know about how to teach in the pool and classroom.
- 4) All Instructors get a reduction of their BSAC HQ membership, normal HQ fees are £43, Open water instructors only pay £38, and Advanced instructors pay a mere £33.

So come and help teach more divers. It is very rewarding to take a raw diver, and watch them develop into a skilled, competent diver. Of course, if you are teaching you will find your own skills will stay sharp.

If anybody wants to discuss any aspect of diver training, I am down the pub most Thursdays, or you are welcome to ring/e-mail me, or any member of the instructor team.

Neil Burgess
Training Officer.

Honour Role

Ocean Divers

Tim Clifforde
Craig Rouse
Rob Clarkeson
Jim Scarff
Cathy Fells
Steve Rolph
Andrew Ludlow

Sports Divers

Bryony Harvey
Doug Midgley
Stephanie Riach
Cormac O'Connell
Donald Allwright
Clare Izard
Joanne Caveille

Dive Leaders

Ivan Brownstone
Sally Carroll

Advanced Divers

Suzie Wenham

Dive Planning and Marshaling Course

Sam Wenham
Suzie Wenham
John Schneider
Pete Willey
Chris Scott
Ivan Brownstone
Amanda Walker
Sara Hughes

Chart Work & Nav. Aids course

Cormac O'Connell
Gawain Edwards
Neil Burgess
Stephanie Riach
Suzie Wenham

Honour Role

Boat Handling

John Rogers
 Stephanie Riach
 Cormac O'Connell
 Suzie Wenham
 Craig Rouse
 Ben Pemberton

Advanced Nitrox Divers

Sara Hughes
 Mike McLaren
 Stephanie Riach
 Cormac O'Connell
 Kim Stevens

Boat Handling Instructors

Neil Burgess
 Emma Faid

Events planned for 2006

Date	Event	Location	Organiser
09/02/2006	AGM	Boathouse Pub	CamBSAC
14/04 - 17/04/2006	Easter Trip	?????????	?????????
29/04 - 01/05/2006	Trainee Trip	Plymouth	Neil Burgess
29/05 - 03/06/2006	Annual Holiday	Challaborough	Chris Scott

For a more regularly updated list of club events please go to www.cambsac.com and click "Dive Plans"

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition. It is fantastic to that we have an article for almost every trip that went out. I am sorry it has taken me so long to get a chance to publish it.

Unfortunately I had to pull a fantastic article buy the NAS Adopt a Wreck team when I realised that I was going to level a small forest to print it. I will have some copy's at the curry night for people to read and will put it up on the website for you all to download and read.
 Sorry Dave and the team.

I hope you all enjoy this newsletter.
 Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sam Wenham