

**Committee meeting -
Monday, 11 March**

All Club Officers were at the meeting except Kim who was unable to attend. Jayne took notes on her behalf. Various issues were discussed and are detailed below.

1. **Club kit** - Are all 6 sets of Club kit ready for open water use? Yes.
2. **Kent Diving Club Account** - Graham P asked whether it would be beneficial opening a Club account for servicing of Club kit and air fills. Although a small Club discount would be on offer, it was agreed by the Committee that it would be easier to keep track of costs etc on a pay as you go basis rather than via a monthly account.
3. **Pool training** - It was confirmed that the Club supplies air free to trainees when doing pool training.
4. **Maidstone pool** - The hire of the 4m deep Maidstone pool for training purposes would be paid for by the Club only with the Training Officer's agreement.
5. **Club Magazine** - Although it was a good idea to have the Club Magazine on the website, certain articles may need to be edited or certain Club sensitive issues removed before the outside world has access to the Magazine.
6. **Boat engine** - Power Products Marine ("PPM") were due to check the engine again on 13 March. Sean suggested that if problems persist we could try using Whitstable Marine.
7. **Raffle prize donations** - Jerry asked for Club members to donate raffle prizes e.g. drink, chocolates, unwanted gifts, for the next Quiz night to be arranged.
8. **Fund raising** - We now have less than a year to raise funds for a new engine if the boat is to be ready for the 2003 diving season. Various fund raising options were discussed:
 - a. Jerry has now started the weekly lottery bonus ball scheme whereby £1 is paid for each guess of the bonus ball. The winner receives some money and the remaining is donated to the Club funds.
 - b. Colin suggested organising a race night (e.g. horses or dogs) run on a projector screen. A night run by a professional organiser would cost £265 for equipment and betting package etc. Could we cover the cost and get enough people to make a profit? Colin would look into the costs of running a race night ourselves.
 - c. Once again the question of grants came up. Dave Phillips has experience of this and we need to discuss our options with him further.
 - d. Nigel Harrison said there is a possibility that we may be able to organise a burger/ hotdog stall at the Upchurch Firework night this year. He would let us know if the event would be taking place.

- e. Colin suggested the "smartie tube" scheme whereby those Club members committed to raising funds for a new engine would put spare 20p pieces into a smartie tube on a weekly basis until the tube was full. Each smartie tube holds £14.
- f. Jerry would look into arranging a Summer Ball as an option to raise funds.
- g. It was felt that the quickest and easiest way of raising funds was for all future Club boat dives to be paid for in advance by buying boat vouchers. Nigel Harrison would ask Tim to produce the vouchers in blocks of 6 with each voucher being numbered. Nigel would therefore keep a record of all vouchers bought. These vouchers would be valid for several years and would be available for use from May.

Boat testing - Saturday, 16 March at 2pm, Minster

**Report by Trevor Payne,
Boat Manager:**

Many thanks to Roy and Ann who took the Club Rib to Power Products Marine ("PPM") on Wednesday, 13 March for further investigation into its poor performance. PPM found that

the carburettor injectors were fitted incorrectly. This was fixed and an offer to water test the boat was made if any more problems occur. On Saturday, 16 March we tested the boat and there was a huge sigh of relief as it performed well.

Maloja wreck dive - Sunday, 24 March, Dover slip

**Report by Trevor Payne,
Dive Marshall:**

The first Club boat dive of 2002 took place at 10am on a sunny Sunday morning out of Dover. The wreck of the Maloja is one of the largest wrecks in Kentish waters. The Maloja was a P&O liner built in 1911 to run from London to Australia. She was sunk in 1916 after an explosion, two miles south west of Dover, during a voyage from Tilbury to Bombay. In total 122 crew and passengers were lost from a total of 240. The wreck stands 5m proud at 24m. The Club Rib carried Graham P, Phil, Nigel H, Tim, Nigel W and myself to the dive site in under 15 minutes without any problems. We managed to dive to a depth of 21-23m for about 30 minutes with 1-2m viz, water temperature was 9°C with Force 2 wind. This is a large wreck and even though I have dived it 5 times I have still not seen it all.

Portland training weekend - Saturday, 6 and Sunday, 7 April

**Report by Graham Pettett,
Dive Marshall:**

Best laid plans and all that . . . I had a cunning plan set out to have two boat shifts, to do three boat runs each day. Loads of interesting dives for our newer members, but alas it just wasn't to be. Perfect sunshine, not a cloud in the sky and yet Force 8 Easterly gales blowing straight into Portland Harbour. It was so rough waves were breaking over the Fort on the Harbour wall! With Easterlies, the only option was Chesil Beach, which was absolutely flat. After trudging down the beach, Nigel W, Malcolm, Graham A, Jan, Kim, Anne, Jane, Nigel H, Julie, Dave, Paul, Mark Stevens, John and myself all collapsed (some literally) into the water. Unfortunately, viz peaked at about 1m. Then it was the great challenge of climbing or more like crawling out again and back up the beach, which I'm certain gets steeper every time I go there. After a quick bite to eat and cylinder fill run, everyone leapt enthusiastically (honest!) back into the water. Unfortunately, the viz had decreased to about 0.5m. Much the same as the morning a few fish, some saw the wreck except for one lucky pair, which may have had something to do with a dolphin

encounter, but that's another story for Graham and Jan to tell.

The evening was spent in time-honoured tradition causing chaos while supping a few beers in the Smugglers'. There was unsurprisingly quite a buzz of excitement around the table. Sunday, Lulworth we thought, you can always dive Lulworth Cove. So off we went. As we walked down the

slope, the newer members' faces dropped as it dawned on them the route march they were about to embark on in full kit. However, they were saved by the bell, or I should say the wind! Would you believe it, it had turned South Easterly, just about the only wind that can blow out Lulworth Cove, and yes we had it full on. The water looked rather like coffee so we went for a walk instead.

Oh well, there's always another day

**Committee meeting -
Wednesday, 22 May at
8pm at Gaynor's house**

A Committee meeting has been called to discuss various Club issues. Anyone wishing to raise a point for discussion by the Committee should contact Nigel Woolley.

I'm sure you are all committed to your Club. Do you want your Club to be able to offer boat dives in 2003 to our increasing membership?

Fund raising! As we all know time is passing and we still have a large target. We have had some ideas, but more are needed. We are all finding that getting other people to give us money to support our pleasure is near impossible. We have made a start towards our target but things are slow. First it will benefit every member to purchase boat dive vouchers. Can I take this opportunity to offer my full support to any money-raising scheme, as long as it does not involve a Bank and a shotgun!

Nigel Woolley, Club Chairman

Please buy your boat vouchers from Nigel Harrison for any future Club Rib dives NOW! - See letter with membership renewal.

Swale Divers - Profile

Name:	<i>Graham "Yo-Yo" Pettett</i>
Age/Family:	<i>25, young, free and single</i>
Number of years diving:	<i>9 - Started with the Club when 15</i>
Diving qualifications/ Club appointments:	<i>Advanced, Nitrox Diver, Boat Handling, Oxygen Administration, Club Instructor/ Magazine Editor 1996-98, Training Officer 1999 to date, Creator and editor of Club website 2000 to date</i>
Best diving experience:	<i>Maldives - Mantas, warm clear water UK - The Vase at Porth Kerris, Cornwall last year. So many colours almost as good as the Red Sea. Reminds me why I dive in UK</i>
Worst diving experience:	<i>Miscalculating currents at Dover and being swept away along Harbour wall and having to be picked up by the Lifeboat Doh! Many lessons learned</i>
Location would most like to dive:	<i>Caymans - Love the USA, supposed to be one of the best</i>
Occupation/Other interests:	<i>Corporate Network Manager for Vizzavi (part of Vodafone)/Computers, computers and more computers</i>

