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[www.swale-divers.org.uk](http://www.swale-divers.org.uk)

Hope everyone received the February Magazine with the AGM Minutes. The Club Address List was recently sent to all members asking for confirmation of current details. Many thanks to those members that replied, an amended list will be sent out soon.

**Quiz Night - Sunday,**  
**13 April at 7.30pm, at**  
**the Sheerness**  
**Conservative Club**

The next Swale Divers Quiz Night will soon be upon us. As the Club is still raising funds for the new boat engine, please support this event. The new venue is very close to Sheerness Swimming Pool, instead of turning right after the mini roundabout for the Swimming Pool, continue on and turn left into the car park opposite the Conservative Club. Tickets are £3.50 per person (includes sandwiches, crisps, etc). Teams should be of 6 people or less and can be family or friends. If you need help in making up team numbers or need more information or directions please speak to Jerry Lewry.

**Dive Planning Meeting -**  
**Tuesday, 25 February**  
**at The Woolpack, Iwade**

Although 19 Club members attended the Dive Planning Meeting, 6 people so far have planned dives. Hopefully as the season progresses more members will plan dives throughout the year. If you wish to go on any of the dives planned contact the relevant Dive Marshall shown on the 2003 Dive Plan attached and also reproduced on the Club website. If you would like to add more dives to the 2003 Dive Plan please contact Graham Pettett or myself to produce an updated list.

**New RIB engine -**  
**Report by Trevor Payne,**  
**Boat Manager:**

As you may know, at the AGM the Club agreed to purchase a new engine for the RIB. The Club opted to part exchange our Mariner 100 HP engine for a new Yamaha 150 HPDI and this was fitted by Power Products Marine ("PPM") on 17 February. Included with the engine is a remote oil tank, fitted in the stern of the RIB and two electronic instruments fitted on the

console. One multi function instrument displays engine revs, oil tank level, engine over temperature warning, hour run meter, oil-water separator warning and trim indicator. The other instrument displays battery voltage, speed, distance traveled and time. There is also a fuel tank indicator which is not connected as fuel level is shown on a separate gauge.

As an extra, we requested the installation of a remote fuel/water separator. This is fitted in the main fuel line and consists of a cartridge to be replaced annually. It was also decided the steering would not be up to the extra horse power. A Sea Star hydraulic centre mounted system was recommended to meet our requirements and was installed at the same time as the engine, replacing the old worn cable steering which was long overdue for replacement (ask any coxswain with arms smaller than Popeye!).

Unfortunately, during the installation of the new engine the radio aerial was broken, this was replaced free of

charge by PPM. To install all of the above turned out to be a bigger job than expected. This consisted of removing the centre console, seat and bottle rack totaling 3 days work. All that remains now is for the fun to begin!

### **Boat maintenance -**

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

Many thanks to the following people who helped recently with boat maintenance. On 22 February Nigel and Glen Woolley stripped the broken patches and prepared the tubes for the new handles. On 1 March Paul Stevens and his boys tried to service the trailer hubs and bearings which, unfortunately, are worn out and need replacements fitted. The inside of the boat cover was also cleaned with help (or hindrance) from Jessica Payne. Graham Ashbee arranged for a new A Flag holder to be made and fitted it to the boat. Graham and Nigel Woolley fitted the new handles and patches to the tubes. During this time, I fitted the new aerial and tried to give helpful supervision to everyone (to which nobody listened) and generally got in the way. Thanks again for all the help and to Jayne for keeping us going with tea, coffee and donuts (although Jessica ate most of them!). Also, on 22 March Paul returned to fit the new hubs and brakes

whilst I painted the wheels and fitted a replacement battery (see second boat testing!).

### **1st Boat testing run -**

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

After waiting for the engine to be fitted and the necessary maintenance of the hull, we couldn't wait to get out and test it! Sunday, 2 March was the day! Nigel Woolley, Graham Ashbee, Paul Stevens and I launched the boat at Minster and after 10 minutes ticking over (as per Yamaha instruction manual) we proceeded to tour around the rear of the Island. Running the engine in limits us to half throttle - 3,000rpm. With the RIB planning at 2,800rpm our route was via Queenborough and under the Kingsferry Bridge and on around the rear of the Island as far as the entrance to Conyer Creek. We then did a U turn and returned to Minster. Our tour taking 2 hours and a distance of 34 miles. At this point we cannot assess the new engine's performance with the boat fully loaded, we can only match it to the old engine with the boat unloaded. In 2001 with only Nigel Woolley and myself on board, the boat ran at 33mph flat out across Weymouth Harbour. The new engine, running with 6 on board at half throttle - 3,000rpm planned at 35 mph. We all returned grinning and

very happy. The steering is a big improvement, I can only compare it to the feel of a car with power steering. We now have no torque steer, one hand control and the boat stays on the course selected. This must be easier and safer for all on board in any sea state or when picking up divers. See next Magazine for further boat testing reports.

### **Committee meeting - Wednesday, 5 March at 8pm at Gaynor's house**

Those Club Officers unable to attend the meeting were Nigel Harrison, Graham Pettett, Sean Foulger and Colin Johnson. Various issues were discussed and are detailed below.

1. **New RIB engine -**  
Comment from Boat Manager "it goes like a dream"! Approximate running in costs will be fuel for 20 hours running. It was agreed that the Club would meet the cost of the fuel for running in the engine. If Club members were to combine a pleasure trip with running in the engine a donation towards the cost of the fuel used would be gratefully received.
2. **Engine warranty -** Nigel W queried with Trevor what name the warranty had been registered under. Trevor confirmed it

was registered in the Club's name after being assured by PPM that there would be no problem with the Yamaha warranty as a Club is not considered to be commercial.

3. **Trailer** - The hubs, shoes and bearings are approximately 7 years old and have disintegrated and need replacing. Trevor has agreed to pay for and defer payment from the Club until more Club funds are available in May.
4. **Boat, engine and trailer weight** - Nigel W has access to a weighbridge at the Docks and will arrange for a time.
5. **Club dates** - Jerry had confirmation of the Quiz Night date being Sunday, 13 April and the Summer

Dance date being Saturday, 26 July. Both events are being held at the Sheerness Conservative Club.

6. **Grant application** - The sub-committee has not met yet. The model byelaws which Graham P printed off need to be checked to make sure the Club complies before a grant application is made. Kim A agreed to do this.
7. **Club kit** - Nigel W asked for confirmation that we have all 6 sets of Club kit so that they can be serviced before the dive season starts. George confirmed this.
8. **Boat handling course** - Nigel W is attempting to organise a locally run RYA

recognized boat handling course.

9. **Alternative swimming pool** - Graham P managed to contact Medway BSAC (via Lyndsay Smith) who have training sessions in the Black Lion pool on Monday evenings. 8-9pm for the deep pool and 9-10pm for the main pool. They pay £15 per hour + entrance fees. They have agreed that when Sheerness Swimming Pool is closed we can share their training sessions and split the costs. Although the hours are unsociable this may be a short-term solution to pool training.
10. **Next Committee meeting** - To be arranged.

### *Swale Divers - Profile*

Name:	<i>Graham Ashbee</i>
Age/Family:	<i>40/Married to Kim</i>
Number of years diving:	<i>12 -13 years</i>
Diving qualifications/ Club appointments:	<i>Advanced, Nitrox Diver, BSAC Lifesaver Award, Marine Radio Operation, Boat Handling, Assistant Club Instructor Training Officer 1995-98, Club Secretary 1999 to date</i>
Best diving experience:	<i>A holiday in the Maldives - Manta rays and washing machines (funny currents!)</i>
Worst diving experience:	<i>Bognor - (Trevor was Dive Marshall) Go over the side of RIB, its slack? No its not! Come up 80 yards + away from the boat drifting further away. Slight problem - Boat not wanting to start!</i>
Location would most like to dive:	<i>Sail and dive somewhere warm</i>
Occupation/Other interests:	<i>Installation Supervisor/Golf</i>

If you have any comments on any of the articles published in this Magazine, please contact me, Jayne Payne, Magazine Editor.

## SWALE DIVERS - DIVE PLAN 2003

Date	Dive	Dive Marshall	Meet Time	Where To Meet	Type of Dive	Diving Grade Required
<b>April</b>						
Sat 5th-Sun 6th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 12th	Dover	Trevor Payne	9.30am	Dover slip	Club RIB	Sports+ - 25m
Sun 13th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 19th-Sun 20th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 26th	AVAILABLE					
Sun 27th	Dover	Trevor Payne	10.30am	Dover slip	Club RIB	Sports+ - 30m
<b>May</b>						
Sat 3rd	AVAILABLE					
Sun 4th	Littlehampton	Nigel Harrison	TBA	TBA	Hard Boat	
Sat 10th-Sun 11th	Porth Kerris, Cornwall	Graham Ashbee	TBA	TBA	RIB	Any
Sat 17th-Sun 18th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 24th	Bognor	Trevor Payne	8.00am	Bognor slip	Club RIB	Any - 12m
Sun 25th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 31st	AVAILABLE					
<b>June</b>						
Sun 1st	AVAILABLE					
Sat 7th-Sun 8th	Swanage	Kim Ashbee	TBA	TBA	Club RIB?/ Hardboat?	Sports+
Sat 14th-Sun 15th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 21st-Sun 22nd	Portland	Trevor Payne	TBA	TBA	Club RIB	Sports+
Sat 21st-Sat 28th	Scilly Isles Holiday	Malcolm Carter	TBA	TBA	Hard Boat	
Sat 28th-Sun 29th	AVAILABLE					
<b>July</b>						
Sat 5th-Sun 6th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 12th-Sun 13th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 19th-Sun 20th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 26th	Dover	Trevor Payne	10.00am	Dover slip	Club RIB	Sports+
Sun 27th	AVAILABLE					
<b>August</b>						
Sat 2nd-Sun 3rd	AVAILABLE					
Sat 9th	AVAILABLE					
Sun 10th	Littlehampton	Graham Pettett	8.00am	Lit'ton Marina	Club RIB	Any
Sat 16th-Sun 17th						
Sat 23rd	Littlehampton	Graham Pettett	10.00am	Lit'ton Marina	Club RIB	Experienced Sports+
Sun 24th	Dover	Trevor Payne	9.30am	Dover slip	Club RIB	Sports+
Sat 30th	AVAILABLE					
Sun 31st	Littlehampton	Graham Pettett	10.00am	Lit'ton Marina	Club RIB	Any
<b>September</b>						
Sat 6th-Sun 7th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 13th-Sun 14th	AVAILABLE					
Sat 20th-Sun 21st	Portland	Trevor Payne	TBA	TBA	Club RIB	Sports+
Sat 20th-Sun 21st	Porth Kerris, Cornwall	Graham Ashbee	TBA	TBA	Celtic Cat	Dive Leader+
Sat 27th-Sun 28th	AVAILABLE					
<b>October</b>						
Sat 4th-Sun 5th	Porth Kerris, Cornwall	Graham Ashbee	TBA	TBA	Celtic Cat	Diver Leader+

