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

You will have received the 2003 Dive Plan with the last Magazine in March and I hope you have all been badgering the Dive Marshalls for a place on their dives. Club renewals took place in May. The Club stands at 40 members with 2 still to renew. 3 people left the Club. An up to date Club address list will be issued shortly.

**Summer Dance -  
Saturday, 26 July at  
7.30pm, at the  
Sheerness Conservative  
Club**

The Swale Divers Summer Dance tickets are selling fast. Tickets are priced at £5 per head including buffet. Friends and family are welcome, please contact Jerry Lewry for tickets ASAP. If you are able to help with preparing food, please contact Kim Ashbee. Also any donations (e.g. wine, beer, chocolates etc.) for raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated and should be given to Jerry. Please support this event as Club funds are still needed to pay for the boat engine. Hope to see you there for a great evening.

**Quiz Night - Sunday,  
13 April - From Dunces  
to Onces!**

The Swale Divers Quiz Night took place for the first time at the Sheerness Conservative Club. It was well organised by Jerry and his support team. 16 teams took part and were quizzed by our own Ann Robinson, Carol Lewry. The winning team were surprised to score an amazing 111 points out of a possible 130 as they have come last on more than one occasion! The winning team consisted of Trevor and Jayne Payne, Kim and Graham Ashbee, Nigel Woolley and Dave Luxon. Many thanks to all those who supported the Swale Divers Quiz Night. The next Quiz Night will hopefully take place in October.

**Committee meeting -  
Wednesday, 16 July at  
8pm at Gaynor's house**

All Club Officers are requested to attend a Committee meeting to discuss various Club issues. Anyone in the Club who would like to raise a point for the Committee to consider should

contact the Chairman, Nigel Woolley.

**Boat testing update -  
Report by Trevor Payne,  
Boat Manager:**

Here is a brief update of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> running in period before the new engine service.

1. 16 March - Colin Nagi, Dave Phillips, John Mangan and myself took the boat up the Thames and the Medway Estuaries for a 3 hour test covering 63 miles. The boat used 56 litres of fuel. There were 2 incidents being: John doing a Superman impression as the boat left the water going over a ship's wake; and on return to Minster slip we found that the battery was completely dead. Nigel Woolley rescue service was called out to use jump leads to tilt the engine up for road travel.
2. 23 March - Nigel Woolley, Kim and Graham Ashbee and myself spent time off of Dover running in and plotting possible dive sites. This took 2½ hours covering 35 miles and

using 35 litres of fuel in fairly rough sea.

- 29 March - Nigel and Tim Harrison and myself took a trip from Minster up the Medway Estuary covering 42 miles in 2½ hours in miserable conditions.

Many thanks to all those above for their commitment of time and effort in running in the engine in poor conditions ready for the diving season.

### **Boat maintenance -**

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

On completion of running in, the boat was returned to Power Products Marine ("PPM") for its first inclusive service on 23 April. Many thanks to Roy and Ann Povey and Nigel Woolley for dropping off and collecting the boat respectively. During the service the engine trim indicator was fixed and the fuel leak on the water separator was repaired. On its next journey out, the boat speedo and trip indicator was found not to be working. After talking to PPM and further investigation hours before leaving for Portland on 20 June, I found that the speedo sensing tube had been squashed by the main fuel tank. This has now been repaired and is now working. During the Portland weekend the bilge pump broke away from its base. This was temporarily repaired but may

need to be replaced in the future.

### **Training events -**

**Report by Graham Pettett, Training Officer:**

I am looking to organise the following skill development courses in the next couple of months.

#### ***Boat Handling***

This course is a 2 day course covering both the theory and practical skills to operate small boats (such as the Club RIB) to transport and cover divers. It would be run over a weekend, probably from Sheerness. Cost will depend on numbers of participants, but should be somewhere in the region of £50-60.

#### ***Nitrox***

This is the entry level Nitrox course, which allows you to use Nitrox 32 and Nitrox 36 for non-decompression dives. Nitrox increases safety, can increase your dive time and can make you feel better (less tired) after a day's diving. It is a one day theory event, but it may be possible if the majority prefer, to run it over two or three evenings. This will be run at a suitable location in either Sittingbourne or Sheerness. Cost again depending on numbers will be £30-40.

If you are interested in either event, **please let me know by 22 July.**

### **Dive reports -**

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

- 12 April - Dover wreck dive launching Club Rib at Dover slip. The wreck was dived by Jane Pople and Trevor Payne. Unfortunately Roy and Ann Povey missed the wreck due to tide and a small shot weight being pulled off. In fair conditions and underwater vis 3m at 27m.
- 8 June - Wreck dive on the Mulberry after launching at Bognor slipway. Mulberry dived by Ann Mangan and Nigel Harrison, Lyndsay Smith and Simon Parker. Unfortunately the wind increased from a Force 3 to a 5/6. John Mangan, Tim Harrison and myself were unable to dive.
- 20-22 June - Portland weekend - Boat launched at Castletown on Saturday morning after aborting our launch at Ferry Bridge. This slip is now completely diver unfriendly due to the fact that the new operators hate divers and have short opening hours. The Binnendijk wreck at 28m was dived by Nigel Woolley and Jan Carter, Kim and Graham Ashbee, Jerry Lewry and Colin Nagi and finally, Paul

Stevens and myself. The weather conditions were fair/sunny, sea state slight and wind force 3/4. After returning to Castletown for lunch we decided to dive the M2. This location was more sheltered by the Isle of Portland with an easterly wind. After locating the wreck using the GPS we scored "a hole in one" or should I say "a conning tower in one" with the shot line! Amazingly the shot was found to be on the deck of the conning tower on the highest part

of the wreck. More judgment than luck by shot throwers Nigel and Graham and myself on the helm! This is the best dive I've done on the M2 with underwater vis 5m and no other divers on the wreck.

After recovery of the boat at Castletown and a wash and brush up in our caravans at Pebble Bank Caravan Site (very good caravans) we all enjoyed a nice social evening over a beer or 2 and a meal in the Spyglass Inn.

Unfortunately this is where the weekend all went wrong! Sunday's diving was cancelled after consulting our weather information service (Jayne was not very happy at being woken up to check the Met Office forecast!). We decided that the winds were too strong for comfortable diving and an early return home was decided. Hopefully we'll have better luck in September!

### *Swale Divers - Profile*

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| Name:  | <i>Roy Povey</i>  |
| Age/Family:                                  | <i>?/Married to Anne with 2 children, Sean and Rosalind</i>   |
| Number of years diving:                      | <i>29 years diving, started at the North West Kent branch October 1973, started Swale BSAC July 1975</i>  |
| Diving qualifications/<br>Club appointments: | <i>Advanced Diver, Open Water Instructor, Assistant Advanced Instructor, Nitrox Diver, BSAC Lifesaver, Marine Radio Operator, Boat Handler, Compressor Operator, Oxygen Administrator, Basic Explosives</i>   |
| Best diving experience:                      | <i>Club Secretary 1975-1978, Diving Officer 1978-1982, Club Secretary 1982-1989, Diving Officer 1989-1999, Diving Officer 2000-2001</i>   |
| Worst diving experience:                     | <i>Diving the wall at Ras Mohammed Egypt. So many large fish and the wall is a shear drop to the Abyss. A fantastic place</i>   |
| Location would most like to dive:            | <i>Maiden Island near Oban, dived when I felt the dive was wrong for me i.e. a deep dive on my first dive of the season became badly narcotic and fell out of control down the side of an underwater cliff. Luckily I landed on an outcrop of the cliff at 30 metres and my buddy helped me back up the cliff</i> |
| Occupation/Other interests:                  | <i>Boat diving around the Aldabra Islands, Seychelles. Because of it's reputation to be in pristine condition there are lots of large fish around the Islands and it sounds really exotic and way off the beaten track. (Costs loads of money!)</i>   |
|  | <i>Papermaker</i>   |
|  | <i>Photography surface and underwater. Space and science</i>  |

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

