



**Issue 31
February,
2004**

www.swale-divers.org.uk

Happy New Year to all Swale Divers

We would like to start by congratulating Dave and Julie on the birth of their daughter, Coral, who was born just before Christmas. We would also like to welcome Steven C, Sean D, Emma G, Natalie H, Michael M, Daniel N, Garry T, Glenn W, Nick F and Fabio A who recently joined the Club.

Articles for inclusion in the Magazine are always welcome, so if you have any ideas please let me, Jayne, Magazine Editor, know. Also, let me know if you would prefer to receive the Magazine via email or post and keep me informed of any address changes you may have. Back copies of the Magazine can be found on the Club website, www.swale-divers.org.uk, as well as details of Club holidays. If you have any queries regarding the Club website, please speak to our computer expert (the man with many hats!!), Graham P.

Finally, lets all hope 2004 brings us good diving weather!

Christmas Dance - 6 December 2003

Once again, the Swale Divers' Christmas Dance was a great night out. Jerry, Carol, Colin and their team of helpers did an excellent job of organising this event and raised money for the Club. Nigel W thanked everyone for coming and presented flowers to Carol, Gaynor and myself (they were a lovely surprise, thank you). The 2004 Christmas Dance has been arranged for Saturday, 11 December so put it on your calendar now!

Thinking of diving at Stoney Cove midweek?

Paul U is an Open Water Instructor and is available for midweek dives at Stoney (as its standing room only at weekends!!).

Swale Divers 2004 AGM - Tuesday, 20 January

The 2004 AGM took place at The Woolpack Inn, Iwade.

Many thanks to those 30 people who attended out of a possible 54 Club members. The AGM Minutes are produced as a separate article at the end of the Magazine.

Nitrox course - Saturday, 20 March

Graham P has details of a Regional Nitrox Training Course to be held in Crawley which may be cancelled due to lack of interest. At present, 4 Club members wish to attend but if more Club members are interested, Graham may be able to persuade the organisers to change the venue and hold it locally. Please contact Graham if you would like further details.

Dive with Breakwater Divers, Portland on Sat 27/Sun 28 March

Paul U is organising a weekend diving in the Portland Harbour area with Breakwater Divers on their hard boat.

The package is £66 for 2 nights B&B and 2 dives per day. For further details please contact Paul.

Swale Divers - Profile

Name:	<i>George F</i>
Age/Family:	<i>70/Living in sin with Gaynor. 2 daughters, Susie (non diver), Charlotte, no qualifications but has taught diving employed in a holiday resort in Greece (sound familiar?)</i>
Number of years diving:	<i>Learnt to dive with the Club when it began in 1975 (with only 4 members!)</i>
Diving qualifications/ Club appointments:	<i>Advanced Diver, Oxygen Administration, Nitrox Diver, Boat Handling Club Equipment Officer since 1976</i>
Best diving experience:	<i>Hammerheads in Maldives. Stingrays above us in Poor Knights, New Zealand. Thistlegorm in Red Sea. Persuading Kim to take her mask off at 20m for Dive Leader qualification in Belize. Turquoise Bay in Australia - constant stream of sharks, rays and turtles in gin clear water. Being arrested by MOD while diving in Portland Harbour!</i>
Worst diving experience:	<i>Getting wrapped up in what was probably a huge ray off Falmouth and losing mask. Getting stuck when reinforcing rod slid down back of wetsuit on Mulberry, off Bognor. Narked in the pit at Stoney Cove. Many more but we don't want to worry the trainees do we?!</i>
Location would most like to dive:	<i>TruK Lagoon, Micronesia (Western Central Pacific Ocean). Maldives again and again</i>
Occupation/Other interests:	<i>Retired from driving my concrete mixer. Knocking walls down and building them up again! Traveling abroad in motor home. New interest - just discovered ex-army association "Brixmiss", so determined to conquer computer and not throw it into the fishpond after all my threats!</i>

Dive Planning Meeting - Tuesday, 27 January

Approximately 27 members attended the meeting at The Woolpack Inn, Iwade. The main focus of the meeting was to schedule enough training dives to enable our enthusiastic students to complete their Ocean Diver qualifications. The 2004 Dive Plan is attached at the end of the Magazine and can also be found on the Club website. If you wish to go on any dives planned, contact the

relevant Dive Marshall well in advance as spaces go very quickly, especially the weekend away dive trips. Hopefully, weather permitting, more dives will be planned as the season progresses. It is important that you look at your emails and keep checking with the Dive Marshalls for forthcoming dives as it is impractical for Dive Marshalls to ring every member with details of a new dive. If you are unsure which Dive Marshalls are planning RIB dives, contact the Boat Manager, Trevor P,

and he will be able to tell you the names of the Dive Marshalls to contact.

Club Fleeces and Polo Shirts -

Kim A is still taking orders for Club Fleeces which are navy blue with a grey logo. They cost £25 each and will keep you lovely and warm after your dive! For £15 you can buy a Club polo shirt which is light grey with a black logo. Please let Kim have your money and size required.

Dive kit for sale

Malcolm C has the following equipment for sale:

- 7mm two piece semi-dry, small fit (someone about 9½ stone and about 5' 5" to 5' 6" tall) - £25;
- new (never worn) 3mm one piece wet suit, small fit (same as above) - £30;
- Size 7 boots - £5;
- Buddy stab jacket small to medium - £40; and
- Dacca 1st stage and regulator - £40.

If anyone would like further information about any of the above, please contact Malcolm.

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

SWALE DIVERS AGM 2004

OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN MINUTES OF LAST AGM (MAIN POINTS) REPORTS FROM OTHER OFFICERS (D.O./TREASURER/SECRETARY/ETC) ANY OTHER BUSINESS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman: Nigel Woolley

Welcomed everyone to the 29th AGM. Apologies were received from Colin J. The Club has had an excellent year. Thanks to:

- Kim A for producing Club polo shirts and fleeces;
- Colin N and Jerry L and their wives for organising 2 Quiz Nights, the Summer Dance and a great Christmas party;
- Nigel H for organising the burger and drinks stall at the Upchurch Bonfire night;
- George and Gaynor (not at the meeting) for allowing their house to be used as the venue for 3 Committee meetings that took place during 2003;
- Jayne P (non diver) for producing the Magazine and keeping Address List up to date;
- Roy P who took on the role of DO in Graham's absence; and
- to all those who took part in the promotion days at Tesco and Asda which resulted in 41 try dives.

The Club has had a busy year purchasing a new engine for the

Club RIB and new pool equipment. We are now in a good position with new trainees, Red Sea holiday planned for August and a trip to Cornwall in April. The Dive Planning Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 27 January. Nigel had a copy of the main points of the 2003 AGM Minutes if anyone wanted to look at it and the Minutes could also be found in the February 2003 Magazine.

REPORTS

Diving Officer (DO) and Training Officer: Graham P

Graham thanked Roy for acting DO and Kim and Nigel W for acting Training Officers while he was overseas (on holiday) for 4 months. Thanks to all those Instructors who helped with training and to those 4 members who have signed up for the Open Water Instructor Course taking place in May. As a result of the promotion days we have 13 new members, 10 of which are trainees. 5 Sports Diver grades trained this year. The Club needs more people

volunteering to tow the RIB to dive sites if we are to continue training and make the most use of the Club RIB. A boat handling course has still to be organised and is proving difficult to arrange but Graham will continue chasing the Instructor. Graham said 4 people expressed an interest in a Nitrox course and if anyone else is interested please contact him.

The Training Officer's Award was presented to Malcolm C who has come on in leaps and bounds this year and is always interested in attending new courses.

The Diving Officer's Award was presented to Nigel W who has given so much time to the Club and has been heavily involved in training and taking in many of the come and trys.

Also, to mark its 50th Anniversary, BSAC Headquarters sent a commemorative engraved plate to be presented to a worthy Club member. The Committee felt that as

Nigel is a founder member of the Club and he has put in so much time and effort to the Club over the years, he should be presented with the award. The Committee decided to obtain its own award (a brass diving helmet) to show its appreciation for Nigel's commitment to the Club. But what should we do with the BSAC plate?? A new Dunces Award was presented to Graham A for his little accident concerning the Club RIB and another boat!

Treasurer: Nigel H

After spending money on the new engine and RIB maintenance, money on pool equipment and on pool hire, HQ fees and other costs, the closing balance is in credit. Funds raised through the 5 events held this year, plus polo shirt sales and RIB vouchers purchased mean money has been raised. Membership fees provided an income to the Club and pool use raised money. Summary of accounts is available on request from Nigel H.

Secretary: Graham A

Nothing to report except insurance claim is in hand.

Boat Manager: Trevor P

The new engine and steering was fitted by Power Products Marine (PPM) on 17 February 2003. During March, 4 running in sessions took place of 2 hours, 3 hours, 2½ hours and 2½ hours. Many thanks to those members who took part in this when conditions were cold and miserable. Full boat testing details can be found in the Club Magazines. On 29 April the engine went for its free service. Between Graham P and Trevor, the RIB was used for diving on 11 days during the year. This consisted of 4 days diving at Littlehampton, 3 days at Portland, 3 days at Dover and 1 day at Bognor. The new engine easily coped with 8 divers and kit in some rough conditions.

The following boat maintenance was carried out during the year:

- February
New handles and patches fitted on the tubes, new A flag holder fitted and a new aerial fitted (supplied by PPM after it was damaged during the new engine being fitted).
- March
New hubs and brakes fitted to the trailer, wheels painted and a replacement battery fitted.
- April
Boat service included engine trim indicator being fixed and fuel leak on water separator being repaired covered under warranty.
- June
Speedo and trip indicator found not working due to speedo sensing tube being squashed by fuel tank. After being freed it worked. The bilge pump broke away from its base during a dive and was temporarily repaired with cable ties.

Many thanks to Graham A, Paul S, Nigel and Glenn W for all their help with boat maintenance.

Events/Fund Raising Officers:

Jerry L/Colin N

Details for all events held during 2003 can be found in the Club Magazines. The 2004 Christmas Dance has been booked for Saturday, 11 December. Due to holiday commitments, Jerry will be unable to organise a Summer Dance this year. If anyone else would like to arrange this event Jerry can provide the relevant information.

Swimming Pool Liaison: Colin J

In Colin's absence, Nigel W reported that Sheerness Pool is due to close for repairs in October 2004. The situation will be monitored.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Grant application

The sub-committee did not meet to follow this up. Most grants require a Club to have money already as part payment

to put with grant money. It was decided that this is something that could be followed up next year when more Club funds are available.

2. Boat equipment

It was decided that due to the RIB battery failure last year, a back up system was a necessary safety requirement. The battery provides power for the radio, and navigation equipment as well as the engine. The Club could either:

- a. purchase a gel filled battery which would withstand the pounding from RIB movement better;
- b. change the battery every 2 years;
- c. build a dry box at the back of the boat for a 2nd battery; or
- d. look into the reliability of the hand held radio as a backup in the event of battery failure.

It was agreed that the Committee should discuss this based on technical know how and funds available. The boat is due to be serviced and a new bilge pump needs to be purchased and an automatic switch fitted.

3. Diver recall test

Roy asked whether the diver recall had been tested recently. For the benefit of new members, Nigel W explained that the diver recall is a gun fired in the water which makes a loud thud underwater. When divers hear this they are to surface immediately. Trevor said that it had not been tested recently although it had been visually checked for corrosion. Trevor would try to either make a test chamber or arrange to test it on a dive. Roy was concerned that certain parts to the device may be difficult to obtain. We need to ensure that all safety equipment is regularly tested.

4. **Flares**
Nigel W is trying to obtain permission for the Club to witness setting off flares.
5. **Temporary replacement pool**
As Sheerness Pool is due to close this year, the Club needs to find an alternative pool to use for training purposes. Medway Club has agreed that we can use their pool sessions at the Black Lion Swimming Pool, Gillingham but the hours are very late (Mondays 8-9pm for the deep pool and 9-10pm for the main pool). John M volunteered to find out about the use of the old Shell Research pool. Nigel H agreed to co-ordinate various options open for investigation and welcomed any ideas.
6. **2nd Club RIB**
As the Club has increased its membership significantly since last year, does the Club need a

2nd RIB? The RIB can take a maximum of 10 divers but normally it carries 8 especially for weekend trips. A new RIB would cost between £15,000 and £18,000. Malcolm knows of a secure lockup for keeping the RIB at. Graham P said we still do not have enough people volunteering to tow the boat we already have. Trevor confirmed that the boat and trailer weigh 1200 kilos and that a family saloon car will tow the RIB (details of vehicle maximum towing weight is normally listed in your car handbook). The Club already has a petrol winch to assist in recovery on steep slipways (4 wheel drives are not necessary). Dave P offered to fit tow bars for Club members at his garage free of labour charges. As Trevor is very experienced at towing the Club boat, he can arrange towing and

reversing practice for those members who would like to tow the RIB with their cars, around some of the quieter parts of Sittingbourne. John M suggested marking on the Address List those people who are prepared to tow the RIB. As the Club RIB has not yet reached its full potential (it should be used on both Saturdays and Sundays), it was decided that the Club did not need a 2nd RIB.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tim H expressed an interest in becoming Membership Secretary in the interest of making membership renewals easier as the Treasurer and him live under the same roof. In Gaynor's absence it was agreed to defer the election until Gaynor's return.

2004 OFFICERS

D.O.	:	GRAHAM P
CHAIRMAN	:	NIGEL W
SECRETARY	:	GRAHAM A
TREASURER	:	NIGEL H
TRAINING OFFICER	:	GRAHAM P
EQUIPMENT OFFICER	:	GEORGE F
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	:	(Deferred vote)
MAGAZINE EDITOR	:	JAYNE P
FUND RAISING OFFICER	:	SEAN F
EVENTS ORGANISERS	:	JERRY L/COLIN N
BOAT MANAGER	:	TREVOR P
SWIMMING POOL LIAISON	:	COLIN J

SWALE DIVERS - DIVE PLAN 2004

Date	Dive Location	Dive Marshall	Meet Time	Type of Dive	Minimum Diving Grade Required
February					
Sat 7	Leybourne Lake	Graham P		Shore	Ocean Diver training
Sun 15	Leybourne Lake	Graham P		Shore	Ocean Diver training
Sat 21-Sun 22	AVAILABLE				
Sun 29	Leybourne Lake	Graham P		Shore	Ocean Diver training
March					
Sun 7	Littlehampton	Graham P		Club RIB	Ocean Diver training
Sat 13-Sun 14	Portland Weekend	Graham P		Club RIB	Ocean Diver training/Any
Sat 20	Leybourne Lake	Graham P		Shore	Ocean Diver training
Sat 27-Sun 28	Swanage/Portland Weekend	Trevor P		Shore	Any
Sat 27-Sun 28	Portland Weekend	Paul U		Hard Boat	Any
April					
Sat 3	Dover	Trevor P	11am	Club RIB	Sports Diver
Sun 4	Leybourne Lake	Graham P		Shore	Ocean Diver training
Sat 10 (Easter)	AVAILABLE				
Sun 11 (Easter)	Leybourne Lake	Graham P		Shore	Ocean Diver training
Fri 16-Sat 17-Sun 18-Mon 19	Porth Kerris, Cornwall	Graham A		Charter	Fully booked
Sat 24 or Sun 25	Bognor	Malcolm C		Club RIB	Any
May					
Sat 1	Littlehampton	Graham P		Club RIB	Any
Sun 2	AVAILABLE				
Sat 15	Littlehampton	Malcolm C		Club RIB	Any
Sun 16	AVAILABLE				
Sat 22	AVAILABLE				
Sun 23	AVAILABLE				
Sat 29	Littlehampton	Graham P		Club RIB	Any
Sun 30	AVAILABLE				
June					
Sat 5	Newhaven	Malcolm C		Club RIB	Any
Sun 6	AVAILABLE				
Fri 11-Sat 12-Sun 13-Mon 14	Salcolmbe, Devon	Kim A		Hard Boat	Any
Sat 12-Sun 13	Portland Weekend	Trevor P		Club RIB	Sports Diver
Sat 19	AVAILABLE				
Sun 20	AVAILABLE				
Sat 26	AVAILABLE				
Sun 27	AVAILABLE				
July					
Sat 3	AVAILABLE				
Sun 4	AVAILABLE				
Sat 12	AVAILABLE				
Sun 11	Bognor	Trevor P		Club RIB	Any
Sat 17	AVAILABLE				
Sun 18	AVAILABLE				
Sat 24	AVAILABLE				
Sun 25	Dover	Graham P		Club RIB	Sports Diver
Sat 31	AVAILABLE				

Date	Dive Location	Dive Marshall	Meet Time	Type of Dive	Minimum Diving Grade Required
August					
Sun 1	AVAILABLE				
Sat 7	AVAILABLE				
Sun 8	Bognor	Trevor P		Club RIB	Any
Sun 8-Sun 15	Red Sea, Egypt	Kim A		Liveaboard	Sports Diver
Sat 14	AVAILABLE				
Sun 15	AVAILABLE				
Sat 21	AVAILABLE				
Sun 22	AVAILABLE				
Sat 28	AVAILABLE				
Sun 29	Littlehampton	Graham P		Club RIB	Any
September					
Sat 4	AVAILABLE				
Sun 5	Littlehampton	Graham P		Club RIB	Sports Diver
Sat 11-Sun 12	Portland Weekend	Trevor P		Club RIB	Sports Diver
Sat 18	AVAILABLE				
Sun 19	AVAILABLE				
Fri 24-Sat 25- Sun 26-Mon 27	Porth Kerris, Cornwall	Graham A		Charter	Sports Diver
October					
Sat 2	AVAILABLE				
Sun 3	AVAILABLE				
Fri 8-Sat 9- Sun 10-Mon 11	Nice, France	Kim A		Hard Boat	Sports Diver
Sat 9	AVAILABLE				
Sun 10	Dover	Trevor P	10am	Club RIB	Sports Diver
Sat 16	AVAILABLE				
Sun 17	AVAILABLE				
Sat 23	AVAILABLE				
Sun 24	AVAILABLE				
Sat 30	AVAILABLE				
Sun 31	AVAILABLE				