

University of London Sub-Aqua Club BSAC 0069

University of London Sub-Aqua Club Newsletter

Issue 2 30th April 2004



What a Success !

ULSAC Packed up and headed for the Hills or rather the Sea en-mass, Carrying everything you can possibly fit into 2 Transit vans, a minibus and a plethora of cars.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Despite the horror of only having one Working RIB, well after Paul and Nick fitted the new engines on the first Saturday, 22 Intrepid trainees and their Instructors headed off to Cornwall for FUN, SUN, DIVING, SKIVEING and BEER.

On the Social Side, many a pleasant evening was spent in the Kennack Sands Inn with karaoke rearing its ugly head. Unfortunately James brought his guitar again (does he know anything else except Wonderwall and American Pie)so

there were a few sing songs into the small hours.

The weather enabled us to base ourselves

at Porthkerris Dive centre, along with three other University Clubs, with easy access to air and relatively easy shore diving.

Dives occurred in and around Porthkerris Bay along with Boat trips out to the Volnay for that all important first wreck dive. It may have all seemed like chaos to the casual observer, but everyone pulled together as a team and we got a huge amount of work done.

14 people got their Ocean Diver, with others to follow on trips over the summer, and everyone made inroads into Sports

Diver. A very impressive achievement considering there were only 10 NQI's on the trip. We owe them a lot. Their enthusiasm was very inspiring and may in part have been due to the introduction of the Scuba Eggs competition (see Page 3) I hope

they were looking after their buddies as well as tokens ! We were even treated to a helicopter rescue demonstration by the RAF and the RNLI on the last day.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

Engine Update...

Despite us paying our boat Insurance policies in good faith that we were adequately covered, the insurance company have refused our claim, on account that the heavy duty bolts we had fitted and we believed constituted an improved theft prevention device, because they are not a patented Anti-Theft Device, the insurance company has refused our claim.

Obviously this news is not good, and we are in the process of challenging this, but

we have had to face facts that we might be left with a bill for over £10,000 for the new engines.

With this in mind, and knowing the club had £4,000 in the boat fund, the Committee decided to order 2 engines for Rascal. These engines turned up 2 days before the Easter trip, and were only ready for collection the day we left, so our thanks to Paul for going via Lymington to pick them up.

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New Club T-Shirts

Look out for the New Club T-Shirts, Logo designed exclusively for ULSAC by Petz, if you haven't ordered one, contact Sarah Cant. If you haven't seen the design, check out our first issue on the back page.

Member Updates:-

Jimmy Cooke passed his NQI Exam
Congratulations Jimmy, Just in time for ET.

Easter Trip Reports

PADI Crossover - Miss Rosy Hosking

I trained as an Open Water Diver with PADI at Stoney Cove in July 2002, I then spent a week in Sharm-el-Sheikh (Red Sea) where I dived the Thistlegorm and Yolanda wrecks. I felt I wanted more training before I went abroad to dive again, and so when I discovered that ULU had a Sub-aqua Club, I joined as a crossover Sports Diver trainee. The Theory lessons and pool sessions were really thorough, and I was feeling great about the whole thing until my Pool Assessment, when I found I was still unable to take my mask off and breath normally (something PADI had allowed me to do holding my nose), Suddenly my confidence plummeted and I was dreading the Easter Training trip.

My first Instructor at Easter training spent a really long time briefing me (a lot of which was reassurance about the mask clearing), we started off just kneeling in the water and filling up my mask, I still wasn't happy though, and when I came out from that dive, I was feeling really awful (and absolutely freezing too!!!!).

Catherine, One of the Dive leaders on the trip came to find me where I'd hidden, and was so supportive and understanding, and although I felt like going home I gave it another. The next two days I had fun dives on the Volnay wreck in the mornings like everyone else, but in the afternoons while the others were doing drills, I had dives on my own with Andy the Training Officer. We took it really slowly, and on Monday afternoon, I'd cracked it! I could kneel on the bottom of the sea, breathing away without my mask on for as long as liked, I felt like a million pounds! It was something I thought I would never be able to do. The rest of the trip was so much fun, and I made friends incredibly quickly, a handful of whom I am still in contact with on a regular basis. Within 10 days I had come full circle from stand-offish PADI diver, to a committed ULSAC member, my first steps on coming back to London being to join the Committee and get stuck into the fundraising effort for the stolen engines.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

The Boat Officer - Mr Paul Marchant

The week prior to the Easter Training Trip, we had been awaiting confirmation of delivery for the 2 new engines we'd ordered 6 weeks ago for Rascal, without these ET was going to be a lot of "Fun".

This is why my journey started with a detour via Lymington with the boat to pick up the new engines, and having spent 2 hours fitting them to the hull (the easiest way to transport them) we set off for Kennack Sands via the scenic route. A total journey time of 12 hours and we were enjoying a well deserved beer in the Kennack Sands Inn.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

The first day I had a major job to do, install the control cables and set up the new engines on the Rascal, I was planning to get this done by @15:00 so we had a couple of hours to run the engines in

at very slow speed, which if nothing else is extremely tedious.

I could have achieved this but midday, but with around 50 people coming over asking how's it coming along? it tends to consume a lot of time, but job done thanks to my able assistant Nick.

Having run the engines in late that afternoon, another well deserved beer was in order.

The next day, all Boat drivers were instructed that the engines could not be used on full throttle till late in the afternoon, and that only then in short spurts, needless to say everyone later in the day complained that the boat was sluggish and not performing to full throttle, a quick check of the engines and a minor mistake of inverting the throttle connector meant that they couldn't be advanced to more than 70% throttle anyway.

20 minutes the next morning to sort that out, and having drained the hull of about 10 gallons of water, the boat was in top form, performing as she always had before losing her engines.

Apart from a few minor TLC issues to keep the old inflatable engine running during the week, having resuscitated it from the garage a few weeks before we left, it performed admirably, not letting us down.

Facilities Management - Mr Jimmy Cooke, Miss Catherine Stanley and Miss Sarah Cant

Sarah and Catherine - Cooking and Supplies

"An army Marches on its Stomach" and ULSAC does not function without flaps of cheese on economy bread.

Whilst trip food actually forms a small part of the overall trip cost, on Easter Training the budget of everything is kept to a minimum. However, on the trip despite a limited budget there were no hungry divers, few complaints, and even a few compliments!!!

The saviour of the evening meals was undoubtedly the launch of Somerfield's Saver Card.....much to the dismay of the local residents, a special sauce recognizance mission successfully removed all trace of the opening -offer super-saver-branded sauces in the week leading up to Easter training. With a living room full of Sharwoods and Dolmio the reality of the task ahead dawned like a wreck emerging from the depths.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

In order to make cooking foolproof (and ULSAC proof), recipe cards were devised with simple step-by-step instructions, so that even those without a working knowledge of Beaton or Delia could produce tasty edible meals. Cooking teams were devised to contain at least one experienced ULSAC diver to ensure that 'Carbon Casserole' was never the dish of the day.

Menu did include the old favorites chilli, spag bog, chicken pasta, sweet and sour, and of course curry. We did eat out one night for a curry feast at the Three Tuns Public House, a top venue if you're ever back in the area

Many thanks to all those who collected food from the not-so-local supermarkets, helped produce food for the masses, and took their turns doing the dishes.

Jimmy - Accounts

Lets not forget Jimmy who managed to make sense of all the water logged safeway receipts, and making sense of who was here when and for how long to ensure accurate accounts for the trip, which had a total budget of just short of £10,000.



Dates for Your Diary




May 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2004						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Social Events for Your Calendar

- 4th June *Annual Dinner*
- 5th June *First Annual FUN RUN*

Key	
	Special events
	Fundraising Events
	Dive Trips

Upcoming Diving Trips for Your Calendar

- 1st-3rd May Plymouth - Craig
- 15th-16th May Portland - Sarah
- 29th-31st May Pembroke (3 Day) - Anjali
- 12th-13th June Dorset - A.N.Other
- 26th-27th June Paignton - Zoe
- 10th-11th July Swanage - Caterina
- 24th-25th July Salcombe - Wyclef

New Committee

Chair	Catherine Stanley
Secretary	Rosy Hosking
Treasurer	David Wright
Honorary Senior Treasurer	Andy May
Membership Secretary	Christian Drew
Ass. Membership Secretary	Jo Graham
Diving Officer	Michelle Kim
Training Officer	Mark Bell
Ass. Training Officer	Sarah Cant, Nathan Long, Kat Sizer
Advanced Training Officer	Jimmy Cooke
Equipment Officer	Martin Greaves
Ass. Equipment Officer	Alyn Morgan, Richard Rowley
Boat Officer	Paul Marchant
Ass. Boat Officer	Fred Brooks, Peter Truin
Social Secretaries	Claire Halligan, James Royston
Members Without Portfolio	Sam Denby, Hanna Steyne, Craig Koch, James Withers
Webmasters	Farez Rahman, David Ebstein, Dominic Waite

AGM was held on 26th April 2004 at ULU Malet Street

After what has become a regular mammoth AGM session with over 50% of active members present, finally after reports from all 2003 committee members, the voting starting for the new committee, after one and a half hours, we were finally there (check out the minutes on our web site for more info). Special thanks to Anjali Shah and members of the 2003 Committee for looking after things so well for the last year and Good luck to this years committee, and congratulations to all those were elected, we think is the largest committee ULSAC has ever had!!!

Training

This is one of our busiest training periods, as can be seen from the Easter Training report.

Items for Sale

Come on everyone, free advertising space, no commission. Mind you after ET, perhaps we should change this to a "Lost and Found" Section



U.L.S.A.C.

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Sam's Fundraising Initiative - Scuba Eggs 2004

It's two days before leaving on a 10-day training trip, I've secured a major prize for a competition I haven't advertised for, written rules for or made tokens for. On top of which I can't remember where half my dive kit's stored and don't have any clean clothes.... I needed a strategy, I needed a plan. I went to the pub. After all the pub is where most good ideas get started and I had help in the form of other committee members waiting for me there.

About an hour later we had the rules and terms and conditions (courtesy of a snack food manufacturer) sorted. Entry into the competition had to be made before diving and cost £2/day or £5 for the week. We'd hide 8 tokens per day, each of which were valid for 24 hours (from 10am the day they were hidden till 10am the day afterwards) on and around Drawna Rocks. Anyone finding a token had to present them to the ULSAC dive marshal in order for it to be registered. Registered tokens would then be entered into a draw to be held on Sunday the 11th of April. All that remained was the tokens. I decided they should go on yellow card (so they'd be visible), be laminated (so they wouldn't disintegrate) and tied to rocks (so they'd sink). The new club logo was the obvious choice for design. So all sorted. Cue Friday morning and printing them out, except it was never going to be that easy, I couldn't get the printer to work. Fortunately Bob Layton stepped in to help and printed the tokens off for me when we arrived in Cornwall.

So how did the event go? Despite it's rather rapid organisation it went very well. In all 69 divers took part, mostly from ULSAC (~45) but also from Oxford Brookes(~20), Oxford University(~5) and two non-university club divers. The draw was performed at 1:30 on Sunday the 11th of April on Porthkerris beach in front of the Celtic Cat (which was still on the beach on it's trailer - not in the water!!). In the absence of anyone better the draw was performed by myself as event organiser.

Prizes were drawn in reverse order beginning with the traditional boobie prize, in this case a St Keverne thimble, which went to Sam Griffiths from Oxford University Underwater Exploration Group (OUUEG), hot on her heels was Rob Frost from Oxford Brookes University Sub-Aqua Club (OBUSAC) (who won a St Keverne Plate). Lots of chocolate and Buddy mugs later things started to get tense Peter Truin of University of London Sub-Aqua Club (ULSAC) won a Snorkel, Lucy Dighton (OUUEG) a mask, Ray Blackford (OBUSAC) won a torch, Michelle Kim and Claire Halligan (both ULSAC) won an SMB and a reel respectively. However, it was to be OBUSAC who took the top two prizes. Rowena Millard won 2 free dives (including air) for herself and a buddy courtesy of Marlin Charter Services whilst Janice Rain won her choice of Buddy Stab Jacket and opted for a Buddy Ranger TD.

We raised £324 in total and are donating £50 to the Cornwall Air Ambulance with the remainder going towards our engine replacement fund. The 'Hunt' caused a lot of interest amongst everyone on the beach, indeed the winner of the stab jacket (Janice Rain of OBUSAC) told me it motivated her to do at least twice as many shore dives as usual. New ocean divers enjoyed it too! For more information about this years hunt (prizes and winners) and information about next years event visit www.scubaeggs.co.uk.

We're doing it again? Definitely! It was hard, but also great fun to organise and everyone seemed to really enjoy it. Also, we've got the advantage of a whole year to plan the next one, and the knowledge that some people think we should have charged more to enter! Why not come and join us over Easter 2005 - check out the website to keep up to date! All that remains is to say a big thank you to all of our sponsors for their generosity, AP Valves, Marlin Charter Services, Beaver, SDS watersports, Scuba and Outdoor Pursuits Centre, and also to Porthkerris for allowing us to hold the event.

Easter Training Statistics

We used 474 Gallons of Diesel/Petrol in the 10 days which is enough to theoretically take a Land Rover on a whistle stop tour of Europe taking in Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Rome, Athens, Istanbul, Belgrade, Budapest, Berlin, and back home to London TWICE.

We spent a total of £1498 on food which equates to 4,000 Mars bars or 3,000kg of pasta, Our thanks to Sarah and Catherine for striking a balance that suited most peoples dietary requirements.

Average consumption of ...

Bread was 15 loaves per day

Cheese 2kg per day

We didn't even open the Mixed Fruit Jam bought especially for Andy May

Assuming on each dive you covered an average of 300 metres of swimming, then for those of you who were here all week covered a total distance under water of...

Ocean Divers/Crossovers	6km
Dive leaders/Sports Divers	6-8km
NQI's	12km - at least

Assuming each tank had its minimum reserve of 50 bar, and was refilled to 230 bar, we used a total of 1.3million litres of air, which is equivalent to the largest Tank at the Long Beach Aquarium, which holds over 1,000 fish, including black tip and gray reef sharks, giant groupers, and clown triggerfish.