

Welcome !!!

Firstly let me start by welcoming One and All to this Our First University of London Sub-Aqua Club (ULSAC) Newsletter I hope you all had a Merry (but not too merry) Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As part of a new initiative under our communications improvement strategy we felt a quarterly newsletter would increase awareness of club activities and social events.



I hope all members both new and old will find it a useful and informative Newsletter and also contribute to it on a regular basis.

My thanks go out to everyone who has contributed to this initial effort, both with trip / dive reports, pictures, support and advice, somehow it has kept me sane though I'm not sure for how much longer.

We are feeling our way a little so if anyone out there has got anything to contribute, or suggestion, and even (God forbid) complaints, please let me know

and I shall do my best to accommodate providing they are of a reasonable nature.

Address on Page 4 for contributions

RIB Engines Stolen !!!

Both Rascal and Scoundrel were discovered minus their engines when Paul turned up to take Scoundrel down to BHG in Southampton for repairs to the tilt mechanisms

that were damaged during the 2003 season.

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LOGO Competition

I hope that despite having a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas and New Year, you were all pinching back the new pencils you bought you're little brother in an effort to win our New Logo competition

.....cont'd Pg 4

Member Updates:-

- Dan is off to Japan so my commiserations Jimmy as he is taking over as Treasurer for the remainder of Dan's Term.
- Michelle has been voted in as a Member Without Portfolio....

Congratulation to you both



The Rubis by Andy May

Most of our club diving is done in and around the UK, but in the summer of 2000 we struck out for the South of France and dived a wreck that has it all.

The Rubis is a 66 metre long submarine. She was launched in 1931 and was used to great effect by the free French Navy to lay mines during the Second World War. As a mark of respect, she was retired in 1958 and scuttled, rather than being broken up. The French Navy then used her as a target for training Sonar operators. Since then the Rubis has become an interesting site for divers and even appears in Jacques Cousteau's book 'The Silent World'.

The Dive

The Rubis sits neatly upright and intact in 42 metres of water with the top of the hull in around 35 metres. Our shot was placed on the seabed to the starboard side of the conning tower. As we descended the line, the whole wreck came into view at about 20 metres, through a cloud of fish. Swimming over to the conning tower you can find a small oval porthole complete with glass, something you don't see in this country (if the French can leave their wrecks alone then so can us Brits!).

Moving toward the bow, we saw a number of large Moray and Conger Eel in pipe work beneath the outer plating. A number of mine loading hatches stand open enabling access to a tunnel running up to the bow. Outside you can swim over the bow planes and round the point of the bow where an anchor chain still dangles to the seabed. The Port side of the boat is covered in purple gorgonian coral, which looks quite beautiful in torchlight.

Swimming back towards the stern yet more eel peaked out to take a look at us and schools of Red Mullet swam off from their resting-place on the hull. Behind the conning tower, we found the torpedo-loading hatch. This gives access the interior of the submarine, or it would have done had the largest Conger Eel I had seen in a long while not occupied the doorway. It had been antagonised enough by other divers who had visited it earlier, so my buddy and I decided not to try and squeeze past it and our time on the wreck was running out.

At the stern the rudders and stern dive planes are still in place, as well as the twin propellers. It was here that we let up our SMBs and left the wreck. As we ascended through the fish that surround the wreck to our first decompression stop, we could still see our fellow divers 20 meters below us.

This is a great wreck and has a lot to offer, though only suitable for Sports Divers and above. The site is reasonably exposed to the weather so anything but an offshore wind should be avoided. The site is also tidal so you must dive on slack water.

Essential Information

GPS Numbers
43° 11.287' N
06° 42.032' E

We took our own RIBs with us and launched from Cavalaire sur la Mer Marina. Moorings are available, but be warned that they will want you to produce proof that you own the boat and that it is insured. Failing this, it is possible to use the public moorings, usefully opposite the fuel station, near the mouth of the harbour. Remember that this is also where the lifeboat launches from and is near to the Heli-pad so the area needs to be kept tidy. Air is available in town from Locavalaire Dive Shop. If you don't want to take your boats all the way to the South of France, there are a number of local Dive Boats that will be able to help. The area has a good range of dive sites and should keep most dive groups happy for at least a couple of weeks.

Accommodation

We stayed at the Camping de Baie campsite which has a small shop, Restaurant with bar and a swimming pool. There are a number of campsites in the town as well as reasonably priced hotels. The water front area holds enough Bars, Restaurants and nightlife to keep everyone occupied when you are not underwater. The local area and beaches will keep any non-divers busy. A trip to les Ile d'Or comes highly recommended for both diving and sight seeing.

Dates for Your Diary

March 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	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			

April 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
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	

May 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	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*
- 8th March *Committee Meeting*
- 26th March *Pre Easter Training Party*
- 27-28th March *DIVE Show*
- 26th April *Annual General Meeting*

Upcoming Diving Trips for Your Calendar

- 29th Jan *Dive Leader training @ Wraysbury*
- 2nd-12th April *Easter Training*
- 1st—3rd May *Plymouth*
- 29th-31st May *Pembroke*

Items for Sale

Unfortunately as this is our first Issue, we don't have any items for sale, but please send in requests to me for the next issue

Special Announcement

Congratulations to Marcus Allen who was awarded the Wilkinson Sword Trophy. This Award is presented to the Highest scoring individual internationally over the past year in BSAC's National Instructor exam, an exceptional achievement, well done Marcus !!!

Training

We currently have 46 new member this academic year, and expect to take as many as possible to the Easter Training Trip

Unfortunately Dive Leader Training has been thwarted due to the engine thefts, but Bonnie as AdTO and all the instructors supporting her have done a marvellous job in getting as much as possible done at Wraysbury despite freezing temperatures.

And Finally Congratulations to Jimmy Cooke on Passing his OWI, just in time for Easter Training, just the theory to go now, Good Luck with the theory !!!

Please Can We Have Our Engines Back !!!!

Paul managed to hitch Scoundrel onto his car before realizing that something wasn't quite right about the weight of the hitch and the fact that the covers were dragging at the stern.

Having done a quick check of both boats it was apparent that the control cables to both engines on both boats (4 in all) had been cut about 1 metre from the stern, and the steering cables removed. The engines had then been removed with the steering bars intact.

There was no sign of damage to the

hulls thank goodness, and the radios and other boat equipment had been left intact.

Paul obviously reported this to the Police straight away, but as there was no sign of a forced entry to the Boat house compound, they felt there was no need to send anyone out. The police advised us that the chances of finding those engines again was a million to one shot, and only if they raided a premises and found 4 engines would they check serial number against their stolen item records.

Paul is currently in negotiations with ULU and Westfield (our boat insurers) regarding insurance claims and when he can order new engines, as it would be tight now before Easter training, particularly if we need BHG to fit the engines.

Watch this Space for more updates...



U.L.S.A.C.

ULU Shields

Any Contributions or Comments please send to

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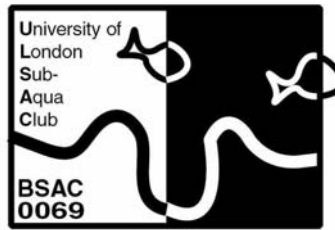
Phone: 07860 935925
Email: boatie@btinternet.com

Congratulations go out to 4 members of the club who were all awarded ULU Society Shields in a grand ceremony on the 4th floor of ULU.

We had Daniel Morris and Sarah Cant both received Society Shields Paul Marchant was mentor of the Year and Sam Denby won Officer of the Year.

Unfortunately Jazz Society beat us to Society of the year so we shall just have to do better next year.

Design a LOGO Competition



Back in November if you can all remember that far back, we started a "Design a New Club LOGO" Competition, which was to run over the Christmas Holiday with all entries being submitted by the 12th of January 2004.

As you can see from the 6 Images the Committee had a very tough time deciding which image would ultimately become the new club LOGO.

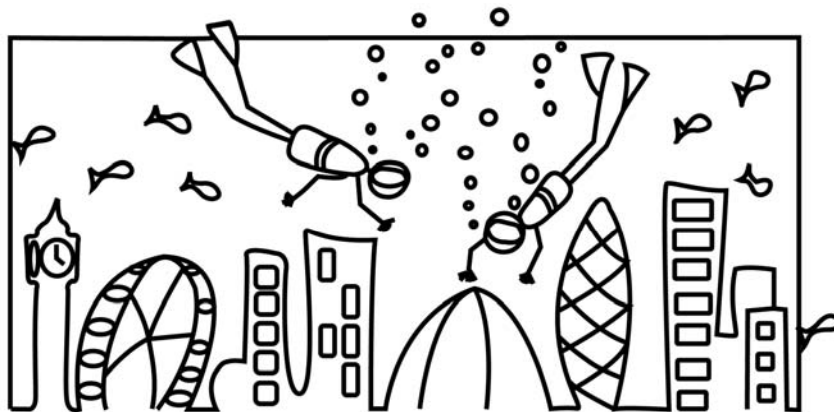
Sarah Cant has done an awful lot of negotiating and suffered extreme hardship in being taken out to lunch by one of Redfinn's representatives. Redfinn in case you don't know are an up and coming leisure wear manufacturer trying to break into the diving/surf market.

The Image in the centre of the text was the eventual overall winner, design by Miss Petz Schultz, congratulations Petz.

The Committee in consultation with Redfinn then decided that as a first run it should be done as a back print in a large format with simple one word or one line comment on the front, needless to say Sarah and Redfinn are still working to gether on this so keep you're eyes peeled and don't waste any time in snapping a Petx/ULSAC original up

Look out for the new Logo as part of the Newsletter in April

Redfinn's website www.redfinn.co.uk



University of London Sub-Aqua Club BSAC 0069