

ISAC Newsletter

Irvine



Committee News



Now there's a man who is on top of the world. Our very own Trevor Phillips. And quite rightly so too. For our Trev, has just clinched the deal of the century.....

And got the club a £5000.00 lottery grant. Yes, that's right.....**£5000.00**

The money will be spent on Trevor's holiday.....no no no on club equipment. The money will be lodged into the club's account on the 25th November 2002.

So for all you trainees out there....trainees, what trainees. (See BDO report later).

WELL DONE TREVOR.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Paul Swainson is delighted with the grant and knows that the club will go from strength to strength because of it.

' ISAC is definitely one of the best and pro active clubs in SSAC' says Paul.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hugh Hutchison reports that the club is financially sound and that a healthy profit is been made every month. Hugh is also delighted with the news of the grant.



Secretary

When the trip through the canals via the Falkirk Wheel takes place the funds raised will be split 50/50 between the RNLI and ISAC. A meeting will take place to view the neighboring building with a view to take over the lease.

Equipment Officer

Brian will of course decide how the grant will be best spent on equipment that is needed.

HELP with PHOTO SHOOT

Get yer mugshot in the local papers !

If you can arrange to be at the dive loft on Tuesday 19th November @ 6.45pm with your drysuit, you will be able to help the club by having a great mass of bodies around the boat for an article being done for the local papers.

Please come along and help get a little recognition for the club and our activities.



Entertainments

Thelma is arranging a visit to HMS Gannet over the next few weeks. For those of you who were not around the last time it is well worth going to see.

You can still book seats for ISAC's 25th Anniversary Dinner at the Quality hotel Glasgow, on the 23rd November 2002. Get in touch with Hugh.

Boat

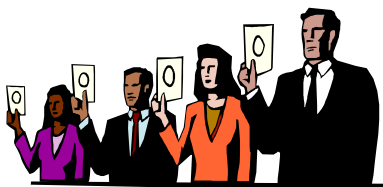
Glen will take over as 'Boat Officer' for the time being.

A big thank you to Rab for all his help over the years. Rab it is good to see you up and about.

B D O.

Now for those of you who do not read the small print with your latest Dive magazine then you might well be surprised that all 3rd class/sport divers will be limited to 30 metre dives. This is a new legislation that SSAC are bringing out (if it is not already out) for 'safety reasons' .!!

If you feel strongly about this then your views are most welcome by Paul Swainson.



Jim Craig would welcome any ideas for the recruiting of trainees. The pool sessions are becoming very quiet and if things do not pick up then we are in danger of losing the Tuesday night spot at the Magnum.

You will have noticed some new faces at the Tuesday lectures. These are members from other clubs that find on lectures of benefit, so well done to every one that gives a lecture.



A message from the Editor.

I would just like to say thank you to all the people that helped me on the BBQ day back in August and for all those that supported the event.

I managed to raise over £40.00 for the club. I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and that they felt the diving was good.

Now until Jim signs off my reports (for my 2nd class qualifications) will you all be NICE to him. Pleasssssssssse.



The Lochaline Experience

Or

"How to enjoy a weekend without really trying"

Harry Brawley took a lot upon his broad shoulders when he rather bravely agreed to organise a weekend dive trip to Lochaline and around Mull. The list that was posted in the dive loft was quickly filled with a couple of reserves hopefully seeking places if their dive colleagues fell by the wayside. There were a few casualties when folk like Gordon McNab put the wrong date in his diary and had to call off. Rocheen seized the chance and plied BDO Jim Craig with enough encouragement to be signed off as Sports Diver 3rd Class just in time for the trip. Her husband Andrew should not worry as she was weel looked after. (Andrew please note that for a small fee you can get the real story and it's not exactly the version she told you!!)



Eventually 9 lucky participants (8 shown above at the ferry crossing as Alex McKie joined them later in the evening) set off on a fine September afternoon to the Morven peninsula. All arrived safely, after following the reek from Harry's diesel towing the Club boat, at the Lochaline dive centre for a 4 day stay in luxurious accommodation but the unlucky ones found themselves with rather noisy

sleeping companions.



The wonderful sunsets and views set the tone for the whole weekend and everyone

soon settled in with great anticipations for the next days dives and made for the pub.



Leaving the Ace of Clubs and Rab's Wavedancer safely parked at the centre saw the festivities

commence after a meal at the local hotel and it's strange the effect of drink has on different people.



The picture below shows the influence of the black nectar upon a certain gentleman from Maidens. The more the level of Guinness dropped the higher the level of drivel uttered planning the next days' dives.



Well Martin, we never did manage to make it to the Labrador, did we?

However, gradually everyone drifted off to bed by 1.30am and "enjoyed" the snoring sonata's as well as Davie's discourse on world issues that sent all to grateful sleep.

After a refreshing nights sleep, which saw Rocheen untroubled by nocturnal perambulations, we assembled on a bright Friday morning for a dive briefing from organiser Harry. (It turned out to also be the last as it was made up on the hoof thereafter)



Our first dive was on the Rondo after some emergency repairs to Rab's new fuel connection that fell apart within minutes of setting out.



The viz was superb at slack water on this spectacular wreck located on Dearg Sgeir in the Sound of Mull. Sitting almost vertical, it is great experience finning up through the hull with a lot of diver friendly fish to feed from the hand. Onwards then to Tobermory to fill bottles after scooping dive around the moorings.



We departed to launch at the ferry slip after it had left for the first morning crossing.



Unfortunately the shop was shut so we returned to Lochaline to collect fresh bottles after a "light" lunch. The diving day ended with a leisurely wander around the Shuna that sank in 1913. Sitting upright in 30m she is a well laid out ship with many intact features which makes it an interesting dive in the usually clear water in a location near to shore in a sheltered bay generally free from strong currents.



After another entertaining evenings refreshment and amusement, the Saturday found us waiting for slack water at the Hispania with Padi boats from Oban. The wreck sit upright with a "slight" tilt to starboard (seems like 45° when on the deck!) It has a truly spectacular crop of sealife adorning the upper sunlit areas and great big holds and passageways to explore.



Just "chillin out" at tobermory.

Another snack lunch this time at the Lochaline caravan near the slip saw the batteries recharged and ready for a dook on the Thesis.



After dragging Brian Nisbet away from the nosh before he got too heavy we made our way to the Thesis to try and beat the Padi boats (without luck). The wreck is quite a sight with all decking gone and just the carcass left. The spaces let in a lot of light and it is quite well populated with large fish. Whilst waiting, Shug took a dook off the bow after playing good Samaritan helping a Padi lass who's cylinder had slipped after entering the water. His helpful buddies left him dangling while they searched for cameras to capture the scene.



Scoffing some king prawns from Tobermory



Gordon gets into the swing after a few drinks.



Party Time at the Thesis when Davie takes the plunge with a helping hand from his dive buddies. Despite the laughter, Rocheen later joined him in a dook along with just about everybody else. A final dive on the rockface opposite Ardtornish Point and scallop hunt ended the dive day.

The evening saw a new face arrive when Willie Lee got a "pass oot" frae his understanding wife. An unusual sight is therefore presented below as Willie buys a rare drink at the bar for the troops!



After a Saturday evenings entertainment best left unreported, the Sunday saw a trip to dive the broken up wreck of the Auriana just below Calaich point on the northwest corner of Mull.

The highlight of the trip was experienced en-route when the eagle eyes on board Wavedancer spotted a couple of basking sharks just off Quinish Point.



After a careful approach whilst frantic activity to don fins and masks had everybody scrambling, we dropped a few snorkelers in front of the path of the sharks to get a close up view. The sharks had other ideas and steered clear of Davie the Whale after Rocheen tried screaming underwater. It's a pity that Davies underwater pictures did not come out.



More refreshments at Tobermory in the sun.



The Urchin from the Puffin Dive Centre at Oban collects some Padi divers who swim up between the keels and climb a ladder in the middle to reboard.



Tiring days dive activity means that you need to get all the beauty sleep you can to build up the reserves for the evening dancing. T must have been the hour spent with the basking sharks that did it!

The Sunday continued with a dive at Tobermory again in bright sunshine and a leisurely lunch while we waited for slack water in mid afternoon for another wonderful dive on the Hispania before returning to the accommodation.



The final day completed the collection of dives with a deep drift dive for most on the almost vertical rock face just out from the dive centre. Others chose to cross the bay to the scallop area for some goodies to take back home.



All things eventually come to an end and this was a superb weekends organisation by Harry and recognised by all. A big vote of thanks goes to Harry and the question is now posed :-

"When is the next one and who is organising?"



The happy buddies who survived the weekend.



There was a wee sad note after the weekend when all members and friends were very concerned to discover that Rab had suffered a slight stroke and that his diving days were over.

We are happy to hear that he is well on the road to recovery but that his modified healthy lifestyle is now under the watchful eye of his better half.

We wish him well and hope he remains active in the Club as he has a wealth of experience to share with members and all the new trainees alike.

All the very best, **Shug H₂O**