

Happy New Year

# Crud - January 1999

The annual **Dinner Dance** will be held at the Waterend Barn, St Albans on [Saturday 27th February](#).

Tickets are on sale now (please see Rachel Wood) and will be [£25](#) per head.  
Menus and seating arrangements should be given to Rachel as well

Menu:  
Start  
er:  
Chic  
ken & Liver  
pate; or  
Melon; or  
Tomato &  
Basil soup

Options  
Mai  
n Course  
Lam  
b Shank; or  
Spinach &  
Mushroom  
Roulade; or  
Chicken  
Teriyaki

Swe  
et  
Lem  
on tart; or  
Chocolate  
fudge cake;  
or Fruit Salad  
Coffee and  
mints to

follow.



Just in case anyone's failed to notice the little shield in the Club house here it is together with (most of) the group of 24 club members present at the BSAC's UnderWater World in November. It was here amongst all those remarkably funny, witty speeches (!) that we were awarded the trophy. Peter Stansfield collected it on behalf of the club. We get the cheque for **£1,000** at the Dinner & Dance. The committee have decided than rather than just add this to the

club's coffers it would be better to use this money (or part of it) to buy something suitable for the club! However the committee are all 'decisioned' out, brain fatigue after all that booze and partying at Christmas so we'd like a few good ideas from you lot. Ideas please to any of the committee. Huge Thanks to: - Peter Stansfield, Stephen Archer, Howard Clowes, Steve Gore, Felicity Garner, Sandy Ferdinand - the late night compilers! Plus all contributors: Nigel Dobinson, Pierre Leon, Ann Pedan, Andy Flowers, Peter Child, Ali Humphrey, Pete Ladell, Terry Smith, Roy Harrison, and last but by no means least to **each and every club member** for without everybody's effort throughout all aspects of club life there would have been little to detail in the 1<sup>st</sup> place.

## 200 Club, ClubHouse and Boats - What next??

So after just under 4 years the compressor is now fully paid for. That's pretty good fund raising by anyone's standard and we certainly needed to do it! Huge Thanks go to not only everyone that went out and continually nagged folks for their weekly contribution but to those that were nagged!! However this is just the start and we must keep the ball rolling. The BIG Question now is - What Next??

There are no two ways about it the club MUST continue with its fund raising activities if it is to continue successfully, and enjoy the variety and volume of diving we have been carrying out over the last few years.

There are plenty of projects large and small, which we *could* spend money on. The two largest, not surprisingly, being the ClubHouse and boats. Each time this is raised the committee always have to make a choice. Some years it swings one way then the other. This choice must be guided by everyone's wishes. **On January 29<sup>th</sup>** the club will be having an Open Forum discussion on what to do with respect to Funding raising, in general, and how the 200 Club, ClubHouse and Club Boats will fit into it this year.

To give you all something to think about, here (in no specific order), are a few facts and thoughts.

The 200 Club currently raises about £2500 a year. Even now during the winter 'lull' the 200 Club still has as many supporters now as it did when it started. For the record there have been an average of 40 unsold balls since we started, and this is the reason the club 'wins' every so often. If all the balls were sold it would raise £3800 a year. However a few people now view the 200 club a little negatively, particularly the 'constant' collection aspect, and in truth this is the biggest difficulty. Perhaps we could move to a once, or twice a year payment? or add it to the membership fee (still voluntary of course). Suggestions??

Parties are now generating better profit in the way of increased sales across the bar and Peter is looking at putting on more Friday night activities, such as some local bands, which should encourage more people to the club on Fridays. Please support him if he asks for your help.

Other ways of raising money need to be found too. This year we have had a little in the way of sponsored events, and £380 from the Mini Marathon. So all in all we raised about £4000 (not including bar) in 1998. Obviously the 200 Club money was spent on the compressor but from this we should be aiming at raising £6000, at least in 1999.

Various modifications have been suggested to make the clubhouse better. In fact everything from extending the bar to a complete clubhouse revamp including halving the existing pool and covering it. Most of these projects haven't really been started for various reasons but probably mainly due to the sheer scale. The changes that have been made are normally much smaller and where one or two people really took on a driving force. We now have the club house for another 25 years having extended the lease in the middle of 1998 so now would be a really good time to make a bit more of a radical change. Certainly two areas need sorting out this year and they are the moldy areas at the front and the lecture room as a whole. **The last weekend in January is already scheduled as a Club House working weekend plenty of volunteers are required for mainly cleaning and painting.**

Then there are the boats. As some of you may know we currently have a Sports Capital Grant waiting to be reviewed in the new financial year. The application was for two Ribs totaling some £40,000. If

this is accepted in its entirety the club will need to find a third. £13,000 is a lot of money but could easily be raised over three or four years just as we have done for the compressor

There have been several discussions over the years as to what to do with respect to the boats. Gradually the standard of the Club boats has improved from the time years ago when Club members actually made the club boat to the current day with the two inflatables, both which have seen better days. However diving styles have changed over the years as there are pros and cons of whatever type of boat you choose to dive from. Last year there were several comments that there weren't sufficient short Hard Boat weekend trips

arranged. A few were organised and a good time was had by all! But given that everyone wants to do a little of this and a little of that just how much diving from its own boats can the club support?? One Rib, two Ribs, One Rib/One Inflatable or even two Ribs/One Inflatable??

Other factors will come into play as well. The number of people with cars powerful enough to tow Ribs is crucial, no more will we get away with 1600 Cavaliers and the like. Cars will need to be at least 1800 if not 2L How many people are qualified to Diver Cox<sup>n</sup> (and that means taken the BSAC/RYA exam!)??. Ribs are faster, you can go further a field, be out in rougher weather... all this makes them more dangerous in unskilled hands! If we buy Ribs the club would have to insist on 2 Diver Cox<sup>n</sup> qualified divers on each trip. Ribs are more expensive to run and larger to house

Now we can't forget the Compressor. This must be serviced annually and kept running. How do we cover this?? Perhaps a compressor club?? £10 annual subscription that gives you free unlimited air for the year?? I don't think we'd want to go back to buying tickets and having a compressor operator check and fill each cylinder!

There is much to think and talk about - have a think - be there on the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan and lets find out exactly what you want the club to do! Cant make it? Want to make a lead proposal? Let me have your comments beforehand.

Stephen Archer, Chair

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## **Forthcoming Events**

- |  |                               |   |                            |
|--|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| • <b>Rock 'Chicks' &amp; 'Studs' Party</b> | <b>23<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>    | • <b>Dinner &amp; Dance</b>                 | <b>27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> |
| • Open Forum The 200Club                   | 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan          | • <b>Panto - Jacques &amp; the Shotline</b> | <b>early 99</b>            |
| • <b>Club Decorate</b>                     | <b>30/31<sup>st</sup> Jan</b> | • Dive Leader lectures start                | 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar       |
| • Sports Diver Lectures start              | 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb          | • <b>Club Diver Lectures start</b>          | <b>14<sup>th</sup> Apr</b> |
| • <b>Felicity's Birthday Party</b>         | <b>20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>    | • Dive Gear insurance due                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> May        |

**Remember this is your club - help is always needed. So here comes this months call for help: -**

### **Ladies, Your help is needed!**

Can you spare 30 minutes to an hour on a Wednesday night once every 6 weeks?? Rachel Smith (formally Watson) organises a Pool cleaning session at Westminster Lodge between 8:15 and 9:00 each Wednesday. This is the time for the Women's only aqua-aerobics session - hence the call for women only! These cleaning session benefits the club by way of an annual reduction in the overall cost of pool hire - so is highly worthwhile. The job requires the volunteers to be qualified to at least Club diver. Basic duties involve sweeping the grot at the deep end of the pool into the grilles. It isn't the most pleasant of tasks, but somebody has to do it. At present we have about 6 regular volunteers, but this number has dwindled away due to injury's /apathy etc. Also these people have been doing this job for the last several years, and it's time we got some new blood on the team. Anyone who did their training in the pool know's what a difference it makes when the pool is clean when they are sat around on the bottom for any length of time. Rachel is also looking to hand the overall organisation of this job over to someone new by the summer (this basically means drawing

up a rota once every couple of months, and sending reminders). Volunteers can contact Rachel either by e-mail [rachel\\_smith@waters.com](mailto:rachel_smith@waters.com), by phone on 01582 842378, or at the club most Wednesdays.

**200 Club** Time for a fresh start! Once a new target has been set (see above) we also need a new team. This is best kept to four people each doing the rounds once a month. Its a reasonably easy job, generally just needing a good bit of persuasion and persistence! Volunteers please see Stephen Archer.

**Sponsor Crud!** Recently we have been asked if we could advertise club activities better, particularly during the winter. Also, for some time now, we have had a few requests for Crud to carry small adverts. It costs the club roughly £50 to send Crud out to the 200 odd membership. Taking this altogether we have decided to run small adverts in return for covering the costs of mailing Crud. We already have one more 'customer' in the wings anyone else interested and generous enough to stump up the goods should see Mark Crumplin, or Stephen Archer.