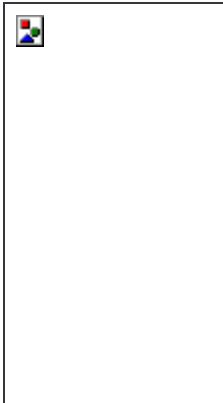


Crud - March 1999



The Club's Annual Dinner Dance was, as usual, a great success. Guests of Honour were George Brookes and the Mayor of St Albans, councillor Brian Peyton. George made the formal presentation of the Heinke Trophy, along with the cheque for £1,000. The Mayor awarded the other club trophies. The Brian Rimmer Trophy was presented to Peter Child for his tireless devotion to duty running the Club Bar. The Diver of the Year Award went to Andy Flowers for the work he did in organising the two Olivebank expeditions & subsequent publicity. Trainee of the Year was Pat Forsyth and the Instructor of the Year award was won by Steve Gore. Rachel Wood and Janet King received bouquets of flowers in recognition of their work in organising the events over the past year.

The 200 Club Photographic competition awarded too. The underwater section was won by Stephen Archer, with Pete Ladell as runner up and shortlisted together with Peter Tatton. The surface section was won by Chris Norris with Raibeart MacDougall as runner up and Peter Ladell and Felicity shortlisted, and the humorous section was won by Pete Child with Jill Collis as runner up with 2 shortlisted shots from Stephen Archer.

The dancing was briefly interrupted by the raffle where the highlights were raising almost £318 for the St.Albans MacMillan Cancer Daycare Centre charity and Tony Dobinson - winning a £50 voucher for a hair cut and facial!!

Forthcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Dive Leader lectures start | 24 th Mar | • Menorca Holiday | 21 st Mar |
| • Club Diver Lectures start | 14 th Apr | • Lizard Holiday | 29 th May |
| • AGM | 21 st Apr | • Summer Barbeque | 10 th Jul |
| • Dive Gear insurance due | 1 st May | • It's a Knockout | 7 th Aug |
| • Pool Cleaning | 8/9 May | • Farnes Trips | 16-19 th Aug |
| • Sports Diver Lectures start | 12 th May | • Panto - Jacques & the Shotline | late 99 |

Your Club Needs You!! - Your club could not exist without the dedication and effort of all the volunteers who work in the background to make the club as successful as it is. At the head of this effort is your committee. Our role is to run, manage and guide the future direction the club for the benefit of all its members. We are one of the biggest and most active clubs in the country and to continue so, we

need your help. If you have the drive, enthusiasm and commitment to shape our future, now's your chance. Various committee positions are available this year so go on... make a difference. If you have ever considered serving on the committee and want to know more details, come and have an informal chat with either Stephen Archer or Ian Winn.

SASAC - The Club. - What next?? - hopefully the following article will provide some answers ...

I'd like to start by thanking the 30 - 40 people that turned up to the Open Forum Discussion on Jan 29th. I think most of us felt the time was well spent with a good fruitful discussion which resulted with some quite interesting ideas.

Essentially the club needs to spend money on four key areas

1) Club boats

2) Club House

3) Pool

4)

Electronics/Compressor



Over the last 2 years the club has been trying to generate funds to go towards the future investment of 1 of the above. This would be needed to use against any grant. Funds could also be drawn from the 200 club or as a secured loan from the Insurance scheme. However it is not possible to meet all the above at once! Several committees have reviewed this situation but there has never really been an obvious majority view as to what to spend the money on.

However there may now be a way to proceed. It's a novel idea - it gained universal acceptance at the Open Forum and has been agreed by the committee as the best way forward. Now its time for everyone's input to see if this really can work!

Please Note. This is just the beginning - we don't know all the answers - but if you have any questions please ask - an answer will be given or a decision made.

One of SASAC's biggest strengths is its boats - no not just the club boats but the privately owned boats. Inflatable or RIB they are without question far more reliably than any club boat ever is. Its simple human traits, owners are much more likely to look after "their" property and ensure problems are fixed correctly and swiftly than some poor soul who has to look after the club boats with little or no support from the other users.

1) The proposal for the new **club boats** (assuming we gain some form of Sports Capital grant) is to offer 'shares' in the club boat. The boats would effectively be owned by the club and a boat consortium. Rules and responsibilities obviously must be worked out but the following outlines our starting position:

- Each consortium should be between **12 & 18** people
- 'Shares' would cost **£500 - £600** each
- Consortium members **MUST** be club members
- Consortium members must have taken the boat handling course
- The crew on any particular trip **MUST** have at least **two Diver Coxⁿ** who cannot dive together
- The 'share' cost would be depreciated year on year by a fixed amount and would form the rate of transfer.
- All transfers would be undertaken on this fixed rate agreed at the start - this would not be negotiable.

- The club would run a buy back scheme for Members leaving the club or members wishing to leave the consortium if no immediate offers are available.
- The boat's maintenance would be the consortiums responsibility
- [Engines must be serviced yearly](#)
- Other maintenance as agreed by the consortium - will either require about 1days work **each** per year or could fund a professional. (Should the consortium choose to carry out the work ALL members must help).
- [Boat insurance will be covered by the Club](#)
- The boats may be used even if no consortium members are present
- The club may cover the cost of accidental damage to the boat - claims will be made to the committee
- The Consortium will have 1st choice for diving
- The Consortium will have 1st choice on destinations
- [Diving fees](#) will be reduced [for Consortium members £3](#) plus fuel SASAC members would pay £8 plus fuel
- On average, over the year, 20% of the diving from the boats should be NON-consortium members.
- Finally if the boat is not maintained, the club (by way of the committee), as a last resort, and as majority share holder shall be able to reclaim the boat. Members may be bought out or suffer total loss depending on the state of the boat and work required to make it serviceable.

[These are the initial working suggestions](#)

[Are you interested??](#)

[Do you have any Questions or comments?](#)

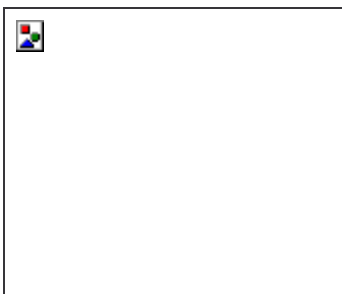
[Please see Stephen Archer, Howard Clowes or Pierre Leon](#)

Once we know if there is enough interested people and if we get the grant, we'll formalise the above through a series of open meetings and articles in CRUD. But if you have a view the sooner you speak up the better!

2) So onto the Club house. The refurbishment of the building (lecture room) was completed around 1988, with the funds available at the time. Little major work has been done since then to complete the premises to a high standard although ideas such as extending the bar have been raised in the past but not followed through. The club has a full maintaining lease which means funds must be used to maintain the fabric of the building.

We have the Club for another **25 years** and she's in need of some fairly major work. The End wall is very damp and must be dried and sealed. The same applies to other areas around most of the doors and windows. The club is being used for more events other club members comment on the excellent facilities available the only negative comments we hear are about decoration and mess. Heating and general tidiness for lectures and other functions has always been poor was seen as top priority by the members present. We've made a start in the lecture room. The walls have been painted and the Cupboards tidied up. The intent for the future is to build an extra room where the Barbecues are currently held. This room will be for equipment storage. This will enable us to clear out the lecture room of all cupboards except for the one containing the Training materials.

- The current plan is for the club to employ professionals to carry out the building work.



Thoughts were raised on whether to move the entrance door to opposite the compressor room (as originally planned). Add double doors toward the bar area and make an "entrance hall". This would

allow us to make the existing entrance a fire escape and utilise space for bar tables.

The lecture room heating needs to be upgraded urgently the Boiler is capable of heating the room and enclosing and enclosing it inside the new store facility will protect from frost damage and potential vandalism from outside. Feed and return pipes are already in place so all we need are radiators and wall space.

- Funds to carry out this work will be taken directly from those funds the club has already raised.

3) The pool requires looking at. As most of you know it leaks and we estimate it leaks up to some £400 of Water over the summer. **It is Critical** that the pool is cleaned thoroughly, and the cracks filled before being filled with water. This year **TWO** weekends have been set a side for this maintenance.

- The dates are the 8th/9th and 15th/16th May.

Please attend one of these dates.

Previous lottery activity on the pool area now ceased, however, if resurrected, it would require all the clubs funds to support the application with only a 1:5 chance of being successful. Lottery funding could be sought if work on the building only with work already completed contributing to the overall total. Shortening the pool / relining the pool are possibilities but not urgent.

Annual Pool costs £1500 to fill and maintain. £600 is received in revenue from Canoe club with Its a Knock Out adding to revenue. Mark thinks it breaks even. Funds could be diverted to these projects by not filling the pool for one year but the club may loose revenue as well as withdrawing the facility from members.

The Pool can not be used for the public or schools on Health & Safety grounds.

Future plans will include looking at lining it ... but this will really depend on raising money from a grant so until then your help, as always, is needed. The more people who turn up at the two weekends in May the better the job will be done and the more money the club will save.

4) Pierre has commented on several occasions about the standard of the **lecture room and training equipment**. These comments have been echoed by others including members from visiting clubs and people hiring the club. If conditions were better we would be able to get much more use, and therefore revenue, from the club itself. The club is already tasked to deal with the building. **The 200 Club** (together with the money from winning the Heinke trophy) will be used to improve and upgrade the training facilities.

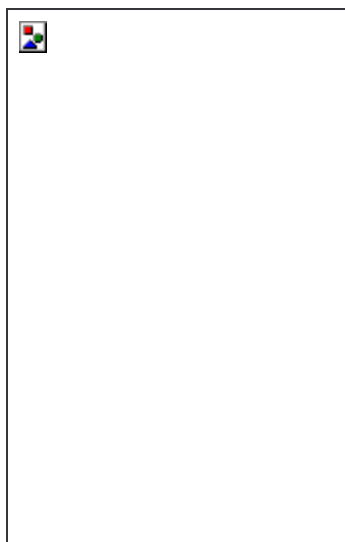
The aim of the training team is to be able to run two training sessions jointly by splitting the lecture room in two (on a temporary basis). To do this effectively we will need to double up on some bits of equipment. Much of the new training scheme is released on Video or Computer CDROM. A new PC is required to run this. Resusi Annie is somewhat passed her best and needs replacing for effective tuition of Artificial respiration.

With all this new proposed equipment security becomes more of a problem. So security will need to be boosted. Its sad but true that a few items have gone walkies without the club being broken into!! It is proposed that we install a computer card swipe system that will be added to the existing locks (too will be changed soon too). The Card swipe will also grant access to the lecture room, compressor, pool and storage cupboards as well as the club. A card will be distributed to every member and will need to be carried to gain access. As peoples members lapses access can be withdrawn more effectively. The computer can log all entries, this will replace the signing in book that seems to have been abandoned!

As the club is being so well used for Parties and Discos the sound system in the club will also be upgraded, integrating the system to provide music in either or, both rooms, the lighting will also be included in this upgrade to be both functional and mode enhancing.

Free access to the compressor will continue to be offered to all members of the 200 Club.

The **quality of the air** the compressor produces is now being tested bimonthly, so far it has been **well within** the air quality regulations. Well done and Thanks to Terry. However the quality is going to be improved further by the addition of an extra filter stack. This will allow the compressor to produce the very cleanest air. This will also allow anyone who has their equipment cleaned for Nitrox use to fill their cylinders with air without contaminating them with 'ordinary' compressed air.



To fund this the old portable compressor, which hasn't been used in the last three years, will be sold. The 200 Club will make up any shortfall, which isn't expected to be very large.

Compressor - Air Test - 10/02/99

Item measured	Actual (range)
Oxygen Content	20.7% (20 - 23%)
Carbon Dioxide	300PPM (0 - 500PPM)
Carbon Monoxide	0PPM (0 - 5PPM))
Oil Vapour	0mg/M ³ (5mg/M ³)

Water Vapour 32mg/M³ (50mg/M³)

So there you have it this is the plan the committee has agree for the future if anyone has any questions or queries about any of this please either speak to a committee member or attend a Committee meeting.

One of the Oxygen kits has recently been used - Some bits are missing and the cylinder is **EMPTY!!** PLEASE PLEASE remember this is **emergency equipment** - use it to practice by all means BUT PLEASE make sure it is left ready for use. All usage should really only be done with prior agreement from either Pierre or Terry.

Both of the Club's two overhead projectors went missing from the clubhouse in November, one has now turned up. If you know anything about this, or the whereabouts of the other (better) OHP, could you please let Howard know asap.

Club Shop

Felicity is planning to become a Club Instructor (and good luck to her!) which means she will now be training most Wednesday's. Consequently we need two new people to run the shop. Ideally the shop should be 'open' once a month and carries all those important items such a logbooks, training materials, stickers, badges, Dive tables and the like with a once a year order of T-shirts and Sweatshirts. Volunteers please see Felicity Garner.

Mini Marathon

A belated but big Thank you to the 25+ club members who helped Marshall the course and man the Verulum Park watering station during the St Albans Half Marathon on 6th June last year. The St Albans Review sponsored event raised more than £20,000 for local charities and organisations with the funds being distributed by the Mayor at the Maltings Art Center in November. The club represented by Ian Winn and Steve Gore received a nice little cheque for **£380.00 donation** towards club funds for supporting the event. Next years half marathon will be on **Sunday 13th June** so please volunteer to support this event. **Please see Roy Harrison or Ali Humphrey for more details.**

Congratulations to Cheryl & Ian first off with the birth of **Zak** on the 15th December, Beata & Raibeart with the birth of **Kasia** on 21st December and Kate and Russell with **Abbie** on 15th January

200 Club £100 winners list for 1998 - Don't forget to keep yourself paid up ...

Mike Doherty; Sue Cole; Brian Heywood; Mike Doherty;.. Clive Kerr; Ali Humphrey; Sarah Biggs; Graham Simpkins; Liz Harrold; Club Ball; Shaun Armstrong and Adam Collis, a full list of winners can be seen if you ask one of the collectors.

And so far in 1999 - Gail Lawrence & Ray Hunt, - who will be next - could it be you???

The Photographs adorning this issue are the 200 Club Humorous Winning, Runner up and shortlisted photos.

Thiam's 1998!

It has been a year since I left England and I do not regret it at all - though I do miss you bunch of mad divers!!

Life is great for me here (Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA) I have a wonderful apartment with its own pool - great for testing camera gear before taking it to sea as well as a few much more relaxing activities!!

My working life is somewhat different here to say the least! I get to work longer hours with shorter holidays. I'm hooked up to work from home so if anyone fancy's sending me a note they can e-mail me. I only live 5 minutes from work a small hill away, so walking to and from work each day helps keep me fit.

As holiday is more limited whenever I'm not on call at the weekend I'm off to Florida for a spot of Diving. I really recommend Ginnie Springs, Devils Den, Fort Lauderdale, and especially, West Palm Beach. Lots of marine life, wrecks and nurse sharks and turtles (only green so far). The nurse sharks are really used to divers and will come really close and I even kissed a turtle or rather the turtle kissed me. Apparently they're short sighted!!

Weather is usually lovely but one weekend in West Palm, just before we entered the water, a tremendous thunderstorm blew in but we still went into the water and it was awesome! The seafloor lit up and rumbled with the thunder!! It was fabulous but you really had to experience it. I haven't escaped quarry diving as there's one here in Athens, oh I wish it was Greece but it cold here and I still have to resort to my trusty drysuit! I am affiliated with the CHOO CHOO Dive center. It is not a club or real dive center like UK. We socialise and go diving too. We have trips organised for us and it is great to belong to their frequent diver program. The program entitles you to some discount on their courses.

Recently I returned from my dream paradise island Palau and after all the marketing hype about how wonderful the island is for diving I'd say Think twice!!! It is very expensive £62 for 2 dives and although I saw black tip sharks and manta rays and viz was lousy!! For those who know Sipadan and

have dove there, Palau is no comparison. The El Nino has affected the marine life and the damaged has been done by snorkellers and divers. So I resorted not to diving only but to tour round all the little islands and it was great when the weather is fine. Unfortunately, my trip round these islands was in the rain. 4 hours of rain and I was cold by the end of the trip!!.

For future diving plans will be around the Florida and Caribbean. No further plans to return to UK. But if anyone's coming to Florida let me know. Best Wishes, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. Bye Thiam, thiamb@worldnet.att.net