

CRUD - November 1999

Christmas Party 18th Dec Tickets £5, £7 on the door, 8 til late.

Millennium Party Fireworks, Food and non stop music - Tickets £15,

1999 Photographic competition starts this month. Surface U/W and humorous photos wanted

New Club Boat - Valkyrie - launched



It's 17:00 on Friday 15th and she was ready. Andy and I arrived at Barnet Marine to receive a run-down on the Boat and engine. We arrived to see our gleaming new boat, literally just finished in time for her first trip out. This was to be in Portland - just in case the weather blew up. Hold-ups on the M25 led to some rather late arrivals on Friday night so the decision to name the boat was delayed until the morning. The 'naming committee' - those members due to use her that morning discussed the options put forward so far. As the boat is a Viking some names had a Viking theme. Greek Gods featured too, as the discussion bobbed and weaved around putting one with the other and leaping off at slight tangents. Cath Kirby suddenly came up with Valkyrie. We all immediately liked it and thus the

boat was named. For those of you thinking what's that?, the Valkyries are a group of Odinn's maiden warriors. They would collect fallen heroes from the battlefield restoring 'life' to the soul with a kiss. They would then take them to Valhalla where they would serve the heroes with mead all night long!! Odinn would also send them on errands, and as they rode forth through the air in brilliant armour on golden bristled boars, their armour caused the strange flickering lights in the north - the Aurora Borealis.

Saturday morning had brought slightly less pleasant conditions than planned! An easterly force 4 meant it would be a little bumpy outside Portland harbour. However we needed to run the engine in. The boat was prepared and wheeled to the slipway. Andy as fund-raising organiser, popped the bottle of bubbly and carried out the naming of the boat and then she was gently slipped into the water. Andy took the wheel first and Valkyrie with her 90HP four-stroke engine zoomed off with ease. After 40 minutes or so we bought her back to the slip. Having looked at the sea we realised diving on the east side of Portland would be possible but uncomfortable. We decided to take the boat, kit, Andy and myself around the Bill and pick Cath, Sandy, Steve Gore and Mike Woods up from Chesil Beach. The trip around the Bill was interesting enough to prove straight away that Valkyrie is a very sea-worthy boat. She cruises nicely at 4000 revs, clocking up about 24knots. On rounding the Bill to the western side the sea was flat calm, it was also time to give her a quick blimp to full power. Using the power trim she was soon flying at 30knots! We collected our other passengers and took off for the first dive. As many of you will discover over the next few years the ride on Valkyrie can be made very different by the way she is loaded. Make sure all weight belts are well forward and the cylinders are tied tightly into the bottle rack. This will help ensure the best ride. We did notice a rhythmic bounce a couple of times but reducing the power a little really helped. She is well equipped with separate depth sounder and Differential GPS which provides very exact positioning The built-in plotter should help tremendously when trying to locate wrecks. The radio is flush mounted and has a large speaker so you can hear it when under power - but then the engine really only purrs in comparison with most other outboards. Valkyrie has 4 keys - enough to confuse most! Practical experience has already shown that these should be put in an obvious place as this will save much frantic searching [but I won't mention who discovered this first!!]. The diving on Saturday and Sunday



was pleasant scenic diving around Portland. However just because it's a new boat and you're running out of slack water you shouldn't forget your buddy check and get in the water unzipped! [again couldn't possibly name names!!]. The ride back on Sunday came a little earlier than expected as the weather blew up and was 'fairly interesting' according to Steve Gore and Andy. 3m high waves look pretty big from a small boat, but Valkyrie handled it without any problems, except for the GPS falling off! One other thing to note is that the tubes and orange flooring are slippery, please be careful how you walk around the boat. I trust she will give SASAC much use and fun over the next few years. Remember, to take the boat away there must be two qualified Diver Coxswains present. Not qualified? Take the test and claim back 50% of the fee on successful completion.

I couldn't let this short article finish without *Thanking Andy* once again for his time and effort in putting together the bid to the Foundation for sports and the arts and also thanking the foundation for choosing to award us with the £10,000 for the boat. We did spend a little more on her though. In fact she cost £17,000. The rest will be raised via the 200 Club. We already have £2,400 in the bank, please keep your 200 club numbers paid up if you've got one / please make sure you buy a number and support your club if you haven't yet got one.

Stephen Archer, Chair

Wanted! - New Treasurer and Premise Officer (well actually the Club must have)

At the last committee meeting both Mark Crumplin and Peter Child gave notice that they would be standing down in **April 2000**. They have both given the club a huge helping hand, something we should all *Thank* them for, but soon it will be someone else's turn. This gives us six months to find new volunteers who could learn the ropes as part of a hand-over period. The club cannot function without either of these two important posts being filled. Anyone interested should talk to Mark, Peter or Stephen Archer. Come on, time to come forward and help your club.

Forthcoming Events

Sports Diver course starts	10 th Nov
Trip Organisers meeting 2000	26 th Nov
Diving Officers Conference	11 th Dec
Christmas Party	18 th Dec
Millennium Party	31 st Dec
Club Diver Course starts	15 th Feb

The Panto - yes really honestly

2 - 4th Mar

Spring Ball Dinner & Dance

1st Apr

Congratulations to...

and Welcome to.....

Pierre Leon who now becomes a BSAC Advanced Instructor. To **Pete Ladell** for his entry published in the **BP Wildlife book**. Good Luck too to **Steve Gore** who takes on the role of BSAC Regional Skills Development Course Co-ordinator and to **Peter Stansfield** who now takes up the role as Area Coach reporting to Dave Lock who moves on to become Regional Coach.

This month's new members: Jo & Tim Blom, Martin Kenny, Norman Mitchell, and Paul & Susan Sanders. Also welcome to Nick and Fran How, who join the club as PADI Divemasters. Hope you all enjoy some great diving with the club. -

Anyone for the **Panto**? Nigel has confirmed it will be March 2000 Jacques & the Shotline

Save our Fish ...

After well in excess of 15 years the fish tank is now in need of replacement. It has been running, very successfully for over five years as a fresh water tropical aquarium, well looked after by Jim McCormack. I know many people have gained much pleasure by watching the fish. However the filtering has developed a problem and we have lost many fish recently. The filter needs to be cleaned and replaced urgently so we will take this opportunity to replace and modernise the whole system. Technology has marched forward in this time and the current breed of fish tanks now come with built in waterproof lights, easy to maintain filters and automatic fish feeders. The new Juwel aquarium has been purchased from the Aquatic warehouse in Cole Green. The staff there are extremely friendly and helpful. Having made your first purchase you also get a 10% discount card for any future fish and plants you need. As the tank matures and the population of fish is gradually built up I think you'll all agree the new tank is a fantastic feature for the club. If you enjoy looking at the fish pop a couple of quid in the fish tank fund and help keep them happy!

The Farnes - Aug 14th - 21st

For many years Rory McGowan has run an August expedition to the Farne Islands, just off the Northumbrian coast. This year was no exception, and as usual, there were two hardboats, one for the full six days, and the other from Monday to Thursday. Conditions generally were fairly good at first, although the hot July weather was well and truly over, to be replaced with the standard British fare of showers.

The diving earlier in the week was very good, with seals in abundance. Many of them, probably the younger inquisitive seals, would come right up to the divers, even allowing their chins to be tickled (by those braver than

me!) As well as seals, the area has much in the way of scenic and wreck diving. Diving and accommodation is arranged with Stan Hall, and is nice and relaxed. Wednesday however, was a good force 4 or 5, and there was some relief when Stan called it off.

So it was a tour of the usual dived-off sites - Alnwick and Bamburgh Castles, bookshops and pubs. Thursday was even worse, so most people decided to come back early. Apart from the weather, our trip was very enjoyable - the only incident being one of the ladies being locked in the loo.

Howard Clowes

Membership changes

As the membership of SASAC continues to rise (we now have about 200 members) this becomes a harder and more time-consuming task for the membership secretary to control. Some of you will probably already be aware of this but so that everyone knows, SASAC have recently started to use a computer-based database that controls the membership notices and reminders. The system generates **three** notices for each member. The first notice, **a reminder**, is generated one month before your membership expires, this is sent to you with your BSAC renewal form. It may also remind you that your medical is due. All letters are generated once a month from the database by Steve Greenham, usually in the first week of the month and posts all the automatically generated letters out straight away. If no payment has been received the 2nd letter, **an overdue notice**, is sent out on the 1st of the month. If the club still hasn't received payment a third and final **expired notice**, is sent out one month later. At this point the computer program also removes the member to a lapsed member. If you have an electronic key fob this will then cease to function and your access to the club will be revoked. This can easily be rectified once we have your full payment.

Please note these are all standard letters generated from a template. The computer does not know whether you've been a member for 20 years or 1 year. It is a great leveller as it treats all of us, committee member as well(!), exactly the same. Please pay as soon as you can, Steve will accept post-dated cheques - so send them straight away, if nothing else it will save us the extra postage on all the reminders!! Should anyone have any questions or queries on this please talk to Steve Greenham, Tel 01438 820472 or e-mail him at steve@divedata.com

Of course if your membership expires you will also be requested to sign in as a guest (£1) until you have paid your membership. The whole of the committee will be enforcing this far more as it is part of our duty to ensure everyone on the premises is a member as this is part of the licensing regulations.

Diving in the USA

Always keep your medical up to date and bring your qualification card with you, you never know when you'll need it!

Earlier this year I spent 5 weeks working in Columbus, Ohio, USA. In an effort to find out more about the local area and with no diving lined up, I took up surfing - the indoor kind that is - and within a week had introduced myself to a local dive club and been invited to their inaugural dive of the season at Portage Quarry - a collaborative event organised by the Columbus Sea Nags and Buckeye Divers.

Portage is two hours drive north of Columbus. Above water the quarry was rather like Guildenburgh with grassy banks and a little resort area. Since I hadn't got equipment with me I had thought I might just watch but within 10 minutes I was fully kitted out, assigned a buddy and in the water! Underwater I was quite at home - this could have been Stoney with rocky ledges and assorted dumped boats and vehicles to navigate by. And my dive buddy - well underwater it could have been Howard - my every move captured on digital video!

Back on the surface the barbecue and beer drinking commenced and I was commended for not selecting Bud Light and treated somewhat as a guru for my knowledge of English (real) beer! We camped over and after

breakfast those of us used to drinking beer dived again! I later conducted further research into US quarry diving when I visited SASAC's own Thiam Bowe in Chattanooga, Tennessee and we dived in Loch Low-Minn penetrating uncharted waters in our search for the fluorescent alligator!

The Sea Nags and the Buckeye divers meet once a month in Columbus. Since they are far from the sea cave-diving is a popular local diversion for some members. Their club dive programs are based around trips to locations such as the Great Lakes, North Carolina and Florida holiday weekends and longer vacations to Costa Rica, Bonaire, Caracas etc. On Thanksgiving weekend (Nov 24/25) they plan to dive with the manatees at Crystal Springs, Florida and a couple of us are making tentative plans to join

them. They're making provisional arrangements to dive Scapa Flow in September next year through a contact at Immersed magazine but would be interested to hear of any other trips.

You can see me diving on the Sea Nags website at <http://www.nn.net/seanag/summer99/kickoff.htm> and you can check out the Buckeye website at

<http://home.columbus.rr.com/buckeyedivers>.

Nadine Gardner

The Saga of Black Jake and the Jane R

Article removed until we get Gordon's permission / Comments.

Andy Flowers

C l u b G o s s i p

Congrats to Jadzia (now living in Brighton) on the arrival of her second baby (a girl) at the beginning of October. Obviously this is the start of this years announcements because ... Sarah Biggs & Doug Street are expecting a 2nd child in February and Denise & Chris Nixon and Hannah & Steve Greenham are looking forward to sleepless nights in March.

Which budding thespian on a Practical Rescue Course, over did their role as an injured casualty. In their pretend panic, shouting for help (rather than for a taxi as they were supposed to), so much they not only managed to acquire a healthy audience but also the attention of the near by rescue center. They launched their boat to help with the rescue. Meanwhile the 'rescuer', who should have had to tow the 'casualty' 20M back to shore was faced with a tow more like 100M because the 'casualty' had thrashed about so much. This 'casualty' just would not die! But both the 'rescuer' and course organiser did - although only from embarrassment!!

Rescue drills must be getting too real these days. Another group taking their Sports Diver drill in Paignton were also visited - this time by the Police!

Old and past it or should we just blame the vis? Is diving in low vis any excuse for putting your dive timer on upside down and not noticing until they got back on the boat??

How many well trained and experienced Diver Coxⁿs does it take to spot that the reason the engine isn't working could have something to do with the Petrol lead not being connected? Pah ! Boats!!

Who jumped so high at the skipper's bark that he found himself bobbing in the water with BOTH fins hanging around his knees. Unable to do anything about it he had to wait for the next set of divers to help him regain his usually scuba presence.

In a hurry to get away from work after a leaving do. Who leapt onto their motor bike to zoom off to their loved one - only to have a very short ride? Of course it would help if he had taken the chain off first!!