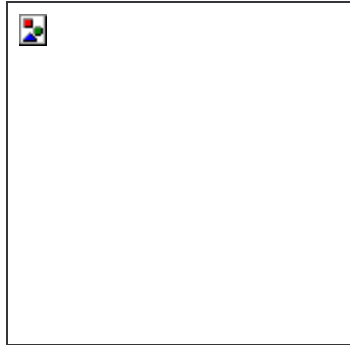


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18th Dec 1996

# CRUD - the SASAC News Letter



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## A year in review

At the beginning of 1996 the club had some 117 members as the year has marched on membership steadily rose to 160. It now stands at some 130 odd members (this does not include the 20+ overdue members likely to re-join) and indeed we have some very odd members!! You only needed to be at Hallsands or the Rocky Horror party to realise that!

The number and variety of diving within the club has also increased, possibly to an all time high, but will that continue?? (See article on [Committed Divers](#))

January and February saw very limited diving, but a few did zip up north to Stoney Cove and Guildenburgh continuing the efforts to get those ever so keen trainees into the water. March saw a few more divers emerge from the winter hibernation in the local pubs only to rapid disappear to warmer, clearer waters. Stephen Archer took a party of 10 to the Red Sea and Mike Woods took another 10 to Menorca. Both were very successful trips and both are planning new trips for the Spring of 1997. At the time of going to the press there are still a few spaces on each trip, see Stephen or Mike (France this year) for more information

The Club holiday went to Challaborough and the Lizard, unfortunately both suffered a little from strong S/W winds. Sadly there was also the tragic accident that led to Daniel Collings death.

This despite a brilliant effort to resuscitate him by several other members of the club. An effort they should be proud of and drew much praise from the local professional paramedics.

Stop Press St. Albans members awarded BSAC Safety Award at BSAC D.O.C.

This sad episode does point to how good the training is. Many of the rescuers involved were either instructors or recent trainees and the techniques were fresh and vivid. They knew what to do straight away! When was the last time you took a rescue refresher?? Would you know what to do - without hesitation, at the scene of an accident??

The club will be running Rescue refresher courses during the Spring of 1997. If you haven't done any training or refresher courses in 1996 - its time you did! See Nige if interested. As the summer rolled on more and more trips slipped away to some distant shore or other. Amongst these were Wittering, Portland, Lundy, the Farnes, Newquay, the Shetlands, Northern Ireland, Scarborough and Denmark. It was noted that some of these trips seemed only to be open to the fairer sex though!! Sounds like a good idea Pete!! But watch out, it only seems fair to warn you though that there are one or two seeking to slip on your next trip - in drag, especially if (s)he can dive in fresh water!!

## **New Trophies**

At least 2 new Trophies, donated by the "200 Club" will be awarded at this year's [Dinner and Dance](#). More info later on.

## **Trips Galore!!**

Andy Flowers led an expedition to attempt to find the wreck of the Olivebank. The Olivebank built in 1892, was a clipper bound for Mariehamn, Finland having left Barry Docks in Wales on the 29 August 1939. She was some 2,800 tons, 326 ft long, 43 ft wide and had four masts. As war broke out she made her way up the English Channel and into the North Sea with her cargo of stone ballast. On 8th October she struck a mine near the Dogger Bank. Initially after sinking one mast still broke the surface. To this clung the seven surviving crew out of a total of 25. Andy's trip was planned for 10 days and it was not until the 8th day did they find her. Up until that point the trip had been a little on the rough side and the Maisie

Graham had rocked and rolled quite a bit!!! Sanctuary had already been sought in one or two Danish Pubs but they had to go on to find the wreck and return home.

Some say it was luck with the zig zag course following several beers in Denmark but with two days to go the Olivebank was finally found on 28th June 1996 in a depth of 56M, standing 9M proud of the seabed. Having only been dived a few times there is plenty to be found & Andy is planning another trip back in the Summer of 97. Meanwhile Ray Hunt is busy getting the scuttle they recovered polished so it can be added to the club wall.

Shortly after this Shaun took a trip up to Scarborough. The weather was somewhat better and I believe the club had a 'first' - nobody was sick on a Maisie Graham trip!! A workup dive on the LV83 Lightship then off to the "Bell Wreck". This wreck had been dived by Andy's crew, the bell had been located but there was much coal and crud keeping it there. During the days diving the bell was freed and was left sitting there - ready for filming the next day. When raised Rory dutifully chipped away to reveal the name the wreck was the Julian Wiener dated 1876. This is the second bell raised in so many years [will be appearing in the club, shortly, when cleaned]. Other wrecks dived included Kos 16, the Magnolia, Rory's wreck (discovered by Gwilym), and the Speedy, all on a mirror like sea! The other notable experience was seeing the skipper bag two dozen lobsters in a 24 minute dive with the current running like a train!! The week finished as it started, flat calm seas and a dive on the Lightship. Finally Jim managed to locate and retrieve that long awaited porthole.

Much Diving was carried out throughout the summer despite the rather more than occasional gusts of wind. Rory took another throng of divers to play with the Seals in the Farnes, and Pete Stansfield took the women diving in Ireland. But please note when they talk about those slippery grey things they do mean the Conger eels they dived with - honest Pete!! Pete also took a trip, with the boys this time, up to Shetland. Apparently there was much wielding of heavy objects and they managed to bring back two huge portholes from the Oceanic, sister ship of the Titanic.

As the year drew to a close a couple of late trips were planned. Shaun took a trip up to the Mull where Dave Ramage actually dived in salty water. Moreover he and Steve Titley joined Rob Hinckley's 1995 effort to join the 49.9M club narrowly missing the magic 50M on the Rondo.

Pierre also took another 6 divers off to the Red Sea. This time forsaking the comfort of one of the liveboards for a land based

safari. Travelling somewhat farther south of Hurgarda than the liveaboard boats do. The sun shone and the wind blew, what else would you expect with Barry on the trip! The diving was excellent, in an area largely untouched by tourist divers. Sharks and turtles were seen, often at very close quarters. Only the large pelagic fish were missing, these being more common farther offshore.

Heavy rain in the previous fortnight caused some localised visibility problems, and also led to a bad case of rising damp in some of the tents. It also meant that the southernmost of the three campsites was inaccessible. Other problems included a shortage of beer (Did we forget to warn them Barry was coming?) and the usual gastro-intestinal problems usually associated with visits to these latitudes. !! It's also reported that Barry snored so loudly one night his bed roll sank into the sand wetting his jim jams!!

A cultural excursion was available on the return journey (for those confident enough to venture more than 50 yards from the "facilities"), to the Valley of the Kings in Luxor. Although the diving was good, the general feeling amongst those who went, was that a liveaboard would have been a more comfortable way to do it.

To wrap the diving season up there was the now traditional trip down to Hallsands, Thanks for organising it again Bob!! Of course there is many a detail that could not possibly be revealed here..... but maybe a few details wouldn't hurt!!

It was Rocky Horror - reborn. Dave and Neil just couldn't wait to get those stockings back on! There were Red feathers all over the place including in a surprising number of bedrooms!! The Prawns turned up down here too to help the singing along but the balding guitarist should really learn which bedroom is his - no matter how pissed he is, and its generally not a good idea to fall asleep in the bar with your mouth open!! Is it??

Of course we cannot leave 1996 without thanking **Sarah Crompton, Doug Street** and each of their respective teams for the hard work they all put into the 'Have a Go' sessions and the training in general, month after month. AND to all those other experienced divers who spent many an hour training up at Stoney. Rumour has it that BOTH the "SA's" on the committee also paid a visit this year - but surely this just cannot be true!!

## **New Arrivals**

Eah we've been a busy club this year, particularly in February!! Building up the next generation of Divers!!

Congratulations go to :

Aileen Dunlevy (formally Moran) who gave birth to a boy called John in February at home in Ireland.

Michelle Collings gave birth to a girl 7lb 8oz named Danielle on the 3rd November

Jez & Jackie Kent had a little girl called Grace-Scarlet in early November.

Jadzia gave birth to a bonnie not so wee boy, called Stefan on the 13th November

Nick & Liz Verduyn joined in the November boom too.

and finally to

Nige & Hils Dobinson for their bouncing baby girl, Jenna on Dec. 18th

Also congrats to anyone we've missed, may 1997 be a happy one but don't forget us down at the club.

## **Club Membership**

Membership of SASAC costs £87 per year.

This may now be paid monthly (£7.25 per month). with a one off up front payment of £42

There is also an initial joining fee of £38 to cover things like your diving manual.

Abated membership is available for partners who are can share one copy of the manual and Diver magazine.

Social membership is available at £10 for non-diving friends and family.

## **Qualifications**

During the course of the year about 100 people 'Had a Go' and the club has picked up about 20 new members as a result. However we seem to be seeing a drop in the overall numbers of new members joining the club. This year we had a total of 34 new members, previous years have been around the 45 - 50 mark. As a result the

committee have decide to waive the Club's portion of the joining fee, £15, for any pre-trained diver. The committee would also welcome any new ideas about where to advertise to catch the eye of possible new members.

Also we would like people to think strongly about joining the Standing Order scheme. The committee spend a lot of time chasing members for the membership fee - not an enjoyable task, the club could also function better if it knew it had a certain income coming in each month. Please see [Howard](#).

Also the following numbers of qualifications were reached:

Novice Diver 1	24
Novice Diver 2	16
Sports Diver	12
Dive Leader	3
Advanced Diver	1

Also several more members went on to qualify as NQIs - Nationally Qualified Instructors.

Alan Matthews became a Club Instructor

Peter Stansfield qualified as an Advanced Nitrox Instructor

Congratulations to you all .

## **Volunteers Wanted**

Club Maintenance

Doug needs a few helping hands to try and keep the Club Premises looking ship shape.

Bar Work

Pete always needs help with the Bar rota and with keeping the place generally neat, tidy and clean

Club clean

Now on 1st Wednesday or Friday of the month. Please give Pete a hand!

Boat, Engine and trailer maintenance

We're looking for a team of people to start looking at these. The boats need the odd patch here and there. The brakes need checking, wheel arches need fixing and in general the trailers need a quick going over before being re-painted. The engines will need a thorough service this year. Can anyone take them to Doug Ashley over at Nazing, Near Hoddeston?

Westminster Lodge pool clean

The ladies have done a great job this year, we need to keep it up. If there are any ladies out there that can spare half an hour at about 8:30 on a Wednesday evening the help would be gratefully received. Please see Rachel Watson. This is only open to Ladies due to the session before being a Ladies only class.

And in general a really **BIG THANKS** to everyone that has helped in the past - the club cannot continue without this help. Here's to 1997 and all the volunteers that we know will be there to help out once again. It would be nice to see some fresh faces - old and new!

## Octopush

Octopush is played every Wednesday at Westminster Lodge. Finished your training and not sure what to do next?? Talk to Andy Flowers, Ray Hunt or Jadzia about having a go. New Players are always welcome.

The Octopush team now plays on a Tuesday at Borehamwood pool between 9:00 and 10:00 see Rob Hinckley or Roy Langley if you're interested in playing competitively. Currently the team are positioned 7th in the country. They have also just won the Nautilus Championship, the first competition of the 1997 season. Well done lads!

## Club Holiday

In 1997 the Club Holiday will be returning to the Lizard, staying at the Sea Acres caravan site. Ali Humphrey is organising this trip and needs the deposits for caravans ASAP!!

The committee has already made its mind up (in general) about the 1998 club holiday. It is intended that the club will go to West Wales. Exactly where is a good question at the moment but it is intended that there will be several mini trips this year to try to find a good suitable location, large enough for a club of our size. Usually we are looking at about 60 - 70 divers and about 100 people overall and not forgetting the huge number of cars and boats we take with us.

If anyone has any good ideas or already knows of a suitable caravan/cabin site large enough and close enough to a few pubs please let one of the committee know.

## **Dive Training & the DOC**

### **- A word from the DO**

Anyone need a Skills Development course?? These are all in the hands of our superior DMC member [Peter Stansfield](#)! Courses already planned: Nitrox, Advanced & "Combined", are on up in Ipswich 18/19 Jan, First Aid when Nige organises it, at the club. The next intro. course will be on the 8th Jan, please be there to help Sarah. As previously mentioned don't forget the Club Holiday, back to Cornwall for 1997, 24th - 31st May.

Your D.O. - you know, the guitarist (yes but only with some imagination!! - Ed), wants you all to come to ensure a brilliant club atmosphere! Howard and myself will be in charge of organising the club diving and you know how bribeable we both are. Just see us in the bar at night! Also do make sure you see Ali soon if interested with £30, preferably, so she can book a caravan for you. See you there - it'll be great!

A few weeks ago I went to the Diving Officers Conference together with the Chairman, ADO and a few others. A multitude of subjects were on offer ranging between new course details and what Howard considered as the presenters "holiday snaps"! There were interesting presentations on equipment configurations and the rebreather which is likely to change diving in the next few years now that the price is down to £2,000. Whatever we thought there is a lot I would like to download to all members, so there will be a full documented debrief of the weekend available at the club soon, together with (if you wish) a copy of the full BSAC Incident Report 1996.

If after reading either or both documents you have questions or would like to discuss any particular aspects of the information supplied then listen out for a date one Wednesday when there will be a chance to air any views or concerns in a group forum.

## **AGM**

The **AGM** will be held on the **16th April** Ever thought of being on the committee? A constant supply of fresh ideas is always welcome



## **Committed Divers**

Have there been too many trips on offer this year?? Organisers noted that even as early as July a fair few people were dropping out of trips. Sometimes at the very last minute. A few never even bothered turning up!!

We thought this would be a good opportunity to try to explain a few things. Part of the problem seems to be that as diving becomes more popular dive boats are having to be booked up earlier and earlier. People that don't organise trips may not realise this - but try getting a hard boat for a neap weekend this year. It won't be easy!! Many hard boats are fairly well booked into 1998. Obviously once the organiser has put their money down there's a real incentive to get people booked onto the trip. However if people over commit themselves and have to cancel at the last moment the cost of the trip will still have to be paid, obviously, but there's also the knock on costs that affect the other divers too, i.e. the cost of fuel and accommodation etc. Then there are the other little problems. Like the organiser having to chase around to fill spaces. Divers having to dive in threesomes during the trip and so on. All of this can lead to a fair amount of frustrated and somewhat annoyed people. Particularly the organisers especially if they've had to turn away two or three genuinely interested people because the trip was fully booked or so they thought!! Please consider this when booking yourself on dive trips.

## **Panto - Jacques and the Shotline**

It looks like another deluge of fun, frolics and acting skills like no other. Probably in March but it could slip! If you are a thespian or even if you feel you might be inclined that way, or if you just enjoy making a complete fool of yourself take that step forward the directors (Steve Gore and Nige) want to hear from you!

## **Forth Coming Events**

· The Christmas Party will be held at the Club on 21st December, see Cheryl Friedland for tickets · The New Year's Eve Party will of course be held on 31st December. · The annual Dinner and Dance will take place at the Water End Barn in St. Albans on the 8th February 1997

Nige is also planning a load of Winter training trips to the usual 'hot spots' - listen for his announcements on Wednesday evenings or check the notice board.

## **It's A Knockout**

Once again the Sun blessed us and Roy had performed his own form of magic on the pool, and it has to be said it was crystal clear. Sue, Alison and Bob (and no doubt several more I didn't see) did a grand job on collecting the entrance money for charity. We had the pleasure of a full strength visiting team from Hemel Hempstead. It has to be said they were pretty damn good and were only beaten by one team! "Shaun's Southern Poofers". They said they'd be back next year though!! The booby prize went to the D.O.s team again who really don't seem to be able to see very well! Still everyone had a smile on their face, and much laughter echoed around the pool all afternoon. Many thanks to all the Judges - you must enjoy being thrown in! Brian - I bet you love it really!!

The evening saw the first live performance of "The Prawns" and quite of few people stood open mouthed when they saw and heard Nige play!

1997 - It's a Knockout - the date is set, Saturday July 19th and the weather booked -we hope!

Stick a note in the diary, get the training in - and Miss Cole don't forget you'll need at least three changes of clothing.

## **The Annual Dinner and Dance**

This year the Dinner and Dance returns to the Water End Barn in St. Albans. The date will be the 8th February and tickets are available from either Sarah Biggs or Cheryl Friedland at the price of £22. As usual several awards will be made including the Brian Rimmer Trophy, the Instructor & Trainee of the year and the DO's Award, but this year there will be two (and possibly a three) new trophies up for grabs.

The "200 Club Underwater Photograph" and the "200 Club Surface Photograph" trophies will be awarded to the best underwater photograph and the best surface photo. This should catch the essence of diving and / or in particular the St. Albans Sub Aqua Club.

200 Club Photography Entry Rules:

- 1) Max. of 5 photos per person per category.
- 2) The entrant must be the Photographer.
- 3) The entrant must be a paid up member of the SASAC

- 4) Prints Only (size unimportant - mounted or unmounted).  
Labelled with name on BACK.
- 5) The pictures may be retained (or copied) by the Club for display within the club or on any official sanctioned publicity.
- 6) the Judges decision is final.

The pictures ideally shouldn't be too old, (this will change to should be taken within the last 12 months in future years). For the 1997 trophies the Judges will be the Committee, again we'd like to change this in the future so that we have a "Photographic Night" with some sort of voting system. The committee felt this was an ideal way of getting to see lots of photographs and to try and brighten the Club up.

## **Club Gossip**

Which lecherous pentagenarian was caught with his tongue out by the mother of a 14 year daughter??

Could it be the same person who after being left in charge of Excalibur for less than two minutes managed to smash the prop up by driving over a load of rocks in only ankle deep water!!

But surely the same person, previously heard to proclaim "you'll never see me drunk" many a time, couldn't have been the same person that 'pebbled dashed' the toilets of the Olive Tree Taverna on Chris Norris' monumentous birthday.

Of course there's also the story of the three bears - Daddy bare, Mummy bare and flousy bare. Who was the not so shy person that slipped into bed with a married couple at Hallsands??

And is it true the man in the middle woke up with a BIG smile on his face??

Still at Hallsands "Janet" won't tell anyone she's wearing silk knickers again as various hands tried to verify the truth of this - but there again maybe she will :-) !!!

The reps always warn you about playing around on bikes whilst abroad (and we are talking the motor variety here) two "boys" found that a certain amount of playing around can leave you a) stranded in the middle of the desert or b) with extremely badly bruised thigh and swollen "cough" - still the girlfriend was impressed at the larger size!

Still these were 4 four wheel drive bikes and at least the drivers knew how to use them unlike one proud new owner of a Discovery. Couldn't manage to retrieve the boat and had to get a "real" 4x4 driver to help out!

Just arrived in the Farnes and someone was bored and wanted some fun - surely someone would have some K Y Jelly. No doubt a newly qualified NQI would be well equipped!!

Curry night at the Fooks residence, surely nobody would turn up an hour late, pissed as a fart, scoff the food, fall asleep and snore (loudly) all night long!

Party time again at the club. Limbo experts one and all lined up each with their unique method. A couple to note were Ann who was so pissed she'd just fall on her back! and Sarah who spread her legs too wide and severely twisted her knee, thus preventing her from joining the next game where ..... Neighbours complained that their children learnt a little more about sex education, when a couple slipped into one of the changing rooms late during Stephen and Amanda's Caribbean Party back in July. Thought you hadn't been seen??

Bored during the surface interval, one set of divers decided to try flying a kite off the back of a hard boat. All went quite well until one not so small and no southerner stepped forward to have a go. So skilful was he that he not only managed to wrap the cord around the mast but also managed to get the kite to do a great impression of a submarine.

The same said chap, so desperate to see a certain bit of "totty" rumoured to be in the village pub also walked the 4 miles there and back rather than use the pub only 100 yards from the beach - now there's dedication!

Whose wife phoned the club at 01:30 to find out were her errant husband was after the Pub crawl on Saturday 16th Nov.?? You left the pub just after 11 so which ditch did you slip into??.

Hungry stomachs on a rough Maisie trip forced two brave souls into action, when not everyone was feeling so well. Who were those two hardened divers that not only caught 43 Gernards but also gutted and filleted them whilst the decks rolled despite the spines piercing their hands.

More food - literally!! Would you believe there are some female divers out there who worry not a jot about what they eat!! Not content with one meal these piggy girls enter a second restaurant

for a second helping. We know the Irish are well known for their hospitality but this sort of thing really 'eats' into the Drinking time.

Apparently Gwilym tried water skiing in his dry suit on one trip but wasn't very successful, the leak's quote was "Gwilym is not really very aerodynamically designed for water skiing".

Gwilym also suffered from a disappearing buddy on one trip, paired up with a lovely young lady (all bribes accepted - Ed) he must have said something to upset her because although he started every dive with her, she always surfaced with someone else!!

Which skipper of a bright Orange RIB lead the two club inflatables to the East Rutts, proclaiming its no problem they're in my Decca. Only to find themselves diving on a few small ridges at 30M?

A couple of crews visited Swanage during the summer, one crew included in their report to the DO "Never take the wives on a diving trip!", a sentiment the DO may well share - but he couldn't possibly comment! whilst one member of another crew a) forgot his Dry suit and b) made "friends" with the young lady running Divers Down and ended up being called Captain F\*\*k Wit!!

We all know there are a few hunters in the club, but it would have to be a copper that's got the biggest knife. Trouble is nobody told him that the only people apart from the Japanese that eat Spider Crabs are the French and even they don't try to prepare them underwater!!

Apparently there was some quick "work" done up in St. Abbs during a shore dive. Hilda's dive buddy hadn't quite managed to get rid of the condom before surfacing, and he didn't even have a pee zip!

Late breaking leak - many a time you'll here of divers missing the wreck but its hard to believe anyone could miss the "Lees wreck" in Northern Ireland fore it breaks the surface at all states of the tide! But apparently this happened over the summer and as one of the leaks pointed he was not one of the girls!

## **Wanted !**

Articles and Trip Reports for either the next version of Crud and / or to put up on the Web site will always be very welcome. Also if there are any 'leaks' of an embarrassing or amusing nature - they really should be published! Any articles of leaks can be dropped into the Committee's Pigeon Hole to the side of the bar.

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