

Heinke Trophy Report 2013 to 2014



Summary and Aims

South Bay Scuba, Scarborough. At the beginning of 2013 it didn't exist! But by the end of 2014, you bet it did.

By the year end, we had/ have 62 Diving Members, (now 80) 8 Assistant Club Instructors, 4 Snorkeling Instructors, 15 Open Water Instructors, 2 Advanced Instructors, 2 Boat Handling Instructors and 1 Diver Coxswain Assessor.

Did I mention the 4 First Class Divers in training?

In July 2013, a brand new British Sub- Aqua Club, Number 2516 was formed in Scarborough, North Yorkshire with one aim in mind. Diving with Friends wherever they live, near or far.

It started with a cuppa and a conversation; as most things do on a sunny afternoon at our favourite café and included an awful lot of "if's" and "but's."

Did it need to be done? Could it be done? Is there sufficient interest? Is there a venue? Will we be able to provide training? What about a compressor? What about a boat? What about diving equipment? What about transport? What about trips? And what about money! They were just a few "challenges" facing us...

That was a long afternoon, very long. With a heavy heart and the Roosevelt attitude of "Believe you can and you're halfway there" the foundation for South Bay Scuba was laid.

And the response was fantastic.

People came from near and far and before we knew it, we had a thriving club that we have today.

Of course it wasn't all fair winds, we've had our share of rough weather days and big seas but we always knew the outlook was sunny. It was the chance of that and the calm seas that kept us constant on our heading.

As we continue on that heading we can see that the future is very bright for South Bay Scuba. News of a second boat and a potential permanent clubhouse are 'perhaps' rather than imminent. Nonetheless the compass reading is doing just fine.

So what about the fundamental reason of why we set up the club? Diving with Friends. It resonated with us so much that we decided to use it as a part of our club logo as it is seen today.

Diving with Friends. Training with friends. Socialising with friends. Being friends. That is the purpose of this club and we'd like to introduce you to our new friend and now your new friend,

South Bay Scuba, Scarborough.

Snorkeling

Snorkeling with South Bay Scuba, around predominantly the North Yorkshire coastline, brings into your world the treasures of the intertidal zone. South Bay Scuba are very aware of the pleasures to be seen around and under the sea in the area , where we are lucky to have mixed rock, reef, seaweeds and sand habitats in abundance.

Being a very accessible club, with club nights every Friday, newcomers to the sports of Snorkeling and Scuba are made welcome for discussion and friendship. Facebook is our means of communication and this is also a growing community.

These factors allow members of the club to enjoy, first hand, many wonderful creatures and plant life around the region.

South Bay Scuba actively promotes Snorkeling with BSAC to get safe access to these wonders. Snorkeling is an active sport made accessible to all with the excellent training given by BSAC Snorkeling instructors, of which South Bay Scuba has several.

The membership has grown since inception as the access to these wonderful intertidal zones is easy around the North Yorkshire region. South Bay Scuba also has a hard boat to allow access onto some of the very shallow reef dives also found in our region.

This widens snorkelers' experience and South Bay Scuba also run Boat Handling , Diver Coxswain, Diesel Engine and Navigation courses open to all, to make the whole adventure even more exciting and rewarding.



Courses

BSAC Snorkeling Courses are offered to new trainees once they have been introduced to the Club via activities like South Bay Scuba open days, Try-it days and also by promotion of the Club itself. We'll do that by highlighting the wealth of experiences on our doorstep.

We make people aware that, with South Bay Scuba, safe access to this wonderful world is possible; actively arrange exciting trips, often at short notice to the growing keen group of snorkelers, including divers, who are also aware and keen to experience the fantastic near shore sealife.

We have small pools in Scarborough to carry out one to one training and this is followed up by visits to the sheltered areas of the North Yorkshire coastline.

The region offers some very lovely destinations to enhance the experience. These include the reefs around the Scarborough Castle headlands, where kelp, rocks reef and man-made structures are home to a myriad of sealife. Flamborough Headlands offer similar abundance of life in the setting of chalk cliffs and caves.

The Diving officer and other South Bay Scuba members have been very active in arranging other trips further afield, including encounters with basking sharks and seals where snorkelers are not only welcome but encouraged.

We have taken Snorkeling trainees on these trips to both enhance their skills and also enjoy the ambience and friendship offered by South Bay Scuba. It is a brilliant club where the Snorkeling adventure can be truly enjoyed



Snorkeling members

	<u>January 2014</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
Instructors	6	6
Snorkel Divers	6	11



Administration

Membership of South Bay Scuba



South Bay Scuba was set up in July 2013 with the aim of creating as many diving opportunities for its members as cost effectively as possible. We therefore decided to have the minimum of club assets to make us a viable club and to set the membership subscriptions as low as practicably possible then make up income by fund raising. Our club subscription were therefore set initially at £25 per annum.

Several members had a network of diving friends throughout the UK as a result of various projects they had worked on. Many of these people did not live near the sea so even though members of another club, jumped at the chance of joining South Bay Scuba as Dual members.

We were able to communicate with these non-local members easily through social media – primarily Facebook. A group was created as a public open group so everyone could see the posts should they wish to but only members of the group could post. Once other divers saw our many diving trips both local and all-round the UK and abroad this again led to increase in members.

When the number of members reached more than we had anticipated we realised that using the various angling boats in the harbour to dive from was not going to satisfy the needs of our ever growing membership. We then applied for, and were successful in obtaining a Sport England Grant to purchase a club hard boat – this again lead to a further increase in membership as people were keen to get involved in local diving.

PADI Crossovers joining us has also been a big source of increased members

Being a very new club we have as yet no training equipment for pool training. This has meant that we have not been able to follow one of the main recruitment routes used by clubs – “Try Dives”.

We have run occasional “Try Dive” Sessions using equipment borrowed from Club members which have resulted in 2 trainees signing up but again this meant using borrowed equipment.

To overcome this problem we submitted another Sport England Grant for 5 sets of pool equipment (decision due by end of March) and will then be able to promote ourselves by doing taster sessions.

Our most powerful recruitment tool appears to be word of mouth and our growing reputation as a diving, diving club – particularly with regards to the number of PADI crossovers in the club.

Quote from one of our PADI crossover members “Joining South bay Scuba is the best thing I have ever done” – better not tell his wife 😊

We have a website which is primarily to make our contact details available should people search for a scuba diving club in Scarborough.

They are then directed to our Facebook page to check out our diving and social activities. There is a phone contact number and email address which goes direct to the Membership Secretary.

www.southbayscuba.co.uk

Membership Administration

South Bay Scuba has a membership application procedure as detailed in the Branch Bye Laws. We have 3 types of membership:

- ✓ Diving membership – Full membership and Dual membership Subscription £25 pa
- ✓ Snorkeling Membership - £10 per annum
- ✓ Social Membership – £10 per annum. This was introduced at our first AGM as there has been a demand from people to join us on our trips around the UK and abroad, as well as joining us on club night and at Social Events.

Club membership renewal date is taken from the month of joining and a database of club renewal dates is kept. Members are reminded when their subs are due by our usual communication method – Facebook message.

Members are actively encouraged to pay their BSAC subscriptions via Direct Debit.

New members either sign up at Club night or if they are not local to Scarborough the membership application forms, BSAC Membership forms and Medical forms can be downloaded from Face book and either scanned and emailed to the membership secretary or posted to the address on the form.

“How does being a Dual member of South Bay Scuba and another club work?”

This is what Clive Warrington member of West Yorkshire Fire Service Club and South Bay Scuba says:



Clive Warrington

Being a member of South Bay Scuba is helping me enormously to work towards my First Class Diver qualification as there are a couple of other members of the club who are working towards it too.

Being a member of West Yorkshire Fire Service BSAC, due to the fact that we are an inland club we don't have access to boats so it was proving quite difficult to gain my boat handling & Diver Coxswain qualification.

Being a member of South Bay Scuba as well as WRFS there is a great deal of experience within the club with regards to seamanship as we have members of Scarborough RNLI as well as individuals with a wealth of experience from their sailing background.

They have been more than welcome to put on training events & assist those of us within the club with general seamanship as opposed to purely diving & give us a greater knowledge & understanding of for example chart work and positioning.

The clubs fees are only £25 per year which has attracted dual members to the club such as myself who don't live in the area which is a huge advantage when it comes not only to diving but also with training events & social events as the club has a vast pool of instructors now that not only train South Bay Scuba members but also assist in training BSAC members from other clubs thereby helping in promoting BSAC & also assisting in individuals personal diving development.

Within only a few years the membership has grown to in excess of 80 with new members joining regularly which says a great deal about the makeup of the club and also the hard work & dedication of the committee members to strive to create one of the friendliest & welcoming clubs that I've ever been a part of.

Not only that but within the first couple of years the membership has acquired a hard boat and have access to a couple of RIBS which during the dive season are used for day & evening dives during the week as well as weekend diving.

As well as diving membership the club has an active snorkeling section which I feel is vital to promoting the sport to younger members to the underwater world as starting these young people off early with snorkeling has meant the transition to SCUBA once they want to try it out has been relatively easy. This of course hasn't just been open to children but also to adults too.

The club also has social membership too as we realised that the sport isn't for everyone but we still had people that wanted to be a part of the club with fund raising and also the running of the club.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of both West Yorkshire Fire Service Club and South Bay Scuba as it has opened up many more diving and training opportunities to me.
Clive Warrington AI 4066.

Membership Numbers

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Full</u>	<u>Dual</u>	<u>Social</u>
<u>1st January 2014</u>	47	15	<u>62</u>	37	25	0
<u>31st December 2014</u>	63	17	<u>80</u>	55	25	8

	<u>January 2014</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
<u>PADI Crossover Members</u>	2	16

Snorkeling with South Bay Scuba

As a club we are ardent supporters of snorkeling as a sport in itself and as a route into diving. We encourage anyone who is slightly unsure of joining the South Bay Scuba as a diver to give snorkeling a try.



Club Administration

Structure:

South Bay Scuba, branch 2516 has an organisational structure which reflects the typical BSAC model, having an elected committee running the club on behalf of, in the interest of and with the participation of the members of the club.

The structure of the committee is as follows:

Elected at AGM:

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Equipment Officer
Diving Officer/Training
Boat Officer

Elected by Committee:

Snorkeling Officer

Rules & Constitution

BSAC Bye-laws are adopted by the club and tailored to meet its individual needs.

Meetings



Golden Ball Public House
Our Club Meeting spot

The club holds an annual AGM in September, and follows the Bye-laws adopted from BSAC. This includes election of the committee as well as updating members on club finances, status of assets etc and gives members an opportunity to feedback on the performance of the club and the committee.

Quarterly club meetings are held when requested or suggested by members or by the committee. This is treated as a 'shop talk', giving membership the opportunity to raise any issues, make any suggestions or requests and as much as anything is a good get-together. Face to face communication is just as essential as the communication via the social media sites.

Member Participation

Members are positively encouraged to feedback, make suggestions and participate in the running of the club via social media, via e-mail and in AGM and quarterly meetings. One of the core values of the club is that it is owned by its members and should reflect what the membership wants, as well as being run in a transparent manner. With this in mind, member's ideas and suggestions form an important part of the club.

Information

The club operates mainly over social media site Facebook, this is an open page that interested parties can view club activities and communicate with existing members (Search South Bay Scuba, Scarborough on Facebook).

This is accessible to everyone via modern technology. The page also acts as a live, constantly updating noticeboard.

Club details are also found on the club Website: <http://www.southbayscuba.co.uk/>

New members can contact via Facebook, the website or as in many cases, word of mouth. The club is very open, accessible, inclusive and welcoming, as can be seen in the following information. On making contact, new members are promptly passed clear joining information. This is a very informal process rather than a hard sell, making anyone who enquires feel comfortable.



Communication

General club communication is facilitated using Facebook as a constantly updating, interactive noticeboard. Its benefit is that it offers the most convenient access to all members regardless of geographical location and allows interested non-members to see the level of activity within the club.

As trip places are sought after, this method allows an Event to be set up publicly, everyone then has the same fair opportunity to sign up. This has proved a superb method of mixing the groups of people on each of the many trips and events throughout the year, it's unlikely that any of the trips comprised exactly the same group of people!

The committee communicates internally using a separate Facebook group, this method helps resolve issues and progress ideas quickly as it gives all committee members a chance to participate at their most immediate convenience.

In addition to this and as essential practice dictates, the committee meets on a regular basis, at minimum every quarter.

Meeting Location

All meetings are all held in a local public house, selected for its accessibility, harbourside location, easiness to find and convenient parking. This is the same location in which weekly meetings are held every Friday evening from 8pm, giving members a chance to catch up, and giving interested parties an opportunity to come and meet existing members, and gives certain members their chance for a weekly cider fix!

Club Advertising

Due to the versatility of social media and the website, there is little need for printed club information. Posters and flyers are created to advertise fund raising events and placed in various locations within Scarborough (with permission)

A large and popular part of the advertising material is a range of club embossed clothing, using good quality hoodies, polo shirts and hats with good quality embroidered logos and names. These are available to members at a reasonable price.



Promotion

New members are made aware of our branch primarily by:

- Facebook
- Website
- Word of mouth

Secondary methods we have used this year have been Website, Try Dives, Promotional Stand at the NHS Health and Well Being Event and Articles in the local press and on the radio, all listed under Publicity in this report.

We also used our Free BSAC Banner to its full having it displayed on “Condor” the new club hardboat in the harbour and prior to that Alphora a yacht owned by 2 of our snorkeling members.



Our own club banner was attached to the Hatherleigh, a converted trawler moored alongside the Vincent Pier and viewed by many.

Club Car stickers were also placed in the windows of our local cafe (Sunrise Cafe) with the permission of the owner of course.

Several of our club calendars were given to local businesses – The Teapot Cafe, Golden Ball pub, Sunrise cafe, Scarborough Harbour office, Rec2Tec diving. The calendars had contact details and a prominent South Bay Scuba logo.

We also supported a fundraising event for Children in Need organised by Heather Adair and Amigos Dive club, by donating a calendar and Club logoed fleecy hat as prizes.



Diver Training

Training is very important to South Bay Scuba in all its aspects – both training to dive and all the many BSAC skill development courses as well as in house training and any other related training. Our members, it appears, love to learn.

Analysis of qualifications

<u>Qualifications (Inc PADI Equivalent)</u>	<u>January 2014</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
Ocean Diver /Trainee Ocean Diver	10	18
Sports Diver	12	12
Dive Leader	18	24
Advanced Diver	17	18
Snorkeling Member	5	8
<u>Total</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>80</u>
First Class divers in training	1	4

Analysis of Instructors

	<u>January 2014</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
<u>Assistant Club Instructors</u>	8	5
<u>Open Water Instructors</u>	15	16
<u>Advanced Instructors</u>	2	4
<u>Snorkeling Instructors</u>	4	5
<u>PADI Instructors</u>	0	4
<u>Boat Handling Instructor</u>	1	2
<u>Diver Coxswain Assessor</u>	1	1

Water Work

Ocean Diver training has been the most problematic for us because as a relatively new club we have no pool training equipment (this problem has been addressed by putting in a Sport England Grant application for 5 sets of pool training equipment – decision by March 2015)

We have not actively recruited Ocean Diver trainees for this reason but our reputation goes before us and we are approached by people wanting to learn to dive. Reluctant to turn away enthusiastic divers we have managed to train several Ocean diver trainees using equipment borrowed from club members.

We have access to a suitable local hotel pool which we can book as and when required. When the pool is booked for Ocean diver training it is made available to other club members - these sessions prove popular with people wanting to test kit and brush up skills or just simply help on the pool side. The times of pool sessions are booked to suit trainees and instructors.

When pool training is complete a date is arranged at a mutually convenient time to visit Capernwray usually for a weekend to progress the training. Again these weekends are popular with many club members and are a social event as well as training event and integrate the trainee Ocean divers into the club.

This year we have trained 2 Ocean Divers this way.

We do offer an alternative route to Ocean Diver for trainees who have limited time to attend all the pool sessions, the lectures and the Open water training sessions.

By booking a villa with a suitable pool in Spain and locating a dive centre from who we can hire equipment we have all requirements to do Ocean Diver training in a week's holiday.

The lectures can be done either at home before we go out to Spain or in the evenings whilst there – we did all but one lecture while we were in Spain and completed shortly after returning home.

Our Ocean diver trainee was extremely nervous so this method suited her very well as we had 2 full days to use the pool before venturing into 2 days of shallow, sheltered, clear and warm shore diving.

By this time her confidence had increased greatly and she was ready for 2 days boat diving in a marine reserve. She did not complete the open water training in Spain but within 2 weeks of returning she had purchased equipment including a dry suit and had finished her training in Capernwray.

Other training for members of the group was also were signed off - another Ocean diver finished off their open water training and a dive leader also signed off.



This route seems to appeal to female trainees as we now have 2 ladies signed up to train on this Octobers Club trip to Spain.

My Training Trip to Spain – Carol Sherwood

After enjoying a snorkeling trip to Tobermory in August I decided that I would like to learn to dive. A trip was arranged by South bay Scuba for trainees to go to La Manga in the Costa Calida, Southern Spain for a week in October to learn to dive in the warmth, and I thought I would try it.

We spent the week in a private villa that had its own pool and for the first two days intensive training took place both in and out of the pool. I wasn't a confident swimmer when I started but due to Annie Morrison's extreme patience and guidance I soon became comfortable even in the deep end of the pool.

After I had mastered the necessary practical skills of diving and theory lessons we moved on to shore diving. This I found much easier than in the pool as there was so much sea life to see that I soon found that I was finning around quite happily. The temperature of the sea was a balmy 24 degrees and the water was crystal clear. It felt that I was swimming in a tropical fish tank.

We swam for about 40 minutes in depths up to 6 metres. With Annie's guidance I felt no fear of becoming disorientated and I was able to enjoy the varied sea life.

We had a further 3 shore dives before going out on a RIB to a marine reserve where I did a backward flip over the side of the boat into the water. Again the water was warm and crystal clear but this time the amount of fish was incredible, it was like a fish soup. Although the fish didn't actually touch you, they were very nosy and showed no fear.

This time we went down to 8 metres and although I had to ease the pressure in my ears a couple of times, it felt no different to the shallower dives off the shore.

I thoroughly enjoyed my week in Spain and cannot believe how much I learned during that week. Spain is the ideal place to learn to dive due to the very warm temperatures in and out of the sea, the clear waters and abundance of seal life. I cannot thank Annie and South Bay Scuba enough for their patience and excellent training.

Sports Diver and Dive Leader Open Water Training

Water Work for the other diver qualifications is done at mutually convenient dates at Capernwray or other local inland sites. These days at inland sites are used primarily for Rescue skills training and Rescue Scenarios as much of the other training for Sports Diver and Dive leader can be integrated into our local diving.

We held 4 days at Capernwray this year – one day in January and one weekend in April and also a full day at Stoney Cove. These days were focussed on Sports diver and Dive leader training. As a result 3 Sports divers and one crossover to Sports diver were signed up and 3 Dive leaders completed all their assessments leaving only the experience dives to do.

Report by Diver leader in Training – Haydn Wilsher

Dive Leader training weekend

South Bay Scuba's Diver Leader Training Weekend was organized by Iain Scott, himself a Dive Leader in training, as part of his qualification and practical experience under the guidance of Instructors. The focus of the weekend was to concentrate on Rescue Management skills. This followed a winter of theory lessons including Oxygen Administration DT3 through to 7 provided by Dr Ian Sibley-Calder, and other theory lessons given by the Club's own instructors.

The venue for the event was Capernwray Dive Centre. Though 140 miles by the quickest route from Scarborough it is a site quite familiar to most if not all of the trainees and instructors. With good facilities including heated changing rooms, shop, workshop, hire centre and café, we could be sure that this facility gave the best chance of success whatever the weather may (and did) throw at us, or should unexpected circumstances arise.

The first day's agenda saw us tackle two Open Water Lessons in total.

The first Lesson was Dive Leading Practice. Mick Lawson was my Buddy and Anne Morrison the Assessor. Having dived at Capernwray many times over the years and being used to clear waters, I can honestly say that, at less than two metres, this was the worst visibility I've ever seen at this site.

The whole place was packed with divers in training, trying out new kit, and preparing for the season. However, the lesson went well as we worked through the scenarios to build a good understanding of the Dive Leader's roles and responsibilities when leading trainees and less experienced divers.

The second lesson was Diving and Rescue Skills Review. Mick Lawson was my Buddy again and Anne the Assessor. As part of this lesson we covered mask removal at 17mtrs (never a favourite) and AS ascent from 17 to 6mtrs as rescuer.

With me being rescued, the exercise didn't go as well as we started to ascend too rapidly and had to abort. I discovered that my shoulder dump had been knocked closed, probably whilst kitting up – an important lesson learned for Buddy Checks in future.

After a well-deserved break in the Café we returned to the water and completed the drills. This time with Andrew Austwick, a member of South Bay Scuba as well as Huddersfield Club, who didn't live too far from the dive site and had offered to help with the instruction for the weekend, as the Assessor. All went smoothly this time and we completed the exercises, finishing off the day with some surface towing practice preparing for the following day.

The accommodation organized for the evening was a Youth Hostel in Kirby Steven. Though some distance from the Dive Centre it proved to be a welcoming and comfortable location, we quickly made ourselves feel at home enjoying a meal cooked by Ian Scott and Jenny Park, followed by a couple of pints in a bustling pub around the corner.



The second day's agenda saw us working through Rescue Management Scenarios and Rescue Skills Review.

During the morning session we carried out the rescue scenarios from the shore, with myself and Mick taking turns at filling the role of Dive Manager, under the careful scrutiny and helpful guidance of Anne and Andrew.

In the afternoon we swapped Buddies around, this time my Buddy was Stuart D'Silva, a PADI diver crossing over. The skills drills all went without a hitch apart from CBL from 17 to 6mtrs. I had to put a lot of air into Stuart's Jacket to start the lift and when he did start to rise I had to dump lots of air quickly to slow the rate of ascent. I'd only raised him a couple of meters on this attempt, so we returned to the bottom and tried again - this time without problem.

To complete the session I led a navigated route to the 'oil rig' then back to a determined point – very happy this went so well in low visibility. From there we surfaced 50mtrs from the shore and ended the lesson with a rescue tow with BLS to the shore.

All in all a great weekends diving and socialising, with lots of skills re-mastered and new skills learnt.

Theory Lessons with South Bay Scuba

South Bay Scuba have:

- PowerPoint Projector
- Screen
- Flip chart
- Whiteboard.

We have the use of a room in the Golden Ball where we meet and for bigger courses we have been allowed to use the training room of the local MOT testing centre (The manager is a club member) Theory lessons for Ocean Diver/Sports Diver/Dive leader are usually held on club night (Friday night) just prior to meeting time – this then allows newer people to socialise with the other club members. Alternatively when we have training weekends we integrate the lectures into the weekend some people doing lectures whilst the others cook dinner etc.

This year we have completed the following theory courses:

- Ocean Diver lectures for 3 Ocean Divers including the Ocean Diver trained in Spain plus exam
- Dive leader lectures for 5 Dive Leader trainees plus the theory exam
- Sports Diver lectures for 3 Sports divers(including one PADI crossover)including the exam
- Started Sports Diver Lectures for 7 Sports Divers (includes 5 PADI crossovers)

Other courses Organised by South Bay Scuba

<u>Course</u>	<u>Attend By</u>	<u>Instructor/ Assessor</u>	<u>When/Where</u>
BSAC Boat handling	3	Heath Samples(Assisted by Simon Exley	Loch Fyne February
Diver Coxswain	2	Heath Samples	Loch Fyne, February
Boat Handling Instructor	1	Heath Samples	Loch Fyne, February
BSAC Boat Handling	8	Heath Samples- assisted by Anne Morrison	Scarborough, May
Diver Coxswain	3	Heath Samples	Scarborough, June
Basic Nautical Archaeology (in house)	8	Anne Morrison	Scarborough, March
Marine Biology - Identification	7	Anne Morrison/Paula Lightfoot	Scarborough, March
BSAC Compressor Operator	10	Anne Morrison	Scarborough, September
BSAC Chart Work and Position Fixing	8	Anne Morrison	Scarborough, November
RYA Diesel Engine Course	4	Scotsail Largs	November

Because the club obtained a new hard boat this year many of the courses were based around boat handling skills and boats.



Courses

Reports by participants.

Heath Samples– Boat Handling & Diver Coxswain Courses

Boat Handling Course

Another new one for SBS was running these courses for the members. Well, they had to be new as the club wasn't even a year old at this stage! Ever think you've bitten off more than you can chew??!

So, the BSAC information was downloaded, a quick call to Jim at BSAC HQ and the Boat Handling Course was on. There was a lot of interest in getting to grips with the dives boat and of course, we encourage that. More skippers = more opportunities for the boat to go out= more diving and snorkeling.

For the first group the weather was kind and it commenced with tea and bacon sandwiches- doesn't everything? Then onto the walk through the course for the two days and away we went. I find that students for boat handling are always keen to learn on this course as any course.

I was assisted by the budding Boat Handling Instructor to be Anne Morrison so we were able to take 8 students on this course, split 4 per group with me overseeing Anne's group too.

My challenge was to keep an eye on the budding Skippers and the budding Assistant Boat Handling Instructor- just as well I like challenges. But like all the projects SBS has applied itself to, we were being keenly watched by the diving community and non- diving community to see how we fared, and fared we did.

The other challenge is that an awful lot of them 'believe' they can already skipper a boat. Thankfully this course shows them that not all is what it seems at sea. First Achilles heels are emergency situations and the realisation that they could potentially be in command on the boat. Moving through the scenarios and what/ how they would handle the situations, and the boat starts the realisation that this isn't just about looking cool..

But take it on board they did and after some funky manoeuvring around the harbour and pontoons, we were at sea and running the required manoeuvres.

And so it continued. At the end of the first two day course the students were, in my honourable opinion, better equipped to understand the implications of being a boat handler and the ramifications, and fun it can be.

The feedback must have been good because as the statistics show above, in that year alone we qualified 11 BSAC Boat Handlers! Now that must be a record in itself for a club!

But the good news is that it now results in SBS members having more opportunities to go diving with friends and that of course, is a good thing and that is why I do it.

Diver Coxswain Course

Now I admit I might not be an “Assessor of choice” for this course and I’ll explain why. Like BSAC, I believe this course requires a far better understanding and ability. To the point where the Diver Coxswain is the key to success or failure, reacting to failure and getting a successful outcome in any emergency. And it doesn’t stop there. It never stops.

So unfortunately, as a Scarborough Lifeboat All Weather Lifeboat Navigator, an MCA Master and RYA Yachtmaster/ RYA Instructor; there is no escape. If there is a skills fade or skillset that isn’t up to the required Coxswain standard, I can spot it pretty quickly.

So Loch Fyne provided the first opportunity for the Diver Coxswains to get their teeth into it and we got off to a flying start. With twin 200HP engines, a lot of coughing and spluttering and blue smoke (can you believe two strokes!) we were off.

Navigation, IALA, IRPCS, practical chartwork- and then some- was all met with satisfactory answers and the students got the qualification. I stressed to the students that this is a national qualification and must be used with both experience and respect. The points were taken with a sense of responsibility giving me the comfort that signing the cards was the right thing to do.

So then word got out again within the club and the next course is in Scarborough harbour in June- I do have a day job you know!

Anyway, keen students, more opportunities for the club to go diving, how could I possibly say no, the settee’s more inviting. In fact it’s not, one of the cushions needs replacing and there is no chance the Mrs Samples III is moving from her spot now..

So, the standard is set. And to be fair to my little cherubs, this time I’d given them all some homework. Nothing that would assist them on the day of course, but questions for them to ascertain if they were at the required level to pass the course. This I found worked well. I used Facebook for this and posted questions each night over 14 days.

It was amazing- everybody came out of the closet as budding Diver Coxswains and Boat Handlers getting stuck into the questions. These were people who weren’t even on the course but wanted to get involved with the Q&A and it was a great load of fun.

I was looking for the answers from the budding Diver Coxswains of course but this engaged them in the various discussions that were taking place and it worked really, really well. In fact, we had some more people signed up to do the next courses from our members who enjoyed the discussions, and also from our local Yacht Club.

Because our Facebook page is set to Public, non- members can comment on it. The Yachties loved it and we got some of them to join as snorkeling and diving members- and eventually they'll be doing the BSAC Boat Handling Courses. Yes, this amazed us too. The marketing lesson wasn't lost on us, far from it. We now have a better marketing strategy because of it.

So rigorous standards set and I'm pleased to report that these guys passed too. Ok, we did have one member drop out from the course but credit to him, he realised he just wasn't ready and we're encouraging him to get the skills and hands on experience required then come back.

I told you the SBS standard was no pushover ☺

Chart Plotting and Position Fixing – Ian Abraham, Dive Leader and Assistant Instructor



I joined South Bay Scuba as member number 10 at its inception. I knew a number of the committee so I knew the club would be catering for my needs. It was made clear from the onset that only suitably qualified members would be allowed to be coxswain and I wanted to attain this qualification.

The skills and experience of the members is exceptional for such a new club. With commercially trained skippers, an RNLi All Weather Lifeboat Navigator and yacht racing skippers, it was not long until we had members who could teach and assess the skills needed.

The club purchased a hard boat and during the quieter times courses were laid on to start the process including boat handling.

The diver coxswain qualification requires chart work and position fixing.

A course was set up as an event on Facebook. There were requests from 9 members from a large geographic area covering Scarborough, Leeds Newcastle. A location large enough to accommodate instructors, 9 students, the charts plus projection screen was required. I offered the training room at my workplace as it had large tables and was an appropriate environment.

The dates were set for the theoretical part to be completed on 22nd November 2014. This was going to be a full day starting at 08:45 and ending at the earliest 16:00. There were facilities for making drinks and a small catering facility. It was decided that lunch be provided by the students to thank the instructors. Each was given food to prepare (sandwiches, cake, nibbles etc.).

Closer to the date I sent out directions via the clubs' Facebook page including a map. The course manuals were ordered and distributed prior to the course. It was suggested that a Portland plotter and dividers were obtained.

On the day there were 5 instructors each with specific skills so there was an excellent student teacher ratio. We followed the course as it is laid out in the manual. Each section being explained, practiced and then our knowledge tested before we went onto the next section. We had plenty of equipment to practice with including hand held compasses, admiralty charts of the local area, almanacs and reference books including Chart 5011.

We had the terms heading, course & track explained and how this was applied to the boat. We were split into 3 teams and tasked with taking bearings of local landmarks. It was interesting to see the variation that was recorded. The course was structured so that each section related to the real life situations we would encounter when we were aboard the club boat conducting the practical session. We made a voyage passage plan for the trip we were to make from launch to dive site via waypoint and back again. When we came to the end of the day we were all well prepared for the practical event the next day.

As people were staying over it was suggested that we all go out for a meal in the evening as a social event.

For the practical session we were split into three groups to allow those travelling furthest to get home at a reasonable time. The sessions were treated as a real dive trip. With arrival, loading and cast off times being adhered to. We used our passage plans to instruct the skipper of the correct heading we had calculated. When the sail time had elapsed we checked that we were in the location we should be using latitude and longitude from the boat equipment. When we arrived at the dive site we all made a sketch of the transits visible with bearings. The skipper then left and returned to the same site using these transits to see how accurate we were.

BSAC Compressor Operator Course



Having purchased a basic compressor and secured a suitable accommodation, it was agreed that appropriate operator training was essential for ensuring that the system was used in a manner which kept the operator, general public and the equipment safe.

An in house course was therefore set up using skills and qualifications already within the club to facilitate the BSAC Compressor Operator course. Details were posted on the Facebook page as usual, giving all members a fair opportunity to respond, 10 places were made available and uptake was as usual swift and complete.

The first part of the course covered the theory and was run in one single session, the usual enthusiasm and expertise was present from the instructor Anne Morrison who was as normal clear, knowledgeable and informative. There was considerable enthusiasm also from the participants who were keen to learn and kept the instructor on her toes with plenty of questions.

The theory part of the course was followed up with a number of practical sessions, these were set up to fit around participants work and family commitments, as well as to coincide with their cylinders needing a fill! In small groups, the participants started with a quiz to identify the various components of the compressor, relating the information from the theory session to the actual compressor they will be using. All had a chance to get hands on and familiarised themselves with the instructions.

All participants proved competent and qualifications have been signed off, the club now has a group of trained and willing compressor operators, all of whom are regular active local divers, this will ensure over the coming season that there will always be someone available to fill cylinders for other club members.

Basic Nautical Archaeology Course



This year we ran a very exciting project “Recording Our Wreck” surveying 20 local inshore wrecks (which has been awarded a Jubilee Trust Award). To prepare for the surveying and recording of data from these wreck sites we ran an in house Basic Nautical Archaeology course.

The course therefore covered:

- Wreck location from the surface
- Wreck location underwater and search methods
- Recording what you find under water
- Wreck Identification
- Sources of info for Wreck Research – identification and location.
- Ship Construction and wreck navigation
- Safety issue when diving wrecks
- Legal aspects of diving wrecks

The course was received enthusiastically by the 8 participants with everyone taking part in discussions and the more experienced wreck divers passing on their knowledge.

The main discussion was related to our “Recording Our Wreck Project” with discussions on how to locate the wrecks and how to record the information to give an accurate picture of the wreck back on the surface.

In fact the method we eventually used for recording data was not discussed on this course (see Jubilee Trust Award) as it was an idea suggested to us later in the year. The course material has now been updated to include this methodology for the 2015 course – now set up with 11 eager participants already signed on.

We made a small charge of £10 for this 2 hour course which went towards the purchase of a power point projector.

Basic Marine Biology Course



This was a basic course prepared for us by Paula Lightfoot, Seasearch Coordinator for the North East and member. It was based on classification of the various species of flora and fauna we would expect to find in UK waters.

This course was organised so that all interested people could assist the Seasearch qualified Observers and Surveyors with completion of the Seasearch forms. Ample illustrations were supplied by Paula's superb slideshow of marine life off our section of coastline.

Again a small £10 fee was charged to go into the Power Point Projector fund. This course will be run on an annual basis – as a refresher for previous attendees and also for people new to the club.

RYA Inboard Diesel Engine Course



Since acquiring our new hardboat Condor with its inboard Diesel engine some of us felt the need to know a little bit more about how it works and some basic engine maintenance.

Therefore Friday 28th November found 3 of us heading for Largs on the West Coast of Scotland to the RYA School - Scotsail – many people asked why go all that way? Well this also gave us chance to grab a day's diving in the Clyde on Sunday (see Kevin's report) – and we do love a trip especially this time of year when there is no local diving.

The 4th member of our group Peter Gunn was from Glasgow so met us up there. The course started promptly at 09:00 pm and we worked solidly until 13:00 when we were allowed out for 40 minutes for lunch.

We then visited a yacht in Largs Marina to check we could identify engine parts in situ – not quite as easy as having the engine on a work bench. The course then continued on to 17:30 – a long hard day but never was so much fun had on a course and so much learnt.

Many thanks to Scotsail for such and enjoyable and informative day – we couldn't wait to get back and service Condors engine.

Qualifications

Analysis of qualifications

<u>Qualifications (Inc PADI Equivalent)</u>	<u>January 2014</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
Ocean Diver /Trainee Ocean Diver	10	18
Sports Diver	12	12
Dive Leader	18	24
Advanced Diver	17	18
Snorkeling Member	5	8
<u>Total</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>80</u>
First Class divers in training	1	4

Analysis of Instructors

	<u>January 2014</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
<u>Assistant Club Instructors</u>	8	5
<u>Open Water Instructors</u>	15	16
<u>Advanced Instructors</u>	2	4
<u>Snorkeling Instructors</u>	4	5
<u>PADI Instructors</u>	0	4
<u>Boat Handling Instructor</u>	1	2
<u>Diver Coxswain Assessor</u>	1	1

Equipment

Condor



Ah..... Condor!

Yes we love it too.

Not that we are condoning smoking but this baby smokes!

So what is Condor? Condor is none other than a Mitchell 31 and makes for a superb diving platform. She is 31ft long with an 11 foot beam. Made of GRP she represents a modern boat with true sea going qualities.

Powering her is a Sabre 120HP inboard diesel which makes for around 12kts at top speed. When we first purchased her we prepared a fuel curve to determine the best speed for the best fuel economy. With a semi- planning hull the best speed through the water is unsurprisingly at 6kts. So the fuel curve is sat onboard as a part of the equipment.

We also swung the compass so have an accurate deviation card which we believe is an important part of the inventory especially when we are running Chartwork and Position fixing courses.

The full inventory is as follows:



- Diving Ladder
- LOWRAN DUAL SCAN HD Scan Sonar incorporating Chartplotter, Depth and Wind Instrumentation.
- ICOM Fixed VHF DSC
- ICOM Portable Handheld VHF
- Fixed Compass
- Handheld Compass
- Autopilot
- Engine Gauges
- Automatic Bilge Pump
- Manual Bilge Pump
- Radar Reflector
- Bilge Alarms
- Coastal Flare Pack
- Navigation Lights, Interior & Exterior Lighting
- Emergency Steering
- Perry Buoy
- Throw Line
- CQR anchor
- Rock Anchor
- 40M Anchor Chain
- 20 M Anchor Warp
- Electric Winch
- Heads
- 2 x Sinks
- Gas Cooker & Gas Oven

Equipment – Compressor

The nearest available air-fill facilities are 45-50 miles away and take about an hour in the car on major routes. This is an inconvenience which could make diving in the area less attractive. It was decided that having local club run air fill facility was essential to maintain the level of diving locally.

Considerable research was done looking into types, brands and sources, this led to discussions with Colin Bruce, a compressor engineer with many years of experience maintaining and building diving air compressors. Contact was made in response to his classified ad selling a basic 3 stage compressor, powered by a single phase motor. Technically this was an ideal solution not just due to being simple and compact, but finding accommodation with a single phase supply would be far easier than finding accommodation with a 3 phase supply.

It was decided that this was technically the best option being based on a Coltri system, able to fill 2 empty 15L cylinders in approximately 15-20 minutes from empty, however the price was out of the range of the clubs current financial position.

As with other similar situations, club members were quick to get put their hands in their pockets without being asked, enough cash was soon in the pot to make an outright purchase and a volunteer with a van was ready to collect the compressor.

A suitable accommodation was soon found, a former shop next to the harbour, away from the road and other potential air pollutants, and with a suitable rated single phase supply. Within a few day of collection the compressor unit was up and running.

Cylinder filling fees were set at a cost per use level of £3.00 rather than increasing annual subscriptions, people therefore pay for what they use.

To ensure the equipment is used in a manner safe to the operator, 3rd parties and the compressor itself, the BSAC Compressor Operator course was run to ensure there is a number of suitably qualified members available. Rules on usage and maintenance plan have also implemented.



Diving Activities- Branch Dives

South Bay Scuba is a club of very enthusiastic divers.

A quote from one of our newer members - “it’s a pleasure to belong to such an active diving club”

Our diving can be broken down into:

- Local Diving from Scarborough, Whitby and Bridlington – the ultimate diving in our eyes.
- Trips and Expeditions – we try and organise at least one per month.
- Scientific diving – we love diving with a purpose.

The diving is all arranged by creating a Facebook Event. In this way everyone gets to know about all the dives being organised and all dives are open to everyone of appropriate qualification. The standard BSAC risk assessment is used and adapted depending on the dives being undertaken. The risk assessment is checked by the Diving Officer prior to the dive.

Many different types of diving are undertaken by our members with a growing group of CCR divers (9) and kayak diving starting to become very popular.....all these variations are catered for and encouraged.

Local Diving



Our local diving in our opinion is second to none having a massive selection of wrecks to dive and a variety of marine life that has to be seen to be believed. Unfortunately it is a very short dive season along our stretch of the North East Coast with the visibility only being suitable for diving from around June to September (in general).

We were fortunate enough in January 2014 to be awarded a Sport England Grant to purchase our own Hardboat (Condor) which, in order to make the most of our short diving season, we take out at every opportunity.

When conditions are suitable on weekday evenings we dive inshore where the tide has less effect and the diving is suitable for trainee level upwards. At weekends the dives can be based round slack water times and therefore we can venture to the deeper dive sites for the more qualified divers.

The dives are organised by creating a Facebook event once the organiser has ensured they have the appropriately qualified crew available which are:

Diver Coxswain

- **VHF Radio operator**
- **Oxygen Administrator**
- **Dive Manager**

Spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis once the event has been created. Charges for the dives are based on distances marked on the chart.

Dive sites are selected based on prevailing conditions and crew preference. But predominantly this year the sites have, whenever possible, been selected from a list of 20 Wrecks we are surveying and collecting data from to fulfil the conditions of a BSAC Jubilee Trust Award we were granted.

Unfortunately this year diving conditions were only satisfactory for a very short time off our coast (but when right they were exceptional) so diving was limited.

As in all our diving activities if anyone requires any training it is, whenever possible, integrated into the diving.

Besides Condor Wreckless a rib owned by a club member has participated in club dives and a small angling boat owned by a member – Peeler.

Dives from Condor (the club hard boat) this Year

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dive Site</u>	<u>No Divers</u>	<u>Wreck/Reef</u>
12 th June	Chilean, Filey Brigg	8	Wreck & reef
22 nd June	Robin Hoods Bay	3	Reef
23 rd June	Robin Hoods Bay	3	Reef
6 th July	Volunteer	7	Wreck
15 th July	Cognac	4	Wreck
17 th July	John Ray	6	Wreck
20 th July	Madam Renee	3	Wreck
21 st July	Eli	3	Wreck
22 nd July	Madam Renee	6	Wreck
25 th July	Madam Renee	6	Wreck
26 th July	Eli	4	Wreck
26 th July (pm)	Calf Allen Rocks	6	Reef
27 th July	Gubby's Reef	4	Reef
27 th July (pm)	Gubby's Reef	4	Reef
29 th July	Yacht Marker Survey	4	Reef
29 th July (pm)	Cornelian Reef	4	Reef
30 th July	Madam Renee	6	Wreck
2 nd August	Gubbys Reef	6	Reef
5 th August	Casty Rocks	6	Reef
12 th August	Filey Brigg Night Dive	4	Reef
30 th August	Grand Day Out - Condor & Wreckless		
30 th August	Ella sayer	15	Wreck
30 th August	Fred Everard	15	Wreck
30 th August	Scotia	15	Wreck
4 th September	Iron King	4	Wreck
4 th September	Filey Brig North Side	4	Reef
4 th September	Filey Brigg South Side	4	Reef
	Total Dives	155	

No Trips	No Dives	Wreck Dives	Reef Dives
26	155	103	52

Branch diving with South Bay Scuba from the 'Condor' – Joanna Dickerson



I have written this from the perspective of a newcomer to the club, and of diving in the local area. Branch dives are from the Condor.

Frequency – as often as possible

Organisation. Very good.

Inclusivity. Excellent

Coastal dives + lots of organised Branch dives

Risk assessment, safety & emergency procedures followed at all times.

I have been diving since 2002 and joined the club in mid-2014. In total I have been with 3 clubs before moving to the area.

I was new to the area and keen to do some local diving, I was with another club from the start of the year, but they seemed to concentrate of dives of 30m +. Although I considered myself an experienced diver, and had logged many British sea dives, my last sea dive had been October the previous year and I wanted to build up my experience & comfort level.

The website seemed to indicate all levels of diving, and on meeting Anne I was made welcome & joined immediately.

Shortly afterwards I was invited onto a Club dive – a 14m boat dive within the local area, Scarborough Bay.

Condor, the club boat is based in Scarborough harbour. As a newcomer to the club I was keen to make a good impression on my diving skills & organisation.

I was late, I dropped my dive computer in the sea & had left my drysuit in the car!

Despite that they still let me come along, and luckily for me I was loaned a drysuit and was able to go for my first club dive.

It was good, very good. After a safety briefing we were on our way to the dive site. Once anchored exit and entry were explained clearly, there was a clear risk assessment on diving conditions together with an explanation of emergency procedures, buddies were organised and checks were made.

All very professional, and welcoming. I have been on a number of non- club boats so have a good idea of what I think they should be doing. Dives are organised on a frequent basis – basically if dive conditions are right and there are divers willing to dive, there is a dive!

As with any club you need to find out what sort of divers you are diving with.

They were highly professional and very welcoming –despite my initial faux pas – I have not forgotten any equipment since.

I have been on a number of Condor dives since. They range from the north, near Robin Hoods Bay to Cayton Bay to the south of Scarborough. Diving is made accessible to all abilities, from the novice to the highly experienced. Types of diving range from drift to wreck.

I am feeling more confident about deeper dives, and given the number of Club dives that are organised I am sure I will be doing some soon.

A Grand Day Out - Saturday 30th August



A Grand Day Out is exactly that. Planned to get as many people out diving as possible whatever their qualification these days are planned as fun but safe days out.

This year we planned 2. We had a project running with 20 wrecks to survey in our very short diving season and time was running out so one day was planned going south to Flamborough Head where there were several wrecks on our list and the other one going Northwards to Whitby.

The Flamborough day out was cancelled due to easterly winds that had created quite a swell and visibility was down to less than 1 metre inshore.

But the Saturday 30th August was in a period of amazing visibility for our coastline. The wind was offshore so rather choppy when outside the lea of the cliffs but under the cliffs was quite calm.

The trip had been well supported and Rib Wreckless was drafted in to help transport the 15 divers who were all eager to search for the wrecks on our list.



So with an early start leaving the harbour at 8 am we ventured northwards in search of the Ella Sayer. With directions that said under the highest point of the cliffs close in there was room for error so quantity of divers made up for the not very exact position.

And eventually the last 3 divers in located the Wreck of the Ella Sayer – a very picturesque wreck covered in red sea weed. This wreck was then surveyed using our now established methodology and recorded in photos.



Next up to the Fred Everard – a well-known wreck which we found easily using s GPS coordinates. For those who had not dived many wrecks this was a rare treat having much wreckage left though still in less than 10m.

A gentle cruise south followed whilst we cooked lunch using Condors excellent facilities and mooring up in Hayburn Wyke Bay we all partook of an excellent Thai Chicken Curry – which we had prepared earlier.

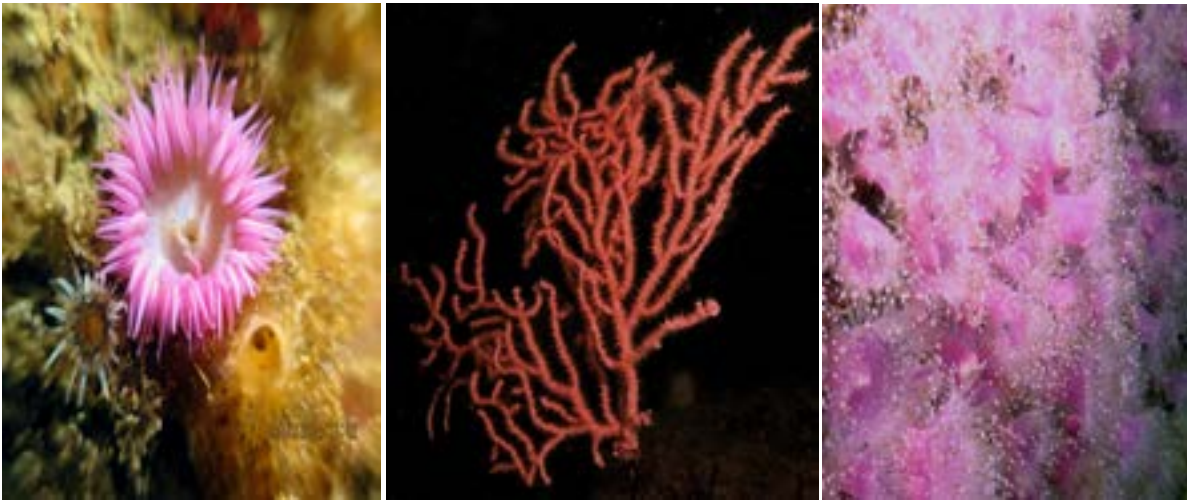
One last dive to do searching for the elusive Cognac – using transits provided by another club member we located the position and fell in from the boat – but disappointed again.

It was time now to head back to harbour and make sure Condor was back on its moorings before the harbour dried out.

I can safely say a Grand Day Out was had by all. In fact one PADI diver who was visiting for the day and did his first Dry suit dives joined South Bay Scuba immediately and bought a full set of cold water diving equipment after being a confirmed warm water diver for many years.

We have 3 planned for the coming year.

Porthkerris Trip 2014 by Gary Gubby



As a new member to South Bay Scuba, Porthkerris was my first trip with the crew - apprehensive wasn't the word, new people, and a new dive location.

“Diving with Friends” a statement that South bay Scuba lives up to very well, I can truly say that when I entered the trip I was a stranger, within the first few minutes of meeting other members I was warmly welcomed into the fold and returned home not only with a fantastic diving experience that Porthkerris has to offer but also with a new set of friends and some fantastic memories from the weekend.

The weekend was on the 9/10/11 May last year, due to work I couldn't set off till Thursday evening. I set off around midnight and arrived at Porthkerris at around 06.30. I had arranged to meet up with another member Paula Lightfoot, who, like me is a member of the Seasearch organisation for an early morning shore dive. We kitted up and headed down the shore to the water's edge. This was the first time I had ever dived the south coast and the next hour threw more surprises than I could ever have imagined.

The marine life was unbelievable; we probably reached 6-7 meters. Every level presented new species to me, Paula was constantly pointing out interesting marine life while I happily took picture after picture. If this was going to be the same on every dive over the next three days I was in for a fantastic weekend.

We ended the dive and by this time other members of South bay scuba who had stayed in the on- site lodge had made their way down to the shore to kit up for the first boat dive of the weekend from the Celtic Kitten, Porthkerris small catamaran.

I was introduced to everyone and immediately felt at ease and comfortable. While kitting up I was asked by several members about my diving qualification and what type of diving I preferred, this helped the dive marshal for the day to pair up the buddy teams, as it worked out I ended up diving with Paula all weekend which worked out brilliantly with us both being Seasearchers and keen photographers.

We boarded the Kitten and headed off to the first dive site which was Lowland reef. Descending to around 18 meters and just like our earlier shore dive I was not disappointed. Even more species I had not seen before. After many more pictures we surfaced and the Kitten returned to shore for refills and a bite to eat from the famous snack cabin on the dive centre. This gave me time to speak to all of the South bay members and get to know them a little better, by now I was beginning to feel part of something special.

After a bite to eat we kitted up and headed off to the second dive site of the day- Raglan Reef. Again we descended into 19 meters, and as before I was amazed at the amount of life, walls and walls of multi-coloured jewel anemones, several species of nudibranch and the strange purple common sea urchins scattered everywhere. This was certainly looking like a weekend to remember.

After we returned to shore we all de-kitted and made our way up the slope to the lodge, our home for the next couple of days. Pots of tea were flowing and we sat in the living area discussing the day's dives and also what we were having for the evening meal. By now I was really beginning to feel at home. The evening was spent chatting, downloading pictures from cameras onto laptops and generally chilling out thinking about the next day's diving.

The next two days diving did not disappoint, we dived the wreck of Spyrydon and the Mohegan and we did Pancra Head reef, all with plenty of life and photograph opportunities. Our last dive of the long weekend was requested by several members of the group, the Helford river/estuary. This again turned out to be a fantastic dive.

There was a little current flowing meaning parts of the dive were drift diving, the seabed was littered with sea hares, we spent most of the dive photographing these fantastic creatures. After about an hour we surfaced and boarded the boat and headed back to the dive centre. I spent the return journey back to shore contemplating everything I had seen and done over the last few days, the dives we had done, the many species I had seen and photographed for the first time, the new friends I had made, and also how well the trip had been planned.

We got back to the centre and de-kitted and de-briefed, after a final pot of tea we packed our cars and said our goodbyes, I knew then it would not be long before my next trip with South bay scuba. An excellent weekend of diving, fun and learning. South bay scuba truly is "diving with friends"

Expedition to St Kilda and North Uist 27th June – 7th July 2014

It was 20 years to the day since I last went on an expedition to St Kilda – with Gordon Wadsworth on the good ship “Maisie Graham”.

This expedition was to be quite different – no comfort of a liveaboard this time – we were venturing out to St Kilda on a RIB – all be it a 33ft rib, the awesome Fyne Pioneer.

The expedition was to be based on North Uist and should the weather forecast prove favourable we would make the 40 mile dash out to St Kilda and back in the same day.

The expedition was made up of 5 South Bay Scuba members and 4 other divers from around Scotland. We were to meet at the outdoor centre Loch Maddy on Sunday 29th June ready to dive on Monday.

The forecast for the week was not optimistic so when Vincent Hong organised a trip to the Farne Islands for the Friday we setting off on the long journey to Loch Maddy we jumped at the chance of a couple of dives – thinking it might be the only ones we got all week. This was an excellent way to start the week and after a dive with seals and a dive on the St Andre headed off to our first stopover at Crianlarich Youth Hostel. An early start was required the next day as we were to shop for everyone for the week at Morrison’s in Fort William.



This of course took longer than expected resulting in a mad dash from Fort William and across the Skye Bridge. The 60 mile trip across Skye which I had so looked forward to became a blur in our rush to catch the ferry at Uig ferry but catch it we did by the skin of our teeth and sunset found us settled in the outdoor centre at Uig planning a shore dive for the next morning while we waited for Fyne Pioneer to steam its way from Lochaline.

Simon Exley and Fyne Pioneer arrived late Sunday afternoon – luckily bringing a portable compressor because as with many expeditions air was the first issue to rear its head – the compressor at the Uist Outdoor Centre which we had planned to use was not available.

The weather forecast was then consulted as we knew with the current weeks forecast the weather window to get to St Kilda would be very small. Tuesday was to be the day if the forecast remained the same.

Mondays dives were exploratory dives on the Maddies – large rocks in the entrance to Loch Maddy which descent vertically underwater – There are 3 and we dived all 3 at various times during the week – all excellent dives with lots of life.

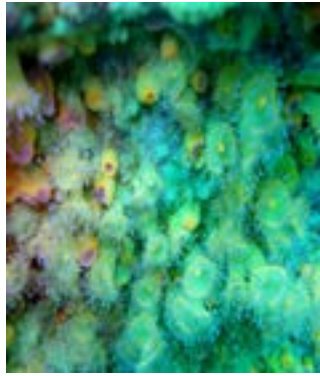
Another weather check on Monday night left us almost certain Tuesday would be the day we went to St Kilda – to be confirmed by the weather forecast the next morning and on checking on Tuesday morning the pending storm was forecast later rather than earlier so the trip was on.

Fuel for the boat was also to be considered so we did the first few miles out through the Sound Of Harris on tick over – both to conserve fuel and to give our loyal compressor operator Max Ruffert the chance to fill cylinders – the compressor was travelling with us on the boat to fill cylinders by this time.

Then once into open water Fyne Pioneer was given its head on the glass flat sea and off we flew directly West to St Kilda. Hirta appeared at first as a vague outline that could have been clouds straight ahead of us but as we got closer it took on the distinctive shape of St Kilda and Boreray – an unbelievable sight.

The first dive was to be Sgarbstac an arch 30m long and 20m wide between 25 and 50m. We anchored just off and kitted up and dropped in - the wall was amazing not a square centimetre was bare rock – it was totally covered various anemones including a fantastic array of coloured jewel anemones. The wall was vertical and the sea navy blue as far as the eye could see when you looked down. The archway had a ceiling completely covered in jewel anemones. Visibility was in excess of 20m. It was an amazing dive. After a trip ashore and a walk round the village we dived the Sawcut and not wanting to linger too long with the storm approaching then headed rapidly back to Loch Maddy.





The next day the forecast weather had well and truly arrived so a late start was in order. We then planned a search for cannon we had been told about by a local scallop diver using 2 shot lines and circular searches – a good exercise but no cannon were located – on the upside many scallops were found.

After a very rough boat trip back the next dive satisfied the wreckies and was a dive on the Burnside. The wind was now blowing gale force so a retreat to the dive centre for dinner was called for. There were other dives on the Maddies and a trip to the wreck of the Stassa but towards the end of the week people had to leave at varying in times so by Sunday the dive centre was empty.

We all left the Island of North Uist hoping and planning that we would return to explore more of the amazing dive sites.

Searching for Basking Sharks – 18th/ 19th August



Sunday 17th August saw us once again heading northwards to Scotland and Tobermory where we were to meet Fyne Pioneer and go basking shark spotting. This time we were a very mixed group of divers, snorkelers and social members – all hoping to spot basking shark.

Sunday did not dawn bright and clear – in fact it was blowing quite hard with a heavy Scottish drizzle. Undeterred we all (including Susan our social member) headed for the boat and crossed the Sound of Mull to a group of rocks in the entrance to Loch Sunart. The snorkelers (with Carol doing her first sea snorkel) were first to get kitted up and straight in the water.... nothing was going to stop them swimming with the seals all-round the rock.

The divers then kitted up and descended onto a lovely wall covered in life.

A good time was had by all but the snorkelers were, after an hour in the water quite chilly so decided to make it a one snorkel day. Carol new to snorkeling in the sea was so taken with it that much to our amazement declared she wanted to learn to dive as soon as she could. The afternoon dive was on Calf Island wall which as usual did not disappoint – and scallops were found.

The next day we planned to steam across to Coll – basking shark mecca – but this was not to be. The wind had got up overnight and as soon as we entered the open water it became apparent we were not going to get across to Coll and turned back in time to catch slack water on the Rondo.

The disappointed snorkelers and Susan then decided to stay ashore (they were to regret this) and shop. The next dive which was again Calf Island wall followed by a quick dip on the Pelican. We then returned to Tobermory harbour and much to our amazement were immediately surrounded by a pod of Dolphin swimming among the moored up boats and playing as only dolphins can.

We lingered for half an hour watching them and wishing the snorkelers had stuck with us to see the spectacle. Then unpack the boat re-pack the van on a rush to the ferry back to Oban and home. Another Fyne trip on Fyne Pioneer.

Costa Calida 18th to 25th October 2014

This trip included a Dive Leader in training, a PADI Advanced Open Water doing Sports Diver crossover, an Ocean Diver completing their training, a new trainee, a Social member and a busy Advanced Diver/Open Water Instructor.

Ocean Diver Trainee - Martin Donnelly

Having reached the dizzy heights of third class diver as a school boy in Malta in the 1960s, and following early retirement, I decided to return to childhood and retrain as an Ocean Diver. I was reintroduced to diving by the formidable Ms Anne Morrison, South Bay Scuba Training Officer.

I jumped at the chance of doing my training in warm waters, clear visibility and with pleasant company of the lovely Jean, a social member accompanying us on the trip.

The plan was to rent a villa in the luxurious club La Manga on the Costa Calida. The private villa was set on a hillside with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The beautiful four bedroom villa contained its own private pool, looking out over the countryside.

The pool was of a sufficient size to accommodate all our training needs. The water was warm and clear, and the weather was hot and sunny. This made a welcome change to the cool October climate left behind in England.

Prior to our arrival, Anne had established contact with a local diving company Rec2Tec, run by two English gentlemen.

They promptly delivered all our equipment to the villa ready for our pool training. I had already completed pool training in England and the pool in Spain allowed me to revise the training before going on open water dives.

Anne arranged for us to do a total of five open water dives during the course of the week. The first dive was at a local sheltered cove which was extremely pleasant. The following day we dived again at another local cove from the shore.

Following this we also did two boat dives. The boat diving took us out through the lagoons at Mar Menore to a beautiful marine reserve.

All in all I would thoroughly recommend this reintroduction to diving, especially for older people, who enjoy diving with friends.





Trips and Expeditions



Because our members are based around the country our trips are important not only from a diving point of view but also from a social point of view – we now meet “in the flesh” the many friends we have made on Facebook.

The trips also extend our diving season from our local few months in the summer to all year round - and we make the most of them!

As with other diving the trips are open to all suitably qualified members and they are promoted again by creating a Facebook event thus making everyone aware of them.

All details such as destination, Charter boat, date, type of dives, qualification required, cost, deposit, accommodation etc are included in the event description and are there for reference. Once the event has been set up a subsidiary Facebook group will be created so that arrangements and discussions regarding the event are not posted for the whole club to see but only those who have joined the trip.

Particular attention is paid to any members who have not dived with us before who are joining the trip, especially as we have quite a number of PADI crossover members. The Dive Manager discusses with them their qualification, previous experience etc prior to the trip and buddies them up appropriately also recommending any training they might like to do before the trip or on the trip.

As with all club activities, we aim to make the trips as cost effective as possible, giving good value for money so to this end usually book self-catering accommodation and prepare all meals ourselves.

Fyne Pioneer, a 33ft charter rib features regularly in our diving calendar as the skipper Simon Exley (originally from Scarborough) is not only a club member but we also find he suits our diving aims often integrating training into the trips (and actually helping with it) and allowing participation in the planning of Dive sites.

All areas of the UK are integrated into our annual Diving calendar with diving for all levels.

Trips and Expeditions Organised 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>No Divers</u>	<u>No Dives</u>	<u>Report page No</u>
4th January	Capernwray	6	12	
1 st /2 nd February	Loch Fyne	12	44	
17 th March	Stoney Cove	7	21	
4 th /5 th April	Capernwray	7	28	
12 th /13 th April	Weymouth	8	32	
2 nd /3 rd /4 th May	Porthkerris Cornwall	16	102	
27 th June	Farne Islands	6	12	
29 th June-6 th July	North Uist & St Kilda	5	70	
18 th /19 th August	Tobermory & Coll	8	32	
18 th -25 th October	Costa Calida, Spain	5	40	
31 st Oct 1/2 nd Nov	Oban & Sound of Mull	12	72	
30 th November	Great Cumbrae/ Bute	4	8	
13 th /14 th December	Loch Fyne	8	32	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>172</u>	

South Bay Scuba Loch Fyne Winter Weekend – 1st-2nd Feb 2014

Darryl, Anne, Libby, Heath, Jojo, Duane, Alex, Jacqueline, Simon, Clive, Tony, Stephen, Byron

After a few last minute drysuit repairs, members of SBS hit the road for the journey north to Loch Fyne. As we crossed the border into Scotland the weather began to close in on us, with sleet and snow being blown horizontally across the motorway. Luckily the Rest and Be Thankful was clear and we all made it safely to Lochgair.

We were staying in a self-catering cottage with an open fire, just down the road from the pub. This cottage would be our base for the weekend, allowing us to warm up during the surface interval between dives. The pickup point was only a matter of metres from the front door, which made loading the boat very easy.



On Saturday morning, the skipper of Fyne Pioneer, Simon Exley, who also happens to be a member of SBS, briefed us on the plan for the weekend. We would dive two sites each day, coming back in between to warm up. As a lot of the group were Ocean Divers who were relatively new to sea diving, we would not attempt anything too challenging.

In addition, Heath was taking the opportunity to test out a full face mask. We got to dive two of Loch Fyne's best scenic sites: Gortain Point and the Minard Isles. Both of these sites allowed buddy pairs to pick their depth according to ability and confidence.

Nobody wanted to go into deco anyway with the water temperature ranging between 3 degrees at the surface to 10 degrees at depth.



There are three walls at Gortein Point in various depths. Swimming down to around 17-20m, we came across a submerged cable running north-south. The cable ran over a small wall first which, we learned later, can be followed down to about 30m, although we didn't venture this deep. Following on, the cable does not actually go over the second wall, but dips into the sand.

The third wall was the most impressive in terms of colour and life. We took a compass bearing on the direction of the cable where it started to go into the sand, and kept swimming in that direction. After a couple of minutes finning over the sandy bottom the cable reappeared going up and over another wall absolutely covered in plumose anemones.

This was only a shallow wall in depths of 8-20m, but worth the swim over to investigate. The shallower reefs were made up of huge boulders covered in chitons and anemones. Just below the surface, the kelp was habitat to many different types of nudibranch – the safety stop passed quickly when trying to see how many we could find.



Our second site, Minard Isles (often referred to as Seal Island or Eilean Fraoch) was an interesting scenic wall dive site. There was an abundance of marine life, including sea birds, seals, anemones and a variety of fish including butterflyfish, pipefish and flatfish to be seen here.

We discovered the best life was found on the outside of the buttress making up the wall and under the slight overhangs half way up. The variety of life was due to the tidal currents which surge round the island. Entering at the southern tip, we dropped down one of the rock chutes to a 20 metres. The wall started at 10metres and allows you to dive to 45m+ if you so desire.

We found some excellent walls on this dive with a good covering of stunning plumose and dahlia anemones. On the ascent, we found shallow sand and shell beds from 15m, where we found some scallops for tea.



The beauty of being on such a fast RIB was that we were whisked back to the warmth of the cottage as soon as we were out the water, so nobody struggled too much with the cold. Back at the cottage for the night, some people helped Simon to fill cylinders and tidy the boat while others helped in the kitchen preparing scallops and our evening meal. After tea, most of us relaxed in front of the fire but the Diver Coxswain candidates had to prove that their theoretical knowledge was of a high enough standard to pass and also plan their passages for Sunday.

On Sunday, we dived Gortain Point and Minard Isles again, and found we were able to explore further and see more now that we had got our bearings. On the six mile journey back to Lochgair from Minard, the Diver Coxswain candidates were made to practice their man overboard drills (not with a real person, of course). Heath threw a buoy overboard and the rest of the divers on the boat assisted the cox by pointing at the buoy so it didn't get lost.

Although it was a cold and windy weekend, everyone had a great time and learned that it is possible to dive all year round in the UK with the right boat and the right buddies!



Thanks to Anne Morrison for organising the trip, Heath for Instructing all weekend and Simon Exley at Fyne Pioneer for his knowledge and hospitality.

South Bay Scuba Weymouth Trip – 12-13th April 2014 – Libby Anderson

Darryl, Duane, Kayleigh, Alex, Libby, Heath, Anne, Stuart, Shaun.

On a bright and early Friday morning in April, the intrepid divers from South Bay Scuba set off for the long journey to the south coast for two days with Skin Deep Diving. We were excited at the prospect of diving out of Weymouth because the weather and vis reports in the run up to the trip had not been encouraging, and we weren't sure whether or not we were going until a couple of days before.

We finally got the go ahead to travel from Skin Deep, who said that we would probably get good visibility shallower than 25 metres but were unlikely to get deeper. Although this ruled out big-name wrecks such as the M2, we were just thrilled that we'd be able to get in the water.



On arrival, we met up with Kayleigh, an ex-pat member of SBS. Kayleigh moved from Scarborough to Weymouth in 2013, so we were thrilled she could join us. We spent some time exploring the local area including the local dive shop (a veritable Aladdin's cave) and the Olympic monument on Portland, before taking over our accommodation at the Bunker.



Everyone was up early and went out to explore Portland Bill before having a hearty breakfast and heading to the boat, Skin Deeper. The trip coincided with the Fish and Ship Festival so the marina was very busy, and parking was tricky. Kitting up on the way out to the dive site revealed the first problem: Anne's broken fin strap! However judicious application of cable ties by Heath soon solved the problem.



Our first dive was the wreck of the James Fennel, a steam-driven admiralty trawler wrecked in fog on rocks below the cliffs of Blacknor Fort in 1920. The stern is complete and amidships there is an engine and boiler with schooling fish swimming over them. This was an excellent first dive because it was relatively shallow with lots to see.

The second dive was the Aerials reef on the west side of Portland Bill. This was a very scenic drift dive with plenty of sea life hiding among the large rocks, including lots of dogfish, and we all enjoyed the improved visibility. After a fantastic day we enjoyed our well-deserved tea before heading across the road to the pub for some cold beverages.



On the Sunday, we dived the bow of the Blackhawk in the morning. The Blackhawk was torpedoed by a German sub in December 1944, towed into Worbarrow and beached, being declared a total loss in April 1945. The wreck was blown by explosives to clear the way for the Winfrith pipeline, and is now badly broken up with her stern lying in much deeper water some distance away.

The bow section, lying in about 15-20 metres on a shingle seabed, still has large pieces of machinery present. There are large chains still attached, some of which extend for considerable distance along the seabed. These chains provide a haven for crabs and lobsters, and there are also scallops on the seabed. Once everyone was safely back on board, we ate our excellent packed lunches whilst observing the impressive arch of Durdle Door from the water.

For our last dive of the weekend, we were looking forward to the prospect of doing a drift dive for some scallops on Lulworth Banks. However, as we dropped in in our buddy pairs it quickly became apparent that it would not be a comfortable drift as the current was very strong. After struggling along bouncing off rocks in poor vis for a couple of minutes we decided to abort the dive, ascending out of the current to send up a DSMB.

When we regained the shelter of the boat, two or three other DSMBs were also showing, and the other buddy pairs soon appeared at the surface too – all except Stuart and Darryl who must have dropped in in a sheltered spot, as they had a long dive and reappeared with lots of scallops!



After an excellent weekends diving we motored back to Portland Marina in the sunshine. We were lucky to catch the end of the Fish and Ship Festival and all sampled some of the delicious local seafood before starting the long journey north.

Thanks to Anne Morrison for organising the trip and Skin Deep Diving for their boat and hospitality.

Oban Trip November 2014 (31/10 - 1/2/14)



This is our club's annual post-summer trip where we take advantage of the still warm seawater temperature of about 12 C, even as the weather starts to cool off. As ever, this popular trip was fully booked (and indeed oversubscribed) within days of advertising it. Although, the boat can only take 12 divers, 13 members had signed up for the trip.

So, instead of disappointing the unlucky 13th diver, we decided that we would take turn to dive and one of us will act as crew and help the others to kit up and make the brew post dives. This is very typical of the spirit of the membership, where it is always "One for All and All for One", in true musketeer style; panache and all!

So on Thursday 31st October, 2014, members from different corners of the country ranging from Scarborough, Wakefield, Cumbria and Fife eagerly drove towards Oban in anticipation for a fun-packed dive weekend ahead. We had booked our annual luxury farm house cottage in Oban. Colgin cottage, as usual didn't disappoint. It was spacious and warm with all mod cons in the kitchen.

There was also a roaring fire welcoming us in from the cold. Anne Morrison, our ever efficient multi-tasking member had arranged for catering and brought our meals all the way from Scarborough.

This is to save us toiling in the kitchen when we coming in tired from our daily dives. And I have to say that the meals were most delicious! Any extra provisions were bought from the local Aldi supermarket, for the extra value for money. Perhaps, a note of minor amusement to me was that the Scottish eggs were sold in "dozens" of 10's, instead of 12's.

Now to the diving we had booked to dive with Lochaline Boat Charter. Of the 13 of us, there were 4 CCR divers, 5 on twinsets, 1 on a single 15L with pony and 3 on single tanks.

The wind had been strong all week, and we were not sure of the sea condition and visibility that we would encounter. The first dive was on the Breda. Despite reports that visibility on the wreck was poor earlier on in the week, we manage to get a good 4 m visibility of the wreck.

Most of us managed to get a dive time of between 45 minutes to an hour where we enjoyed a good time exploring the wreck. The second dive of the day was a reef dive on Heather Island. As the weather forecast for the next day, was for stronger winds which would cause a delayed pickup from Oban, we had decided to drive to Lochaline so that we can have the correct tide times to dive the wrecks. We dived the Shuna as the first dive of the day.

I had not appreciated how big the wreck was despite having dived it many years before. It took my buddy and I about 45 minutes to swim the whole length of the wreck from the bow to the stern; taking in the magnificent wreck at leisure.

Our second dive of the day was a scenic dive a.k.a. the "scallop dive". Needless to say that dinner was extra tasty that night. Unfortunately for us this year, the weather forecast for the third day was not looking very favourable, and a decision was taken not to dive on that day.

It was very decent of the skipper of Lochaline Boat Charter to refund us the money for that day. It is indeed a top dive operation; which is why we keep going back to them year after year.

All in all, a very enjoyable dive trip, with loads of good banter and fostering of friendship amongst members near and far and looking out for each other; which epitomises a great dive club.



HMS Hood anchor By Kevin Towse – Dive trip to the Clyde 30th November

I booked on trip to go to Largs with South Bay Scuba we were going to do a RYA Marine Engine course on the Saturday and then charter a rib to do some dives in the Firth of Clyde on the Sunday, staying over both Friday and Saturday night at the water sports centre on Great Cumbrae.

Well this was all to change as Anne Morrison got some information from Rob Broadhead about an anchor supposedly belonging to the HMS Hood that was lost in the Firth of Clyde (at a secret location) so this now became Sundays mission.

We (I, Anne and JoJo) arrived Friday night and did our course on Saturday. After tea and a few liquid refreshments we then turned our attention to Sunday's mission.

We had a newspaper clipping a few transits and land marks to go on. We decided to plot our course for the following day which proved a little more awkward as we only had transits so we used Google earth to get some GPS co-ordinates for an approximate location and plotted our course ready for the morning.

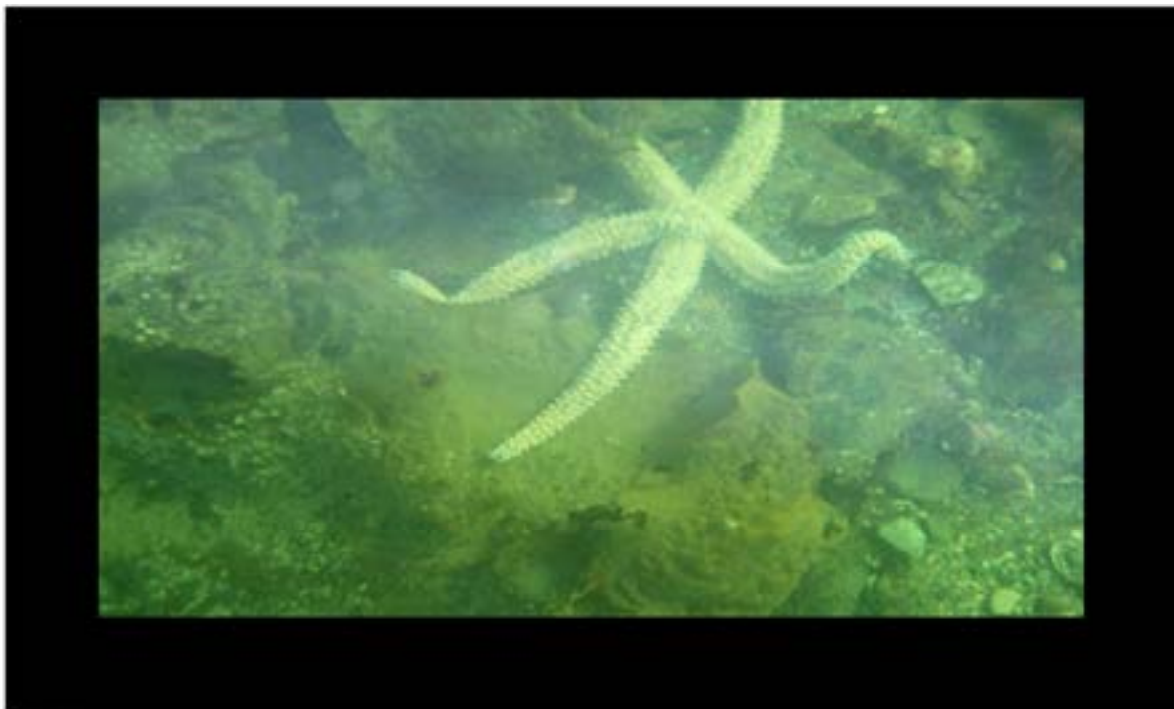
We awoke early Sunday morning to a gorgeous sunrise and flat calm water. It looked like we had picked a good day, we went to get breakfast and sort the rib out that we had tendered. The rib we chartered was 6.3m with 150hp unfortunately the battery was flat so we had taken another slightly smaller rib 5.8 with 115hp.

We waited for our local diver Peter Gunn to arrive then we started getting our kit together and loading the boat. Once loaded the guys from the water sport centre launched the boat and we were off only to find out that the GPS on our rib had decided not to work but because we plotted our chart we just used the bearings and carried on.

After a 20 minute boat ride we arrived at our location.

Full of hope that we may find the anchor we planned our dive then JoJo, Peter and I kitted up leaving Anne as boat cover.

We entered the water and set off in search of the anchor visibility wasn't great but it didn't matter we searched for about 20 minutes seeing lots of starfish.



Then out of the gloom we saw something sticking out off the bottom, and there it was the anchor we had actually found it.



Peter sent a marker up as a signal to Anne that we had found it. We stayed and took a few photos and then went off looking for scallops to finish the dive off.

Upon surfacing and showing Anne our photos we then set off to find another dive site as it appeared we had accomplished our mission early than anticipated.

We decided on the Lady Isabella just off little Cumbrae. After a 30 minute cold boat ride we arrived at little Cumbrae where we decided to have something to eat which ended up being some semi warm soup.

After a bite to eat we looked for the transits we had to find the Isabella which proved unsuccessful. JoJo, Peter and I decided to kit up and jumped in to start searching. Within five minutes we had found the Isabella she was a well broken up wreck but a very interesting one with ribs, plates, nooks and crannies to look in.

After 30 minutes we surfaced and got back on the rib de-kitted and then headed back towards the water sport slipway. Once we had moored and packed all our kit we all had a well-earned cuppa and discussed what a cracking day it had been.



After we got home I started researching the anchor we had found to try and prove it was from the HMS Hood. During my search I found lots of dead ends and miss leading information.

I joined a naval warship forum and started a thread on there where I found some helpful people and some not so. I did find out that HMS Hood carried the anchor type we had found so now we are planning another trip to measure the anchor accurately and see if we can find any markings on the flutes which is where I am told is where the admiralty used to mark them.



Loch Fyne weekend- 13/14 December 2014 Gary Gubby



This was to be our last dive weekend of the year and what a weekend it turned out to be. I had arranged to meet Byron Nilsson at Scotch corner services and travel up together. We met up at around lunch time and headed up the A1.

This was one of Simon Exleys now famous £99 winter weekends, this includes accommodation Friday and Saturday night in a beautiful loch side cottage and two dives on the Saturday and Sunday. But this trip was extra special... A full 3 course Christmas dinner courtesy of Mr Simon Exley.

We arrived at the cottage at around 18.30 and were greeted by Simon and Libby, Simon's partner. Pots of tea were made and we sat in the living room chatting and waited for the rest of the party to arrive.

The remaining divers arrived throughout the evening and several more pots of tea and several beers were downed. After discussing ropes off time it was time to hit the sack.

I woke up earlier than the others as I had agreed to help with the loading of everyone's gear onto the boat. Kit all ready and loaded we headed back into the cottage for cooked breakfast.

The first dive was a drift dive down to a max of 18 metres; this is a dive I should have left camera on the rib. Flat bottom with nothing to hold on to makes photography impossible; still a very enjoyable dive as drift diving was fairly new to me.

The second dive was an exploratory dive near Otter point; we dived into 10 meters and followed the current down to around 27 meters, a sloping seabed with plenty of life for photographing. This is also where we collected our 1st course for the evening meal, Loch Fyne scallops.

After showering and getting changed we all arrived at the dining room in our Sunday best clothes including Christmas jumpers. First course was the fresh loch Fyne scallops, cooked to perfection, followed by a full Christmas dinner and pudding. There was enough food to feed a small army but we managed all by ourselves.

Simon and Libby had really excelled with the food and the evening overall was perfect. After a few beers we all headed off to bed ready for the next morning's diving.

We had a bit of a lie in on the Sunday; the first dive was around midday. We headed off to Gortien point, dropping into around 10 meters we followed the seabed down till we came across an old pipe, turned right and followed pipe over several reefs. There was an abundance of life throughout the dive with a notably large amount of long clawed squat lobsters, they were everywhere.

The second dive was again Gortien point. There were only 4 of us diving as several of the others wanted to get a head start on the long trip back down home. It was now nearly three in the afternoon so it was going to be a late night.

We were dropped in at the same point again but instead of following the pipeline we headed deeper down the sloping bed to around 30 meters. This for me turned out to be the best dive of the weekend, it was a very dark dive but the video lights did a fantastic job of lighting up the dive, we saw several bootlace worms, some reaching around ten meters in length.

There were pipefish hiding between the rocks and several large brittle star beds. After around 20 minutes we turned around and started heading back up the slope to shallower depths to extend our dive time.

The remainder of the dive was a nice gentle bumble up to our safety stop where we continued to enjoy the marine life and take pictures. After getting back to the cottage we packed away all of our gear and loaded up the cars.

We hung around for a while drinking tea and discussing the weekend, everyone agreed it was a brilliant weekend from start to finish. What more could anyone ask for £99.

The whole weekend was an enjoyable experience, non-stop laughs, and teamwork from helping with gear to cooking meals. South bay scuba certainly knows how to do dive weekends. Some of us had arranged to do another weekend with Simon a few weeks later at the beginning of January. We were already looking forward.... But that's another story.

Scientific

Scientific Diving

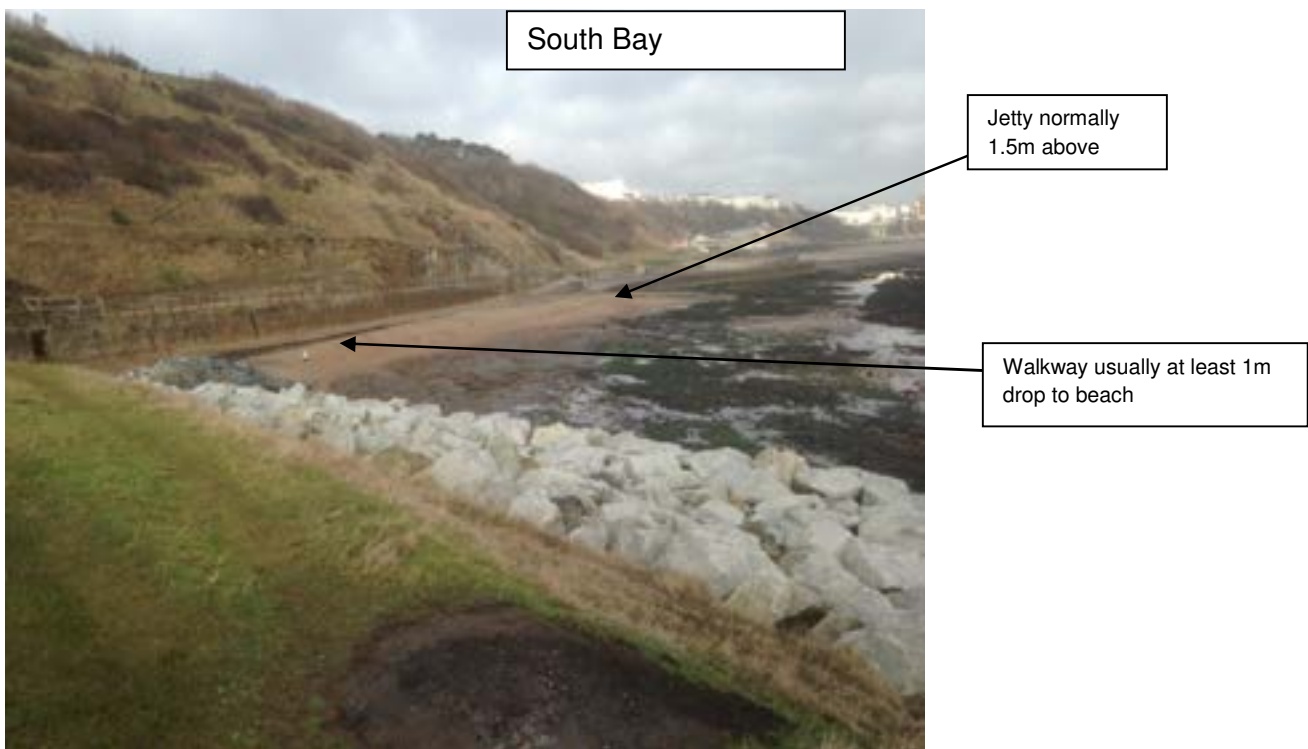
Always happy to dive with a purpose South Bay Scuba has had a very good year for” Scientific diving” having:

- Received a Jubilee Trust Award to survey 20 local Wrecks
- Been involved in Seasearch Dives
- Researching an anchor allegedly from the HMS Hood

Jubilee Trust Award

The highlight of our scientific activities this year was being awarded a Jubilee Trust Award of £1150 to assist us with collecting data on 20 inshore wrecks between Whitby and Flamborough Head – an enormous undertaking.

This project was inspired by seeing the huge movement of sand over the winter during the storms – this lead us to think that many of the inshore wrecks may have been scoured out revealing secrets previously covered by sand. It seemed a good year to survey as much as possible.



The 20 wrecks were chosen from various sources – a couple were very well dived but as inshore wrecks deteriorate quickly due to the pounding of the winter storms they are well worth including in the survey.

Some of the others are rarely dived and have not been dived as far as we are aware for around 20 years. Others if they have been dived, it is many years ago and may have nothing remaining. Being inshore the wrecks were also suitable for all levels of diver grade.

Diving inshore off Scarborough requires offshore W or SW winds and no swell at all to enable the visibility to be diveable. This year these conditions were very few and far between and the season very short but we made the most of them when they appeared.

Our next problem was exactly how are we going to find and record the data and what data are we going to record?

To help us with the surveys we ran an in house Nautical Archaeology course early in the year which gave an insight into ship/wreck construction and what we might see on the wrecks. We also discussed searching for the wrecks and how to get the wreck information to the surface.

Finally we settled on a method suggested to us by Max Ruffert while on the St Kilda expedition with him – it was a simple but very effective method but would need practice. Initially a group of divers would enter the water and search for the wreck – sounding the wreck inshore was not really an option because of the boulder terrain - wrecks and boulders were indistinguishable.

A small handheld GPS was attached to a SMB. This was towed round the dive site whilst taking photos at regular intervals. The GPS track could then be downloaded with time dots on the track – the photos taken were also time marked. A picture of the wreck could then be built up which would give position of the wreck, size of the wreck site, orientation, position of any notable features.





In the year we managed to survey by this method:

John Ray

Ella Sayer

Iron King

Volunteer

Fred Everard

Peckham (not on the list)

We searched for but have not yet found:

Chilian

Cognac

Scotia

Skegness

During our searches we occasionally found things we had not expected.



We therefore have much more searching and surveying to do in 2015.

Seasearch Diving

Casty Rocks an intertidal area about 1 mile south of Scarborough is still potentially going to be a MCZ - we are keen marine conservationists and are thrilled to help work towards the designation of this area.

There are many Seasearch Observers and some Seasearch Surveyors in our membership including Paula Lightfoot the North East Regional Coordinator for Seasearch – Paula’s enthusiasm has inspired many of us to become involved in collecting data for the Marine Conservation Society by completing Seasearch Observer forms.

Our local diving area is teeming with life and hasn’t really been fully surveyed. High lights of this year were a spotting *Rostanga Rubra*, a nudibranch usually found much further north around St Abbs and never before recorded this far South.



Another Seasearch day to be remembered was when Paula dived a local reef about half a mile from Scarborough. We had not dived here before and were only diving this area as it was the only place sheltered from a large North Westerly swell. Much to Paula’s delight she recorded 13 different species of nudibranch on the one reef. (Photos below plus *Jorunna tomentosa*)



Lomanatus
Marmoratus Cuthona
Caerulea Dead mens finger
Seaslug Coryphella
Verrucosa



Eubranchius
Farrani Polycera
Quadrilineata Limacia
Clavigera Flabellina
Pedata



Gonidoris
Nodasa



Janolus
Cristatus



Acanthodoris
Pilosa



Facelina
Auriculata

We feel that the North Sea area around Scarborough is underestimated for the importance of it's of marine life and will continue to work towards designation of this area as a MCZ.

The Anchor from the HMS Hood?

This was a project that cropped up unexpectedly towards the year end – and is being continued this year with another trip to Rothesy Bay, Isle of Bute planned for April 2015.

An ex-diver on being told we were visiting the Clyde produced a file of information on a project he had started several years ago. On visiting Rothesay he had been told by the harbour master (who was also a diver) that there was an anchor from the HMS Hood in the bay.

The HMS Hood (and other admiralty vessels) used Rothesybay as an anchorage. Ivan the harbour master/diver had been asked to clear nets from something towed in by a fishing vessel from deep water – this turned out to be a huge anchor.

The ex-diver had dived about a dozen times trying to find the anchor on the transits given but had been unable to find it so handed the information onto us.



With not much hope in our hearts of finding the anchor off we went in our rib chartered from Great Cumbrae Watersports Centre. The remit was the usual send a DSMB up if you find it – and much to my amazement – I was the Boat Handler for the day - after 20 minutes the DSMB came up.

The divers examined the anchor and took video footage and photos but we had no measuring equipment with us to confirm any sizes.

On our return home Kev Towse took the project under his wing and has done much research regarding the anchors on the HMS Hood – it carried up to 7 of various types. 12 of us(as it has promoted much interest) are returning in April to measure, take more photos and try to calculate the weight of this anchor to confirm or not whether it came from the HMS Hood. (See Kev Towse trip report for Anchor photo)

Competitions & Social

Fund Raising and Social Events with South Bay Scuba

Fund Raising

We have set our club up with the intention of keeping the subs as low as feasible therefore we rely on fund raising to be viable.

The 2 main costs of the club are hire of the compressor “shed” / training room and boat costs of mooring fees and insurance.

The aim is that membership subscriptions cover the cost of the shed (£1200) per annum and to cover the main costs of running the boat (Mooring fees approx. £960 and Insurance £260) we set up a “Bonus Ball” fund raiser.

Any other income generated goes into the general kitty for other boat costs and miscellaneous costs of running a club. Our fundraising motto is “Every Little helps”.

Fundraising - Setting up the bonus ball

Having a cost effective membership subscription to the club means that compared with other clubs, South Bay Scuba, Scarborough doesn't gain a significant annual income from the annual subscriptions. There is a preference for other methods of fundraising which allow members to participate to a level they wish to, and in a fun way. As well as the events such as Barbeques, quiz nights and so on, we decided to set up a weekly lottery draw.

This would allow members to contribute on a regular basis with minimal expense impact, in return getting the chance to win either a weekly prize of £20.00, a special mid-summer prize of £100.00 or the big Christmas prize of £150.00.

Rather than use the old Tombola or picking numbers out of a hat methods where non-local members would not get chance to participate or see the draw, we decided the best way was to base it on the bonus ball draw on the weekly National Lottery draw. This is also a good way to make it completely transparent.

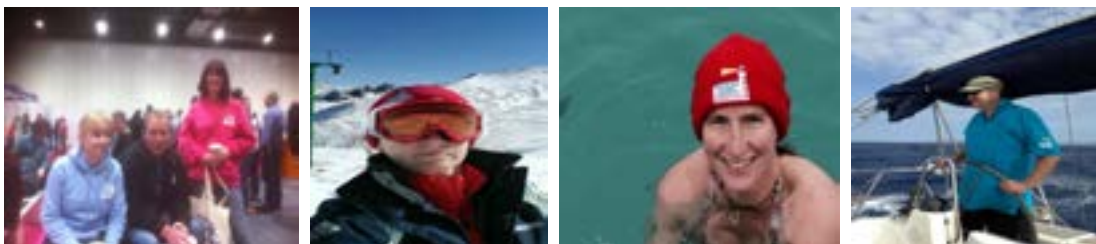
Based on all 49 balls being sold, the maximum annual funds that could be raised from the lottery would total £1,298.00 which is a good amount to have to put towards maintenance of club assets such as the compressor and the boat. On announcing the club lottery, the uptake was as swift as anticipated, with most ball numbers being taken in the first few weeks. This helped us get close to the maximum figure for the first year.

Administration of the lottery is the responsibility of the club secretary, who with the rest of the committee take whatever steps to ensure it's run in way that gives everyone the opportunity to join in. Its success was reflected in the happy face of our first winner, Danny Brooksbank, shown below receiving the first £20.00 prize cheque from club Treasurer Anne Morrison.



Sale of Hoodies, Polo's, Fleecees and Hats

The sale of hoodies, polo's, fleecees and hats serves a 2 fold purpose – promotion of the club and each one raises a small amount for club funds.



Mally Tubs – a new addition



Designed and made at their own expense by club members Malcolm Jenkinson and his apprentice Gary Gubby – these tubs protect your gear in transit and keep the boat tidy – sold for £15 which all goes to the club. Every little helps!

Calendars



2015 Calendars

Calendars were a last minute fundraising idea. As we have several excellent photographers in the club it also gave them as chance to put their photos to good use. As the idea of the calendar was very last minute we decided that the committee should vote for the 12 photos to be included on the calendar – a very tough choice.

Next year we will start earlier and give all club members a chance to vote. As usual with South Bay Scuba the voting took place within our committee sub group. Once selected, Malcolm Jenkinson, one of our skilled photographers, checked that the photos were of a good enough quality to print. The calendar layout was decided and after the printers had “cleaned “up the photos they were printed and ready.

Most of the calendars were pre-ordered and paid for but a few extra were ordered to give to several of our regular haunts around Scarborough – and to promote the club. We ordered 65 calendars at £6 each and sold 58 at £9.99 (very good value) thus making an excess of £190.

Support to Scarborough Yacht Club Bosun

Scarborough Yacht Club hold regular races around 8 buoys in Scarborough South Bay. These buoys disappear on a regular basis – in storms, dragged by fishing boats etc. South Bay Scuba agreed that for a donation of £20 per trip we will retrieve, replace buoys as and when to keep the Yacht Races running. Some jobs are more demanding than others!!



In House Courses

In house courses for example Basic Nautical Archaeology and Marine Biology also have a small charge attached to them (usually £10) but again every little helps!!

Beach BBQ – Saturday 19th July 2014

Always a brave move to decide to have a BBQ especially on the beach where there is nowhere to hide should the weather do its worst. Saturday 19th July was no exception.

With the largest BBQ ever being provided by one of our members and also 100 burgers donated we were ready to go – but all week the forecast was not optimistic with Easterly winds and heavy rain forecast. Having sold 90 tickets we made the brave decision to stick with it – even the camping on the beach bit overnight.

The BBQ was due to start at 3pm and at 1pm we were definitely having second thoughts when our 3 musketeers from West York's Fire service went down to the beach and found heavy swell and torrential rain but it was certainly too late to cancel by this time. So 2.30 pm found us carrying the BBQ down to the beach with food, tables and a Gazebo in slightly less rain.

No sooner had the gazebo been set up than the sun came out – what an afternoon and evening it turned out to be concluding building a big fire from drift wood and tents being set up for our overnight stay.

What comes down must go back up and the next morning found us slowly trekking the beach path back to the car park with BBQ, left over food, tents and camping gear. But it was all worth it in the end for an excellent BBQ in good company and funds raised of £196 in total.



Quiz

A quiz night was held in our local haunt the “Golden Ball” based on a diving and maritime theme - questions of varying difficulty so luckily it had been set up as teams. There was a small fee to enter and in total we raised £20 – but an excellent and informative night was had by all.

Photo Competition

This is our first ever photography competition for the club. As we have an increasing number of members interested in underwater photography, we decided to run this competition to promote and stimulate this art further. This would be followed later by organising some underwater photography courses within the club.

Over 35 entries were received. Each entry was charged a fee of £3 to raise some funds for the club. Entries were of very high standards. The winners were decided by public voting. To ensure a more representative vote, members were asked to rank the entries in the order of their liking. The ranks were then accorded points and winners were picked from the number of points that they received.

The notable champion was Gary Gubby, who had captured the interaction between seal and diver at Farnes Island. We had produced a club calendar for 2015 from images captured by our members throughout the year. Therefore, winners from this competition will also have the work published in our calendar for 2016.

Winning Photos



GaryGubby 1st Place



Nicola Faulks 2nd Place



Nicola Faulks 3rd Place



Gary Gubby 4th Place

Boat Launch Party



South Bay Scuba members worked very hard at promoting the many benefits and experiences to be gained around the North Yorkshire coast from the sports of Scuba and Snorkeling. With the help of Sport England, donations from members and much fundraising; the 31ft hardboat “Condor” was purchased.

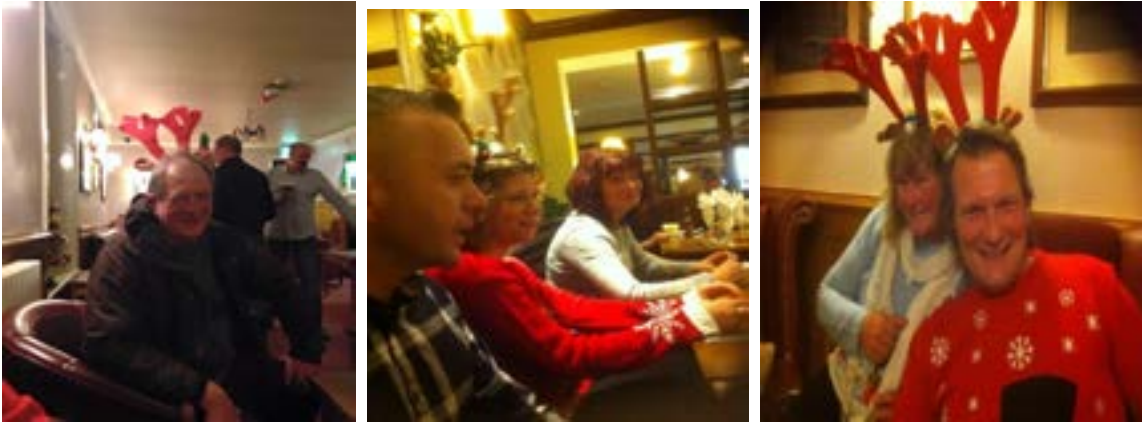
Members, new, old and yet to be met, are now able to further experience this first hand. Much work was needed to make “Condor” sea worthy, smart and shipshape. This was achieved by hard work, freely given time and further donations from businesses local to the area. To celebrate this purchase, the renovation and to formally launch “Condor” a celebration and fundraising party was held.

This was particularly aimed at the new members of the club. South Bay Scuba wants to make the many new faces always feel very welcome at the club. Condor is able to be known and appreciated as their boat and, within newly set procedures, to be enjoyed by all in the Club. The Launch party was two-fold.

A celebration was arranged on board the boat during the day, where access to the boat via Scarborough Harbour pontoons was made. Posters, banners and signs made the Boat accessible to anyone interested in the Club as well as current members. Music, food and drinks were offered.

Thereafter, the party moved onto a local Italian restaurant “Pomodoro” where members continued to celebrate and further enhance their friendships. South Bay Scuba is a club truly promoting diving with friends.

Christmas Party



The hard working committee let their hair down 😊

As well as our regular Friday night informal meetings at The Golden Ball Public House, where members can meet with and get to know other members of the club over a drink or two, chatting about future and past trips, and sharing their diving experiences and knowledge, we also have an annual Christmas Meal.

In keeping with the spirit of the club, to make events affordable whilst still enjoyable, we had our annual Christmas Meal at The Carousel Brewers Fayre. We started, as usual, meeting in The Golden Ball Public House at 6:30 then went on The Carousel Brewers Fayre for 8:00 to enjoy a traditional three course Christmas Meal along with other items off their varied menu.

Although only our second Christmas Meal event it was attended by almost double the number of members than the previous year's event, an indication of the success of the club in first year. As South Bay Scuba has many members from outside the Scarborough area too, it was an opportunity for members to catch up with members they had meet on previous trips and meet some members for the first time.

The evening was a great success with many new friendships being formed as members shared their diving anecdotes and amusing stories of past trips. The evening was enjoyed by all and we look forward to an even bigger event next year.

Beach Clean

On Sunday 21st September several members of South Bay Scuba took part in The Great British Beach Clean, a national event organised by The Marine Conservation Society.

Some of our best-loved marine wildlife is under threat from the waste and litter in our seas, with hundreds of species accidentally eating or becoming entangled in litter.

As divers based in Scarborough, we are privileged to have seen the wondrous variety of marine life that our shores have to offer and it was therefore a pleasure to help The Marine Conservation Society in their Beach Clean event.

We met at 10:00 o'clock, and spent the morning, along with other members of the general public, collecting and tallying the types of litter we found on Scarborough's South Bay. At the end of the morning we were very pleased to have found very little harmful litter, despite an event on the previous evening which had involved fireworks on the beach.

As this is an annual event, we look forward to supporting The Marine Conservation Society again, helping maintain our local marine wildlife so our diver trainees of the future can enjoy diving off Scarborough shores as passionately as we do and for many years to come.



Colin Bell Lifeboat Row

Last but not least and event very close to our hearts as it is done in memory of a very special man.

This event is the rowing of the William Riley, a hundred year old rowing lifeboat 20miles from Scarborough to Whitby.

I started organising this event the year after Colin Bell died in a diving accident in 2009. Colin had started the event and the last time he organised it I was “too busy” to participate in the row and the subsequent traditional night out in Whitby. One week later Colin died and I had missed a last night out with a good friend. To make up for this I decided to carry on organising the row in his memory and do so every 2 years (it take a year to get over it)

The row was due in 2014 and I had in mind to keep it low key and just raise some funds for RNLI and for all to enjoy the row. Circumstances dictated otherwise.

This year was the centenary of the sinking of the Rohilla Hospital ship off Whitby – a disaster in which the actual William Riley we would row to Whitby, played a huge part – so the scene was set for our row to be part of the centenary celebrations – maybe next time we'll keep it low key ☺

This year's row was to be a joint effort of South Bay Scuba, Scarborough Yacht club, Whitby Anchors Dive club and Scarborough Sub Aqua Club. It also coincided with the last year for the Scarborough Lifeboat to be in the old Lifeboat house.

There were photo shoots on the Friday evening of all 3 lifeboats together in front of the old lifeboat house, BBQ in Scarborough Yacht Club and the following morning at 08:30 the William Riley with its flotilla of support boats, set off for Whitby arriving after the hardest row yet 7 hours later.





Sandra's First Collin Bell Lifeboat Row

As a new member of South Bay Scuba Scarborough, I joined the diving club in July 2014, I was made to feel very welcome and invited to the many diving trips they had planned, I was also asked to join in with the Charity Row from Scarborough to Whitby in the old lifeboat, "The William Riley of Birmingham & Leamington"

This had been used in the rescue of the Hospital ship The Rohilla in 1914, marking 100 years, making this year extra special to be a part of the rowing team.

This event takes place every two years, raising money for the RNLI. The event "The Colin Bell Lifeboat Row" named after the late Colin Bell who was a regular fund raiser for the RNLI before his death in 2009, The event is now run by Anne Morrison of South Bay Scuba.

Members of the club are joined by the RNLI, The yacht club, Sub aqua club, in rowing the 20 miles from Scarborough to Whitby in the form of teams of 10 rowers in relay of about 20 minutes, The event kicked off at 8.30 from Scarborough along with support boats carrying the rowers, and refreshments, the weather started off calm but as the day went on the wind picked up and was working against the rowers, the waves were rocking the boat making it extra hard to row, I enjoyed my turn but was glad when I was taken off as it was hard work.

The last leg was very hard to make the boat move it looked like the rowers were sat still, after a long 7 1/2 hours the boat arrived in Whitby Harbour at 4pm.

The day ended with a fish and chip tea and a few beers and we managed to raise £3578 for the RNLI.

Branch Meetings

General Branch Activities - Branch Meetings

Weekly Meeting

The club meets every Friday evening in a local public house, this removes the need to maintain a dedicated clubhouse (increasing overheads). We have a good relationship with the Landlord (also a Lifeboatman) and Landlady and get the use of a separate room if we need it.

This is a general meeting where members discuss trip plans (who's driving and who's sorting the sandwiches), training, equipment tips and demonstration, generally have a catch up.

This is also the main meeting point for new members, if anyone requests information they are given the information and encouraged to come along, this is a big help with filling out required forms and a face to face chat is the best way to discuss everything required.

AGM

The club holds an annual AGM in September, and follows the Bye-laws adopted from BSAC. This includes election of the committee as well as updating members on club finances, status of assets etc and gives members an opportunity to feedback on the performance of the club and the committee.

EGM

These meetings, are held when requested or suggested by members or by the committee. The committee reminds members regularly that this can be requested. This is treated as a 'shop talk', giving membership the opportunity to raise any issues, make any suggestions or requests and as much as anything is a good get-together. Face to face communication is just as essential as the communication via the social media sites.

Committee Meetings

These are held at least once a quarter, giving the committee an opportunity to resolve issues and discuss agenda items that can't be practically handled over the separate Facebook group.

Meeting Location

All meetings are all held in a local public house, selected for its accessibility, harbour side location, easiness to find and convenient parking.

This is the same location in which weekly meetings are held every Friday evening from 8pm, giving members a chance to catch up, and giving interested parties an opportunity to come and meet existing members, and gives certain members their chance for a weekly cider fix!

Publicity

South Bay Scuba Publicity 2015

Most of South Bay Scuba's publicity this year has been based around:

- The BSAC Jubilee Trust Award for the Recording Our Wrecks Project
- The Colin Bell Lifeboat Row
- South Bay Scuba being a newly set up club.

Publicity around Recording Our Wrecks Project and the Jubilee Trust Award

This project certainly grabbed the attention of the press.

Wednesday 25th June 2014 Anne Morrison Project leader of the Recording Our Wrecks Project was contacted regarding doing a radio Interview with Yorkshire Coast radio. Due to go on a diving Expedition on Friday 27th we tried to delay until after the dive trip but they would have none of it and a radio interview was setup with Yorkshire Coast radio the next morning at 10pm – this interview went out that day.

Also on the Wednesday Anne was contacted by Yorkshire Post who wanted to do a story on the project and the newly setup club – with special photos taken of Anne walking out of the sea so a photo shoot was also setup for Thursday.

On a brilliantly hot summers day Anne and Buddy Heath spent a happy hour walking in and out of the sea in full kit until the photographer had the photo he wanted (see below). Scarborough Evening News, not to be left out also setup a photo shoot for the same afternoon – fortunately this time not in full kit. These articles duly went out with some additional photos.



South Bay Scuba, Scarborough
 (clockwise from top left) Steve
 Liversidge, Anne Morrison,
 Heath Tompkin, Dawn Jackson
 and Dale Scott. Front row: Tony
 Swales, Bob Lee, Ian Kirkham,
 Sara Power and Mick Lomas.

The picture and below, numbers from
 the stricken 1888 H. Biddle off the North
 Yorkshire coast in October 1932 are
 brought ashore by Whitby.

Scarborough shipwreck survey aims to probe 20 sunken vessels

Scarborough News Thursday 3rd July

South Bay Scuba divers to locate and research vessels along coast from Flamborough to Whitby

BY VICKY WILKINSON
 v.wilkinson@scarboroughnews.co.uk
 Tel: 01753 844000

Divers from Scarborough have embarked on an ambitious survey of more than 20 sunken ships.

Members of South Bay Scuba will cover a stretch of the North Sea from Flamborough to Whitby as they locate and research the wrecks.

"Some of the ships we have dived before even if it was a long time ago and there are some that have never been dived," said Anne Morrison, one of the founder members of the club and its membership secretary.

The mission will include the wrecks which have yet to be identified and explore the tragic tale of the fishing trawler *Sagepost* which sank in September 1925 with the loss of all 21 crewmen aboard. There will also be an elementary dive on the British merchant steamer the *Edla Super*.

Trawlers, steamships, mine sweepers and cargo ships are among the type of vessels being researched. It also includes hospital ship *HMS Osiris* which was grounded in 1914.

The survey has been made possible thanks to a £250 grant from the British Sub-Aqua Club Jubilee Trust which was set up almost 40 years ago to financially support the organisation's clubs with a variety of projects.

News of the grant came after club members won a £10,000 Sport England grant which they have used to buy the club's own Mitchell probe boat - *Condra*.

One of the founding members of the club is Anne Morrison, 62, who is vice-treasurer and membership secretary and gained the grant from the Jubilee Trust.

Anne said: "I'm grateful to British Sub-Aqua Club and the Jubilee Trust for the grant which means we can look at the site of the wrecks along the stretch of coast."

"We want to record any notable features, the size of the wrecks, their position, orientation and condition. All the information will be carefully recorded and plotted, together with any photography and video we obtain. To Scarborough Maritime

Heritage Group and used to enhance a display they putting together later in the year.

"It's a good time to start the survey as last year's winter's storms caused a lot of erosion on the coast and there are a lot of things that have been covered, features that were previously buried beneath the beach."

Eight divers will take part in each mission carried out from now until September and amounting to more than 250 five hour. The wrecks are all

located inshore - that's a depth of about 10m and means that all members, including non-divers, can take part.

"As we are based in a seaside town, scuba divers want to come here and dive with us. What we have done is form a club that facilitates that kind of membership. And we are absolutely amazed at how well it has gone."

"We already have 15 very active members made up of people

membership grew and grew so quickly we decided we needed a boat."

"We put in an application to Sport England in early November of last year and found out the following month that we had been awarded £25,000 which is absolutely brilliant for a community group."

"We bought a Mitchell 31 which has a small amount of accommodation on board to accommodate up to three divers plus out sleeping on board if we need it."

"We searched the internet and eventually found just the right boat up for sale in Caermarfan, Wales. We went down and negotiated before buying it for £12,500."

"We then had to transport it back to Scarborough and incidentally it was a bit before we ever applied for the Sport England grant we had started a club boat fund and members very quickly managed to raise £4,500 which was truly amazing."

The club meets at the Golden Bell pub in Scarborough almost every Wednesday evening.

"It really is a friendly club and we have members from as far afield as Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Huddersfield, New-

A vast legacy of sunken vessels

DEEP WRECK
 Among the vessels the divers will be searching are *Golden Wreck*, *Radwin*, *Elia Sayer*, *Sevilla*, *Diagon*, *Orlean*, *Cogee*, *Kellan*, *Lord Ernie*, *Maru Queen*, *John Ray*, *Winkton*, *Salt-yet*, *Scotia*, *Paritas*, *Prancer*, *Fred Edward*, *Paris*, *Britannica*, *Darwin Wreck*, *Shane*, *Charles* and *Iron King*.

SCARBOROUGH SCUBA
 Members meet at the Golden Bell at the pub from each Wednesday from 1.30pm. For more information contact Anne Morrison on 01753 844000.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
 The club wants any photographs or information anyone has on these wrecks. Call Anne if you can help.

castle and elsewhere. We want to ensure everyone can enjoy the amazing things we have brought back from the sea."

"We thought we might get a handful of members but to succeed it is just fantastic. We also have a very busy dive calendar."



Anne Morrison

The Scarborough News 4th July



Members of the Scarborough SCUBA Club who were involved in a shipwreck survey (standing) Sandra Lawrack, Anne Morrison, Heath Samples, Duane Jackson, Ian Scott. (Front row) Tony Bennett, Nicola de Wit, Michaela Clark-Town, Nick Lawton. Photograph by Keith Weatheringham / Dobson Age

A major underwater shipwreck survey is under way in the form of a series of Scarborough scuba dives. The information gathered by members of the newly-formed South Bay SCUBA Club branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) includes about 20 shipwrecks between Flamborough and Whitby and will attempt to record their exact positions.

Among the shipwrecks that have yet to be identified and recorded will also explore the tragic site of the fishing trawler *Skagron* which sank in November 1935 with the loss of all 12 crew members. There will also be an expedition to the British merchant steamer, the *SS Sayer*, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat in April 1941.

The survey has been made possible thanks to a £2,500 grant from the local Fabblee Trust which was set up 100 years ago to financially support the organisation's club activities and interesting and worthwhile fundraising projects. News of the grant was also that members recently were successful in England grant which they have used for the club's own benefit.

One of the founding members of the club is Anne Morrison, 63, who has received a grant from the trust. "I'm really grateful for the Fabblee Trust grant which means we can do the size of the wrecks along the Yorkshire coast. Some of these wrecks are quite well preserved while others are very overgrown on rare occasions.

"We want to record any notable features, the size of the wrecks, their position, orientation and condition.

"All the information will be carefully recorded and given, together with any photographs and video we obtain, to Scarborough's Maritime Heritage Group and used to enhance a display they are putting together 'tand to the year'.

She added, "I think it's a good time to start the survey as last year's winter's storms really churned up the sea. There has been so much movement of sand on the

The underwater mission includes three wrecks which have yet to be identified

bottom and there are a lot of things that have been uncovered, features that were previously buried beneath the seabed."

"The scuba diving club was formed in July last year with a few regular divers from Scarborough, who had friends all over the south of England.

"We wanted to form a BSAC branch that scuba divers could join and be included in as well as being part of a branch in their home town," said Anne.

"As we are based in a seaside town, scuba divers want to come here and dive with us. What we have done is form a club that facilitates that kind of membership.

"And we are absolutely amazed at how well it has gone. We already have 82 very active members made up of people from all walks of life with one thing in common - a

love of scuba diving.

"It really is a friendly club and we have members from as far afield as Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Huddersfield, Newcastle and elsewhere. We want to ensure everyone can enjoy the amazing diving we have here right on our doorstep. We also have a very busy dive calendar and try to arrange a monthly trip right through the winter so we can all meet up.

"We have been to Scotland, Cornwall as well as local dives and we have trips planned to Spain and the Red Sea. And in August we are going to Scotland looking for hasking sharks around Tobermory, on the Isle of Mull and Coll! The club meets at the Golden Ball pub on Scarborough seafront every Wednesday evening.

The British Sub-Aqua Club is the UK's governing body for scuba diving and has 30,000 members. The organisation has 120 dive centres and 1,000 plus family friendly and sociable branch clubs, run by volunteers, all around the UK and abroad, who can support with both scuba diving and snorkelling training.

The Duke of Cambridge has recently taken over from his father, Prince Charles, as BSAC president and is keen to inspire more young people to take up the sport.

It works to ensure the safety and highest possible training for its members and welcomes those who have trained with other agencies. ☺

Learn more about South Bay SCUBA Scarborough Club at southbayclub.co.uk and the BSAC at bsac.com



Major shipwreck survey carried out by a team of Scarborough scuba divers
Three wrecks as yet unidentified will be analysed

An ambitious project, which will be carried out by members of the newly-formed South Bay SCUBA Scarborough branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), will include surveys of around 20 shipwrecks between Flamborough and Whitby and will map and record their exact positions.

The underwater mission will include three wrecks which have yet to be identified and explore the tragic tale of the fishing trawler Skegness which sank in September 1935 with the loss of all 11 crew men aboard. There will also be an exploratory dive on the British merchant steamer, the Ella Sayer, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat in April 1918.



South Bay Scuba Scarborough club.

Pictured standing are Sandra Laverack, Sara Flowers, Ian Abraham, Duane Jackson, Mick Lawson, Iain Scott (Sec) and Heath Samples (boat officer & diving officer). Sat in front are Stu Law, Anne Morrison (treasurer & membership sec) and Tony Snelson

The survey has been made possible thanks to a £1,150 grant from the BSAC Jubilee Trust which was set up almost 40 years ago to financially support the organisation's clubs with a variety of interesting and worthwhile scuba diving projects. News of the grant came after club members recently won a £10,000 Sport England grant which they have used to buy the club's own Mitchell 31 dive boat.

One of the founding members of the club is Anne Morrison, 62, who is also treasurer and membership secretary and gained the grant from the Jubilee Trust. Anne said: "I'm really grateful to BSAC for the Jubilee Trust grant which means we can look at the size of the wrecks along this stretch of coast. Some of these wrecks are quite well dived while others are only visited on very rare occasions.

"We want to record any notable features, the size of the wrecks, their position, orientation and condition. All the information will be carefully recorded and given, together with any photography and video we obtain, to Scarborough's Maritime Heritage Group and used to enhance a display they putting together later in the year. I think it's a good time to start the survey as last year's winter's storms really churned up the sea. There has been so much movement of sand on the seabed and there are a lot of things that have been uncovered, features that were previously buried beneath the seabed."

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Mary Tetley, Chief Executive for BSAC, said: “There are all sorts of underwater adventures to enjoy when you join your local BSAC club. Members get involved with a whole host of worthwhile and exciting projects such as South Bay’s survey and I feel sure their ambitious ideas will glean a whole host of new and interesting knowledge about the wrecks which will ensure their individual stories live on for future generations.”

Talking about the club itself, Anne added: “The club was only formed in July of last year. Basically, a few regular divers living in Scarborough, who had friends all over the north of England, decided to form a new club. We wanted to form a BSAC branch that scuba divers could join and be included in as well as being part of a branch in their home town. As we are based in a seaside town, scuba divers want to come here and dive with us. What we have done is form a club that facilitates that kind of membership. And we are absolutely amazed at how well it has gone. We already have 82 very active members made up of people from all walks of life with one thing in common – a love of scuba diving.”

To learn more about South Bay SCUBA Scarborough Club visit southbayscuba.co.uk and to learn more about BSAC visit bsac.com

Yorkshire Magazine

The Colin Bell Lifeboat Row Publicity

Generating almost as much publicity was **The Colin Bell Lifeboat Row**

The Colin Bell Lifeboat Row was started by Anne Morrison in memory of Colin Bell a dear friend who had started and organised the Row until he died in a diving accident in 2009.

This year’s row was initially going to be a low key affair until we realised it was the centenary of the sinking of the hospital ship Rohilla. The William Riley had played a major part in the rescue therefore it seemed only right we allowed The William Riley to take part in the commemoration and therefore the press coverage followed.

Radio interview followed radio interview and all at critical times such as just when the William Riley was being launched the night before the row – and said “so I stood on the pier with one in leg in a dry suit attempting to complete the task and help with launching the boat whilst giving an interview with Radio York. Radio York focussed on the Rohilla rescue aspect.

Even before I could complete putting my suit on Radio Teesside rang and I did another interview still standing on the pier half in my drysuit”

The following day Radio Teesside did follow up interview during the row.

Many photos appeared in various newspapers and journals after the event with the majority of the photos having been taken during the row by one of our members – Malcolm Jenkinson.

(See below)

HISTORIC ROW FOR THE LIFEBOATS

A TEAM OF SCUBA-DIVERS have marked the 100th anniversary of a WW1 sinking by rowing with others some 20 miles from Scarborough to Whitby in a historic RNLI lifeboat.

The divers, from the British Sub-Aqua Club's Scarborough and South Bay Scuba branches and from Whitby Anchors Dive Club, joined other rowers from the Scarborough RNLI Lifeboat crew, Scarborough Rowing Club and Scarborough Yacht Club.

They were marking the sinking of the passenger steamer *Rohilla*, which succumbed to a storm off Whitby on her way from Scotland to Dunkirk to collect wounded soldiers. While 145 men and women were rescued, 84 lives were lost, making the sinking Whitby's worst maritime disaster.

The row was made in the restored *William Riley* lifeboat which, a century ago, was hauled through Whitby and lowered down a 60m cliff to get to the

Rohilla, which lay grounded close to shore.

Involving more than 50 people as rowers or on support boats, the relay row started at 8am and finished at 4pm, with good conditions at the beginning but rougher seas in Robin Hood Bay as the wind rose, nearly causing the row to be curtailed.

The *William Riley* worked as a lifeboat from 1909 to 1931, when it was sold and converted as a cruising vessel. It was found derelict on a Devon beach in 2005 and restored in 2008 as a fund-raising vessel by Whitby Historic Lifeboat Trust.

The RNLI fund-raising rows from Scarborough to Whitby were started by local diver Colin Bell in 2005 as a biennial event. Bell died in 2009 aged 52, following a dive.

Since then, and in his memory, the row has been organised by Anne Morrison, Treasurer and Membership Secretary of South Bay Scuba, and other BSAC divers.

This year's row raised some £4000 for the RNLI, bringing to about £20,000 the total gathered by the rows since their introduction. ■



DIVER Mag October 2014



BATTLING THE TIDES: Divers and RNLI crew members row the William Eiley from Scarborough to Whitby to mark the 100th anniversary of a maritime disaster. PICTURE: JAMES

Centenary of Rohilla sea disaster marked

SCUBA DIVERS from Yorkshire marked the 100th anniversary of a maritime disaster that claimed more than 50 lives.

The team of divers rowed 30 miles from Scarborough to Whitby in the same lifeboat that helped carry 145 people to safety from a stricken hospital ship off the coast of Whitby 100 years ago during the First World War.

The rowing challenge commemorates the centenary of the loss of the *Rohilla*, which

was on its way to collect injured soldiers during the First World War when it was caught in a storm. Some 84 people died in the incident.

In memory of those who lost their lives, the scuba divers' group recently braved treacherous weather to raise over £4,000 for the RNLI in the grueling challenge.

The long and narrow lifeboat used in the RNLI fundraiser, the *William Eiley*, was part of the

rescue effort that saved 145 men and women from drowning. Members of the British Sub-Aqua Club's branches of Scarborough and South Bay were

“It was without doubt the toughest row we have done...”

Alone Harrison from the South Bay Scarborough scuba club.

joined by fellow enthusiasts from Whitby Amateur Diving Club, Scarborough Yacht Club, Scarborough Rowing Club and the RNLI in the fundraiser.

The rowing challenge has been held bi-annually since 2007 and has raised over £20,000.

Alone Harrison, 64, the treasurer and membership secretary for South Bay scuba club, is one of the main organisers of the challenge.

Alone said: "It was without doubt the toughest row we have done since we started the event back in 2007. It really was hard work."

"It has been a wonderful day and although we are all exhausted it was well worth it."

"I've so pleased with the amount of money we have raised [...] and the teamwork and camaraderie shown by all those that took part and helped on the day."

Yorkshire Post Monday 18th August

Health and Well- being Event at Scarborough Hospital

We were approached by the local NHS Trust (Scarborough, Bridlington & York) to see if we wanted to exhibit at their event being held for the NHS staff here in Scarborough.

Of course, we jumped at it and after a rummage round the membership we conjured up a video, table top displays, banners, artefacts, BSAC information booklets and application forms.

In reality we didn't expect many staff to attend as it was a working day and they were only coming across in their breaks and time off. How wrong we were! Over 500 came through the doors and if I'd heard: "I've been diving when on holiday" once I'd heard it a Zillion times!

Following the 6 hour exhibition we had signed up 18 Try Dives and snorkels. We were thoroughly pleased with ourselves with this one and at the time of going to press, the Try Dives & Snorkels are taking place.



Inter- Branch Liaison

Inter Branch Liaison

Inter Club Liaison- Scarborough Yacht Club

As a new club we were keen to team up with willing clubs within the Scarborough area that were water based and enjoyed the sea.

A natural one was Scarborough Yacht Club (SYC) as we had members of SBS who were also members of SYC.

Within a very short space of time our diving services were called upon to help SYC put out their yacht race markings. Now we work alongside them mooring and recovering the yacht marks throughout the 12 month racing year.



Rudi Barman, SYC Bosun said: “It’s great having SBS working alongside us as we’ve had some tricky situations where we’ve had heavy seas and lost the marks. Thankfully they generally wash up near shore but all would be lost if we couldn’t get a diver down to free them.

And some of these Special Marks are very expensive. A big thanks all round to the guys and girls from SYC.”

Inter Club Liaison- RNLI Scarborough Lifeboat

Some of our local Lifeboatmen are also members of the club. Condor the club boat has been used several times in RNLI training exercises along with club members manning the boat. Some of these exercises have included towing which is an acquired skill, certainly the way the RNLI do it!

This is a great way for our members to up close and understand better the job the RNLI do. Granted we only see a fraction of their great work but any experience our club members can get through inter-club/ Institute liaison is invaluable for them.

Inter Dive Club Liaison is key to the way that South Bay Scuba works.

We have 25 dual members who are also members of:

- West Yorkshire Fire Service Club
- Cleveland BSAC
- Scarborough Sub Aqua Club
- Huddersfield Cormorants
- Huddersfield Nomads
- Huddersfield BSAC
- Tyneside 114
- South Notts BSAC
- Ryedale BSAC
- York Excalibur
- Hull BSAC
-

We also have 3 members who are PADI Instructors in our membership. 2 of these have done the Crossover course and are therefore Open water Instructors who help with training in South Bay Scuba. We have close associations with “Dive Buddies” a PADI group based in the North East and Amigos Diving – a group of Ex-pats based on the Costa Calida.

A quote from one member before he became a dual member was “to join your club would be like sleeping with another man’s wife”. He has since seen the advantages of interclub liaison with an actively diving club and has joined us as well as being a member of his original club. The advantages of having such strong connections are many.

We have a large number of people to call on to fill trips should we have spaces. When training we have a massive bank of Open water instructors and several Advanced Instructors.

For people doing any slightly different diving e.g. Kayak diving, CCR diving they have more chance of meeting and diving with likeminded buddies.

We have a massive bank of knowledge and experience as we gain from the knowledge of other clubs more easily - through our dual members.

Though we did not expect the dual members to be ready to help with fund raising and work parties as much as the members who are only members of South Bay Scuba – this has not been the case. The dual members participate in our fundraising “Bonus Ball “scheme and donated to the boat fund which bought Condor.

Should we require a working party e.g. on the boat the members from further afield are just as ready to participate even though they have to travel – Interclub Liaison works well for South Bay Scuba and as we have a boat and are based by the coast it also works for the other clubs involved.

Special Achievements

Special Achievements

Everything we have done this year has felt like a special achievement to us but our highlights were:

- Being awarded a Sport England Grant to Purchase Condor
- Buying Condor and subsequent refurbishment
- Being awarded a Jubilee Trust Award for our “Recording Our Wrecks” Project (Scientific Diving)
- One of our members was nominated for the Suunto Branch Volunteer of the year (we found out in February 2015 that she had been selected as one of the 6 winners but also she received the coveted Jonathan Crusher Award)

Sport England Grant and Buying a Condor

The day we went diving on Peeler with 6 divers and ended up frantically bailing as water came through the scuppers was the day we decided..

“We re gonna need a bigger boat!” ☺

Our club had grown like crazy and demand outweighed what we could deliver with one small angling boat and Wreckless a 5.5m RIB – both belonging to members.

The obvious place to look for help was Sport England and after many calls to their very helpful help desk the Grant Application went in.

On the 10th December 2014 we heard that we had been awarded a grant and the frantic search for a suitable boat followed.



Simple but extremely effective fundraising for Condor our Club boat.

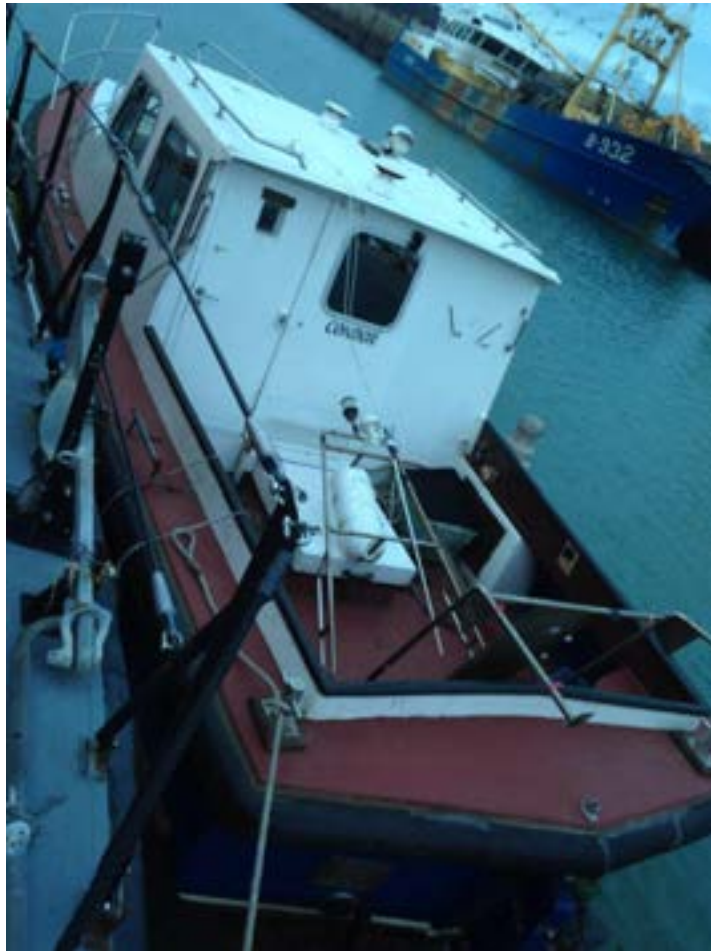
The £10,000 Sport England grant was a fantastic amount of money but it became apparent that it left the boat we wanted just out of reach. A member suggested we gave the membership the chance to donate amounts of money anonymously from £50 upwards – this the committee did and the result was ASTOUNDING! Money was donated on a daily basis and the thermometer on our Facebook page could not be updated fast enough As a result the members donated in cash and in kind the amazing amount of

£6557
In only 8 weeks

Many hours of debate and discussion led to a list of essential and desirable features for our club's dive boat.

Then followed countless hours of internet searching...

The list of possible candidates was gradually whittled down, and led a group of club members to Wales, to view Condor, on her berth alongside Carnarvon Castle.



First impressions always count, and Condor looked right, being solidly built and well maintained.

She is a Mitchell 31 with an extended cabin layout. This offers useable accommodation below for extended stays on board, as well as shelter for divers and crew on passage.

The is a 120hp 6 cylinder Ford inboard diesel, offering good economy and more than enough Performance.

The crew then drove from Caernarfon straight to Hartlepool – 480 mile day in total - to view another Mitchell 31 – but really our hearts where now set on CONDOR.

The decision to buy Condor was made the next day and after some negotiations a price was settled upon.

The crew then made and another trip to Wales saw her safely lifted out at Caernarfon (a very nerve racking experience) and loaded onto a lorry for transport to Whitby.





By this time all the club members were highly excited about the arrival of Condor so imagine the surprise club member Barry Gear got when on his way home from work that evening round the Tadcaster by pass he saw of a large boat being transported. He caught sight of the name and in an instant out was his phone and this photo taken and posted on our Facebook page – she'd at least made it safely to Tadcaster we were all delighted to know.

The following day a working party of club members was assembled in the boatyard in Whitby and Condor was attacked from all angles. She was cleaned, antifouled, and had anodes replaced. All electrical and mechanical systems were checked and rectified as necessary, under the watchful eye of the insurance surveyor.



The following morning she was launched and the 20 nm trip down the coast to Scarborough went without a hitch.

The 120hp engine gives an effortless 7 knots cruising speed, she proved to be easy to handle, and was very stable in the familiar North Sea swell. The large wheelhouse was effective in keeping out the February morning chill.

On arrival in Scarborough Harbour we were met by a happy crew of members desperate to catch a first glimpse of our new boat – and of course to celebrate.



The primary function as a dive boat is well catered for with a large aft deck, sufficient for 8 divers to be transported with their gear, and to kit up and giving safe and easy access to the water.

The inevitable improvements and upgrades were agreed upon, and in stages, a massive amount of work has been done over the last year. Not a day went by from 5th February when Condor arrived in Scarborough to Saturday 29th March when club members were not found sanding, painting and cleaning.

The hard work involved with preparing a boat the size of Condor for repainting inside and out proved challenging, but all the effort put in by club members was rewarded by the vastly improved general appearance.





Members travelled from far and wide to put in a day's work on "Our Condor" as she became known. We were extremely grateful to member Heath Samples for the loan of his berth on the pontoons where we had accessibility, power and water but alas this was only to the end to March – we then had to sort moorings in the outer harbour where Condor's permanent home was to be.



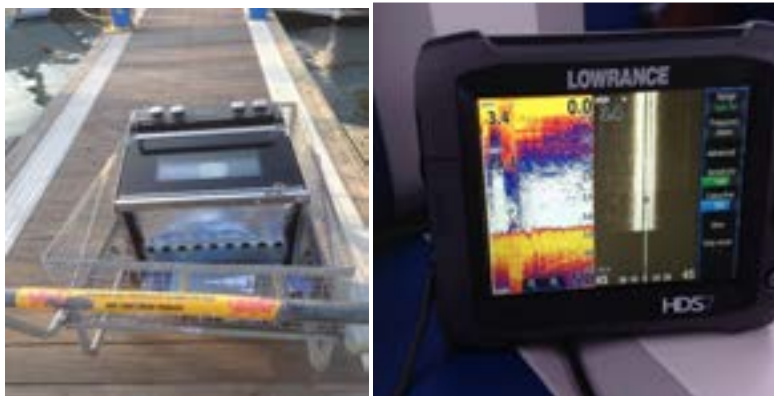
An impressive stainless steel ladder was designed, manufactured and fitted by club member Tony Ireland – with marine grade stainless steel supplied free of charge by his employer.



The custom built offset rung ladder has proved to be very effective, giving safe and easy egress from the water.

The navigation equipment has been upgraded significantly, with the addition of a Lowrance Plotter, with Sidescan Sonar donated by a club member.

A new DSC/ Vhf radio has been fitted along with all essential safety and navigation equipment. The galley has been fitted with a new oven and hob and the gas system renewed and certified.



Content

So when that cup of tea turned into “Can we establish a brand new BSAC diving branch” the evidence here, all 105 pages of it, proves that we can- and did.

On that summers day in July 2013 it would have been unbelievable that we could have done what we have done and put a report together like this, from all the brand new members from a brand new club, doing all these dive trips, all this training, all this equipment, and writing it down to form this report.

The branch was in fact set up on that day and it is quite remarkable how it has prospered in such a short space of time. Enthusiastic members come from an enthusiastic club, and an enthusiastic club comes from getting busy providing diving, training and snorkeling for its members in all sorts of ways, shapes and forms.

We already have our own hardboat, own compressor and pending at the time of going to press, possibly a brand new RIB and five sets of brand new training gear.

South Bay Scuba maybe a mere infant in terms of club years. But we have already demonstrated that we have the pedigree of a very experienced club that is competing with other clubs and often surpassing expectations.

The members of the club, whilst not all have written, provided guidance, advice and support in putting this Heinke Trophy Report together. And we had some fun doing it too.

Getting advice from friends, writing with Friends, compiling with friends and Diving with Friends.

This is who we are. This is what we do.

It is our pleasure to have provided this report for you.

South Bay Scuba Heinke Report Roll of Honour- The Contributors

Heath Samples Anne Morrison Libby Anderson Gary Gubby Carol Sherwood

Martin Donnelly Kev Towse Vincent Hong Iain Scott

Edd Peacock Sandra Laverack Danny Brooksbank Susan Griffiths

Clive Warrington Ian Abraham Paula Lightfoot

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