

# Bubbles

March 2005

The newsletter of Bubbles Dive Club

## Welcome to the March edition of Bubbles.

This year looks set to be our best season so far! (Oh OK, so it's our first full season). Club membership is growing steadily, we now have our club insurance in place and I am pleased to say that we now have a website and e-mail as well.

For those of you that saw the old site I must explain that that was a throw-back from the club's previous existence and we had no control over it. The new site is currently under development but it is quickly taking shape and now is the time to make any suggestions for content that you would like to see. Please visit [www.bubblesdiveclub.co.uk](http://www.bubblesdiveclub.co.uk) and let us know what you think.

## Diving in 2005

As the club grows we are going to have to change the way we book dives. To date we have tended to offer places to the next dive at the end of the previous one. This is obviously not fair to club members who don't want to dive every week.

Therefore inside you will find two copies of the dive booking form. Can you please tick the boxes of those dives you would like to book and return to the club. The second



copy of the list is for you to keep to remind you of which dives you are on - although this will also be shown on the website to remind you.

## Charges

Evening dives will continue to be charged at £15 per person, Sunday dives will cost £35 including two dives and lunch and shore dives will be around £5 (to be confirmed) including a BBQ and a safety boat where necessary.

## Cancellations

If you need to cancel a booked dive there will be no charge as long as you give two weeks notice. Otherwise you will need to pay for your place unless we or you can find someone else to take it.

## Contents:

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## Welcome to new members

Bubbles would like to welcome the following people to the club:

Ron Trimmer  
Neil Colclough  
Hermoine Doggrell  
Alicia Coles

## Non-Club members

We are happy for non-members to dive with us from time to time, but to maintain fairness to club members, non-members will be charged extra during the peak of the season (June-September).

**Bubbles** Dive Club

# Fan worm (*Bispira volutacornis*)

These are the feeding tentacles of the Fan Worm, one of the more common species of segmented tube-worm that are found in British waters. This group was photographed living between some rocks in Swanage Bay. The worm inhabits a tube it constructs from mud and sand, bound with mucus. The tentacles also have primitive eyes and they will trigger the worm to withdraw into its tube if the shadow of a fish, or a diver passes over them. The tentacles

are also used by the worm to exchange gases for respiration. The worms filter feed on organic matter within the water. They can reach 20cm long, although most of that is within the tube, hidden between rocks.

*Note from Ed. There are many species of worm to be found, in many different colours. Frankly they all look the same to me, but Claire was upset when I put the wrong picture in the draft copy of the newsletter...*



## Diving in Darwin's Paradise Claire

During Christmas and New Year I spent 3 weeks diving and touring in the Galapagos Islands. My first week was a land tour liveaboard on a 3 masted sailing boat.



Snorkling every day with playful sealions gave just a tempting glimpse of what may be deeper below. The second week was a diving liveaboard on the Peter Hughes dive boat Sky Dancer.

Diving in the Galapagos Islands is relatively advanced as the islands are volcanoes that rise from the

deep mid Pacific Ocean floor and so it is not unusual to be diving above the seabed over 1000m below! The water is relatively cool (considering that the islands straddle the equator), between 23 and 25°C as deep, cold currents flowing from the Poles collide and upwell, bringing nutrient rich water that feeds an incredible diversity of life.

The Islands are famous for their endemic giant tortoises and finches, both of which Charles Darwin observed and contributed to his theory of evolution by natural selection. The marine life is also unique in many ways, an endemic species of penguin, the Galapagos shark and the Galapagos sealion to name just a few.

The highlights of the trip included the 5 whale sharks we saw, many over 8m long. The whale shark is the largest fish, it's a plankton feeder but when one swims past you it is an awesome sight! Scalloped Hammerheads school in the cool upwelling water during the day and we swam within cylindrical schools of 200 – 300 sharks! Galapagos sharks are fast,

powerful fish that gave a real thrill when they swam past and we also saw silky sharks, white tip reef sharks, oceanic white tips and black tip sharks! Swimming with dolphins and sealions was a pleasure and for me the most exciting moment was a glimpse, for just a second or two, of a sunfish.

Joining a liveaboard trip can be a risk, especially when travelling solo, however in my experience you can meet some fascinating people and this trip was no exception, out of the 13 divers 9 nationalities were represented and the diversity and range of interests really made the trip interesting!

Where to go next?



# The Real Guide to Boat Diving

by Gareth

It was a remarkably good day. Early November, bright, not too cold and the best slack tide of the year to play with on the Kyarra. Only 7 on the boat, so loads of space and hopefully, not too cold (boy was I wrong on that one). I was taken, as the day progressed, with the sheer anarchy that pervaded the expedition. At this point I will point out that this was NOT a Bubbles Dive Club trip, but rather one of the many pay-per-trip dives run by local skippers.

Kit was everywhere, people hogged the kitting up space, and it was every pair for themselves when it came to jostling for position to enter the water.

The dive itself was great but left me wanting to put pen to paper...

Being a one-dive deal, I was back early and had nothing to do until Peterborough vs. Bournemouth was on the Radio. So I compared real boat diving to how it was meant to be when I signed up for the PADI dream of crystal clear waters and colourful marine life. So I skimmed through my Adventures in Diving Manual (yes, I do realise how sad that sounds) and found the section on Diving from Boats. Impossibly good looking people lounge about on equally impossibly spacious boats illustrate useful tips on what to call the sharp and blunt ends and how to step off a boat or roll of a rib. This is not the kind of advice you need, so I penned this Real Guide based on watching others...

## Apparent rules of boat diving

1 The old growler rules. Seniority comes with grey hair and having

been diving at least 25yrs. This person can take as much space as they want.

- 2 Grab a good place for your cylinder and kit as quick as possible. Don't help other people with theirs until you have got a prime spot for your own stuff.
- 3 Kit up early so you can get a spot on the platform. Sit there for the next 20mins blithely unaware of everybody else.
- 4 Searching for non-ferrous metals and harvesting the bounty of the sea are the only valid motivations for diving. Looking at pretty things is rather suspect. Best keep this sort of behaviour to yourself.
- 5 Always try to be first in the water, so when you get out, you can sort your kit in relative space and calm. Alternatively stay in the water for at least an hour longer than you were asked to so that everyone else will have got changed and rush to help you in order to get home before Christmas.
- 6 Distress your kit to disguise its' newness. Best of all, buy a 10 yr old Buddy Commando BCD from eBay, instant cred.
- 7 Novice divers should always make the tea.

Overall, a day on a boat, diving and enjoying the company is one of the best ways of I know of spending time, our idiosyncrasies just adds to the fun!

## Actual rules...

On a slightly more serious note, our boring editor has asked me to point out that we don't want to run our boats like this, so here are a few pointers that should help make the whole experience more enjoyable.

- 1 Check that you have all your kit with you BEFORE the boat leaves...
- 2 assemble your cylinder, BCD, regs etc early, preferably before the boat gets out of the harbour - its much easier to do before the boat starts to rock!
- 3 keep the rest of your kit in one place, near your cylinder etc so you are not having to climb all over the boat looking for your other fin at the last minute...
- 4 Additionally, keep your kit near to your buddy's to help with buddy-checking.
- 5 Stow bags etc out of the way, keeping the kitting up area as clear as possible - this helps everyone as well as ensuring you know where the bag is after the dive and nothing gets broken.
- 6 After the dive you will be guided to a clear space to de-kit. Please do so quickly to make space for the next divers out of the water
- 7 Most important rule: Make Claire, Tin and I a hot drink. Claire has hot chocolate, Tin and I have tea, white, no sugar.

*(note from ed. - I'm not boring!  
Gareth is old and fat!)*

# 2005 Diving

## About us

We are an independent dive club that is open and friendly, and we welcome new members of all abilities from any training authority.

For new divers our Tuesday evening boat dives are limited to a maximum depth of 18m and newly qualified divers will be paired up with a more experienced diver to ensure a safe enjoyable dive.

We also organise a boat once a fortnight on Thursday evenings for more experienced divers.

Our weekend shore dives are more of a family occasion, normally including a leisurely dive followed by a barbecue on the beach. Families are always welcome and non-divers may wish to try a little snorkelling to discover what they are missing!

All of our dives are open to both members and non-members alike, however booking priority will always be given to members and

non-members will be asked to pay a surcharge for our boat dives.

## Dive booking

Hopefully you found a dive booking form in your newsletter. Please complete this and return to book your dives.

If your form was missing, or you have lost it (shame on you), then you can download a new copy from the club website:

[www.bubblesdiveclub.com](http://www.bubblesdiveclub.com)

## Want more skills?

Learning new skills helps you to gain confidence in your own abilities.

If you want to develop your skills; Advanced Open Water for deeper dives, Nitrox for longer dives, Rescue diver for safety etc, let us know and we can arrange suitable training, with your course dives normally taking place on a standard club evening or weekend dive.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the club or forthcoming dives, or have any comments or suggestions, you can contact us on 07981 526 986, or talk to Claire, Gareth or Tin on a club dive.

## Join Bubbles!

If you have not yet joined Bubbles then do so now! You will enjoy:

- Air fills for just £1
- Discounted boat diving
- Club barbecues
- 12.5% discount at Forward Diving Services
- Full kit hire for only £10
- Club newsletter
- Lots of fun!
- All for just £30

If there was not a membership form in this newsletter, please call 07981 526 986 for registration details.

## Need kit?

Don't forget that Bubbles members get a 12.5% discount at Forward Diving, Arthur Bray's Yard, West Quay Rd, Poole. - BUT REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD!

## Feeling the cold?

Then maybe its time to start thinking about diving in a drysuit. There are many options when it comes to drysuits, from off-the-peg ones for around £400 to fancy made-to-measure ones for £1,500 plus.

However, one excellent option comes from within the club. Club member Dennis Mears is a local drysuit manufacturer, making made-to-measure drysuits for under £700.

To see an example talk to any of the many club members already wearing them!



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