

Croydon BS-AC 23

The Muddy Puddle

October/November 1999

All change at the Top!

Another AGM has come and gone, there are some new faces on the committee, some old ones and some young ones, who failed to escape.

The AGM was well attended, with a majority of active seasoned divers turning out.

Various issues were discussed and voted upon. Each member of the outgoing committee had prepared a report detailing his or her activities over the past year. These were received with interest from the massed throngs of club members.

The AGM saw several committee members step down from their posts.

Chris Adams resigned as Dry Member after two years service, capping his stint by organising another successful trip to Gozo.

Mark Skipper relinquished the post of Chairman, which he held since 1998. He has seen the club through a difficult year after losing Thornton Heath.

Peter Higgs, finally took off his skirt and laid down his notepad, to resign as Secretary (or Mark Skipper's P.A.), after another stressful year of liaising with H.Q.

Paul Rochester stepped down as B member, but remains the Boat member although this is not a committee post. His work through the year especially with the club survey was invaluable.

Maureen Dillon handed on the reins of Dive Officer after many years of devoted service to the club. Through her distinguished career as both Training officer and more recently as Diving officer she has endeavoured to ensure safe diving practices are adhered to. Her efforts are exalted in the club's safety record, and the quality of club trained divers.

The new members on the committee vary in past club committee experience.

Tom Maguire, September 1999's Diver of the Month, took on the role of Chairman. Tom has been with the club since the age of hard hat diving, hence his stature.

Jeanette Copper, volunteered for the role of Secretary, I can only ask one question "Are you MAD?" Jeanette has been with the club several years now, and is one of the few organised Divers in the club.

Dave Elphic has taken on the role as A/B members, so now he has a reason to talk to you. He has been with the club since before dinosaurs walked the earth, he took Tom Maguire in on his first ever dive, which explains a lot, and has many nicknames, but most commonly called DIB.

Further to these additions, Dave Enderson has moved to the Diving Officer position. Leaving Training officer as an unassigned position but training will continue to be organised and carried out.

All the other posts remain unchanged.

I'm sure you join me in wishing the new committee all the very best for the new year, and thanking the outgoing members for all their efforts.

Diver of the Month.

I believed the last Diver of the Month would be the last one of the year but no, some people had to try to get in on the action. Obviously some people have got the wrong idea and think that becoming a Muddy Puddle DoM is like being Playboy's Playmate of the Month, it's not. And no we are not doing any DoM centre-folds (yet).

This month's we have a pair of Divers of Month, who should have known better.

The last dive of the year, always a sad moment, but it should not be used as an excuse to let standards slip or bags for that matter.

It was early morning, a light breeze was blowing up the estuary at Littlehampton as our intrepid pair unloaded their kit from their cars. Together they decided to gather all of the kit and transport it via a trolley to the hard-boat. Carefully they loaded everything on, making sure they forgot nothing. Others busied themselves stacking bottles, fumbling with weight belts or hunting for spare O-rings before setting sail. Whilst our disastrous duo slowly made their way down the

pontoon, feeling smug in the knowledge that they were superior to the plebes about them and their unorganised scrabbling about.

It must have been that moment when the invisible gremlin to control of the trolley and tipped it over.

The Deadly Duo battle for control against their unseen opponent, vying to regain control of the wayward vehicle. Their tanks crashing against the side of the trolley, adding to it's momentum. It teetered on the edge of the pontoon, much like the bus at the end of the Italian Job. Would their valuable cargo disappear into the drink, along with all hope of any further diving? Then in a total reversal of true Croydon BSAC fashion they snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, they hauled the trolley back from the edge, back to safety.

Unfortunately, Loki was on hand, for all builders out there, Loki, was/is the Norse God of Mischief. His invisible arm reached out and threw the top most dive bag into the estuary.

Pandemonium broke out, one of the comical pairing secured the trolley whilst the other magically found a pole and flayed wildly at the wayward bag, much to the amusement of everyone else.

Finally the bag was rescued, it's contents no longer altogether dry. The two sheepishly rejoined the boat to the grins of their fellow divers.

Their names are Scott Dillon and Denis Copeland, both experienced Dive Leaders.

Other crimes have been reported to me recently, especially the Gozo Depth Freaks, their tales may be told another time but now, it's your turn to vote on the Alternative Diver of the Year or Ady. Anyone who has been mentioned in a DoM article in the past year is viable to win this much sort after prize, and a place in the Croydon BSAC halls of Fame. Let me know your vote by 3rd December so I can award the prize at the Christmas Party.

Will it be Paul "Polaris" Carvall, or Alex "Doh" Di-Giorgio, or Tom "Wonder Man" Maguire. Or maybe one of the also rans such as Gary "Squaddie" Eason, perhaps you may even choose the RIB. All have been mentioned but only you can chose the winner of the 1999 Alternative Diver of the Year.

Instructor Training Courses Dates

22/23 January, 6/7 May

9/10 September, 11/12 Nov 2000

ITCs are open to Sports Divers and above; they are two day courses; they teach you how to teach practical and theory lessons.

Request

If you have any pictures taken this year whilst on club organised activities, I would be interested in publishing them in the Christmas issue (I can withhold your name if required. I need them by 20th Nov 1999).

Christmas '99

BSAC 23 Party

Yes, it's the annual or not so annual BSAC 23 Christmas Party. This year's event will be held at Pitchers in Sutton, on the Friday the 4th December, in a private function room. With a disco, buffet and private bar, members and guests are welcome. Tickets should cost around £12.

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