Bristol Aerospace Sub-Aqua Club Diving Officers Report 1998/99

I must be getting old, it does not seem like twelve months have past since I was sitting down to write this report, but it has and I must crack on with it.

Diving in general

As in years past where do I start? This year has seen quite a lot happening, we have had a good year for weather and this is reflected in the number of logged dives being submitted to me. The new BSAC training package, with all it's drawbacks to the current club training program, has now been adopted. We have seen our own club web-site come on-line and receive a good reception by all who have visited it, and we have seen our boats moved to a new dry home.

As in previous year, being Diving Officer gives me the chance to express my thanks, as well as those of the membership, to the group of people who are always available to help the club out with various tasks and events that have taken place in the past year. Those who have made the effort to organise <u>Club</u> dives, those who have help with the organisation of club events and those who have made the time to help with the boat working parties.

My first lot of **Thanks** go to all those people who have organised **Club** dives.

Cyril Hucker	(Advanced Diver)	Tree Tops, River Avon	Nov '98
Julie Ryalls	(Sports Diver)	Thailand	Dec. '98
Tim Clouter	(Advanced Diver)	Barrow Tanks.	January '99
Cyril Hucker	(Advanced Diver)	Salcombe	April '99
Tim Clouter	(Advanced Diver)	Club wreck.	April '99
Dave Winter	(Sports Diver)	Kimmeridge	May '99
Mike Down	(Dive Leader)	Red Sea	May '99
Cyril Hucker	(Advanced Diver)	Plymouth	May '99
Andy Wilson	(Advanced Diver)	Brixham	June '99
Tim Clouter	(Advanced Diver)	Seatown	June '99
Julie Ryalls	(Sports Diver)	Lyme Regis	June '99
Mike down	(Advanced Diver)	North Wales	July '99
Tim Clouter	(Advanced Diver)	Brixham	August '99
Dave Winter	(Sports Diver)	Oban, Scotland	August '99
Steve Hatherall	(Advanced Diver)	West Wales	August '99
Andy Wilson	(Advanced Diver)	Chessil Beach	August '99
Tim Clouter	(Advanced Diver)	Martins Haven, W.Wales	Sept '99
Bob Abbott	(Dive Leader)	Brixham	Sept '99
Julie Ryalls	(Sports Diver)	Cayo Largo, Cuba	October '99

Looking at the list of expedition leader names once again shows that there is little change from previous years. As I have said in before, it would be nice to see other names appearing on the list. Anyone can start the ball rolling by choosing a venue, doing the initial work of organisation the accommodation and then allowing the diving to sort itself out as things develop. Some of the expeditions this year have just happen and some have taken months to organise, especially where accommodation is taken into consideration. BUT THEY HAVE HAPPENED, so come on all of you, *Dive Leaders and Advanced Divers* especially, let see some action.

Now back to the normal format.

This year has seen dive logs being submitted nearly every month, with the exception of February and March. If you look at the statistics you can see that these trips have been well attended. There has also been quite a diversity of dive sites visited throughout the year, from Oban in Scotland and Lleyn Peninsula in West Wales to Lyme Regis in Dorset and Salcombe & Plymouth in Devon. Some have even ventured further afield and we have seen trips to Thailand, Lanzarote, Minorca, Tsougraki in Greece and the Red Sea featured in submitted logs, with Cayo Largo in Cuba being the latest venue visited by certain club members. There have been return trips to some favourite site throughout this season and one worth mentioning is Lyme Regis, where the weather was kind to us for a change. Salcombe, in the early part of the season was a different story, with high winds blowing out the diving all around that area. Hallsands was used as an alternative site, but the boat, although having been serviced prior to the start of the season, let us down with the engine cutting out soon after launching, It failed to start again, despite the efforts of all of those aboard. Finally I got to have a go and as soon as someone said it, the pull cord parted company from the engine. That was the end of that and all that was left was the struggle to recover the boat. After that people dived from the beach and a total of 27 dives were completed. My thanks go to Cyril Hucker, who took extra time out to take the boat to the site in mid-week, this is becoming a chore that is eating into dive profits as expences grow. A group of us returned the following Saturday to take it home again and managed to do some more dives from this site. The month of April saw us using Morris Webb and his boat 'Grace II', for the last time, this was to visit the Bretagne, our club wreck. Morris has given up the UK charter work buisness and left us for a hotter climate. This posed a problem early in May as we had another trip booked with him. Sadly this did not take place, but we are looking for another charter to use in the coming year.

May also saw the Red Sea being visited yet again and we all had to suffer the stories and photographs once everyone had returned. This is a popular site with the club and one year I may actually go there myself. Kimmeridge was also visited early this month and was well attended. My thanks go to all of those that talked me into coming down here, late the Friday evening and for the welcome delights that I received when I arrived on site. (Careful, I may come to expect this every time I arrive late.) This weekend was only spoilt by not being able to eat at the local pub in Church Knowle, especially as us 'older' members had extolled it virtues all that weekend to those that had not been here before. Another site visited that month was *Plymouth*, where we watched a spectacular storm raging out to sea on the very first day. Thankfully this was not to be the norm and it turned into a good weekend. 43 dives were completed, with a visit to the 'James Egan Laine' being one of the highlights of the weekend. Each night saw the compulsory B-B-Q taking place around the caravans and these was especially enjoyed by everyone there. Some day trips started to happen in the early part of June with visits to *Brixham* and *Seatown* taking place. Due to the excellent weather that we were experience at the time, everyone enjoyed the after dive debrief that took place outside the local hostelries, our notice board was also updated around this time with new photo's of some of these events, along with small captions for everyone to enjoy. As my birthday falls in the month of June, a visit to a favourite site of mine was organised. In the past the only diving that took place here was into the local pubs and it was fast becoming a habit that was being enjoyed by all those that attended this weekend venue. This was due to the weather throwing itself at us for the total duration of our stay. This year our visit to Lyme Regis was treated to glorious days of clear skies and high temperatures. This change in our weather fortunes was made the most of and those who came along were able to dive on the Baygitano wreck and East Tennents reef. A total of 33 dives where completed during the stay before the weather started to change, but by then the weekend was nearly finished. July saw us taking over the Hallsands Hotel completely, must to the annoyance of some other people who wished to use it at the same time – they had to stay on the beach. Friday night saw a few hearty souls doing the compulsory night dive from the beach, with minimal shore cover as most of the others were in the bar. Those that dived were most impressed by Tim's navigation, especially as he found the beach on the return trip. Saturday saw a quite hairy boat ride around Start Point to try and find the wreck of the Newholme. Sadly it was not located and all the divers found was sand sand and sand with a few bits of wreckage spewed around. The return trip back around Start point to shore was no better and sighs of relief where heard when we cleared that headland. Dives off Beesands became the order for the day and some trophies where taken for consumption later on. Saturday night saw the birthdays of Julie and Samantha Ryalls being celebrated by everyone and the next morning saw some sore heads of those that had partied the night away to the early hours. Sunday saw the wind change and pick up, blowing directly onto shore, so a trip to Thurlestone Beach and the wreck of the Louie Shield was in order. This turned out to be an excellent dive with good visibility and glorious sunshine. Fun was had later that day when all the boats had to be recovered up the pebbled beach, this completed a very enjoyable weekend. July also saw visits to Horsea Island for training and North Wales for dives with the seals. August was soon with us and the trip to Oban in Scotland was drawing near. Meanwhile Brixham was again visited where additional training was completed. At one point this month there was four different dive trips taking place, our trip to Oban, a training dive trip to Chessil Beach, an Advanced dive at Pulpit Rock and weekend expedition to West Wales. As our equipment officer said to me later, It's comforting to know that this can happen within the club, it goes to reflect on the state of the membership that we have'. The Oban fortnight was one of excellent weather, the locals saying it was the best that they had seen for ages at that time of year. Lots of tours around the area happen the first week, but when Pete Davies turned up with his boat on the Saturday of the second week. Kit was soon assembled ready for the exploration of the wreck the Breda that lies just of shore and various other dive sites around that locality. The Breda was an excellent wreck that should have held lots of opportunities, but the water visibility was not as good as expected and navigation around the wreck was hampered by this fact. The visibility was not to improve until late in the holiday and when the majority of us had made the long return trip home, but those that had stayed on for the Bank holiday week enjoyed it. September was soon knocking on the door and it was open with a trip to Martin's Haven in West Wales, this was followed the next weekend by another trip to Shoalstone beach at Brixham. Reading the dive logs submitted for these trips show that, although they were only day trips, everyone that attended made the most of them and enjoyed themselves to the full.

This has been a condensed report from the dive logs submitted to me, some of the happy, funny or sad happenings that took place within the season before, after or during the diving. But to enjoy them to the full, you have to be there, as words can never convey the events properly. *Kimmeridge*, *Lyme Regis*, *Hallsands* and *Oban* being some that can never be given adequate descriptions of what was enjoyed by those attending these sites. You may have your own memories of something that I have not reported on and this just goes to show how true this statement is. (If you visit our web site, you can read the monthly reports of these dives in more detail, my thanks go to *Tim Clouter* for the sterling work he has put in creating and managing this web site for the club. Why don't you think about donate an article for inclusion within the web, it can be about anything you want. It could be an expedition report or something that is close to your heart, Elizabeth Butterfield did this early this year when she had her school project about Scuba Diving included – [nice photographs Liz.] I'm sure that Tim would help you with this task if needed and it would also keeps the site active. If you have your own web site we can link to you if it's easier)

This year has seen 30 club expeditions of various sorts, from holiday trips to exotic places in the sun, to day trips to local beaches. These trips have logged a total of 737 dives, 440 of these being in UK waters. Once again there may be some trips that have not been logged. This year my congratulations go to Mary Hartigan (36 dives) as the highest female diver and Tim Clouter (56 dives) as the second highest male diver. My congratulations also go to our new president for logging 33 dives this year (all in warm waters). You can forgive Frank this, as he is a very young and spritly 72 years old. On our last expedition to Cuba, he showed everyone how to enjoy the sport to the full, both in and out of the water.

Every year I take the opportunity to thank a few more people for the sterling work that they have done for the membership and especially for me throughout this year and looking at my past D.O. reports show that the same names come to mind yet again.

Bob Abbott, our Boat Care Officer, is someone that I must mention. I am not sure if the membership actually realises the sterling work that Bob does throughout the year. Our boats require more and more work on them as time goes on, work that Bob normally carries out all on his own, even when he should be getting someone to help him with some of the things that need to done. So if he asks for a working party to repair or to maintain the boats, please put your name forward as a volunteer. This is a thankless task and should not be left to one individual. Why not just go up to him and ask him if anything needs to be done, it might just be that they need inflating again or some thing else along those lines, it's a lot more friendly and easier now they are under cover and in the warm. Remember they are just as much your boats, so think about giving a helping hand the next time. We finally managed to complete one task without Bob being present, that of moving the carnival float into the middle room, but he still turned up as we finished and helped tidy up

Someone else I would also like to thank is our **Entertainment Officer**, **Julie Ryalls**, for all the sterling work that she has attempted to do this year. Being married to Julie, I know that she has been under a lot of pressure at work and that the post of Entertainment Officer is one of time consuming tasks with very little reward. This is the main reason that she has had to resign from this post. But she did attempted to provide a variety of entertainment's for the club whilst she has held this post. Sadly, with Julie giving up her post, some of the planned social event did not happen, a few of us took the reigns and organised alternative events. **Mike Oates** organised a 'Go-Karting' evening that was well attended and the video that was taken on the night shows a lot of competitive racing. A trip to Smiles Brewery was another event that took place and the club upheld the tradition of enjoying itself to the full, especially when the beer is free. The only down side to this trip was the restriction on numbers, but another trip can be arranged if required. As time was rushing towards year-end and nothing was being done to arrange the Christmas party except talk, Julie again took up the reigns temporarily and booked a return visit to Cadbury House. **Mary Hartigan** stepped in and took on the task of booking the coach for the trip there and back and now that **Carol Sheppard** has volunteered to help, they are looking after this event between them. So I thank them both for this. Thankfully they have also volunteered to fill the post of Entertainment's Officer for the last few months of this committee and I hope that they will continue with this post in the forthcoming year.

TRAINING

This year has seen a major change going on within the *BSAC* with the introduction of *Club Diver*. These changes have effected our ability to train any new starts by the restrictions on who could and who could not carry out training. Thankfully some of the membership considered this fact and took the time to attend instructor-training courses. We had four of the membership attend the **ACI** course and two of these then went on to do the **CI** course. This course takes a lot of effort and sadly only one was successful in passing, this is no reflection on the other's abilities as you are judged only on your efforts on the day. So I would like to congratulate **Tim Clouter** on achieving **Club Instructor** Grade and **Cyril Hucker**, **Bob Abbott**, **and Dave Winter** on completing the **Assistant Club Instructors** course.

Another change going on within the training structure is that of Dive Leader grade. This is still being debated and a decision on the grade is expected soon, although what this will be is being effected by feedback from the BSAC membership in general. One change I see happening is to that of open water training. I think this will be along the same lines of the confined water training, where who can do the actual drills will be restricted to Open Water Instructors only, (but this is only my views). To pre-empt this change both **Andy Wilson and myself** have attended the **O**pen **W**ater Instructors course and are presently logging the required hours of open water training that is necessary to obtain the qualification. This will allow us to continue with our current training program if these changes come in to effect in the near future.

Another courses that has been attended by club members is that of 'Oxygen Administration', which is a skill developments course and a pre-request for Advanced Diver grade. This is one course that I think <u>ALL</u> of our active divers should attended and become proficient in, especially as the club owns its own oxygen equipment. To this end **Tim Clouter and myself** have attended the Oxygen Administration courses so as to obtain our instructor recognition, this will therefore allow us to run the course in-house, with a minimum cost to our membership.

New starts this season

Carol and Joseph Sheppard, Stephen and David Williams, Elizabeth Butterfield

Awards achieved

This year has seen the following qualifications awarded. Congratulations to you all.

3 Dive Leaders

Stewart Butterfield, Ian Conibear and Richard Lunn

3 Sports Divers

Mary and Tony Hartigan, Steve Moore

1 Novice I Divers

Roslyn Lunn

This year has seen a few new starts within the club and these have fallen under the new training program, which I think has gone fairly well. I must take the opportunity to thank every one who has helped these new starts, both in the pool and the open water, as they themselves would. I thank **Andy Wilson, Cyril Hucker and Tim Clouter** for their sterling work throughout the year and I hope I can count on them in the forthcoming year as well. The old training program has now come to an end, so anyone who is still requires disciplines in these grades need to complete them before year-end, or early next year otherwise they will have to start on the new training structure. Dive Leader lectures can still be given as and when required for those that need them as this program is still under review.

Thank you to all those people who have made themselves available to give lectures this year.

Special thanks at this time must also go to those who have helped in our *Try-Out nights*, The list is a long one so bear with me. We have had 17 Try Nite's since January and have had 149 people of various age groups in the pool. This has generated much needed revenue, which has gone into the clubs coffers. Some of this revenue has been used to replace club equipment, but the majority of it has gone to general club use. One thing about these nights is that it gives people a chance to try Scuba in a safe environment and everyone who has had a go has said how much they have enjoyed the experience. So I hope those members that help on these nights get as much enjoyment from them as the visitors do. These nights, along with our Introduction to Diving course that Andy and myself run, have raising a considerable sum for the club since they were introduced. So I thank <u>ALL</u> that have help with the pool work this year. **Bob Abbott, Stewart Butterfield, Ian Conibear, Mike Down, Richard Lunn, Carol Berry** (re Moore), **Rob Sutton, Dave Winter, Paddy Clark,** and not forgetting **Cyril Hucker and Tim Clouter** (*These two name keep cropping up don't they*)

CONCERNS

One thing I like about training is that I have to keep my knowledge and skills up to date and one way to do this is to keep abreast of the Safe Diving Practises that are issued each year by the BSAC. One aspect of this is that you always do your deepest dive first and ALL dives on the same day are progressively shallower after that. To help me in this I break my depths down into bands, 0-9m, 10-19m, 20-30m, 30m+. So long as I do not cross into another band by going one or two meters deeper I think I am abiding by the rules, especially as I use a dive computer as an aid. Looking at some of the dive logs that have been submitted to me this year, shows that there are some of us that disregard this advice and often carry out dives that are in excess of five meters deeper. This will take them into another one of my bands and I think it does not show a regard for safe diving practises. Thankfully there has not been any incidents from these events, but this can be put down to good fortune or chance, not to planning, we have been lucky so far and no one has had a major incident, some other divers have not been so lucky this year. This has been shown by the BS-AC incident report and reading this and the reports that are printed in the media has shown yet another year that has seen a dramatic increase in the number of diving related incidents. Some of these are related to the introduction of new equipment now available to Sports Diver and some of them are due to the dramatic increase in the number of people who are actually learning to dive, be it with the different training organisations that are around. Some divers are pushing the equipment to the edge of its specifications, others diving to the limit and beyond of their knowledge and skills. Some of these divers have found out that one of them was not to be exceeded and the result of pushing them to extremes being that of death or something very near it. The incident report also shows that a majority of the incidents appear to stem from the type of diving that was undertaken. Divers not preparing themselves for the diving that they wish to undertake, displaying the 'It won't happen to me 'attitude, sadly for some it did happen with drastic consequences. This year has seen the club submitted three incident reports, thankfully none of a drastic nature, although any incident can be looked on as being serious. All of these reports concern equipment uses, where something failed or did not work correctly. Two of them happen in open water and could have had totally different outcome, the other happen in the pool and

is not fully understood as yet. One thing I hope is that in the future no Diving Officer of this club will ever have to submit a report that is about a fatality or incident resulting in a permanent disability of a club member. To this end, when you go diving next year, reflect on the type of diving that you are going to undertake. Evaluate it and see if you will be diving beyond your knowledge or skills, do not just do it because it is there to be done. Ensure the equipment that you are using is up to the demands that you will expect from it, ensure that you have check and serviced it. You have seen and read about what can happen when this type of activity is carried out, remember -- **PLAN THE DIVE - DIVE THE PLAN --** its easier that way and everyone knows what is to be don. Do not forget the word that you were taught whilst learning to dive, its easier to say no before the dive, than when things start to go wrong. You can bet that this will happen when you are actually diving and it's too late to stop things going wrong, that's SOD's LAW. On a recent expedition, I was please to see one of our members taking steps to improve the depths that she was diving to and doing these in sensible steps that she was happy with. By the end of the expedition she was pleased with herself for achieving the magic thirty-meter mark, although she said she was still a bit nervous but getting there all the same.

If next season you find that you have not dived for some months, please think about starting with some shallow dives, if only to check your equipment and skills, then work your way up to any significant depth as the season progresses. Always do your deepest dive first and any others progressive shallower on the day.

Please THINK SAFE, and DIVE SAFE.

Summary

So to summaries this report along with this years activities

The weather this year has been a significant improvement on last year. She has allowed us to visit and dive a variety of different sites throughout the year. The feed back from the submitted logs shown that those that have taken part have enjoyed themselves to the full and that the evening festivities have added to this enjoyment as well.

If things need doing its the same old faces that help, so please put your name forward for a change when there's something to be done or preferable ask if anything need doing before hand. E.g. boat working parties, Car park duties, pool duties, (if Dive Leader or above). Lectures, Training or organising club dives.

There have been a few happy, sad and funny things that have taken place this year, but you have to be there to appreciate them to the full.

My thanks to all those that have help me throughout the year. Particularly to **Andy Wilson**, and **Julie Ryalls** for all their sterling efforts throughout this year.

My thanks also go to all of those that have help on the numerous Try Out Nites that have taken place this year. This is a good earner for the club and brings in much need revenue.

Thinks about what you are going to do before you get in the water and plan it sensible, then go and do it. Remember 'Plan the Dive - Dive the Plan' so every one know what is happening, what depth, what time etc.

LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT SEASON AND HOPE THAT IT IS AS GOOD OR BETTER THAN THIS YEAR.

MAY YOUR AIR SUPPLY BE PURE, THE WATER VISIBILITY EXCELLENT, AND THE DIVING GOOD.

SEE YOU ALL UNDERWATER



Bristol Aerospace Sub-Aqua Club Diving Officers Report 1998/99

AGM Notes

Welcome New starts to AGM: Especially DO's Report

Complaints that report was to short, so I have take note and will keep it the same this year.

Thank people for organising dives

- River Avon Dive, Salcombe, Plymouth Cyril Hucker

- Barrow Tanks, Club Wreck, Seatown, Brixham, Martin's Haven

Tim ClouterAndy Wilson - Brixham, Chessil Beach

 Mike Down - Red Sea, North West Wales

Julie Ryalls - Thailand, Lyme Regis, Cuba

 Dave Winter - Kimmeridge, Oban

 Bob Abbott - Brixham Steve Hatherall - West Wales

REMEMBER WE ALL HAVE SAME INTEREST --- DIVING --- Plant the seed

- 737 logged dives; 512 boat dives; 440 dives in the UK; UP ON LAST YEAR
 - 179 440 dives 146%up
- 30 dive expedition from
 - Oban in Scotland to Salcombe & Plymouth in Devon, Lyme Regis & Brixham in Dorset
- Further afield
 - Red Sea to Cuba, single days to 2 weeks

•	Highest female	Mary Hartigan	36 dives
•	Second highest male	Tim Clouter	56 dives

- Club President Frank Rodgers 33 dives – 72yrs young – Warm waters
- Three lady members in the top ten places. With a total of 96 dives
- At one time 4 events on at same time Oban, W.Wales, Pulpit rock, Chessil Beach.
- Hope next season will see trend continuing

Thanks: -

- Bob Abbott
- Boat Care Officer
- Sterling work that he has done throughout the year
- Finally managed one job without him Turned up at end
- Julie Ryalls Entertainment's Officer
 - Another thankless task; Does lots to help club coffers, sorry to see her go.
 - Welcome to Mary Hartigan and Carol Sheppard
- Tim Clouter Equipment Officer
 - Yet another task with hidden jobs. But main thanks are for setting up the Club Web Site which is getting quite a few hits.
 - Please submit something towards this and keep it active.
- Other to thank but will leave to later

Happy / Funny / Sad happenings

 Normally talk about happenings, but if you want to know, read the stories, better still why not come away on the trips. Better still visit our WEB site and read the expedition reports that have been submitted

Training

- Andy Wilson -Training Officer
 - Looked after the Pool Training Program for this year.
 - Just as important Other member's who helped with training.
 - Cyril Hucker; Tim Clouter; Bob Abbott; Dave Winter
 - Congratulation to
 - Tim CI
 - Cyril, Bob, Dave ACI
- Without these there would be no training program for those that need it
- If anyone feels the urge and would like to attend a NQI's course, Andy and myself pleased to help where required. – Sports – ACI / DL – CI
- Training helps review knowledge
- Another group are those that help in TRY-OUT nights £650
 - Bob Abbott, Stewart Butterfield, Ian Conibear,
 - Mike Down, Richard Lunn, Carol Berry (re Moore),
 - · Rob Sutton, Dave Winter, Paddy Clark,
 - and not forgetting Cyril Hucker and Tim Clouter (These two name keep cropping up don't they)
- These Nite's bring in much need revenue to club coffers;
- Over the years have generated considerable income.
- Qualification this year; Congratulations to you all, you know who you are

Thanks to other committee members for their help throughout year

Concerns

- Like training as keeps skills and knowledge up to date
- Safe Diving Practices Deepest 1st shallower 2nd, 3rd etc.
- Annual BS-AC incident report
 - Increase again in number of diving incidents, 3 submitted by the club this year
 - Resort Diving
 - Diver's displaying the 'IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME 'syndrome
 - Club members on expeditions this year noticed this.
 - Next season take a few moments to reflect on type of diving going to undertake
 - REMEMBER Start shallow and work way up to deep diving
- Plan The Dive Dive the Plan
 - Sod's Law it will happen at the worst moment.
 - Club member steps to 30 meters on recent expedition nice to see
- Major change in how we can train members. How it effect this club, without training club may not survive.

Summary

- Weather has played a large part in the number of dives completed
- · What diving taken place enjoyed by those attending
- · Increase in club logged dives this year
- If things need doing it the same face that turn up
- Volunteer for
 - Boat working parties
 - Car park duties
 - Pool duties (DL and above)
 - Lecture & poll training programs
 - ORGANISING CLUB DIVES
- My thanks to all that have help me this season with club activities
 - especially
 - Andy Wilson
 - Bob Abbott
 - Julie Ryalls
 - Cyril Hucker; Tim Clouter
- SO LET'S HOPE NEXT YEAR IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THIS YEAR AND THE WEATHER IS A LOT BETTER
- KEEP ON DIVING