

MOUTHPIECE

"THE KEYBOARD AND DIGITAL PRINTING IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD" THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2004

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



It seems like it has been a long time since we have been diving regularly and at last we can get back to it!!! Having released the diving program early this year Pat has been able to put together a more comprehensive dive program hopefully suiting all of our needs. There are still a few places left though, so get in quick and don't miss out (a full program of both diving and social events is available from the website: www.surreyaquanauts.org.uk < <http://www.surreyaquanauts.org.uk/> > .

Some of the dives arranged this year will be challenging, so whether you are booked on these or it is going to be your first dives of the year, makes sure you have fully checked your kit, and are appropriately "dived up".

Since the last issue of Mouthpiece the new members dinner, now an annual event, has been held and was again another successful evening out, enjoyed by all. Thanks again Pat.

The committee is currently organising a new range of club regalia, so keep your eyes peeled for the latest in Surrey Aquanauts fashions appearing on a cat walk near you! If you have any special request then please let me know.

On a slightly different note please can anyone who changes any details through out the year supply changes to me at chris.knights@zoom.co.uk so that we can keep the clubs record up to date.

Be Safe & Enjoy Your Diving.
Regards, Christopher Knights

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN FEELING ALONE LATELY, BUT NOW YOU CAN SLEEP SAFELY IN YOUR BEDS...

FIND OUT WHY.
FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DIVE BOOKINGS FOR 2004 ?

There are still a few places left, so to be sure of having any dives this year, contact me, Pat Gibbon, Tel: 01483 770819, as soon as possible to secure your place.





DO'S COLUMN

Welcome to another year of diving. Time to get your kit together and possibly your skills after the long winter break. It is better to find your faults in the pool than on the first hard boat dive.

As you can see the hard boats are filling up fast. It is nice to see the keenness. For the more experienced members, there is a club rib to use, lets make use of it this year. I have been checking the medicals, I am a bit short, I have forms, so please ask.

Good luck to all of those going to the Red Sea for the first time, it should be a great experience & super fun.

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

I am still waiting for names for club instructor courses! come on all you budding dive leaders.

Talk to us. We will help you complete the course and then you will be able to help so much more within the club. Helping others is very rewarding. Just as you were helped, once upon a time, by others before you.

February saw our first talk. We are now better informed as to the workings of the late Concord I hope you all enjoyed it. This was followed by yet another games night testing our stamina & engineering skills. Well done to all who took part. We need a good turn out to make these nights successful. The games are tailored to give all a chance so come on down & have a go next time.

Have a Good Years Diving & remember, **"The Brass is out there"**.

Chris Knights

THURSDAY POOLSIDE HELPERS NEEDED

We are desperate to find some other people to offer Lifesaving Help at the poolside every Thursday. If you are a qualified diver you can do it - it is as simple as that.

If you are swimming OR not swimming and could just help out by being at the poolside, watching for anybody in difficulty, then please do so. Just put on the 'yellow jacket'.

Speak to Chris Knights if in doubt.

Doesn't take much. Obviously, if you are not swimming then you obviously do not need to pay entry, just tell Sally. Many thanks

NEWS ACROSS

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

Thanks to all those who turned up to the New Members Dinner at the Bridge Barn on Saturday 17th of January. The place was full to overflowing with a record 37 people turning up.

Angelike Gibbon (her indoors) did us proud and negotiated the cheapest dinner yet at £12.50 all inclusive of 3 course dinner, tea and coffee afterwards including the tip.

The food was excellent, served by a cheerful pair.

Tracey Norrie organised the "Bring Your Worst Christmas Present and Get Rid of the Bloody Thing Competition" which was a huge success and nothing were left.

Ed seat remained empty all evening on account of him forgetting the Dinned was on that evening, Thanks Ed for making me look good.

Paul Dawkins surprised us all by phoning one hour before and requesting a ticket. As you may know, he now works in Frankfurt, Germany and travels back as much as he can to go diving and visit us. Always a pleasure to see him.

Many thanks to Paul Godfrey and Darren Stribling for listening to Gills all evening. Most kind of you to put up with her.

With nobody disgracing themselves, the evening was over all too soon.

Thank you all so much for turning up. Always a pleasure to see so many people.

Without you, the members, the evenings event would have been empty and extremely lonely.

Such pearls of wisdom.



OVER HERE JUST BEFORE THE BIRTH

An old club member dropped into the pub a couple of weeks in a row to say hello before returning to America.

Chris Howard (pictured left) and Dariarse are due to have their first baby in May. Mother (pictured right) was looking stunning and well as they caught up on club gossip. We had to fight off OK Magazine for the exclusive rights to this story.

Full details of the birth with pictures of the actual event and the first pictures of the baby, will be published next issue, so get in early and make sure that your orders are placed to receive the magazine.

It was good to see them and we wish them all the best and hope that all goes well with the birth.

THE CLUB AS IT HAPPENED

UNTIE THAT YELLOW RIBBON, POP THOSE CHAMPAIGN CORKS, ... OUR SON IS BACK NOW A FULLY TRAINED MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE



Brains Bangle

and exhausting, I do not know how I completed the course. I am very, very brave. AND, totally unselfishly, would do anything to save damsels in distress especially ones that look like Kylie or Mick Iles. I must add, that I look bloody handsome in my blue uniform and I am available for Hen Does and Pole Dancing any time and anywhere."

Completely underwhelmed by the interview so far, I had a couple of more pertinent, interesting questions to ask.

"Stephen, I could not fail to notice that you have something in your pouch. Is it a gun or are you just pleased to see me." (Editors Note: Sorry about that line, I know it was a bit naff but I am getting totally bored with this story line and need to move on).

"Now that you are a trained Member of International Rescue, what methods do you propose to employ to save the club from destruction, harm and danger?"

"Well Brains Bangle, Guinness, Guinness is at the heart of the clubs salvation and I aim to use it to its full potential."

"Finally Stephen, I need to resolve this issue once for all and put the whole affair to bed, so to speak."

"Is it true that your father is really Pat 'The Hood', or is it the third member of 'The Silver Fox Brigade, that father figure to us all, Chief Thunderturd, Brigadier Grahame Walker? After all, there are many members of the club who are totally confused."

In true star celebrity style, he replied, *"No comment - now f.k off four eyes."*



London Airport ground to a halt last week as one of OUR SONS returned to the Mother Club. Stephen Willett, Mighty Mallard, Chief Duckling flew into Heathrow amid scenes of utter disinterest. Thousands gathered everywhere and totally ignored him as he was welcomed back from Texas by nobody. Seldom had the authorities witnessed such scenes of apathy. Our Political and Homo Affairs Reporter, Brains Bangle, pictured right, was there to meet him off Thunderturd 2, as it touched down at 2.15pm local time to give him a damn hard drilling, sorry grilling.

"Stephen, on behalf of the population of England, I would like to welcome you back to this septic isle of ours - but unfortunately, I can't."

"How do you feel after your brave exploits in America, training under Jeff Tracy to become the first member of Surrey Aquanauts to become a Thunderturd muppet?"

"Well, Brains Bangle, it is actually not such a great surprise to be greeted by you in this manner, but I do think it is time you stoped shaking my appendage - my hand is actually here."

"Sorry about that Stephen. Now tell me, how does it feel to now be a member of International Rescue, and to be allowed to wear the famous IR Badge on your splendid ample chest."

"To be honest, it is not something we in Thunderturds like to talk about and modesty forbids me from mentioning it and I would certainly never use it as a means of gaining sympathy, admiration and lusting love from the females members of the human race because this would against our code of practice, be totally unfair and put me at an unfair advantage over all other members of mankind and lesser mortals. All I can say is that it was tough, so tough, difficult

“I LOVE MY JOB...”

Next time you have a bad day at work...think of this guy. Rob is a Commercial saturation Diver for Global Divers in Louisiana. He performs underwater repairs on offshore drilling rigs. Below is an E-mail he sent to his sister. She then sent it to radio station 103.2 on your FM dial in Wayne, Indiana, who was sponsoring a worst job experience contest.

Needless to say, she won. Now read on.....

Hi Sue,
Just another note from your bottom-dwelling brother. Last week I had a bad day at the office. I know you've been feeling down lately at work, so I thought I would share my dilemma with you to make you realise it's not so bad after all. Before I can tell you what happened to me, I first must bore you with a few technicalities of my job. As you know, my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office. It's a wetsuit. This time of year the water is quite cool. So what we do to keep warm is this: We have a diesel powered industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of equipment sucks the water out of the sea. It heats it to a delightful temperature. It then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose, which is taped to the air hose.

Now this sounds like a darn good plan, and I've used it several times with no complaints. What I do, when I get to the bottom and start working, is take the hose and stuff it down the back of my wetsuit. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a Jacuzzi.

Everything was going well until all of a sudden, my bum started to itch. So, of course, I scratched it. This only made things worse. Within a few seconds my bum started to burn. I pulled the hose out from my back, but the damage was done. In agony I realised what had happened. The hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it into my suit. Now since I don't have any hair on my back, the jellyfish couldn't stick to it. However, the crack of my bum was not as fortunate. When I scratched what I thought was an itch, I was actually grinding the jellyfish into the crack of my bum. I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the communicator. His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he, along with five other divers, were all laughing hysterically. Needless to say I aborted the dive. I was instructed to make three agonising in-water decompression stops totalling thirty-five minutes before I could reach the surface to begin my chamber dry decompression. When I arrived at the surface, I as wearing nothing but my diving helmet. As I climbed out of the water, the medic, with tears of laughter running down his face, handed me a tube of cream and told me to rub it on my bum as soon as I got in the chamber.

The cream put the fire out, but I couldn't poo for two days because my bum was swollen shut. So, next time you're having a bad day at work, think about how much worse it would be if you had a jellyfish shoved up your backside!

Now repeat to yourself, "I love my job, I love my job, I love my....."

‘LEGEND’ IN NEW FERRY BOAT VENTURE ~ BUT IS IT WISE ?

Picture supplied by Steve Willett

After being successfully refloated by one of the Isle of Wight Lifeboats, the owners decided to put the boat to a new use, as a Freight Carrier. Nice idea - But was it wise ?

All old members will know the story, it is now 'Legendary' (sorry about that). One of our dive boats sunk on a dive around the Isle of Wight a few years ago. We still think that it was as a consequence of too much Indian food and beer the night before, as there were a few 'Chubbily Challenged' divers on board.

Fortunately, nobody was hurt, mainly because GOD was on board, but, several members lost a lot of kit, money and car keys.



The legal process still grinds on, and has now reached a crescendo of inactivity.

But the main thing to celebrate here is - A NEW WRECK TO DIVE...

Small Right Insert:
Last picture of Legend after the sinking



NEW YEAR'S DAY DIVE

By Grabame Walker



Above: The WOMEN wait for their men folk to return, like the loyal 'fluffy' things they are.

This year was a bit different as there was actually a purpose to it all. A dinghy owner from Littleton Sailing Club had lost some equipment overboard during December and we had been requested to find it. (Three of us spent an hour in the water on Christmas Eve, looking for – and recovering – a sail, but that's another story! Suffice it to say that the renowned brass hunter of the club is also lucky with sails.) This time we were looking for the rudder, but unfortunately we did not find it. Nothing to do with water temperature, disorganised searching techniques, or pub time approaching, of course. Although the viz was very good, the possible location of the rudder was not nearly so clear. Perhaps understandably, when a dinghy capsizes the crew have other things to think about rather than trying to take transits.

Needless to say the turnout at the pub was much better than at the lake, and as with a lot of diving at Littleton, taking about it afterwards was much better than doing it. A good time was had by all. **Then, just as everyone was finally leaving the pub, who should arrive but our beloved Editor of Mouthpiece! Typical or what?**

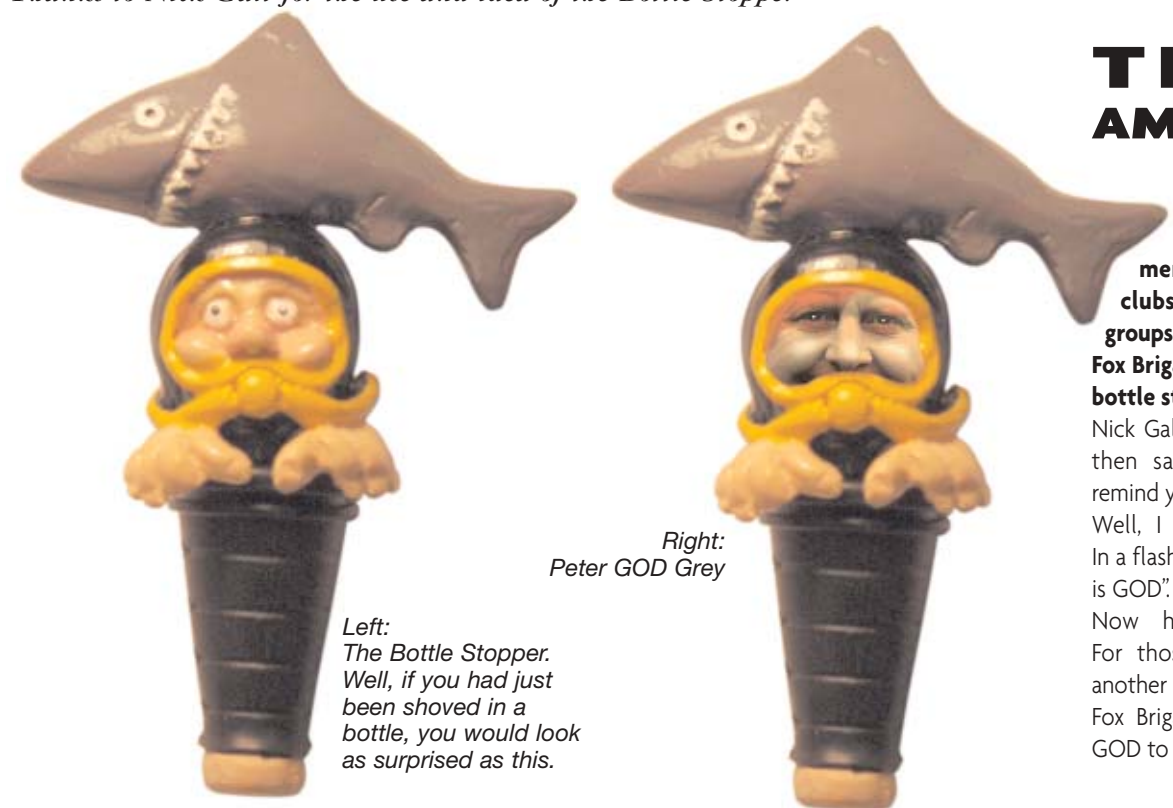
The scene at the pub as 'The Editor' arrives at the pub. At least he had a cheap round of drinks.



Well, some of us managed to get up in time and get in the water again for this annual event. Perhaps because the weather was a bit milder this year we managed a total of six divers. There were the regulars, Chris Knights; the occasional, Mick Iles, Andy Richmond and Grahame Walker; and the first timers, Brian Johnston and James Linehan. One of the usual regulars (and on one previous icy occasion, the only diver), Steve Willett, was present in body. Unfortunately, the spirit was still much too much in evidence to permit him to dive. He must have had a very good evening the night before! As ever, there were more onlookers than divers, supplying the usual encouragement.

SEPARATED AT BIRTH OR WHAT

Thanks to Nick Galt for the use and idea of the Bottle Stopper



Left:
The Bottle Stopper. Well, if you had just been shoved in a bottle, you would look as surprised as this.

Right:
Peter GOD Grey

TRULY AMAZING & UNCANNY!

Just after Christmas, a member of one of the clubs elite diving sub-groups, known as 'the Silver Fox Brigade', handed me a wine bottle stopper.

Nick Galt, for I cannot tell a lie, then said to me, "Does this remind you of anybody". Well, I needed no prompting. In a flash (as is my way), I said, "It is GOD".

Now how spooky is that. For those who do not know, another member of 'the Silver Fox Brigade' is Peter Grey - or GOD to us lesser mortals.

ROCKY HORROR DINNER DANCE

It promised to be another spectacular, raunchy party, as usual at Chobham Village Hall, and it was. Such a shame that the Dive Show decided to alter date and have it on the same weekend as our D Dance. The least they could have done was to come. Bastards.

This meant that the numbers attending were less than normal, so we only just broke even on the evening thanks to some extremely tight budgeting and generosity of Sue. Again, many thanks.

However, because of the Raffle, very well organised by Traci Millett and Dr. Nicky and contribution from you all, we managed to raise £310 in for the club. Brilliant

Anyway, we had new caterers this year, as the old lot, Maria and Crowd, decided to retire.

Fortunately for us, we have a professional caterer for our club. **SUE PERFETTO**, one of our longest serving members, was the caterer this time AND she did an absolutely fabulous job. We all thank her so much for her efforts. Chef Henry was her only paid helper, our own **JANE WEISZ** did an equally splendid job, rushing around like a rushing around thing, serving etc, and Jane. Without belittling Maria's great food of past years, Sue's food was the best that we have had. I have no idea how she did it so well so tasty, at such a cost.

Thanks Sue (pictures left having a rare but we deserved rest)



I was sorry that the Magician, supplied for your entertainment, did not make a bigger impression. He was young and did his best and was probably a bit daunted by such a rabble of divers. He also supplied the 'DiscoZ' although I hate that word. If anybody can suggest a new, good DJ for next year, it would really be appreciated.

The Fancy Dress theme, as always, was optional, but for those brave enough to indulge us, the theme of 'The Rocky Horror Show', was enough to bring out the weird from the woodwork and present us all with our own HORRORS.

Nick Galt as Frankinferter, was the best dressed male, Tim Hayter (pictured right) was overall winner as best dressed female and Rowena, Traci and Linda were the bestest females and overall winner, judged by a selection of totally impartial judges, who were bribed with the promise of sexual favours.

He looked terribly white and goblinish in his brilliant costume. Congratulations Nick. However, I have a confession to make. I promised a prize to the best, but forgot to present it immediately and as a result of the delay, Hajo drank your prize, a bottle of bubbly which he grabbed from me. Sorry.

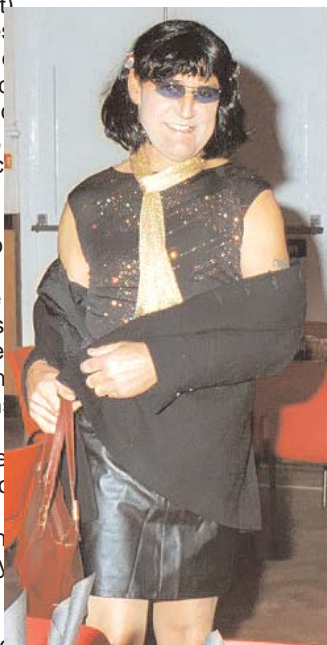
Thanks to all those who helped with the laying out and decorating of the room - Sally Walker, Chris Knights, Traci Millett Millett, Sarah and Hajo, Andy Bonze, Jane, Christopher, Linda and Andy BinglyBonglyBongles (sorry if I got the spelling wrong and left anybody out), and also to the many who cleared up afterwards. You all did a good job.

This event is always a team effort, and none of it would be possible but for you, the members, coming. Please continue to do so. It is for you to enjoy and I thank you all for turning up.

Tim Hayter as 'The Total Slut' above, why do blokes just love dressing up as camp sluts. He does it so well. BinglyBonglyBongles below. Nick and Peter without makeup or fancy dress (God usually looks like that). Left, the two drunks, Brian and Simon - no change there.

Far left, Hajo near naked - Don't ask.

Far left, Hajo near naked - Don't ask.



Do you remember back in 1998, "The Dive Doctor" had a regular slot in this great magazine.

Unfortunately he has to go off to save the world, but we have since found a panel of 4 esteemed noteworthy doctors, willing to take up the fallen mantle and offer assistance to anybody in the club who has a dive related medical problem or just a medical problem.

All details and names will be kept in strict confidence and we promise to abide by The Data Protection Act.

~ Give us a call ~
no problem too big or too small

This letter was sent under plain brown envelope and comes from a highly respected, handsome, fit young healthy adult male that is a very handsome devil.

Letter to the Doctors:

Dear Doctors,

I am so pleased that you are there. I have a medical problem and do not know what to do about it.

My problem is a deep down below problem. About 6 months ago I noticed that I had a permanent bloated feeling and that I was unable to pass any stools. Chairs, tables, club hammers did not seem to be a problem, but for the life of me, I could not pass any stools from my system. The problem is continuing and I am desperate for some relief. Without a solution from yourselves, I fear that I will never be able to dive again. Please can you help a poor member.

Please, as it is very personal and embarrassing problem, I would be forever in your debt, if you could help me, keep the details a total secret and keep this letter anonymous, and not reveal my name.

Reply from the Doctors:

Dear Pat

We have today received your X-Ray from the Radiology Department. Yours is an extremely rare complaint. Seldom have we ever come across such a difficult case to diagnose. It has taxed our skills to the limits. We have raised the issue with the Medical Council and have published a paper in the Lancet. We have finally found the answer to your problem.

It would appear that you have Digitalis Insertus Rectumnastyus. We strongly recommend an operation and if successful, we are sure that we can permanently remove the finger from your bum. I thank you.