

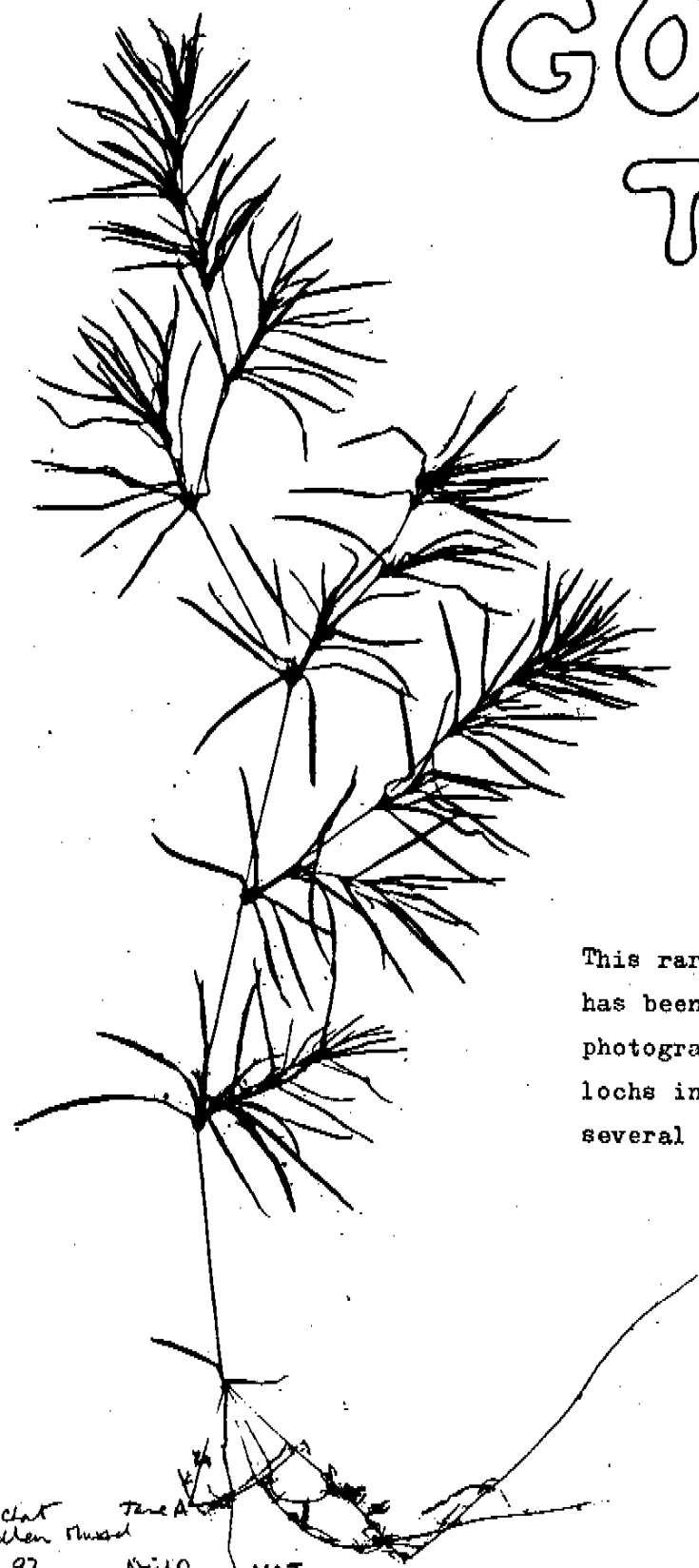
Neil (Neil) Mackenzie

GOBY TOO

ISSUE 15

March 1997

" SLENDER NAIAD "
or Najas flexilis



This rare Red Data Book species has been surveyed and photographed in freshwater lochs in Perthshire by several members of I.S.A.C.

(a unique,
dedicated team
of nutters)

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This issue of the "Goby Too" is free and this means that I will have to edit one more edition of the magazine. If anyone would like to take over the editorship, then do let me know.

As you can see below Fiona and Neil have been incredibly busy organising training. I suppose these long lists of names can be boring reading, but I feel the effort of all those involved needs to be acknowledged.

Thanks must go to Donald MacNeil, Alan Hardwick, Neil MacInnes and Jim Skirving, for their contributions and to Valerie James for her cover design.

CLUB CHIT CHAT

1. Kath Maclean, Eileen Stuart and Nick Brennan are Sports Divers and Jeff is a Dive Leader, congratulations.
2. Jim Skirving did a very intensive Advanced Diver training course with the army, he has written about it elsewhere in the magazine and is now an Advanced Diver. Congratulations to him.
3. Dive Leader lectures are completed and those who are working towards Dive Leader are: John MacRitchie, Nicola, Lisa, Donald MacNeil, Campbell Dickson and Phillip MacLennan.
4. George Black, Mike MacPherson and Fiona McCulloch did very well and passed their Club Instructor exam at the beginning of November as did Jim Skirving when he sat it in February. Donald MacNeil attended the ITC in February.
5. On Saturday 25 January Donald MacNeil, Mike MacPherson, Fiona McCulloch, Nicola MacInnes, Jeff Anderson, Ben Wilson and 2 divers from Thurso successfully completed the Oxygen Administration course run by George Brown.
6. The very next day a completely different group got together and took their Diver Cox'n course under the leadership of John Leigh and Bruce Humby. Those who participated were: Ewan Gillespie, Lynne Aitchison, Bruce Greig, Neil MacInnes, Phillip MacLennan and George Black. Steve Bush and Fiona McCulloch completed the same course about a year ago and will be getting their certificates at the same time. On the weekend of 8 Feb Mike MacPherson and Donald MacNeil passed their Diver Cox'n at Stonehaven.
7. Contrary to what I said in Issue 14 of the "Goby Too", 10, not 13, novices have been trained this year and now that Ann MacKay has returned to the club we have 11, all of whom have passed Novice 1 plus Ann, Colin and Fiona Clark are at Novice 2 level.
8. Mike MacPherson, Fiona McCulloch, and Jim Skirving are taking the Open Water Instructor's course on 15 March.
9. John MacRitchie and Donald MacNeil are now boat handlers.
10. We need to thank Nicola MacInnes who very competently stood in for Cathie Cowie as Secretary until the AGM.
11. John, Fiona Clark, Sandy and Robin acted as safety cover for the RYA sailing training day held at Fortrose in November.
12. The manager of the new pool asked Donald MacNeil for the club's help in cleaning up the new pool so himself, Fiona McCulloch, Mike MacPherson, Neil MacInnes and Sandy, as an overseer, cleared it out on. Donald, Lisa, Mike, Leonard and George Black have been back again since and will have to return every 6 weeks or so to do repeat clean-ups. The club received a £250 donation from the contractors for this. It sounds like a mutually advantageous arrangement.
13. Fiona McCulloch had the good idea of taking the pool staff for a Try it Dive and 3 went in on 14 Feb, and 2 took the plunge on 21 Feb - maybe a few potential recruits there.
14. Boathandling certificates were handed out at the AGM to: Mike MacPherson, John MacRitchie, Nicola, Leonard, Campbell Dickson, Jeff, Dave Henderson, Graham Logan, Jane MacLean, Chris Simpson, Tom Haywood, Sandy and Neil MacInnes.
15. Neil MacInnes has been very busy organising some excellent Friday night entertainment over the last few months. We've had: a quiz night with the 2 Alans; a second hand sale; a talk on the

Antartic by George MacLeod; Frank Law's video on Borneo; Jim McDerment showed his slides of seas around the world; Harry Ross, the marine mammal vet, gave a talk; George Brown updated us on decompression; a camera evening; Neil MacInnes's slides on St Kilda; the BBC video, starring Neil MacInnes and others; Steve Bush's lecture on buoyage; Mike Armitage showed a video on Surface Aids and Jim Skirving showed a video on the Red Sea.

16. Social events have also been very successful. Mike MacPherson organised a popular night out at Rollerball and, also, himself and John MacRitchie gathered together a large crowd for a very merry Christmas party at the Corriegrath Hotel, followed, I believe, by an even merrier party at Mike MacPherson's. Leonard Donnelly, on his own initiative, organised a great disco for the snorkelling club at Charleston Academy and most recently, much credit has to be given to Fiona McCulloch and others for the work put into an excellent Underwater Olympics - our farewell event to the old pool.

CHIT CHAT

1. Sanders Campbell was diving in Israel before Christmas.
2. George Brown was instructing members of the King of Jordan's Royal Household Branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club for 2 weeks and is NOW away in Mauritius.
3. Phillip was skiing in Norway
4. Everyone will want to wish Gordie and Francis all the very best. They are celebrating their engagement with a holiday to Tunisia.



SETTLER WATCH ALERT

Scottish Natural Heritage have asked us to keep our eyes peeled for potential settlers from the Southern Hemisphere setting up home in the Moray Firth. These incomers are not English (so it's not so bad), but originate in Peru, Chile, the Falkland Islands and Argentina.

Working under various aliases, but generally known as Magellan mussels, these illegal immigrants were apparently spotted in 1994, trawled up from deep water. Bruce claims to be on nodding terms with them having hacked great clumps of them from the legs of tourist oil rigs on holiday from the Gulf of Mexico.

If you should spot them trying to sneak toward the shore anywhere between Buckie and Helmsdale, please inform someone important eg Ben Leyshon at SNH.

Below is an identikit picture and description.

Aulacomya ater

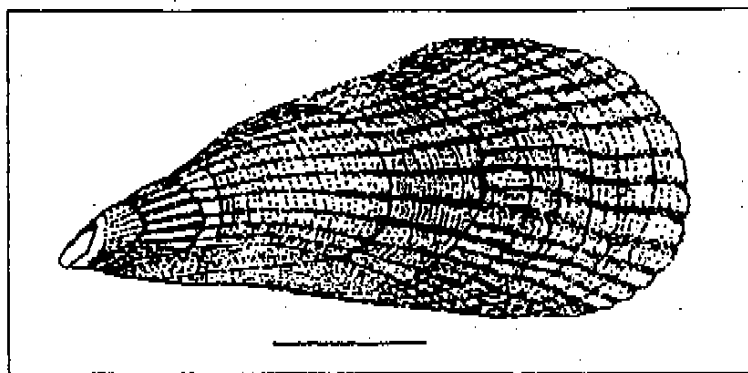


Illustration by Ian S. Reach

Scale bar = 2 cm

Phylum:	Mollusca
Class:	Pelecypoda
Order:	Mytiloidea
Species name:	<i>Aulacomya ater</i> (Molina 1782)
Synonyms:	none

New year, new diving potential, new Labour, ... old D.O!

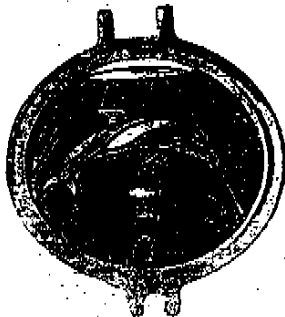
My comments/requests as incoming D.O. in the autumn GobyToo still stand, as do continuing thanks to Fiona & Jeff for carrying on their good work. I'll just add a few more thoughts/requests:

- The Dive programme has exciting prospects, but still needs organisers. Although a weekend requires the particular experience of a Dive Marshall, you can be hugely useful by offering to be the non-dive organiser. Bruce G. hopes to stimulate a wreck dive programme.
- Diving also happens sporadically mid-week; ASK if you want to know, but remember members diving privately, without Club kit, are entitled to do just that!
- BSAC's unique self-help & voluntary approach depends heavily on willing help and cooperative behaviour on our Dive weekends to enjoy them- please keep it so!
- We are a well-'equipped' Club; please preserve it by intelligent use and care, and proper logging. Please ask to see 'unseen' equipment on Club nights.
- New trainees - it was very rewarding to see you bursting into the sea at Morvich. Keep asking your instructors awkward questions!
- DIVER Mag's last few issues (read 'Deep Breath' and the letters, particularly February) contain good debate on various questions, also recently coming from trainees, -Is an octopus the best AAS system? Which side? Where should suit feeds be? Is there a case for a Solo Dive qualification? Are you safe with a lifting bag? Also read February's '96 Incident Report. This may help explain to you some of the instructors' different answers! Please read & think -WE shall target a Friday evening for discussion.
- There may be new life in the old project to produce a dive guide to Loch Duich, coupled with the S.N.H.'s 'SEASearch' programme. Ask for information.

That's enough - here's to exciting dive excursions to match last year's.

Neil MacInnes

Scottish Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs



Trophy presented by K Farrow

Stained glasswork by Isabel Rhodes

From a design by Ken Farrow

Underwater Photography Award 1997

For the most popular photograph taken in Scottish Waters in the year preceding the viewing.

Older photographs are not acceptable but some latitude and longitude is acceptable.

As per previous years the selection will be on the basis of popular acclaim. Photographs in 35 mm slide format will be shown twice in numbered (but otherwise uncredited and not deliberately identified order). The first time the audience will be expected to mark onto their sheets the shots they like. On the second viewing they are required to select their favourite photograph. The winner will thus be the one with the most votes, the runner up the next most popular photographer. The winner for 1996 was Richard Cook of Ellon BSAC who was the runner up at the 1993 Perth Scotfed Conference.

Brief details should accompany each slide to be read out whilst it is projected. They should consist of:-

Site.	Depth.	Camera & Lens.
Date and Time.	Film.	Photographic Details.
		Title.

Entries can be made in separate categories and if sufficient demand exists the best of each category will be determined. Categories for 1997 are as follows :- A General (possibly using the standard lens), B Wide Angle, C Close-up or Macro, D Available Light and E Novice (for entrants who have not won an underwater photography competition at this level). A specific photograph may not be submitted under more than one category. Judging for 1997 will be arranged for the end of the year.

Entries should be sent (with an SAE for return) to K Farrow, Veensgarth, Downies, Aberdeen AB 4QX. Up to six slides per entrant can be submitted. An entry fee of £1 plus 50p per slide should be enclosed, payable to the Scottish Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs. Submission of entry is on the basis that they may freely appear in Diver or Scottish Diving without payment of fee. Slides should be marked with the Entrants name and a SAE supplied for return.

FUTURE EVENTS

DIVING

March

16 Valentine tank. Robin Fraser

23 North coast. ?

April

6 Whiten Head? Neil MacInnes

19/20 Kylesku? Robin Fraser

26 Practical Rescue Management. Fiona McCulloch is keen to run this course in Inverness in April. So if you are a Sports Diver or above - you don't need to be working towards Advanced - tell Fiona. She needs 10 -12 people with their £8 paid up to persuade BSAC to run the course here.

May

3/4 Handa. Ann Speight/George Black

17/18 Shiants/N Skye? Neil Mac/George Brown?

31/1 Cape Wrath/Kinlochbervie. ?

6 Jly Brittany Expedition. Campbell Dickson

? Mid-summer BBQ. John MacRitchie ? Elgg. Frank

? Sledging. Alan Hardwick ? Joint Branch dive

? Lochaline. Ewan Gillespie ? Fame. Jeff

Sea Search

Fiona is going to promote SNH's Sea Search this year. All we have to do is record, on a report sheet, what we see on each dive and then return the forms to SNH. This will add interest to our diving and provide important information to SNH. Fiona will be providing us with more information later, but keep in touch with her if you are interested. However, if you want to get your own "Seasearch Starter Pack" it is available free of charge from SNH, Aquatic Environment's Branch, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP.

POOL

See under Committee Notes.

March

28 Our first night in the new pool. We are yet to be told what time, but clubs are programmed for being in the pool from 7 - 8.30pm.

? Lifesaving

April/May

? Re-breather Try Dive, to be organised by Aberdeen Water Sports at the cut price of £10. The usual cost is £30 so rush to Fiona McCulloch and sign up. She needs confirmation of interest before finalising details.

TRAINING

Mar

21 Lifesaver exam?

FRIDAY NIGHTS

Mar

21 Jane Arnold. Sandy and Alan's "De a Nis?" video and a very basic guide to seaweeds.

28 Sue Scott ? for our first night in the Rugby Club.

April

4 Dive planning/marshalling. Nell M et al.

11 Red Sea slides by Turid MacLennan.

? CPR Review.

OTHER

Mar

15 Cromarty Firth Liason group meeting at Dingwall.

19 Talk on Cromwellian Shipwreck off Duart Point, Mull by Dr Colin Martin. This is to be held after the Inverness Field Club's AGM which starts at 7.15. If you don't want to go to the AGM, go to Millburn Academy at 7.50 and wait outside the hall until you are let in. Cost for non-members - £2, £1 concessionary. Free to members. Membership costs £5.

COMMITTEE NOTES

A successful democracy needs everyone to keep themselves informed. Hadn't you check that the committee isn't absconding with your money? Read the committee minutes which are stuck in the cupboard in the Drumossie/Rugby Club.

1. Neil and Fiona are still needing to see some people's log books. Do check with them that it's not you.
2. The compressor sheets must be put back in the plastic cover once filled in because the shed is very leaky.
3. Neil MacInnes has the new Branch Officer's Handbook which anyone can look at, if they wish.
4. Boats
 - a. We have a new sounder for the "ISAC Red", Neil and Mike have put in a wind screen and bracket and any day now the sounder will be installed.
 - b. You can take the key out of "ISAC Red" and leave the ignition on. So do check it really is off after you've removed the key.
5. Money
 - a. When paying your subscriptions, Robin prefers you to hand in your forms at the same time.
 - b. Robin is, at present, charging people quarterly for tank fills, but finds the process cumbersome and would like the new committee to look at the system.
 - c. At the AGM the club's current assets stood at £3,826 which is a very healthy sum, but Robin feels we must still see 1997 as a year for fund raising.
6. Tanks
 - a. If a tank fails a test the testers must destroy it, by law, AND they are entitled to charge you for the test.
 - b. CLUB TANK NUMBER 5 IS MISSING. Please put it back. We operate on a system of trust, please don't take advantage of it.
7. New pool

The old pool closed to the public at the end of Feb, but we are using it until the new pool opens after the Open Day 26 March. Steve Bush is representing our club at the opening event and our first night in the new pool is 28 March and once in, it will be open to the general public at the same time as we are using it, which means they will have to walk through us and our kit. 4 lanes will be the same price as we are being charged now, but we will need 5 to give us some shallow water.
8. Rugby Club

See elsewhere in the magazine, but we are moving into it for our Friday night sessions on the 28 March.
9. Publicity

Donald MacNeil is spearheading a campaign to publicise the diving club, so look out for articles about us in the local press.

MISSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Do you have any of the following club minutes which you could donate or copy for the club records? Give them to Lisa or Neil MacInnes.

Meetings: Nov 1994

Oct 1994 (NB Dec 1994's minutes were headed "Wed 7th Oct 1994")

AGM Minutes Jan/Feb (probably never done)

Meetings: Oct 1992

NEWS FROM BSAC

Neil handed me a BS-AC COACHING NEWSLETTER for the North of Scotland, Highland and Islands. I'd not heard of it before, but I guess it goes to the boss members of the club. It tells us that the BSAC official web site went active on Friday 24 Jan and the address is <http://www.bsac.com>, and you can e-mail your Regional coach and headquarters eg scotland.coach.north@bsac.com. So now you know Robin.

It reminds us that the Diving Officer's Conference 97 will be on 29/30 Nov in Harrogate and even the likes of you can go. So contact Neil if you're interested.

Of more general interest it tells us that they are developing a number of new Skill Development Courses eg Rescue First Aid, Extended Range Diving, Full Face Mask, Gas Blending and Mixing, Rebreathers. Some are nearly ready to make an appearance, others will be a while yet, but keep an eye open.

A motion is being put to the next BSAC AGM that the minimum age for training be lowered to 12, from 14. Clubs will continue to make their own decisions on their minimum age limit.

The magazine also touches on the debate about Solo Diving, reminds us of the AGM on 31 May 1997 and discusses the new Advanced Diver system. Contact Neil if you want to look at the newsletter at more depth.

BSAC NORTH OF SCOTLAND 1997

Skill Development Courses 97

12/13 Apl	Diver Coxn	Inverness/Forres	£25
"	First Aid for Divers	"	£30
"	Oxygen Administration	"	£35
"	VHF Course, Refresher, Exam	"	£25
26 Apl	Practical Rescue Management	TBA	£35
4/5 Oct	Diver Coxn	Dundee/Perth	£25
"	First Aid for Divers	"	£30
"	Oxygen Administration	"	£35
"	VHF Course, Refresher, Exam	"	£25
18/19 Oct	Boathandling Course	Stonehaven	£60
18 Oct	Diver Coxn	"	£25
TBA	Basic Underwater Photography	TBA	
TBA	Underwater Photography 2 day	TBA	
March	NAS pIII Underwater Photography 3 day	St Andrews	£75
Instructor Training Scheme 97			
14 June	Open Water Instructor Course	Aberdeen	£35
21/22 June	Advanced Instructor Course	Cumbrae	£80
6 Sept	First Class Written Exam	"	£25
6/7 Sept	First Class Practical	"	£60
20/21	Advanced Instructor Exam	"	£70
1 Nov	CIE	Glasgow	£45
1/2 Nov	ITC	Glasgow	£65

Exhibitions/Conferences

22 Mar	London International Dive Show	Olympia
30 May	AGM & Branch Officer's Conference	London
11 Oct	Dive 97	Birmingham
29/30 Nov	Diving Officer's Conference	Harrogate

For details of SDCourses & ITS booking, contact BSAC HQ on 0151 357 1951

For SDC application forms & booking contact Jason Topley on 01224 581313

For NAS Training: Scottish Institute for Maritime Studies, The Scores, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ 01334 462916

Regional Coach, North Scotland - Alison Farrow 01224 780757

NOTES ON THE AGM

OUR NEW COMMITTEE IS:

CHAIRMAN	Donald MacNeil	
VICE CHAIR	Mike MacPherson	
TREASURER	Robin Fraser	
SECRETARY	Lisa Pettigrew	
DIVING OFFICER	Neil MacInnes	
TRAINING OFFICER	Fiona McCulloch	
EQUIPMENT OFFICER	Jeff Anderson	
OTHERS	Colin Wishart	George Black
Fiona Clark	Alan Hardwick	Ann Speight
Turid/Phillip MacLennan	John MacRitchie	Jim Skirving
Irene Yule		

AWARD WINNERS

TRAINEE OF THE YEAR George Black and Lisa Pettigrew
Presented for the first time this year by Fiona McCulloch for the trainee(s) whom the TO feels has (have) benefitted most from their training.

CLAM CUP Leonard Donnelly
Introduced in 1972 for the best project undertaken during the year. The committee decides on the recipient and it is now sometimes given in recognition of special work done ie Leonard's work with setting up the snorkling group within the club.

TELEGRAPH TROPHY Neil MacInnes
This cup was donated by Frank Law in 1985 for the 3 photos which embody the club's spirit most. There was keen competition this year and Neil's photos came third as well as first, with Ben Wilson's coming second.

DIVING OFFICER'S CUP Jeff Anderson
A thirty pound book token goes with this cup which was donated by John Weston's family in 1991 in memory of John. It is for the person who has most helped the DO during the year and Neil was obviously torn as to whether the award should go to Jeff or Fiona.

GOBY AWARD Harry Ross - Marine mammal vet
Presented in 1995 by Fiona McCulloch for the best Friday night entertainer of the year.

RUGBY CLUB

We are moving to the Rugby Club for our post swim sessions on the 28 March. For those of you who aren't macho rugby fans, the Rugby Club is the building in the field between the canal and the end of the road which leads to the Floral Hall and Sports Centre.

The enormous advantage of the Rugby Club is its proximity to the new swimming pool, plus Jack Barrie, the Rugby Club's president, has said we can use the premises, at no extra cost, for dances, discos and that we will be given the keys for upstairs so we can use it free of charge for training on other week days except Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. This will help to offset the £20/week charge and, as the Rugby Club are buying us a coffee making machine, we might sell food on the Friday nights to help cover costs. There is some space downstairs for the storage of bottles however the Rugby Club has no long term plans for building an extension and if we were to try to get one for our compressor we would have to apply for planning permission and erect a very substantial and, probably, prohibitively expensive building. Fortunately the Drumossie has agreed to our leaving the compressors up there.

DIVING DONE

October

16/17 Arisaig. Turid, Phillip, Ewan, George Black.

19/20/21 Kylesku. Neil MacInnes (Dive Marshall), Nicola, Derek, Kay, Fiona McCulloch, Lois, George Black, Bruce Fraser, Campbell, Phyllis, Jim Skirving, Krista.

26 Loch End, Loch Ness. Part 1 Dive Leader Scenario training. John MacRitchie, Nicola, Lisa, Donald MacNeil, Campbell Dixon, Jeff and Phillip MacLennan. Those in charge were Neil MacInnes, George Brown, Lynne, Fiona McCulloch, Mike, Ewan and George

29 Loch Beg. Gordie, Ewan (DM), Lynne, Jamie, Neil MacInnes, Nicola, George Black (?)

31 Neil MacInnes was acting as safety cover for Judi Dench and Billy Connolly as they floated in a rickety boat being filmed for "Her Majesty Mrs Brown" which will be screened on BBC1 later in the year. He earned £150 for the club and had a great morning out.

November

3 Witt's End. Phillip (DM), Turid, Alan Skea.

9/10 Ballachulish weekend. John MacRitchie, Fiona Clark, Ian Henderson, Kathy Henderson, Mike MacPherson (DM), Caroline, Campbell Dixon, Eileen Stewart, Donald MacNeil, Jeff Anderson, Bruce Fraser and on the Sunday: Alan Skea, Neil MacInnes, Nicola, George B

23 Loch Duich. George Brown had a BSAC Nitrox training day.

24 Ash Tree site. Robin Fraser (DM), Neil MacInnes, Nicola, George Brown, Bruce Greig, Turid, Phillip, Lisa, Donald MacNeil, Fiona McCulloch, Eileen. Filming with the BBC for the programme "A Week in the Country". Fiona Mc has this on video if you want to view"

December

8 Diabeg. Neil MacInnes (DM), Donald MacNeil, Lisa,

pre 25 Loch Carron. Gordie, Jamie (DM), Ewan.

28 Port Skerra. Fiona McCulloch (DM), Jeff, Donald MacNeil, Ann Mackay, Bruce Greig and John Spears, the local policeman.

January

12 Strome Ferry. Dive leader training dive. Mike MacPherson, Fiona Clark, John MacRitchie, George Brown (DM), Bruce Greig, George Black, Jeff and others?

19 Rattagan, Loch Duich. Neil MacInnes (DM), Nicola, George Black, Bruce Fraser and Terry Nutkin.

21 Lechmelfm. George Black, Gordie, Ewan, Lynne (DM).

30 Outer Loch Torridon in ISAC Yellow. Ewan (DM), Neil MacInnes, Phillip MacLennan, Turid, Lynne, Jim MacKenzie.

Tues Loch Beg. Gordie (DM) +

? Conservation Bay. Jeff +

February

Dundonnell Slabs. Jeff, Donald MacNeil, Fiona McCulloch, Nicola and Neil MacInnes (DM), and Lisa watching. Jeff and Donald were doing training dives.

2 Conservation Bay. Mike MacPherson (DM), Fiona Clark, John MacRitchie.

4 Loch Duich. George Black, Ewan (DM), Lynne and Jamie.

9 Loch Carron. George Black (DM), Donald MacNeil, Lisa, John MacRitchie, Fiona Clark, Ian and Kath Henderson.

21/22 Aultbea. Donald MacNeil, Neil MacInnes (DM), Irene Yule, Mike, George Black, Ian and Kath Henderson, Fiona Clark, John, Jim and Krista and Nicola with Jeff, Turid and Ann Speight joining them for the drink on Saturday night. Read all about it later on!

March

2 Loch Carron. A very shallow dive in the only piece of calm water near Loch Carron. Fiona Mc (DM), Donald MacNeil and trainees.

8/9 Morvich weekend. Neil MacInnes, Fiona Mc, Ilene, Jeff, Bruce Fraser, John Mac, Nick, Sanders, Gary, Fiona Clark, Ann MacKay, George Black,

(DM) - DIVE MARSHALL. Neil would like us to get into the habit of thinking of one of the divers as a Dive Marshall. It might come as a surprise to some of you that you were a Dive Marshall in some of the above dives, but in the future I know that you will have it clearly in your mind who Dive Marshall is.

A WINDY WEEKEND

Let the following account be a record of our weekend lest we fail to return . . .

A bit melodramatic perhaps, but at some stages on the drive through from Inverness to Aultbea i didn't feel like it. The gallant boat-towers (that's towers as in towing, not as in Fawcety!) struggled through gales and driving rain all the way to the west coast with only the briefest of stops for some light relief at the Aultguish Inn.

If anything, conditions on the west coast were even worse than in Inverness that night, on the horrendous side of terrible. So much so that we left the boats in the lee of the chalets and attached to the cars for ballast.

It was only on Sunday night that Trevor MacDonald told me and ten million others that it had been the windiest weekend for a decade, trust me to be the organiser lumbered with that one!

Still the chalets lived up to expectations (complete with TV and microwave for the culinarily challenged), the poker school was already underway, well it was some sort of card game complicated enough to be poker. You had to be able to count and things like that, whatever happened to Snap!

The full complement that night, intrepid adventurers all and flying the ISAC flag on your behalf were: Mike, George Black, Ian and Kath Henderson, Fiona Clark and John, Irene and Gregor and Jim and Krista (apologies to their two boxer dogs, but I can't remember their names).

Our esteemed DO had inteneded to be there on Friday as well, but he managed to leave his kit on the pavement. (Sorry Neil, I tried to think of a more respectable excuse, but sometimes truth IS stranger than fiction). Fortunately the pool staff did notice that there was indeed something out there and the MacInnes cohort joined the ranks on Saturday morning.

It has to be said it was a particularly unattractive Saturday morning. The wind was howling round the buildings, the whitecaps were considerable and the enthusiasm for a dive wasn't!

Still, oh ye of little faith, we did get into the water. I say this because it's since been reported to me that no-one at the club on Friday night expected us to get that far.

In actual fact I wish I hadn't bothered, personally, the only viable dive site was on the west side of Loch Ewe where the wind was flattening the waves.

The first dive party attempted a shore dive, I say attempted because we only found five metres. George says he found ten metres, but personally I think the garden spade he took down with him was a real giveaway.

The only person to really enthuse about the dive was Irene, her first dive for a while. I wonder what Mike was doing down there? Neil said something about the most fun you can have in a drysuit, but I didn't really understand.

Anyway, that was that, back to the chalets. Neil and Mike filled their time constructively attaching the windscreen to the red boat, outside in the wind and rain (round of applause please). The rest of us had our baths and devised strategies and tactics for our trip to the pub.

Anne and Turid and Jeff had joined us by this stage, and we stayed i'nt poob until the lads from the RAF became too numerous. As a matter of interest the conversation here centered around our different brushes with the long arm of the law, who would have thought so many seemingly

upstanding citizens would have revealed such a sordid catalogue of misdemeanours! Oh, all right then, they weren't that exciting, but I thought I'd wind you up anyway.

Anyway, on to the next pub, no slackers we, John was obviously so anxious to present a brave face to the local twelve year olds playing pool that he resorted to blue face paint (a la Mel Gibson in Brave heart). Don't call us, we'll call you, as somebody once said.

We'll gloss over the rest of Saturday night, I think it was fairly quiet anyway, nobody was talking much.

Sunday arrived, calm and sunny.

We took transits and launched both baots in an attempt to find the wonderfully named Resolution Rock. We did find it, maybe, well, almost . . . about twelve metres, exposed bedrock, 5 degrees centigrade, another remarkable dive.

In actual fact I'm sure there must be something interesting in Loch Ewe, we just didn't manage to find it, given the weather conditions.

So we packed up and went home. We were even invited to come back by the owners of the chalets, surely a mista . . . surely a vote of confidence in our abilities to be well behaved and upstanding citizens.

And if anyone can be bothered reading further, and thinking back to the last trip here's a wee bit about Ballachullish.

The diving was, again, unspectacular, except, I'm told, the drift dive under the bridge. Some fairly unusual life was spotted, although unfortunately not captured on film. We believe it, or they because they ususally mate for life, were examples of the macritcheill slipperyll.

If anyone can give more details, the Natural History Museum in London is only a phone call away.

There was also something about an eclipse of the moon, but my lips are sealed . . .

well almost, every man has his price

Donald MacNeil

ABOUT JELLYFISH

So none of you saw any jellyfish last year . . .
Either that or you're wanting to keep it secret. If you can bear to overcome your reticence the Highland Biological Recording Group is continuing its survey of jellyfish this year and would be very pleased to hear of your sightings. They have very few records from the east coast so any from there would be particularly welcomed, however Stephen Moran of Inverness Museum would be delighted to hear of any sightings. Remember to record the jellyfish type, place/grid reference and date. Valerie James and I would be quite happy to pass details on to Stephen.

ARMY SPORT DIVING + BSAC ADVANCE DIVER COURSE NO 8 24 FEB TO 7 MAR 1997

Sport Diving in the Army has taken off in a big way over the last decade. Each unit ie Regiment or Corps will have the majority of their own diving equipment, have their own instructors, and, in some cases, be actively running their own clubs.

BSAC is the governing body for all Sports Diving carried out by the Army. There are two Diving Schools within the Armed forces network, within the UK. The Joint Services Diving Centre based at Fort Bovisand, Plymouth, and the Land Command School of Physical and Recreational Training based in Bulford near Salisbury. Both Schools are regarded as BSAC Schools of diving excellence and both are closely interconnected. Both Schools adhere strictly to the teaching criteria laid down by BSAC. The instructors at both Schools are second to none. They are also assisted by BSAC National Instructors as assessors and outside examiners for various BSAC courses. Both Schools are now looking at Mixed Gas diving and Rebreather training.

There is a definite difference between the BSAC courses run by the Military compared to the civilian equivalent. More pressure is exerted on you - as soldiers are trained to cope. Ho, Ho. I was allocated a place on the BSAC Advance Diver Course no 8. I departed Inverness for Bulford on 23 Feb. The Sports Diver course at the School was tough enough so I had an idea what was in store for me, a very intense, physically and mentally, demanding course.

From 24 to the 28 Feb we started the theory part of the course. As expected, it was very intensive. We had seven modules to complete. National Instructor, Lizzy Bird, arrived to put us through our paces on the Oxy Admin Course, followed by the exam. We received excellent lectures on Chartwork and Position Fixing, Dive Planning and Marshalling, Practical Rescue Management, Search and Recovery and Advanced Diving Techniques. We were bombarded with information from 0830 to 2000 hours for the first four days. Although intensive, it was also very interesting.

With most of the theory out of the way we moved down to HMS Osprey at Portland, near Weymouth, for the practical lessons. We hardly had time to book into the Mess. Yes, it was into diving kit to receive a Demo of Dive Organisation and Dive Marshalling with a very intensive briefing. All dives after this would be organised and marshalled by the students.

At this stage we were split into teams of four for dive planning purposes, each planning two to three dives per day. We were given ample opportunity to demonstrate our marshalling abilities for both shore and boat dives. We organised the controlled boyant lifts from 20m, mask clearing, DV retrieving at 20m. Search and recovery operations were planned and executed. We were also bombarded with rescue scenarios.

Ahh, the boat handling day. Peace at last. Not on your life, more rescue scenarios. In the evening we were taught how to set up and operate shots ie Normal, Top and Bottom Tension lazy shots.

Although very intensive, the course was excellent. We were all, at the end, both mentally and physically drained. However, as you climb the BSAC Training ladder the training is expected to become more difficult. My thanks to Roger Dearman, BSAC AI, Bob Taylor AI FC Diver, Jimmy Dowling AI, Lizzy Bird - Nat Instructor, Mal Stickland AI, Nikki AI SAPS who will receive a copy of our great Goby Club Magazine. And for Krista for putting up with me not being at home, again!

Jim Skirving

DIVING INCIDENTS - 1996

Here are a few excerpts from the 1996 NDC Diving Incidents Report, you can get your free copy by sending a SAE A4 envelope to BSAC.

There are always a few unusual incidents:

July 1996 96/159

Two fully kitted divers were walking towards the entry point for a dive. Their route included a series of steps which were blocked by a group of young children. In trying to negotiate this obstacle, one of the divers fell and broke his leg.

April 1996 96/083

During the course of a lake dive, one diver complained of cramp and the pair ascended to the surface. At the surface the pain became worse and the diver complained of paralysis down one side of his body. Assistance was given to get this diver to the shore. On shore oxygen was administered and the casualty was taken to hospital.

A trapped nerve due to poorly distributed weights was diagnosed. Weight adjustments have been made and the casualty has returned to diving.

October 1995 96/020

After an initial dive which included 12 mins. of training stops. A diver re-entered the water alone to free a stuck anchor. Freeing the anchor caused exertion, and the diver surfaced rapidly from 15m, out of breath. At the surface the diver was distressed. After recovery into the boat she was given oxygen, and taken by boat and ambulance to hospital, suffering from breathing difficulties. Recompression treatment was administered using oxygen and after 60 mins., breathing returned to normal. This individual is reported as having a nut allergy which has previously caused breathing problems.

May 1996 96/098

After an uneventful dive, a diver commenced a 14 hour drive home which took him to an altitude of 600m. During this journey he complained of wrist joint pain. For the following two days he felt light headed and had "prickly heat" in a leg. The third day he felt unwell and he sought expert opinion. As a precaution it was agreed that he should breath pure oxygen, which he did. During this treatment he had a tingling sensation in arm, neck and jaw. He became unresponsive, he showed lip twitching, and had a ridged (sic) arm. This diver was given a full medical examination, but no ill effects were found, and no decompression related cause/effect was determined. It was considered that the "oxygen toxicity symptoms" were due to hyperventilation.

Remember, doctors can be very ignorant about diving problems:

January 1996 96/042

A novice diver under training conducted two dives with a 70 mins. surface interval. The first dive to 25m and the second to 11m. On the way home, the novice diver noticed numbness in two fingers of her left hand 18 hours later medical advice was sought. The doctor diagnosed a possible embolism but stated that, after 18 hours, recompression would be ineffective. After a further 24 hours full feeling returned.

Hopefully sea rage doesn't become too common in Scotland, but -

March 1996 96/058

Two RIBs were together at a dive site awaiting for the last pair to surface, when a third boat appeared. The pair in the water deployed a delayed SMB and ascended. One diver surfaced and the second was just below the surface when the third boat drove over the top of the second diver's bubbles, despite shouted warnings. The second diver reported that the moving propeller from this boat only just missed hitting his head.

With both divers back in their boat an argument ensued in which the cox of the third boat attacked the diver who he had nearly hit, and pushed him into the water and held him down.

FASHION NEWS

It is getting close to the time when we reveal our Summer Collection, exclusively designed for the House Of ISAC.

This year André and I will be concentrating on two particular numbers.

Firstly, a light, casual, upper garment which can be used as an all purpose under garment/night wear/ personal statement and we are calling it a T-shirt. The basic style lines have been captured in conceptual terms, but still needed is the final detail of the frontal, pictorial motif. As we feel that is basically a chasuble of the people a democratic approach to the graphics is visualized.

So, talking brass tacks now lad, we need a T-shirt design and normally we decide it by voting on designs submitted. If you have an idea for our club T-shirt, please sketch it out and bring it along/hand it in, ready for FRIDAY 28 MARCH when we will pick one by popular demand. You don't have to be arty, the design is tarted up before printing; it is just the idea that is needed. Previous winners have been:

1.



INVERNESS SUB-AQUA CLUB

2.



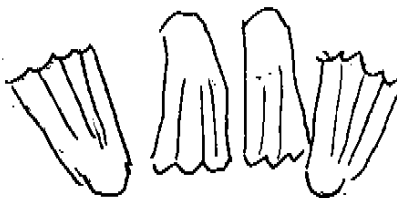
INVERNESS SUB-AQUA CLUB

3.

Our current design:



Smutty jokes like: DIVERS DO IT DEEPER



might win on the night, but don't get printed. So keep it wholesome, please.

For our second sensation this summer we are plunging for a practical, but fun item of headware. Rugged and functional with stickability in even the fiercest of winds, yet snugly and cosy for those après dive barbecue soiree situations. We are calling this crowning spectacle the bobble hat. The only echo from the past:



If you should have a flash of inspiration (or of any sort) please get it down on paper, also for the 28 MARCH. Recognising the potential for the big bucks involved in a successful fashion collection, it is natural that the original idea on which the final creations are based should not go unrewarded. What's in it for you, the winner is a FREE, up to date NOW item of clothing in the winning design.

PS Donald - you know our chairman - you must remember him, he's expressed an interest in a club baseball cap. Are there any other possessors out there with similar delusions of adequacy desiring such an item? Answers treated in strict confidence.

Alan Hardwick - the editor accepts no responsibility for views expressed by individual contributors.

INVERNESS SUB-AQUA CLUB MEMBERS - MARCH 1997

		TEL	ADDRESS		DIVER	INST'R	C'TEE
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Sanders	Campbell	01349 863392	Docharty Ho,	Dingwall	Novice1		
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Kath	Henderson	01463 794888	7 The Stables, Barn Church Rd,	Culloden	Sports		
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Turid	MacLennan	01463 731240	Bellfield House,	N Kessock	Sports		Member
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Rosemary	Simpson	01667 462272	Mwasemi, Loch Flemington,	Gollanfield	Sports		
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Neil	Speight	01381 610361	E.Alness Ferry Cott.Balblair,	Culbokie	Sports		
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Peter	Young	01997 421383	Eaglestone House,	Strathpeffer	Sports		
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