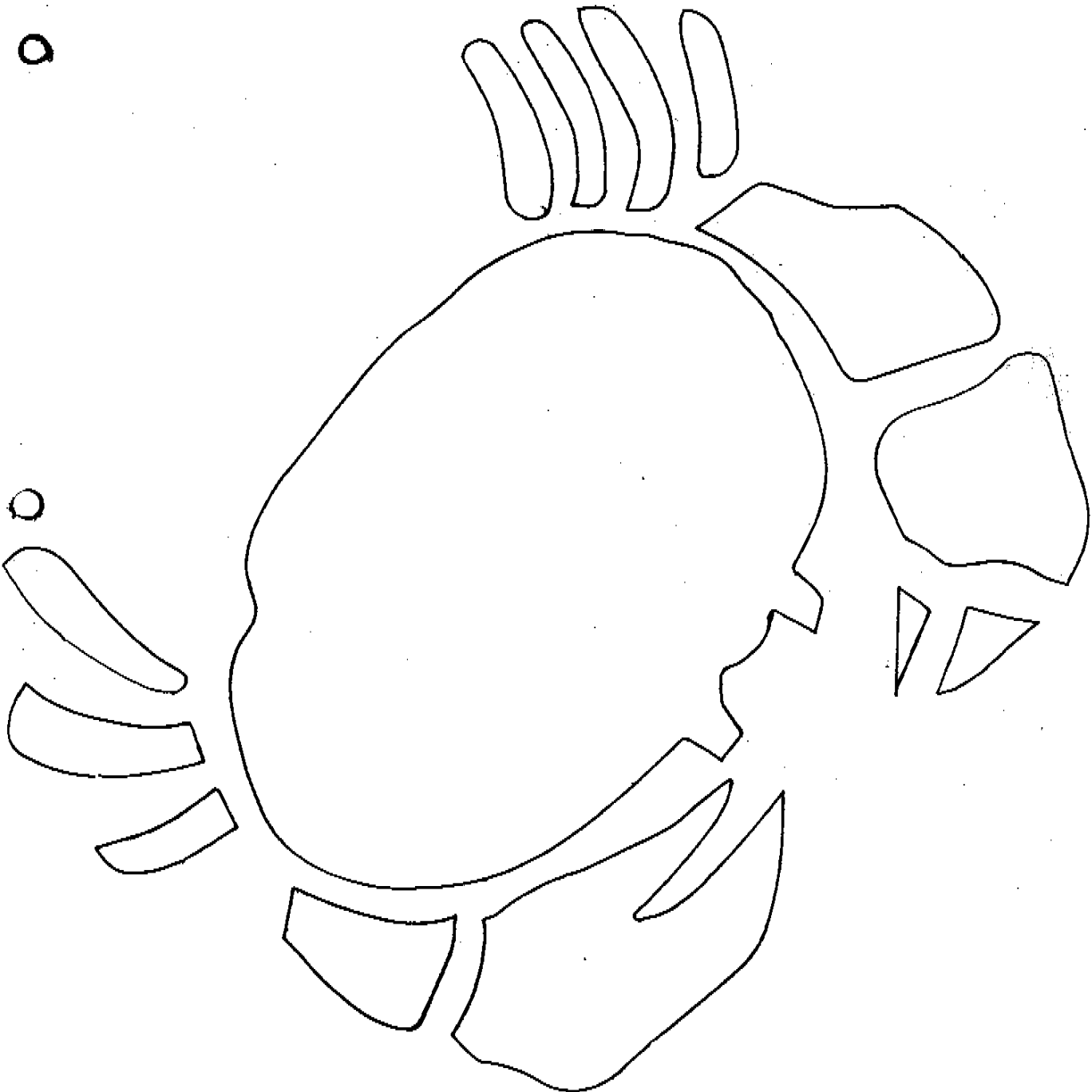


ISSUE NO. 9
19TH JULY 1995



1.1 GOBY INTRO

A somewhat late edition of GOBY TOO finally gets off the starting blocks. Apologies to all who have been waiting patiently and lets hope it is worth it. I had to "hold the front page" so to speak for the submission of two articles from correspondents J Arnold and S Bush. The results of which speak for themselves.

Due to a lack of material for this issue I have rehashed the odd BLAST FROM THE PAST for your delectation and delight and to highlight some of the past glories of THE CLUB. It has been done before and I am sure it can be done again!.....

So, down to CLUB TALK.....

1.2 THE FUTURE?

This is a very exciting year to be a member of I.S.A.C. for several reasons. I list a few.

1. The imminent arrival of a new COMPRESSOR AND CLUB BOAT along with all its toys and trailer. Watch out for familiarisation opportunities of both in training programme.
2. This is the first year in a long time that Committee members have not had to be press-ganged into service and therefore the club is benefiting from the expertise of a massive committee of almost 20 odd members. (Sorry 20 plus members).

Of course this can have a down-side when there are 20 odd opinions to consider at committee meetings! Sandy and his merry band are doing a grand job keeping it all together.

3. Training is ongoing with members progressing through the ranks and there are also opportunities for those who wish, to get involved in club training, and to attend I.T.C.'s.

4. Various committee members have undertaken to assist with various tasks.

i.e. G Douglas - Equipment Officer,

K Clyne, J Hogan, S Sutherland and B Greig all assisting with equipment repair where possible. It needs to be said that without assistance such as this, the club would be incurring extremely expensive repair bills. Take a bow, team!...

There now exists a Fund Raising Sub-Committee consisting of J Mclean, F McCulloch and anyone else that can be conscripted to lend a hand. See Notice Board for bulletins on events as they happen.

It is recognized that the club will need to fundraise throughout the year to maintain the bank balance as subs will not meet running costs of club for much longer.

So what does all this mean for the Club, I hear you ask?

Well, with the new equipment arriving, the general high level of expertise of club members and the general willingness of club members to "pull together" it would seem that the possibilities are endless!.....

The Club will never be in a better position to undertake something adventurous and exciting..... So what do YOU want to do? Give it some thought, talk it over, see what turns up!

Keep in mind that you don't get too many chances at the good things in life and it may interest you to know what one visiting potential club member thought of our beloved and familiar club.

I believe the words were along the lines of "the club's basically o.k. but it is a shame that it lacks direction!"

Can you afford to miss this golden opportunity?

1.3 NOTICEBOARD

Yes the club has a NOTICE BOARD again! Mounted regally on the wall at the Drumossie and is a useful source of info.

You can find the following there which you will no longer find in the GOBY!

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Excerpts of Com meetings have previously been printed in GOBY as a means of dispatching info to club members. This info is now available on the NOTICEBOARD.

DIVE PLAN/TRAINING PROGRAMME

Now combined on planner on NOTICEBOARD.

Reminders of forthcoming training/dives will continue to appear periodically with contact names, tel no's etc.

FOR SALE

A list of gear for sale is available and will be updated regularly.

I.S.A.C. STANDING ORDERS
POOL GUIDELINES
I.S.A.C. BOAT HANDLING LIST
I.S.A.C. CONSTITUTION

2.1 FUNDRAISING 95

GIANT CAR BOOT SALE

Club members are asked to turn out their garages, lofts, spare rooms etc with a view to donating lots of goodies to be disposed of at exorbitant prices to the unsuspecting public!!!!!!.....

Get rummaging and all donations to either Fiona or Jane.

Date and Venue to be announced when enough loot is acquired to make it worthwhile.

CLUB HIRE CHARGES

For those of you who have not been to the club lately, there is now a charge of 50p for the hire of club tanks for anything other than novice training. Please pay Gordie before taking tanks.

Use of the Compressors will also be charged for at 50p a fill. This applies equally to either diesel or new petrol compressor. Log the number of tanks filled on the log sheet along with compressor operating hours. Please pay money to Robin at earliest opportunity. Robin does not want to have to waste his valuable time chasing club members for money due, so do the right thing by him!

Remember, if you "forget" to log your tanks, you are only ripping off yourself along with the club!.....

Fuel for diesel compressor will continue as before. Petrol for new compressor will be stored in 2 x 1 gallon containers. For safety reasons it is not intended to store more than this on site at any one time. Please keep containers full where possible.

When petrol compressor goes "away for the weekend" return it full.

2.2 TRAINING

I.T.C. ATTENDANCE

Anyone wishing to attend an ITC in the near future please contact Fiona Tel. 01463 703093 (daytime).

The Regional Coach has advised that two Aberdeen Clubs have approx 4 people each who wish to do an ITC before the next available BSAC ones next year. If we can make up the numbers to 12 or more, then Pete Bicheno of Stonehaven will try to set up an additional ITC for our benefit.

Names A.S.A.P. in order to reserve a space.
Application forms available from Fiona.

NOVICE TRAINING 95/96

Training time will soon be upon us again! Anyone wishing to be involved in this years programme, please advise Training Officer.

If club members know of anyone wishing to join the club and undergo novice training etc please advise T.O. or D.O.

Try Dive nights are arranged for 25th August and 1st Sept 95. As usual club members will be required to initiate the unsuspecting into the wonders of sea life. a la Inverness Pool! Extra sets of gear would also be appreciated. More details closer to the time.

D.O.'S MEMBER QUALIFICATION RECORDS

Anyone wishing to view their record cards and have them updated, contact D.O. or T.O. at club on Friday nights. Please provide completed log books for validation and stamping, if required.

2.3 CLUB CHIT CHAT

THANKS!

Thanks to everybody who participated in Frank's auction to get money for buying more books, charts etc for the library. We raised 58.35! If you have any specific ideas on what to buy, please tell us soon.

Alan tries to have the library at the club on the first Friday of every month, if, however, you want a chart or book at any other time, phone him on 731281. A list of material available in the library is on display in the cupboard at the Drumossie or a copy of it can be obtained from Alan.

CLUB MICROSCOPE

The Club has a microscope which can be borrowed by any club member. I've volunteered to be in charge of it so if you're wanting to borrow it, contact me, Jane Arnold, on 731281.

CLUB PROMOTION NIGHT

It appears that there may be numerous qualified divers out there in the wilderness who, strange as it may seem, are not yet aware of our esteemed presence!....

I know, it is hard to believe that I.S.A.C. is not famed throughout the land, but there it is.

It would seem to be a good idea to "test the water" and see if we can't entice a few of these good people to join the club without investing 6 months in training them. Not that I am against training, you will understand!... Perish the thought!.

So here's the deal.

A CLUB PROMOTION NIGHT IS TO BE ARRANGED (date to be advised) whereby it is hoped to present the club in its very best light. No hiding under bushes (sorry Steve). An advert will be placed in the courier extolling our virtues and inviting people to come along and see what the club is all about.

Help is required with the following:-

Photographic exhibit of club dives, training, outings, social events, marine life etc. with or without captions.

Exhibit selection of Club Library, Diver magazines, BSAC training manuals, Club Trophies/Awards, Club Newsletter. Map of I.S.A.C dive sites.

Catering: Suggestions and volunteers. Cheese and Wine, Coffee and biscuits????????..... Nothing at all?

Slide show or video to be highlight of Club promotion. Perhaps Bruce or George could be persuaded to contribute towards this or anyone else willing to lend a hand.

Obviously whether this goes ahead or not will depend on the results of advertising whether by word of mouth or paper. If you know anyone at all who might have an interest in the club, let them know.

Any suggestions are welcome and if you are willing to help out, please let Fiona know. This is for your club so please support it!

3.1 JOURNALISTIC TALENTS ABOUND

Please read with bated breath the humorous ditty on the perils of purchasing power corrupted by Steve Bush, followed by a fascinating trawl of INCIDENT REPORTS, (thankfully not ours,) expertly presented by Jane Arnold and finally a jaunt back to

Cyprus with the other half of that literary family, Turid MacLennan (Sorry Philip, I can't edit out your blushes on this one!)

BLACK RUBBER FINS!

"I'd like to buy a pair of black rubber fins please"

"Sir, if only it were that simple. Here's my card and here's your Buyer's Guide."

"What's this for?"

"It tells you that I can only talk to you about fins and allied products sold by this shop. I can't talk to you about fins sold by any other dive shop."

"I see."

"Probably the best way to proceed is to show you where we fit into the diving footwear industry. We buy most of our products from the Far East at a fairly modest price and sell them on to the public at a considerably higher price. But, of course, out of the mark-up we have to pay for transportation, import duties, rent and rates, display staff, sales staff, cleaners, admin, etc and, of course, our shareholders have to be paid a dividend. Not many people think about this when they buy their fins but we think it's important so, with that in mind, I'd like to ask you a few questions to make sure you get the fins that are right for you. It may be when I have all facts I may recommend you do not buy any fins. May I proceed?"

"What do you want to know?"

"Well how many arms and legs have you got for a start?"

"What's arms got to do with fins?"

"Well sir, if, for example, you only had one arm and I sold you a pair of fins with a complicated fastener on the heel strap, that could be construed as bad advice by FASTIRO."

"Who's FASTIRO?"

"The Fin and Snorkel Trade & Industry Regulatory Organisation"

"What would they do?"

"Put the boot in. A friend of mine had to leave the industry."

"What did he do wrong?"

"Sold a pair of goody bags"

"What's wrong with that?"

"Turned out they were thoroughly badly behaved. You know the sort of thing. Can never find them when you want them. Can't get them to open at the appropriate moment etc. So you see, I need to build up a full picture of you. For example, do you need the fins for snorkelling or diving or snorkelling and diving? How many fins have you got already? How many suits do you have and what colours are they? Have you got athletes foot, corns or bunions? Can you touch your toes? What kind of socks do you wear? How much do you earn and what's your budget?"

"Well thank you for that. I'll give it some serious thought and come back in two weeks' time."

TWO WEEKS LATER

"Ah, good morning, sir. I've given it serious thought and what you need is a pair of black rubber fins."

"Isn't that what I asked you for in the first place?"

"With respect, sir, you have had the benefit of my professional advice based upon all the facts as given and you now know with some certainty that you require black rubber fins. All the guesswork has been taken out of it. Here's your Reasons Why Letter - I recommend you buy these black rubber fins because they will provide more power on the down stroke, match your suit, look smart and you can afford them."

"Well, I'm glad that's settled."

"You want fins them?"

"Yes please."

"Right, if you'd like to complete this application form and here's your quotation I'd like you to sign. It shows a complete breakdown of costs and profits and includes my commission. Your product particulars describe in detail how the fins are made and the key features are a summary of the product particulars, highlighting the risk factors. For example, if you live too long, the fins may need repairing. On the other hand, if you die before you've had your wear out of them, I'm afraid there'll be no refund, even if they don't fit another member of your family."

"I see."

"So just to recap: you've got your card, your Buyer's Guide, product particulars, key features, quotation, Reason Why Letter, Now sir, you will get a letter from my head office telling you that I do, in fact, work for this company and also a cooling-off period notice. You can still return the fins within 14 days and have a full refund if you don't like them for any reason. Incidentally, how are you paying?"

"By Cheque?"

"Ah well, would you mind nipping home for a gas bill or something to prove your identity as you are not known to me. One last thing sir, do any of your friends require fins?"

3.2 INCIDENT REPORTS

Reading Incident Reports is a great way to learn about what not to do. I'm sure, though, that our members are far too sensible to do some of the crazy things other divers do.

Would we have the luck of the Belgians in this first example?
28/91 Nov 90 " Two BSAC divers on holiday were ascending at the end of their dive when they were approached by two Belgian divers who had both run out of air on a dive to 60m! Assisted ascents to the surface were made safely, including decompression stops at 5m. It later transpired that the Belgian divers had dived as a three, all of whom had run out of air simultaneously. The third diver had found another group with whom to share!"

Careful if your kit is day-glo green!

76/91 July 91 "Whilst carrying out a lifting exercise, a diver was attacked by a four foot conger eel. The eel grabbed the diver's octopus and shook it vigorously and both he and his buddy were bruised by the thrashing eel. The eel would not release its grip and was eventually stabbed with a knife. The octopus second stage was dayglo green in colour, which may have attracted the eel."

Whose cylinder is out of test?

21/91 Mar 91 "A diver's pony cylinder exploded whilst being filled causing severe damage to the compressor room and injuring three people. The cylinder had previously been tested four years before and was severely corroded internally."

It's a good idea to use the "Deadman" on the boat!

93/038 Jan 93 "The cox and crew member of a RIB were thrown overboard after the cox slipped off the tubes, pushing the tiller hard over. The boat gyrated at high speed around the cox and crew, eventually running over the crew member, causing extensive cuts to both legs and cutting his suit thus making him negatively buoyant. He was supported on the surface by the cox, using his ABLJ, until rescue services were alerted by another boat."

Maybe SMB's are a good idea!

63/90 Apr 90 "A fishing vessel reported a diving inflatable with 4 divers missing. A search was initiated and both pairs of divers were recovered. One of the divers was slightly hypothermic. The 4 divers were transferred back to shore by lifeboat. The dive boat had 6 divers in the water and had lost contact with 4 of them. The club involved have reviewed their dive practices and have bought better SMB's as well as a VHF radio. One of the pairs involved had also made an assisted ascent."

But, then again, maybe they aren't

32/92 Apr 92 "On a drift dive at 24m the SMB broke away from the line. The divers ascended but, with the stops, the ascent took 4 mins during which time the boat had followed the SMB. The divers could not contact the cover boat and drifted towards Plymouth Breakwater. A passing RIB eventually picked them up and passed them onto a RNLI RIB which was searching for them."

Any number of such reports can be read in our library's collection of BSAC Incident Reports. Feel free to borrow them.

If you want to report an incident yourself the minimum you have to do initially is to send BSAC the date of the incident, name of subject(s), location of incident, and the nature of the incident. A more detailed report can be set out on an Incident Report form which is obtained free of charge from BSAC. All reports are completely confidential and, according to BSAC, "an incident worth reporting is any occurrence which people can learn from, equipment failure / bad training / injury (or worse) etc.

If in doubt, report it....."

EXTRACTS FROM I.S.A.C. DIVE LOG

Date: 13th June 1985

TANTIVVY "T" CLASS SUBMARINE
MORAY FIRTH

We went out to dive the Durham Castle and bouy the Barge. We got a bleep on the magnetometer and bouyed it. Bob from Aberdeen went down for a look and saw what he thought was a ship lying on its side or maybe a submarine.

We could not find the Durham Castle and decided to dive the bouy. We went down and to our delight we found TANTIVVY standing upright in perfect condition in 40m of water on a mud seabed.

DIVERS: Alan Hardwick, Frank Law, Jim Rodwell, Bob from Aberdeen,
Colin Clark, Bruce Greig, Jim Spittal.
D.M. Frank Law.

Date: 9th May 1987

CLUB WEEKEND - ALTANDUBH, ACHILTIEBUIDHE

This was a mammoth operation, with 14 trainees and 38 persons altogether! Bob Shaw's premises fairly spartan, and we had to bargain with him to get the air at £1 per fill. George Brown had the unenviable task of organising the diving; it was Pete & Jo (& Jack) Bicheno's farewell to the club. Finally, everyone had 2 boat dives at least, with those who had 2 on Saturday remaining behind for a shore dive on the Sunday. Badentawar pier was used for the training dives; easy access down wooden staircase, but viz fairly poor due to years accumulations of silt. Some "treasure" found, various decorated pieces of broken china! (norma) and some bottles. Norma & Kate collected clams on Saturday & cooked them so that those who hadn't could taste them. Andrew found himself short of 1 large crab, which he had left, cooked but unattended, in the kitchen: those who hadn't, tasted it! The local pub was very close at hand, and very welcoming. Note for future trips: pub is open very late, there is no drying room, although trully soaked things can go above Bobs stove. Diving was fair, and sites can be chosen according to the prevailing wind. Sunday's attempt at Davy Jones Locker had to be aborted due to a very lumpy sea once the lee of the islands was left behind: Bill Cowie and myself went for a more adventurous dive off Sgier Dubh while others (2 boat loads) waited: mid tide, depth 22m, boulder slope with outcrops; many wrasse under these. Strong undertow and swell at surface. A well organised if frantically over-subscribed weekend; much o/w training achieved and experience gained.

I had three dives when I was in Cyprus. My first was with Taba Dive Centre run by Ron an Englishman. Three of us ; an Englishman, an Irishman and a Norwegian (No its not a joke) went one afternoon for a shore dive to Capé Greco a volcanic rock peninsula designated a National Park, bar the outermost tip which is a military zone.

After a long and bumpy ride in a Land Rover we arrived at the site. It didn't take us long to get ready - for there were no suits, gloves hats etc., A bit of a climb down - I was in bare feet, so had a slight problem, but managed in the end.

The clarity of the water was clearer than Norsk Aquavit (that wouldn't be difficult) The vis was fantastic and although there was not too much life to be seen, the volcanic rock formations were amazing - through tunnels and into caves made for a really enjoyable dive. Deepest depth was about 25 metres and when we surfaced at 5pm the water and air temperature were both 27 degrees C.

A few days later I joined a Norwegian girl Kari, who runs a diving centre on the outskirts of Larnaca, a Finish couple and a Norwegian U.N. soldier on duty in the Lebanon. The dive was to be the Zenobia out in the middle of Larnaca bay. This car ferry wreck was fully loaded with trucks and a large number of horses, all of which perished, when she sank.

From Larnaca harbour we boarded a hard boat which took us over the wreck. All of us went down the shot line together. The clarity of the water was so exceptional that we were able to see the wreck quite clearly soon after we submerged. The wreck bottom sits at 40 metres depth. We started at the stern of the ferry and finned over the deck area, holding all the trucks. Kari at this point went deeper to collect a hens egg to have on display in her shop. After further inspection of the deck we started to come up. Ola had run short of air about 20 minutes into the dive and was using Kari's octopus. We came up the shot line to 6 metres where we did a 5 min deco stop and where Ola was able to use a spare cylinder suspended from the boat.

All safe on board the boat again, and the egg intact as well. Kari whilst momentarily distracted layed the egg down on a bench, whereupon it immediately rolled off and went splat on the deck. Not put off by the sight of this, we headed back to the harbour where we all enjoyed a good lunch.

We returned to the boat for a siesta before heading back out to the Zenobia.

On the second dive we covered the bow area of the Ferry. We followed nervously as Kari lead us through narrow dark opening with a lot of darkness to pass through before we exited through another narrow opening. Not being equipped with torches we had not much idea of the contents of the room we passed through and I was very relieved to come out again. On the way back to the surface we came accross a swirl of Baccarudas which for the Finish couple was the highlight of the dive.

The rest of the holiday was spent snorkelling in the many bays

and inlets that dotted the coast nearby where we were staying. Snorkelling was very relaxed because the salinity of the water was so high that you just lay buoyant on the surface so the only real problem was duck diving down to gather things of interest, and the only real hazard was being grounded onto the rocks by the swell to discover you had been impaled on clusters of black anemones spines. This happened to Philip one day and the whole evening was spent digging them out of his feet, thighs and backside.

The wonderful beaches, the brilliant weather and the friendliness of the Cypriot people combined to produce a lovely holiday that both children and adults enjoyed thoroughly.