

## DO'S BROKEN RINGY THINGY

Early this season I was getting my kit together and my screwy ringy thingy fell off my faithful old Buddy Commando BC Auto Air 2 inflation unit along with the diaphragm etc. On closer inspection the screwy ring thingy had actually broken, probably as a result of me dropping it on the garage floor the week before.

'That's bugged my diving tomorrow' I thought but on closer examination I was able to reassemble the Air 2 unit and hold it all together with sticky insulation



tape, gave it a thorough security check and thought 'that will do for tomorrow and I must order a new bit on Monday'.

Several weeks and many dives later I was still thinking 'Oops, forgot to order a new ringy thingy, must do it Monday'.

Monday's came and went and eventually I was travelling home from a weeks holiday in Cornwall when I drove past Water-ma-Trout Industrial Estate, Helston, the hallowed home of AP Valves. Stopped the car, reversed and

swung into AP Valves car park. The AP Valves factory has a modern red frame & glass frontage and looked very smart. I entered the reception area and asked the receptionist if she had a spare screwy ringy thingy as I had broken mine. She then disappeared-

strange I thought, I don't usually have that effect upon women! She soon re-appeared with a shiny new screwy ringy thingy (or diaphragm guard as AP Valves call it) just like my old one but intact. 'How much please' I asked,

'On the house, or you could make a donation to the lifeboat tin' was her reply which I gladly did. What excellent service! I have had my old Buddy Commando for ~16 years and AP Valves have always provided outstanding customer service on the odd occasion I have needed it. Well done AP Valves.

Must fit that new screwy ringy thing tomorrow.....

Tony

# HULLLO

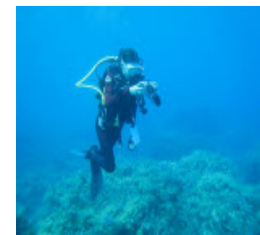
HULL BRANCH NO 14  
BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB  
NEWSLETTER NO 182  
OCTOBER 2010

I first went to Malta in 2006 with Ian Sibley-Calder and did some excellent diving. I now return to Malta to meet Sarah for a week half way through her 2 week family holiday in Mellieha Bay. I had taken loads of photos in 2006 but after the Yorkshire Regional Dive Conference and Duxy Duxfields 'Manual White Balance' presentation plus Bob's repeated ramblings about MWB I had to give it a go. When diving the red and yellow colours are progressively absorbed by the water and everything looks blue and grey, or in the UK green and brown. MWB gets the camera to account for this absorption and restores the red and yellows. You will see the marked difference in the following photos 1 & 2. You have to keep resetting the MWB as your depth changes by pointing your camera at something white, a bare hand will suffice.

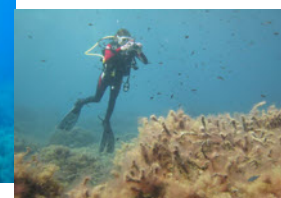
Sarah had checked out the local dive operator Sea Shell Diving, a small PADI family run dive centre conveniently located across the road from us. Sea Shell diving were very friendly, respected our qualifications & experience and quite happy for us to hire cylinders and weights and go off and do our own thing. We did a very pleasant check-out dive with Sea Shell Diving on the northern side of Mellieha bay transported by their impressive Rib with 300HP engine!

**Photo 1** on Auto **Photo2** with MWB

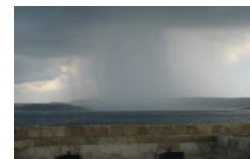
For the second dive Sarah's family bungled into the hire car took us to Gozo via the ferry. On the crossing we skirted a very localised and intense cloud burst which just kept raining and raining and behind the main land a huge water spout.



and I plus dive kit all



**Photo3 & 4.** On arriving at Gozo we discovered why the kerbs are really high in Malta, to accomod-ate the heavy rain. The roads was like rivers with earth and stones washed out of farmers fields. I had a mental image of fields with no soil, just loose surface. We little boy and doting the sights of Gozo's off down several direction of 'The In-Hole'



vegetables lying on the dropped Patrick, Sarah's grand parents off to see capital Victoria and sped wrong roads in the land Sea' and the 'Blue

Hole' What shall we dive- enter Blue Hole and exit via In-land Sea, or the other way round. It has been a few years since last visiting Malta and my memory has faded a bit so navigating 2 dives at once may be difficult. However, upon arriving we found the sea was quite rough and the Blue Hole was more of a pool of boiling turbulent foam! I like a bit of a challenge but draw the line well below that, hence, decision made, Inland Sea it is.

We kitted up and made an easy entry off the low lying slippery harbour wall into a large shallow inland pool, hence it's name and made our way to a gap in the cliffs leading to the sea. You enter the gap which is only about 6m wide and quickly drop down to 26m. **Photo 5.**

We bimbled out through the gap to the Big Blue of the sea and gently settled on a wide ledge at ~35m. The terrain was made up of large smooth boulders and sloping cliff face covered in a fine weed and the white sandy sea bed was clearly visible below. We made our way over the boulders and down towards the seabed where we landed, check our computers and exchanged OK's as planned. I looked up and could clearly see the surface 48m above us which is an unusual experience for UK divers.

We made a gentle ascent back to whence we came spending time taking in the scenery and photos. Sarah discovered a little tunnel made from several boulders which we decided to explore but it was too tight. I took some photos of Sarah silhouetted against the exit and forgot to re-set the MWB and ended up with an 'alien encounter' which is quite interesting. It is interesting in that even though this is classed as a deep dive the average depth was only 18m for 34 minutes.

**Photo 6.**

2 Days later old northern tip. yellow buoy did this distinctive on a white deep end at the surface! Photo7 on MWB.



we were jumping into the sea near to lighthouse at Cirkewwa on Malta's most A reasonable surface swim to a large put above the tug boat Rozi. Last time I wreck you had to navigate via some galleys in the reef. The Rozi sits upright sandy bottom at ~36m, a bit like the Stoney Cove except you can still sea

the Rozi taken in Auto and Photo8 using

It is not often I complain about the wildlife, but on the Rozi there were lots little fish (and one really big one which tried to bite through Sarah's regulator hose!

Photo9) and they really got in the way for taking photos.



**Photo 10** The Rozi by Tony



**Photo 11** Sarah from the Rozi



We swam around, took photos & videos and eventually settled in the hold where I took a photo of Sarah and caught the light reflecting in her mask, excellent.

**Photo 12.**



On the way back we spent time on the reef and then investigated the interesting shaped concrete blocks that made up the foundation of the new seawall. **Photo 13.**



That evening after a massive hunt for the car keys and begging a spare pair off the car hire company we eventually fell into the water opposite Popeye's village!!! (look it up on Google) for a night dive. It was Sarah's first done many night dives in

night dive whereas I have Cornwall and they are right up there in my top 10. Never give up the chance of a night dive. It was fairly uneventful but we did manage to get a little lost as I thought I was navigating by the moon whereas it turned out to be a flood light in Popeye's Village. On another occasion we wriggled through a small tunnel which was actually where the harbour wall had collapsed and when we surfaced we found us on the wrong side of the wall. The highlight was turning your torches off and waving your hands around to stimulate some sparkling flashes of bio-luminescence where the plankton and other minute sea creatures give off flashes of light when disturbed.

Our last dive was another entry at Cirkewwa and this time a much longer surface swim to the recently sank P29 Patrol boat. Yes, it was a long swim probably 300m or more from the shore but well worth it as this was the best dive we did.

**Photo 14 & 15**

Malta is a good destination for a diving or even a diving/family holiday and I would recommend it to anyone, perhaps even a club trip!!

Regards, *Tony Hodge*



HULLO is the newsletter of the Hull Branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club. Please send your contributions to the Editor - Don Wilson - don@poorlyleg.karoo.co.uk Visit the club's web site at [www.bsac14.org.uk](http://www.bsac14.org.uk)