

## BSAC HULL - DIVING TRIP – EYEMOUTH 08-10 SEP 17

Our club chairman, Trevor Jones organised a diving trip with Marine Quest at Eyemouth for the weekend of 08th – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017. There were six places available for the trip and these were taken up by; Trevor, Steve Corran, Dennis Graham, Mark Davidson, Gary Trowsdale and myself – Rob Danby! **This is our dive trip.....**

**Fri 08<sup>th</sup> September 2017** - Steve and I departed Hull at 10am on Friday 08<sup>th</sup> September with the remainder following an hour later for the drive to Eyemouth nr Berwick. Having taken a comfort break at Scotch Corner, we arrived at our Hotel – The Eye Sleep Over about 3pm. On arrival at the Hotel, Steve and I booked in to our room and went to recce the area, before meeting up with the rest of the guys back at the Hotel about 4pm. Having settled into our rooms, Trevor had arranged for us all to meet up with Jim Easingwood our diving host from Marine Quest, were we transferred and stored all our dive gear before progressing into the evening for a meal and drinks at the Contented Soul near the Harbour, eventually turning in for the night about 11.30pm.

**Sat 09<sup>th</sup> Sep 2017** - With an early rise and a full cooked breakfast at the 'Harbourside' we received the diving brief from Trevor and boarded the 'Silver Sky.' Our buddy pairs for the initial dive were Dennis and Mark, Steve and Gary (using twinsets) with Trevor and me making the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair. Having boarded the 'Silver Sky' and with 3 dives scheduled for the day we received our brief from Jim our Captain and pulled anchor for the 2 hour boat trip to the 'Isle of May.'

**The Isle of May** located approximately 8 km off the coast of mainland Scotland, on the outer edge of the Firth of Forth is 1.8kilometres long and less than half a kilometre wide. The isle is a magical mix of sea birds and seals and also home to the unmistakable puffin. There's a dark past here though, with monks, Vikings and smugglers on the list of previous visitors.



**Dive 1** – Our first dive was onto the 'Anlaby' a wreck lying about 8-16m in depth. We descended down the shot line in our buddy pairs to the anchor point. With 2-3m of visibility, and myself leading Trevor and I began our exploration of the wreck in an easterly direction towards the bow of the wreck. There was little to see at this stage due to the visibility though still an enjoyable experience before turning back and heading towards the stern for our DSMB deployment to the surface for pick up.

**Dive 2** – Our second dive of the day was known as the 'Island.' and would enable us to explore the marine life at a depth of approx 18-22m. This dive had me buddy with Dennis, Trevor with Mark and Steve with Gary forming the third pair, who would also lead the initial descent. Once we had all leveled out at depth, we continued to explore before ascending via DSMB. The ascent would prove to be a problem as there was a change in the weather causing problems with line snags and difficulties when attempting to board.

**Dive 3** – **South Ness** was to be our final dive of the day in the area of South Ness and a second wreck called 'The Primrose' (see overleaf). However due to the weather conditions, the only divers here were Steve and Gary with a short but eventful dive to explore the wreck and take some photographs. Gary had ascended first, having problems with his feeds, followed shortly after by Steve.



**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 2017** - Having stuffed ourselves the night before with a hearty meal and ice cream and having an early night— must have been all that sea air, we arose on Sunday morning to vacate our rooms and pack the vehicles before filling our faces once again with a full cooked breakfast. We were placed in our buddy pairs and received a diving briefing from Trevor before boarding the Silver Sky for our journey to the dive area approx 300m from the coastline.

**Dive 1** – Jim had briefed us that our first dive would be in slack water onto the ‘Glanmire’ a wreck lying between 28m-30m in depth. Our buddy pairs here were Trevor and I, Dennis and Mark with Gary & Steve forming the 3rd pair. Having descended down the shot line to the anchor point at the boiler, I tied off and lined out with the diving pairs following. The visibility at this time was approx 2-5m. The wreck itself was quite broken up as one would expect though it was still good to see. Having reached the limit of my line 45m I turned around and reeled in to start point where we each deployed our DSMB for ascending and pick up by boat. Using Nitrox would have provided more dive time here.



**Dive 2** – Our second of the day and final dive of the weekend was ‘Skelly’ a drift dive to a max of 20m around the area of Skelly Rocks approx 300m from coastline. I was buddied with Mark, with Dennis & Trevor, Gary and Steve as the other pairs. Having entered and descended to 22m it gave us the opportunity to explore the marine life around the rocks, get friendly with the local seal population before ascending to the surface using DSMB’s. Once on board Jim provided a nice hot drink and cake. Whilst waiting for other divers to surface we were blessed with two separate pods of dolphins swimming close by to the boat.



**The ‘Glanmire’** a steam ship built of Iron in 1888 by W B Thompson & Co of Dundee and located 300m from the shoreline of St Abbs Lighthouse, lying at a depth of 28-30m with the boilers being the highest point at 6m from seabed. At the time of sinking, due to running aground in thick fog it was carrying general cargo and owned by James Rankine & Sons. This is classed as a dangerous wreck.

**The Primrose** a 20<sup>th</sup> century wreck of a steam trawler – During thick weather on Wednesday night at 9 o'clock, the Glasgow trawler PRIMROSE went ashore on the rocks to the east of the May Island. Captain Seaton Hall and his crew of seven men went ashore to the island in their small boat. The vessel soon became a total wreck. She was only built this year. - Source: East Fife Record, 18 November 1904.



**The Anlaby** a British steamer that ran aground in 1873 while travelling through thick fog – she was carrying coal at the time. She lies close in to the rocks at Altarstanes Landing on May Island. The largest part of her is the rudder section and cast propeller lying in 16m depth, the rest of the well broken wreck lays bow to the shore ending up at about 8m in depth.



**And finally.....**It was time to depart Eyemouth and make our way home....but not before filling our faces with a nice Fish and Chips and Ice Cream before leaving. To say we had a trouble free time was an understatement, what with nearly losing a cylinder at the dive bottom, the free flows happening, losing an SMB, getting covered in talc, tangled in the shot line and wearing a mask that was clearly too small, overall we had a great time as club members, friends and diving colleagues. We got to know one another, had a drink and a laugh, met Huey a couple of times and got to see some dolphins! Looking forward to the next trip.....Trevor!!!