

HULLO

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British Sub-aqua Club
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WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HAT?

In my old club, Burton upon Trent, only qualified boat handlers were allowed to wear a hat like this.



Me

Don



Oban October 2013

The forecast wasn't that great to be honest. We'd all watched the weather forecast closely for about a week, but still the weathermen couldn't seem to agree which day was looking most likely for a visit to HMS Pub. Nevertheless, 12 moderately intrepid and very sparsely equipped divers set out to Oban to squeeze on to two boats (Craig's and the club boat) to get some end of the season diving. Craig, Anna, Sarah, John, Chris and Brian were lined up for Craig's boat, with Steph, Terry, Paul, Bob, Jono and Colin on the club boat.

It's often said that although diving is sometimes seen as a dangerous sport, you're at greater risk of having an accident while driving to the dive site, as Bob ably demonstrated when one of the wheels detached itself from the boat trailer and went bouncing across three lanes of traffic on the motorway, finally coming to rest in the central reservation.

The wheel was quickly retrieved by Jono and, as luck would have it, an Indespension garage was located only a few miles up the road that could repair the trailer on the spot. Everyone arrived at Puffin Divers without further incident and after unpacking and a brew headed into Oban for drinks and dinner.

There were further boat issues on the first day, with a leak on the fuel

filter on the club boat. A solution was quickly improvised and both boats set off to dive the Breda, sticking close together in case of further problems with the club boat. It therefore came as quite a surprise for Sarah and John when they surfaced to find that Craig's boat was nowhere to be seen, having suffered technical problems due to a fuel line issue. Once both boats were fully operational once more, it was decided to stay close to base and do a scallop dive. Despite declaring scalloping an "orgasmic" experience, Chris volunteered to boat handle (maybe he had a headache?) leaving the rest of us to hunt for dinner. Numerous wellington boots were found on the sea bed but sadly proved to be the wrong size. Chalet one (Chis, Craig, Bob, John, Jono, Sarah and Anna) stayed home for the evening enjoying an excellent meat pie provided by Jono, which Captain Craig especially enjoyed. Apparently, Captain's privileges include getting in first for second helpings. Brian joined us for pudding, while the party animals in chalet two (Steph, Terry, Colin and Paul) headed into Oban. Day two saw the group diving the Hispania, which for once actually was "slack on the bottom", followed by a trip into Tobermory for lunch. The afternoon dive was the Shuna followed by a dash back to

base to get to the shops and prepare scallops for everyone. Brian cooked scallops, under instruction from Chris of course, while Anna made salads and the whole crew piled into chalet one for a “not the last night” meal. Everyone was mindful of the fact that they were diving the next day. As John commented in the morning, “What right minded diver would have 5 pints the night before a dive?”

The first dive of the day, revisiting the Breda, was the last of the trip for Sarah, John and Chris, who had to leave at lunchtime. Terry spent the day pricing up kit to replace that lost on the Shuna and will soon be available to give lessons on fully inflating your BCD/wing and clipping it onto the boat before de-kitting. The

rest of the group, minus Paul who left in the morning spent the afternoon diving the Thesis and generally messing about on boats and burning as much fuel as possible. After the boats had been put to bed, the group had a good end of trip meal and a few drinks in Oban followed by a steady return the next day.

Many thanks were given to Craig by all on the trip for organising it and even sorting out the weather, which proved to be far better than anticipated. Everyone had a great time and the people on the trip got along really well. Captain’s note: a trip DVD is available on request! ~ **Sarah Clinch**

