

SHARING THE ADVENTURE

CLIMB

BSAC 410

HEINKE TROPHY SUBMISSION



An underwater photograph of a shipwreck, likely the HMS Hood, with a large section of the hull visible. The scene is dimly lit with a blue-green tint, and several fish are swimming in the foreground and around the wreck.

983
LOGGED
DIVES

A PACKED DIVE
PROGRAMME
FOR ALL LEVELS
AND INTERESTS

CLIDIVE'S mission has always been the same: make adventurous diving accessible to people living in central London. For our 50th anniversary, under the banner of **'Sharing the Adventure'**, we set out to celebrate our past and our present, but perhaps more importantly to ensure the club's future is just as successful.

**We celebrated
past adventures**

50 YEARS

- Held a series of events in October bringing together five decades of Clidivers, culminating in the 50th Anniversary Party
- Created a photo and video archive, including a photo history series of the Clidive boats that made all those adventures possible

We shared our current adventures

- Ran three RIB expeditions from the north of Scotland to the Normandy coast
- Organised an open lecture series covering ecological, scientific and adventurous diving topics, plus other social events that raised £975 for the Shark Trust
- Introduced local kids to snorkelling and scuba through the Islington Summervarsity

We prepared for our future adventures

4 NEW FIRST CLASS DIVERS

SYMBOLISE THE CURRENT STRENGTH AND AMBITIONS OF THE CLUB

125 29

DIVER AND INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED

ADVANCED DIVER AND DIVE LEADER QUALIFICATIONS IN PROGRESS

- We appointed a new Diver Development Officer who organised an ambitious training programme for existing divers and instructors
- We established strong relationships with other BSAC clubs in our area, which will continue to benefit all of us through shared facilities, activities and instructors

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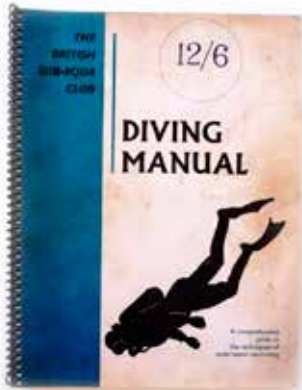
The famous orange wetsuit from the Bond film *Thunderball*, which Eddie Beagley acquired working as a safety diver

Keith Holman, second left, is now the club's Honorary President

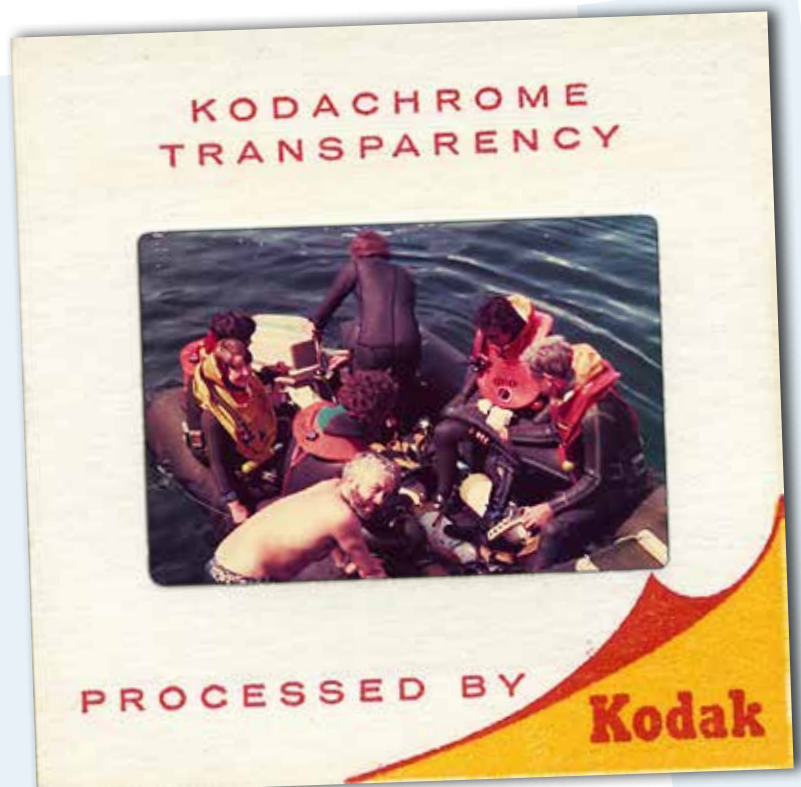


SHARING THE ADVENTURE FIFTY YEARS

Clidive was founded in 1969 by people whose spirit of adventure had led them to take up scuba in the pioneering days of the 1950s and 1960s. At first, they dived from the shore in home-made kit. Later, they built their own inflatables to reach sites along the coast. As the possibilities for adventurous diving expanded, they equipped our club with expedition-level RIBs in which we have since explored the coastlines of every part of the UK and even beyond.



Eddie Beagley taking a ride on our RIBs in 2009



On 5th October, Clidive held a party for nearly 150 current and former members to celebrate its 50th anniversary. One notable absentee was 95-year-old Eddie Beagley, one of the club's founders.

Eddie now lives in Canada and was all booked up for the party but unfortunately at the last minute was unable to fly. We hope to see him in 2020. During 2019 we were delighted to give his grandson, Neal, a Try Dive. There are many BSAC clubs founded in the same period who have people like Eddie to thank for developing the sport and branches we love today.

Eddie took up snorkelling in 1953 after reading Hans Haas' book on diving the Red Sea. Like many at that time, he made most of his own kit, often from army surplus equipment. In 1956 he joined Kingston Branch where he enthusiastically took to scuba and just a year later took part in an expedition to the Mediterranean. For several years from 1958, he was an instructor on the Central Council for Physical Recreation courses run by BSAC, which gave a first taste of diving to many and introduced Eddie to Brian Booth, a BSAC National Coach.



In the late 1960s, the Central London Institute wanted to start an adult education evening class for scuba. Brian Booth developed a course and he asked Eddie to be the other instructor. It proved very successful and in 1969, after Eddie took over the running of the course from Brian, he decided with the rest of an original Diving Dozen to create a special branch of BSAC to offer adventurous diving to CLI students once they had finished their evening course. It was the start of the adventure for Clidive BSAC 410.

In 1988, with the demise of the Greater London Council and many of its institutions such as the CLI, members voted to continue the club as a standard open branch of BSAC. Unfortunately, by the mid-90s the club had declined to a low of 33 members. But a recovery plan was enacted that turned Clidive into one of the most active diving and training branches in the country, and by 1998 Clidive had around 100 members. Clidive was awarded its first Heinke Trophy in 1999.

The club has thrived ever since, even when Ironmonger Row Baths was closed for redevelopment between 2010 and 2012, forcing the club into a nomadic existence for nearly three years. The teams that won a second Heinke Trophy in 2010 and guided the club through its years away from Ironmonger Row handed over to a new set of leaders who have grown the club to its current strength.

Our 2020 Heinke Trophy Entry celebrates what has been achieved over 50 years, but its focus is on developing the expedition leaders and diving officers who can lead the adventures of the future.



Clidive's first inflatable: The Black Pig





SHARING THE ADVENTURE

1. MEMBERSHIP

Clidive has been based at Ironmonger Row Baths in Islington for most of its 50 years. We are a central London club with both the advantages and disadvantages that brings. One of the main advantages is the sheer size of London, full of people looking to take on an exciting new challenge. The downside is the transient nature of London's population, and, increasingly, the tendency for people encouraged by social media lifestyles to move on and seek new experiences. As a club we may see 50+ new members each year but also lose 50 members.

This constant renewal, although an ongoing challenge, is something the club has embraced as a positive. We are continually exposed to new people and new ideas, often from different corners of the globe. A few committed divers are retained from most trainee cohorts. They are attracted by an active diving and training programme enabling them to progress as divers and instructors, and by a diverse and friendly environment that gets them involved early in club activities.

Our active programme also attracts experienced divers and those who have learned abroad but want to extend their experience in a club environment. Whether for a year or a lifetime, Clidive offers a friendly, active and rewarding dive club experience right in the middle of London.

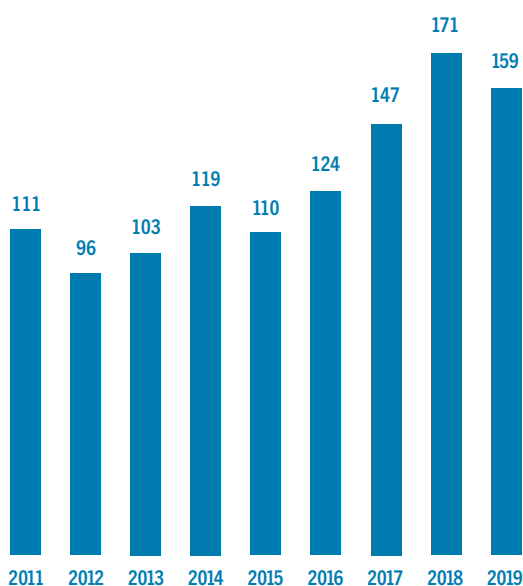
1.1 Numbers

We started 2019 with our highest-ever club membership following an intensive diver training programme in 2017 and 2018 that stretched even our large group of instructors. At one point, we had around 20 Ocean Diver trainees being taught theory in four separate groups scattered around Ironmonger Row's corridors. In February 2019, it was announced in Scuba and on the BSAC blog that Clidive grew more than any other BSAC club in 2018 (<https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/together-were-growing-scuba-diving/>).

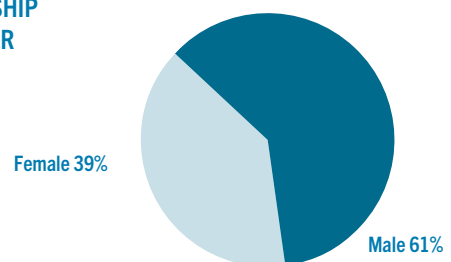
Our objective for 2019 was different. We put a cap of 12 on each Ocean Diver cohort so that they could all fit into our 'classroom' and agreed that we would run only two Ocean Diver and two Sports Diver courses over the year. We then focused more of our resource through our new Diver Development Officer on developing our newly qualified and existing divers and instructors in line with our anniversary year goals. With a smaller intake of trainees, membership inevitably fell a little during 2019 but remains at historically high levels.

With 39% female membership, Clidive has a significantly higher proportion of women members than the BSAC average of 27%. In leadership roles we have an equal split between male and female. We have for many years looked at ways to make the club's equipment and dive programme as accessible as possible to anybody who is interested in diving, and will continue to do so. The average age in the club is 40 years old with nearly 60% of club members below 44 years of age.

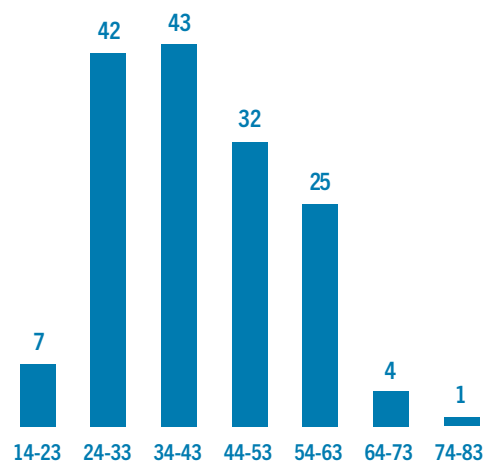
**NINE-YEAR
MEMBERSHIP TREND**



**MEMBERSHIP
BY GENDER**



MEMBERSHIP BY AGE



1.2 Snorkelling

Our older members fondly regale us with tales of year-long diver training programmes in which the first three months focused entirely on snorkelling. In today's world we probably wouldn't get any new divers if they thought it would take a year to get qualified, but we still regularly teach snorkelling skills to our Ocean Diver trainees.

For existing members, we offer snorkelling refresher evenings in our programme. In 2019 all the divers booked on the 'blue sharks' trip attended a snorkelling training evening beforehand. The trip was booked out immediately and had a large waiting list. Unfortunately, it was also one of those that fell victim to the weather gods, so we have no wonderful photographs of those beautiful blue sharks. It's back on the programme for 2020 and again sold out immediately.

Our biggest snorkelling event of the year was for the Islington Summerversity programme offering free school holiday activities to Islington schoolchildren. Mary Brown, former Diving Officer and one of our most experienced instructors, explains:

“Clidive took part in Islington Council’s school holiday programme called Summerversity. We offered a free snorkelling lesson and a try dive. This was advertised through a booklet that was sent to all the schools in Islington. It was also advertised in Islington Life, a magazine that is delivered to all households in the borough. Twelve places were quickly filled, which was perfect as it allowed us to develop a high-quality experience for these young people. In total, 29 people showed interest, demonstrating the potential demand. The twelve lucky ones enjoyed a 30-minute introduction - with lots of photos, a look at the kit and instructions on fitting masks - followed by 90 minutes of pool time. Feedback from participants, parents and instructors was all fantastic.”



1.3 Administration

The club is run by a committee that is elected at the AGM each November. There are a number of unelected officer roles that are appointed by the six elected committee members. [The club's full constitution is in Appendix 1.3a and the branch rules that are additional to the constitution are in Appendix 1.3b.](#)

Chair: Neil Rickards	Diving Officer: Chris Wilson	Equipment Officer: Rebecca Oliver
Appointed by Chair:	Appointed by DO:	Appointed by Equipment Officer:
Marketing & Communications – Emma Stacey	Training Officer – Richard Kelly	Bosun – Steve Walsh
Environment – Eleanor Partridge	Theory Instruction Officer – Elaine Hendry	Van – Nick Harrison
Social Secretary – Nick Allibone/ Preeda Kumar	Diver Development Officer – Gillian Bell	Treasurer: Ian Baker
Webmaster – Mark O'Loughlin		Secretary: Katy O'Connell
		Membership Secretary: Harriet Cross

The Clidive committee evolves along with its membership. No officer holds a single role for more than three years, although some have served in more than one role. It is a great strength of the club that it continually develops new members to take on committee roles.

The 2019 committee demographic is roughly 50:50 men and women, and three of the six elected roles are held by women. This representation is higher than the proportion of women in the overall club membership. There is also a good spread of age and new vs established club members; and there is thought given to encouraging quieter personalities to take as much part in club life as possible, whether committee- or dive-related. We need everybody's talents involved to keep the club thriving.

Our Chair Neil Rickards joined Clidive with his wife Lucy in 2010 to get her qualified before going on holiday. They ended up going on a couple of club trips and, after sitting down with then Diving Officer Mary Brown for a beer one Thursday evening, they stood up as Treasurer and Equipment Officer. Ten years later and between them they've done nearly every job at the club. Neil is in his last year as Chair and is happily following Mary's example:

“In order to keep the committee fresh, we have an unofficial rule that you shouldn't hold a position for more than three years. I have now been Equipment Officer, Membership Secretary, Webmaster, DO and Chair, and will be retiring this year. We're always on the look-out for enthusiastic new members who might be interested in getting more involved. We don't currently have a need for marketing, but when Emma asked questions at the half-yearly meeting about improving internal communications she soon found herself responsible for finding the answers!”





Emma recalls the 'interview' process

"I was fairly new to Clidive and went along to the half-yearly meeting to find out more about the club. I'd just finished an open water course and was wondering how new trainees best integrate into the club as many of its members had been diving for years, known each other a long time and communicated regularly at pool sessions and in the pub after.

I hadn't expected to have much of a voice so early on but everybody was immediately receptive about how to increase communication channels within the club to ensure the information that all levels of members need is as clear and accessible as possible. Next thing I knew I was being asked to join the committee!"

Nick Allibone was another who joined the committee in 2019, within a year of joining Clidive. He has experience in organising comedy events and, while chatting to him in Normandy, a couple of us decided he might fit the bill to fill the gap that had been left by the departure of the energetic Preeda:

"I remember talking about an idea for some Laugh & Learn events* over beer during the Normandy Expedition, after an amazing dive on HMS Lawford. Within 15 minutes of that I had an email from Neil asking if I wanted to be the Social Secretary! A week later I was organising the club's biggest event, the 50th Anniversary Party in October, which I was proud to do and I learnt so much about the history of the club. The whole committee and other members pitched in. The night was fantastic with one of the best club turnouts ever seen. I can't wait for the next party!"

**Look out for these in 2020, they are already happening with great success!*

Developing social secretaries is a novel 'achievement' for an expedition, but you can't look a gift-horse in the mouth and this one has worked out rather well.

A large club creates a lot of non-diving administration. Fortunately, it also has a lot of volunteers with a wide range of skills to share the load. Clidive spreads the key administrative duties through three main officers. The Secretary organises and documents the committee meetings and AGM; the Membership Secretary fields member enquiries, data and renewals; the Treasurer controls the clubs accounts.

1.3.1 Committee and AGM

The Secretary organises eight meetings each year including six regular committee meetings and two open meetings. There is a Half-yearly Open Meeting, to which all members are invited; and we hold an AGM every November, when officers report to the membership, the accounts are approved, and the new committee is elected.

Clidive doesn't have a clubhouse, so the Secretary has to hire spaces at various venues in central London. They are often pubs, and the open meetings double up as club social evenings. Participation is encouraged and there are always good questions and advice from the floor. [Appendix 1.3c contains the documentation for the 2019 Half-yearly Open Meeting and the AGM documentation is Appendix 1.3d.](#)



1.3.2 Members

Membership subscriptions are subject to vote at each AGM. They have remained at £15/month for several years. Collected by standing order, they produce less work for the Membership Secretary and Treasurer than in the past.

2019 has been a year of improvements in the lot of the Membership Secretary, driven by Harriet's efforts to move processes online and reduce paperwork.

The creation of the common renewal process has made membership renewals much simpler and quicker to administer. An email is sent to each member in March asking them to check the information Clidive holds about them and with a link for them to complete the medical declarations managed on the BSAC website. A member who doesn't want to renew simply has to stop their standing order. This is a very simple renewal process and enables us to maintain our GDPR compliance. [See Appendix 1.3e for the Common Renewal Email.](#)

Managing medicals online with BSAC and BSAC's move to plastic-free membership have proved to be extremely beneficial. Just sending out all the membership cards used to be a big job for the Membership Secretary. 2019 improvements for new members are discussed in Section 1.4.2 below.

Harriet Cross, Membership Secretary, explains the benefits of this year's initiatives:

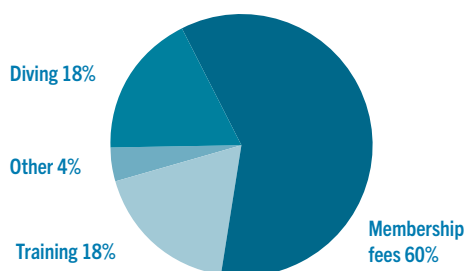


"Managing the membership of Clidive has always been a large task due to the sheer number of members. Over the last year, I have focussed on reducing the workload. The transition to online medicals and new member sign-up has been fairly smooth and much needed - I would recommend it to any other club. It also improves the member experience by reducing the amount of paperwork we ask them to complete and reduces the number of mistakes that arise with paper-based admin."

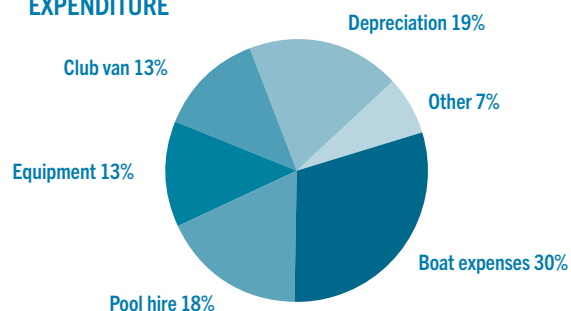
1.3.3 Financial

The club's main sources of income and expenditure are listed below as their average contribution over the last five years:

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



We aim to make a small surplus each year so that we can renew our key assets, in particular replacing our boats and the club van periodically. The engine on Clidive Blue was replaced four years ago, which has significantly extended the expected life of that boat. In 2020 the club will replace Orange (our club van) with a newer but equivalent vehicle that has a more efficient engine meeting EURO 6 standards.

The club had a cash surplus of £32,325 at the end of the financial year in September 2019, which we consider to be healthy for where we are in our asset cycle. This figure was reported at the AGM and can be seen in Appendix 1.3d. The Treasurer is active throughout the dive season working with Dive Managers and Money Marshalls to help make trips run smoothly, for example paying accommodation invoices when required, and providing advice on expenses and Clidive policies.

Every dive manager is given access to a Google Drive folder, which includes guidelines for the financial management of a trip, the money marshalling spreadsheet (which helps track divers, deposits, money spent, etc.), and the trip's cash sheet detailing all transactions related to the trip. [Examples can be seen in Appendix 1.3f including a completed money marshalling sheet for the Normandy 75 expedition.](#)

1.4 Information

With a large and diverse membership, there are noticeable differences in how members prefer to receive information. As a policy, all information about trips, training and other events must be circulated first by email so that every member has equal access to it. After that, our other channels are used, and members' preferences determine how they best respond.

Our Marketing & Communications Officer has been reviewing how to maximise the impact and reach of information particularly for training and dive trips. We have experimented with glossier trip and training promotion, which has worked well. [Examples of trip promotion are in Appendix 1.4a.](#)

Newsplash is our regular newsletter, which, for the last couple of years, has been posted as an open blog on our website with an email alert sent to all members and Friends of Clidive - mostly ex-members who have opted to stay in touch. It promotes all club social and diving activities and contains links to our trip reports, which are published as separate blog posts. It also highlights important news and information such as updated safety information from the club or BSAC. [Appendix 1.4b contains Newsplash 2019 publications.](#)

Occasionally, members also post a blog if they have been away on a big trip. In June, Gregory told us about the diving he had done while travelling in Asia between September 2018 and January 2019. [Gregory's post 'Diving South East Asia: A Clidiver's Highlights' is in Appendix 1.4c.](#)

1.4.1 Use of Social Media

Clidive has a vibrant social media scene. The main channels are the private Facebook group and the Whatsapp group. Some members belong to both of these, others have a preference for one or the other, and some for neither! Both are active. Specific Whatsapp groups – many of them temporary – are used to share information with those taking part on dive trips or in other club activities. This efficiently targets information and provides a discussion forum for those who need it, without overloading the other Clidive channels.



Joli Riley meets up with former member Kamal Shaker in Australia last year





Harriet meets three potential new members in the background while members Soni Drew and Richard Kelly try to act casual in the foreground

Twitter is used to broadcast news such as latest qualifications and updates from trips and club activities. However, this is all designed primarily around promotion and the maintenance of Clidive's external profile, which we cover in Section 1.5 Promotion.

The Clidive diaspora of past and current members all round the world remains a part of the Clidive social scene, particularly through the private Facebook group, which has 275 members. The group had 282 posts, 2,200 reactions, and nearly 1,000 post comments during 2019. We regularly see news of former buddies meeting up around the world to dive or just have some fun. [In Section 5 Special Achievements there is more detail on the efforts of Honorary President Keith Holman to record the social history of the club on our Facebook group. These posts create plenty of chat from new and old members alike.](#)

1.4.2 Information for New Members

Our Membership Secretary handles all membership enquiries. By preference we try to meet people on a Thursday evening at Ironmonger Row Baths to chat to them, show them who we are and find out what they are really looking for.

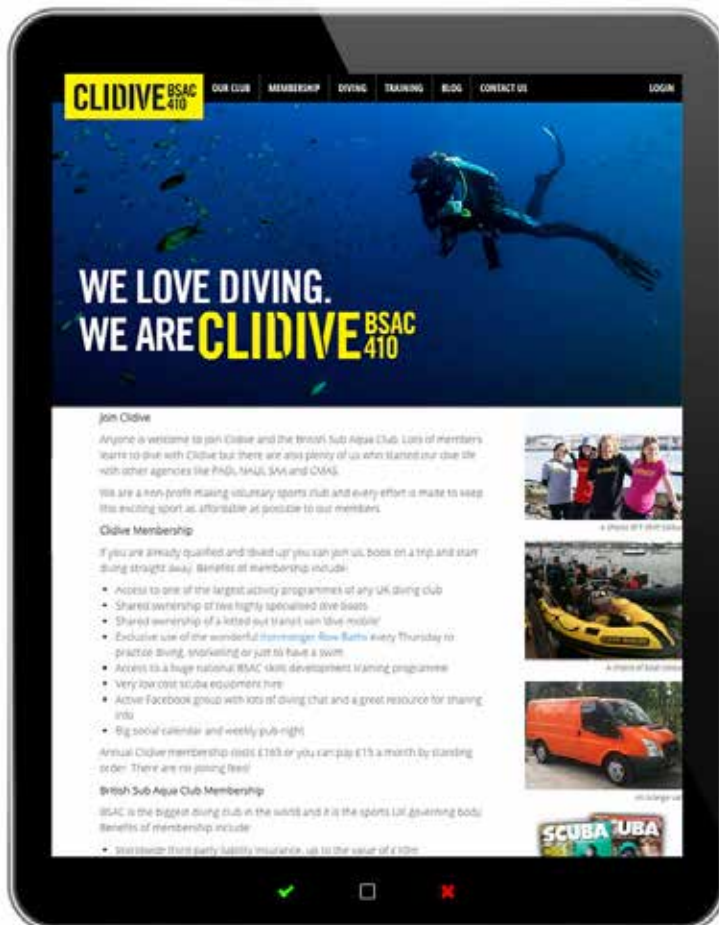
Harriet, our Membership Secretary, really enjoys this part of her role:

[“The most enjoyable part of the job is meeting potential new members, hearing about their diving so far and helping them to find what their next steps might be.”](#)

For those who decide to join, the online membership form Harriet introduced in 2019 has made the signing up process easier, quicker and largely error free for everybody. This helps create a much better impression, as well as massively reducing the workload of the Membership Secretary.

The online information guides new members in joining BSAC, setting up a standing order and completing their information using a Google form. When this is done, Harriet is automatically notified, can check the BSAC membership, and easily transfer required information to the Clidive database from the online Google form.

The new members are then sent their welcome pack, login details for the website and the latest dive programme and are invited to join the members' Whatsapp and Facebook groups. [The new member materials are in Appendix 1.4d.](#)



1.5 Promotion

Try Dives, Ocean Diver and Sports Diver courses are often full before we need to actively promote them. We rarely extend external promotion beyond event notifications on our public Facebook page. Facebook was used to a minimum for 2019 as we wanted to keep a cap on our Ocean Diver and Sports Diver training in order to free up the resource for existing diver development.

In general, we have relied on Facebook much less since the Facebook algorithms changed making it harder to get visibility without paying to promote posts. With historically high membership and full entry-level courses we don't currently need to pay for publicity in this way.

Most enquiries are generated through our website. Searching for 'London scuba club', 'London dive club', 'London scuba diving club' usually results in Clidive appearing at the top of the page with a ranking of between 1st and 3rd. 'Learn to dive London' is not a high-ranking page for us because of paid ranking by commercial diving operations. **See Appendix 1.5a for Google Search Results using an anonymous account, and images of some of our Facebook promotion**

When directed to our website, strong branding with a positive 'We Love Diving' message creates an engaging first impression that is successful in attracting both trainees and existing divers. The website has been running in its current form since 2013 and has been featured by BSAC as an example for clubs looking to improve their marketing (Scuba Issue 67 June 2017 Learning Curve p.50). It has a lot of easy to navigate information highlighting the diving and training opportunities to attract all levels of prospective member.

Debbie Pippard found out about Clidive from the website when she was looking for a club:

"I was looking for an active club with lots of opportunities to dive in the UK and abroad, plus a chance to brush up my skills. I could see from the website that Clidive has an impressive programme of diving, but also that there is a big programme of skills training. Clidive has proved to have everything I was looking for. It has a positive and inclusive ethos and encourages people to get involved in all aspects of running the club. I've since qualified as an OWI and I am looking forward to trips in Wales, Cornwall, Cyprus and Egypt."

***The website gives two email addresses for enquiries:
learntodive@clidive.org alreadyadiver@clidive.org***

In reality, the Membership Secretary deals with both emails but it does provide the right impression to potential members that we have a strategy for, and are well equipped to cope with, trainees and experienced divers.

Word of mouth is a big source of new members for Clidive, particularly among existing divers. The variety of diving and training offered is a huge attraction for people who already dive and are looking for a club. With beginners, many a Clidiver has started out by being talked into a Try Dive by work colleagues extolling the virtues of diving weekends and expeditions and offering a post-dive drink at The Britannia pub!

Laurie Young met a Clidiver abroad and was persuaded to come along to see us:

"I joined Clidive in 2019 already 20 months into my diving journey. While on a PADI rescue course I met a member of Clidive who spoke highly of the club and persuaded me to come along for a pool session. I found a bunch of friendly people and a range of fantastic training and diving opportunities. As a passionate photographer, I'm planning to develop my underwater camera work, and I want to learn to organise and lead photo-based diving trips in the future."

Last but not least, our humble banner at Ironmonger Row Baths on Thursday club nights has consistently brought enquiries and new members to the club. We are a very visible and interesting distraction for the swimmers and gym-goers of Ironmonger Row.

SHARING THE ADVENTURE

2. DIVER TRAINING

For 2019, renewed focus was placed on developing our existing diver and instructor base with the creation and delivery of a sustainable programme of training by our new Diver Development Officer.

Of course, we did not stop entry-level training...





IN 2019 CLIDIVE DELIVERED

FOUR TRY DIVE
EVENINGS

28

TRAINEES

TWO OCEAN
DIVER COURSES

18

TRAINEES

TWO SPORTS
DIVER COURSES

14

TRAINEES

The entry-level courses are essential to develop new divers, bring in club members and generate some income for the club. They also encourage and provide the opportunity for many of our members to become instructors. But it is equally essential to offer our existing instructors and divers new challenges and the opportunities to develop themselves.

Our 2019 Diver Development Officer, Gillian Bell, explains why her role was created:



“Clidive is a big club by any BSAC standards and we have a lot of great experience and instructors in the club. We do a lot of OD/SD training, but it had started to feel to some of our instructors and officers that they didn’t have the time to think about their own needs and those of other existing members. Hence the ‘Diving Development Officer’ role was born. This role is more of a mentoring role than a training role. It facilitates: DL, AD and FCD training; SDCs within the club; instructor training support; and our hugely popular Thursday Interest Evenings, which range from a Kit Care Evening to a Pre-season Decompression Workshop to CCR Try Dives.”

The headline success of gaining four new First Class Divers during 2019 is covered in Section 5 Special Achievements. In total 125 SDC, instructor and diver grade qualifications were achieved during 2019 and an increased pipeline of DL and AD trainees started on their journey:

NINE DIVERS
STARTED
DIVE LEADER

18

TOTAL
PIPELINE

SIX DIVERS
STARTED
ADVANCED DIVER

11

TOTAL
PIPELINE

IN TOTAL

125

SDC, INSTRUCTOR
AND DIVER GRADE
QUALIFICATIONS

Many of these divers are already heavily involved in club activities such as the committee, and now we are bringing them through to be the dive managers and expedition leaders that will ensure adventurous RIB diving is alive and well in the coming decades. We expect a raft of qualifications in 2020 as many are signed off for their dive management and necessary experience dives and are pushed through the ongoing diver development programme. [The published 2019 training programme is on page 9 of the 2019 Dive Programme in Appendix 3.0a. It does not include courses we ran with Eastern Region and some events added later in the year.](#)

2.1 Water Work

2.1.1 Pool Training

Clidive has exclusive use of the pool at Ironmonger Row Baths every Thursday from 8pm until 9.30pm. We use it 50 weeks a year.

Try Dives, and Ocean Diver and Sports Diver courses are the first in the training diary every year. Courses are scheduled for set dates, although we usually have to 'tidy up' missing elements for some students at the end of each course.

The Training Officer maintains an instructor availability spreadsheet and a pool skills sheet that records the progression of each student. They assign students to instructors at the beginning of the week so that notes can be compared and plans made. Each evening one person is assigned as the manager to make sure everything runs smoothly, and we use a rota of volunteers to provide lifeguard and kit cupboard cover. This all maximises the time the instructors can spend with the trainees in the pool. [Appendix 2.1a shows the instructor availability for 2019 and Appendix 2.1b is an example of an Ocean Diver skills sheet.](#)

We run ad hoc courses like Dry Suit or Twinset training, one-on-one mentoring and PIE preparation alongside the core courses, depending on instructor availability.

Other activities fit into the pool diary around the core diver training programme. These include Clidive and regional SDCs, instructor refreshers and training, our Interest Evenings, and special events such as our participation in Islington Council's Summersiversity programme for local youngsters.

2.1.2 Open-water Training

We schedule several open-water trips through the year to provide options for trainees to complete their qualifications. For our January and February cohorts of Ocean Divers and Sports Divers we provide a warm water option around Easter, and, for those who can't make it or who train later in the year, trips to inland sites and the sea. Portland is a particular favourite, but in 2019 we made more use than usual of Stoney Cove.

2019 Ocean Diver and Sports Diver training trips	Trainees
April: Croatia Long weekend + option to stay on for fun diving	10
July: Stoney Cove weekend	7
October: Stoney Cove weekend	13

In addition to the scheduled courses, our instructors took part in several ad hoc quarry training days to help small groups of students who could not make the scheduled trips. Where it can be incorporated without disrupting anyone's diving enjoyment, our instructors also provide instruction on our regular dive trips.

We try as much as possible to provide options for our Ocean Divers and Sports Divers to complete their training with us. But we also provide referrals to BSAC centres in the UK and abroad to complete training. One way or another we want them all to complete their courses and enjoy our sport.

Our Trainee(s) of the Year, Martin and Clarissa, did a Try Dive in December 2018 and joined our Ocean Diver course in January 2019:

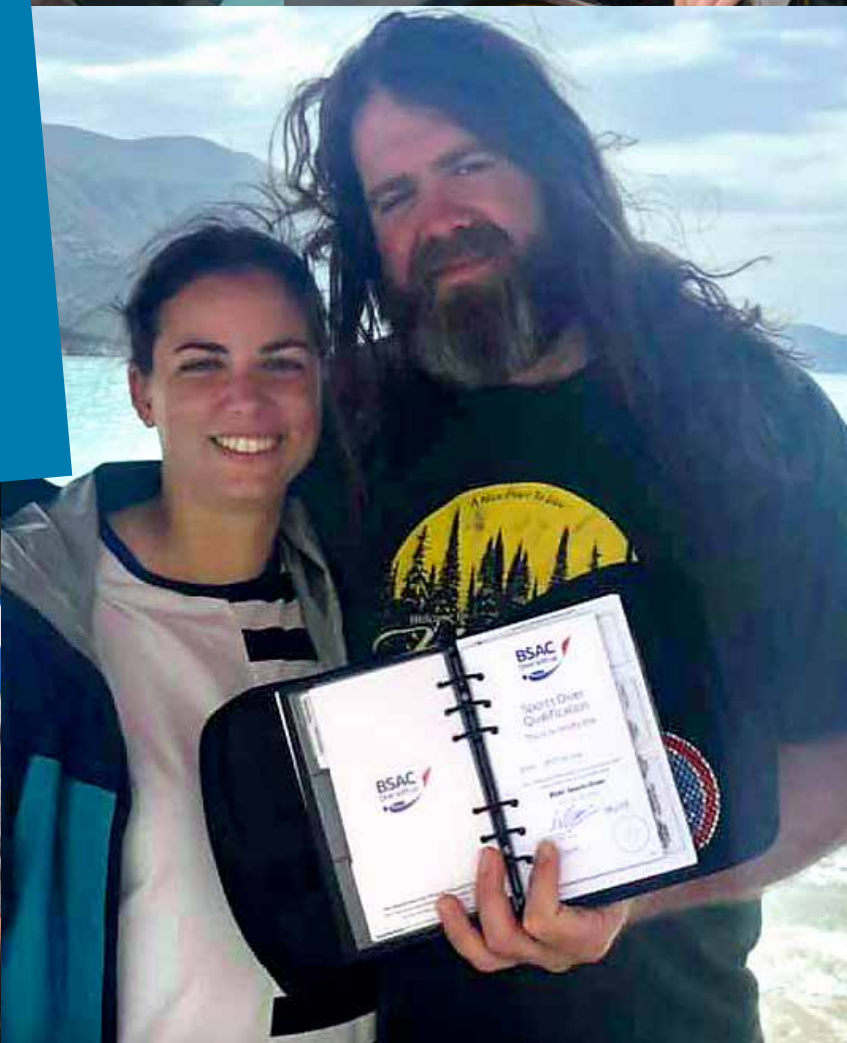
"We've had a great first year in scuba diving, which has resulted in us feeling confident and addicted to the sport. The club experience has been great with the progressive and flexible coaching and so much training available provided by so many great volunteers. We completed Ocean and Sports Diver, Lifesaver, First Aid for Divers and Boat Handling training in a single year and managed to go to St. Abbs, Plymouth, Swanage and Croatia. We truly don't think we could have fitted any more into our year! We really thrived with the structure of the club and its members."

It's fair to say they had a really good year. See page 33 to read about their incredible first dive as a qualified buddy pair in St Abbs.



A YEAR-ROUND TRAINING PROGRAMME

Clockwise from top left: Mark O'Loughlin testing his sheet bend. Gillian Bell leading a boat handling course. Anchor bends and alpine butterflies. Amy Maher practising boat handling on the Thames. Phil Page signs off Niovi Antoniou's Sports Diver in Croatia. Steve Walsh demonstrates First Aid on Nick Harrison. Chris Wilson (right) mentoring at an IFC event.



As part of the 2019 strategy for increasing development opportunities for our existing divers, the London Region Coach, who is a Clidive member, organised regional events for Dive Leader and Advanced Diver training. This is an efficient way of providing this training within the region, and was well supported by Clidive instructors, trainees and equipment.

2019 Regional Dive Leader and Advanced Diver training trips run by Gillian Bell

When	Where	Clidive trainees
June	Gildenburgh	3
August	Gildenburgh	5
November	St Andrews	3

2.2 Theory Lessons

The administration office at Ironmonger Row Baths becomes Clidive's training room on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. We have a small cabinet in the office, in which we keep a laptop and training material.

When we run the core training courses, Ocean Divers have theory between 7pm and 8pm before heading to the pool between 8pm and 9.30pm. When the courses overlap, Sports Divers have theory from 8pm to 9pm for around four weeks and then pick up the earlier slot so that they can have two or three pool sessions.

There are other spaces throughout Ironmonger Row where small groups of people can gather to work through catch-up lectures or other practical training when the training room is occupied. Outside of Diver Training Programmes many interest evenings or advanced lectures use the training room.

Because our schedule is so active, we appointed a Theory Instruction Officer to work with the Training Officer and manage the theory lessons and exams. That allows the Training Officer to concentrate on managing practical lessons as well as the many ad hoc requests we get for Go Dives, drysuit training, new kit familiarisation and the like.

As well as Clidive-only courses, we developed strong regional connections during 2019 to help run Dive Leader, Advanced Diver and SDC training, sharing our facilities and instructors.

Dive Leader and Advanced Diver Theory Courses during 2019

When	Where	Course	Clidive trainees
January	Imperial	DL	6
March	Imperial	AD	3
March	Imperial	AP1	2
May	Imperial	AD Exam	3
August	Clidive	DL	6
September	Clidive	AD	4
November	Clidive	AP1	4

Clidive has the equipment to run its core training programme and most SDCs in house, apart from Compressor Operator, Gas Blender and AED. Equipment from London Region and a growing relationship with other local clubs help us fill any gaps. For example, we ran a Compressor Operator course with Imperial College using their onsite compressor, and we borrow AED equipment from London Region.



2.3 Courses

Thanks to the extensive diver development programme, 125 diver and instructor qualifications were achieved in 2019. The diver grade and instructor qualifications are listed in Section 2.4 Qualifications. In this section we will list all the other courses and qualifications achieved including instructor SDC endorsements.

Courses and endorsements		Instructor endorsements achieved:		In addition to diver training courses and SDCs we ran several very popular interest evenings and skills refreshers for existing divers and instructors:	
Boat Handling (4 courses)	16	Boat Handling	2	Instructor Refresher (theory and pool)	18
Diver Coxswain	3	Diver Coxswain Assessor	1	Decompression Workshop (theory and pool)	7
VHF Radio	3	Compressor Operator	3	Photography & Videography Workshop	7
Compressor Operator (3 courses)	12	Lifesaver	2	Tides & Planning Workshop	10
First Aid for Divers	4	Advanced Lifesaver	1	Mayday Refresher	7
AED	5	First Aid for Divers	2	Snorkelling Refresher	8
O ₂ Administration	6	AED	4	Knots Workshop	10
Lifesaver	2	Twinset	1	Rescue Refresher	7
Advanced Lifesaver	4	ADP	2	Kit Care Workshop	7
Buoyancy & Trim	4	RYA/MCA VHF	2	CCR Try Dive	12
Accelerated Decompression Procedures	3				
Twinset	2				
CCR Mod 1	3				
Advanced Mixed Gas OC	1				

2.4 Qualifications

2.4.1 Diver Grades

The diver grade breakdown of our 143 full diving members is:

	Total	Qualified in 2019
First Class Diver	7	4
Advanced Diver	16	2
Dive Leader	20	
Sports Diver	51	8
Ocean Diver	16	7
Other agencies & trainees	33	



2.4.2 Instructor Grades

Clidive has a strong active group of instructors and a pool of other instructors who are inactive through work or personal commitments, distance from club and even retirement. Many of them have given many years of service to the club.

Instructor Grades:

	Active	Inactive	Total
National Instructor	1		1
Advanced Instructor	5	3	8
Open Water Instructor	15	5	20
Theory Instructor	3	1	4
Assistant Instructor	10	6	16
Total	34	15	49

We have achieved the following instructor endorsements during 2019:

Instructor Trainers	2
Diving for All	2
Assistant OC Technical	1
IFC	3
OWIC	4
TIE	4
PIE	2
OWI	2

Our Advanced Trainee of the Year, Giovanni Corrigan, enthusiastically progressed his own diving this year but won his award for a series of excellent performances and commitment to completing his open water instructor qualifications.

Senior Examiner's - Overall Comment:

Congratulations Giovanni! Two Merits is a brilliant result. Your classroom presentation was very good. Amongst the best I have seen in 30 years on the ITS. You knew the subject inside out. You talked with confidence and enthusiasm. Your vis-aids were outstanding and the way you used them outstanding too. I particularly like the hair drier, it was fun and made your point very well.

As soon as you can I suggest you attend the OWIC or the PIE and progress on to the next level. Once again very well done this was a great performance.

M Wilson

It wasn't just Clidive who appreciated Gio's performances during his instructor exams

2.4.3 Instructor Training

Gillian Bell and Phil Page joined the ranks of Instructor Trainers during 2019. Along with Ben Jaffey, Chris Wilson and longstanding Honorary Member Colin Yule, they have participated in or organised Instructor Training events throughout 2019.

This strong group of Instructor Trainers are a great asset to the club. They ensure high standards in our training through observing and feeding back to our instructors and by mentoring all of our OWI candidates. Thanks also to Dave Lock of iDive who joined our Croatia training trip and mentored one of our OWI candidates.

2.5 Equipment

Clidive maintains an extensive set of equipment including two well-equipped RIBs, a club van, 22 sets of Scuba, 30+ cylinders, BCDs, weights, fins, masks, snorkels, and a few wetsuits and other assorted theory and practical training equipment and supplies.

Our scuba equipment is available for rent to trainees and club members for training trips and dive trips. The rental cost of £3/day for a single item and a maximum of £10/day for a complete set has not changed in at least a decade.

2.5.1 The Kit Cupboard

Although we don't have a clubhouse, we do have a good-sized kit cupboard at Ironmonger Row Baths. It is conveniently located next to the pool away from public areas and by a service entrance where we can load and unload kit. The kit cupboard is the engine room of club nights and gets even busier during the dive season when kit is being packed for a trip at the same time as pool training is going on.

Being on the kit cupboard rota is a rite of passage for many at the club and, along with the lifeguard rota, is one of the ways we get people involved quickly in the vital running of the club. [Appendix 2.5a is the Lifeguard and Kit Cupboard Rota for 2019.](#)

Rebecca Oliver took over as Equipment Officer for 2019 and set about making the cupboard more efficient and accessible with a big clear-out and some overdue modifications:



“As a club with a high percentage of women members, it was important to me to ensure that the equipment was accessible and so I roped in my dad to make the changes. Lowering the existing shelving made it far easier for all members to get to what they want, and also allowed for the addition of extra shelves. Procuring storage boxes from my workplace that were being discarded and clearly labelling them makes it clearer to everyone where everything is stored. I also instigated a traffic light system for the cylinders so it makes it easy to glance in the cupboard to see exactly where we are with air and if we need to get any refills.”



2.5.2 Servicing and Air Fills

The number of dive shops in London where it is possible to get cylinders filled has declined, and Clidive is not able to run a compressor at Ironmonger Row. Fortunately, Tony Marshall has for a number of years provided a much-needed service collecting our empties and bringing them back full. Tony also services all our dive kit.

We are extremely grateful to Tony for the effort he puts in to help us and other BSAC clubs in London.

2.5.3 Clidive Orange – Our Van

Being based in central London, many members do not own cars, and many don't even have a driving licence. The club van has been an essential piece of equipment for many years. On almost every club trip the van transports all the dive equipment and stores necessary for the weekend or expedition and is used for towing, launching and recovering our RIBs.

We also see this as a way of limiting our environmental impact with many members taking the train from London to the various corners of Britain in which we are diving. All their equipment is transported there in the van for a small charge. The Thursday before and after a trip is always very busy at Ironmonger Row as equipment is loaded and unloaded.

Our current van, an ex-RAC Ford Transit has been well worked since 2012. 2019 has been its last year of hard service. It has been incredibly reliable given what we put it through, but the wear and tear has begun to tell. We also need to get a newer model that meets the Euro 6 emissions standards, as London's ULEZ now charges older vehicles with higher emissions.

2019's farewell tour has been fairly epic and not without incident. In particular, the breakdown in Normandy while towing Clidive Yellow to the expedition led to a lot of plans being ripped up and re-written very quickly. The van made it home but for the rest of the year did not have a fourth gear.

Nick Harrison kept the van going for one last year but had to nurse the van and himself back from Normandy.





Pictured clockwise from top left: Ben Jaffey running a boathandling course. Chris Wilson at the helm of Yellow on the First Class Diver Practical Exam in June. Blue on a winter test at Thurrock YC

2.5.4 Clidive Yellow and Clidive Blue – Our Boats

Both our boats are well-equipped, expedition-level RIBs. After their use on the First Class Diver practical in June, we were delighted with the commendation they received from the event boss, Mark Wilson, who said (we might be paraphrasing a little bit but this is what we reported to our chuffed bosun that day!):

“When turning up to these events there is always a worry about what we will find when clubs provide their own boats, so it was a real pleasure to work with such well-equipped and fit-for-purpose boats.”

See Appendix 2.5b for the boats’ equipment list.

RIB diving is the core of what we do for our weekend trips and our expeditions. We maintain the boats and trailers to a high standard because we need them to be reliable when we use them in remote locations like Handa or take them abroad.

A core group of volunteers helps the bosun with routine maintenance and upgrades, the boats’ engines are serviced in line with manufacturer recommendations, and repairs made by professionals when required. The boats are a major expense, but Clidive’s long-term finance is organised around maintaining them at a level we need to provide adventurous diving as safely and reliably as possible.



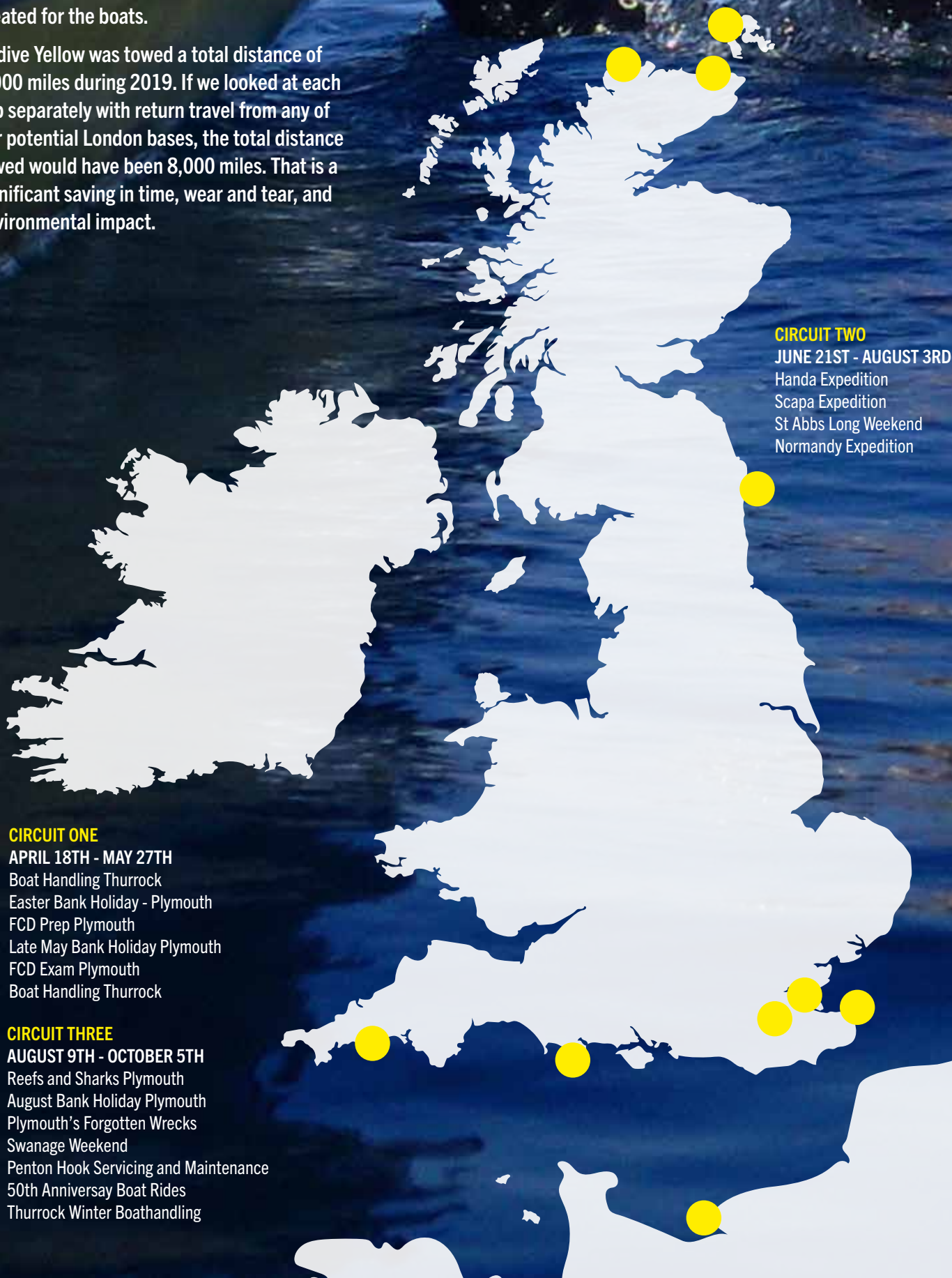
We like to keep the boats active throughout the year and, in addition to our club dive trips, our boats have been used for the following activities during 2019:

- First Class Diver preparation weekend
- First Class Diver practical exam
- 4 Boat Handling courses on the Thames
- 4 boat handler experience weekends on the Thames
- Laying Up and Launch trot boat help at Thurrock Yacht Club
- Volunteer safety boat for the Thames Great River Race
- Our 50th Party Thames River Trips

Towing has become an issue for many clubs. We are lucky that we have 10 active members with a towing licence who can use the club van, and at least three of them also have a private vehicle that has been used to tow the boats during 2019. There are some inactive members who occasionally help with towing or launch and recovery of the boats. In 2018 we paid for one member to get their towing licence. It is not cheap, but something we will need to consider more in the future unless the regulations change.

A vital part of our dive planning includes carefully mapping out where the boats will be moved throughout the season to minimise the amount of long-distance towing required, our ecological impact and our costs. The dive plan takes into account the most efficient boat movements, and the bosun arranges storage and towers. As far as possible a 'circuit' is created for the boats.

Clidive Yellow was towed a total distance of 3,000 miles during 2019. If we looked at each trip separately with return travel from any of our potential London bases, the total distance towed would have been 8,000 miles. That is a significant saving in time, wear and tear, and environmental impact.





SHARING THE ADVENTURE

3. DIVING ACTIVITIES

“We wanted to mark our 50th anniversary with a dive programme that had something for everyone and drew on our deep knowledge and wide experience as a diving club. We planned trips that benefitted from the depth and breadth of knowledge the club had grown over the years, like the RIB expeditions to remote corners of the UK and to Normandy. We wanted to cultivate further the wide range of interests, experience and expertise in the club.”





“We planned trips to snorkel with blue sharks, wreck trips to Plymouth and Dover and reef trips to Plymouth, Pembrokeshire and Sardinia. We also wanted to continue to grow the new generation of divers with wonderful trips open to all, like our four bank holiday trips, our Croatia trip and classic UK trips to St Abbs and Swanage. I feel that the dive programme really showed the essence of Clidive, our continued vitality and how we constantly strive to Share the Adventure with our members and the wider diving community.”

Chris Wilson, Dive Officer

The dive programme is more than just a list of trips, it is a document that guides different diver grades and levels of experience towards the best trips and programme for them, whether it's a newly qualified Ocean Diver, an experienced Sports Diver or an Advanced Diver looking for something different.

Dive planning begins in early autumn with an open meeting to discuss ideas and put together some themes for each year. The Diving Officer then works with people who have ideas for trips and with the Training Officer to come up with the full dive programme, which, as discussed in the previous section, also considers boat logistics. The programme is launched at the Christmas Party every year. [The published 2019 Dive Programme is in Appendix 3a.](#)

FROM	TO	LOCATION	TRIP	GRADE	DM
04-Jan	09-Jan	Red Sea	Liveaboard	SD	Kate
30-Mar	31-Mar	Plymouth	Winter Warmer (Hard Boat)	OD	Eleanor
19-Apr	22-Apr	Plymouth	Easter Bank Holiday	All	Brian
19-Apr	27-Apr	Croatia	Training & Diving	All	Phil
28-Apr	28-Apr	Gildenburgh	SD & Rescue Training	SD	Gillian
04-May	06-May	Portland	May Day Bank Holiday	All	Ian
25-May	27-May	Plymouth	Late May Bank Holiday	All	Eleanor
15-Jun	16-Jun	Dover	Dover Wrecks (Hard Boat)	SD+	Nick B
16-Jun	16-Jun	Gildenburgh	Regional DL/AD Training	SD	Gillian
23-Jun	28-Jun	Handa	NW Scotland Expedition	SD+	Chris
07-Jul	12-Jul	Orkney	Scapa 100 Expedition	SD+	Phil
20-Jul	21-Jul	Stoney Cove	Training	All	Richard
20-Jul	22-Jul	St. Abbs	Marine Park	OD	Phil
28-Jul	02-Aug	Normandy	Normandy 75 Expedition	SD+	Nick B
10-Aug	12-Aug	Plymouth	Reefs and Snorkelling with Blue sharks	SD(30)	Eleanor
11-Aug	11-Aug	Gildenburgh Regional	DL/AD Training	SD	Gillian
24-Aug	26-Aug	Plymouth	Bank Holiday	All	Mark
07-Sep	08-Sep	Plymouth	Wrecks	SD+	Tomek
14-Sep	15-Sep	Swanage	Wrecks and drifts	OD	Ian
21-Sep	23-Sep	Pembrokeshire	Marine Park & Smalls	SD	Elaine
27-Sep	01-Oct	Sardinia	Marine Park	SD	Giovanni
29-Sep	29-Sep	Gildenburgh	DL/AD Training	SD	Gillian
12-Oct	14-Oct	Lake District	Lakes and caves	SD	Nick H
19-Oct	20-Oct	Stoney Cove	Training	All	Elaine
21-Nov	21-Nov	St Andrew's	DL/AD Training	SD	Gillian

All: Minimum grade is trainee. First time drysuit allowed.

OD: Minimum grade is qualified OD. First time drysuit allowed.

SD: Minimum grade is qualified SD

SD (30): Minimum SD progressed to 30m

SD+: Minimum 'dived-up' and depth progressed SD. Can include more challenging diving.

2019 IN NUMBERS

A few statistics from the 2019 dive season. This includes trips sold before the dive programme was published and trips added later. It excludes the First Class Diver preparation weekends and practical exam.

983

LOGGED DIVES

8

TRAINING TRIPS

3

RIB EXPEDITIONS

8

DIVE TRIPS OPEN TO OCEAN DIVERS

25

DIVE TRIPS PLANNED

7

DIVE MANAGERS PROGRESSING THEIR DIVE LEADER AND ADVANCED DIVER

14

DIFFERENT DIVE MANAGERS

5

TRIPS FOR EXPERIENCED SPORTS DIVERS AND ABOVE

79

DAYS' DIVING

9

DAYS BLOWN OUT



3.1 Branch Dives

3.1.1 Speciality Diving and Snorkelling

Dover wrecks

Dover fell victim to the weather for the second year running. Some club members dived from Dover independently during the year and had some superb dives on the many fantastic wrecks in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Day trips are being planned for 2020.

Plymouth reefs and sharks

This was one of our most popular bookings with a long waiting list. But unfortunately, the weather gods were not playing ball and it had to be cancelled. It is back on the 2020 dive programme and was the first to sell out again. We WILL snorkel with those sharks!

Plymouth's forgotten wrecks

Fantastic weather greeted the divers in this late season Plymouth trip which is designed to dive the wrecks we don't usually get to on a bank holiday. The team dived the Maine, Rosehill and Persier and recorded some photographic and video data on the Coronation wreck site. This was also where we recorded drone footage of Clidive Blue that ended up helping to promote the 2019 BSAC Conference.

Conditions above and below the water were some of the best of the year, providing excellent diving and a greater appreciation of the layout of the wreck sites than is usually possible.



Hodge Close Quarry in the Lake District isn't the easiest of sites to get to

Lake District

This was a return visit following a very successful 2018 trip. It definitely belongs in the 'something different' category, especially Hodge Close Quarry. The team carried kit up hills, through woods and dripping tunnels carved through rock, down ladders and into an old quarry whose tunnels and caverns have flooded, leaving plenty to explore in an enclosed environment. Other classic sites like Windermere and Coniston Water, combined with fabulous scenery, made for an extremely popular trip.

Our thanks go to Kendal branch, which helped out with air and advice. [See Appendix 3.1a for the Lake District trip report.](#)

3.1.2 Weekends and Long Weekends

Winter warmer in Plymouth

After two years of being blown out, this trip finally went ahead with calm seas and warm sunshine allowing the classic Plymouth weekend circuit of Eddystone, Hands Deep, Scylla and JEL. A winter warmer indeed. Eleanor, one of our Advanced Diver candidates, took over the running of the trip at the last minute when the original dive manager had to pull out. [See Appendix 3.1b for the Winter Warmer trip report, 'Winter Warmer – lucky for some'](#)



There wasn't time for photographs, even on the boat, but Marysya recorded the incident in one of her brilliant little sketches. The whale wasn't really this big, but this is how it felt!

St Abbs

We all know St. Abbs is a fantastic diving destination. The club returns there on a regular basis, often after an expedition to the remoter parts of Scotland. But this trip will be remembered for only one thing ... the minke whale! Amazingly, Clarissa and Martin were on their first sea dive as a qualified buddy pair: "We had just started diving our plan when a darkness came over us that blocked the light. We looked up to see a big grey mass above us and then we saw a tail flip as the whale swam over and away from us. 'OMG, what are we supposed to do if we encounter sea life larger than ourselves?' Obviously, that was not in our brief or dive plan. After the initial excitement we decided to head up to find our boat. They had seen the whale as well and everybody was very excited. It was a very short dive, 13 mins in total, but we will not forget it. Could we ask for a better first dive?"

[See Appendix 3.1c for the St.Abbs trip report 'Wind, Waves and Whales: St Abbs, July 2019'](#)

Swanage

This turned out to be our last UK RIB trip of the year, as Pembrokeshire fell victim to the weather. It was another trip being run by an Advanced Diver candidate, Ian, and the team managed dives on the Fleur de Lys and Old Harry's drift both ways. It has been quite some time since the club took a RIB to Swanage, so it was a good learning exercise to refresh our knowledge of operating a RIB in the area.

Pembrokeshire

This was the last of the season's blown out trips. Such a shame as we all absolutely love the diving in this area. But it's back on the programme for May 2020, and everybody's fingers are firmly crossed.

3.1.3 Four Bank Holiday Trips: Open to All

We almost always run the bank holiday trips somewhere with diving options for inclement weather, and this usually means Plymouth and Portland. In 2019 we planned three bank holidays to Plymouth and one to Portland.

These trips in terms of diver numbers are our largest. On the biggest trips we will have both RIBs and waves of divers. They involve organising options for Ocean Divers on their first club trip through to dives for our most experienced members. They are a great training ground for dive managers and in 2019 our four trips were organised by Brian, Ian, Eleanor and Mark who are all Advanced Diver candidates.

Portland offers a good range of options. The May Day bank holiday is usually one for introducing newly qualified divers to the sea and, for experienced divers, it is often an early season shakedown trip. The favourite dive of the trip, with the best conditions, was the shallow but always interesting Black Hawk Bow.

Plymouth is a perennial favourite because there is always a possibility of taking new Ocean Divers out to experience Eddystone or Hand Deep which is about as close to a guarantee of seeing the beauty of UK diving as you can get. Flying out the 11 miles on our powerful RIBs to an offshore lighthouse before dropping in on colourful life-filled gullies is a thrilling experience for everyone. Other favourites for our Ocean Divers are the Scylla, the James Eagen Layne and the Glen Strath Allan.

Experienced divers often aim for Hatt Rock if the weather and tides line up, and twice during 2019 we managed to dive there including the two-boat August Bank Holiday trip run by Mark O'Loughlin as part of his Advanced Diver development.



Mark O'Loughlin on the Persier

3.1.4 Diving Abroad

Red Sea

Six Clidivers headed to the Red Sea for an early January liveaboard with Emperor Divers on the Southern Itinerary. They were met with the usual wonderful sights of the Egyptian Red Sea.

Croatia

The first part of the Croatia trip was dedicated to open water training for our January and February trainees. The rest of the week was for fun diving and relaxing in weather considerably better than being experienced back home. The more experienced divers managed a dive on the locals' favourite wreck Taranto with depths to suit tastes and qualifications between 30 and 50m.

Good and affordable local restaurants completed the picture. Good food and great diving are always a winning combination. [See Appendix 3.1d for the Croatia Training trip report.](#)



South Sardinia

The last scheduled trip of the year took a few lucky members to Sardinia for lovely food, sun and diving. Giovanni ran the trip as part of his ongoing Advanced Diver training under the watchful eyes of Nick Harrison and Elaine Hendry. They dived the beautiful Marine Park and the Romanga wreck.

This is Gio's home patch, so he was keen to show everybody a great time, and they all came back refreshed just in time for Clidive's big 50th bash.



Niovi Antoniou's winning shot for the Overseas Diving category in the 50th Anniversary Photo Competition: Divers on the Zenobia.

3.1.5 Safety Section

Clidive operates according to BSAC safe diving practices. The club has a handful of additional rules aimed at ensuring safety. The Clidive Branch Rules are listed in Appendix 1.3b.

We are primarily a RIB-diving club. To be in charge of a Clidive RIB you must be a club-ratified cox'n. After achieving the BSAC Diver Coxswain award, a diver will be continually assessed for all aspects of seamanship and diver safety until the committee is satisfied that the diver can be ratified. Every trip has at least one ratified cox'n to support the dive manager, and usually two.

Clidive has 16 active club-ratified cox'ns, with two nearing ratification. There are also 12 inactive ratified cox'ns living in various parts of the country who have jumped in to help on occasion.

All our boats are fully kitted out with safety equipment including 2x7l oxygen cylinders, an O2 kit, and an offshore First Aid kit. Clidive encourages a culture of reporting concerns and non-judgmental action. We are methodical in completing incident reports. [See Appendix 2.5b for the full Boat Equipment List.](#)

We run refresher evenings every year for essential skills including VHF and Mayday, O2 Administration, Lifesaver, First Aid, tide planning and chartwork.

During 2019, our First Class Diver candidates reviewed and updated our risk register, dive logs, briefing notes and many of the checklists we use to ensure safety in the use of our boats and diving. One of the aims of updating and stress-testing the checklists and other notes, and then to be advocates for their unquestioned use, is to provide the tools, support and environment where it is not just the most confident who push forward to become the dive managers and cox'ns. The win-win situation here is that it's often the more experienced members who benefit most from following a check list!

Both boats have a dive manager's folder containing all the dive logs, checklists, incident sheets and other information required by the manager and the cox'n.

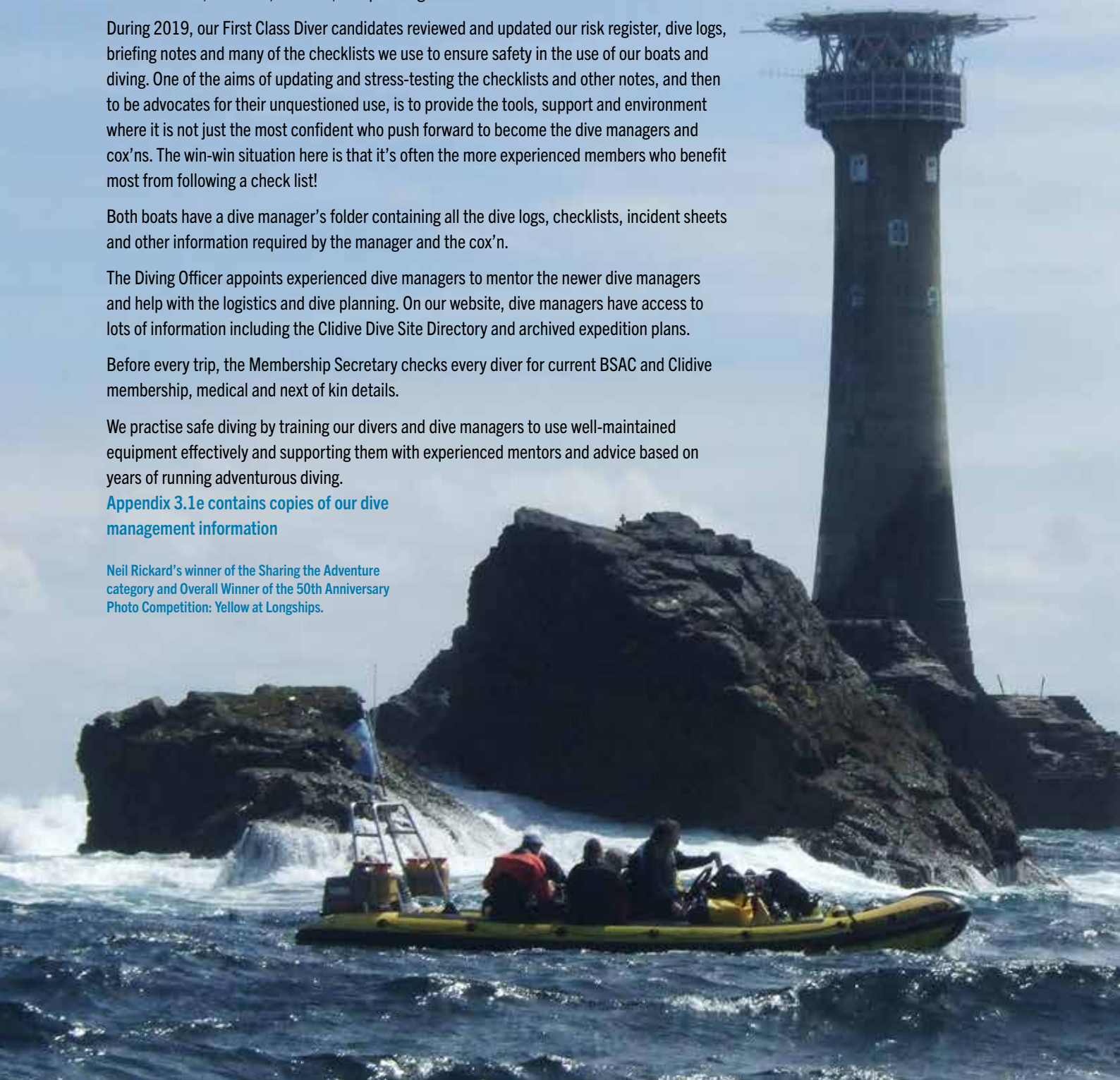
The Diving Officer appoints experienced dive managers to mentor the newer dive managers and help with the logistics and dive planning. On our website, dive managers have access to lots of information including the Clidive Dive Site Directory and archived expedition plans.

Before every trip, the Membership Secretary checks every diver for current BSAC and Clidive membership, medical and next of kin details.

We practise safe diving by training our divers and dive managers to use well-maintained equipment effectively and supporting them with experienced mentors and advice based on years of running adventurous diving.

[Appendix 3.1e contains copies of our dive management information](#)

Neil Rickard's winner of the Sharing the Adventure category and Overall Winner of the 50th Anniversary Photo Competition: Yellow at Longships.



3.2 Expeditions

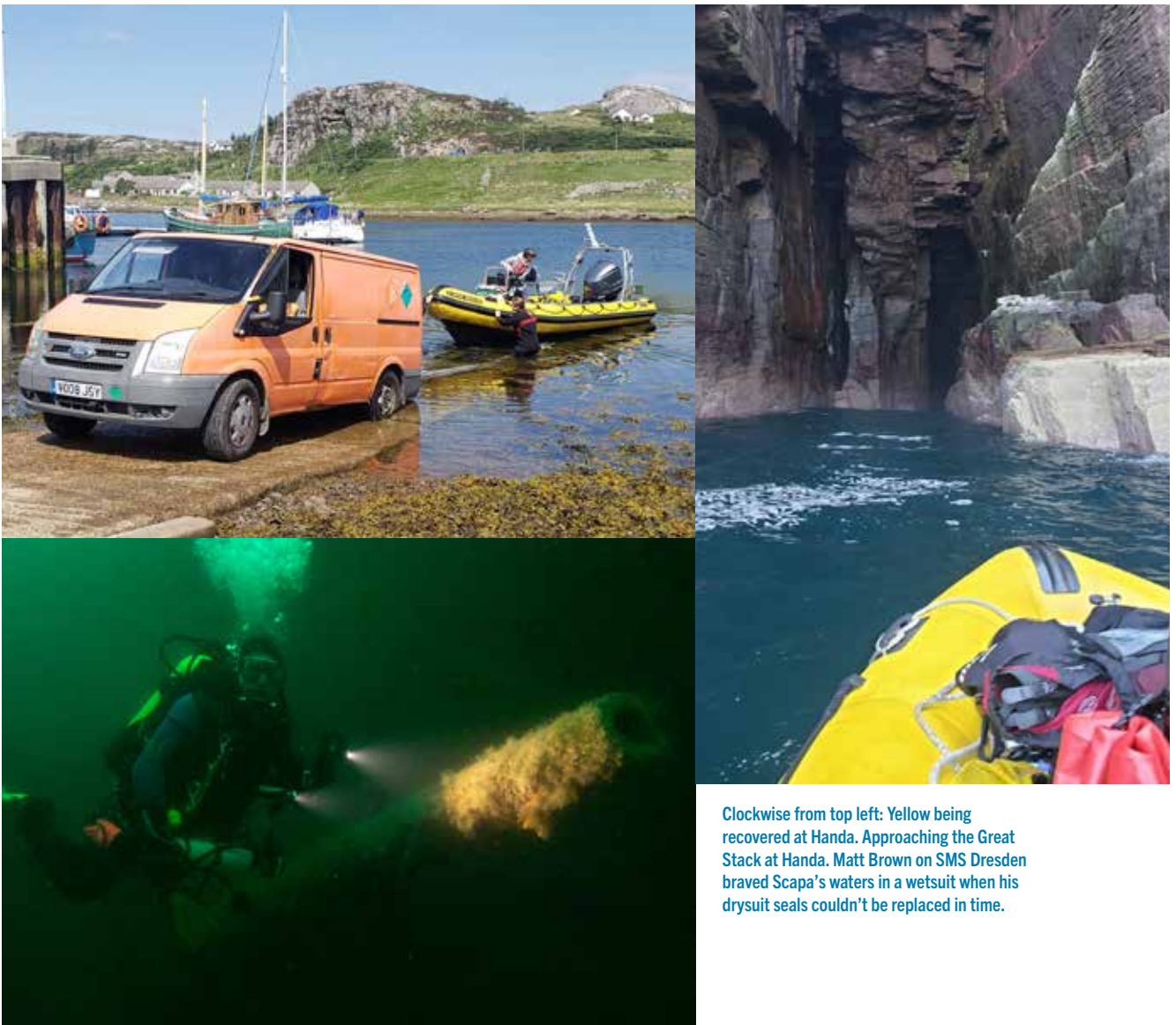
With five First Class Diver candidates in 2019, it wasn't hard to find expedition leaders and expedition ideas. The three expeditions selected were a week of exploratory diving centred around the Isle of Handa in NW Scotland, and, fittingly, two weeks marking significant anniversaries: a week in Orkney celebrating Scapa 100; and the Normandy 75 week, both as Clidive turned 50.

RIB expeditions are always at the heart of our diving programme. They are the training ground where divers coming through the club learn what it takes to be a part of and eventually lead the shared adventures that so often live longest in our memories.

Our expeditions this year resulted in:

- 1 club-ratified cox'n
- 1 Diver Cox'n
- Many hours of experience for boat handlers preparing for Diver Cox'n
- 12 new compressor operators
- 1 new compressor operator instructor
- Progression and dive management endorsements for 10 Dive Leader and Advanced Diver candidates
- 1 Social Secretary! (See Section 1.3 for that story)

We like to make all our trips as accessible as possible. The Normandy 75 expedition plan estimated a cost of £500 + travel for a week diving from the club RIB, including accommodation, diving, air, food and drink. The base cost at the end was £467.50 + travel. With shared travel costs most people spent around £600 which is amazing value for an adventurous diving holiday abroad at the height of summer.



Clockwise from top left: Yellow being recovered at Handa. Approaching the Great Stack at Handa. Matt Brown on SMS Dresden braved Scapa's waters in a wetsuit when his drysuit seals couldn't be replaced in time.

EXPEDITION REPORT **HANDA** JUNE 2019



One of Clidive's most frequent expedition destinations is the wild and beautiful coastline of Scotland. This year, Chris Wilson led a team to Kinlochbervie on the NW coast of Scotland to explore the area centred on the Isle of Handa, which the club had glimpsed on the previous year's Summer Isles expedition.

Tidal calculations identified the best week in June and put in motion everything that needs to happen to make an expedition like this work. Charts were studied to identify possible dive sites, compressor-friendly accommodation was reserved, compressor hire arranged, a slipway found, oxygen ordered, a 'volunteer' selected to tow the boat from London to the remote NW tip of Scotland, the boat and trailer prepped, kit and personal transport booked, domestic rotas allocated, and a week's food for 11 collected 100 miles away at Inverness en route. After months of organisation and anticipation, the team went diving.

And the diving was as spectacular as ever. The team's favourite dive was near the Great Stack of Handa where thousands of guillemots, kittiwakes, razorbills, puffins and greater skuas filled the cliffs and sky, with some swimming curiously past divers on their safety stops. Sandy-bottomed gullies dropped away to the north in clear 10m visibility, with soft corals and urchins adorning the walls and huge spiny lobsters and crabs in crevices. One pair couldn't decide whether to follow the monster crayfish strutting along bold as you like or the golden octopus that jetted across the gully in front of them settling down opposite to observe their noisy procession with a new disguise. Elsewhere, opinion remains divided over whether Duslic Rock near Cape Wrath is a better site for jewel anemones than the Eddystone reef system off Plymouth.

Marysya used her eye for detail and love of nature to identify 106 different species, many of which made it into her amazing sketches of the week's dives, which were appended to her Seasearch forms (see Section 3.3. Science). The Whatsapp feed to a jealous club in London was full of sketches and sunny photos of stunning scenery.

With lunch stops on wide deserted golden beaches, spectacular views and amazing wildlife experiences above and below the water during one of Scotland's warmest weeks of the summer, it was a reluctant group of people who packed their kit at the end of the week and headed home.

The Handa expedition plan is in Appendix 3.2a and Handa trip report is in Appendix 3.2b.

"We did one of the dives next to a bird colony, and it was my best safety stop ever. Dozens of guillemots and razorbills flying underwater surrounded us. They'd been so curious about us!"

Marysya's memory of her safety stop at Handa's Great Stack





Above, stunning weather in Scotland: Left to right Marysya Rudska, Brian Arnold, John Sharkey, Eleanor Partridge, Colin Yule, Vineet Bewtra, Gillian Bell. So Chris Wilson must be taking the photo. Below: If the team were a band, this would be their album cover. The beach at Oldshoremore

“While all my friends prepared for their summer vacations packing swimsuits, flip-flops and sunscreen, I packed my woolly hat, fleece jumper, warm socks and skiing gloves, getting ready to survive the Scottish summer at sea. It was all worth it! It was my first expedition and my first diving in Scotland. We stayed in a small, remote village surrounded by the sea, seabirds, rocks, sheep and stunning wild beaches. The diving! The life under water was so abundant and diverse and busy that I could hardly see the bottom of the sea. It was an amazing expedition. Beautiful underwater scenery complemented by breath-taking landscapes above water. I definitely want to dive in Scotland again!”

Quote from Marysya



EXPEDITION REPORT **SCAPA 100** JULY 2019



In our 50th anniversary year it seemed appropriate to join the 100th anniversary commemorations of the sinking of the German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow. To make it a little bit different and a little bit special we decided to do it independently and take one of our RIBs

Given the fantastic hardboat options in Scapa Flow why would you take a RIB? The expedition leader, Phil Page explains:

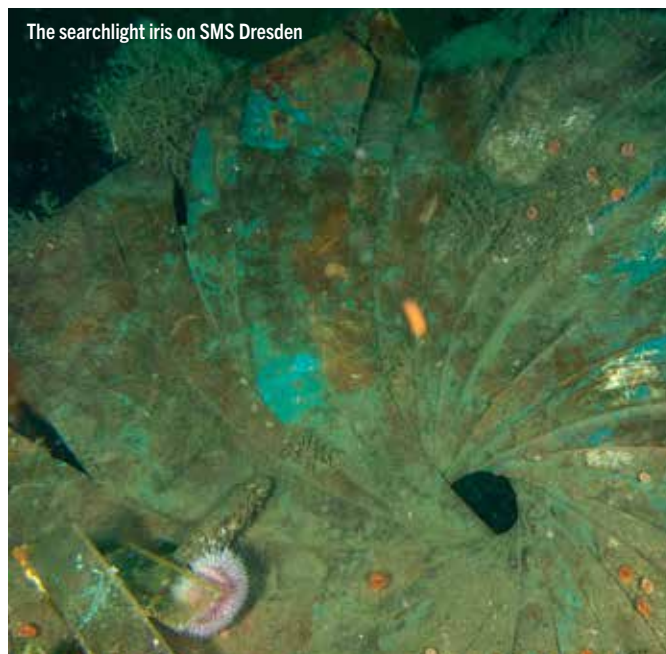
“After completing my BSAC SD course in Malta in 2010, I joined my local BSAC branch the following year and started diving in the UK. It was at these early club nights that I first heard a name whispered in reverence and awe: Scapa Flow. Regaled with tales of deep, dark and gigantic wrecks, Scapa became something of a Holy Grail for me and the driver behind several training courses.

“So, back in the beginning of 2018 when our intrepid DO came up with a hare-brained plan to send a bunch of us Clidivers on the FCD journey, the destination for my exped plan was an easy decision. In my 10th year as a diver, as part of FCD, I would make my first time in Scapa a branch trip, based out of Stromness, diving from our club RIB.”



Tomek on SMS König.

The searchlight iris on SMS Dresden



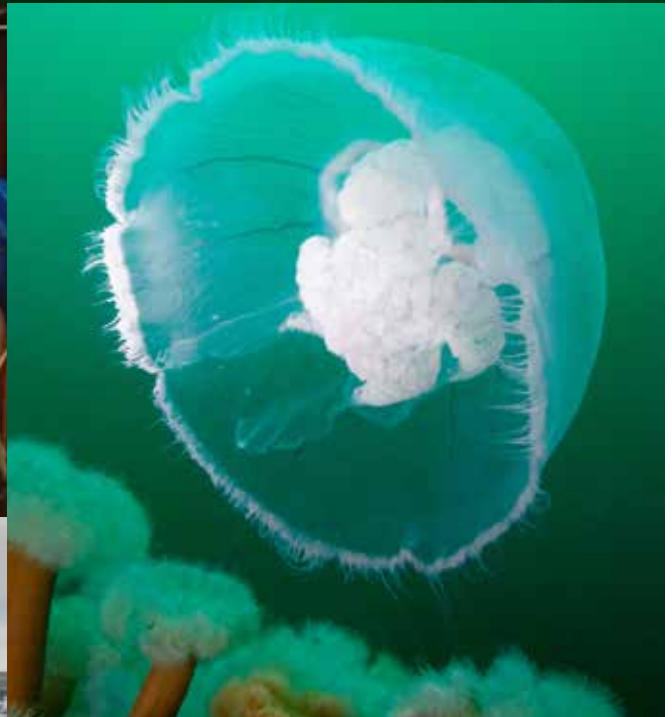
And we have to say, buzzing around the protected Flow in a RIB really is a lot of fun. Also, for some it offered an affordable introduction to the world-class diving of Scapa Flow. Of course, it helps if your RIB is already in Scrabster following the Handa expedition and on the way back you can drop it off at St Abbs for another club trip. That's where good planning can make these expeditions work both from a logistics and a costs perspective.



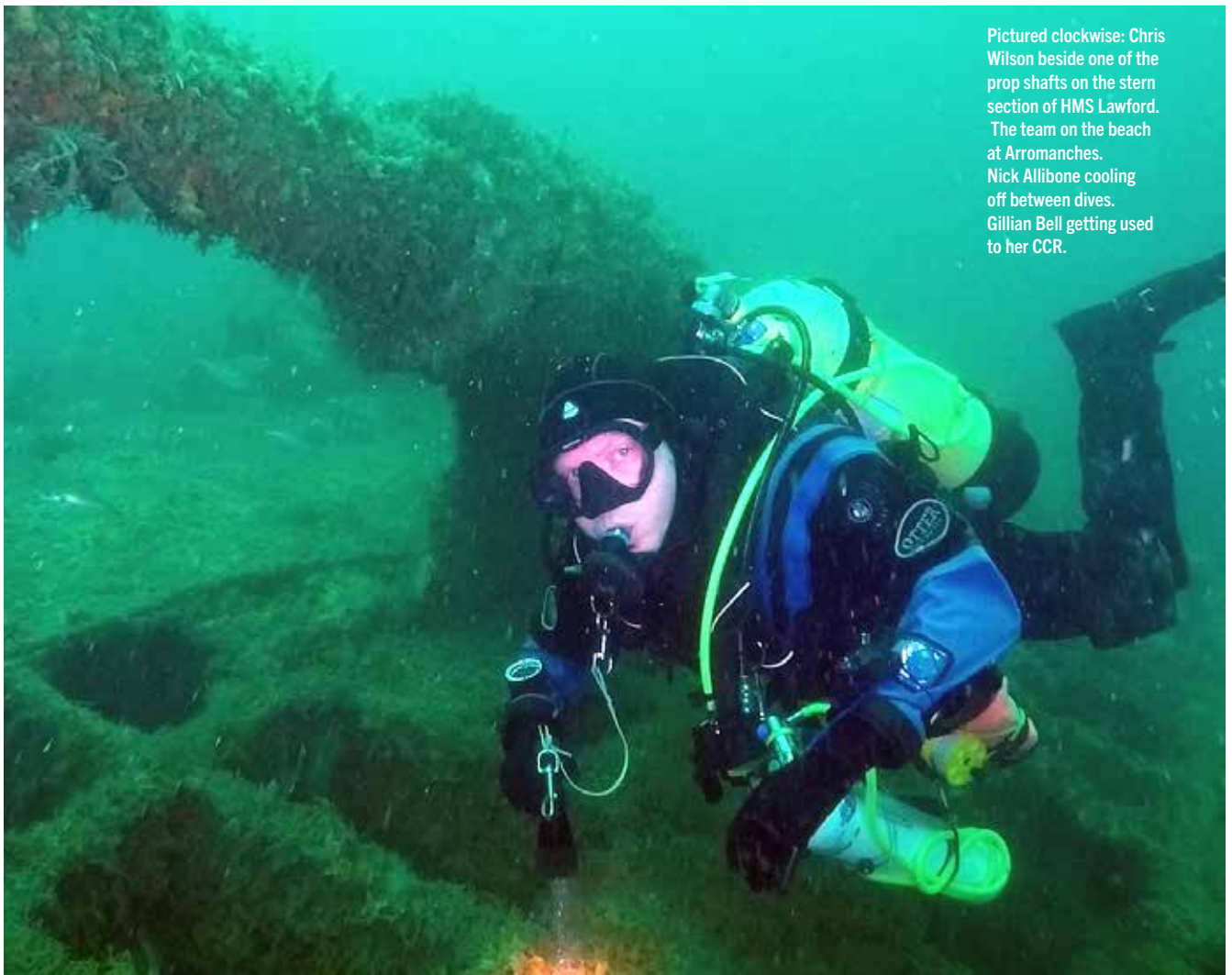
Trip leader Phil Page bought personalised t-shirts for every diver

We dived all the main wrecks of the High Seas Fleet and a couple of the lesser dived sites. For some it was a return to the Flow with a RIB twist, for others a first visit to these classic wrecks. One of the trip's purposes was to offer the most technical diving of our three summer expeditions. Nick and Phil dived the battleships on trimix, whilst others consolidated their recent ADP training to safely extend run times with nitrox. Scapa is a great place to embed these skills. It also hooks people into extending their skillset for the next visit because there is always so much more to see. We will be back.

Lots of thanks to Scapa Scuba who supplied us with gas fills and put up with us landing cylinders on their ex-lifeboat slip that apparently hadn't seen a boat in 20 years! [The Scapa 100 expedition plan is in Appendix 3.2c](#) and [Scapa 100 trip report is in Appendix 3.2d](#)



Clockwise from top: Tomek Witkowski on the bow of SMS Karlsruhe. It's not all metal. Packing up Orange for another long trek towing Yellow. Tour t-shirts all round



Pictured clockwise: Chris Wilson beside one of the prop shafts on the stern section of HMS Lawford. The team on the beach at Arromanches. Nick Allibone cooling off between dives. Gillian Bell getting used to her CCR.



EXPEDITION REPORT

NORMANDY 75

JULY 2019



To cap a year of anniversaries ten Clidivers headed to Normandy for the 75th anniversary, of Operation Neptune and the D-Day landings. Nick Barter's First Class Diver expedition plan ensured all the logistics were covered and a range of fantastic sites were dived.

Two weeks, a long weekend in St Abbs, and 1,000 miles after leaving Orkney, our 7m RIB, Clidive Yellow, arrived in Ouistreham, Normandy. It wasn't all plain sailing, as our club van, the orange transit workhorse that lugs kit, cylinders and a RIB wherever we go, broke down an hour from our Normandy base. Being without the van for the week and getting it back to the UK just added to the logistical complexities of the trip, but the team of course all rallied round and we made it work.

France is another favourite expedition destination for Clidive. We have run many RIB trips to the Mediterranean but this one was our first to Normandy. Nick Barter's expedition plan was put to the test picking slacks and dive sites and deciphering lock times. The weather played ball and we only lost one dive day, the upside of which was a chance to visit the poignant Mulberry Harbour and D-Day museum at Arromanches.

The diving itself proved excellent with superb visibility in the first half of the week. We mostly dived wrecks in the eastern sector of the Baie de Seine near the British and Canadian landing beaches of Gold, Juno and Sword. Our prime target was HMS Lawford, which had been the HQ ship for Convoy J1 delivering the Canadian 7th Infantry to Juno beach on D-Day. The grandfather of our DO, Chris Wilson, served on HMS Fury on D-Day, which was under the command of HMS Lawford.

Lawford was lost two days later to an aerial guided bomb that caused the ship to split into two main pieces and sink with the loss of 37 lives. Our first mark turned out to be the fabulous stern section of the wreck, lying inverted with its twin prop shafts and rudder the standout features. Like all the wrecks we dived, it was blanketed by shoals of bib with large wrasse and bass hunting, while the wreckage was full of lobster, crabs, congers and more feisty blennies than you could count. Scallops were plentiful in a coarse sand seabed that helped visibility. In places the stern was easy to penetrate through its exposed framework, though care had to be taken of discarded fishing line. With 10m visibility and excellent ambient light this dive summed up what this area can deliver.

Searching with sonar we later found and dived the nearby bow section and pinged the middle debris field for a return visit sometime. With five other excellent wrecks dived, we only scratched the surface of the diving potential in this region but have gained valuable experience that will enable us to do even more when we return.

See Appendix 3.2e for the Normandy 75 expedition plan and Appendix 3.2f for the Normandy 75 trip report.

Matt Brown was on two of this summer's expeditions:

"I love expedition diving with Clidive as it allows me to dive sites that otherwise would be difficult to reach being based out of London. The D-Day beaches with their historic significance are tantalisingly close, but with limited diving infrastructure in the area are hard to dive without the club-based expedition.

"Normandy 75 ticked all my boxes, with HQ ships, light cruisers and landing craft. We mixed these impressive wrecks with visits to the moving D-Day memorials. Staying in one big Air B'nB house with two barbeques and great summer weather meant a lot of fun was had between dives too."

Appendix 3.2g contains links to Matt's videos from Clidive's expeditions and a year's review of all the 29 dives he completed with Clidive during 2019.



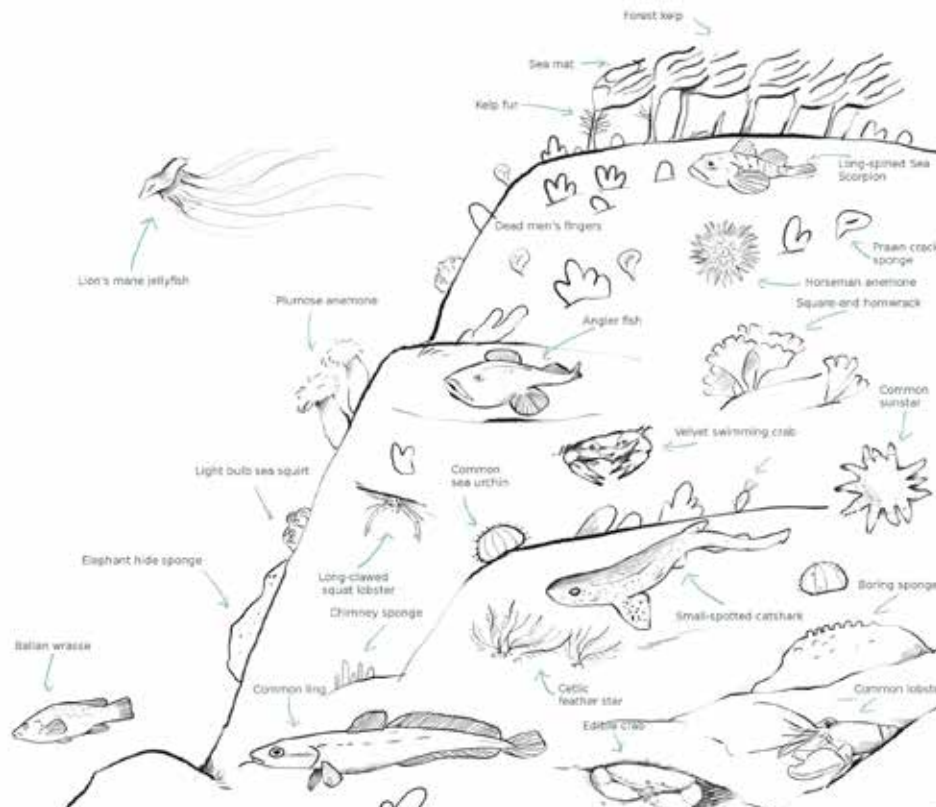
Croissants for an early morning lock-out with Ariel SAC behind

3.3 Scientific

3.3.1 Seasearch

For each of the 12 dives on the Handa expedition, Marysya Rudska completed a highly detailed Seasearch form with fabulous sketches of her observations. In total Marysya recorded 106 species above and below the waves.

“I observed a rich diversity of sponges, sea squirts, anemones, sea stars, hydroids, numerous species of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and impressive lion’s mane jellies. I had spent hours studying my marine life book before the trip to be able to identify all the species on the spot.” Marysya’s Seasearch forms and sketches can all be found in Appendix 3.3a.



During their FCD practical exam in June, Clidive’s five candidates participated in a Seasearch exercise to record the number of pink seafans at two sites within Plymouth Sound, Firestone Bay and Duke Rock. The intended targets outside of Plymouth Sound were not possible due to the weather.

3.3.2 Underwater Archaeology

Our FCD candidates also undertook a project to record rust fins on the Coronation cannons off Penlee Point, Plymouth, and to record measurements for the recently discovered best bower anchor of the Coronation on Elk Reef. **The FCD Candidates’ Report is in Appendix 3.3b.**

One of the candidates returned to the cannons site on a club trip to Plymouth later in the year and submitted video and photography of the site, which received good feedback. We have given permission for our images to be used by the team. **The Coronation submission and feedback is in Appendix 3.3c.**

One Clidiver completed their NAS Introductory course this year and attended the NAS Photogrammetry course in preparation for future projects.

The Clidive team at Scapa 100 submitted video from some of their dives taken using the Parlenz cameras that were distributed during the week to record features of the wrecks.

3.3.3 Other

Two Clidivers undertook training with Ghostfishing UK. Ghostfishing UK later presented at one of Clidive’s 2019 lectures and were very well received. More cooperation is planned.

One Clidiver volunteered to take part in the Lobster Release programme of the National Lobster Hatchery.



3.4 Competitions

3.4.1 Annual Diving Awards

The winners of our diver awards are selected by the Diving Officer and Training Officer in consultation with other committee members. The awards are made at the AGM each November.

DIVER OF THE YEAR (John Rycroft memorial shield)

Awarded to Eleanor Partridge for her contribution throughout the year to organising a series of trips, dedication to instructing, and progressing her own skills to become a Diver Cox'n and Compressor Operator and dive managing on an expedition.

"2019 was my sixth season with Clidive and the best yet. I was over the moon to finish the year as a Diver Cox'n, Theory Instructor and Diver of the Year, with some good inroads made into the Advanced Diver course. But most importantly, it was a year of great diving with some notable highlights including possibly my best ever and most northerly UK dive on the Handa trip, right after driving Clidive Yellow round Cape Wrath, under very un-wrathful blue skies. It's been a great year for me and for Clidive, and I can't wait to see what 2020 brings."

TRAINEE OF THE YEAR

Jointly awarded to Martin Boxall and Clarissa Horilcenko who, after a try-dive in December 2018 completed Ocean Diver and Sports Diver with us during 2019 as well as Lifesaver, First Aid for Divers and boat handling. They describe their fantastic year on page 19.

ADVANCED TRAINEE OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Giovanni Corrigan for enthusiastically progressing his own diving qualifications and becoming an OWI with a series of Merits.

"When I heard that I had won the award I felt both pride and surprise. On the one hand, I was proud that my training efforts had been recognised by diving peers and friends. On the other I was also surprised since I considered what I did as nothing out of the ordinary given the high standards in diving and diver training upheld by all the members of the club, from its most seasoned First Class Divers to its most recent Ocean Divers. Such recognition has encouraged me to continue my own training, to help others in theirs, and overall to carry on Clidive's diving tradition."

INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Ian Baker who in his second year as an instructor has been available virtually every Thursday as well as for training trips and regional events. In football parlance his was the first name on the team sheet every week.

"When I did my try dive with Clidive in 2014 I had no idea what to expect - but I certainly didn't imagine getting quite so involved in the sport, the branch and instructing. I really enjoy the challenge of introducing everyone to the unfamiliar underwater environment, ensuring they're comfortable, and teaching them how to safely enjoy it. It's especially rewarding when someone is quite uncertain in the pool at the start of OD, but a few months later they're enthusiastically signing up for SD after getting the bug for UK diving."

3.4.2 2019 Photography Competition

For 2019 we held our Photography Competition at the 50th Anniversary Party and let everybody present vote for a winner on a shortlisted set of photographs in each category. They then chose the overall winner. Entry fees helped raise money for the Shark Trust.

Overall Winner & 50 Years of Sharing the Adventure

Winner Neil Rickards: Clidive Yellow at Longships. See page 36

UK Diving Winner Nick Barter: Under the Persier. See page 1

Overseas Diving Winner Niovi Antoniou: Divers on the Zenobia. See page 35

Videography Winner Mark Kelly: Shaun the Sheep Nudibranch

YouTube link to Shaun the Sheep: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCp7Vu1cGFU&t=9s>



Global Priorities for Conserving Sharks and Rays

A 2015-2025 STRATEGY



A man in a dark shirt is speaking at a podium. Behind him is a large, semi-transparent logo consisting of the letters 'C' and 'L' in a stylized font. The background is a deep red color. The overall scene appears to be a formal presentation or a lecture.

SHARING THE ADVENTURE

4. GENERAL ACTIVITIES

As well as being an active diving and training club Clidive is very social, meeting at Ironmonger Row Baths followed by The Britannia pub 50 weeks a year. We host parties, social events, and a lecture series which is open to other clubs and the wider community.

4.1 Branch Meetings

For most of Clidive's history, the branch has met every Thursday at Ironmonger Row Baths in Islington, London. The evening timetable has been the same for decades:

19.00-20.00 & 20.00-21.00: Theory in the 'Classroom'

20.00-21.30: Pool training

21.30-Closing Time: Debriefs, gossip and sandwiches at The Britannia

There is plenty going on even for those not training or instructing. One of the ways we get people involved in the club early on is for them to join the kit cupboard and lifeguard rotas. These are at the hub of Thursday activities and many learn the ropes of organising training evenings by helping out in the kit cupboard or the other key job of lifeguard.

Some members usually turn up to try new kit in the pool, practise skills, find out where their drysuit is leaking, or just use the swimming lane for exercise.

While the pool training is the main focus of the club's activities on Thursday nights, post-diving activities continue in our local pub, The Britannia. Having been a fixture at Ironmonger Row baths for 40 plus years, the club has also been a regular at The Britannia for the same length of time.

The bar acts as our social hub where post-training debriefs continue over a few beers, while others not taking part in pool activities just drop in to chat. Here is where our expeditions and dive weekends are proposed and planned and later reviewed and reminisced over. New diving recruits are always welcomed into the pub by all our members; the convivial atmosphere is always a good way of settling trainees into the club.

John Sharkey has been going to The Britannia since 1999 and explains the relationship:

"The pub has seen a few landlords over 40 years but all have welcomed us warmly, including indulging us when we drag in copious amounts of dive gear after pool sessions. The pub regulars raise the occasional eyebrow as some 'contraption' is dragged in and discussed at length; however, we have always been treated as regulars, and after all this time I suppose we are. The current landlords are Brendan and Dee. They kindly provide us with complimentary sandwiches, a treat much appreciated by trainees and instructors after the pool sessions."

4.2 Social

Without a clubhouse, one of the greatest challenges facing our hard-working social secretaries is finding venues in central London that are affordable and suitable for activities like lectures and parties. But they always seem to find something great, often through brainstorming on our social media groups.

We had a change of social secretary half way through 2019. So thanks are noted to Preeda Kumar, especially for organising the successful lecture series in the first half of the year, and then to Nick Allibone who took over the reins and jumped into organising our 50th Anniversary and Christmas parties.

Some of our social activities are designed to raise money for a charity of the year. In 2019 the lecture series and Christmas Party raised £975 for the Shark Trust. Clidive had a part to play in the creation of the Shark Trust 22 years ago when an amazing effort for the WWF campaign for shark conservation raised £1,000 that was put towards setting up the new organisation. Clidive became an Honorary Member. We decided to rekindle this relationship for our 50th anniversary. **Appendix 4.2a contains Mary Brown's letter read out at our 2019 Shark Trust Lecture that explains Clidive's early involvement with the creation of the Shark Trust.**



4.2.1 Clidive Lecture Series

For the last few years, the Clidive lecture series has been a very successful addition to our winter calendar. In 2019 in particular, we delivered a fantastic series of lectures at the Troy Bar in Hoxton. A central venue with tasty Caribbean food and, probably more importantly, well-known speakers attracted an audience from Clidive and many other clubs in the region.

- The Shark Trust with Paul Cox
- Ghostfishing with Dr Richard Walker
- The Art of Underwater Photography with Nick and Caroline Robertson-Brown
- The London Wreck with Steve Ellis
- The Live Bait Squadron & HMS Amphion with Dave Lock



4.2.2 Parties

Clidive always has a Christmas Party with a raffle and the obligatory Christmas Jumper Competition to raise money for charity. It is also where the Diving Officer traditionally announces the dive programme for the coming year. The programme is always published on the website at the same time, so that those who can't attend the party aren't at a disadvantage when signing up for popular trips.

For 2019 we also had the big 50th Anniversary Party bringing together generations of Clidivers. There is much more information about this in Section 5 Special Achievements.

4.2.3 Other

There are some other events that have now taken on the mantle of Clidive traditions:

- The Spring Hike to blow off cobwebs and get fit. Finishes at a pub of course
- The International Food Party celebrates the many nationalities of Clidive
- The Summer BBQ
- The Dive Show Curry
- December Movie Night & Meal: This year it was the latest Star Wars movie followed by a great Turkish meal at Barbican.

We are also extremely lucky to have many great talks and events in London that bring Clidivers together and usually end (or start) with drinks and a meal. During 2019 some of the highlights have been:

- Wildlife Photographer of the Year at the Natural History Museum
- Thai Cave Rescue Talk: How we got them out
- Royal Geography Society: Sustainability & The Climate Change Emergency
- 8th Annual Honor Frost Lecture: Excavating a Deepwater Shipwreck (Timmy Gambin)

4.3 Publicity

Clidive uses Twitter to help build its public profile. We announce all diver qualifications, and regularly tweet photos and other news from dive trips and training trips, keeping the feed active throughout most of the year. By tagging our tweets appropriately, e.g. with @bsacdivers, our tweets are found and viewed by more than just our followers, especially when the lovely people in charge of the BSAC Twitter feed share our content!

The Clidive lecture series has been a good way of generating joint publicity with our presenters and extending our reach to their followers.

The Summerversity event at Clidive was featured with our photographs of the event on Twitter feeds from both Summerversity and Islington Council who have great local reach with 24,000 followers.

Clidive's Top Two Tweets of 2019 were when we announced our new First Class Divers, which each received nearly 2,000 impressions and 100 engagements.

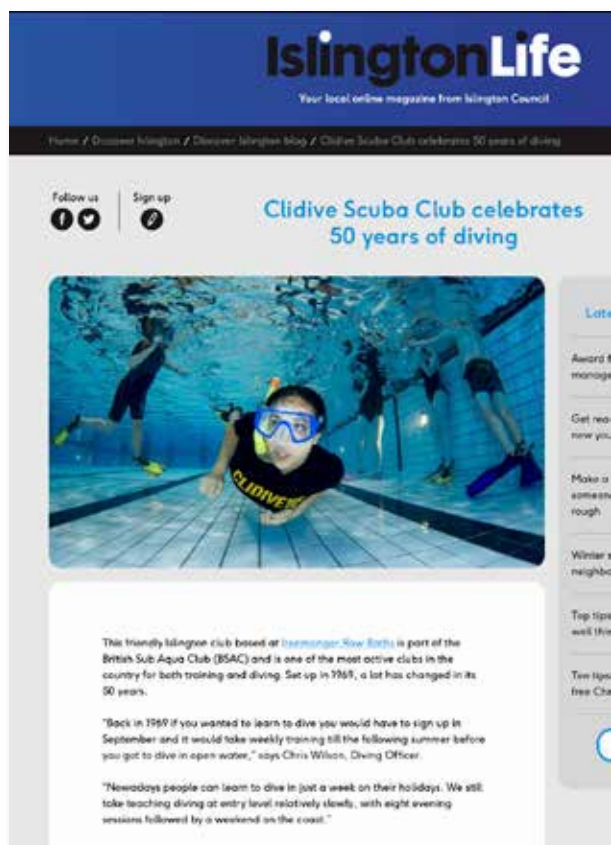
Appendix 4.3a has some examples of our Twitter activity.

4.3.1 Local Publicity

An article in the autumn edition of the quarterly Islington Life coincided with our 50th Anniversary celebrations in October. The full-page article highlighted our 50th anniversary, our diver training and some of our diving this year including Normandy 75 and the minke whale experience for that fortunate group at St Abbs. Islington Life is delivered to all Islington residents and has a print run of 114,000. The article was further publicised through the Islington Life blog and the Islington Life Twitter feed which itself has 12,000 followers.

In the summer edition we were listed in the organisations participating in Summerversity. This was also further publicised through a leaflet that was sent to all children and parents in Islington schools, and online.

Appendix 4.3b has images of local publicity for 2019



4.3.2 Scuba

Learning Curve

Our London Region coach, Gillian Bell, wrote a Learning Curve article for Scuba describing how, with hosts Imperial College Underwater Club and help from Clidive involving a club van full of scuba equipment and some instructors, the first successful 'Urban IFC' was run. This appeared in Scuba Issue 93 p.46 (August 2019), with Gillian's profile on p.97.



In The Mix

Clidive's Tom Hughes is a Diving for All Ambassador and was featured In Scuba Issue 87 p.52 (February 2019) for the In the Mix section.

Other

Clidive also appeared briefly in Scuba on three other occasions:

Issue 88 p.28 (March 2019): Clidive the top-recruiting club of 2018

Issue 89 p.20 (April 2019): Normandy 75

Issue 95 p.14 (October 2019): Normandy 75

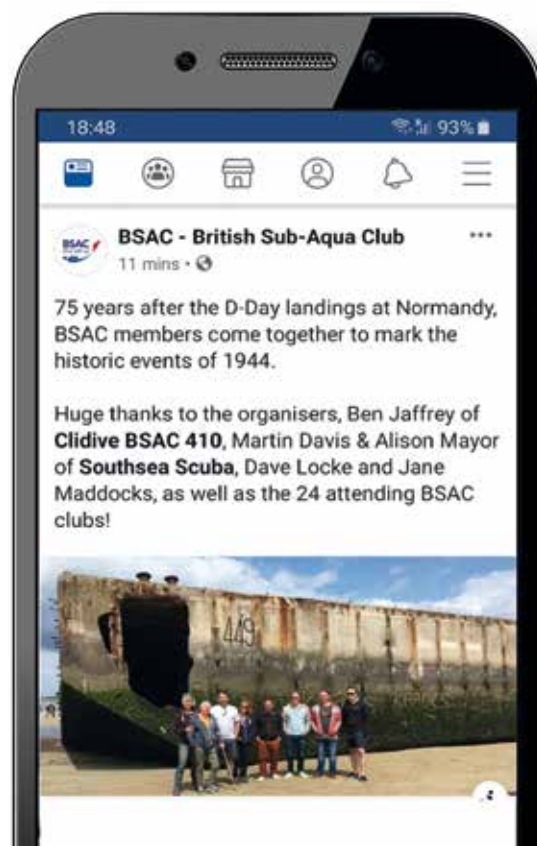
Appendix 4.3c contains images of all the listed Scuba articles.

4.3.3 A Helping Hand

We were delighted to help BSAC with video and photographic material for conference videos and promotion. Underwater and topside video from two of our expeditions and drone footage of one of our RIBs were used.



Clidive Blue making waves for BSAC



4.4 Inter-branch Liaison

Clidive boasted two regional coaches during 2019 with Gillian Bell in London Region and Phil Page the SDCO in Eastern Region. Clidive members benefitted from regional courses and facilities in both areas and both regions benefitted from access to Clidive instructors, facilities and equipment.

Gillian's role as London Region Coach matched perfectly her role as Clidive's Diver Development Officer as we looked to focus on developing a robust programme for existing divers in 2019 and beyond. The programme of joint regional events for SDCs, Dive Leader and Advanced Divers that has been established will continue to benefit Clidive and other BSAC branches in our region:

"As the regional coach in London I am 100% reliant on clubs for the use of their facilities, equipment and instructors. Clidive has allowed me to host three regional SDCs at their Thursday club nights. I have also used the club's van and equipment for the first Central London IFC, and for several open water training days. My regional coach activities have brokered mutually beneficial relationships to form between London clubs. Outside of the formal regional events, Ariel, Imperial, Putney and Clidive have all opened up their club events to each other. This has led to these clubs formally taking ownership for some regional events in 2020."

4.4.1 Normandy 75

Clidive member Ben Jaffey was one of the national organisers for the BSAC Normandy 75 expedition. When First Class Diver candidate Nick Barter took the lead for Clidive's Normandy 75 expedition he was soon involved in the wider planning, in particular for the three clubs (Ariel, Clidive and LUEC) taking their RIBs to Ouistreham. Local air supplies were proving a real problem.

"I eventually organised the hire of five compressors and we shared out their transport with the other clubs. Phil Page collected two from Tyneside SAC while running Clidive's St Abbs trip, and these were later returned by LUEC. Ariel SAC transported one compressor to and from Ipswich, and I transported two from east London. Gillian provided last minute compressor training to Ariel at the BBC's Broadcasting House. A few Clidivers found themselves doing compressor theory on the ferry over and practical training was provided to all who still needed it by Gillian and Ben after diving on day one. It was a real team effort."

Nick also shared his FCD expedition plan with the other clubs. It was full of information on dive sites, lock times and estimated slack times, and was well received. The strong relationship built with Ariel has been good for London Region and Ariel are fully involved in Gillian's plans for 2020. We have also been delighted to meet up on a couple of social occasions and we still talk about the great trip we all had.

4.4.2 Lake District Trip

This trip was made possible by the help of the Kendal branch, whose members came out specially to fill our tanks from their compressor and helped us with invaluable local advice.

4.4.3 Lecture Series

One of the successes of the open Clidive Lecture Series has been bringing together members from different BSAC branches to hear about issues we all have an interest in, whether its conservation, archaeology or wreck diving. We don't keep an exact record, but we know seven branches were at the photography evening and more branches were represented at the other evenings.



Practical compressor training for Ariel SAC in Normandy



**FCD1005
PHIL PAGE**

**WE LOVE DIVING.
WE ARE CLIDIVE**

SHARING THE ADVENTURE

5. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

When we celebrated our 50th anniversary with past members from every decade of Clidive, they were immensely proud that their legacy is the thriving club of today that can produce four First Class Divers and is determined to deliver adventurous RIB diving for the London community for years to come.



**FCD1006
GILLIAN BELL**

Our special achievements this year can be summarised as:

– **Ensuring the future success of Clidive**

- Symbolised by four successful FCD candidates
- The creation of a robust diver development programme for developing existing divers and instructors into the next generation of leaders
- 125 diver, instructor and SDC qualifications
- Mutually beneficial relationships developed with other branches to share facilities and expertise

– **Celebrating the past and present success of Clidive in our 50th year**

- Over 150 current members, ex-members, friends and guests from all five decades of Clidive took part in the 50th anniversary celebrations
- Compiled a photo and video archive of the club's history
- A photo-history of the club's boats published on Facebook
- Three fantastic expeditions and a dive programme for all levels and interests



FOUR NEW FIRST CLASS DIVERS

The idea to put five candidates forward for Clidive's 50th anniversary took seed at the beginning of 2018 and became symbolic of our 2019 goals to focus on diver development.

Clidive member and National Instructor, Colin Yule, talked to Clidive about the FCD process early in 2018 and by that summer five candidates were on board with the target of qualifying during 2019. Valuable preparation weekends in Portland and Plymouth with Colin Yule and Dave Lock showed us what we needed to work on (which was lots!), and by June 2019 five Clidive candidates with two other candidates were taken through their paces in Plymouth by the examination team. Clidive supplied the two RIBs, the event organiser (Gillian Bell) and the local facilitator in the form of former Clidive member Declan Daly. The weather and the examiners threw plenty of curve balls at us, but in the end we all passed.

Nick and Chris became FCD Nos 1003 and 1004 in August when their expedition plans were accepted. Gillian and Phil became FCD Nos 1005 and 1006 in October when they passed the theory exam, which ironically was held on the morning of Clidive's 50th Anniversary Party. We are all hoping and expecting Bart to pass in 2020.

The benefits of this achievement are:

- Four better-equipped and more knowledgeable leaders working in Clidive and the wider BSAC organisation ... and another one on the way
- Setting an example to inspire other members in Clidive and other local branches to reach their potential
- Updated risk register, boat and diving checklists in use at the club
- Three successful expeditions based on FCD expedition plans
- Two successful candidates embarked on the NI path



CHALLENGING, FUN, EXHAUSTING BUT REWARDING...

Its a real commitment to prepare for and take your First Class Diver exams. We don't know if a club has ever managed to get four FCDs qualified in the same year before but this achievement says everything about where the club is and its ongoing ambition to keep on Sharing the Adventure.





FCD1003 NICK BARTER

“Unlike the other successful candidates, I hadn’t been through a BSAC national event like Advanced Instructor when I took on FCD. I was concerned that I would be at a real disadvantage especially for the practical exam. But we prepared together, learning from each other’s strengths and improving as a team. Individually and together we grew into better, confident and more effective leaders for Clidive and the wider BSAC family.”

FCD1004 CHRIS WILSON

“First Class Diver was a fantastic challenge, growing my knowledge and expanding my abilities. I learned so much about both diving and myself. I enjoyed it so much I’ve decided to try for National Instructor! Doing First Class Diver with the rest of the team has set a target for other Clidivers to aim for and will certainly help us to continue sharing the adventure.”

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Our anniversary celebrations brought together over 150 club members from five decades at three events in the first week of October.

Thursday Club Night with Vintage Try Dive

Keith Holman brought his collection of historic dive gear to the pool for old and new members to try. Older members tried our current equipment while newer members discovered the delights of twin-hoses and horse-collars. Obligatory drinks and gossip at The Britannia followed.



Thames RIB Trips

On Saturday morning thirty former members and their families joined current members for trips on a club RIB through central London using Greenwich Yacht Club as a temporary base. It was quite an upgrade for a few former members whose last experience of a Clidive boat was a small inflatable. For other old buddies together on a boat for the first time in years, it was a chance to share memories with each other and their families. It was a really fun morning and certainly built an appetite for the big 50th party later that evening.

THE 50TH PARTY

The centrepiece of the celebrations was the party held a short distance from Ironmonger Row at Commissary on the Regents Canal. A dedicated team of organisers created a fantastic party that reunited old buddies and introduced our newest members to some of our oldest members.



Former members Clare, Warwick, Trica and Bethan. Above right: The ever-present Rory Budds and Mary Brown.

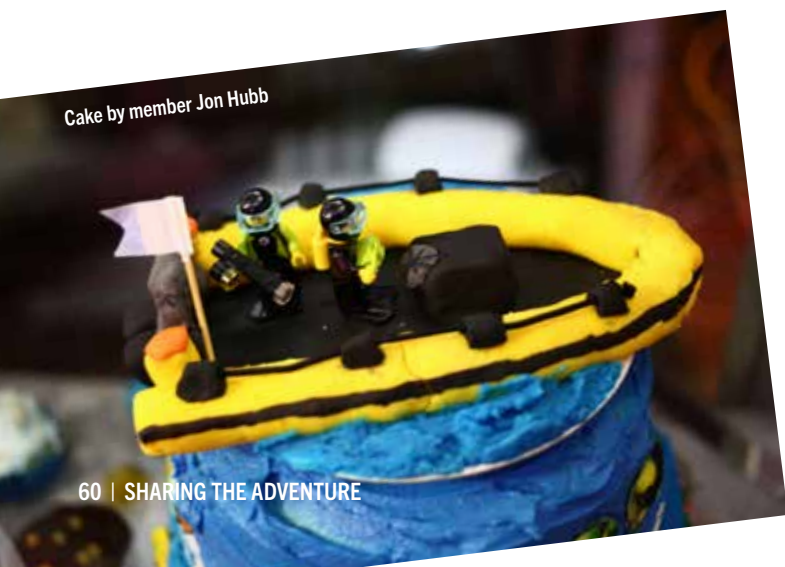


Photographs from the club's new photo archive looped on screens, sparking memories and plenty of laughter at fashion and hairstyles as our in-house DJs kept the party lively. Marysya's art decorated both the walls and the celebratory t-shirts.

Speeches from current and previous committee members were well received and not just because they were short. They set the tone, reminding everyone of the past and present success we were celebrating. Diving Officer Chris presented a review of our dive programme, former Diving Officer Rory gave an abbreviated history of Clidive, and Honorary President Keith Holman spoke of the values of the club from its early days.

Keith Holman also presented our current Diving Officer with a shield containing the names of all the club's Diving Officers, which will now be passed on to future Diving Officers to symbolise the shared history of each generation.

It was clear that, for all the changes between 1969 and 2019, many things have remained essentially the same. Clidive's members for 50 years have dedicated themselves to Sharing the Adventure with anyone who wants to get involved. A sense of pride and purpose was evident in everyone attending a great party and memorable evening. And because of our achievements in 2019 we are very confident that we will be celebrating future anniversaries just as enthusiastically. [Appendix 5.2a contains copies of the presentations and speeches.](#)



Cake by member Jon Hubb



Left: Chris, Simon and Gillian enjoying the party
Below: Honorary President Keith Holman with Eleanor and Amy



Elaine Hendry, who has held numerous committee roles in her 33 years as a member and has been teaching at the club since 1992, was asked to say a few words about her own experiences and observations about Clidive:

“Being asked to speak at the 50th party threw me into a bit of quandary. Just because I’d hung around for so long didn’t mean I’d have anything to say! And then I realised I had almost too much to say. I could speak about how, as somebody who totally lacked sporting skills or physical confidence, I had been encouraged not only to persevere with diving but to become an instructor myself, supporting others in my turn.

I could certainly speak about how inspired I had been by the women in the club – tough, adventurous and always pulling their weight – but also by the men, who treated every diver with respect, regardless of gender or ability.

I could speak about how much the training had changed, how people now went through fewer trials of toughness and qualified more quickly (and perhaps a bit more safely). But, actually, how so much had remained the same – the passion, the commitment, the fun, the diversity and the inclusiveness. Clidive has been an ever-changing, never-changing community for me, and I’m afraid they’re going to be stuck with me for a while yet.”



Nell Harrison I was with you in spirit Keith Holman Joli Michelle Davies, Sue Tilbey, Rory Budds. Always loved part of Clidive – changed my life really, fed my sense of adventure tremendously. Love ya !!!

Like · Reply · 17w · Edited



John Davies Nell Harrison love you to, keep the going!!

Like · Reply · 17w



Nat Nat Great to hear it was a good night! Shame I miss was with you in spirit! Thank you Joli for the introducing Gozo! What fun we had! Miss you all – keith, Mary, Rory Elaine, Nick, Don and and and.....

Like · Reply · 17w · Edited



Joli Riley Well done to Neil Rickards Rory Budds Elaine Keith Holman Chris Wilson for the fab speeches

Like · Reply · 17w · Edited



Christina Jackson It was fab, thanks to the organisers

Like · Reply · 17w



Pam Stephens Thanks to all the organisers and officers brilliant evening on Saturday. It was great meeting so many former diving buddies and even better to see the fantastic that is Clidive today. Just like Elaine Hendry and also D Daley (both of whom we dived with back in the late 80s). Mike and I met and married through Clidive. So, even about the great diving, Clidive is very special to us. We were to be part of the wider party celebrating a truly great club. Best wishes to you all, Pam & Michael White

Like · Reply · 17w

SHARING THE ADVENTURE SINCE 1969

Recording Club History

Our Honorary President, Keith Holman, consolidated nearly 10,000 photographs and videos from past and current members into a single club archive that covers every decade of Clidive. The project lasted about 18 months and was finished in time for the 50th party. Keith has posted many examples to our private Facebook group that highlights individuals, diving trips, training, equipment through those decades, and even all Clidive's t-shirts! These have generated an enthusiastic interaction and helped many of us get a real understanding of the history of the club and where its ethos came from.

“For our 50th year it struck me that a lot of new people in the club don’t know about the club’s origins and goals, and I thought it would be good to show them. Pages of text, for the new generation of divers wouldn’t work. So I chose to use pictures from the club’s history to highlight the club over the last 50 years. Stories on the club boats, from inflatables with 8hp engines, to 7m RIBs with 225hp engines. Diving equipment, diving manuals, dive locations, etc. Various stories taken from the pictures that the club has built up over the last 50 years. I posted them on Facebook and it seemed to go down really well!”

One of the main series Keith posted has documented the history of Clidive’s boats with photographs, videos and commentary. Keith is fond of reminding us that we are enjoying diving on boats that his generation paid for. But we will in our turn pay for the boats that the next generation dive from. The boats are a very real link between generations of members and are clearly a focal point for the pride in the club that we all feel. They are integral to our mission of Sharing the Adventure and we are determined to remain a club that offers adventurous RIB diving to our current and future members. [Appendix 5.3a has a compilation of the Boat History posts.](#)





SHARING THE ADVENTURE TODAY

Our club: Neil Rickards, Clidive Chair

“This anniversary was an opportunity to see, not just the old members that mentored me into diving, but their mentors, and theirs before that. For many of those older guests, the exciting thing was seeing the enthusiasm of our generation: the photos and drawings, the fantastic boats, the members, the training and diving plans of a lively, active, thriving club.

This year our Diver Development Officer excelled herself, supporting an unprecedented four new First Class Divers, and a raft of qualifications and training that is developing our dive managers, Advanced Divers and instructors, as well as deepening our ties with other branches in the local regions. All our senior members, in turn, are better supporting and mentoring the rest of the club and participating themselves in regional and national events. Meanwhile, try-dives and Ocean Diver courses continue to introduce Londoners to the sport.

The club is delivering on our mission to Share the Adventure. More generations will get to experience the relaxation, thrill and adventure of our spectacular diving.

Our Heinke submission: Nick Barter Heinke Entry co-ordinator

“So many people have worked so hard to make this year special for Clidive, and to make us even stronger for the future. I am delighted we have made this application for the Heinke Trophy. Whatever the outcome, the project to document, share and recognise our achievements has helped us all appreciate them even more.”

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at The Britannia
All the staff at
Ironmonger Row Baths



READY FOR ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS OF ADVENTURE...

CLIP DIVE