

University of London Sub-Aqua Club BSAC 0069

# University of London Sub-Aqua Club Issue 3 - 30th June 2004



## ULSAC Fun Run

**Following the theft of the engines, and with a large service bill for cylinders soon to rear its ugly head, the new Committee was quick to create a specific fundraising sub-committee to target specific areas.**

One of the first things decided upon was a Fun Run, initially we wanted to stage it in Hyde Park, but correspondence with the Royal Parks was too slow as we already had a prime date in mind, the 5th of June 2004, and yes folks you've guessed it that's the day after the Annual Dinner See page 4 for more details).

So Hangovers reunited at the start of the revised 5km course starting the ULU Boat house in Chiswick it was a quick left along the tow path to Kew Bridge, over said bridge, along the tow path to Chiswick bridge and then back along Hartington Road to the Boat House.

Using the Handicap system, it was decided that Marcus and Paul were entitled to a 20 minute head start caused by the age differential, and Hannah, after dancing the night away at the annual dinner, turned up with no less than six plaster covering various blisters on her poor tootsies, but never the less, was determined to hobble round to complete the course with the rest of us.

With Safety Marshalls in the dubious form of Mark, Keith and Cassian deployed around the course at strategic places, they were off and running/walking/hobbling, and there was even some lunatic doing it full kit (The Ring of Power is finally getting to Sam).

For some it was all over in a flash, the overall winner was David Wright, with the honor of first lady home going to Miss Bonnie Webster, in total 22 people completed the course, and one (David) even completed it twice, but we did twist his arm with an extra £40 raised amongst ourselves for his efforts.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

Overall we raised more than £1750 which gets us well off to a superb start towards our overall target of £10,000

which will cover the replacement engines (minus Boat

fund used), and replenish our reserve fun that had been earmarked for Cylinder testing.

Afterwards, it was a quick shower, then to the local pub for a swift half (which went to everyone's head), and a bite to eat if you fancied it.

On the whole, I think all agreed the most productive "day-after" ever.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

And Finally..... The award for the finest display of Synchronized Jogging goes hands down to Miss Hanna Steyne and Miss Rosy Hosking, they were in separable in timing, notice how both arms, both legs, and both heads, all moving in exactly the same fluid motion, Marcus, Paul and Hannah all agreed it was an amazing site to see.

All Sponsorship returns to David ASAP, Cheques payable to ULSAC as always.



Picture Courtesy of Paul Marchant

### Dive Inside This Issue:-

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**They're here, the all new ULSAC T-Shirts are now available if you ordered one from Sarah be sure to collect them ASAP**

## Plankton Strikes Plymouth Harbour

Just in time for the start of the diving season, as we've come to expect, plankton rears its ugly head.

ULSAC's "Mr Plankton" Craig Koch explains in depth, see page 3 for more details.



## Adopt-a-Wreck 12-13th June 2004

**Organiser: Miss Hanna Steyne**

Full trip Report available at [www.ulsac.net](http://www.ulsac.net)

### Our Adopted Wreck The Betsy Anna

The GPS mark for this wreck puts you right on the boilers so that is where this tour begins. The Betsy Anna was fitted with one main and one donkey boiler. It is well worth spending some time in the space between the two. Inside the boilers you will find a number, I counted seven in total, of large conger eel. The one in the centre of the main boiler was the largest I have ever seen and looked as if it had grown so large it would be impossible for it to get out of its hidey-hole, small comfort when you are flanked by so many of these large creatures.

Now head on from the boilers along the port side to the engine room area. The engine block itself is at first confusing, until the distinctive shape of the three cylinder heads tells you that it is on its side. This allows you to view the piston rods and crankshaft, which are usually hidden away. From here, you can now follow the propeller shaft all the way to the stern of the ship.

This wreck is covered in schools of large Bib and Pollock, particularly between the boilers and stern so, even on a day with good visibility, you may not be able to see the large section of stern until you are right next to it. This mid section is a good place to spot the different types of wrasse that make this ship their home and the odd Tompot Blenny and Lobster can be seen peaking out between the plate work.

The stern section is lying on its starboard side. What is left of the iron propeller can be seen as you swim around the rudderpost. The blades were smashed off when the Betsy Anna hit the rock that eventually

proved her downfall.

Rounding the stern, spend some time inspecting this intact section. There is even some of the deck railing left. Now swim up the starboard side of the ship. It can be easy to become disorientated in this broken area of the wreck, as some wreckage will lead you away from the main body of the ship. There are a number of abandoned lobster pots in this area too. Not surprising as a number of good-sized Edible and Spider crab can be found amongst the ribs of the ironwork. As you swim past the boilers again, have a look for more Congers. Sometimes there are even more in the wreckage around the boilers.

Heading forwards now will take you, through more wreckage and schools of fish, to the intact bow section. It sits in the sand pointing up to the surface. Here you can swim inside the bow, which is like being inside a well-stocked aquarium due to the number of fish that shelter here. If you are lucky, you will also find the Cuttle fish that lives in the bow. Also, if you go around to the front of the bow you may find a territorial John Dory patrolling its patch.

By now, you will probably be heading to decompression so it is time to head back to the surface. The top of the bow section, in around 18 metres, makes the perfect place to let up your delayed SMB. The visibility on the site is usually fair so as you ascend you will be able to watch you fellow divers investigating the delights of the Betsy Anna.

Andy May

## Portland 14th - 15th May 2004

**Organiser: Miss Sarah Cant,**

**Overseen By Miss Bonnie Webster**

Full trip Report available at [www.ulsac.net](http://www.ulsac.net)

The James Fennel was my first Ocean Diver dive after gaining my qualification in Porthkerris. Alyn, my Buddy, had more experience than I did, which was reassuring, but he was still an Ocean Diver. It gave a whole different feel to the dive; I felt I was more involved with it, rather than just being told what to do, and felt more able to make suggestions once we were down there about where to go next. We planned the dive together and calculated air consumption, and came up with a plan for a max depth of 18m and a max time of 37 minutes, according to the tables, although we wouldn't have enough air to stay down there that long. We also discussed the purpose of the dive on the boat - to find a cuttlefish!

Once we were on the bottom, we used Alyn's compass to find the wreck, and deployed the DSMB, which was a good experience, as although I had done the drill I hadn't deployed one from depth before. The bits of wreckage we found were very broken up; there were lots of iron sheets, and we didn't see the boilers or the bell, which is what we were told to look out for. It was a very enjoyable dive though, we saw lots of wildlife, some of which, like spider crabs, pollock and ballam wrasse, I had seen in Porthkerris, and some that I hadn't, which included some sponges and coral, and the highlights of the dive, which were two small dogfish. We stuck within our plan, reaching a max depth of 16.4m and a dive time of 25 minutes.

Diving with someone other than an instructor felt very different, but it was a lot of fun. Diving the James Fennel as my first dive as an Ocean Diver was a very good experience.

Hannah Morgan

### First Dive in Cold UK Waters for Five Years

When we arrived at Chesil Cove on the Saturday morning I was taken aback. I had always seen pictures of the beach in marine biology textbooks but didn't realise how picturesque the surroundings were and that one day it would be the site of an adventure.

Having eventually planned our dives it was now time to kit up, and although I had been feeling slightly nervous the week before, for some reason I no longer felt any apprehension. I simply couldn't wait to get in the water, and although my kit seemed so much heavier and more cumbersome than the equipment I had been using 5 years ago in the tropics, I was ready for the plunge.

As we made our way to the waters edge, a last buddy check commenced followed by the signals. Down we went. Just a shore dive to 8 or so metres but how beautiful was this? It was the hottest day of the year so far in the UK, the sun was shining all the way to the sea bottom, and the gentle swish of the sea lulled me into a relaxed state that felt fantastic. With good buddy contact we dived well together pointing out fish and crabs and iridescent algae as well as other fantastic fauna and flora! And of course at some stage I stole a sweeping glimpse of my ascending silver bubbles breaking in the sun's rays as they beckoned for the surface.

After 20 or so minutes it was time for the up. Just a short simple shore dive to get me back in the swing of things but how great it was. I was so happy to be back in the water after years away due to a spinal injury, so much so that I have already signed up for more dives with my new club and I just can't wait!

Cassian Edwards



## Plymouth Visibility Scuttled as Plankton Blooms

Coccolithophores are a type of single cell, freely drifting marine phytoplankton. They photosynthesise (like plants on land do), in the upper, sunlit layers of the ocean. They are one of the most important primary producers in the open oceans, forming the basis of pretty much all marine food chains. Coccolithophores are very small (2-10 microns across, or 2-10/1000ths of a millimeter!) and produce a covering of peculiar and beautiful interlocking carbonate plates, or coccoliths, that cover the cell wall. At the right time of year when conditions are suitable (May to July time in the North Atlantic), 'blooms' formed from trillions upon trillions of cells appear. Their white carbonate coccoliths turn the sea turquoise and reduce visibility for us divers. It has been said it is like diving in skimmed milk!



Courtesy of Steve Groom,  
Plymouth Marine Laboratories



Courtesy of Steve Groom,  
Plymouth Marine Laboratories

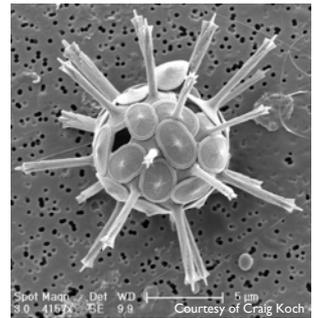
South Cornwall Plankton Bloom 1999

The picture above shows a satellite image of a bloom (July 1999) off South Cornwall, they are typically this size, and sometimes much larger, over 100,000 square kilometers! These blooms are made up of virtually just one species, *Emiliana huxleyi*. (see Below)

### Close-Up of Plymouth

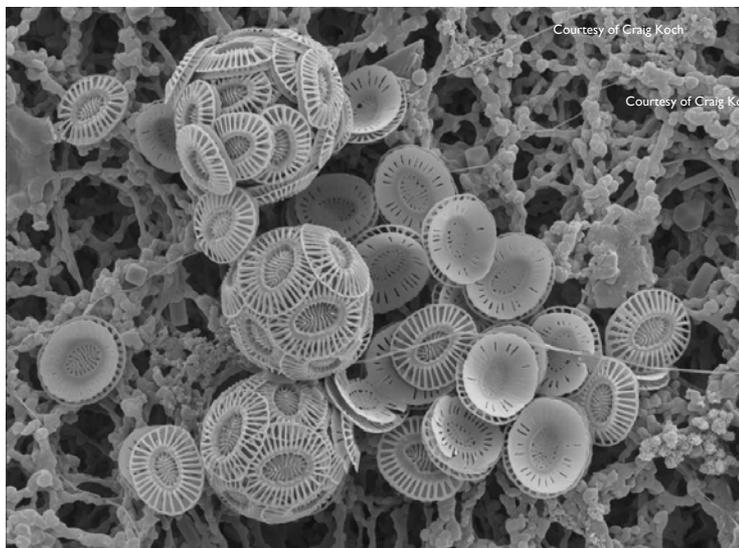
Coccolithophores first appeared in the late Triassic (about 210 million years ago). Their dominance grew and by the Cretaceous they were very common, so common in fact that their coccoliths piled up and formed thick sequences of chalk (up to 300-400 metres), such as the white cliffs of Dover and Harry Rocks. In today's oceans, it is estimated that over 1.4 billion kilograms of carbonate are produced annually by coccolithophores!

Phytoplankton productivity is one of the primary forces in regulating the climate; for example they are tightly linked with atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, so understanding the coccolithophore life cycle and habits is crucial in understanding climate change.

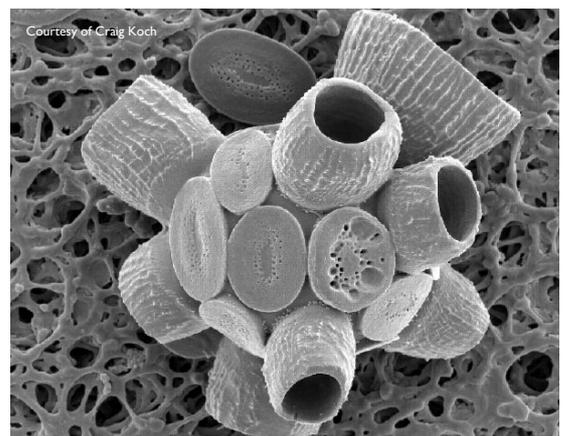


R.Clavigeri(Right) and  
S.Apsteinii (Below)

Spot Magn Det WD 5.0µm 9.0 -410k 75E 9.9 Courtesy of Craig Koch



Courtesy of Craig Koch  
Courtesy of Craig Koch



Courtesy of Craig Koch

## 45th Annual Dinner - 4th June 2004



Picture Courtesy of Jimmy Cooke

The Current ULSAC Chairperson Miss Catherine Stanley chats to the current BSAC Vice President Mr Marcus Allen. Marcus and his wife Zoe, graced us with their presence, despite Zoe being Nearly 8 months pregnant.

The night is the only night of the year when the ULSAC family put on their glad rags and head off to the Tavistock Hotel just round the corner from ULU.

With a 3 course meal and wine included in the ticket price, everyone had enough food to soak up at least some of the alcohol consumed during the evening.

Whilst Jimmy was busy selling tickets for a raffle of prizes we had managed to gather in our engine fundraising efforts, Catherine gave a cleverly devised speech which forced all to listen, if only for the wrong reason

### Catherine's Speech

"To captivate your attention I have given a theme to my speech. You have to note how many sea-creatures I mention. Those with correct answers get a free strip.....of raffle tickets, towards tonight's draw. We have some fantastic prizes so at £5 'squid' a strip get buying. The 'porpoise' of the raffle is to raise money towards the clubs engine appeal so get buying!

I think you'll all agree we're having a 'whale' of a time in this lovely 'plaiice'. So a big thanks to Katie for organising it and to the staff at the Tavistock Hotel. Join me now in giving them all a big 'kipper' .

Thanks goes to last years committee who left us with a fantastic legacy to follow. In particular we should thank Anjali for being Chair, James as Diving Officer, Andy as Training Officer for organising all the training – together with Bonnie and his trusty band of Assistant Training Officers. Martin, as you may know, did a lot towards bringing the kit up to BSAC standards this year and became quite familiar with a number of 'octopuses' when he was Equipment Officer. Dan as Treasurer, went to Japan after Christmas so a rather 'crabby' Jimmy as Honorary Senior Treasurer assumed the role. Sam as Vice-Chair also became 'sole'ly responsible for fundraising. Sarah as Membership Secretary and Shaun as Secretary and last but not least the Webmasters Dave and Farez. Please join me in giving them our hearty 'seal' of approval in the usual way

Then there are all the instructors (you know who you are), the trip organisers and everyone involved in what we're all here for 'DIVING'. This leads me to hand you over to this years Diving Officer, Michelle, who has a little 'John Dory' for us all.. Thanks Michelle

This year has given rise to a plethora of awards. Congratulations are in order to:

Marcus, who won the 'Wilkinson Sword Award' from BSAC for flexing his brain 'muscles' and scoring the highest mark in the National Instructors Exam. Well done Marcus!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate both Marcus and Zoe as they are expecting a mini-Allen any day soon and still continue to dedicate their time and efforts to the club. Thank you both

Mark was awarded 'Honorary Life Membership' from ULU this year too. We all appreciate Mark's hard work and devotion to ULSAC throughout the years, and would like to recognise this now by giving him a big round of 'jaws' .Well done Mark.

Paul our dedicated boatie became 'ULU Society Mentor of the Year'. Without a 'trout' Paul is highly deserving of this award – well done Paul .

Other ULU Societies awards included Sam as 'ULU Societies Officer of the Year' and Sarah and Dan scooping up 'Society Shields'. 'Well' done everyone .

Finally I'd like to let you all know a little about the future of ULSAC. The new committee has a lot of exciting things planned and I'd like to invite you all to become as involved as you can.

In particular, with the theft of all four engines from the RIBS at Christmas, we would like you to support our fundraising efforts to raise £5000 through our fundraising initiatives. Tomorrow is the FUNRUN – I know many of you are participating – hopefully we will not be feeling too 'eel' after tonight's antics!

So that leaves me to say thank you for listening to me, I hope I did not 'flounder' too much or 'clam' up during the important bits. Please join me on the dance floor later to do the 'conger'. GOOD NIGHT!"

The raffle Draw quickly followed, with numerous prizes being handed out, and the Main Prize, a weekend Hard-boat Diving in Porthkerris was won by Mr Martin Greaves. Well Done Martin.

Finally to round the evening off we had the disco which featured all the usual classics ULSAC has come to know and Love.

A very big THANK YOU goes out to Katie, James and all who helped and pestered people to come, roll on 2005.....



Picture Courtesy of Jimmy Cooke



## Dates for Your Diary

July 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Social Events for Your Calendar

- 4th-19th Sept Summer Trip to the South of France - Jimmy & Catherine

Key	
	Special events
	Fundraising Events
	Dive Trips

### Upcoming Diving Trips for Your Calendar

- 10th-11th July Swanage - Caterina
- 24th-25th July Salcombe - Wyclef
- 7th-8th August Littlehampton - Claire
- 28th-30th August Torbay - Zoe (BH weekend)
- 4th-19th Sept S. of France - Jimmy & Catherine
- 25th-26th Sept Littlehampton - Anjali

## Engine Update...

Despite arguing with the insurance company, and Matt Jimmy drafting a form of legal document, the insurance company is still refusing to pay out for new engines, we are talking to ULU regarding pursuing this matter further with the possibility of going through the courts. As soon as we get any news, you'll be the first to know

## Training

Start thinking about what Skill Development Courses you would like to see run over the Winter period, as the prime training period is coming up Fast, Let our Advanced Training Officer Jimmy know

## Pembroke 29th-31st May 2004

**Organiser: Miss Anjali Shah**

**Overseen By Mr Sam Denby**

Full trip Report available at [www.ulsac.net](http://www.ulsac.net)

### The Hen and Chicks

This is a great wall dive with lots of gullies to explore. Although it is a fairly long drive from Martins Haven, but is definitely worth the wait while Sam (boatie) made sure he had the coordinates right. I was diving with the lovely Nick (Wyclef), and immediately impressed him with my diving-prowess by failing to switch on my dive timer before descending. After some complicated maths at the surface with a dive slate and one press of the button later, we were back down amongst the purple sea urchins, starfish, a couple of spider crabs and even some tiny jellyfish, which I hadn't seen before.

The weather was lovely, and so I didn't think about being cold at all, which I think is a first for me. I was also super excited as this was my first dive with my birthday-SMB (extravagantly decorated that very morning). Nick held onto it for most of the dive, though, so I can't claim to be an expert yet. Having spent the whole morning waiting for the more experienced divers who were diving the Lucy, I think we were justly rewarded by such a cool scenic dive – and then fish and chips back on the beach as the sun set – lovely.

Rosy hoskings

### Night Dive in Martins Haven

As the first set of divers returned we prepared to explore the abyss of Martins Haven. The first challenge was to find enough depth to immerse all of our kit. This involved a lot of hand-holding and backwards stumbling until a safe depth in the harbour was found. A quick flick face-down and some stones added to our BCDs and we were finally wet. Surprisingly the bottom was nowhere to be seen due to the kelp obstructing our vision.

Slowly moving north we quickly reach the outer limits of the defined diving area and turned east to a rock wall. On our way as we swept our torches around us we saw various sparkling jellyfish moving around on the rhythm of their personal light show. Different types of crabs did balancing acts on top of kelp strands whilst eating. We surfaced after exact 20 min as planned and had dived to 5 metres. The dive proved that you do not need depth and light to have good fun. I look forward to the next eerie night dive.

Kristof Bostoan



**U.L.S.A.C.**

Any Contributions or Comments please send to

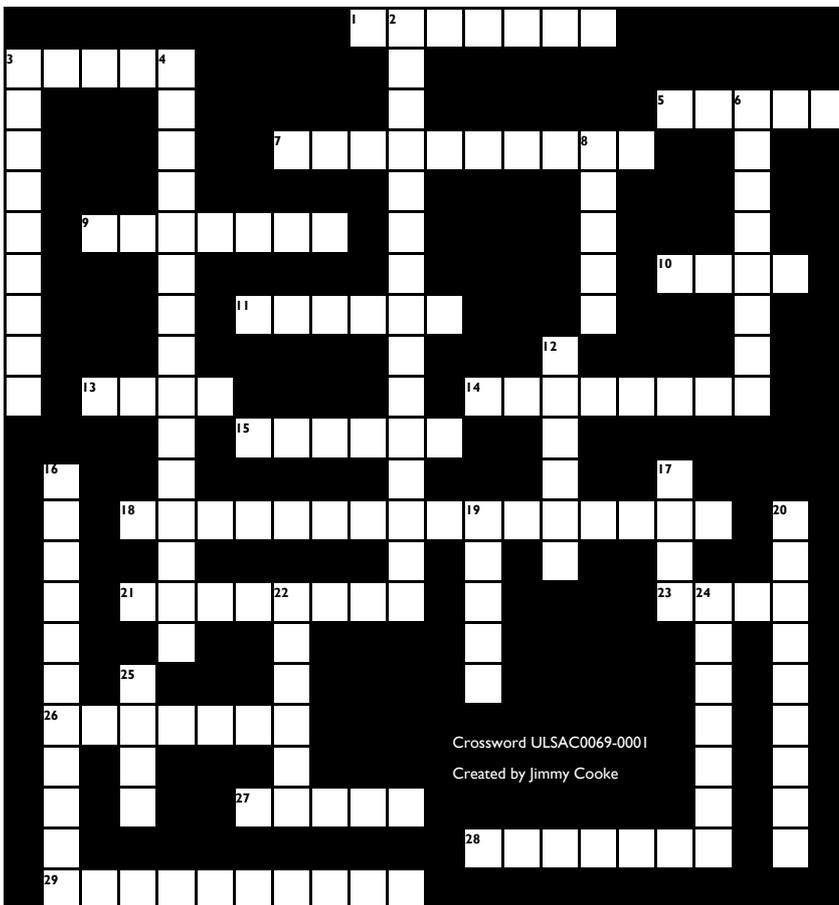
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### Crossword Competition

All answers to Me (at the address above) by the 30th September 2004, make sure you've filled in the tie break at the bottom of the page, just in case we have two correct entries.

Prizes ... to be announced



Crossword ULSAC0069-0001  
Created by Jimmy Cooke

#### Across

- 1. CQR, Admiralty, Danforth (7)
- 3. Cousteau's favourite Submarine (5)
- 5. do be dooo be do be dooo be do do, steve cogan gets mixed up (5)
- 7. Hear about mixed China Saute (10)
- 9. Lonely \*\*\*\*\* seeks two engines to sit on top of and screw into me (7)
- 10. Heavy Marker ? (4)
- 11. Flashy Dive Kit (6)
- 13. Don't call them faster than lightening (4)
- 14. Carry diving stuff and find diving places (8)
- 15. Law governing Absorbtion of gases by fluids (6)
- 18. not for the first time divers, requires appropriate training, equipment and experience (4,11)
- 21. Jill went to look fro something (8)
- 23. Non V shaped dive profile (4)
- 26. tube with a mouth piece (7)
- 27. DIN or A Clamp ? (5)
- 28. We need two more (7)
- 29. Naked Wing - a colourful sea slug (10)

#### Down

- 2. Neither for or against, up or down (Tim Ecott) (7,8)
- 3. One Stage reducing 200 to 10 bar (9)
- 4. Time between dives (7,8)
- 6. he was so drunk on the air he was letting the lobster out of the bag (8)
- 8. Lets other know what you're doing (1,4)
- 12. A Naughty Boat (6)
- 16. Squeezed to find Accom ? Press I on! (11)
- 17. Little ones are Pink, but can be 3 or 7L (4)
- 19. Light (5)
- 20. A Naughty Boat (9)
- 22. UK's Newest Wreck (6)
- 24. Ships Parrot Reduces Need to Share (7)
- 25. Maximum Number of Consecutive Days Diving to Greater than 30m Recommended by BSAC Before Taking a 24hr Break

The Judges in the event of a tie will be Paul and Jimmy as neither can participate and their decision is final.

**Tie Break ULSAC0069-0001 - I like Diving Crosswords because (12 words Max).....**  
.....