

Anglesey 'II'

sept 26-27 1997

'this time we did it'

People

Marketing this trip was important, too many people were concerned about the Welsh, and the 'vis' in the Irish Sea. We (nails & I) took an executive decision and played the 'don't worry about the diving, why not just come for a beer or two' number. It worked, and the following children joined the brethren:

<i>nom</i>	<i>qual</i>
Steve Lacey	DL
Matt Cox	DL
Jason Gibb	AD
Barry Bartram	DL
Alice Brooks	DL
Alice Anderson	DL
Ketayun	DL
Andy May	DL
Steve Stewart	DL
David Ebstein	DL
Linda Lusardi	N(II)
Natalie	SD
Emma B	SD
Jane Jackson	SD
Simon Askew	DL
Nick Long	DL
Ming	N(II)
Alan Laphorn	SD

Equipment

Three boats (tango, jaffa, & pudding), and all four engines were taken due to rumours circulating of boat cupboard floods and wet food-stained engines. We also had the pleasure of a new GPS for the trip, along with the usual echo and radios. The ULU minibus was booked which reduced costs, and therefore no cars were needed. We hired the 'kit' van from Battersea Budget van rental (0171 720 3241) for £140. An equipment check list was completed and is included.

Accommodation

Grand accommodation for £7 /head/night. It seemed reasonable especially as no one was willing to camp, it being late september n'all. There were 4 rooms with bunk beds, hot showers, equipment storage and drying space, large kitchen/diner, and a large lounge with TV. Also on site was a bar providing cheap, weak, but surprisingly refreshing lager.

ASSC (anglesey sea & surf centre)
Porthdafarch
Holyhead

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Anglesey
LL65 2LP
tel/fax:01407 762525

Air

Airs fills provided on site by the Anglesey Diver Training College (they have a little shop by the bar). They are found at the same address as above, but the tel/fax: 01407 764545. They are not the fastest bunch in the business, but the compressor was literally in our back garden. They work strict hours between 9 and 5 so be aware!

If by any chance tanks need filling prior to the trip, Howard from the Diving Ocean Quest Centre (on Tot. Crt. Rd - 0171 6527), will fill tanks for £2.50 each. You must only speak with him as he does it on the sly behind the boss' back. This is very handy if you don't have a car!!!!

Diving

Local coastguard - Holyhead

Cheat sheets - included

Day I: *Mr Steve Lacey (DM)*

The proposed plan was to dive a wreck in the morning, and a scenic pinnacle in the afternoon. We didn't quite manage it, instead we had two wreck dives on the *Lady Meath*. Any minor problems (time delays) we encountered were all due to inadequate marks, rubbish (incorrect) GPS readings provided in the literature, and slacks being very close to each other. Air fills @ DTC also increased our turn around time after the first dive. People on the trip were very efficient, doing things to help off their own back without being asked - it must have been that end of season efficiency.

We launched from Holyhead Harbour slip way which is owned by the yachting club there. You need to seek permission, which will be granted on the day. They will ask you to make a donation to the RNLI.

The *Lady Meath* was finally found using the echo (not expensive new GPS), after trawling the suspected area for about an hour. Diving went well with no hiccups - shame about the vis. We needed a very quick turn around, but as already mentioned the DTC took their time to fill the tanks. We missed slacks on the *Northstack* so it was decided to dive the *Lady Meath* once more, as some blind people had missed it the first time. This time the wreck was found in a few minutes, and everyone enjoyed some 'heavy metal'. There was a very minor incident, involving a buddy separation, but everyone was briefed about diving in poor vis.

The boats were moored over night in HH for £6 for the 3 boats, but they don't start collecting till 9 am. This was fine as we planned for a late start the following day!!!

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Diving from Holyhead Harbour (HH), as we found out, isn't the best around Anglesey. Launching from Treaddur Bay (TB) was recommended over HH and literature is included on dive sites off TB. Reasons for poor vis around HH are due to ferries passing by (very close), and the weekend before our trip there was the biggest tidal range in the last 50 years. HH does have a slip to its merit and the fee is minimal (donation to lifeboat).

Day II: Mr Matthew Patrick Cox (DM)

In the hands of the gods (nails), we were to dive the *Northstack*, a pinnacle with a WWII bomber at the bottom. The slacks were late in the day, and only enabled one dive, but people were happy to rise late and nurse 'mild' hangovers. Meanwhile the management were hard at it, delegating left, right and centre and taking advantage of the brethren. The day ran as smooth as a nail; we arrived @ the dive site with half an hour to kill before slacks, and even had time to climb the pinnacle before we dived it. The dive turned out to be a very relaxing drift around the rock, and to the delight of some lucky son-of-a-gun a cannon was found.

Packing up, and washing down the boats and kit was swift, and we left Anglesey @ 5 ish in good time. Beware, Anglesey is a long 5-6 hours drive without heavy traffic.

Dive plan

Saturday 26 September

Holyhead: HW @ 8:48 am
LW @ 2:45 pm
HW @ 9:04 pm

Slacks on *Lady Meath*: 3 hours before & after HW & LW

Lady Meath: HW @ 5:48 am
LW @ 11:45 am
HW @ 6:04 pm

Max depth 24 m

Sunday 27 September

Holyhead: HW @ 9:33 am
LW @ 3:30 pm

Slacks on *Northstack*: 4-5 hours before & after HW & LW

Northstack: HW @ 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Max depth: 27 m

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Good news

Both Linda and Ming achieved 'Sports Diver' status on the trip. Everybody was ecstatic, group hugs all round and a general feeling of goodwill to all men was felt by all.

Additional Information

- additional dive info provided by DTC (diving from Treaddur Bay)
- cheat sheets
- marketing poster
- equipment check list
- e-mail with Holyhead coastguard

bumff from Welsh tourist board on Anglesey