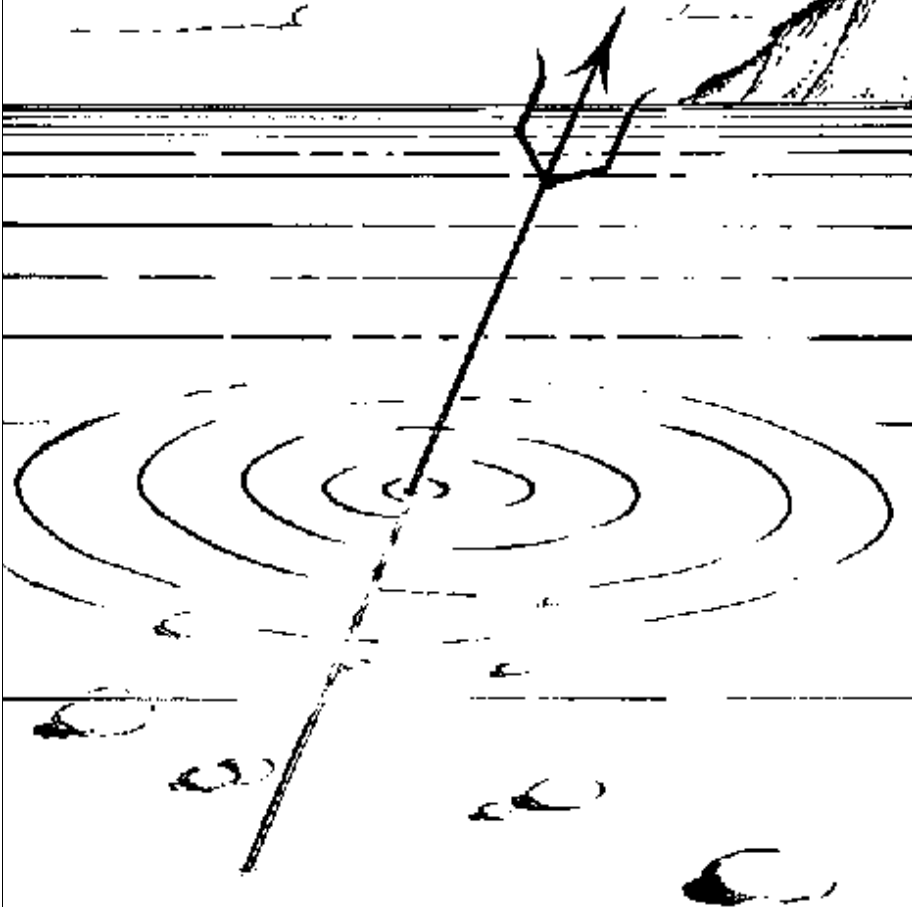


# CRYSTAL CLEAR



British Spearfishing Association April 2000

## BSA Committee 2000

<b>Chairman</b>	Steve Mullineaux
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Alan Stephens
<b>Secretary</b>	Jim Salter
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Butler
<b>Membership Sec</b>	Graham Worley
<b>Records Officer</b>	D Stephens
<b>Editor &amp; Assistant</b>	Paul Smith / Adrian Stevens
<b>Team Managers</b>	Adrian Worley / Eric Smith
<b>Committee Area Representatives</b>	
Sussex	Mick Veal
Exeter	Pete Crawford
Wessex	Tony Webber
Southsea	Graham Worley
London	Mike Bradshaw
Jersey	Neil Howarth
Plymouth	Martin Palmer

[www.crystalclear.freemove.co.uk](http://www.crystalclear.freemove.co.uk)

Home of the BSA Website

email:committee@crystalclear.freemove.co.uk

## Contents

---

Chairman's Report – Steve Molleneaux	4
London International Club – Mike Bradshaw	7
AGM Minutes – Jim Salter	9
VHF – Adrian Stevens	13
Committee Minutes – Jim Salter	16
VHF continued	18
Committee Minutes – Jim Salter	20
Australian Bluewater Classic – Dave Birch	22
A Small Story – Clive Thomas	23
BSA Rules 2000 – Alan Stephens	24
How to Begin Again – Mike Bradshaw	33

---

*Hi All,*

*First Addition of 2000 is a little smaller than normal – the intention is to provide a mid season issue in addition to the normal two! Thanks to all who contributed – sorry if your article isn't in this issue, I promise to include it in the next one. Happy fishing!*

*~~Paul~~*

---



# Picasso

Contact: Dave Bailey – British Champion 1999  
103 Stanley Avenue, Copnor, Portsmouth,  
Tel: 01705 618193

## Chairman's report

The first season of the new millennium is nearly upon use. Having had yet another very mild winter we should get a good start to the season, I just hope we don't get another one of those cold snaps in spring.

There is good and bad news on the fisheries front. The good news is the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has brought in a new commercial landing limit of 5 tons per vessel, per week, for sea bass. We all hope this will stop large spawning shoals from being wiped out before they make it to our shores. The commercial fishermen agreed with the argument that the increased market price for bass would make up for the short fall in reduced catches. The bad news is, you can forget about dreaming of being a professional Spearfisherman, unless you move to the Mediterranean. A new EU Conservation Regulation, which came into effect from the 1 January 2000, states that it will be prohibited to display, sale, or offer for sale, any marine organism caught using a projectile. As soon as I heard about this new Regulation, I sent a letter outlining my concerns to a MAFF District Fisheries Office. They acknowledged my concerns, and explained that member states, including France and Spain pressed for the inclusion of this prohibition, because of the high number of divers fishing commercially within their waters using this method. They feared that this method of fishing brought a number of problems, not least the inability to regulate the catching and sale of fish.

The areas affected by this change to legislation are EU Regions 1,2,3,4,5,6, & 7. These cover all EU member states waters, with the exception of the Mediterranean.

I know this doesn't affect the individual sporting activity of Spearfishing in the UK, but the more I think about it the more unfair it seems. Why have they decided to prohibit Spearfishing as a professional method of catching fish in the UK and not in the Mediterranean. Over here, it's not a cost-effective method of catching fish for a living. Mainly due to unsettled weather patterns and short summers having a combined affect of reducing the season to 4 months of the year if you're lucky, making its activity in the UK too small to monitor. However, the warmer climate and more predictable weather of the Mediterranean, allows thousands of professional Spearfisherman to fish all year. Therefore, what effect will this new so-called Conservation Ruling have on EU Fish stocks? "ZERO".

The real effect will present problems for competition organisers, who were

taking fish donated by competitors to market, to sell through legal permit holders to raise money for charity. Making sure that fish caught in competitions was not wasted. In addition, it will stop squad members from raising money for Team Funds, which was used to help subsidise British Teams in international Competitions, which are nearly always held in the Mediterranean! I feel the BSA is being discriminated against, and we will never be able to close the gap at an international level. However, I am always being told by Pro European Politicians that the EEC Common Market policy is about a fair and open Market. Well its not in this case, they should either prohibit Spearfishing as a commercial fishing method in all regions or not at all. I feel the Association has a responsibility to stand up for the benefits of the selective fishing method like Spearfishing, as opposed to trawling and draft netting methods, which have serious problems with disregards like under size and quota fish being dumped at sea. I feel the best way to defend commercial Spearfishing in the UK is to drag all professional Spearfisherman in the Mediterranean into the affray. So we intend to lodge complaints to CMAS, MAFF, and EU Commission.

Getting back to our new season, we are pleased to welcome two new Clubs to the Association. London International and Portland. I believe that both clubs will have in excess of twenty members, which will enable them to make a major challenge on the Club Championships "Good Luck" someone's got to beat Southsea, after all their only human!

The BSA Committee believes that the long-term future of the Association best lays with encouraging more members to form their own Clubs locally, by supporting internal Club competitions and social events there after. That's why we have decided to recognise, and award both the senior and junior individual champions of each Club.

All Clubs need to do to qualify for national recognition, is send the BSA Secretary their annual entrance fee, which will only be £10 per Club, and their Club Calendars, showing their internal Club Competition dates. With three competition dates being a minimum to qualify. Then, after their competition season is finished, they inform the BSA Secretary who their Champions are, and the Association will recognise them as Club Champions for that year and award a framed certificate.

Another good ideal thanks to Alan Stephen, which we will be starting this year, is a new annual Specimen Fish award, where all members can participate wherever they live. We will be listing all fish specimens and their required weights for qualifying for the awards. Application forms for this will be available

from the record officer or in your Crystal Clear book

For the first time this year, we have club representatives on the committee instead of the old general members. At least there will be a direct link with the BSA Committee and its Associated Clubs. I also appreciate that some Club representatives and even BSA members will find it difficult to attend meetings, because of their locations. Therefore, Club representatives will be sent committee agendas and minutes keeping them informed. With no pressure on them to attend Meetings, except Annual General Meetings, where I would like to see them to be able to use individual proxy votes of their own club members on proposed rule changes only.

Jersey will be holding a National this year since rejoining the BSA. However, because Jersey has done their own thing for a number of years, there is now a small difference in certain Fish Points and Weights, which gave the BSA Committee a problem in allowing the Competition to be granted National status. However, the BSA Committee allowed a compromise for this year only, where the Jersey Club will be allowed to award Competition Trophies to the highest points allocated by their rules, and BSA will allocate the National 100% to the highest points under its rules. Then Jersey must forward proposals for rule changes at this year's AGM in November, and accept the outcome for future Nationals. We know this compromise will not please everyone, but sometimes we all have to make sacrifices for the longer-term benefits.

For members who will be competing in this year's National Competitions, we will be renumbering Float numbers at the end of this season, which will match your final position in the national league. The National Champion will be allocated float number one and so on. The only exception will be, when older members wish not to relinquish their numbers, then the next number down will be awarded. Yes I know, another compromise! Members who are not competing this year will also be awarded new float numbers, which will numerically continue after competitors on the bases of, first come first served, when renewing their membership.

Rule changes for this year.

1. Spare guns are not to be left loaded on your floats.
2. All floats must fly a small A flag.

3. All floats must have your float numbers on using 75mm letters.
4. All Competitors must stay within a 25-metre radius of their floats on the surface.

Please check the exact wording in Competition Rules for year 2000

Well that's all for now, other than just to say I hope these new awards will help our newer members maintain their interest in the sport, and in addition, encourage many more clubs to form and compete more locally to themselves. If any members have any views or ideas they wish to share with me please drop me a line.

Steve Mullineaux

### **London International Club**

The London International Club was formed by a group of passionate Spearfishermen and Freedivers late in 1999. This group came together as a result of the British Spearfishing Association website and Freediver magazine.

Enthusiastic divers from all over the world found themselves working in the capital city of England far away from their home waters. Some looked at the English waters and put away their equipment and longed for their holidays and trips to clear fish filled waters. Others tried to dive in poor locations with strong tides, bad visibility, and little chance of catching fish. Most were totally unaware that an active association existed. In 1998 the British Spearfishing Association launched its website and rapidly increased its membership by 40%. These new members became active attending events, and demanding information, where can I fish? What is the best tide? Can you take me to a good fishing area?

A new type of member started joining the association, living away from the coast, remote from the main stream coastal clubs. Flexible on locations, due to the requirement to "drive to dive," sharing transport and boat resources, was a demand of this group. No clubs existed to help these members, so a small nucleus got together and decided to form the London International Club.

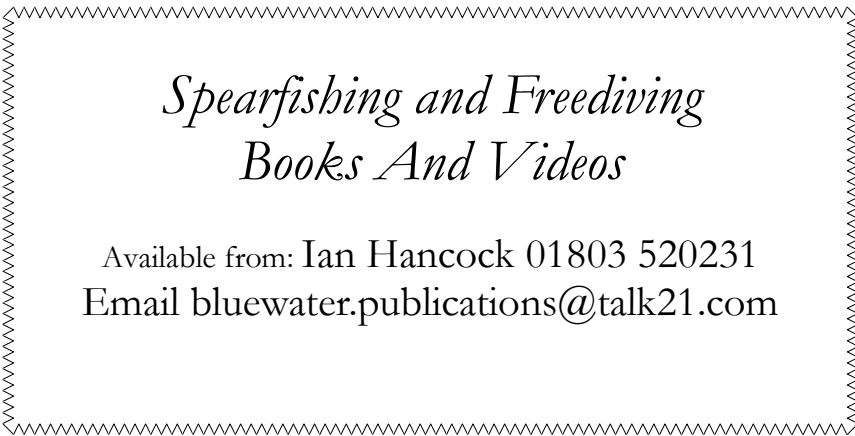
Ideas for diving trips, events and links with other International clubs were put forward and from this grew our first years calendar of events. These include Freediving and Spearfishing events, pool sessions for the winter months, and trips to boat and diving shows, even yoga sessions and social meetings at restaurants and some famous London “pubs.” A full programme of events is planned for the forth coming season, starting in March with a dive show and trips organised to Portugal, Jersey, Ireland the Azores and South Africa. Additionally Freediving events B.S.A National competitions and inter club events throughout the summer.

From a personal point of view, pooling the talents of this multi cultural group is rewarding, with newsletters being created and a network of contacts for information about diving and conditions already established. The most beneficial aspect of the club is the enthusiasm of its members. A shared passion mixed with members from every corner of the world makes for an exciting and varied atmosphere.

Maintaining contact through the Internet and social meetings the club has established an excellent rapport with major clubs in many parts of the world. I feel the membership will have a positive impact not only on the UK competition scene but also on wherever they visit in future. If your club or association would like to establish links with the London International Club please contact [divelondon@hotmail.com](mailto:divelondon@hotmail.com) new members and contacts are always welcome.

Happy diving

Mike Bradshaw (Chairman London International Club)



*Spearfishing and Freediving  
Books And Videos*

Available from: Ian Hancock 01803 520231  
Email [bluewater.publications@talk21.com](mailto:bluewater.publications@talk21.com)

## **Minutes of Annual Meeting at the Prince Regent Hotel, Weymouth on Saturday 20 November 1999**

**Chairman:** Mike Bradshaw opened the meeting and welcomed all the members attending.

**Committee Members Present:** M Bradshaw, S Mullineaux, J Salter, J Butler, G Worley, M veal, E Smith, P Smith, T Webber, A Worley, Dave & Dan Bailey, Neil, Dave & Andy Pearce.

**Apologies for Absence:** B Carlson, P Maxwell, J Worley

**Number of members Present:** 34

**Minutes of AGM:** held on 7 November 1998 at Portland Heights Hotel was agreed as true record: Proposed P Smith seconded D O'Callaghan

**Matters arising:** from Minutes, None

**Correspondence:** Mike was pleased with the usage of our website claiming it had been visited on many occasions. A letter from A Howarth (Jersey Treasurer) confirming the acceptance of our rules, together with their National Competition date. Mike was pleased that they are using the BSA logo.

**Chairman's Report:** Mike read out his report from this and enlarged on a number of topics. As he is stepping down this year he thanked all concerned.

**Vice-chairman's Report:** Steve also thank committee members and congratulated all members who successfully competed throughout the year. Steve proposed that Mike be given the position of President within the Association and hoped that he would carry on with the liaison with new members and contacts. This was seconded by I Hancock.

**Secretary's Report:** Jim has nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** John issued all members a set of accounts for year ending 31 October 1999. These accounts showed a closing balance of £3791.82 with tee shirt and watch stock at a cost of £644.65. Dinner dance and trophies were still to be paid for.

**Membership Secretary Report:** Graham reported a total of 94 members, 16 of which were Jersey members and 1 Junior. Graham stated that his aim was to achieve 100 members in the millennium year and would like to see more members at the National Competitions.

**Records Officer Report:** Mick gave out a comprehensive set of records and results from the 1998/99 season and stated that he had 1 new record to submit to the records book. Mick is to step down this year as Records Officer purely for respite and shall return his experience and help in future years.

**Team Manager's Report:** Adrian gave a lengthy report on this year's European Comp in Menorca (a full report is in Crystal Clear).

**News Letter Editor:** Paul thanked all contributors to Crystal Clear (Paul was himself thanked and applauded for his worked involved in Crystal Clear).

### **Election of Officers**

<b>Chairman</b> Steve Mullineaux	Proposed	A Pearce	Seconded	D Pearce
Carried Unanimously				
<b>Vice-Chairman</b> A Stephens	Proposed	D O'Callaghan	Seconded	N Pearce
Carried Unanimously				
<b>Secretary</b> Jim Salter	Proposed	A Stephens	Seconded	D
O'Callaghan Carried Unanimously				
<b>Treasurer</b> John Butler	Proposed	D Barnard	Seconded	J Salter
Carried Unanimously				
<b>Membership Sec</b> Graham Worley	Proposed	T Webber	Seconded	P Smith
Carried Unanimously				
<b>Records Officer</b> D Stephens	Proposed	M Veal	Seconded	S Mullineaux
Carried Unanimously				
<b>Editor &amp; Assistant</b> P Smith/A Stevens	Proposed	D Barnard		
Seconded J Salter		Carried Unanimously		
<b>Team Managers</b> A Worley/E Smith	Proposed	D Bailey	Seconded	T Webber
Carried Unanimously				

With regard to general members the incoming Chairman wished that it consisted of a representative from each club ensuring that all areas are kept directly in touch with all Committee Meetings. Jim stated that all Club Representatives shall be sent committee agendas and minutes soon after any meeting if they are unable to attend committee meetings. The reps elected were:

Sussex	Mick Veal
Exeter	Pete Crawford
Wessex	Tony Webber
Southsea	Graham Worley
London	Mike Bradshaw
Jersey	Neil Howarth
Plymouth	Martin Palmer

### **Proposals for Rule Changes**

1. At the Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1999 points were raised with concern to competitors floats at National Competitions. Proposals were made to insert 3 additions to No 3 During the Competition. These can be voted on block or as individual proposals

- i) All competitors shall fish within a distance of 25 metres from their marker buoy. Proposed Mick Veal, seconded Neil Pearce.
- ii) Each marker buoy shall have the competitors float number a minimum of 3 inches which is to be clearly visible from the surface. Proposed Neil Pearce, seconded Mick Veal.
- iii) That each marker buoy shall carry a small diver's flag. Proposed Dave Bailey, seconded Dan Bailey.

**All three proposals were carried unanimously, however, points were raised with regard to action being taken if rules were not adhered to. Also there was a query regarding the type of flag. The points raised were to be actioned by the Committee.**

2. Southsea Spearfishing Club would like to propose restarting the record book for the new millennium with the idea being to keep the overall records but have a new set starting at the year 2000. Most of our existing records will never be beaten because fish stocks have changed. Only seven records have been broken since 1990 and 2 even date back to the 1950s.

Angling restart their records every decade whilst still keeping their overall list which seems to work well and in keeping with changing times and environment.

**This proposal to be actioned by the Committee**

3. Provision of 3 VHF Radios for Safety Boats  
**Proposed:** Adrian Stevens, seconded: Paul Smith

**This proposal was passed to the Committee for further discussions**

4. To allow an unlimited size of surface marker or float.

Only constraints are:

The individual's ability to carry their own float

It be propelled by divers hands and swimming fins.

It carries a clear identification number, the word DIVER and a dive flag.

**Proposed:** George Coleman, seconded: Neil Pearce

**This proposal was not voted due to the fact that it has numerous points which were in previous proposal.**

5. To review the way team selection for internationals is undertaken.

Drop the 2 year competing in nationals to 1 year.

Select a squad of divers from the membership to show a specific interest in overseas competitions.

Arrange for the squad to compete in manager set comps.

With a smaller group, comp locations could be of places not generally fished and not necessarily “fishy” further testing ones skill (locations abroad are not always full of fish). 3 or 4 without prior notice of venue to test ones ability to read conditions and not years of previous knowledge (younger divers can compete more evenly) (3 or 4 comps should randomise the luck elements and any diver constantly too lucky should have a place and be asked to choose a new set of lottery numbers).

To give final team selection over to the team manager.

**Proposed:** George Coleman, seconded: Neil Pearce

**This proposal was passed to the Committee for further discussion.**

6. A maximum limit of 15 fish per species to be accepted at the weigh in, with a bonus on achieving 15. No restriction on catching more than 15, this will allow for divers to catch the odd bigger fish and stop the possibility of fish being dumped.

**Proposed:** George Coleman: seconded: Graham Worley

**Votes 6 for, 12 against, 5 abs – Not carried**

7. The minimum weight for Wrasse to be 1.5 kgs.

**Proposed:** Dave O’Callaghan, seconded: Ian Hancock

**Votes 7 for, 13 against, 5 abs – Not carried**

8. The minimum weight for Dogfish to be 2.0 kgs

**Proposed:** Peter Crawford, seconded: Dave O’Callaghan

**Votes 8 for, 16 against, 4 abs – Not carried**

9. That all future membership fees are automatically increased by the insurance renewal fee i.e

membership £12 + insurance £3 = total £15.

**Proposed:** Mike Bradshaw, seconded: Dave O’Callaghan

**Unanimously carried.**

10. The carrying of loaded spare spearguns on a float, be made illegal in any B.S.A. event.

**Proposed:** Mick Veal, seconded: Martin Trotsky

**Unanimously carried.**

### **Proposals of competition dates and venues**

#### **A.O.B**

It was proposed from Alan Mills that float numbers start from 1 onwards for the new season and those with existing low numbers should keep them. Seconded Neil Pearce. This came about when Eric suggested that numbers remain the same this year but shall be issued in order of merit for the following year.

Jim Salter

From: Adrian Stevens <Adrian.Stevens@iname.com>  
To: crystalclear <paul@crystalclear.freemove.co.uk>; Steve Moll <steve@wallfast.co.uk>  
Subject: BSA Committee meeting on 10th January...  
Date: 12 January 2000 21:56

Thanks for notifying me of the next committee meeting, however, I will be unable to attend. Please send my apologies.

As the proposal for VHF radio cover that will be discussed at the meeting, I'd like to put forward some additional information in my absence. If any queries arise, I will try to answer them.

Follows:

=====

The case for VHF radios in principal has been discussed and the potential legal problems of not including radio cover at an organised marine event was highlighted at the last AGM. As I see it, the minimum that we need to do is have at least one VHF with us at an event.

Why one? We need at least one with the competition organiser to ensure that we can notify emergency services and direct them to the scene.

Ideally, we need 3 radios (2 for the boats and 1 for the shore organiser). There are costs associated and issues regarding licensing the sets. However, we could minimise these costs.

How? We do not necessarily need VHF radios on the boats as well. Three hand-held radios, as mentioned at the AGM (Motorolas?), should be sufficient to ensure boat to boat and boat to shore contact at all times. These are substantially cheaper to buy and do not require licensing.

One VHF radio on the shore is still essential. The only hurdle that remains is licensing. I've talked with the Radio Communications Agency which operate the licensing in the UK. There are a range of licenses available and their applicability depends on the circumstances of use. I recommend that the committee approaches the agency and discusses in more detail with them the licensing options. In advance, I'd recommend the temporary 'Coastal Station Radio' License, as used by the YHA and other marine sports associations.

Why? To operate a shore license, we require the Coastal Station license. However, this is a fixed location license and you must supply a grid reference where the radio will be operated. Clearly, this would not suit our requirements for multiple competition venues. However, you can apply for a temporary license in advance of a competition (3 working days) and is reasonably cheap (I do not know the exact price, but believe it to be less than £15). This would be an ideal solution giving us the flexibility to suit our competitions.

There is another potential license available, the standard radio license (£22 per annum). This applies specifically to VHF radios in boats (typically hand-helds). Whether we can use this instead, I do not know.

Lastly, the final issue of licensing is the VHF Marine Operator's qualification. This is ca. £50-70 pounds for the course and exam and should be obtained before a person may legally use a VHF radio. There is however a very significant loophole that we could make use of if there are no BSA members available with the appropriate qualifications at a competition. To quote the agency: 'In an emergency (the only anticipated time that we are going to use a VHF) and person may **\*\*legally\*\*** make a Mayday call on channel 16 (the

emergency channel) and summon help, etc.'

To summarise, I think that as a minimum, the BSA can cover itself legally and provide good radio support at competitions with the following set-up:

- \* 1 VHF radio
- \* 3 Motorola hand-held radios (or equivalent)
- \* 1 Temporary coastal station radio license
- \* (1 standard radio license for the VHF itself - this may or may not be required, but would allow us to put the radio onto a boat if needed)

Later on, we could consider investing in additional sets and or recommend, support the qualification of the boatmen with the VHF Marine Operator's qualification.

I do recommend that the committee now approaches the Radio Communications Agency for clarification on the licensing and associated costs. Their contact details are as follows:

Tel: 020 7211 0211, 020 7211 0215 & 020 7211 0217

Web: <http://www.open.gov.uk/radiocom/>

Any questions, I can be reached on the following

E-mail: [adrian.stevens@iname.com](mailto:adrian.stevens@iname.com)

Thanks and let's hope for a great season.

Adrian

**Minutes of Committee Meeting at the Compass Rose,  
Portsmouth on Tuesday 18 January 2000**

**Committee Members Present:** S Mullineaux, M Bradshaw, J Salter, J Butler, G Worley, M veal, E Smith, P Smith, T Webber, A Worley, P Crawford, Dave Stephens, Alan Stephens

**Chairman:** Steve Mullineaux opened the meeting and thanked all the members attending.

**Apologies for Absence:** A Stevens, Neil Howarth, M Palmer.

**Correspondence:** Steve had received a letter from Tina Thomas stating that she was helping to form a new Portland club. Mike had received an invite from the Portuguese to any interested members to compete in a competition on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and offering free admission to a British team

**BUSA** Steve had received a copy of BUSA minutes and said he would give a copy to any committee member who was interested. A matter arising from minutes, was the decision for an annual fee of £200.00 due by 31<sup>st</sup> January of each year

**Action** John to pay BUSA Fee

**Chairman's Report:** Steve reported that had spoken to Neil Howarth about there proposed alteration to fish weights and points, and asked the committee to support a compromise in which they would award Trophies to they rules and the BSA will award the 100% to its rules.

The Committee agreed to the compromise for this year only, it was agreed that the difference's in the rules should put in to motion's for next year AGM and all clubs except the out come.

**Vice-chairman's Report:** Alan has nothing to report.

**Secretary's Report:** Jim has nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** John reported that after all moneys in form dinner and dance, the balance was £2,000.00  
But £800.00 was Team fund money. We still have stock of BSA watches and tee Shirts

**Membership Secretary Report:** Graham reported he was waiting for the calendar to be ratified before mailing the membership for renewals

**Records Officer Report:** Dave has nothing to report.

**Team Manager's Report:** Adrian reported that he had received a unconfirmed report that world championship in Tahiti will be held mid November, And he had be busy checking up on transport and accommodation

**News Letter Editor:** Paul reported that he is going to do something a bit different this year with Crystal Clear a smaller magazine, but more addition showing competition results

**Web Officer** A Stevens sent in a written report for review of VHF Radio's (previous article)

### Club Members

Sussex	Mick Veal	
Exeter	Pete Crawford	
Wessex	Tony Webber	
Southsea	Graham Worley	No reports
London	Mike Bradshaw	
Jersey	Neil Howarth	
Plymouth	Martin Palmer	

### **National Calendar ratified for season 2000**

<b>BSA National Calendar</b>				
Host/Venue	Date	Back up Date	Contact	Tel No
Sussex - Bognor, Boat	30 <sup>th</sup> April	8 <sup>th</sup> July	M veal	01273 420547
Jersey	15 <sup>th</sup> July	16 <sup>th</sup> July	N Howarth	01534 862103
Wessex - Durdle Door	30 <sup>th</sup> July	12 <sup>th</sup> August	A Stephens	01202 694870
Exe - Sandy Bay	13 <sup>th</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> October	P Crawford	01392 668143
Plymouth - Lansallos	19 <sup>th</sup> August	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	M Palmer	01626 364711
Southsea - Portland	27 <sup>th</sup> August	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	G Worley	023 9271 0358
London - Talland Bay	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	M Bradshaw	01442 827722

**Rule Changes** it was decided unanimously to use the A Flag on Floats

**Review of fish records for Year 2000** It was decided not to start a new record book for new century, but to look at certifying Specimen fish caught annually

**Action** A Stephen to look at new specimen fish award system and report back Committee for approval

**Review the possible use of VHF Radio's** After considering A Stevens report and following discussion, it was decided that there was not enough information on system set up and costs to make a decision

**Action** A Stevens to report back with proposed set up and cost.

**Review on Team selection** After a Lengthy debate, two motions were proposed

**First Motion:** That team Manager may select from the top Ten over last two years RESULTS, selection must be ratified by committee.

**Second Motion:** That the team self selects it self, over the last two years RESULTS I.e. First, Second and Third.

**Vote:** (6 for first Motion)(3 For Second Motion)(3 abs ) First Motion Carried

**Review of what BSA offer Membership** Committee members to report back on any good ideas

**Dinner and dance 2000** Committee to look at Bournemouth area

**AOB** Nil

#### VHF Radio Cover - Setup and Annual Costs

At the last committee meeting, I was asked to obtain a breakdown of the setup and running costs to provide radio cover for BSA national events. These, along with the cover options are listed below. In summary, it will annually cost £22 per radio plus £20 per competition to provide the necessary licensing for VHF radios. However, it will initially cost between £210 and £450 to purchase the necessary equipment, depending on the option selected.

It is worth highlighting that Dave Barnard has agreed to provide at least 1 VHF radio for all nationals. This obviously will save the association a substantial sum of money and our thanks should be acknowledged. If anyone else knows of a member of friend willing to loan VHF radios for the nationals, could they make the committee aware.

## Radio Cover Setup Options

### Option 1 - minimum radio cover (equipment £210)

- 1 VHF radio\* (supplied to competition organiser)
- 3 'Walky-Talkies' (issued to competition organiser and 2 boatmen)  
VHF used only in event of emergency  
Walky talkies used for all other boat-shore communications

### Option 2 - maximum radio cover (equipment £450)

- 3 VHF radios\* (supplied to competition organiser and all boatmen that hold a valid maritime radio operator's certificate)
- 3 'Walky-Talkies' (to be issued to competition organiser and all other competition marshals that do not hold an operator's license)

### Option 3 - Competition Rule change (equipment £340)

- Only marshals that hold a valid maritime radio operator's certificate may operate safety boats at national competitions
- 3 VHF radios (Supplied to competition organiser and boatmen)

\* Requires Ship radio license (transportable, per radio) and coastal station radio license (per competition)

## Equipment Costs

Hand-held VHF Radio £0  
then £170 each

- Dave Barnard has agreed to supply 1 radio for all national competitions (an additional radio may also be available)
- Range typically 3-5 miles (depending on power rating)
- Only issued to competition organiser and boatmen that hold a valid maritime radio operator's certificate

Hand-held 'walky-talkies'  
each

£70

- Note: very limited range (maximum 1½ miles).
- Only suitable for boatmen that do not hold a valid maritime radio operator's certificate

### **Licensing Costs**

#### Radio Communications Agency Licenses:

Ship Radio License (Transportable, per VHF radio)  
per annum

£22

- Conditions: Must be kept with (or near) radio  
Operated by or under direct supervision of a holder  
of a valid maritime radio operator's certificate

Coastal Station Radio License (temporary, issued for each national)

£20 per issue

- Conditions: Must be requested at least 3 days prior to event

Additional: Can be 'bulk' requested at start of season      Adrian

## **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE COMPASS ROSE, PORTSMOUTH ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2000**

### Committee Members Present:

S Mullineaux, J Salter, J Butler, G Worley, M Veal, E Smith, P Smith, M Bradshaw, A Stephens, D Stephens.

Chairman Steve opened the meeting, thanked all members for attending and asked for any matters arising from last Minutes.

### Apologies for Absence

T Webber, P Crawford, A Stevens, A Worley

Correspondence Steve received a letter from John Moorcroft enquiring about the BSA.

Jim received a fax from "The Field" magazine that wishes to do a feature on the BSA.

Exeter Spearfishing Club received another letter from M.A.F.F confirming change of Conservation Regulation.

## **EUC Fishing Regs**

Steve gave his latest comments with information to hand regarding how it shall affect our National Comps. This led to lengthy discussion. We basically derived that we are a drop in the ocean and as an Association should be up front with M.A.F.F. It was agreed that we should pursue in writing to M.A.F.F and sound out where we stand. Mick was to action this.

The discussion also included the possible loss of income from each Club's National as they may find it difficult or impossible to sell their fish. It was proposed by Mick Veal and seconded by Alan Stephens that:

Each Club's National competition entrance fee shall include a £2.00 levy per senior competitor to go to the BSA

The Committee voted on the proposal: 8 For, 2 Against – This motion was carried.

## **BUSA**

The BSA sent a cheque for £200 for the year's fee towards the running of BUSA. Some of the Committee were concerned that nothing much was coming back from BUSA. We asked Steve to issue Committee Members with copies of any minutes taken from BUSA meetings for our next Committee meeting.

## **Officers Reports**

Eric shall be writing to the top twenty divers and would like fast response. He made it clear to the Committee that the World Championships in Tahiti shall cost in excess of £3000 per competitor. John Butler said a value of £789.64 was available from fish money. Eric also gave £240 of sponsorship money remaining from last year. Dave Stephens was forming an application form for entries into the new annual specimen fish award.

## **VHF Radios**

Jim read a letter from Adrian Stevens with various options and costings. This again caused discussions on the expense and the need for VHF radios.. A special thanks to go to Dave Barnard for volunteering the use of his own VHF radio at National Comps. It was decided that Dave VHF radio would only be used in a emergence. In addition, to purchase three short-range radios to link both boats to shore.

## **Dinner Dance**

Bournemouth is still a favourite venue and Steve is anxious to be able to confirm any details ASAP.

**Jim Salter**

## 2000 Australian Bluewater Classic

Reigning Australian Spearfishing Champion Ian Puckeridge won the 2000 Bluewater Freediving Classic for a second time on the last weekend in March this year. As usual, the tournament only allows competitors to take one of each species (on the primarily pelagic fish score sheet) on each of the 2 days of fishing.

Conditions were far from pleasant, with winds gusting to 20-25 knots on the Sunday, having decreased from 25-30 knots on the Saturday. Only one days fishing was contested, as Saturday was deemed too treacherous to venture to sea. Water temperature was 24-25 Celsius, and visibility was generally good at 30-50 feet. Sea conditions saw swells rising to 2-3 metres. Occasional places saw the viso only 10-15 feet, especially around the southern parts of the Solitary Islands marine Park.

Ian took 4 fish, including a 16.8kg Spanish Mackerel, over the 7 hour tournament from locations as distant as Pimpernel Rock in the northern end of the Marine Park, to win the Classic for the second time – having won the inaugural Classic in 1995.

Outstanding junior - 16 years old Ryan Springall, who pulled a 10.5kg Jewfish out of 80 feet of water at the southern Wash, and two other fish including a mackerel at other locations in the rough sea conditions, took out 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the one day event

Third placegetter was Coffs Harbour's regular Classic placegetter - Chris Hogan, followed by Newcastle's Mick Glenn and 5<sup>th</sup> Gunther Pfringle from Sydney. Fifty eight year old local Darcy Wright was the only Master (over 55 years) to land a fish in his division, and took home over \$800 worth of prizes for his one Cobia.

Two ladies fished this year, current Aust. Ladies Champion Margaret Cantor and 19 year old Naomi Spicer, but sadly neither experienced divers landed a fish in the toughest Spearfishing tournament in Australia.

Sixty-four divers signed on, and only 15 divers weighed in fish. Heaviest fish of the Classic this year was a mackerel of 16.8Kgs caught by Ian Puckeridge. The "Committee's Choice Fish Award" for the meet was a 5.5kg Snapper caught out of 70 feet of water by Queensland's Tony Heugh. . Other largest fish included a Yellowtail Kingfish of 13.45kgs, and a Cobia of 9.2kgs.

Five Japanese divers attended the Classic, the only internationals that attended

this year due to the significant expense of attending the last CMAS World Championships being held in Tahiti in November. Two of them attempted to swim from Black Rock to South Solitary Island (1kilometre) in a strong northerly current and were lost at sea for an hour in the choppy conditions. Fortunately other dive boats found them before the water police arrived. This situation emphasized the fact that the small “ football” styrene floats used by the two divers (and a couple of others also) were not very visible in the rough seas – and unable to support them for a sustained period – and they will be illegal to use in Australian competitions from now on.

As usual, the Presentation Ball turned into a great celebration, well hosted by the current President of the Coffs Harbour Bluewater Freedivers Club Glen George-Radford.

Dave Birch reporting.

### **A small story.....**

Date: 25 January 2000 14:33

Guys,

I was just reading the report on the Portland Comp last year on the BSA web site, and reading the fact that there were some dolphins in the area. In fact there were two groups that came to visit us last year, a group of common dolphins and some bottled nosed ones as well.

I was of Bill point one afternoon, on my own, when one of the bottled nosed dolphins appeared from now-where and scared the living \*\*\*\* out of me! But what an experience, I have never been in the water with such a beautiful and powerful creature like that before. It stayed round me for about 5 minutes, not coming to close, I don't think it liked the look of my gun, but came within a few feet, it swam underneath me blowing bubbles up at me, and when I dived it did to!

I had some nice bass that day as well, so over all one of the best days diving I'd ever had!

**Clive Thomas**

# BRITISH SPEARFISHING ASSOCIATION

## RULES GOVERNING NATIONAL SPEARFISHING COMPETITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN - 2000 Season

### 1. COMPETITORS

- a) All competitors must be registered with the British Spearfishing Association ("B.S.A.").
- b) All competitors must be issued with a competition number by the B.S.A. and must be fully paid up members of the Association.
- c) Any competitor wishing to take part in a National competition must, in addition to his membership fee, pay an additional amount representing a competition entry fee. This must be paid to the competition organisers PRIOR to the start of the competition. Any competitor who has not paid prior to starting a competition shall be disqualified for that competition.
- d) Any competitor wishing to take part, who is not a current fully paid up member of the B.S.A. shall be permitted to compete if he pays a fee (to be levied at the discretion of the B.S.A.) in addition to the competition entry fee.
- e) All competitors must be 14 years of age on the date of the first national competition.
- f) Those between 14 and 19 years of age ("juniors") on the date of the first national competition of the season must have written permission from a parent or guardian on the entrance form provided. This form must be completed before the start of the season and retained by the Membership Secretary.
- g) Any competitor entering a National Competition must be grouped into a team. A team shall consist of 3 persons.

Replacements shall not be permitted after the start of the competition.

## 2. **BEFORE THE COMPETITION**

- a) Competition organisers must send out details of their intended designated competition area to all prospective competing clubs at least four weeks in advance of their competition.
- b) This notice shall clearly describe the area chosen, which will be known as the Designated Competition Area ('D.C.A.'). It must also contain any alternative areas and any areas that are out of bounds to competitors.
- c) The D.C.A. must not extend beyond the area designated to be covered by safety boats.
- d) Competition organisers must designate a starting and a finishing area for the competition. These will be called the 'D.S.A.' and the 'D.F.A.' respectively.
- e) No competitor shall be permitted to fish or take a gun in the water while in the designated area up to and including 7 days prior to a competition. Any competitor found or proved to have been in contravention of this clause will not be eligible to compete in that competition.
- f) No competitor shall be permitted to swim or scout in the designated area thirty hours prior to the competition, Any competitor found or proved to be in contravention of this clause will not be eligible to compete in that competition.
- g) Any competitor found or proved to be placing markers within the D.C.A. designed to give assistance to that or another competitor will be disqualified from that competition. An incident of this nature will also render the competitors' liable to investigation by the B.S.A. and the appropriate sanctions will be imposed.
- h) A complete set of these rules and the codes attached must be sent to each competitor upon joining the B.S.A. and upon each

subsequent amendment to the rules. Upon receipt each member must read and sign the attached slip to signify that he has understood the rules and agreed to abide by them. The slip should be returned to the B.S.A. Membership Secretary. The fully updated rules must also be published in the first edition of 'Crystal Clear' to be published after the AGM

### 3. **DURING THE COMPETITION**

- a) All competitors must start at the D.S.A. in full spearfishing equipment.
- b) Competitors may make for their selected site by walking, running, or swimming immediately after the start of the competition.
- c) No competitor will be allowed to start the competition from a boat, or have the use of a boat other than when allowed by the competition organisers.
- d) Anyone fishing outside of the D.C.A. during a competition will be disqualified from that competition and from the ensuing two competitions.
- e) A competitor must return himself and his catch, float and guns to the D.F.A. by his own physical efforts (by whatever means available) before the official finishing time. He must sign out as soon as possible on leaving the water.
- f) Any competitor arriving back at the D.F.A. after the official finishing time will be penalised as follows :-
  - i) Up to and including 10 minutes after the finishing time, his score will be halved.
  - ii) After 11 minutes of the finishing time he will be disqualified.

The competition organisers at the beginning of each competition will set the official finishing time.

- g) The competitor must be immersed in the water at the time of

spearing any fish.

h)

1. During a competition all competitors must tow one marker buoy. This buoy must have a minimum volume of 5 litres and a maximum volume of 20 litres, and fly the A flag, which must be a minimum of 15cm x 15cm and be clearly visible.
2. All floats must carry competitors individual float number, (minimum size 75mm)
3. No loaded gun to be carried on float under any circumstances.
4. All competitors must fish within a 25metre radius of their float,(measured across the surface)

i) No breathing apparatus other than a snorkel will be permitted.

j) A competitor may come ashore as often as he wishes but he will not be permitted to use any means of transport to return to the D.S.A. other than that provided by the competition organisers.

k) A competitor who aids another competitor in catching a fish in any way will be entitled to 50% of the points for that fish.

l) No lures of any description are permitted to attract fish.

m) Any competitor helping another competitor in the case of injury or exhaustion will be entitled to 50% of the total points value of the others' catch at that time.

n) The passing of fish between competitors will result in the

disqualification of the competitors involved. An incident of this nature will also render the competitors' liable to investigation by the B.S.A. and the appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

#### 4. **BOAT COMPETITIONS**

- a) In a National Boat Competition no competitor is to start the competition by walking or running away from the D.S.A. Otherwise the conditions contained in Clause 3d above shall apply.

#### 5. **MEANS OF CATCHING FISH**

- a) It is not permitted to use any means to catch fish other than by knife, hand-spear or a spear expelled by a gun using compressed air, spring or rubber.
- b) No cartridge or expellable gas guns may be used.
- c) Guns must not be loaded on the beach or in a boat, and must be unloaded before leaving the water.

#### 6. **FISH**

- a) To qualify, a fish must be caught in the D.C.A. Within the time limits set for the competition by the organisers, and be above legal local and/or national limits.
- b) The following species of fish are NOT PERMITTED :-
  - i) Weaver
  - ii) Salmon
  - iii) Sea Trout
  - iv) Sunfish
  - v) Electric Ray
  - vi) Sting Ray
  - vii) Lump-sucker
- c) Competitors must comply with any restrictions on fish species that may currently be in force.

- d) All fish must be weighed in once the competition has finished.
- e) The competition organisers must weigh the fish.
- f) If a competitor finishes after the expiry of the time limits set by the competition organisers, Rule 3. f) Will apply.
- g) A balance scale will be used to weigh all fish, save that any fish appearing to the competition organisers to be just permissible under Rule 7. a) Will be weighed using a digital scale.
- h) Any fish brought in by a competitor who is disqualified will not be weighed or recorded for points, but may be weighed for any British records
- i) Where possible all fish of the same species are to be weighed in bulk.
- j) Specimen fish are to be weighed separately.

## 7. **WEIGHT OF FISH PERMITTED**

- a) The minimum weights permitted are as follows:-

i)	BASS	1 kilogram
ii)	CONGER ELL	5 kilograms
iii)	WRASSE	500 grams (competition
	organisers has dissection in	setting a weight
	limit above 500 grams)	
iv)	SKATE and RAY	1.5 kilograms
v)	Other species	500 grams
	(Except those in Clause 6 (b))	

## 8. **POINTS ALLOCATED FOR FISH SPECIES**

- a)
  - i) Round fish                      1000 points per fish PLUS 1 point per gram                      (no maximum)
  - ii) Flat/bottom fish/sharks      500 points per fish PLUS 0.5 points per gram                      (up to a

maximum of 2500 total)

- iii) Bottom fish 500 points per fish PLUS  
0.5 points per gram (up to a  
maximum of 2500 total)
- iv) Conger Eel as per flat fish (up to a maximum  
of 2500 total)
- v) Wrasse 1000 points per fish PLUS  
1 point per gram

Competition  
organisers have  
dissection to reduce  
points to half points

b) A competitor catching 4 species in any competition is entitled to bonus points in the following order:

- i) 4 species 1000 points
- ii) 5 species 2000 points
- iii) 6 species 3000 points, and so on.

## 9. **PROTESTS**

- a) Any competitor wishing to lodge a complaint regarding the competition being or having just been held must notify the competition organisers at least one hour prior to the prize giving event for that competition.
- b) Upon receipt of protest the competition organiser must notify the adjudicator in accordance with the Codes attached hereto.

## 10. **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- a) **Individual** for male and female minimum age 14 years with parental permission until 19 years

- b) **Junior** for male and female 14 years to 19 years with parental permission
- c) **Team** any three individuals, who have registered with competition organisers, before the national competition starts, stating which team names they what to compete under.
- d) **Club** highest three individual club members results for each round
- e) Individual and Junior championships, the competitor, who's catch, gains the highest amount of points allocated by rule section 8, shall be deemed winner of that national competition, the competitor subject to rule section 1 and 11. b) Shall be awarded 100 percent for that round, all other competitor points subject to rule section 1. And 11. b) Shall be awarded a percentage of the winning individual points.
- f) Team championship. All individuals registered to a team name, will have there points added together. The team with the highest number of points, allocated by rule section 8, shall be deemed winners of that national competition, the team subject to rule section 1 and 11 b) shall be awarded 100 percent for that round, all other teams points subject to rule section 1. And 11. b) Shall be awarded a percentage of the winning team's points.
- g) Club championships, All individual club members points, shall be added together, then divided by the same number of members to get the club average the club with the highest number of average points, allocated by rule section 8, shall be awarded 100 percent for that round, all other clubs shall be awarded a percentage of the winning clubs points
- h) Individual, Junior, and Team championships, the winning national champions shall be those, after all rounds percentages have been added together are the highest, second highest shall be second and so on, only one round will be dropped from national calendar, minimum results shall be four.
- i) Club championships, the wining national champions, shall be the club, when all round percentages are added together and the

are highest.

## 11. **GENERAL**

- a) The competition rules contained herein must be available from the competition organiser for one hour prior to the start of the competition
- b) The results of competitor not holding a British Passport OR who does not qualify for British residency will not be used in the calculation of results for the British National Championships.
- c) Any B.S.A. member eligible for the International Squad must donate their fish for B.S.A. funds. Any squad member who does not so donate will not be eligible for the International Squad for the ensuing two years.
- d) Unless expressly stated otherwise in the above clauses, any breach of these rules will result in the absolute disqualification of the offending competitor.
- e) Alteration of the rules and the codes will not be permitted save by Ordinary Resolution in General Meeting in accordance with the B.S.A. Constitution attached hereto.
- f) Where, under Clause 7. a) iii above, the competition organiser has decreed the weight of wrasse to be above 500 grams, the notice of competition (given under Clause 2. a) and b)) must state this.

## How to begin again!

From birth, we measure human progress by land-based abilities, the first crawl, our first hesitant steps, school sports achievements etc.

Prior to being born, we all swam and developed in a liquid environment.

To learn or relearn our aquatic skills is the aim of all Freedivers.

For us to feel at one within the water, to have control over a period underwater, without resorting to mechanical assistance appeals to both our physical and mental senses.

This satisfaction is rarely achieved in today's time and date stamped lifestyle.

Many sportsmen describe times of high focus and achievement as being "IN THE ZONE".

A state of total involvement and concentration that permits good sometimes extraordinary performance

This mental state is the hook that pulls us back time and again allowing us to enjoy our sport for years longer than gravity based sports.

Experienced aqua-lung divers often rediscover this sense of freedom and achievement when they return to Freediving in one of its forms Spearfishing, Octopush, photography and pure breath hold diving.

Freediving can be relearned at any stage from children on snorkelling courses to adults retraining to enjoy a more satisfying, physical, method of diving.

Assuming a basic level of swimming ability and fitness, many courses for Freediving and competitive underwater sports are now available via web sites and specialist sites such as Freediver, British Spearfishing Association and through the British Underwater Sports Association our governing body.

Most however learn to build their skills with people who share the same passion. Water skills develop more quickly when shared with a partner at a similar level of competence.

To progress at a faster rate join a club or association so as to be able to dive with more experienced people. Don't necessarily compete with them, but take every opportunity to dive with them and observe their style skills and abilities. Most will talk when not actually competing.

Never get complacent about your water skills. New open waters with tidal conditions and sometimes-hostile inhabitants can conspire to place you in danger. Even better conditions can increase the risks. The calm clearer seas of the Mediterranean can lure the inexperienced British diver to go much deeper than their own ability allows. Whilst gaining experience I would recommend the "one up one down system", one diver watching the other from descent to breaking surface before switching roles from watcher to diver.

Would you know what to do if your dive partner sambard or stopped breathing? Take a resuscitation course and plan what to do if the worst happened. Its reassuring to know your dive partner could bring you back should anything happen.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Masks, snorkels, fins all should be chosen for fit and comfort no gimmicky valves or clips that will fail.

Choose equipment based on quality and suitability for your purpose, talk to your local supplier or a club mate with experience before you buy.

## **WET SUITS**

Go for comfort and fit not zips and flashy taped seams. Look at the average non-specialist suit and look at the potential for snagging on rocks or wreckage. Copy nature's example by looking for smooth rounded profiles that reduce drag and won't snag.

Avoid extra so called "safety equipment" that ads risk. For example: octopus rigs, stab jackets lines connecting knives tools, torches and over complicated weight systems all potential snag points underwater

Never use wire fish keeps around your waist, these could hold you down and cannot be cut like nylon.

## **OPEN WATER RISKS**

Learn about local tides and conditions always plan your exit point particularly on rocky coasts where conditions can deteriorate very quickly.

Essential is a surface marker buoy, it can carry anything from lunch to flares and spare equipment but the main reason is to warn boat traffic of your presence, propellers and divers don't mix!

In some countries third party liability insurance is compulsory here it is strongly recommended and is available via most clubs and associations as part of their fees.

Remember as in all things, advice comes free, but experience is hard earned.

Join a club and benefit from others learning.

I hope that these simple suggestions help you to relearn your lost skills and further your enjoyment of the sea.

Dive safe.

**Mike Bradshaw.**

*Notes*



# **BRITISH SPEARFISHING ASSOCIATION**

[www.crystalclear.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.crystalclear.freeserve.co.uk)

Home of the BSA Website

email:[committee@crystalclear.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:committee@crystalclear.freeserve.co.uk)