

# **Derby Divers Newsletter**

# JUNE 2011

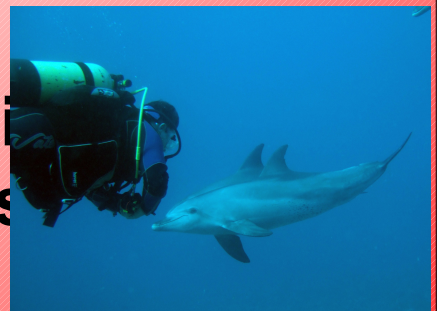
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**Contact :-**

**Glynis on Facebook or  
email [glynis123@sky.com](mailto:glynis123@sky.com)**

# MULL - MAY

The weather forecast was good the roads on the way up were empty – we couldn't fail to have a good few days diving. Could we?

Because the Centre was full, the accommodation this year was down at the old Post Office – a converted house quite near to the pub – how's that for convenience? All the usual mod cons – TV, video, microwave - and oh yes ample cooking room. Whilst on the subject of cooking it is interesting to notice how things have changed over the years. This year the chaps seem to make a concerted effort to eat healthily. There was steamed veg on show! Along with the steaks of course. Steve Watson did his best to keep up the old tradition though – Frey Bentos Steak pie, mushy peas and chips was his meal of choice. Keith Jones had the task of sorting out how to cook a Morrison's Curry carry out. It seemed very complicated time lines , stop watches and such. In fact the planning took longer than the cooking!! but the Jalfreizi and Rogan Josh turned out fine in the end.

*Illustration 1: Old Post Office*

The accommodation was different from the centre in that some rooms were twins but one room was a foursome one. The 4 chaps were billeted in there. Tony, an old hand at these things, very quickly decided to sleep downstairs on the sofa – he hadn't got his ear plugs with him!!!



*Illustration 2: A Feeding StarFish*

The first day's diving was knackered. At the boat at 8.00 and on it, 3 dives later, for the next 11 hrs. The original plan of going out to the Tapti was shelved because the waters in the Sound were choppy and Dave (the skipper) thought that it would be much worse out at sea. We dived the Rondo and then went round the corner and out of the sound to dive the Aurania. Surprisingly calm there so there was still plenty of time to travel to couple of hours to get to the Tapti. So we did. Another nice dive and well worth doing. 3 deepish dives and a very long day reflected in some faces – grey and haggard looking.

Much easier diving and shorter days followed . Viz on the whole was good especially if you got into the holds before anyone else (Ian that is). John was continually soaking after each dive (wrist seals playing up), Keith's computer packed up and Steve decided to cut right back on his diving. This meant that the number of divers in the water varied from dive to dive This added to the fact we were often the only boat on the wreck gave that lovely the feeling of just you and your buddy exploring a wreck - great.

The week ended with a meal at the Pub – Charles (the landlord) is actually learning to smile !!! Then pack up ready for the long drive back - and again on empty roads. Bliss.

Itinerary	Tuesday	Rondo	Aurania	Tapti
	Wednesday	Breda	Thesius	
	Thursday	Hispania	Shuna	
	Friday	Rondo	Hispania	(Some divers had missed the first time)



Group:	Ian Fludd Colin Grubb	Steve Watson Louise Taylor	Tony Hawkes Glynis Jones	John MacCarthy Keith Jones
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# Club Night at Stoney

“If you tell them, they will come” - apologies to Field of Dreams.

Well on a warm, Wednesday evening in May that is just what happened. Mark wanted to see more Club activities going on around our sport and what better place to start than a night dive at Stoney. Invites went out via Facebook and posters in the shop. The result was that about 20 + divers came along to have a dive and meet up.



Well known faces were there, of course, - Steve, Mick, Kat, Gary, James et al, but it was also good to see recently qualified divers coming along and joining in (Kevin, Tony, Ian). That's the whole idea though – get in, get wet, get out and then chat. With many experienced divers on hand there was no problem in finding buddies. Not only was there plenty of chat on hand, but also plate-loads of food, courtesy of Mark. Probably resulting in a few buoyancy problems for those who did a second dive!!!



**Next Club Dive planned for Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> July - Look on Facebook or in the shop nearer the time.**



**Thanks again to Mark for the food – really appreciated.**



# **DERBY DIVERS CLUB SCENE**

Diving is sociable – YES it is. There is always something to chat / argue / ask about. The recent social night down at Stoney was evidence of that so let's do more socialising.

The next **Stoney Social will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July.** Put it in your diary now – just remember those cobs and muffins that Mark provided.

**24<sup>th</sup> June Pool nights socials** last Friday in the month - after taking a dip, pop over to the Rolls Royce club and start the weekend right.

We have had non-diving activities too – Golf Days, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Paint Balling among others. Any volunteers to organise one – I will be glad to help.

Last year we had a weekend at Capernwray (a very nice place to dive). On that occasion camping was the overnight choice but what about b&b in Blackpool for a Saturday night stop over after diving on the Saturday and then going back over to Capernwray for another days diving on the Sunday? Let me know if that appeals to you. And also if anyone knows of good / reasonable B&B's in Blackpool. August or late early October would be good.

Watch the Facebook Page or posters in the shop for info on any of the above

Glynis

Contact [glynis123@sky.com](mailto:glynis123@sky.com)

# November in Egypt

You pass your OW and then do the AOW and, of course, you want to dive. Well November in the UK is not the time to dive so for many of the divers on this holiday this was their first experience of warm water diving. Like many others the basic 5 day / 10 dive package is their starter. I certainly started with such holidays before looking out for something different / better.



*Illustration 3: Looking relaxed*

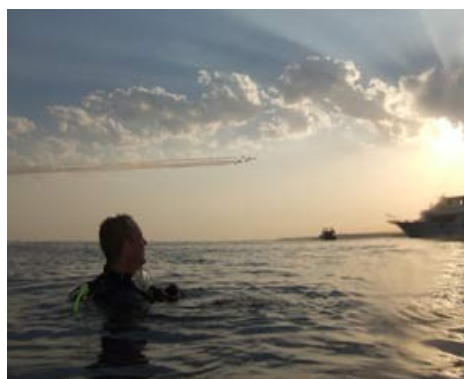
The hotel we stayed in was the Coral Hills, in Ras um Sid. The hotel provided shuttles for anyone wanting to sample the delights of Naarma Bay or Old Sharm and they were taken advantage of. The hotel was just a few minutes walk away from an excellent Mall where there was a choice of good / inexpensive eating establishments that suited all tastes and pockets, which we out. The hotel itself was up to

standard expected no one had any complaints about it.

The Dive Centre we were using was based at another hotel but transport arrived on time and pre dive organisation was very good. The first day caused a bit of anxiety because the dive was so full. Although dive deck usage was supposed to be staggered over the 2 dives - it ended up as a crowded free for Not a good start, but the next 4 days it was just the opposite – party plus a few others.



*Illustration 4: Lesley and Ian and sauce bottles*



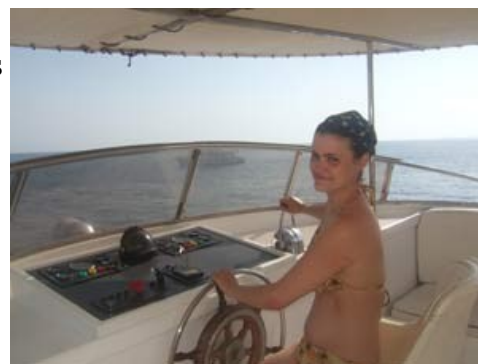
*Illustration 5: Steve got a 'Flypast' on surfacing*

My own memories of this type of 10 dives package holiday ranged from awesome ( for the first trip) to 'follow a fin' and be consumed with other diver's bubbles (my final memory). I must say I was pleasantly surprised. The dive centre guides did not try and regiment our group and the dives often pushed the hour mark.. The dive guide was good and helpful in sorting out problems so that all could fully enjoy the week's diving. The fact towards the end of the week many of the dives lasted nearly 60 mins was a testament to good dive management and increasing competence of the more inexperienced of our group.

It is sometimes difficult to advise on correct diving equipment particularly on the question of full suit / shorty? Or 3mm / 7mm. This year we all ended up diving in shorts and T shirts water was uncommonly warm → 29c. Normally it's about 24 ish !!!

For the first time divers to the Red Sea there was plenty to see Crocodile fish (big ones), turtles, huge morays and blue spotted rays among the many. After getting her weighting sorted out Rachel relaxed and really enjoyed the diving. The went for Lee and Karl, as well as Lesley.

Steve and John went out to the Thistlegorm on a day trip , and Lesley and Keith did the night dive and the Dahab excursion.



*Illustration 6: Rachel at the helm!*

Again the organisation spot on. Ian, Steve and Eddie (old hands at the Red Sea experience) pootled along enjoying the scenery and the very pleasant evenings out.

Highlights apart from the diving - Pool volleyball on the 'day off' - still got the energy to spend an hour or two in the pool.



Steve Watson Keith Jones Steve Pearch Glynis Jones Ian Frudd Geoff Pearce  
John Webb Karl Baines Eileen Watson Lee Broderick Rachel Pratt Eddie Handley

### KLJ Photographic

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# March Liveaboard

The 'trouble' in Egypt had meant a change of travel plans – we had been diverted to Manchester because of a local airline stopping its flights to Sharm. But adroit work by our Travel Consultant ( Lesley Moitie) meant that we weren't stung by increased prices and in fact some got a rebate!

Locally, in Sharm, things were very quiet. Hotels were only 10% full and the dive centres business was non-existent. There was absolutely no reason for tourists to give Sharm a miss. In fact in March divers were to missing treat. No dive boats meant that the reefs were empty. Just our boat, and our group of 11 divers. It doesn't much get better than that.



*Illustration 7: Just lounging around on Tiger Lily*

We were, however, affected by the upset in Egypt – but it turned out in our favour. As a result of a whole department being 'sacked' Barry was unable to get the necessary permission for our safari. The replacement boat was owned by a retired general who had a lot of 'clout' in Sharm and there was absolutely no problem in getting permission for his vessel. Actually it was a lot bigger than we expected and that fact also allowed us to go across the Gubal Straights and dive the Giannis D and the Carnactica. A bonus to be sure.

Another stupendous bonus was the sighting of a Manta – and that was on the check dive in Ras Kati. It 'flew' past us on its travels along the reef and then 20 mins later came back. An exciting start to the trip. Tiran had its usual delights -turtles, swimming morays, rays and much more.



*Illustration 8: Paul and those Dolphins on Shag Rock*

Some of the highlights were the dolphins coming out to play on Shag Rock. 10-15 of them swim around and between us for most of the dive. Plenty of opportunity to take those memory provoking photos / videos.

The night dives on the Thistlegorm gave the group a chance to have a good look at the reef. We could either be guided by Barry or just meander our own way through the holds and over the deck. Again we had it to ourselves - on the night dive we actually saw the resident turtle swim down into the hold for a snooze.. Another first.

These liveaboard trips are renowned for visiting little visited, pristine reefs and this year was no different. One reef we had no name so as far as we were concerned it is now known as the 'Great Barry Reef'. Lots of white, sandy gullies banked by fantastic corals.



Over the course of the holiday Emma McPeake was taking her AOW. She successfully completed all aspects of the course. Well done – not many inexperienced divers have had to do rib exit and entry, have to contend with rapid drift dives, and also experience night dives. She took it all in her stride and by the end of the week was well on her way to becoming a competent, safe diver.

Throughout the week the crew were excellent. Giving a helping hand and a friendly smile. But on our last night the crew put on a special treat. We were all banished to the upper deck whilst they decorated the dining area and lit the candles. It was Steve and Alison's Silver Wedding Anniversary and they were presented with a cake. After another excellent meal the crew initiated fun and games with songs, dances and party games. They thought that the 'Hokey Cokey' was the star turn.



*Illustration 9: Last Night Celebrations*

Group members:

Alison and Steve Beasley  
Emma McPeake  
Keith Jones

Dave McPeake  
David Kerry  
Glynis Jones

Paul Duckett  
Kevin Watkinson

## **TAB Systems Ltd**


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check out our website  
[www.tabsystems.co.uk](http://www.tabsystems.co.uk)

# 2012

**Keith Jones and Glynis Jones (KLJDIVERTRAVEL) will be running these trips.**

## **WARM WATER STUFF**



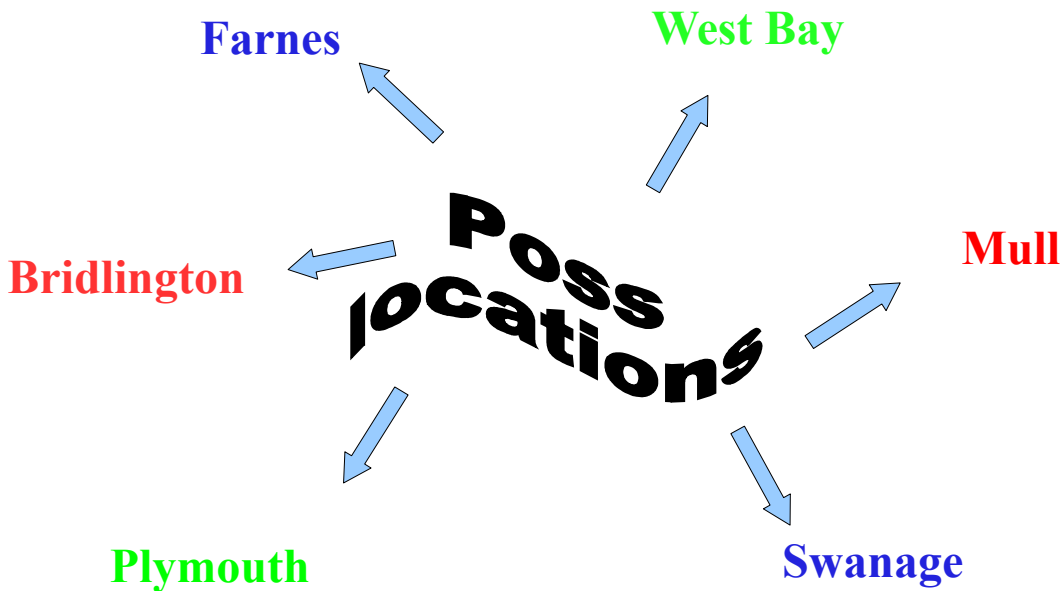
Early March	Liveaboard	Egypt
Early April		Maldives
Early June	Split Day/Safari	Sharm el Sheik
October	10 dive Package	Sharm el Sheik
November	Liveaboard	Egypt

**For up to date information check out Facebook DERBY DIVERS  
and KLJDIVERTRAVEL  
also [www.kljdivertravel.co](http://www.kljdivertravel.co)**

# 2012

## UK

No dates booked but I intend to have a weekend trip every month. I will be starting this process sometime in the Autumn.



This year we have not had any dives from Plymouth because of the death of Pete Hambly – I am checking out various possibilities.

If YOU have any contacts / experience of diving from other places in the UK and think that it would be a suitable weekend venue please get in touch.

NB I have cancelled some weekend's diving this year because of lack of interest – or maybe it was just the usual thing of leaving it to the last minute. The skippers of the various boats want a deposit early in 2012 so it is important that you make up your mind and get your £50 deposit into the shop. It certainly makes my life easier and ensures your place on the boat.

# ONLY £ 565

## for a diving holiday in Egypt

Price includes – Flight, hotel and diving

**5 day dive package**  
**10 Boat Dives**  
**Dive Tiran and Ras**  
**Mohammed**  
**Cylinders and Wts**

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**Sharm el Sheik**  
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**Pool**

**Non divers on the boat £465**  
**Singles welcome**  
**Flights from Manchester**  
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**5k hand luggage**



## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Join us on our holiday to the Red Sea in October 2011.

A bit of fun in the sun – everyone is welcome –  
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\*Flight prices are liable to vary