



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BOLTON AREA DIVERS
SEPTEMBER, 2019 | VOL3.

THE RUBBER REVIEW

Photo by Steve Calligan



01204 394441



Unit 10a
Brownlow Business Park,
Tennyson Street,
Bolton,
BL1 3DX



diving@boltonareadivers.co.uk



Bolton Area Divers
Bolton Area Divers Club



[boltonareadiversltd](https://www.instagram.com/boltonareadiversltd)



[@BadLTD1](https://twitter.com/BadLTD1)

NEXT CLUB MEETING: DECEMBER 19TH - CHRISTMAS DIVE FILM PREMIER



IF YOU HAVE GOT ANY COMMENTS, TRIPS, PICTURES ETC FOR THE RUBBER REVIEW PLEASE SEND THEM TO US AT THIS ADDRESS: [KATIE@BOLTONAREADIVERS.CO.UK](mailto:katie@boltonareadivers.co.uk)



Dive Centre Staff

Shereen Roberts
(Manager)
Katie Broadley
(Assistant Manager)
Liam Bland
(Shop Assistant)
Marieke Van Elk
(Shop Assistant)

Assistant Instructors

Gareth Thompson
Mark Hughes
Paul Byrne
Sue Sanders

Divemasters

Alex Boa
Richard Hartley
Tony Davies DSDL
Rebecca Winstanley
Steph Fallon
Yo-Han Cha

Instructors

Gary Mawston – CD
Matt McMinn – MI
Carl Sanders – MI
Simon Edlington – IDC STAFF
Shereen Roberts – MI
Jo McManus – IDC STAFF
Mike Hughes – IDC STAFF
Phil Wyatt – MSDT
Paul Greenough – MSDT
Howard Turner – MSDT
Ian Reynolds – MSDT
Chris Jones – OWSI
Andy Smith - MSDT
Ben Singleton - MSDT
Ian Ball - OWSI
Jack Finney - OWSI
Katie Broadley - OWSI
Mark Brierley - MSDT
Paul Cunningham - OWSI
Paul Gibson - OWSI
Philippa Desveaux - OWSI

Divemaster Trainees

Colin Marshall
Dave Wrench
James Mayers
Judith Bowley
Lisa Everett
Lukasz Warzecha
Matt Knowles
Rob Scott
Gary Gerrard
Steve Colligan
Stewart Heywood
Connor Mackay
Gary Appleton

Trip Review: Scapa Flow- The 100 Year Anniversary 30th August- 6th September

Written by Vicki Thompson

Where do I begin – what an adventure.

The first entry in my diary simply reads “325 sleeps until Scapa” and finally the day arrived.

The journey up was long, very long. We decided to break it up and set off Thursday evening, staying in a hotel outside Glasgow for the night. This helped but it was still a very long journey on Friday. We met up with the rest of the group on Friday evening and had a meal together. We were all very excited as a lot of the group were Scapa virgins.

Our home for the week was the MV Jean Elaine- an old herring fishing boat full of character and charm. She sleeps 12 divers below deck within one 4-berth cabin, three twin cabins and two single cabins and above deck she has the shower, two toilets, the saloon and galley. My first impression when boarding was ‘Oh! She’s quite old???’ however, this soon turned into love and admiration for a very sturdy and stable vessel.

There really is nothing more reassuring at the end of a deep and tiring dive, than that beautiful, confident bow cutting through the water towards you to pick you up. On board you would find a rail every time you put your hand out for one, perfectly placed where you need them.

Day 1 - Sunday 1st September

First day of diving and we started with the Karlsruhe. I was incredibly nervous but was left in absolute amazement – I’ve dived the wrecks down the Sound of Mull many times but this was something else – simply huge! The SMS Karlsruhe lies on her starboard side at a depth of about 25 metres to the sea bed. Above her is approx. 12 – 14 meters of water, so a lovely introduction.

The first peculiarity on the Karlsruhe I encountered was a bath – still full of water I might add! I don’t really know what I was expecting to see whilst diving these wrecks, but a complete bath wasn’t something I’d thought of. The other thing that was a bit peculiar was at about 20 meters. I thought I may have been suffering from narcosis as I thought I could hear the tune to ‘The Littlest Hobo’, not a normal thing to hear when diving at depth. Thankfully it was just Howard (with his full-face mask on) singing and laughing above me. He had been ear worming everyone with that song all the previous evening.

Dive 2 was on the SMS Dresden, a wonderful wreck with her bow at 25 meters and her stern at 38 meters. There was so much life on the wreck – every inch had been colonised.



Day 2 - Monday 2nd September

On Monday we dived the SMS Coln, a light cruiser that lies at a depth of about 36 meters. The descent down the shot line seemed to take a long time but was well worth it as the wreck was awe inspiring with lots of life including dead men's fingers, anemones and a flat fish on a metal beam. It lies on its side and is reasonably intact at the front end. We started our dive part way along and made our way towards the bow, we wanted to find the two guns at the stern.

This took us past the central area where there is a lot of damage but this exposed areas inside that could be investigated. Heading further along the first turret came into view, then the gun attached. I pointed my touch up as I knew the other gun should be there. These were the largest guns I had seen on a wreck, they were amazing!

Our second dive of the day was the SMS Dresden again, this wreck has so much to offer. I had a few problems this dive as my mask kept flooding – a nuisance

Day 3 – Tuesday 3rd September

Tuesday morning gave us the SMS Brummer which was an absolute treasure. She lies at about 36 meters on her side and is quite damaged around her midsection around the engine room area. It's a great place to investigate as you can see inside parts of the wreck. As Mr McMinn had been unable to join us on the centenary trip, we had a laminated 'Matt Face' to take with us, we couldn't have him missing the diving!

The wreck had lots of holes to peer through and every inch was covered in life giving something for both 'squidgy stuff' and 'rust metal' divers alike.

Our second dive of the day was the F2 and the Barge. After descending down the shot line on the barge it was lovely to swim over the top and look down into it. There were places you could enter but that wasn't for me. At the other end was the rope that lead to the F2, just follow the rope and there it is. The F2 is quite broken and collapsed at the back end but still intact at the front.

There was lots of life to see with a chain hanging down from the front.

Day 4 – Wednesday 4th September

The first dive on Wednesday was the Tabarka, and what a dive it was. The wreck sits at about 15 meters and was sunk as a block ship in the Second World War. It lies in strong currents in Burra Sound, which is why a negative entry is required. A negative entry is great until one fin gets caught and remains on the boat, which happened to one of the group! Thankfully a beautifully aimed kick sent the fin directly to the diver, who recovered it and had it securely in place by the time he reached the bottom.

The best place to view the Tabarka is from the inside, as this not only gives shelter from the currents but also magnificent views of it's cathedral like structure. When the sun gleams through the skeleton of the wreck it really is stunning. Once we came out of the wreck, we were treated to the most amazing drift dive. It was fast and exciting and not for the faint-hearted. Some likened it to being inside a washing machine! After the exciting dive of the Tabarka, the V83 was a welcome relief.

The V83 is a motor torpedo boat destroyer that was beached when the fleet were scuttled. She lies close to the shore with her bow at about 8 meters and her stern at about 15 meters. This was a gentle and relaxing dive around a very interesting wreck. There were two guns to see, one on the top and one in amongst the wreckage with shoals of fish all around. There were also lots of plumose anemones, seaweed, crabs, starfish and a china plate - not quite sure why there was a china plate but there it was.



Day 5 – Thursday 5th September

On Thursday morning we started on 'The Big Ones' and descended onto the SMS Markgraf – WOW is the only word to use for this wreck.

The SMS Markgraf lies at a maximum depth of about 45 meters, although we never went below 39 meters and still had a great dive. We had a plan to try and arrange ourselves for a group photo between the rudders but no, that didn't happen. The rudders were a huge structure pointing towards the surface with a German flag in between. A poignant reminder of where the ships were from. After leaving the rudders we went along the side of the wreck then up to the top before ascending.

There were brittle starfish everywhere and urchins, lots of urchins. Any available porthole was an opportunity to shine my torch inside and discover what was hidden. We only saw the stern of the wreck on this dive, it is so huge, the rest is waiting for another opportunity to dive it.

Our second dive on Thursday was the SMS Kronprinz Wilhelm, which has now become my favourite wreck. The descent was slow and steady as the huge structure of the wreck emerges in front of you. At the bottom of the shot line we proceeded towards the stern, not realising that the 'big guns' were just underneath. The darkness was quite green and eerie again with shoals of fish all around.

There was much to see with many of her plate now parting to give little glimpses of what lies inside, often cables were hanging or pipe were running along a wall. It was when we returned to the Jean Elaine that we were told we had missed the 'big guns'!

Day 6 – Friday 6th September

The final day of diving started with the SMS Konig, the namesake for her class. Unlike the Markgraf and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, the Konig was heavily damaged by the salvage operation and does not have the impressive 'intact' presence that the other two have but you get to see large parts of the inside of the ship.

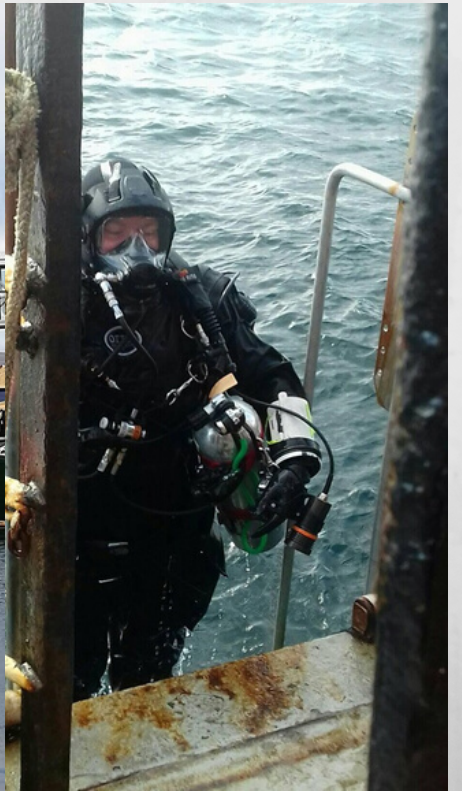
If you don't know what you are looking for, it can be difficult to identify parts of the wreckage but a single rudder still lies in place.

Our final dive was to revisit the SMS Kronprinz Wilhelm to find those guns and what a finale. I think "Big Guns" became my phrase of the week. We dropped down the shot line and down under the wreck. I didn't realise what I was looking at to begin with. I noticed the huge pipe, shone my torch along it and found the turret – then realise that was the gun! I don't think I was expecting it to be quite so big and impressive, then the other behind it emerged. "Wow" is the only thing I have written in my dive log.

After returning to harbour each day we tried to get out and see some of the attractions that Orkney has. We were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights, the Italian Chapel was beautiful (although we were too late to go inside), Skara Brea was very wild and windy and the Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery was very humbling. This was a wonderful week with a great group of people exploring an island which has an amazing amount of history to offer, both above the water and below.

I look forward to the next trip





Trip Review: St. Abbs

14th-15th September

Written by Matt Knowles

We went back to St. Abbs trip for another great BAD trip over the weekend, all arranged by Mark Hughes.

11 of us made the trip up there on the Friday night and started the weekend with a Chinese next to the petrol station, strange location but good food and good company!



The water temperature for all dives varied between 12-14c which meant it was lovely and warm. The visibility ranged from 5-10 metres. Our skipper for the weekend was Barry White (yes that's right) and we were aboard the Stingray, a great small boat with everything a diver could need.

The Saturday began with the first dive on the Glanmire, approx. 25-30m deep with plenty to see. The wreck itself is quite broken up but is full of life and has some great sections to swim through.

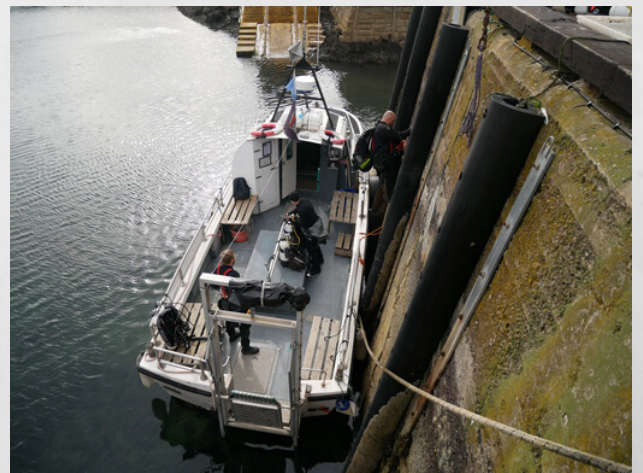
All other dives for the weekend were a combination of reefs and gullies which are all covered in dean men's fingers and more types of anemone than I'll ever be able to name.

There was so much life particularly lots of lobsters and crabs of varying sizes- the smallest being smaller than my little fingernail!

Two stand out dives had to be, one where a gully lead to a swim through with loads of lobsters and the other turning into an impromptu drift dive, in which we managed to spy the illusive wolf fish!

For some divers on the trip it was their return to the open sea after a while and Phillipa's first UK sea dive. Everyone had a great experience and added some exciting dives to their logs!

Hopefully we'll have another trip arranged for here soon!



Trip Review: Oban

4th-6th October

A group of 10 divers headed up to Oban on the Friday, 4 of these being Advanced Open Water students.

The weekend consisted of a mixture of shores dives and boat dives. The dives included a drift dive in a loch, which is a very scenic loch too! Dives on the Breda wreck and general scenic dives from the shore.

The group when to a lovely local restaurant on the Saturday evening to refresh.

A big well done to all the advanced students on getting their AOW qualification, it was an enjoyable experience for all and we even had two of the students braving it in wetsuits!

We will be looking to plan another Oban/Lochaline trip in April next year so keep your eyes peeled!





Upcoming Trips

BAD Club Night Dive- 30th October.

Club Dive in the darkWith the familiar surroundings of Capernwray as our backdrop, we will be running a BAD club dive at the end of October. You will need to be Open Water and Dry Suit qualified as a minimum with the PADI Night Diver spec.

As always, this dive is free to all BAD club members (usual Capernwray fees apply)

Buddy pairs can be arranged on the day where needed. You will need to have your own torch and backup for this dive. Please pop into the Dive Centre and we can help you with this if you do not already have your own. (Please note, this is not a training dive and is not suitable for divers who have not done a night dive before)

BAD Christmas Dive 2019- 17th November.

The theme for this year's Christmas dive has been planned, if you would like find out more and to be involved, as well as if would like a role assigning just email katie@boltonareadivers.co.uk.

The day will start the same as always with meeting at the dive bell at 9am, then we will complete two dives to film the Christmas dive film. This dive is free to all BAD club members (usual Capernwray fees apply)

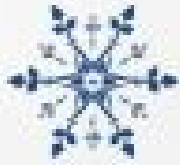
NDAC Weekender- 7th and 8th December.

If you would like to do some fun dives, NDAC is a massive quarry with lots of underwater attractions. The majority of the quarry is around 25m (in the shallower section), so a chance to get a bit of depth if you are used to Capernwray. The visibility is usually good there too.

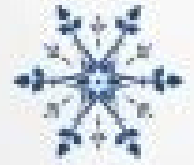
Whilst we are teaching the Deep course in NDAC, we will be running a weekend club dive on the Saturday, Sunday or both. We will be staying in accommodation locally, so will be going out for food and drink (in moderation obviously!) on Saturday night. If you would like to do your deep dive spec you can do (cost is £150).

You will need to hold a minimum of your Advanced Open Water certification. If qualified to go below 30m, local regulations require you to have a redundant air source on you and a torch. All divers must have a whistle. Call the shop or email katie@boltonareadivers.co.uk to book on.

YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED TO OUR



BAD Christmas Party!



23RD NOVEMBER 2019

AT

RIVINGTON HALL BARN, RIVINGTON, BOLTON, BL6 7SB

- THERE WILL BE A PARTY BAND AND AN IN HOUSE DJ
- EXTENSIVE CHRISTMAS BUFFET
- RODEO REINDEER
- 3 PLACES LEFT- IT'S NOT TO BE MISSED!

£49 PER PERSON



Courses passed this month



Open Water and Drysuit



Advanced Open Water
Intergrated Dive Mask



DSMB



Night

A very big thank you goes out to all the instructors, divemasters, divemaster candidates and surface cover for all your help during our courses!

Course dates

Pumpkin Carving: 26th October £25

Divemaster: 2nd, 3rd, 30th November and 1st December £400

Equipment Specialist: 3rd November £75

Nitrox: 30th November £125

EFR: 1st December £75

Deep: 7th and 8th December £150 (At NDAC)

O2 Provider: 21st December £25

To book on a course call

Katie or Shereen

at the shop on

01204 394441

or email

katie@boltonareadivers.co.uk

Who's Who?

OUR MONTHLY
INTERVIEW WITH
OUR MEMBERS OF
STAFF

Name

Howard Turner

What is your dive qualification?

MSDT and Tec45

When and where did you learn to dive?

Bolton Area Divers- October 2012

What is your favourite piece of dive equipment?

Ocean Reef IDM

Name one place that is on your bucket list for diving-

Just one place? Hawaii, off Kona where I did my first try dive

Describe a memorable dive:

Dive 100 - in gin clear water 60m viz (the guide apologised that it was poor) diving between the tectonic plates of Silfra Iceland. The only way you know you're in water and not flying is the water temperature of 2c. Just breathtaking in every way.

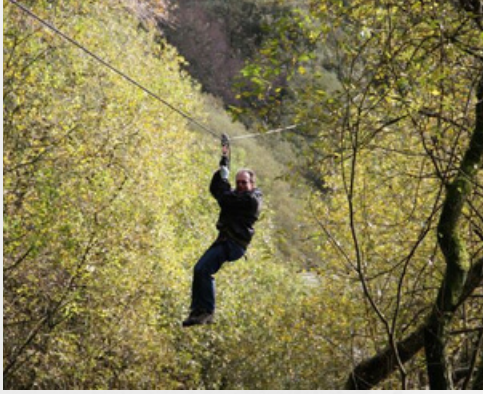
What is your favourite dive advice?

Slow down, breath, stop everyone and breath again. See where your buoyancy is, adjust and then move on. Just one of the pearl's my mentor in the early days gave me.



'Not So Wet Ones'

Go Ape
6th October



Look out for our next 'Not So Wet Ones' coming soon!

Turton Pool

You will find Bolton Area Divers in Turton Pool every Saturday.

Training is available during these sessions for:

- Snorkelling
- Try Dives
- Confined Open Water
- Reactivate (Scuba Refresh)

If you would to come to the pool please get in touch with Katie or Shereen who can add you into the diary to come on a saturday afternoon.

If you know of anyone that would like to learn to Scuba Dive, get them to contact us at BAD on 01204 394441.

HSA Training

Bolton Area Divers are pleased to be able to offer HSA Diver Training in the following courses:

- HSA Try Dive
- HSA Open Water Diver
- HSA Advanced Open Water Diver
- HSA Dive Buddy Training

If you have any questions relating to Diving for people with disabilities, please call Shereen on 01204 394441

or email Shereen@boltonareadivers.co.uk

Club Membership

Club membership is £60 per year, a mere £5.00 per month. You can pay your subscription at the shop, at the next club meeting or by standing order.

If you're not already a club member now's the ideal time to join. Just set up a £5 per month standing order to the bank details:

Bank: The Co-Operative Bank, Salford Account name: B.A.D. Club
Sort Code: 08-92-50 Account #: 52008306

We will keep track of the bank payments and change your membership accordingly once the payments have changed. Direct debit forms are available at club meetings, the shop or ask us to email you one.

Club Membership benefits include:

USE OF POOL - FREE
TRIP UPDATES BY EMAIL - FREE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - FREE
TRIP ORGANISATION - FREE
CLUB MEETING ACCESS - FREE
AIR FILLS (for personal use only) - FREE
KIT HIRE - Discounted
CLUB TRIP PRICE - No Booking Fee (£10 per trip for non club members)
PLACES ON CLUB TRIPS
1st PRIORITY
SHOP PURCHASES DISCOUNT- 10% off retail

Further promotions & loyalty discounts will be available in future for other local companies - watch this space!

And of course just being a member of the most friendly club dive club in the UK :-)

BOLTON AREA DIVERS ARE PROUD
TO ANNOUNCE

we are now a

SHEARWATER DEALER



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Bolton Area Divers deal
with nearly every
supplier of dive
equipment.

As part of our
commitment to offering
you the best value for
money, if you see the
same product in another
UK Dive Centre for less
or online, tell us and we
will let you know if we
can match it or even
beat it.



fourth element



spexx



**NEXT CLUB MEETING:
19TH DECEMBER 2019
ST HELENS RD, OVER HULTON, BOLTON BL5 1AA
BEGINNING AT 8:30PM**

**WE ARE HOPING TO HAVE OUR CHRISTMAS DIVE FILM READY FOR
THEN!**

All events can be found on our Facebook page

Look out for our new website- coming very soon!

**For any information please contact Shereen or Katie at the
dive centre on 01204 394441 or you can email:**

shereen@boltonareadivers.co.uk

katie@boltonareadivers.co.uk

Shop Opening Hours

Mondays: 09:00 to 17:00

Tuesdays: 09:00 to 20:00

Wednesdays: Closed

Thursdays: 09:00 to 20:00

Fridays: 09:00 to 17:00

Saturdays: 09:00 to 18:00

Sundays: Closed

