



Stephen Pearson's Diving trip @Lyme Regis 31st May-1st June 2008

Day 1

After packing all our kit into the Land Rover and trailer Friday night, we were ready to go. Ray Barrett picked me up @2am on Saturday morning (oh my god that's early!). We then went on to pick Mick Preston up and off we set Land Rover, trailer, dive kits and all, down the road towards Lyme Regis. Half way we needed to do one of the most important jobs of the day, stop and have a full English breakfast at the service station!! Now fully prepared for the day we set off and headed straight to the camp site (Shrubbery), which was just outside off Lyme Regis. We arrived there at 7am to be met by Steve Cave (Chairman) and Carole Gilbert (Dive Officer) who both arrived yesterday (Friday). Time for a quick cup of tea, set up our dive kit and load onto rib (Orca). We quickly erected the tent and threw everything else in the tent ready to sort out later. Then off we all went to the harbour ('The Cobb') @ Lyme Regis.



It was the first time I've ever been there and so far all seemed great - flat sea, sun shining with not a cloud in the sky and a warm 17°. What else could I have had on my first dive trip?

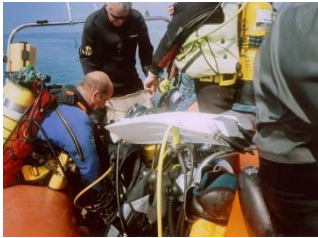
We launched the Rib from the harbour and after a short briefing from Ray and Carole, we set off. I was put in control of the boat (another first for me) and headed towards the first dive site of the day, The Baygitano. Carole and I were to dive first so we kitted up and carried out our all important buddy check. All was ok, so over the side of the rib we went, heading straight down towards the Baygitano on a shot line to 22mtrs. My first sea dive was going great so far. I've never seen so much marine life in one place. We saw crabs, sea bass, bib, starfish, and dogfish, not to mention the rather huge head of a conga eel that was

hiding in the boiler. 36 minutes bottom time with a 3 minute deco stop on the way up to the boat. Getting back on the boat was to be my next experience!!!



Steve, Ray and Mick helped me to lose any kind of gracefulness I had!!

Next to go down was Steve and Mick (no dive for Ray this time). I then helped to sort the boat and goodie bags. The sun was still shining and it was getting hotter. Before I knew it, 33 minutes had passed and it was time



for Steve and Mick to surface and to get them back in the rib. I was put on the controls of the boat again and we headed back to Lyme Regis harbour. We de-kitted, sorted the rib out and changed cylinders ready for the afternoons diving and at last it was time for

some lunch.

Back on to the rib in the afternoon to a place called 'Golden Cap'. We were going fossil hunting which had been organised by Ray. Carole and I were first to dive again, so we kitted up and



did our buddy check and off we went. This time down to 15 metres, so not so many fish this time but still there were crabs and star fish to see but unfortunately no fossils (only the old fossils on the rib up above us!!) dive time 35 With a 1 minute deco stop.

Steve, Ray and Mick's turn to dive now whilst Carole and I sorted our goodie bags out whilst following them on their SMB (surface marker buoy). The time goes so



quickly out there, again 44 minutes had all ready passed and it was time for them to resurface. Carole took the controls of the rib and back to the harbour of Lyme Regis.

We were getting 35 knots because the sea was so flat.

Once the rib was out of the water, we headed back to the camp site and Steve and Carole very kindly got us all fish & chips on their way back. Bellies fully, arms and legs aching, cheeks burning and kit sorted, we settled down for the night. It was now gone 10 o'clock; it had been a very long day

Day 2

Sunday morning alarm goes off @ 6.15am, just enough time for a quick cuppa and breakfast before we were all off to the Cobb again to launch the rib before it got too busy. Then straight out to the 'East Tennants', with Steve @the controls.

Steve, Ray and Mick were first to dive this morning and went down to 27 metres with a SMB and a Lift Bag after scallops. Unfortunately not too many scallops so after 36 minutes they resurface, re-board and off we go again to the second dive site, 'The Baygitano' for Carole and I to dive. Having dropped a shot line, kitted up, and carried out our buddy check, over the side of the rib we go. Once down the shot line we went straight on to boiler @ 22 metres. Great; we hit the boiler hit first time and had a quick look @my new friend, the huge Conga Eel, and then a gentle fin to the bow of the boat. We finned around the bow and then back down the other side of the boat. The marine life was absolutely astonishing (I love diving!!). Again after 33 minutes (time goes so quickly down there), it was time for our six metre deco stop of 3 minutes and then to re-surface with our



delayed marker buoy. Back on to the rib and a quick dash back to Lyme Regis with Ray @ the controls this time.

Unfortunately the tide had gone out too far to get the boat back on the trailer, so off we all went for a full English breakfast with tea and toast and an ice cream, before

being able to load the boat back on the trailer. What a way to finish a weekend diving. A final journey back to the campsite to pack up the tent & kit. All that awaited us now was the long journey home!

Summary of the weekend

Weather = dry, warm, very sunny

Diving = excellent

Company = couldn't have had it any better!!