



NO - DON'T LAUGH - IT'S NOT FINNY
Our worthy Chairman descended into the depths
at Oban without his fins !

Other Oban pictures



REBREATHERS ON THE CHEAP ?

Since returning to the club from overseas, after a brief sojourn into the world of “professional” diving, I noted a huge increase in the interest of rebreathers within the club. Having completed a course on the AP Inspiration during my time away, and dealing with many customers with a variety of units, I was keen to look into the variety (and cost!) of units available.

Due to financial circumstances (see previous statement on “professional” diving), buying a new Inspiration was not an option. Looking into the wonderful world of ebay, revealed a whole host of rebreathers, which warranted a closer look.

Buying anything from ebay entails a certain amount of risk, or good faith, in the person you are buying from. Sadly, rebreathers seem to attract more than their fair share of “scam” artists, mainly due to the relatively high costs involved and opportunity for a “bargain”. There are however, many safeguards in place, and when buying something costing hundreds if not thousands of pounds, the best advice is to collect the item in person, and pay cash.

Having learnt how to spot a “scammer”, there are bargains to be had, however, the second hand cost of an Inspiration was still prohibitive. Depending on age, expect to pay upwards of £1800 for a Classic spec

inspiration. Things to look out for on “cheap” units are old handsets, without backlighting, and also those which have flooded (mainly a problem with older units). Unlike their sister company which makes the Buddy BCD range, sending an Inspiration unit back to the factory for a service, will result in a servicing cost. Due to the problems found on early handsets, and possible ingress of sea water, this often results in new electronics being required, as APD will not repair the older units. This could result in a bill equalling what you paid for your “bargain” in the first place!

Along with Inspirations, there are many other weird and wonderful units out there. Looking at Closed Circuit Rebreathers (CCR’s), the units that mainly become available are: Megladons, and KISS units. The “Meg” is a seriously expensive piece of kit, and supplies of parts in the UK is limited, as is often the case in it’s native USA, due to the small nature of the manufacturer (compared to the likes of APD or Drager).

The KISS unit comes in several versions, and is a DIY kit, thus negating the need for various type approvals. Because of this, many units that become available will be minus regulators, and buoyancy devices etc, as these are usually supplied by the owner. Despite the manufacturers small size, parts are not so much of

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Please send your contributions to the Editor - Don Wilson - don@poorlyleg.karoo.co.uk
Visit the club's web site at www.bsac14.org.uk

an issue, as the unit uses many standard, off the shelf parts. There are also several other units, which may crop up, usually from the States, such as the Biomarine, or Cis-Lunar. These were developments of military rebreathers. These units give a whole host of new problems, such as the unavailability of the “spheres”, the tanks used for gas, rather than cylinders. There is also no testing standard for the spheres, so there is a difficulty having them filled commercially. There is also the Optima, from Dive Rite, yet another US manufacturer. These are new, and expensive, so have yet to appear on the second hand market.

Ex Military Units

As eluded to previously, a number of rebreathers become available on the second hand market having escaped various country's armed forces. Most notably are those from the former Soviet Bloc. It seems that the USSR stockpiled hundreds of rebreathers, and these are always available via Ebay, in a new and unused condition. Whilst this may seem the ideal way to get into rebreathers, there are many things to be aware of, as I found out through experience!

More next time.....

Chris Storey



One of our more horny members at Oban

CHARTS

So - because the training system has altered, it seems that members are going out to sea and are not able to read Admiralty Charts and understand the information that is on them.

I was lumbered (once again) with giving a talk on the subject, in the near future.

A nearby friend said “It’s a waste of time, everyone uses GPS these days.” Now this misses the point, GPS is a tool of navigation. The chart can show you so many other things.

Please come to support my talk. Who knows, you might learn something useful!

Don

“OUR GUN”

I'm told that someone was telephoning Radio Humberside to find information about the gun that was standing down on the docks.

Eventually, an ex-member of our club had telephoned to say that he was one of the crew that lifted the gun, and no doubt, mentioned our club.

A brass plate exists, ready to be fixed to the gun, which shows the details of its lifting etc and it is hoped that this will be fixed in the near future with due publicity.



Johnno kindly lent me a couple of video tapes, entitled “Hull at War”. When I started the second tape, there was a man leaning on a gun. I sorted out my photos, and yes, it was “our gun” which stands down on the dock side.

Don

SURF AND TURF

BARBECUE

July 14th - 7.30 pm

Ship Inn - Dunswell



**Country and Western
with
Bernie Wood**

Outside Bar

£6