

## Editorial

Well - we're back. We are rather slimmed down but that is generally held to be healthier. Of course that means there are some fatter cats out there somewhere in the SSAC. Much of the savings produced by less frequent publication last year went to offset overspends in the Club in 1996 but some of the savings produced the financial backing we needed for our Lottery Fund application, the result of which is expected soon. Of course all this happened within the overall income from subscriptions. It is now cheaper to belong to the SSAC than to any other sub-aqua club in UK. Are we sacrificing quality for cheapness? Do low cost, and low benefit really attract new members?

So our period off-stage, regretted by quite a lot of our audience - sometimes with cries from them for another appearance on stage - has given us time for some introspection. The results are to be seen in this issue. There will be a greater concentration on Scottish diving and on technical aspects of diving. We do not mean by the latter the dreaded term - technical diving - which has come to mean lots of expense, complexity and weight. We shall cover technical aspects of the equipment that all use or are likely to use as well as some of the more advanced gear.

The article by Andrew Johnson is we feel an excellent introduction to those new to diving or Scottish diving - so good in fact that it appears without a full set of pictures in our Web Site in the section dealing generally with the Club.

In the meantime *Scottish Diver* has not been totally in abeyance because we have been developing a small but real presence on the SSAC Web Site and we have published one article there. There are lots of other good things on the web site whose url is [http:// www.ssac.demon.co.uk](http://www.ssac.demon.co.uk).

**Cover Picture** By Andrew Johnson *The Bow of the Hispania wreck in the Sound of Mull, one of Scotland's most popular wrecks, disguised with plumose anemones.*

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