



# New Nitrox Course On Offer

**E**ARLIER THIS year Scotsac decided to write its own basic nitrox course. The new course is based on our experience of running the IANTD course successfully over a number of years.

The course is intended to teach those people who require a basic knowledge of using EANx to a maximum 40% oxygen mixture. In writing this new course, the team made up of regional Instructors have sought to make it as easy to understand as possible by looking at other organisations' teaching strategies. We have taken advice from advanced Nitrox instructors with other agencies and have produced a course which has a balance between ease of learning and full technical content.

A new illustrated manual has been produced and is at present undergoing final tuning and should be available for the Diving

Officers' conference. The topics covered in the manual include: the history of nitrox (EANx); why change from air?; what is EANx?; O<sub>2</sub> toxicity; decompression sickness - how do bubbles form? signs & symptoms (alphabetically) prevention's better than cure; Buhlmann tables; computers; oxygen toxicity; convulsions; equivalent air depth (EAD) concept; EANx equipment & operations; oxygen cleaning; mixing & analysis; unsafe practices.

The new half-day course will cost the same as the old course - £45. We hope to be able to run these courses on a regional basis starting in February.

The prerequisites for this course are simply Sports Diver. Any members interested should



*Well trained divers are happy divers. ScotSAC's new nitrox course will improve your underwater capabilities.*

contact head office as soon as possible. If your name is already on the course list for the Basic Nitrox course, could you please re-apply to make sure you are offered one of the first courses?

**I**T WAS one of the big social events of the year. Leading figures from the world of Scottish diving (well messrs Cartwright, Curtis and Morrison anyway) gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Clydebank Sub Aqua Club. The distinguished company of around 70 enjoyed the best of fayre at the local Patio Hotel before current club president and master of ceremonies Brian Tierney kicked off the speeches. Brian was in

mates saw fit to make this presentation. Honoured, but a little concerned, since a presentation usually means that they're keen to get rid of you. No, seriously I was very pleased by this gesture. It was also really good to see so many club members, past and present, gathered together. And nice for divers from other clubs to come along and enjoy the event. A special mention for Frank Galloway, one of the fathers of

Scottish diving, who looked as if he was having a good night." After the speeches were made, the young and not-so-young Bankies discoed the night away. Although as we headed to the 'wee sma hours' tales of past derring-do were told for the umpteenth time and as the drinks were consumed the dives got deeper and the fish larger and more spectacular. It's the divers way! (Pictured below (l to r): Stewart Watson, Jack Morrison, Frank Galloway and Bill Harris)

## Bankies - 40 Not Out

excellent form as he provided a witty potted history of Clydebank SAC over four decades.

Adam Curtis, looking in good shape after an unpleasant encounter in Greek waters, made the toast to the assembled group and to the club. A presentation was then made to veteran diver and Adam's successor as editor of 'Scottish DIVER', Jack Morrison on his 40th year of activity in the great underwater sport.

Speaking later to your correspondent, Jack said:  
"I was honoured that my club



# Stranraer's Golden Award

**A**T A BRANCH Diving Officer's seminar organised by the Scottish Sub Aqua Club in Edinburgh, Rick Raeburn from the RNLI gave a presentation on the subject of Safety on the Sea. The presentation highlighted a scheme offering boat users a 'Free Boat Safety Check' with a chance to discuss safety issues face to face with a representative from the RNLI. The award had categories Standard/ Silver/Gold, inshore and offshore.

A Stranraer Sub Aqua Club spokesperson told **'Scottish DIVER'**:

"The club committee members immediately registered for the scheme. Stranraer SAC is highly safety conscious, however when the RNLI inspector from Ayr completed his initial inspection of our boat the shortcomings were a bit of a shock. Items we needed to fit included:

VHF handheld; radar reflector; navigation lights; GPS/ electronic navigation system; flares (in date); Admiralty Charts and navigational instruments for the waters the club dive in; fire extinguishers; first aid kit; lifejackets; safety harnesses; bilge pumps; buoys and fenders; warp/chain and anchors; spare ropes.

"The list gave us considerable food for thought especially as the club had limited funds. However

we immediately put together an action team to focus the resources of the club on meeting the identified safety requirements with a unanimous decision to go for the Gold Award (Offshore). Fund raising was a priority and a number of events were organised. A highlight was a 'Day in the Park' where the club had various stalls, together with a competition to guess the weight of the diver. This raised £660. Also many thanks goes to both the Stranraer Common Good fund and the Sports Council for their support.

"However it was members of the club who did the bulk of the fundraising work, spending many late nights and long weekends helping to gather in the necessary monies.

"Having raised the cash our dive boat, *Osprey*, was fitted with all outstanding instrumentation and safety equipment. The day of inspection was tense. We had carefully worked through the checklist but there was always the concern that on the day something would go wrong. We worried unnecessarily and Scott Richardson, the Branch Diving Officer, and James McIntyre, the Training Officer, were delighted to accept the Gold Award from Willie Lee, the inspector for the area."



## Boat To Spare?

**O**VER THE last few years the waiting list for boat handling courses has continued to grow. There are two long-standing problems in running a ScotSAC/RYA boat-handling course - one has been a shortage of instructors, and two a shortage of available boats. However we have found a way of solving both problems and securing a better system for the future. This would entail branches with their own boat being prepared to lend it, plus a branch member to Scotsac for two courses during a two-year period. ScotSAC would of course pay any expenses incurred. In return ScotSAC

would reimburse the fees for the branch member to attend a RYA boathandling instructor's course. Providing that member was to assist on two powerboat handling courses he would become a powerboat instructor. Once qualified a powerboat instructor could then carry out courses within their own branch, although the paperwork would still need to be handled through headquarters. The boats concerned would have to undergo a RYA safety check and carry the necessary insurance. Would any clubs interested in participating please make contact through headquarters?

CONGRATULATIONS FROM Tom Millar, BDO Telford SAC, to Marilyn Begg, Alison Fish and Brian Tyndall who recently completed their Sport Diver award. Also congrats from Denise McKeown,

branch secretary at Dumbarton SAC, to Victoria Mathie and Richard Evans, both now qualified at Sport Diver level. Denise McKeown notes that she is now a qualified branch instructor.

## Congratulations

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