



Philip Robertson knows all the big stars. Here he is pictured preparing to go overboard with old pal, Darth Vader.

DIVER PROFILE

by Andy Murray

Many readers of **SCOTTISH DIVER** will recognise Philip Robertson as the owner of Lochaline Dive Centre. **SCOTTISH DIVER** had a chat with him at the Diving Officers conference to find out about his latest work, and why he had chosen to move on from the long days of filling cylinders. Philip is Scottish Training Officer of the Nautical Archaeology Society.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

I learned to dive in Brighton marina which was full of metal junk and rubbish. Perfect for a budding underwater archaeologist you might think, but not that great really.

WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

Part-time professional and a holiday diver with a dislike for dangly bits (of diving equipment!)

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

My Nikon Coolpix digital camera and housing, except when it floods!

DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?

Anyone who had to dive in septic tanks for a living (as a police diver) is someone I can count on to get me out of a tricky situation, so I'd probably choose my old colleague Peter Pritchard.

FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

The wreck of the *Swan* off Duart Point, Island of Mull. My best dive involved a happy 90 minutes photographing the last days of the excavation of the stern of the ship, with the summer sunshine highlighting 350 year old Cromwellian history on the seabed.

BEST FOREIGN DESTINATION?

I haven't dived much abroad, but, despite the cold, I preferred the Canadian Great Lakes wrecks (where divers have left every artefact on the seabed) to the warm waters and colourful fish of Western Australia

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

A pursuit of history on the seabed.

DREAM DIVE BUDDY

I would like to have dived with George Bass during early excavations on Bronze Age shipwrecks in the Mediterranean.

DREAM DIVE DESTINATION

A Bronze Age wreck off Turkey, with the diving live-aboard *Gemini Storm* moored above, unlimited, surface supplied nitrox for breathing, and a glass of chilled Greek Retsina to end the day.

WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

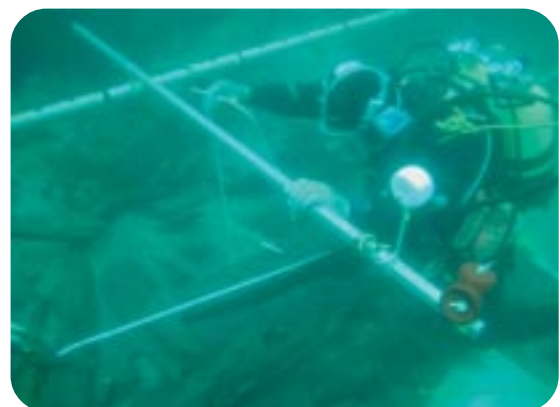
Call me a bitter, twisted ex dive centre operator but I'm not a fan of macho types (mostly male) who persist in stripping wrecks, sporting twin 15ltr cylinders and all the latest gear, but complain about the costs of an air fill or a 0.2% oxygen variation in a nitrox mix.

BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

Full Fathom Five by Colin Martin, a boy's own adventure about the early investigations of Spanish Armada wrecks around British and Irish coasts.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS

'Fun messing around underwater'.



Philip Robertson doing what he enjoys best - survey work on one of Scotland's historic wrecks