

This month SCOTTISH DIVER spoke to James Bond wannabe Jim Standing, of Fourth Element - market leaders in scuba diving thermal protection. He has a passion for both diving and his products, in particular the Xerotherm Arctic ...

■ WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

● I learned to dive in Anglesey when I was 15 and on a school 'learn to dive' trip, my first open water dive was in Vivian Quarry and it was bloody freezing!

■ WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

● Any kind of diver - professionally speaking I am a PADI rescue diver. I've done somewhere between 300 and 400 dives - most of them for fun but some for product testing. I love to dive in the UK and I dive in the Falmouth region frequently, so I guess you could say I am a recreational diver most of the time.

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

● I really ought to say that it is my Xerotherm Arctic - but if I was being non partisan then I would admit that I am a huge fan of my Scubapro Mark 25 S600 Classic regulator which gives me an incredibly smooth breathe!

■ DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?

● My favourite dive buddy is my business partner Paul Strike, mainly because he is so dependable and rock-steady in the water. However I have also had the privilege of diving with Monty Halls and he would definitely come a close second.

■ FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

● The Togian Islands in Sulawesi, Indonesia are home to the wreck of a sunken B24 liberator bomber, which still has its propellers and guns intact - it is an amazing dive! But diving the Blue Hole in Dahub as a night dive from News Year's Eve into the New Year was utterly memorable and certainly one of my favourites to recall.

■ BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

● I really enjoy diving at home - but if I was pushed to travel overseas I would have to say Egypt just for the sheer consistency of diving that it has to offer.

■ WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

● Two things - one is being weightless and free in an otherwise alien world and the other is the incredible feeling of relaxation that you experience after a dive - it's almost like your brain is empty!

■ DREAM DIVE BUDDY

● Scarlett Johansson, but if I was thinking more clearly and with my head instead of my 'heart' it would be cool to dive with Ewan

McGregor if only to say I dived with Obi-Wan Kenobi.

■ DREAM DIVE DESTINATION

● I think it would be the White Sea in Russia - I have never ice dived but the images I have seen look absolutely amazing and I know I wouldn't be cold thanks to my Xerotherm Arctic (shameless plug!).

■ BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

● Up until recently I would have said *Neutral Buoyancy* but I have just finished a book called *Stars Beneath the Sea* by Trevor Norton and it has some wicked stories in it!


■ WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

● Where do I start? It has got to be the one-upmanship amongst armchair divers - you can have all the gear and still have no idea - (probably me sometimes!!) However, I really do enjoy the camaraderie of the diving fraternity - there is very little that fundamentally annoys me about diving as it is too much fun.

■ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS

● I think it is an opportunity to explore an alien world that is on your doorstep; a chance to be Indiana Jones, Jacques Cousteau and Neil Armstrong all rolled into one and hopefully end up looking like James Bond!



 **DIVE THE ANTRIM COAST & BELFAST LOUGH**

QUALITY ASSURED

NORTH IRISH LODGE PADI DIVE RESORT
ISLANDMAGEE, CO ANTRIM, N.IRELAND

Tel/Fax 028 9338 2246
www.northirishlodge.com

Dive over 40 shipwrecks on our new 10m RIB 2 x 200HP

2 Nights + 4 Dives + Ferry = From £186 PPS
3 Nights + 6 Dives + Ferry = From £260 PPS

BOOK 7 DIVERS GET THE 8TH ONE FREE

Quality assurance - "Mystery Diver" Diver magazine Feb 2005
Qualified Skipper/Instructor with over 30 yrs diving experience
Winner of 6 Awards for excellence.



GO NORTH!

For the best diving North of the Arctic Circle

Telephone: +44-(0)-1383 824 654
Mobile: +44-(0)-7799 790 928
Web: www.arctic-diving.com