



# DIVER PROFILE



Man in the hot seat is Kevin Watson, ScotSAC's Assistant National Diving Officer. Kevin reveals a preference for 'near to home' diving and exotic buddies ...



#### ■ WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

● I learned to dive back in the black and white days with Lothian Sub Aqua Club. My first dive was at Achmelbich, north of Ullapool on 4 April, 1987 and it was SUPERB! I did manage to get myself skelped for not doing what I was told - but what did I care? I was given a torch and I was off.

#### ■ WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

● Any type of diving does for me - the one word that describes me and my diving is simply 'keen'.

#### ■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

● This has to be my new Greenforce torch which is a fantastic piece of kit and cost me a fortune. I suppose that when you spend more than £300 on a torch you have to justify it somehow - so for the time being it is most definitely my favourite piece of kit!

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

● I have been diving for over 20 years and in that time I have dived with more than 300 people. My first dive buddy was Mouldy Old Tom Hares (in fact it was him that skelped me!). Seriously though it is difficult to pinpoint one person in particular - being an examiner I get to go out with a lot of trainees and for me that is incredibly enjoyable as I get to witness first time reactions over and over. By the way - my favourite dive buddy is definitely NOT Jan Crawford :-)) (**SCOTTISH DIVER** profile person in our last edition)!

#### ■ FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

● My favourite site has to be St Kilda. I have been there twice now and I am telling you the truth when I say that if there were two dive boats in front of me - one for St Kilda and the other for the Red Sea - it would be the St Kilda one that I would be boarding. The diving is breathtaking and the visibility is great, combined with the island's atmosphere and history - not to mention the scallops - you can see why it's no.1 for me.



Jessica Alba and Kevin - **SCOTTISH DIVER** promises to keep its readers informed of any developments

#### ■ BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

● Scotland and Ireland are the two countries I get most excited about diving around. I have dived abroad in Malta, Cyprus, Lanzarote and the Red Sea and although enjoyable - they can be a little predictable. You expect to see lots of pretty, brightly coloured fish and that's what you see - over here you are continually surprised and it is in no way predictable.

#### ■ WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

● The motivation lies in the fact that diving is so incredibly peaceful and relaxing. The smile on a newbie's face when they accomplish something also does it for me!

#### ■ DREAM DIVE BUDDY?

● Jessica Alba - have you see Into the Blue? The only reason she isn't called Jessica Watson is because she hasn't met me yet! Seriously though, I never had the pleasure of diving with the late John Arrowsmith, something I would have loved to do.

#### ■ DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?

● It is a toss up between the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica. The Galapagos appeal because of the unique marine life and Antarctica because I would love to see the natural geology below the ice. I really need to start buying more lottery tickets though in order to fulfil either of these dreams.

#### ■ BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

● I do a lot of the book reviews for **SCOTTISH DIVER** so that is a hard question to answer. I have read a lot that is good and a lot that is rubbish - but in terms of having a favourite dive book - I have to say I haven't found it yet! (Maybe it will be the new ScotSAC Sport Diver lecture notes?!).

#### ■ WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

● 1 People's attitudes; 2 Getting ripped off; 3 St Abbs' parking charges.

#### ■ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS?

● It is one of the most peaceful, relaxing and exhilarating experiences you will ever try.