

No Splash In The Pan



pair of wolf fish - Cathy Lewis (best digital image)

AUGUST BANK Holiday Weekend saw the St Abbs Marine Reserve's Splash In come of age. In the 21 years since it started, the Splash In has gone from strength to strength with a record number of 44 divers taking part this year. The advent of the affordable digital camera has enabled more people to give underwater photography a try.

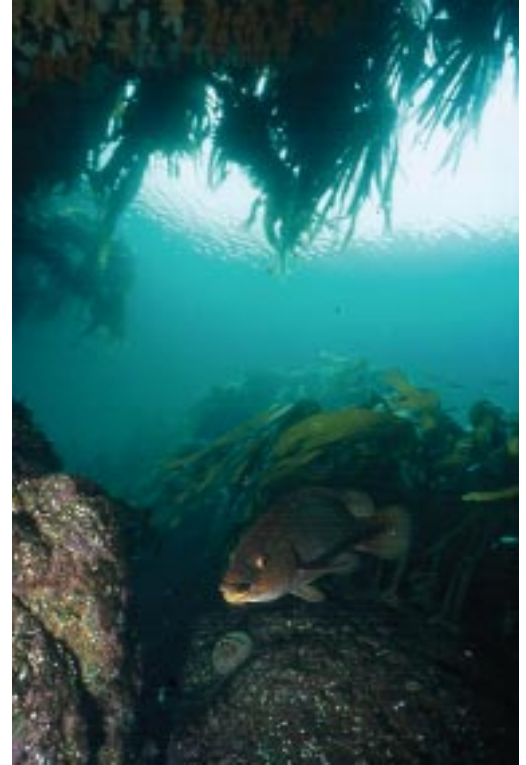
The week running up to the competition was a slightly nerve-wracking time as early forecasts were suggesting that the wind would be northerly force 5 so preventing any boats getting out of the harbour. Not much fun for anyone, but especially those who had travelled several hundred miles for the competition! However, the forecasters were wrong, and when Saturday dawned the sun was shining on a flat calm sea, perfect conditions!

The Splash In is really two competitions running side by side. One for those using traditional film and one for those using digital cameras. In each, there are three categories: Marine Life Portrait, Reserve Atmospheric & Most Humorous Shot. The photogra-

phers only have the Saturday morning to capture their images, which are then judged by the audience of a slide show on the Sunday evening. This audience, which reached a record number of 160 this year, is made up of fellow photographers and general members of the public, who vote for their favourite image in each category.

Apart from the prestige of taking a winning image, there were £2,300 worth of prizes to fight for; anything from a romantic meal for two to an expensive piece of dive equipment. All prizes were generously donated by local, national and international businesses. The prizes were presented by author and founder of the Marine Reserve, Lawson Wood, assisted by Sarah Goldie (the most humorous shot category being in memory of her dad).

In the digital competition Cathy Lewis was the clear winner of the Marine Life Portrait category (and also stole the prize for Best Digital Image) with her fantastic shot of two Wolf Fish snuggling up in a crevice. Steve



ballan wrasse in a cave - Brian Jubb (best film image)

Bateman came in second with his close up of a flatfish half buried in the sand.

The Reserve Atmospheric category was a close run thing, but Mike Clark's image of a diver approaching an Edible Crab hiding amongst Dead Men's Fingers just pipped JP Trenque's black and white image to the post.

In the Most Humorous Shot category, Shaun Mitchell's Logging Bottom Time was a resounding favourite with Jane Morgan's Snake Charmer being the runner up. Andrew Bunyan got a prize for Best Digital Beginner.

In the film competition Bill Hewitt took first place for Marine Life Portrait with his close-up of an Angler Fish, with Jason Gregory being pushed into second place with his close up of a Ballan Wrasse.

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The traditional August Bank Holiday weekend Splash-In competition at St Abbs Marine Reserve celebrated its 21st birthday in 2006. And in some style as a record 44 entrants contested the film and digital categories. Liza Cole provides a full report of the action ...

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In the Reserve Atmospheric category a Ballen Wrasse was popular again in, this one hiding under an overhang in Brian Jubb's wide angle shot. So popular, in fact, that it won Best Film Image too. Peter Ladell's picture of a shoal of coleys came in second for Reserve Atmospheric.

There was an overwhelming winner for Most Humorous Shot for Jason Gregory's comment on the Parking Charges at St Abbs, and Peter Ladell collected another second prize for his Party Animal. Best Film Beginner was won by Julie Forrest.

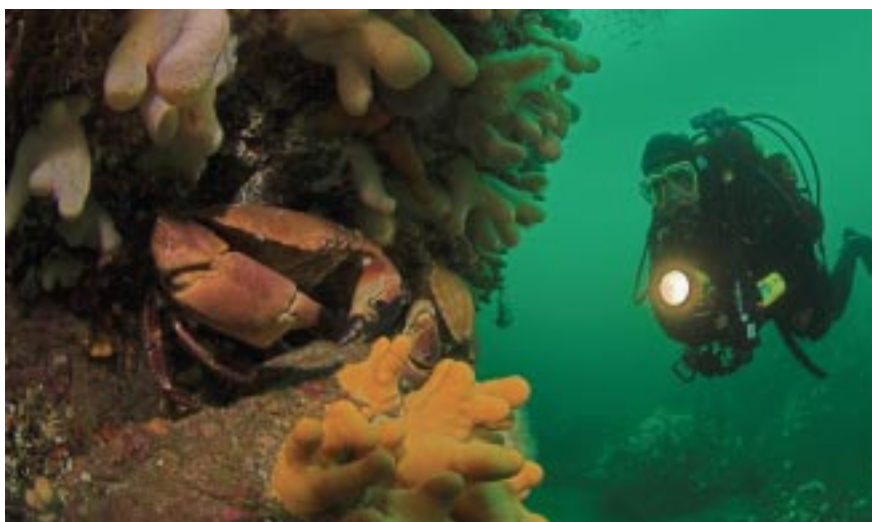
The Splash In then drew to a close for another year with everyone having had a good time. Not only is the weekend great fun, but it also gives non-divers a chance to experience the beauty to be found beneath the waves at St Abbs. No wonder that the Marine Reserve has been working so hard to protect it for over two decades!

Many thanks go to all our sponsors for their generous support, and also to William and Bob at the St Abbs Dive Centre and Amanda at Scoutscroft Divers who helped with getting sponsors on board and generally with making the whole event such a success.

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a diver looking at an edible crab hiding amongst dead men's fingers (digital) - Mike Clark



FILM WINNERS

■ Marine Life Portrait

- 1st: Bill Hewitt
Close up of an Angler fish
- 2nd: Jason Gregory
Close up of a Ballen wrasse

■ Reserve Atmospheric

- 1st: Brian Jubb
Ballen wrasse in a cave
- 2nd: Peter Ladell
Shoal of coleys swimming over a reef

■ John Goldie Most Humorous Shot

- 1st: Jason Gregory
Parking charges
- 2nd: Peter Ladell
Party animal

■ Best Beginner Julie Forrest

■ Best Digital Image Brian Jubb



a party animal - Peter Ladell



parking charges - Jason Gregory

DIGITAL WINNERS

■ Marine Life Portrait

- 1st: Cathy Lewis
Pair of Wolf fish
2nd: Steve Bateman
Close up of a flatfish

■ Reserve Atmospheric

- 1st: Mike Clark
Diver looking at an edible
crab hiding amongst
dead men's fingers
2nd JP Trenque
Diver swimming through a
gully (black & white)

■ J. Goldie Most Humorous Shot

- 1st Shaun Mitchell
Logging bottom time
2nd Jane Morgan
Snake charmer

■ Best Beginner Andrew Bunyan

■ Best Digital Image Cathy Lewis - Pair of Wolf fish



close up of a flat fish - Steve Bateman



logging bottom time - Shaun Mitchell



*diver swimming through a
gully - JP Trenque*



Steve Bateman



close up of an angler fish - Bill Hewitt



close up of a ballan wrasse - Jason Gregory



a shoal of coleys swimming over a reef - Peter Ladell

snake charmer - Jane Morgan

