

# SCOTTISH DIVER

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### COVER PHOTO

A prize winner at St Abbs

Image courtesy of Jean Manson



**SCOTTISH DIVER** is about to publish a new book; with luck we may have it in the shops for Christmas. Entitled the editor's top ten apologies it's sure to be a best seller. Where shall we start? Well in the last edition I managed to translate an innocent Englishman called Goodchild to Fairchild. It might be forgivable had I made it a little more Scottish like Fairbairn, then I could blame the rise of the SNP and all things Scottish, but no I'm afraid it is simply a lack of concentration. Take your eye off the ball and you are sure to score an own goal, sorry Malcolm, at least he let me back on *Little Blue* but I wonder if it was a good idea to let him test my cylinders.

In the same magazine just as we were putting the final touches to it a CD arrived with an amusing story about an adventurous Jim McMichael and his friends taking a trip to Mexico. Seems he is not too pleased with the introduction to his piece I won't go into detail in case I compound the felony. I may actually be doing Jim an injustice here as I heard this second hand, Jim hasn't actually complained to me but then I do have a certain reputation as a bit of an ogre, don't know why. Anyway apologies Jim if I inadvertently gave readers the wrong impression, on the other hand if people keep coming up to you and saying what a great guy you are then ignore this.

Finally going back to an earlier edition I did upset a group of scientists who are carrying out research into the possibly damaging effects of scallop dredging on the protected rocky reefs in the Firth of Lorn. The piece I rather clumsily wrote may have given the impression I was criticising them when in fact my intention was to criticise the then Scottish Executive who commissioned the research.

It is still my contention that the executive



## going overboard

are not applying the habitats directive properly but that is for another day. However the scientists themselves are as you would expect honest hard working people whose work is independently peer reviewed. I'm pleasantly surprised that people actually read the things I write so the lesson for me is to concentrate and be more careful what I say and how I say it.

Meanwhile on a more commercial note; have you got your ticket for the conference? They are excellent value - for £6.00 you get great speakers, lunch and entry to a prize draw with £150 worth of DVDs up for grabs. Additionally there will be a raffle with Scubapro regulators and lots of other valuable prizes. Send your cheque into the office now to secure your ticket.

*Jack Morrison*

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