

Editor: Jack Morrison
 Contributing Editors:
 Alison Fuller-Shapcott, Alison Fish
 and Andy Murray
 Other Contributors: Terry Brennan
 and Louise McFarlane

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**Correspondence,
 Advertising information and
 subscription details - Contact:**

**Terry Brennan,
 The Freetime Initiative
 5 Craighall House,
 58a High Craighall Road,
 Glasgow G4 9UD
 Tel: 0141 332 3933 / 0141 332 8643
 email: freetime@tfti.demon.co.uk**

The Scottish Sub Aqua Club is a
 Company Limited by Guarantee
 Registered Office: 40 Bogmoor Pl, Glasgow, G51 4TQ
 Reg. in Scotland No. SC313935
 VAT No. 596708289
 Call - 0141 425 1021

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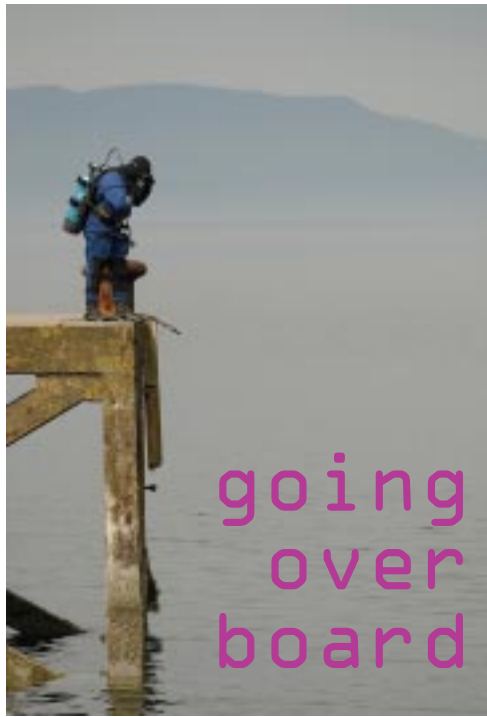
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COVER PHOTO

Some spectacular coral captured by Andy Parks on his recent trip to Oman.



NOW THAT we are in the digital age it's time we as an organisation move with the times. I was reading an old **SCOTTISH DIVER** from 1972 and the editorial was about communication with the members. If I looked one out from the 1980s I'm sure I would find something saying we must improve our communications with the members.

It's an age old story and one that successive committees have failed to solve. The answer is now to hand, or rather to mouse, screen and keyboard, email. On membership forms there is a place for your email address and to be fair most members do fill it in.

However our current database was not designed to be email friendly so we are working on a new one that will be. This means as soon as the new database is up and running we intend to make email our primary means of communication with branches and directly to members.

In the past we have sent out regular mailings to BDO's and branch secretaries who sometimes pass the message on to their committees but most often did not. Sure we put minutes of our meetings on the website and we put any notices of courses etc. on there too. But would it not be better to send all that information straight to the member - of course it would.

Yes I know there are still people, who are not connected and never will be, and there will be a few, I can name two of them, who although they have email and use it will insist on a letter. However for the vast majority email is now the preferred means of communication and just as soon as we can we will start using it to get our notices out to members.

Things like reminders for membership renewal, updates for training and notification of the AGM. Email is the best way of disseminating information to large numbers quickly and as a modern forward looking organisation we should be taking advantage of its benefits.

Jack Morrison

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