

going overboard



A FEW MONTHS ago I picked up a copy of Scotland on Sunday, not something I usually do as it takes me till Wednesday to read a Sunday paper. Along with the paper came a little tartan book entitled 'Scots Dictionary 2007, a Fun Guide to Modern Scots.' I decided to look for a Scots word that sums up or describes divers.

This was prompted by memories of when I joined the General Committee of ScotSAC about 10 years ago. Then chairman Murray McCallum found some of the attitudes, antics and reactions of divers at times somewhat odd or even bizarre. I'd just say: 'that's divers for

you!' and he'd look at me perplexed.

Leafing through the book I saw several possibilities - crabbit, a person who is grumpy or in a bad temper. Well we are all crabbit sometimes and it's too general to describe what I mean about divers.

Dough-Heid, a Glasgow term for a stupid person, Dough-Heids are usually found launching ribs without checking the tides and can be seen waiting, sometimes for hours, for the tide to turn so they can get their boat back out of the water.

Then of course there is Glaikit, silly, foolish or thoughtless, the diver who always manages to put the regulator on upside down.

Heidbanger, a wild or crazy person, some clubs have more than their fair share of heidbangers, you know the ones who don't see anything wrong with two dives a day to 50m usually heard saying things like: "If you can't dive to 50m you shouldn't be diving!" They actually think people who dive to less than 30m are scared and are therefore dangerous DCS to them is proof you are a real diver. Yes you are heidbangers.

Numpy is another word that caught my eye but some of the above cover the same meaning. Scunner also came to mind without looking at the meaning

however scunnered is more how you feel after coming in contact with the type of diver I'm trying to describe.

I had all but given up when I came to 'T' and there it was the perfect Scots word to describe divers, not all but quite a lot of divers and certainly the ones who used to bewilder and scunner Murray.

'Thrawn', to be awkward and obstinate and take great delight in being difficult and uncooperative! Perfect I read it twice and immediately thought of so many occasions where I watched or was on the receiving end of some diver who was taking great delight in being difficult and uncooperative for no reason other than they could.

I've seen dive expeditions spoiled, training sessions ruined, meetings abandoned all because some thrawn diver decided to throw a wobbly just to upset those who were trying to achieve something. There are clubs who are thrawn they elect committee members who aren't members of ScotSAC and don't see anything wrong with that.

There are other more recent examples I could give but I've decided to be a bit thrawn and just say, "it's ma' ba' an yours ur' no gettin a game, so ther'."

Jack Morrison

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