



Bob Baird spent many happy years diving deep in search of wrecks - those that were previously undiscovered providing the biggest thrill. In more recent times he has hung up his fins and taken to writing about wrecks rather than diving them. His new book *Shipwrecks of the Forth and Tay* will be reviewed in the May/June edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER**.

■ **WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?**

● I learned to dive with Dunfermline Sub Aqua Club (SAA 203) in the 1970s. (The club was known at that time as Fife Sub Aqua Club)

■ **WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?**

● I was very much a wreck diver, although I did enjoy scenic diving too.

■ **BEST COUNTRY VISITED?**

● Bermuda – for the wrecks and coral reef diving with many colourful fish in beautiful clear warm water - although I remember astounding a group of Bermudians when I told them I was looking forward to going back to Scotland for some real diving! They didn't understand that – but then, they hadn't dived in Scotland and didn't know what they were missing. I'm sure they thought Scottish diving was always in cold dark water with poor visibility. What do you mean - 'Well, isn't it?'

■ **FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?**

● I've dived the *Breda* over 500 times, and I never tired of it.



The Breda as she was - later a favourite haunt of Bob's

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

● The excitement of exploring a new wreck, not knowing what you might find.

■ **DREAM DIVE BUDDY?**

● In the past, I would regard my dream buddy as anyone prepared to hold a torch to illuminate what I was attacking with hammer, chisel, crowbar or spanner. I stopped diving some years ago, but if I was still diving, I think I might swap these tools for a camera, in which case my dream buddy would probably be a Page 3 girl.

■ **DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?**

● Probably Truk atoll for the many WW2 wrecks of Japanese ships and aircraft.

■ **BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?**

● *The Wreck Detectives* by Kendall McDonald.

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

● Carrying the heavy gear around, and pulling my fins on and off. I'm not a golfer, but golfers have got one thing right – they have caddies! Divers should have caddies too. Maybe that's what buddies are for?

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

● Diving under water is like being transformed into Superman, and able to fly like a bird.



A few years ago now! Bob sits with HMS Switha behind him