

Background to my Diving History



Though motorcycling has been a lifetime interest, back in the early 80s I also got involved with Scuba Diving. I have always been something of a water baby and most of our family holidays involved beaches where we would all spend a lot of time snorkelling. It had never crossed my mind to try Scuba diving even when living on the coast or in the Persian Gulf during my RAF career. In 1982, my eldest son decided he wanted to learn to dive so I enrolled him with the local BSAC club. After a couple of weeks, of sitting and watching, I decided I may as well join the course (I was 38 at the time, eldest son was 16). Eventually, I got totally hooked and for

about 5 years diving became my primary sporting activity and the bikes gathered dust in the garage. Eventually, I achieved a balance such that Biking and Diving co-existed, a situation which extends to this day.

The majority of my diving has been done as a member of Bradford on Avon Sub Aqua Club on normal weekend trips to the South Coast, on diving holiday trips within the UK, and with fellow members on trips abroad. I have also usually managed to get a few dives in during family holidays. Not sure how many dives I have done in total as I stopped logging them for several years but its certainly over 750. I have tried to put something back into the sport in various ways, for many years I was actively involved in training and I have held various posts within the club including Treasurer and Equipment Officer. As I approach OAP status I must admit that my enthusiasm for cold water diving in the UK has diminished and I now tend to cherry pick the weekend dives. Having first discovered the joys of the Red Sea back in 1990, I now dive in warm waters a couple of times a year - more if I can find the money. In between times I have been to Ireland a few times, to South Africa and to the Maldives.

I bought my first underwater camera, a Nikonos 5, in 1985 and have had one ever since. I was, and am, at best an indifferent cameraman. However, if you take enough pictures, every now and then you get lucky and produce something memorable. The advent of digital cameras was a revelation for people like me, instead of waiting until you got home to find out what sort of pictures you had managed, now you can take hundreds and even view/edit them under water. Elsewhere on this site you will find a brief description of the places I have dived with a few pictures to illustrate the nature of the sites and the marine life. I hope it is of interest.

