

# The Curry weekend at Weymouth

By David Parker

A 'curry weekend' in Weymouth normally conjures up images of Vindaloos, Dopiazas and other mouth watering delicacies from the Indian sub-continent, but the only connection that this Curry weekend had to India was a case of 'Delhi belly' for poor Chris Beswick! In fact, this Curry weekend was a fantastic three days of diving organised by John Curry on board the hard boat, Dive Time, based out of Weymouth.

The dive party included; Jackie, Harry, John C, Grizz, Mike, Rob B, David & Claire W, Chris B, Graham J and David P, unfortunately Chris vdG could not make it due to pressures of work. On the Friday we did the Elena R, a well broken wreck lying in 27m, a little way out of Portland. This is a very light wreck as the sea bed is a mixture of gravel and broken shells which give a lot of reflected light. The wreck is well inhabited with the normal Congers and Lobsters and I think that Mike and I managed to see every one of these. All in all a great warm up dive for what was to follow.

The Salsette on Saturday can only be described as deep, dark and bloody enormous! To give an idea of the scale, this luxury liner lies on its side with 32m to the top rail and 44+m to the sea bed and God knows how long it is. This is the third time I have dived it and I still don't have clue where I really was on the wreck. Slack water is quite tight on the Salsette and it can get very busy there, in fact at one stage Rob and I had to wait for a gap in the traffic in order to change lanes. Although very dark, the vis was pretty good and we saw some huge Pollack swimming about.

The Sunday saw us diving the P555, a US submarine that was sunk as an ASDIC target in 1947. The book has the P555 in 39m of water with 34m to the deck, this is not strictly true, because at 38m it is still a long way to sea bed! However this dive is fantastic, there is something about subs that I just love. Maybe it is because they are usually in one piece and small enough to be able to recognise what you are looking at? Also subs look as if they should be there underwater, whereas shipwrecks are definitely not supposed to be there. Whichever way, it is memorable dive although Rob and I disagree a little with what we saw – one of us was definitely a bit narced (I think it was me though)!

The dive boat, Dive Time is something else, it is huge with a large kitting up area, as well as a spacious dry area. The rear lift takes all the strain out of the exit especially when you are laden down with bags of scallops after a fruitful drift dive on Lulworth banks with Harry 'the hook' Grundy. Paul the skipper oozes quite confidence and usually shots the wreck to within a couple of feet of the target (he even managed to find the Elena R – sorry Roly).

The afternoon dives were typically shallow wrecks such as the Black Hawk, or drift dives and this opportunity was not wasted to extend the Dive Leader training for Graham and Rob. Judging from the grin on John's face he had thoroughly enjoyed playing the naughty novice to poor Rob, but as John claimed in his defence, it was his only opportunity to get his own back.

There were a lot of experienced divers on this trip, Mike and John alone tally thousands of dives, but it is always nice to see something new and this weekend was no exception. On the Saturday night Roly was spotted camping, yes that is right Roland Crook actually came camping. He won't admit it, but secretly you could see the closet scoutmaster in him coming out. A sure sign was when he started talking about lashings of ginger beer and disappearing into his tent to waggle his woggle (I think that was what he said). Roly soon got in the spirit of things and took time out early on the Sunday morning to converse with a group of lads about how nice it was for them to share their experiences with the whole camp site when they returned from 'clubbing it' at 3.30 AM!

Camping is a very sociable activity and not only were John, Jackie and I joined by Roly the scoutmaster, we also had the company of Harry 'the trucker' a.k.a Harry 'the hook'. We had only been there a few minutes when a traveller turned up in a small white van and tried to exchange a few hand whittled clothes pegs for food and shelter for the whole weekend. Harry did confuse us all weekend by referring to his truck, but the general consensus is that an ex-InterFlora delivery van is not in the same league as a 16 wheeler truck, no matter how many Yorkie bars the driver has on the dashboard!

A fantastic weekend's diving. So if you like your curries dark and exciting, then this Curry weekend is a must.