



The fin is on the other foot as the ex-editor of **SCOTTISH DIVER**, and now chair of ScotSAC, Jack Morrison takes the hot seat ...



■ **WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?**

● My first interest in diving came from watching Hans and Lotte Hass on TV. I must have been all of nine years old and fell madly in love with Lotte. I saved my pocket money for several weeks and bought a mask in Woollies for 2/9d about 15p. I had that mask for years. I snorkelled everywhere we went on holiday - the best being Auchmithy near Arbroath. In 1961 Clydebank branch was formed and I went along on the first night and joined. I had to wait a year before I could use the aqualung even though I lied about my age. Equipment in those days was primitive 40 cubic foot cylinders that floated, and single stage twin hose regulators with free flooding tubes made fitting on the bottom an exercise that could take months to perfect. My first dive lasted five minutes at Ardgarten Loch Long in December. I wore a pair of denims a polo-neck sweater and a woolly hat the water was 7 degrees, but the vis was a stunning 30 metres I've never seen it that good since.

■ **WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?**

● The worst kind - selfish, self centred, ignore my dive buddy, slow moving, don't respond to signals, in other words I am one of those pariahs of diving, a 'photographer'. No real diver likes a photographer for all the reasons above plus we take up too much room on the boat when we spread out all the equipment we need, cameras, flashguns, arms, not to mention all the spare parts. I don't blame other divers for staying well clear of us, in fact we wish more divers would stay well clear of us. Although there are worse, there are rebreather divers and technical divers, I mean how they remember all that stuff about bottom times and mixes. A chiropractor's dream.

■ **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?**

● Apart from my camera I don't have a favourite piece of kit. I work on the principle that salt only crystallises when it dries out, so I never wash my kit I just keep it wet and there is no problem. Although I do like my Otter suit and my Fourth Element xerotherm, but enough of the product placement.

■ **DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?**

● Me, myself, I. However I rarely get to dive alone and my regular buddy is Gordon MacSkimming who I have trained to do exactly what I want him to when diving with me i.e. stay out of the way. I also enjoy diving with David Ainsley and Graeme Bruce and I promise guys I will try harder to get up and dive with you. Apart from that I'm a bit of a diving tart I'll dive with anyone who'll have me.

■ **FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?**

● Do you think I'm mad, I'm not telling you lot my secret site only I know. Yes the one with the wreck with all its portholes in place and shoals of fish sweeping the decks and a cargo of gold coins. I don't have a favourite site there are only good dives and better dives. Where would I like to dive again? Protea Banks in South Africa, the pinnacle in the Corrievreckan, anywhere in the Firth of Lorne, Skye, anywhere really. There's always something interesting to see it's just that sometimes you have to look harder.

■ **BEST COUNTRY VISITED?**

● Scotland of course, there is such a variety of diving in this country and there are so many places I haven't been.

There are countries I'd like to go back to and there are lots of countries I'd like to visit but if I never go abroad again I would be happy to see my days out diving at the A frames.

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

● I'm hopelessly addicted to diving and everything about it from the first feeling of weightlessness at the start of a dive to the heady smell of a wet undersuit. For me there is still a sense of adventure to going diving, although it is easier and much more comfortable nowadays, I still see diving as an opportunity to visit an alien environment full of strange creatures and life forms where we can spend but a short time before returning to dry land. Wow! What a load of pretentious crap.

■ **DREAM DIVE BUDDY?**

● Doctor Who, then when you arrive at a dive centre and they say you should have been here last week, no bother jump in the tardis and come back last week. The doctor was seen recently kicking the tardis and saying: "I don't understand it was working tomorrow."

■ **DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?**

● Gortien Point with 40m visibility - dream on. I fully expect at least 10 divers to write to me with dates when they saw 40m vis in Loch Fyne.

■ **BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?**

● Probably *Under the Red Sea* by Hans Hass because it was one of the first books on diving I ever read. But there are lots I could choose from, *Stars Beneath the Sea* was hilarious and *Reef* by Jeremy Stafford Deitch is a super yet underrated book. When I was young I read anything and everything I could get my hands on about diving, but now I rarely read diving books. I tried *Neutral Buoyancy* by Tim Ecott but I couldn't finish it, it was dreadful. I guess I'm old fashioned and I like the books that were published in the fifties. Most of them were rubbish, they were full of oxygen bottles and flippers and were written by people like Cornel Lumier who probably did about 10 dives in the Florida Keys but had a great imagination.

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

● Where do I start? DIR which stands for 'Do It Right' and implies that the vast majority of us are 'doing it wrong' - I don't think so - you bunch of pretentious, arrogant gits! Diving is easy and safe nowadays and I don't understand divers who make it difficult and dangerous by insisting that it is perfectly safe to dive to 50m for 50minutes three times a day. No it's not safe, and stop kidding yourselves you are better divers than everyone else because you dive deeper, for longer and more often. Then there are the ones with two of everything, two tanks with two regs which both have two second stages, get real guys if you're that insecure take up tiddlywinks. I could just have said divers who take it all too seriously bug me most, but there are some good ones and there are even some who have a sense of humour.

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

● Fabulous! Freeing! Fascinating! Fantastic! But please don't take it seriously its not real life its just FUN!