

Every Breath Is Gold

Jack Morrison is a convert to top-end dive gear thanks to his new toy, Scubapro's MK25-S600 Regulator. In fact it's so special, it's gold ...

THERE IS an ancient tale retold best by George Bernard Shaw, called Androcles and the Lion. In the story a Roman slave called Androcles helps an injured lion by removing a thorn from its paw. Later when as a Christian he is being fed to the lions in the Colosseum the lion recognises him and eats everybody but Androcles. Well the story's not quite as simple as that but the moral of the story is that a good deed done can lead to an unexpected reward much later.

Many years ago a young enthusiastic student at Clydebank College became a customer of mine. During his visits he kept asking about diving although he hadn't at that time tried it he went away with copies of **SCOTTISH DIVER** and tales of adventure fuelled by my shark pictures hanging on the walls. Some years later he popped up again working in Aquatron as a fully fledged PADI instructor. Chris is now general manager although that may not be completely accurate he is probably more important than that.

Anyway to cut a long story short Chris along with the nice people at Scubapro generously presented me with a regulator to celebrate 50 years active diving. By coincidence it was 50 years since Scubapro started producing dive equipment.

And this is not just any regulator, it is an MK25-S600 special gold coloured 50th anniversary regulator. I wrote about it at the time but I have had it now for seven months and have done quite a few dives with it so I thought I would let you know what I think.

Now don't get the idea that this is an in-depth review - I've never been interested in flow rates, resistance forces or whether it lets in water when you stand



Jack does a 'selfie' while donning his Scubapro regulator

on your head, it doesn't by the way. I'm only interested in how easy it breathes. So this is more of a user report than a review.

I have to admit I have always advised trainees to buy simple regulators like the Scubapro MK2-R190 such as the one I was using for the last 20 odd years. It has been undoubtedly the best regulator I have ever used, except perhaps my Siebe Hienke Merlin twin hose. However I have been forced to eat my words.

My buddy Gordon who has heard me denigrate top-end regulators too often was crying with laughter when I started singing the praises of my new toy. Okay I admit it this regulator is brilliant, I love it, but I don't take it to bed with me. No I leave it on the chest of drawers so it is the first thing I see when I awake.

Joking aside I really am impressed with it. Although this has not been the coldest winter there has been some very cold fresh water in the top few metres on the sea lochs. The regulator has performed perfectly, no free flows and steady breathing throughout the dive. I quickly got

used to the pre-dive / dive switch and the knob on the end that allows you to set a breathing flow that suits you and once set can be forgotten.

However the biggest surprise and one I am still getting used to is my air consumption, wow. I have been diving with Gordon for years and he always surfaces with more air than me, not anymore. While breathing has never been easier I am now using less air than I ever have, an example, started with 235bar in a 12 litre cylinder average depth 15 metres duration 78 minutes temperature eight degrees surfaced with 90bar.

Now diving as we all know is a non-competitive sport and I can just hear lots of you saying: 'I can do better than that' or 'so you're a bit of a gas guzzler' but I don't care. That's fine for me I'm looking forward to the summer months when I can stay in longer because I won't be cold, but I will have to keep an eye on my computer as I may be able to stay long enough to require stops.

Anyway once again my sincere thanks to Chris at Aquatron and Andy at Scubapro. As the bishop said to the actress: "You've made an old man very, very happy."

One last thing; the only problem with having a gold regulator, it's costing me a fortune replacing my lead weights with gold ingots!



New Lights For UK Market

DIVE LIGHT manufacturer Bersub is brand new to the UK dive scene but have been making top quality, aluminium bodied dive lights for over 25 years.

Their dive lights are tailored to all branches of diving and provide optimum lighting characteristics for their intended use. The lights are robust, easy to use and maintain, and feature fail-safe technologies which makes them safe, reliable and a pleasure to use.

To ensure the highest standards of pro-

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Depth rated to 300m and backed by a two year warranty, hundreds of recreational, professional and military divers across the globe already rely on Bersub Dive Lights.

Sea & Sea Ltd are sole UK distributor for Bersub Dive Lights. Prices range from £200 - £800.

www.sea-sea.com



SeaLife Price Reduction

THE SEALIFE product line has established its place in the market as a fantastic choice for divers and snorkelers who want high-quality underwater shots, but without the high costs that accompany it.

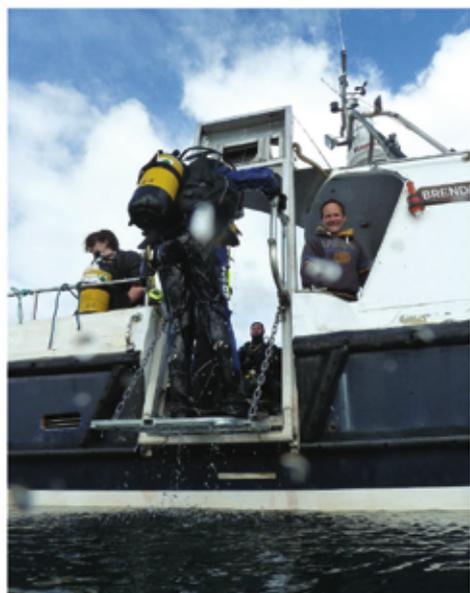
Subgear is pleased to announce that SeaLife can now offer a significant price reduction on their products as the initial development costs of the camera have been amortized. This move will give more people than ever the chance to enjoy underwater photography.

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Jack Goes Loco **At Lomo**

Jack Morrison headed to Glasgow's Lomo watersports, to find out more about the products and services they have to offer the diving community ...

I FIRST came across Lomo many years ago when sitting at a set of traffic lights. My eye was drawn to a line of stickers on the crash barrier advertising Ewetsuits.com. As I was looking for a wetsuit for a trip to Sardinia I looked them up. At that time they had just opened their first shop, a logical extension to their growing online business. It was a very small shop, barely enough room to try on a wetsuit, but the wetsuit was good and a very good price.

Over the years I bought several pieces of equipment from them and they eventually moved to bigger premises where they could combine storage of the large range of stock and sell direct to the public. They have now moved again, literally next door to larger premises in Hyde Park Street, Glasgow.

On a recent visit I was given a guided tour by owners Mark and Bruce. The showroom has plenty of room to display all their products - everything from small karabiners to kayaks. Although the kayaks are not their own products, at least not yet. The full range of wetsuits is on display with every size from adult down to very small children.

A large room behind the showroom is where the online orders are dispatched, this is still the core of the business and Mark pointed out for every customer who comes through the door there are eight online orders. Orders are sorted every morning and dispatched the same day. Currently they have 49 products that bear the Lomo name - everything from clips, karabiners, wetsuits, dry bags, reels, masks, snorkels, hoods, gloves and that's just some of the diving related products.

In fact their best selling product is a 30 litre dry backpack that is selling to motorcyclists. I don't think I've been on a hard boat in recent years where I haven't seen at least one Lomo dry bag, you know those cavernous yellow ones that hold so much.



"We are dedicated to bringing you, the watersport enthusiast the lowest cost, highest quality wetsuits, dry suits, dry bags and watersports products that money can buy."

Most of the products have been designed by Mark and Bruce, they then source the right materials and have it made in bulk thereby keeping costs down and providing the customer with a quality item at a very competitive price. They even have their own graphic designer who can do all the designs and produce the marketing and advertising material. By cutting out the middlemen and doing as everything in-house they keep cost down.

Of course they have diversified into other watersports especially kayaking for which they also have lots of products. The latest sport to get the Lomo treatment though is triathlon and they make a very good looking swim suit. I couldn't start to list all their products, just look at their website and I'm sure you'll find something you need and you won't believe the price.

Further into the depths of the warehouse and I came across rolls of lovely soft stretchy neoprene in a variety of colours from 3mm to an amazing 10mm. My mind raced back to the 1960's when we used to make our own wetsuits and to my old friend Ian Whitaker who still has the paper pattern.

I thoroughly enjoyed my tour and thanks to Mark and the rest of the staff at Lomo for such a warm welcome. No doubt you will have read Mike Clark's reviews in **SCOTTISH DIVER** of some of their products if not look them up and get an unbiased objective view. Finally a word about their website, not only does it list the product range but there is a 'how to' page where you will find videos of how to trim seals and repair wetsuits. Now that's what you call added value and shows how far they go to keep their customers satisfied.

