

going overboard

THE NEW training schedule is now two months old and the sky hasn't fallen in yet. I expect most of the current trainees will be completing their Sport Diver qualification. However I have it on good authority that at least one trainee is about to become the first Branch Diver.

That's good news because that was one of the reasons for changing it to get trainees diving quicker. Another was to give some leeway when it came to getting divers in the water. It could be difficult in small branches like mine with only a few Branch Instructors to satisfy the needs of trainees. Now that Branch Divers can dive with qualified Sport Divers that should help alleviate that problem.

However I know just how conservative ScotSAC is. It's a strange sociological phenomenon that some

organisations have a collective rationale that stays with them even though the personnel change. I suppose today that would be their mission statement and well I remember the blank looks around the table at a strategic meeting of ScotSAC when we were asked to write one.

It should have been easy, we could simply have used the old Scottish saying: "It's aye been". So I've been wondering how many branches have welcomed the new training schedule and how many, if any, have decided just to stick with the old one. "Oh don't be such a negative old grump," I hear you say and you're probably right I am being unduly pessimistic. The point is learning to dive is easy, it should be easy.

Over the years I've watched as we made it harder and harder using



the excuse that it builds confidence and therefore increases safety. I think we make diving more difficult than it needs to be just to satisfy our own egos. Don't worry this cathartic bout of self analysis is unique to me, you really do need two of everything and you really do need a secondary back-up torch in case the first two fail. Safe diving.

Jack Morrison
EDITOR

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