INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

iDSA NEWS

EDITION No 32 JULY 2018

- ARCTIC DIVING REPORT
- IT'S AN IDEAL WELD
- US DIVERS HANDBOOK
- A WAY OF LIFE

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INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
IDSA
NEWS

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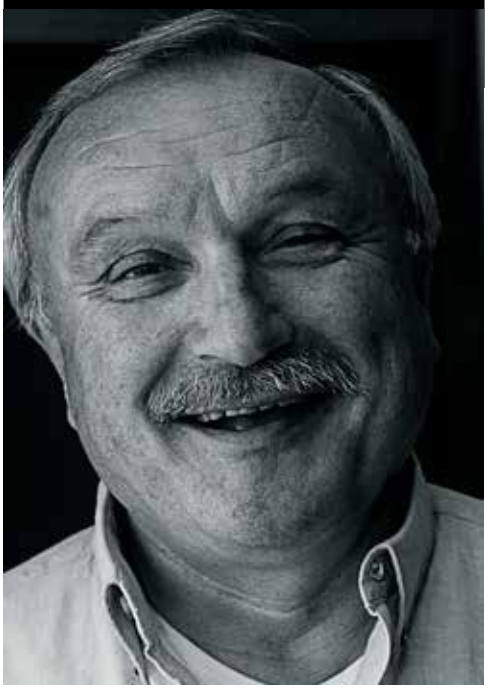
Articles and photographs to be considered for publication should be submitted to the editors at the address above

Front Cover photograph by Mike Norriss

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear members

New Members
I am often asked about the precise size of our membership but the problem in giving a precise answer is that the size of the membership fluctuates. For a multitude of reasons members come and go but in spite of this, the trend over the past few years has been for a steady increase in membership and particularly pleasing, full membership. So, we are pleased to welcome a new Full Member (Diver Training): the Centre Mediterranéen de Plongée Professionelle (CMPP) based in the port of el Hociema on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. And, we are also pleased to welcome HHA Diving Services LLC from Dubai to Associate Membership along with Beat Engel's new enterprise: Company Advacotec Ltd. as an Industrial Member.

Standards and Procedures
At the last Annual general meeting we reviewed the Standards, which had been circulated in advance and some minor changes were agreed. However, since then more questions have arisen an it was decided to delay the circulation of revision 6. The areas currently under consideration are:

- The availability of the Standby Diver
- The use of SCUBA
- The use of communications during SCUBA operations
- Mixed gas training in the Level 2 syllabus

It is planned to circulate a draft of Revision 6 so that members have a little time to go through it. Items other than those above will be allowed from the floor.

Living in a dishonest world
I am increasingly concerned about breaches of intellectual property rights in our industry as well as people ignoring the rules and even the law. IDSA needs its members help in combating this trend. In this issue there is the case of flagrant counterfeiting of Kirby Morgan equipment (see page 24). I'm sure this will not be the only example out there. Please let the administration know of any similar breaches you may come across. Policing this is of course very difficult but we are determined to fight this worrying trend. I would also like to remind members that within our own organisation there is still some mis-use of the IDSA logo and that all members should inform the administration (in writing please) with as much detail as possible if they notice any advertising (not just on-line) which is a misrepresentation of IDSA. Also please remember that only Full Members (Diver Training) are authorised to award IDSA diving qualifications and that they do so having completed an on-site audit to IDSA standards.

Re-certification Audits
As expected 2018 has been another busy year. Because of this we have fallen a little behind with the five yearly re-certification audits for Full Member (Diver training) but it is planned to catch up with this during the winter months.

Improving contacts with other organisations
Over the coming year we also plan to improve and extend our contacts with organisations closely concerned with Diver and Diver specialist training such as IMCA, ADC(I), ADAS, etc.

What's so special about IDSA?
Finally I've been thinking about all the things that make IDSA so special as an organisation. The first thing that struck me is that IDSA is the only organisation for diving training that is truly international. This can be vitally important for a students future employment. It also means that students can go from one country to another and still continue their training in another IDSA certified school at the same level. Another advantage of being international is that IDSA has no particular national interest to promote. Narrow national training programmes can be very restrictive particularly in the rapidly developing world of technology. IDSA is able to be more flexible in its approach to technology and training because it not bound by a narrow national perspective. Because IDSA has the benefit of international co-operation and expertise it can rapidly take account of changing conditions in the industry and move with the times.

THE 36TH ANNUAL MEETING OF IDSA

Perros Guirec
North West Brittany, France

24 to,27 September 2018

Hosted by the Centre Activities Plongees (CAP)

Our host School “CAP” is situated in the port and town of Trébeurden on the Brittany North sea shore renowned for its scenery and named the Rose Granit Coast.
The meeting will be held at the Conference Hotel which is the 5 star Hotel L’AGAPA located in the town of Perros-Guirec Some 10km from the school.
Further details are available from the administrator.

ACCOMMODATION
All accommodation bookings must be made direct with the Meeting Hotel:
L’Agapa
E-Mail address: hotel@lagapa.com
Web address: www.lagapa.com
Postal Address:
Hotel L’Agapa
12 Rue des Bon Enfants
22700 Perros-Guirec
France
A group discount has been arranged with the Hotel, €180 per night for a double room, and 160 per night for a single, the number of rooms is limited, so we suggest Book Now! Please head the text : “International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) – Annual meeting”

TRAVEL - AIR
The nearest International Airport is Brest about 110 km from the Hotel and an alternative is Rennes about 170km, both have rail connections to Lannion where the station is a few minutes Taxi ride from the Hotel

TRAVEL - RAIL
There is a direct line from Paris Montparnasse to Lannion, and it is also possible to travel by rail from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport , although this will take longer and may involve more than one change of train. If you have any travel problems please contact the Administrator on info@idsaworldwide.org or 0033 (0)2 9773 7261, and he will do his best to help you.

THE MEETING FEE
The meeting is open to members and non-members – the latter as observers. The Fee is Euros 300 for each delegate from a member organisation and Euros 360 for Observers

CONFERENCE AGENDA

MONDAY 24 September 2018

1830 to 2000 Registration in the L'AGAPA Hotel Reception and Welcome Drinks on the terrace (weather permitting)

TUESDAY 25 September 2018

0930 Wecome by an official from the local community

1000 MEETING SESSION 1

1. Introduction of Delegates and apologies for absence

2. Chairman's Introduction and the report of the Executive Board

3. The acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting in Palermo 17 to 19-October 2017

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not included in the Agenda

5. Administrator's Report. (Leo)

6. Treasurer's Report. (NDC)

7. The Election of Executive Board members :

Current Board Members are:

Dag Wroldsen *hon Secretary*

Mark van der Esch *hon Treasurer*

Robbert de Bie - *Member*

(All are available for re-election others may be nominated)

1115 Break

MEETING SESSION 2

The Promotion of IDSA

8. IDSA News – Possible improvements. Help from Members (Alan)

9. The Web and the use of Social Media (TBA)

10. The IDSA Divers LogBook (Leo)

11. Possibility of an IDSA Training Manual (Alan)

1240 Group Photograph (Hotel)

1300 Lunch at l'Agapa Hotel

1400 MEETING SESSION 3

12."The formal qualification of industrial divers and audit activities (Alessandro Fot) to check occupational health and safety requirements at work" (ESHQ-Scan Ltd)

13. IDSA Standards as related to French Law (Laurent Boyer) to be confirmed

1500 Break

1520 MEETING SESSION 4

14. The use of simulation in Diver training

(Lars Wroldsen) to be confirmed

15. Beat Engels diving helmets (Beat Engels)

WEDNESDAY 26 September 2018

0930 MEETING SESSION 5

16. Future corrections and improvements to the Standards & Procedures

Specific areas for discussion :-

a) The availability of the Stand By Diver

b) The use of Communications in SCUBA operations

c) Mixed Gas training

d) Experience Assessment

1030 Break

17. Improvements to the Standards & Procedures continued

1300 Lunch at the L'AGAPA Hotel

1400 MEETING SESSION 6

18.The Europass (Francesco Costantino)

19.Tba

20. Any Other Business the Chairman may allow.

21. Future Meetings – Any school wishing to host the 2019 annual meeting, should contact the Administrator in advance.

1545 Observe a CAP course during a practical surface supplied training session (optional)

1715 Return to Hotel

1830 Pre-Dinner Drinks

1930 IDSA's Annual Association Dinner at the BELUGA restaurant of the L'AGAPA Hotel

NOTES

- **The above programme is subject to such changes as are necessary for it's smooth running.**
- **All meeting sessions will take place in the Hotel.**
- **Transport will be provided from the Hotel**
- **and return if necessary throughout the**
- **meeting.**
- **Break times are approximate.**
- **Delegates and Observers are requested to register for the meeting as soon as possible by E-mailing this form to the administrator at info@idsaworldwide.org, or posting it to : The Administrator, 47 Faubourg de la Madeleine, 56140 Malestroit, France,**

Oi oceanology international® 2018

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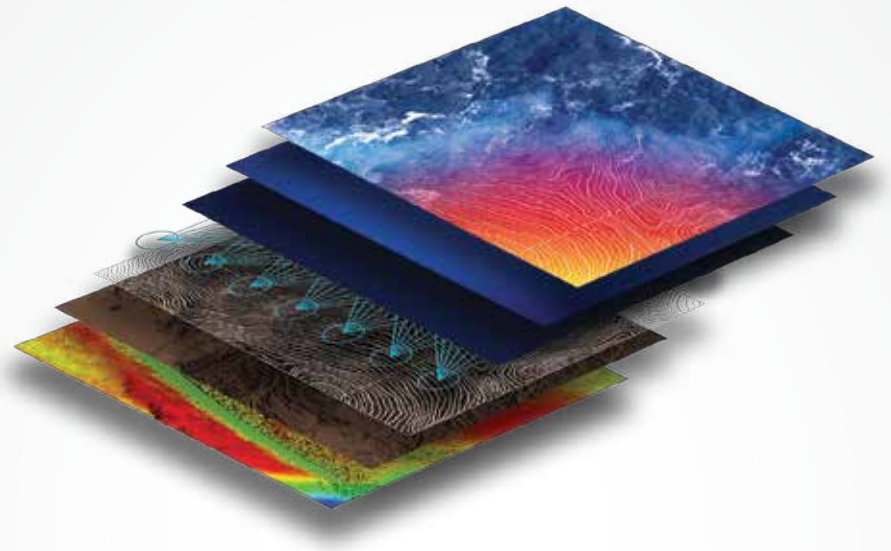

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DISCOVER the latest equipment and products in action with our live vessel and dockside demonstration programme

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Organised by: Reed Exhibitions

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IN AN IDEAL WELD

Wet-Welding, but not as you may know it.

I have now been involved with the world of welding for over 45 years and specifically underwater wet welding for over 35 and since that time, I can say I've seen a complete change, not only in the quality of welding possible, but in people's perceptions and expectations. I can still recall the early concerns expressed in the past, by divers and contractors alike; "can't be done". "We tried that, and it was a complete disaster". And these were comments expressed by people with some experience of welding.

Today, I would say the exact opposite is true, in fact, I would say wet welding is carried out daily by every contractor, large or small, usually very well. However, when judging quality, we need to introduce standards and even these very standards have changed quite a bit over the years. For example, AWS D3.6M: 2017 (the latest American Standard). This was first published in 1983 and had four classes of weld quality, namely A, B, C and O. Class A, was historically designed for quality, meeting similar dry welding standards and back in the day, it wasn't very likely you would achieve this wet. Class B was the best wet quality you were likely to achieve, leaving class C as perhaps the most relevant 'typical' wet quality you could expect. Class O was available for where the client specification or other specification was required. In its latest edition, AWS have dropped the 'C' class altogether and now class 'B' is regarded as the minimum wet standard. Since 2002 we have had ISO step in with its Underwater Welding Standard which was recently reviewed and re-published in 2016.

As a member of the ISO/TC44 committee:

https://committee.iso.org/home/tc44

we are working on ISO 15614-9 which will be the welding procedure standard. So much has changed since I was a young working welder-diver, but I'm pleased to say it's for the better.

Today, I'm working continually with my partners to push the boundaries still further. My colleagues in this venture include, Marex Subsea Welds Ltd.

http://www.marexsubseawelds.com/

and Divewise Tec:

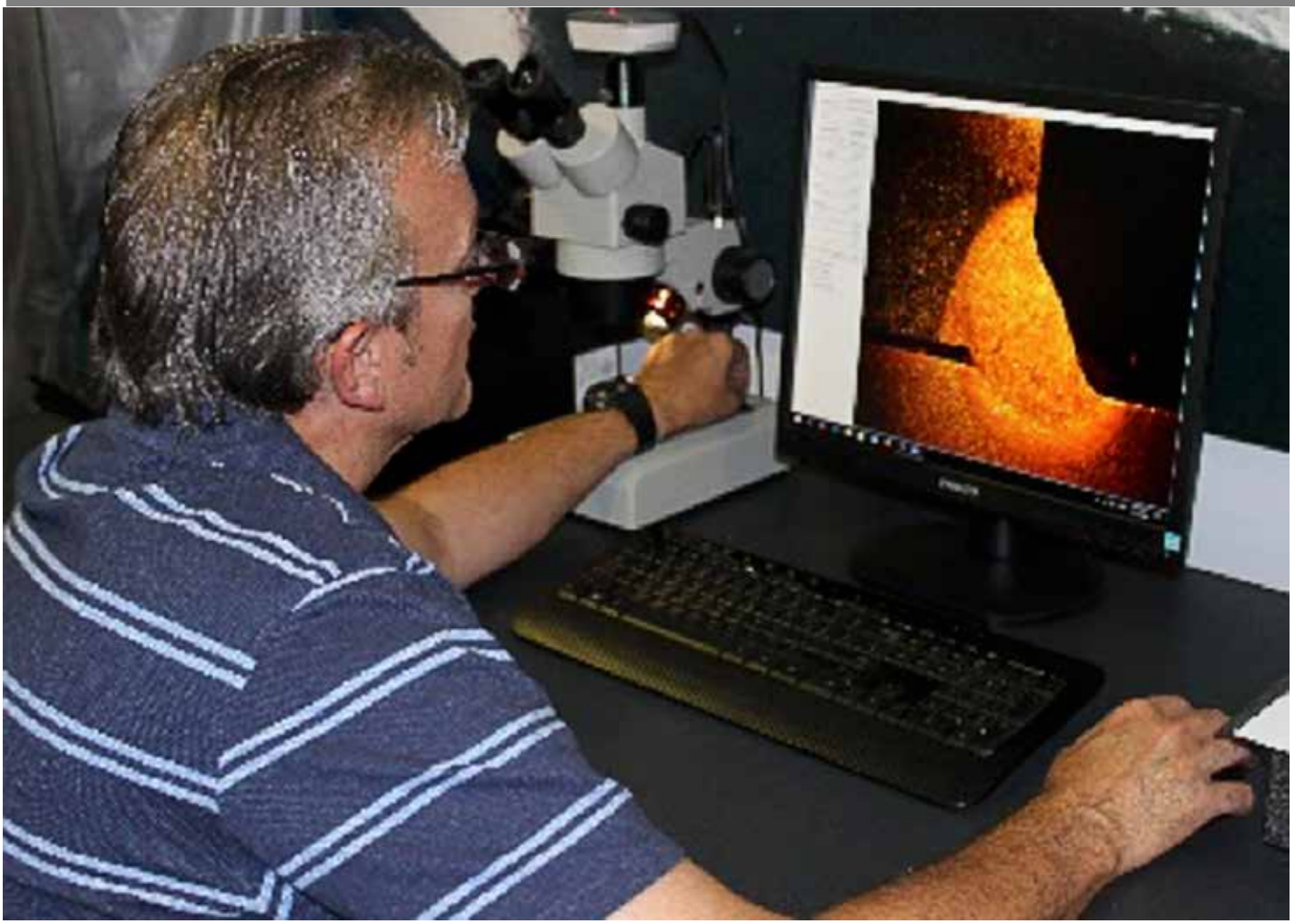
http://divewise-tec.com/

Both these organisations are approved Weldcraftpro:

https://www.weldcraftpro.com/

training centres, and specialist in this field.

Since I sold my interests in Speciality Welds Ltd back in 2015, which is a company I started in 1997 to introduce National Standards in the training of underwater welding, we have formed a new business venture under the name 'Nautilus'. A name we have also given to our new underwater welding electrode, which we hope to have available commercially very shortly. We have already used this product to achieve class A wet welding procedures, the details of which are outlined at Marex Subsea Welds website. Boskalis BVBA and W. Smit BV contracted Divewise Tec with the aim of undertaking two new Welding Procedures (WPS) for its wet welding operations. Divewise Tec in turn subcontracted and entrusted Marex Subsea Welds Ltd to perform all the necessary preparatory and on-



continued from page 11

site works in order to develop two new Welding Procedures, Method Statements and associated documentation. The role of Marex Subsea Welds was to carry out weldability trials in accordance with AWS D3.6M:2017 Class A Welds, in order to qualify procedures for the welding of S355J2 on API 5L Grade X65 materials and API 5L Grade X65 on API 5L Grade X70 materials.

The on-site trials lasted approximately ten days and took place in Piraeus Port. Marex was obliged to provide suitable premises and equipment according to OGP rules, together with appropriate materials and documentation (i.e. prerequisite documents for the trials, clarifications and proposals, dive project plan, risk assessment, welding method statement, etc. for the trials.) as well as the engineering team (engineers, coded welders, diving team, HSE and welding co-ordination).

Marex engaged the services of Mr. David J. Keats, partner at WeldCraft-Pro (part of Speciality Enterprises) who acted as the welding engineer, consultant and third-party site surveyor.

Throughout the duration of the welding trials, four specimens were welded, both on butt and fillet welds, in the PG (3G) and PJ (5F) fixed positions and over twenty laboratory test specimens were required in order

to approve the welds, including both Non-Destructive and Destructive Tests.

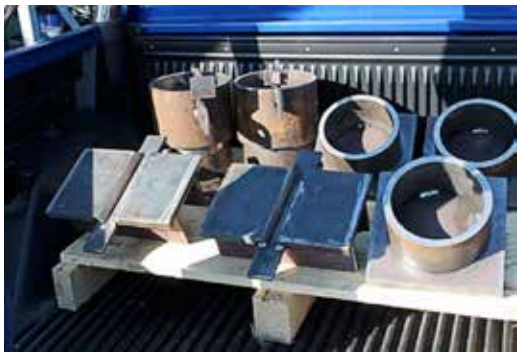
These were performed by an independent laboratory, G.A.T.S. Ltd (NB#1935-GR). The laboratory's reports certify that all weldments achieved Class A standards, in accordance with AWS D3.6M: 2017. See W.SMIT Evaluation Letter here:

http://www.marexsubseawelds.com/datafiles/file/W_SMIT%2018040912400.pdf

See BOSKALIS OFFSHORE BVBA Evaluation Letter here:

http://www.marexsubseawelds.com/datafiles/file/Boskalis%20Offshore%20BVBA.jpg

All welds were performed with our new electrode "NAUTILUS". It has outstanding welding characteristics and performance with



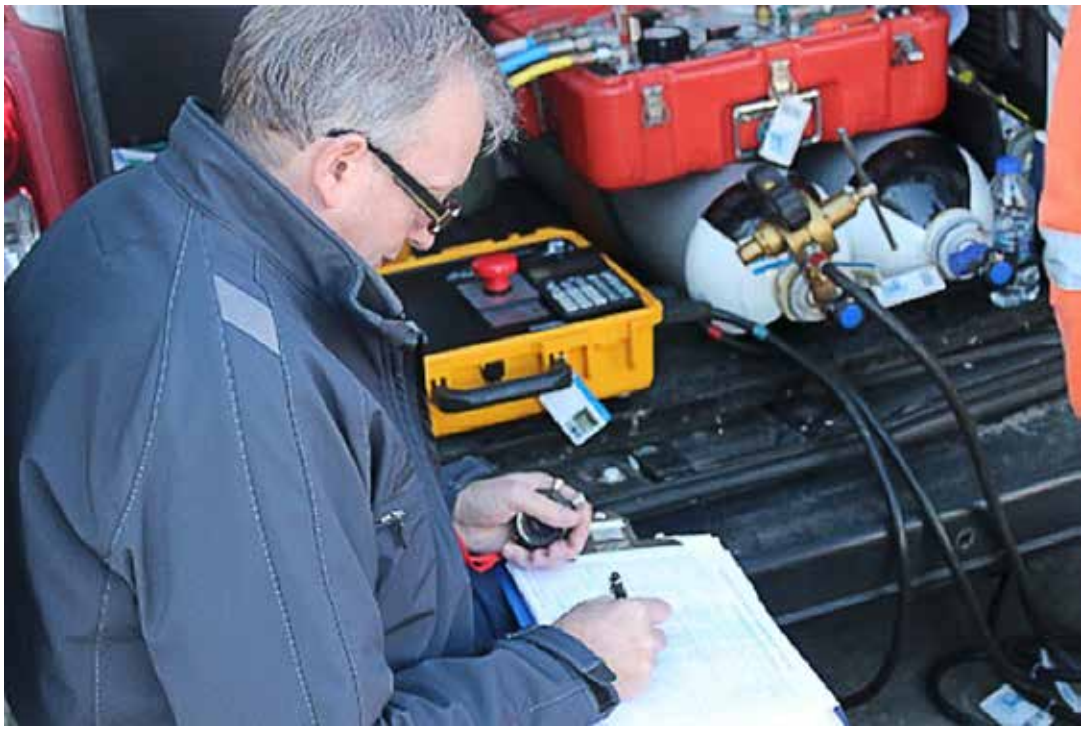
excellent control and weld profile and can be used in all positions (excluding PF). The electrode provides for excellent mechanical properties and performance and we have approved welding procedures by ABS. The product will come to market in a triangular environmental friendly box of 100 pcs. Each batch order will be tested according to the standards and our ABS approved ISO QA/QC standards This electrode is made by welders for welders, with the certainty it will add value to the quality of wet welding and will allow companies to meet the highest standards/ criteria of wet welding codes, including AWS D3.6M: 2017, EN ISO 15618-1: 2016 and AWS A5.35: 2015 AMD1 2016 (Specification for

covered electrodes for underwater wet shielded metal arc welding). This electrode will exceed the demands of all offshore oil and gas, naval/ merchant shipping, civil, marine and inland/ inshore industry requirements.

We know that high quality wet welding can be achieved underwater, but also, we are confident the quality of NAUTILUS welding electrodes will produce high quality welds to meet permanent repair quality welds.

NAUTILUS
SUBSEA WELDING

NAUTILUS electrodes will be available in 3.2 mm x 350 mm and packaged in boxes of 100 electrodes. The distribution network has yet to be finalised, but the Product is expected to be dispatched globally, from Greece, Belgium and the United Kingdom, as a minimum. Further locations will be announced shortly. For further details please feel free to contact me or my colleagues;



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OCEANDIVERS IRELAND

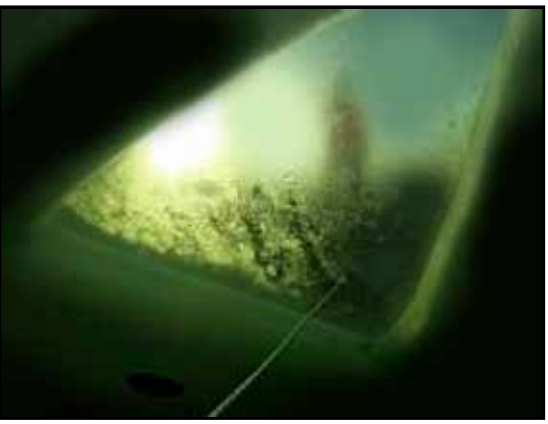
ARCTIC DIVING REPORT MARCH 2018

Vladimir Putin has been re-elected for another term while an ex-Russian spy is mysteriously poisoned in the UK. From this side of the world it appears that Russia is as shaded as we have always believed. Walking through Moscow by day or by night suggests a very different, modern vibrant, colourful, friendly and businesslike city. On March 5th Oceandivers Ireland headed off on our fourth Russian Arctic Diving Adventure to the frozen White Sea travelling via Moscow and Murmansk to the small fishing village of Nilmoguba home of the Arctic Circle Diving Centre and University of Moscow Marine Research Centre.

The purpose of these trips is to bring people to a very different diving environment, well off the beaten track and experience diving beneath the sea ice as well as the frozen wilderness of northern Russia. Ice diving presents significant changes even for experienced divers, the colder the weather the tougher it gets and this year we experienced temperatures below -30C.

Hoses go rigid, valves malfunction, batteries give up and divers go numb. Combating these temperatures takes a determined mind-set and considerable logistics, while frequently questioning ones sanity. In many ways its similar to banging your head against a wall, the real pleasure is when you stop! So what makes divers push themselves to these

limits? The answer is curiosity and a spirit of adventure.As Irish divers we have to be fairly hardy to endure our own climatic conditions both above and below the water. Diving off the west coast of Ireland can be as challenging as anywhere on the planet, so most Irish divers have fairly high tolerance blended with a natural curiosity and a healthy spirit of adventure. The rewards are true gems, breathe deep and slow under the frozen sea above the artic circle, watch your bubbles rise slowly through the green icy water and turn to mercury lodging within the sculpted surface, focus on the remotes, wildness and the uniqueness of your situation, that's what makes it truly amazing and worthwhile.



Soft corals, sponges, scorpion fish, wolf eels and a host of macro life, make it a haven for underwater photography once you have mastered the challenges of diving and surviving. Above water the silence and the space are highlighted by the vastness and emptiness of the landscape, Time becomes meaningless and even just a few days living in the arctic purges the stress of modern life. Our accommodation base offers all the comforts of home with the best of freshly cooked food, warm rooms and hot Banya (sauna) to warm your core while reflecting and laughing at the challenges of the day.

Murmansk is an industrial city and major port, less visited than Moscow, it reflects the old Russian era with drab buildings and a focus on functionality rather than aesthetics. Home to the Russian naval fleet of battle ships, submarines and ice-breakers, its definitely worth a visit, but I'm not sure that I would recommend it for a two week summer holiday with the family. Moscow however reflects the new Russia and is as modern

Kirby Morgan Course

pommec
Technical Diving Equipment

Pommec organizes regularly the Kirby Morgan Basic Maintenance and Repair Technician Course,
Next date:

Week 39: Thursday 27 + Friday 28 September 2018
Location: Bergen op Zoom, the Netherlands
Duration: 2 days

Please let us know if you would like to attend on this date, there are only a few places remaining:

pvanmechelen@pommec.com

Pommec is a leading manufacturer and worldwide supplier of commercial diving equipment, fixed and mobile

Technical Diving Equipment Pommec BV

Conradweg 22
4612PD Bergen op Zoom
The Netherlands

T: +31 164 745500
F: +31 164 745599

E: sales@pommec.com
I: www.pommec.com

and as colourful as any European capital city. Hotels, shopping centres, markets, restaurants to suit any taste or budget. The stress are spacious and free of litter and graffiti. Muscovites and tourists

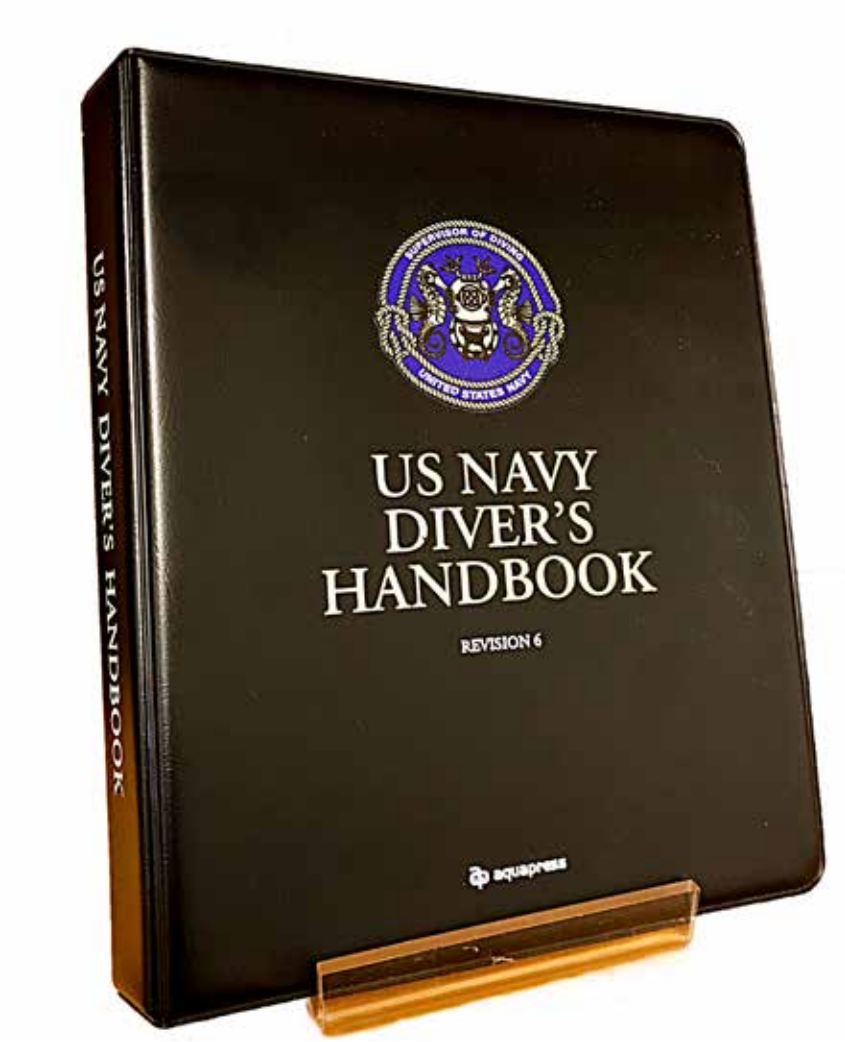
OCEAN DIVERS IRELAND ARTIC DIVING REPORT (continued) ...

move about comfortably on probably one of the most extensive public transport systems in the world. The Moscow underground system is a blend of museum and art gallery with stations individually designed and decorated. A midnight tour of the under ground, avoiding the busy day commuters, is a must for anyone visiting the city.

"The Moscow Metro was one of the USSR's most extravagant architectural projects, with stations constructed as luxurious "palaces for the people". Built under the command of Stalin, the iron-fisted leader ordered the metro's artists and architects to design a structure that embodied svet (radiance or brilliance) and svetloe budushchee (a radiant future). He directed his architects to design structures which would encourage citizens to look up, admiring the station's art, as if they were looking up to admire the sun and—by extension—him as a god. With their reflective marble walls, high ceilings and grandiose chandeliers, many Moscow Metro stations have been likened to an "artificial underground sun". Moscow Underground

Our group of adventures this year included Sarah Tallon who has fallen in love with the Arctic and been on all four trips to date, Istvan Berenyi, John Renyolds, Gavin Griffin and Damien Quinn who successfully completed their PADI Ice Diver certifcation, survived the extreme temperatures and rose to embrace the challenge of the arctic.

Our next trip to the Russian Arctic is scheduled for March 6th. 2020, everyone is welcome to join our diving trips to the Arctic and other intresting places around the world. Visit our website at www.oceadnivers.ie to view upcomming trips or email info@oceadnivers.ie



AQUAPRESS

Publishing Diving books for more than twenty years

If you have had any involvement in diving either recreationally or commercially the chances are that you will have received informationwhich has passed through the company AquaPress. From an unassuming

warehouse on a relatively tidy industrial estate bordered by greenbeltland AquaPress has been working on diving publications for more than 20 years. As well as publishing their own books they have typeset and produced training materials for almost all of the diver trainingagencies.

Early specialisation and experience in waterproof printing techniques

has lead them to develop a portfolio of waterproof books and materials

which are ideally suited for diving tables and have huge value wherever total waterproofing is required.

A good example is the US Navy Diver's Handbook whichis fully waterproof. This is bound with a Half-Canadian wiro binding which enables the pages to lay flat when open.

The design of the cover was specially adapted to be waterproof in that no cardboard is used. Normally folders are

pvc sheet heat sealed around a cardboard inner. In the case of this book the cardboard inner was replaced with solid polypropylene so that no damage will occur when immersed in water. This is just one example of attention to detail. The latest Revision 7A Handbook is due to be released later this summer.

Where a thicker sheet is required, for instance with double sided slates, resin bound sheets are used to offer complete rigidity. This process differs from double sided lamination as the resin is heated to form a single sheet and therefore has no weak join. The finish of the resin can either be left clear or produced with a frosted finish for notetaking

The US Navy Manual is also available as a complete reference work in two formats, bound or looseleaf

Aware of it's environmental obligations paper books are now being produced with carbon offset paper and clients are able to choose an option of using biodegradeable lamination film for book covers. In 2018 the company passion for improvement and quality has never been stronger.If you have had any involvement in diving either recreationally or commercially the chances are that you will have received information which has passed through the company AquaPress. From an unassuming warehouse on a relatively tidy industrial estate bordered by greenbelt land AquaPress has been working on diving publications for more than 20 years. As well as publishing their own books they have typeset andproduced training materials for almost all of the diver training agencies.

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Tritex Multiple Echo Underwater Thickness Gauges

Measure metal thickness only and ignore coatings!

PERFORMANCE is the most important feature of our ultrasonic thickness gauges.

You want the gauge to give reliable, accurate measurements in the most demanding of applications. Whether it's coated, bare metal, corroded or clean, the Tritex Multigauge range has proven to be reliable, simple, accurate and robust.

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All measurements are error checked to ensure only accurate readings are displayed, even on uncoated metal. The gauge is simple to use, with little operator input, and has a large bright 10 mm display which ensures it can be easily read by the diver, even in poor visibility. It easily upgrades to a topside repeater with either a surface display unit or datalogging option.

The gauge uses multiple echo and single crystal probes in accordance with class society regulations.

Tritex gives you the excellent performance that you would expect, with free annual calibration for the life of the gauge.

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THE UNDERWATER CENTRE RELAUNCHES CLOSED BELL DIVING COURSES following a major refurbishment of its training facilities

The Underwater Centre is the only provider in the world with a self-propelled hyperbaric lifeboat

Leading subsea training and trials centre, The Underwater Centre, has become the world's only commercial diving school to offer a closed bell saturation diving system with a self-propelled hyperbaric lifeboat (SPHL), following a major refurbishment.

Thanks to significant investment and support from the global oil and gas sector, The Underwater Centre relaunched its three-week closed bell diving course in June. The first course was fully subscribed and applications are open for future courses.

Subsea 7 and TechnipFMC have provided technical support, site supervision and conducted the refurbishment work on behalf of The Underwater Centre, which was also project managed by Subsea 7 with close collaboration and support from TechnipFMC. The combined resources and collaboration between The Underwater Centre, Subsea 7 and TechnipFMC served as an example of working together as one team.

As well as refurbishing equipment, completely rebuilding the closed bell and adding the SPHL from Subsea 7's decommissioned Rockwater 1, a vessel has been converted to create a new training system – renamed Deep Diver 1.

SPHLs are one of the main means of evacuating divers from a saturation diving environment in the event of an emergency, and are an important part of most modern closed bell diving systems.

Having this facility available on The Underwater Centre's closed bell courses will provide a more realistic training environment than was previously available, better preparing trainees for their future roles and providing a best-practice training experience.

The redevelopment of the system and course is seen by industry as key to maintaining the UK's ability to train closed bell divers and underlines confidence that demand

Continued on page20

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(cont p.17)

for saturation divers will grow as the energy sector continues to recover from the global downturn.

Industry and public bodies including Oil & Gas UK, Subsea UK, Subsea 7, TechnipFMC, Premier Oil and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) recently collaborated to support The Underwater Centre and ensure its future success.

Located in the Scottish Highlands, the company now operates as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and is funded and supported by its members.

David McGhie, managing director of The Underwater Centre, said: "We are now the only closed bell trainer in the world which has a self-propelled hyperbaric lifeboat. This is something our industry partners have been calling for and it demonstrates renewed confidence that the need for new saturation divers will be there for many years to come as a vital skill set for the subsea sector.

"The Underwater Centre continues to deliver realistic closed bell training that is industry focussed and the new saturation diving system combines fantastic equipment, industry support, the latest training techniques and current best practice to significantly enhance our saturation diver training.

David added: "We are particularly grateful to Subsea 7 and TechnipFMC for the help and support they have given us in helping to create an improved training environment which uses the very latest technology and positions us the only provider to offer this combination of facilities."

Recent research from DNV GL, the technical advisor to the oil and gas industry, confirms that senior oil and gas sector professionals expect to step up spending on training and competence this year. The figure expecting to increase investment in this area has nearly doubled from last year, up from 17% to 31%.

Jonathan Tame, Vice President UK & Canada, Subsea 7, said: "We were pleased to provide support for the redevelopment of the diver training facilities at The Underwater Centre, which is recognised by the industry as being key to maintaining the UK's ability to train closed bell divers, given the need for them in the future. The industry relevant specialist equipment that The Underwater Centre now has puts it at the forefront of diver training globally."

Kevin Thomson, Vice President of TechnipFMC's Marine Operations Services, said: "It is essential we are able to train divers in an environment which is as realistic, and safe, as possible and we have worked closely with The Underwater Centre to ensure the refurbished closed bell training facilities continue to closely mirror those you would find offshore. The new SPHL is a fantastic addition and the new equipment makes use of the very latest technology."

Neil Gordon, chief executive of Subsea UK, said: "Subsea UK has been supporting The Underwater Centre, as one of our member companies, for many months to work more closely with industry and the launch of the new SPHL training facility is great news which will ensure the centre remains the global diving centre of choice."

The HSE Closed Bell qualification allows divers to work at various depths using oxygen and helium breathing mixtures and saturation techniques. Taught by saturation divers with decades of experience, the HSE Closed Bell certification is valid across the world.

The Underwater Centre is a purpose-built subsea training and trials facility which incorporates an extensive pier complex including four dive stations, classrooms, workshops and decompression chambers. Based on the shore of Loch Linnhe, sheltered by the surrounding mountains, the centre's unique location allows it to provide year-round training and testing in an open-water environment, while still being centrally located in Fort William, the largest town in the Scottish Highlands.

The next closed bell diving course starts on August 27. For more information, email fortwilliam@theunderwatercentre.com, call 01397 703786 or visit https://www.theunderwatercentre.com/

HISTORICAL DIVING AROUND THE WORLD

STILL A WAY OF LIFE

By Zarko Sajic, as told to Phil Thurtle.

Vlado gets dressed. Note his lunch time sausages and a few cans of some liquid refreshment on the bench.

An assistant moves in to help.

The corselet goes on.

and another dive gets underway.

Then it is into the water.

Historical Diving Society members are continually on the look out for diving stories with a link to the past. Here Phil Thurtle recounts his meeting with a diver still using standard gear in the mountains of Slovenia (2002). It can be get very cold up there, even in mid-summer, and dangerous as rainstorms a mountain away easily lead to flash floods. Read the story, look at the photographs and you will realise why 'Dirty Diving' is so very true of many diver's working lives.

Meet Vlado Klobucaric from Slovenia. He's 55 and still diving in Standard Dress for a living. With the Julian Alps as a backdrop, these photographs show Vlado working for the Gradis Construction Company and in a river for the Slovenian Water Company, taking his equipment and portable compressor with him wherever his services are needed.

He was trained as a standard diver for a year in the Yugoslavian Navy, predominately on German Dräeger equipment. During his subsequent naval service, he was ships' diver on the President's Yacht Galeb ('Sea Gull'). The ships distinguished passenger of course being none other than President Tito, who was very friendly towards Vlado as they came from the same village. He says that one of his more taxing jobs during his time in the Yugoslavian Navy, was to help recover a lost primed torpedo from the Adriatic at a depth of 78 metres.

If anything could be built on land, they could build it underwater

After leaving the navy Vlado started working for the Gradis Construction Company, where he was the youngest and last standard diver ever to be accepted. He first had to undergo a year's extensive training course on bridge building and even then

Ready to go.

His tender continually looks after his interests topside.

he only began diving as a trainee. It was very different to diving with the navy, being hard and often dangerous work.

The equipment they used was also different, made by Galeazzi of Italy and Siebe Gorman from the United Kingdom. He worked in a group of eight divers, who were famous in Yugoslavia at the time, having the proud boast that if anything could be built on land, they could build it underwater. All sorts of jobs were undertaken from mine work to major construction.

Two very serious accidents underwater

Vlado has survived two very serious accidents underwater. One was a rock slippage that trapped him completely. When he was found, the only part of him that was visible was his leg. He was very lucky as even his helmet was partially crushed. In the second accident, he injured his foot with a high pressure compressed water jet while doing a cleaning job underwater. Vlado witnessed many other accidents in his time, losing one of his closest friends and before he joined the group, three others were lost in tragic accidents.

In the 1980's they tried using more up to date equipment, the Dive Dynamics AH3, but the equipment proved too light and not suitable for the work in hand - Vlado admits that they were maybe old fashioned and stuck in their ways.

Cousteau was fascinated

He once had the pleasure of meeting Jacques Cousteau when he came to the Adriatic. Cousteau was fascinated by how

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STILL A WAY OF LIFE (continued)

Vlado's trusty compressor

Vlado and the rest of the team could work with such antiquated equipment. It was pointed out to him that modern equipment was very expensive, far out of the reach of many Yugoslavian companies at that time. As a memento of their meeting, Cousteau gave Vlado a small flag and key ring. Today, his company is still very active in the bridge building and construction business both in Slovenia and many other parts of the world. Unfortunately larger diving jobs are now done on contract but Vlado is still actively working on the smaller more manageable projects. He sometimes uses scuba for his work but he says that the most suitable is still standard equipment.

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DIVERS BEWARE

COUNTERFEIT

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KMDSI has inspected and conducted laboratory and man testing on the counterfeit KMB 28 with findings that are well below the KMDSI standard for safety. A detailed report will be forthcoming.

The counterfeit KMB 28 BandMask® **VISUALLY APPEARS** to be the same as a genuine KMB 28, but looks are deceiving.

Man testing has proved that the counterfeit KMB 28 has **SEVERE breathing limitations** once it is in the water. This causes KMDSI concern that use **could lead to serious injury or death.**

This counterfeit is being sold out of China by:

YANTAI HAIYUN DIVING EQUIPMENT CO. LTD.
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Selling through: made-in-china.com

TAIDA MACHINERY INDUSTRY CO., LIMITED
Export Manager: Mr. Wen Da
http://www.taidamachinery.com/
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ABOUT IDSA

The Association was formed in 1982 as a result of a meeting between Schools attending the American Diving Contractors Conference (Now 'Underwater Intervention') in New Orleans.

The aims of the Association were then, and are now

- To implement common International Standards of Diver Training
- To provide a means of effective communication between schools.
- To improve the quality of commercial diving education
- To work towards improved standards of safety, emergency drills and procedures.
- To provide a common and collective voice to government industrial agencies on any matter affecting members.
- To co-operate on matters which may improve placement opportunities for graduates from member schools.
- To promote any activity, idea or subject which furthers the international operations of the Association.

The Association is concerned with all divers - Offshore, Inshore and Inland - as well as non diving qualifications e.g. Supervisor, DMT and LST. The Association has established International Diver Training Standards based on the consensus opinion of its many members, they are available in a separate publication. The Standards provide both a yardstick for those responsible for either administering existing National Standards or creating new ones, and a guide for Clients, Diving Contractors and Divers themselves. It is considered that the introduction of these Internationally agreed diver training standard will have the effect of;

- Equating Standards Internationally.
- Providing Guidance to Organisations setting Standards for the first time.
- Improving Safety.
- Providing Contractors with a direct input to the Diver Training Syllabus.
- Enabling Contractors to bid across National Borders on a more even playing field.
- Improving Diver quality.
- Providing Divers with greater Job Opportunities.

Some governments have and will, set their own National Diver Training Standards. The IDSA programme provides a means of equating them by maintaining a Table of Equivalence - see the Publications section of the Association's Website.

IDSA MEMBERS DIRECTORY AS AT 31 JULY 2018

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