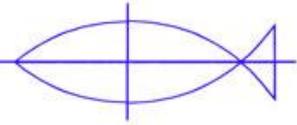


The British Society of Underwater Photographers



BSoUP Chairman's Report 2013

Joss Woolf

Well, we've had yet another very busy year.

Speakers throughout the year

Thanks, first of all to all those who gave talks during the year:

Martin Davies and **Alison Mayor**, **Paul Colley**, **Martha Tressler** and **Paul Duxfield**, **Alex Mustard** in March; **Mike Brodbelt** and **Simon Brown** in April. **Paul Morgan** and **Alex Tattersall** in May.

In June, we held a workshop with presentations by **Richard Boucher**, **David Allan**, **Mark Pickford**, **Alex Tattersall**. and **Paul Colley**

Nigel Wade, **Martin Edge**, **Keith Lyall**, **Saeed Rashid**, **Martha** again, **Martin Guess** and finally, last month we had **Mike Pitts**.

Magazine

We produced two issues of our magazine "in focus" this year, including our special one hundredth edition in the Spring. The next one, 102, will come out early next year. At this point, I must give very special thanks to three unsung heroes, team members, **Mike Russell**, **Paul Morgan** and **Chris McTernan** without whose help, our much improved magazine would not be possible. We are always looking for new articles and ideas though – which are few and far between - so please get in touch with anything you might have of interest. This is *your* magazine.

Website

The BSoUP website (<http://www.bsoup.org>) content continues to grow and we now have 1921 php pages and numerous html pages. The site also includes 295 gallery pages and 80 members-only slide-shows. The gallery pages have been totally redesigned; the books pages have been overhauled and updated and the online shops (linked to Amazon) have been extended to include Kindle e-books and Electronics. (Laptops, Smart-phones and Tablets). The entire website has also been edited to improve download speeds. What would we do without **Brian's** tireless energy and efforts?

Facebook

The BSoUP Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/15647538540/>) , which is an extension to the main website, currently has 936 members.

BSoUP/Diver Print Competition

This year's competition attracted 135 entries with the best 80 being displayed at the Dive Show at the NEC in October where the public were encouraged to vote for their favourites in four categories. The overall winner was chosen by judges **Alex Mustard**, **Martin Edge** and Diver Magazine editor **Nigel Eaton**. **Ellen Cuylaerts**, a Belgian lady from Cayman won a Diving holiday in Tobago, courtesy of Oonasdivers. See (http://www.bsoup.org/BSoUP-DIVER_LIDS/2013/prints_results_2013.php).

The Photozone is now a major feature of Dive Shows and this year, BSoUP members **Alex Mustard**, **Martin Edge**, **Paul Colley** and **Nick Robertson Brown** all gave presentations.

Members' Achievements

David Henshaw, **Rico Besserdich**, **Simon Brown** and **Trevor Rees** (and probably one or two others) had their images used as magazine front covers.

Alex Mustard was awarded the GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the year 2013 with his stunning image entitled Night Moves.

Will Clark staged an exhibition of prints (with five other artists) at the Glastonbury Galleries.

Alex Tattersall was the runner-up in the Underwater Worlds category in this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition at the Natural History Museum, with an image entitled Lionfish Bait.

In the same competition, **Alex Mustard** was highly commended in the "Nature in Black and White" category with an image entitled "Giant with Sunbeams".

Alex Tattersall also came first in the Wide-angle category of the RSMAS Underwater Photography contest with – you've guessed it – an image of a lionfish and baitfish.

Alex Mustard and Linda Pitkin's prints were among the 2020VISION Roadshow exhibition in Dundee, Swadlincote, Ticknall, London, Blair Atholl and Brighton. Alex also gave a presentation at the Royal Geographic Society.

Paul Colley – a name that is more and more in the news these days – and who this time last year was receiving an OBE from the Queen - won a Royal Photographic Society Gold Medal for an image that Fellows of the Society, Martin Addison and Clive Hayes had judged the best Western Region print submission in 2013. And while we're talking about Paul, he has already published one book this year, Diving and Snorkelling Ascension Island: Guide to a Marine Life Paradise and is busy writing another one to be published next year - Winning Images with any Underwater Camera: The essential guide to creating vibrant photos.

Last month, for an article commissioned by Diver Magazine, he went with Nigel Wade to Cuba for two weeks, where he will be returning early next year as an official Inon Instructor, in order to run a photographic course of his own. Watch this space....

Nick Blake won the world's largest on-line photographic competition which is organised by Underwater Photography.com and he became the Grand Master of 2012/13

Brian Pitkin – in addition to everything else that he does, also judged the monthly online Red Sea World of Underwater Images competition.

Monthly Competition Winners:

Winners of our monthly Focus On and Portfolio competitions include **Alex Tattersall, Paul Colley, Martyn Guess** (twice this year), **Andrew McKelvie, Debbie Henshaw, Mark Pickford, Pash Baker**, long-serving member **Warren Williams** makes a stunning come-back, **Trevor Rees** and **Mark Drayton**.

Splash in Results and New Venue

The British Underwater Photographic Championships were held in July this year at Plymouth and category winners were: **Dan Bolt, Alex Tattersall, Joss Woolf** and **Paula Bailey** with best compact. Overall winner was **Dan Bolt** who won a holiday for two to the Maldives. As you all know, next year's competition will be held at Portland so please, do come, and help to ensure its success. It really is a good get-together and perhaps the only opportunity in the year when you can spend some real time with fellow photographers from around the country. Our thanks go to **Martin Davies** and **Alison Mayor** who are particularly involved in next year's event.

The New BSoUP Meetings Venue:

After almost a year of research and visiting possible alternative venues, you will have heard that our efforts have been rewarded, at last, with a new room across the road, with its own projector and screen and, most importantly, access to a bar. Full details are on the website. Just a reminder that we start there next month on the third TUESDAY of every month. And our first speaker of the new year is – Paul Colley – who has stepped in at the last minute.

Other thanks...

To all the helpers at the Dive Shows, especially **Pete Laddell** for helping me to take all the stuff for the stand at the Excel Show – and bringing it all back again, and for bringing it all back from the Birmingham Dive Show. It's a lot of effort.

And thanks also to **Pash Baker** for making and mounting a new set of prints for our stand at the Birmingham Dive Show. I'd like to thank her too for her hard work as Membership Secretary – some committee roles take up a lot more time than others.

Not to be left out is **Sarah White** who took over the role of treasurer at very short notice and prepares our accounts, highly efficiently, on a monthly basis.

Thanks also to **Colin Doeg** – who reminds us of why we are here and constantly offers help and suggestions at the age of 84!

We're almost there; **Simon Brown** – like it or not we need people like him to keep us on the straight and narrow – to protect all of us from others who might seek to exploit our hard work.

And finally, to thank all of you for being here, for entering the competitions and for giving us our *raison d'être*, for without you, there would be no Society.

Chairman's Award

Last year, I revived the custom of presenting a Chairman's Award and I don't think there can be any doubt as to whom it should be given this year. Unfortunately she is away at the moment but we'll be making a big fuss of her in January. **Martha Tressler** has, for so many years, put in more than could be expected of anyone; she has adopted most roles on the committee, including Chairman and currently acts as Honorary Secretary as well as Meetings Secretary. And she has also carried out detailed research, with Sarah, into our running costs - which I'll come on to in a moment. She calls a spade a spade and often crushes to death with a single blow some of our ideas if they do not accord with her view of the BSoUP ethos. Sometimes she tries to do some of our jobs too but above all, she gets things done. BSoUP would not be what it is without her and it's time her work was recognised.

Election of new committee

During the year, our committee has been joined by **Mike Brodbelt, Nicholas Watson** and very recently, **Paul Colley**. Can I have a proposer for the new committee roles for next year?

And a seconder?

Proposal to increase subscriptions

I hope you have all read the reasons for and the proposal for the increase in subscriptions. We are sorry that this has to happen, but we feel that the monthly cost is still quite a bargain. Do I have a proposer? Secunder? All agreed.