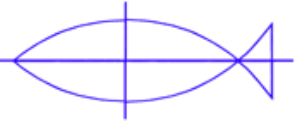


# The British Society of Underwater Photographers



## Chairman's Address – AGM December 2014

We are sad to report the death of our co-founder **Peter Scoones**. He was 76 and died peacefully in his sleep with his family round him still wanting to return to the Red Sea one last time. Tributes were published in the national press and on the BSoUP website.

## Meetings

Twelve monthly meetings were held during the course of the year at a new venue in the Imperial College Union Building. From January, meetings switched from the third Wednesday to the third Tuesday of each month.

Speakers this year were members **Paul Colley, Dave Peake, Nick and Caroline Roberston-Brown, Alex Mustard, Steve Jones, Colin Doeg, Warren Williams, Neil Rosewarn, Mark Harris, Brian Pitkin, Linda Pitkin, Joss Woolf, Georgette Douwma, Alex Tattersall, Super Jolly, Anthony Holley** and **Martha Tressler** and guests **Stuart Philpott, Simon Rogerson and Mark Fuller**.

## Focus On Competitions

Winners this year were **Trevor Rees** (January and February), **Laura Storm** (April and May), **Super Jolly** (June), **Charles Hood** (July) and **Clive Allcorn** (August).

## Portfolio Competitions

The Portfolio Competitions were won by **Jackie Campbell** (Open), **Robert Bailey** (Theme and Best of British), **Joe Daniels** (Underwater Excellence) and **Sue Guess** (Beginners).

## Print Competition

The annual BSoUP/DIVER Print Competition attracted 109 entries. The best 80 were displayed at DIVE 2014 at the NEC Birmingham, where the visiting public were encouraged to vote for their favourites in four categories. Over the weekend more than one thousand people voted. A panel of judges comprising **Martin Edge, Steve Jones** and **Nigel Eaton** chose the overall winner of the Grand Prize of a week's diving holiday in Egypt - **Terry Steeley** (see [http://www.bsoup.org/BSoUP-DIVER/Prints/2014/prints\\_results\\_2014.php](http://www.bsoup.org/BSoUP-DIVER/Prints/2014/prints_results_2014.php))

## Red Sea PhotoCall

This year with DIVER, we co-organised the Red Sea PhotoCall Competition, sponsored by the Egyptian Tourist Authority and Emperor Divers to promote diving in the Egyptian Red Sea. The overall winner was **Rob White**.

## Dive Shows

BSoUP exhibited at both the London International Dive Show at ExCel, London Docklands in March and DIVE 2014 at the NEC, Birmingham in October. Very many members volunteered to man the stand at these events and are duly acknowledged on the BSoUP website.

## Splash-In

The annual Splash-In was held for the first time at Portland, Dorset in July. This proved an excellent venue with respect to on-shore facilities. Sadly only 24 members and non-members participated in the competition. The overall winner of the Grand Prize, a one week diving holiday for two in the Maldives (exclusive of flights and taxes), was **Cathy Lewis**.

## BSoUP Leaflet

In advance of the DIVE 2014 Diveshow in Birmingham, the BSoUP leaflet was updated. Thanks to both Martha Tressler and Chris McTernan for their help with this.

In addition, Pete Ladell initiated the production and mounting of a new set of prints for our stand, inviting members to contribute their work. Thanks Pete for that.

## Awards

**Mark Drayton** received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to the All Wales Neonatal Network (Cardiff).

**Nick Robertson-Brown's** book 'Underwater Photography. Art & Technique' published Dec. 2013 earned him a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society (FRPS).

**Paul Colley** published the book 'Winning Images with Any Underwater Camera: The Essential Guide to Creating Vibrant Photos' in May 2014 and this earned him an Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society (ARPS).

**Ellen Cuylaerts** was unanimously voted Champion of the World 2013 in the underwaterphotography.com competition and won the First World Ocean Day Photo Contest.

**Dave Peake** won the Scuba Fest Splash-In.

## Other member's achievements

**Dan Bolt** (with Terry Griffiths and Bernard Picton) published '**A Photographic Guide to Nudibranchs of South West England**' for iPad and ePub.

**Martin Edge, Saeed Rashid, Steve Jones** and **Nick Robertson- Brown** gave talks in the Photozone at the the DIVE 2014 show.

**Robert Bailey, Dan Bolt, Martin Davies, Matt Doggett, Joss Woolf, Nick Robertson- Brown** and **Trevor Rees** (and possibly others) had their images used as magazine front covers (see <http://www.bsoup.org/Covers/2014/2014.php>).

## **Website**

The BSoUP website ([www.bsoup.org](http://www.bsoup.org)) content continues to grow and we now have 2,035 php pages. The site now includes more than 330 Gallery pages (see <http://www.bsoup.org/Gallery/330.php>) and 92 'Members only' Slideshows ([http://www.bsoup.org/competition\\_slideshow/archive/index.php](http://www.bsoup.org/competition_slideshow/archive/index.php)).

The website has over 7,000 accesses per month. Brian continues to manage the website single-handedly. We thank him for his continued efforts.

## **Social Media**

The BSoUP Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/15647538540/>), which is an extension to the main BSoUP website, currently has 1,167 members. That's 236 more than last year.

A BSoUP Twitter Group was started in July, but this currently only has 19 followers.

## **Magazine**

We produced two issues of our magazine, "in focus" this year, with No. 103 concentrating on the life and achievements of Peter Scoones. Issue 104 will be plopping on your doorsteps early next year. I don't think anyone who has not been involved has any idea of the enormous amount of work that goes into the advertising, layout, and indeed the mailing to the membership. Huge praise indeed is due to Chris McTernan, Mike Russell and Paul Morgan.