

## **Martin Davies LRPS, 42, Hayling Island, Hampshire**



**Background:** Born and bred in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, as far as away from the sea as any diver could imagine. But this did not dampen his eagerness and at the tender age of 11, inspired by the early films of Jacques Cousteau he joined a youth club where he did his snorkel training at the local army barracks. Bursting with enthusiasm Martin then joined the Hinckley branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club in 1977 (HSAC). He has continued to enjoy regular diving around the country and the world for over twenty seven years. Martin is now a member of Southsea Sub-aqua Club, <http://www.southseascuba.co.uk/>

**Diving:** After completing the BSAC snorkel diver training, he obtained his 3rd Class diver qualification in 1979, and has subsequently survived modern day diver training to become BSAC Advanced Diver, Instructor and is Diving Officer of his branch.

**Photography:** Initially a devoted wreck diver in the early 80's, watching and learning from other divers what can be achieved with a hammer and chisel in 30 minutes at 30m, Martin soon came to realise that there must be more environmentally friendly ways to take treasures from the wrecks than wrecking them further. Hence in 1984 he became the proud owner of his first underwater camera, a Nikonos III & Sunpak 28 flashgun. He has been taking away treasured memories of his dives ever since. Mainly self taught but he has attending various short courses, seminar presentations and conferences. In more recent times his attendance at local colleges, where various City and Guilds qualification have been gained in photography and he has achieved the standard of LRPS with the Royal Photographic Society <http://www.rps.org>. He has been a member of BSoUP for about 6 years now and has attended the London meeting when possible and has found the meetings a useful forum for knowledge exchange and meeting like minded people.

**Equipment:** Martin has progressed from the Nikonos III in 1984 to the Nikonos V in 1989, adding Extension Tubes and a Sea & Sea 16mm wide lens with a Morris Aquafash F1 completing the outfit. Now using a Nikon F5 in Sealux housing, <http://www.sealux.de> with a single Sea & Sea flash gun this has been his standard kit for the past six years.

**Dive travel:** Martin spent much of his early days diving and photographing British Waters. Although he has to admit that the clear blue warm waters of far-away are more conducive to underwater photography, he still says that there is no place like home where he strives to meet the real challenge of underwater photography in UK waters. The Solent area offers the ultimate challenge in terms of visibility; large tidal range and deep water, there are hundreds of wreck sites a stones throw from home on Hayling Island and all offer a unique photographic challenge. A favourite dive local to him is Mullbery where in the summer you can see more fish on a dive that in some very exotics foreign places. Other superb dive locations around the UK he likes to visit are, the sound of Mull, The Scilly Isles, The Farne Isles and Devon & Cornwall. Around the world he has visited Malta, the Red Sea, Honduras, Sulawesi and Hawaii to list a few.

*Slide 1 - 1st place Wide Angle*



*Diving inside the wreck of the James Eagan Layne,  
This Picture taken from inside number 4 hold looking up at the ribs and  
superstructure of the wreck, depth 20m.*

*Nikon F5, 16mm lens, Camera settings 13<sup>th</sup> second shutter, aperture F2.8, 100asa  
Fuji Sensia film.*

*Slide 2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> place Wide Angle*



*Diver swimming along the bow of the James Eagan Layne  
Picture take on the Starboard side in 10m of water Nikon F5, 16mm lens, camera  
settings 20<sup>th</sup> second shutter, aperture F3.5, 100 asa Fuji Sensia film.*

*Slide 3 - 1st place Creative Humorous*



*A diver has discovered what really happened at Glastonbury!*

*Nikon F5, 16mm lens, camera settings 20<sup>th</sup> second shutter, aperture F8, 100 asa Fuji Sensia*