

## SCAPA FLOW 11 - 18 JUNE 2005

For the second year running we ran a successful trip to Scapa Flow. Although the majority arrived on 11 June by plane the road party left in the early hours the day before, making Inverness by the evening. We were fortunate to have the big green van this year which gave us more space - a good thing as just about everyone was on twin sets and stages and we were carrying our own helium.



On arrival in Stromness the heavens opened and we drove around trying to follow the directions we had been given on the phone. After about 30 minutes the mobile rang and the little Scottish voice on the other end asked if she had said left or right. Right I replied. Oh I meant left she said. When we found it the 3 cottages we had booked were not exactly walking distance but logistics worked out ok in the end. Kit sorted out, a fleet of taxis arrived from the airport and it was off down the pub for a coupla pints a heevey. The first day we dived the Karlsruhe and the F2. Classic starters for a Scapa week. Aaron came up whoopin and a holerin - well he is American. We calmed him down and explained that these were not the best wrecks in Scapa. Dr Evil started a long running snot on the nose saga, which was eventually won by Chris M who it was said, was wearing his sinuses on the outside of his face and was bound to win.

There were several other highlights. Dean managed to get a depth of 49m on the Colne when the bottom was at 36m - exactly how far into the wreck were you? Daren, ever a conservationist and founding member of project aware, saw a huge lobster, shook its claw and told it to scuttle away to safety - honest Mrs Daren. Emily, the female skipper, kept the troops entertained with flashing thongs and dulcitol tones - she was a soprano in London you know. The bottle dive produced enough scallops to start a commercial enterprise and enough old bottles to open an antiques shop - best bottle prize went to Aaron who managed to find a 2 year old Newky Brown bottle - well he is American. The diving throughout the week was superb. All the big wrecks were thoroughly examined, including the Brummer, Dresden, Margraf, and Kronprinz. The whole group were impressed by the sheer enormity of the wrecks and we were blessed with some good visibility and some calm weather towards the end of the week. The sun even came out. Many congratulations to Deano, Glyn, Perksy, Chris the Sinus and Big Daz the conservationist on passing their normoxic trimix quals. Also Craig and Aaron the American for passing their PADI nitrox course. At the moment we are not planning to go back next year, as Normandy is on the cards, but if you are interested in another trip, let me know.

