

DIVING INCIDENTS REPORT

George Skuse -
Chairman, Diving Incidents Panel

"I have to start off by saying that accidents are funny. I have the word of a named BSAC Branch on page 9 of the November edition of Diver magazine. Someone has found it highly amusing and something to laugh about that a member should surface from depth upside down in a variable volume dry suit, and has not reported it to me by word, rumour, or in any way other than publishing a humorous poem in Diver. Why should I make a fuss?

One BSAC member this year has died upside down in a variable volume dry suit. Surely we need these reports. How many more must suffer minor indignities of all sorts, unreported, so that we know nothing of the trends that are happening in diving?

Last night I was sitting in the bar, and a friend told me of another variable volume dry suit accident, which

had not been reported. Now, I am not here making a fuss of variable volume dry suits; I am making a fuss of people not reporting. However, now to my report and the accidents that have occurred whilst I have been chairing the Panel. (See Appendix 1)

In 1978 there were 89 incidents reported, in 1979 there were 120 and in 1980, 151. Does this mean that divers are having more accidents?

The membership has, in fact, fluctuated. The number of incidents has gone up in 1980 when, in the same period, the membership has gone down.

Let us take the particular misfortune of fatalities. The number of fatalities to BSAC members has fluctuated. It would appear to me that there is no tie-up between the number of incidents reported, the number of fatalities and the membership figures. However, the more reports I get, the more reliance I can place on statistics. It does not mean that more accidents are occurring just because I am getting more reports.

If we take these fatalities - 13 deaths of sport divers were reported during the year, 6 of these were BSAC members and 2 of these 6 occurred during Branch dives.

Take decompression sickness, which is something of a hot potato. 18 cases were reported; 16 of these were recompressed and 14 of these occurred after dives of 30m or deeper. My job is not to draw conclusions. I report the facts to you. You will notice that 6 divers attempted to recompress under water, a procedure that we do not recommend. Of the 18, 12 were definitely BSAC members.

However, I must place little reliance on these figures because last year we received a late report updating the decompression sickness figures by some 12 or more incidents. This present report only represents those which have been reported so far: it is not the whole story.

Let me take the other incidents that have occurred during the year. I am only going to talk about the kind of incidents that occurred 10 or more times. Aborted dive, diver acting as rescuer, helicopter involvement, recompression, death, lifeboat callout, boat trouble, decompression sickness, lost divers - a growth area this year, coastguard involvement, rescues, all happened more than 10 times.

You will be delighted to know that I am considering 30 incidents for awards where good practice was involved. The sorrow is, of course, that for the vast majority of those incidents, something went wrong before a buddy did something that went right. Nevertheless 30 members of the BSAC have been involved directly in saving life one way or another.

Finally, you will see that there is a fair number of incidents involving ascents of one kind or another.

Now to move on to some particular cases. My report, of which you all have a copy, is written in a peculiar way, which is explained in the text.

July, No. 79 Whilst diving the Aeolian Sky, a diver became unconscious with a possible embolism. Having received the report I analysed it, to record all the various aspects and involvement - hence the hieroglyphics in my report. However, after I closed my report on the 31st October, further information came to me - about this incident in July!

It was a cerebella arterial gas embolism, involving 5 recompressions in a chamber and one minor operation. This updated my analysis which I will now identify.

A BSAC member, snorkel diver grade, on a Branch dive, a boat dive, occurred at home (not abroad) in the sea (not in fresh water). The depth was 30m, involved an emergency ascent, recompression in a chamber and the use of an ambulance and a helicopter. There was good diving practice by the

buddy, the person was rescued, unconscious and had an embolism. It makes a complicated report, but that sort of analysis was necessary and is given for every incident in the report.

Let us take some of the other features. These are well illustrated in the report, but I wish to read a few selected ones.

November No. 9. Death while on holiday abroad due to embolism Narcosis contributed, at a depth of 51m - by the way, you know of course, that the BSAC/RNPL table finishes at 50m - this 7-month lapsed member was signed up by both Branch Secretary and Diving Officer and had the Branch stamp of approval right up to Second Class. I have a photocopy of his logbook, with the following lectures not signed off at all, 'Rescue and resuscitation', 'Diving Suits and Protective Clothing', 'Burst lung and Emergency Ascents', 'Decompression Sickness - avoidance', and 'condition and treatment', 'Basic Navigation', 'Basic Seamanship', 'Expeditions - safety and emergency services'. I do not say that he did not have the training, for the Branch Secretary and Diving Officer signed him off as Second Class. He lapsed, and died in Israel.

'The previous day he had dived 30 minutes to 25m, 43 minutes to 12m and 37 minutes to 12m. No decompression was done as the last two dives were mainly at 10m.'

He had got it wrong anyway, it should have been 9m, but in fact they were dives to 12m. He needed decompression for 110 minutes diving to 25m, which is off the table. He should have used the extended table in the manual, when he would have seen that he missed the following stops - after the second dive 5 and 30 minutes and after the third 5, 20 and 120 minutes, a total of 230 minutes stoppages in all. Imagine, 230 minutes stoppages missed, all because of a wrong belief that dives to 10m do not require decompression! Anyway, that was the day before.

'On the day in question he dived for 22 minutes to 33m and decompressed for 5 minutes at 10m and 5 minutes at 5m.'

He missed out 10 minutes of stops. He got a cerebral bend, which required extensive treatment. He was Branch Diving Officer at the time.

This is the Branch's own report, supplemented by a couple of letters, a model of perfection:-

'On Saturday he dived for 25 minutes to 20m, 22 minutes to 22m followed by - seasickness, headache, lager and Paracetamol. On Sunday he had a headache and two Paracetamol, which he kept quiet about, and four cigarettes. He dived for 28 minutes to at least 31m. One gauge, later found to be the accurate one, carried by the buddy, actually said 34m. He was violently sick on surfacing, but they attempted re-entry decompression!

The re-entry decompression that they tried was 5 minutes at 10m and 15 minutes at 5m; in practice only what they had missed. Proper re-entry decompression is a far more rigorous regime; they should have done 5 minutes at 20m, 5 minutes at 15m, 10 minutes at 10m and 60 minutes at 5m. They did 20 minutes decompression instead of 80 minutes.

'On arrival ashore he complained of pain in his back. This eased and on Monday he still said he was OK.' Let's be perfectly honest the person who was suffering disguised his own symptoms - 'but late in the evening complained of pains in the knee and shoulder. He was taken to hospital overnight, was re-compressed on the Tuesday by the RAP and on Thursday again by the Royal Navy'.

The Branch's enquiry was a model of perfection, and I would like to quote some of the Branch's own conclusions:-

- Dive planning for the whole weekend was completely inadequate.
- Good basic diving rules and practises were ignored.
- There was a failure to recognise symptoms promptly and act accordingly.
- Logged records show divergence, which cannot be accounted for satisfactorily.'

I would just remind you of what happened : 28 minutes to 'at least 31m' - it was in fact 34m - an ascent without stops, a re-entry decompression too short by 65 minutes.

In August - just to repeat the lost diver problem the cox was only 200 yds from the divers but still could not see the surface marker buoy. After half-an-hour contact was finally made.

In response to an enquiry from me, the further information was elicited - a slightly deflated inflatable buoy was used and the flag had collapsed. Two hundred yards - and the divers were lost for half an hour!

Another one - having completed E & F tests and done 8 dives, he dived to 39m. He ran out of air quickly. He needed an assisted ascent. Not much experience, perhaps, before a 39m dive.

September - this is a little more light hearted; it could happen to any of us. The day before the dive he woke at 5 a.m. He worked from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. He drove to fetch the boat and to load it. At 6 p.m. he left the Midlands and arrived at Plymouth at 10.30 p.m. He stayed in the Disco until 1.30 a.m. and woke at 8 a.m. Later, he had a black-out, fell out of the boat and regained consciousness in the water. He did not dive that day.

Moving on again to the nasties. October - decompression sickness due to misunderstood tables. In the report is the following - it later arose that

in our Club there would appear to be a lack of knowledge of metric decompression tables, especially where older members are concerned. I am sure that that applies to other Branches too.

The last report that I wish to quote - the Aeolian Sky again. The leader dived without a depth gauge. They planned a no-stop dive. Two divers were seen a mile downstream, so the boat left the wreck and investigated. They were strangers, however, and about to be picked up by their own boat. The boat returned to the wreck to find their own divers. But there is now some confusion about their bottom time. The subject vomited, blaming it on sea-sickness due to waiting for the boat to return. By the way they did not have an easy ascent, either.

Next day he had a pain in the arm, not thought to be a bend as it was now 26 hours after the dive. He was ultimately recompressed.

Now it is so easy to confuse divers surfacing elsewhere with your own divers; it happened here, but meanwhile one got bent.

One other item - ear trouble. Burst ear drum during a dive - I do not know the depth. Burst ear drum in dive to 20m - he dived soon after a cold. Burst ear drum during a dive. Reversed ear - he had a WVDS with a face seal which caused the trouble. Burst ear drum during A Test. I have already had 15 reports since I closed the files for this report on the 31st October and by coincidence 4 of them relate to ear trouble. These 4 late ear drum incidents reinforce the trend of the year, making 10 more altogether.

As I am completing the third of my three years as Chairman of the Diving Incidents Panel and my twelfth year on the Panel, I have prepared an analysis of the last 3 years as a whole. We have had 360 incidents reported - 38 fatalities (11% of incidents reported) of which one half were BSAC members. 80 bend cases (23% of incidents), assisted ascents (8% of incidents) and so on. (Appendix 1).

You will note, incidentally, that a significant proportion of the bend cases occur after dives to greater than 30m. This is not to say that such dives are dangerous, rather that they need more careful planning and adherence to the Tables than is reflected in the incident reports.

Finally, some last words about the reporting procedure. The simple post card Preliminary Incident Report Cards have worked very well. They give me the very basic information of a name, locality, date and broad outline of the type of incident. This is what I want from any group of divers involved in an incident; you may, in fact, hold back more details than this basic amount until an enquiry has been held.

The full report later may come in any form that you like. It does make my

filing work easier if it comes in on a standard form, but it is not essential. And as it takes me one whole week of my holiday to compile this report, the standard form helps.

I must offer a huge vote of thanks to the Coaching Scheme, particularly for the way that they have sent in the Preliminary Incident Report Cards, and also to HM Coastguard. They send me photocopies of all their reports involving the Coastguard and divers, BSAC or not. Yesterday's post for instance brought from them reports of 3 more incidents in September and October that had not been reported by any other source. It is an extremely valuable service that they provide me with.

There are also one or two individuals who are a great help, mainly in sending me cuttings from newspapers. The best cuttings are from local papers, which give much fuller details than the national newspapers can ever find room for. Unfortunately, these often turn out to be the first and only reports I receive.

There you are, then. The success of the person who does the job next year will depend very largely on the support that you give him. I cannot help being sorry that in my twelve years' association with the Panel and three years as Chairman I have failed to influence diving safety in any way; it is a major disappointment. You see before you a frustrated man."

QUESTIONS

Philippe Dumortier (Lensbury and London): George might not be so disappointed as most divers now are more ambitious, and the dives that they do are more difficult than 3 years ago. If there have been no more incidents, then that in itself is a result.

I would like to talk about EAR and life-saving. We do spend a lot of time on this in training, and I think that this is a good thing. In the last year I was very surprised to see in your report hardly any evidence of these techniques being used in incidents in a positive way. Can you comment?

George Skuse: We have, from memory, this year two proven cases of EAR, in the water, saving life. We have a number of other rescues with EAR on the land. Lifesaving and its training is being used.

Nigel Riley (Chester): I would like to redress the balance slightly, to point out that a situation is not always the Branch's fault. After last year's presentation on decompression problems, we have a member who failed his 2nd Class Examination principally by omitting decompression stops completely on a repeat dive requiring two stops - a potential accident perhaps.

He was advised to study the Tables carefully and come back in 6 months and take the examination again. He complained to the Diving Officer, not

the examiner, and threatened to leave the Branch if he was not re-examined. The DO did not contact the examiner but the Regional Coach, who advised re-examining or the candidate would leave the Branch. Do we want potential incidents contained within the BSAC in order to improve examination statistics?

George Skuse: This is a perennial problem - should you keep or sack the sinner. My personal opinion, and not necessarily anyone else's, is sack the sinner.

Brian Judd (Oxford): I am interested that you do not recommend re-immersion procedures for missed decompression stops. It would seem that a lot of people look on this as a normal tool of diving, in that they actually plan to come up, go to the boat, and then re-immersion to hang on a line from the boat rather than do the stops in mid-water on the way up. I would consider that any re-immersion that happens, for whatever reasons, is a reportable incident.

George Skuse: I underplayed the part of re-entry decompression because the matter is going to be dealt with at length later. I can, however, tell you that a result of this and the previous year's incidents, the procedure of re-entry decompression is to be discontinued within the BSAC. In every one of the reported cases, the band was made worse by re-entry, apart from the fact that the procedure was wrong in every case.

So, you will be strongly dissuaded from using this technique which was developed for hard-hat divers standing on a stage and for divers who were to be put straight into a recompression chamber on surfacing. It was not developed for re-entry into the water. It appears to be grossly misunderstood and potentially dangerous procedure and, although currently in the Diving Manual, you will be asked to forget it. If someone misses stops, you are to take them ashore, inform the authorities and chamber that you have such a case without symptoms and they will then advise you. We believe that your chances of avoiding serious decompression illnesses are greater by not putting him back in the water, but by keeping him under observation.

Keith Rose (Birmingham): Have you had any reports of people trying EAR in the water and not being able to do it. My region's Coach told me that he knew of two cases where the people could not make themselves give the victim EAR. They could not bring themselves to make a seal over the victim's nose. How often does this happen?

George Skuse: To my knowledge, not at all. I do not recall having these statements in any reports, and such comments would have stuck in my mind in my recent readings of the files. Maybe I have not been informed, and I would be delighted to have firm reports in writing.

Mike Collins (Bexley): At last year's Conference there was quite a large appeal from members that we should 'name names' as a stick to use of people who do not send in reports. Have the Panel had any further thoughts on this?

George Skuse: This year no one who has been approached has failed to report. The real problem remains of find a name and address to approach in the first place.

I am currently under a directive from the National Diving Officer to report to him any incident where it is felt that a member has been naughty. The NDO will communicate directly, but not publicly, with these people who have broken the various rules, regulations and recommendations of the BSAC. To that extent, sinners will be acquainted with their sins!

If you have any information about any incident not listed in this report, additional information about any incident that is listed in this report, or wish to correct any report, or my interpretation of any report PLEASE PUT IT IN WRITING, quote the reference number if applicable, and send it to:

George Skuse,
Chairman, Diving Incidents
Panel,
Yer-Tiz,
Springfield Road,
Uplands,
STROUD,
GL5 1TF

The minimum information that is of use consists of:

DATE of incident
NAME of victim(s)
VICINITY of incident
NATURE of incident

All of which may be briefly stated on a Preliminary Incident Report Card.

Much more use is the greater detail that can be set out on an Incident/Accident Report Form, and one is sent out to all those who send in a Preliminary Incident Report Card.

APPENDIX 1

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD

ITEM	1978	1979	1980
Incidents reported	89	120	151
Incidents analysed	81	114	148
British incidents	63	105	135
Incidents abroad	12	9	9
Location unknown	6	0	6
BSAC Members	53	76	106
Non-BSAC members	15	14	22
Membership unknown	13	24	17
National Snorkellers Club	0	0	3

ITEM	1978	1979	1980
Total fatalities	12	13	13
BSAC fatalities	8	5	6
BSAC Branch diving	3	4	2
All fatalities: solo	5	1	5
separated	5	6	0
under water		9	7
on the surface		4	5
three or more in party		4	1

Decompression sickness	29	33	18
Recompressed	23	32	16
Depth reported	19	12	16
30m or deeper	12	6	14
Repetitive diving	4	2	6
Attempted recompression underwater		5	6
Commercial chamber		5	7
Service chamber		27	7
BSAC Members		13	12
Definitely NOT BSAC			4

Ascents	22	25	36
Emergency ascents	13	5	6
Aborted dives	12	20	11
Assisted ascents	12	9	8
Buoyant ascents	6	7	5

Coastguard alerted	17	34	24
Ambulance		8	4
Police		5	2
Lifeboat		21	14
Helicopter	12	22	12
Reported by HM Coastguard		35	19

Boat incidents:			
reported by Branch		9	17
NOT reported by Branch		7	6
Club/Branch unknown		13	13
Independent club		5	1

Divers in the water		83	128
30m or deeper		19	30
50m or deeper			4
1m to 30m		42	42
On the surface		12	40
Involving boats		23	21
On land		5	17
Unknown		10	3
Swimming pool			8

Bad seamanship	6	8	3
Injury caused	14	8	6
Weight/bouyancy involved	10	3	6
Solo diving	9	5	12
Separation	9	10	6
Resuscitation	4	11	8
Narcosis reported	3	2	6
Ears	2	4	5
Good practice involved			29

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN	ALL INCIDENTS	FATALITIES	BENDS
November	7	1	1
December	1	0	0
January	1	1	0
February	10	0	0
March	6	0	0

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN	ALL INCIDENTS	FATALITIES	SENDS
April	8	0	0
May	17	2	2
June	21	1	3
July	21	3	3
August	24	1	6
September	28	4	1
October	4	0	2
Unknown	0	0	0

All the above reports are based on information received between 1st November 1979 and 31st October 1980.

APPENDIX II

Each of the following reports is set out in a standard way: month, serial number, precis, membership, qualification, organisation of dive, type of dive, where - country/water, depth in metres, and a set of numbers which indicate an analysis of the major factors in accordance with the key set out below:

Membership: B = BSAC, I = Independent, O = no organisation, C = commercial, N = National Snorkellers Club.

Qualification: Ø = none, S = Snorkel, 3 = Third Class, 2 = Second Class, 1 = First Class, Inst = Instructor.

Organisation of dive: C = Club/Branch, P = private, Ø = none, Comm = commercial, H = holiday.

Type of dive: B = boat, Sh = shore, Sn = snorkel, D = drift, T = training drill, Q = none.

Locality: H = home, A = abroad, F = freshwater, S = sea, L = land, P = swimming pool.

Depth indicated in metres: s = on the surface, l = on land

In all the above, X = unknown by the Diving Incidents Panel.

The numbers in brackets indicate the incidents reported in 1980.

CODE ITEM

1	Aborted dive (11)
2	Assisted ascent (8)
3	Buoyant ascent (5)
4	Emergency ascent (6)
5	Other ascent (6)
6	Aural barotrauma (5)
7	Pulmonary barotrauma (5)
8	Boat trouble (18)
9	Decompression sickness - not recompressed (3)
10	Recompressed in water (6)
11	Recompressed in chamber (13)
12	Ambulance (4)
13	Coastguard (25)
14	Helicopter (12)
15	Lifeboat (14)
16	Police (2)
18	Fatality (13)

CODE ITEM

19	Good practice involved (30)
20	Illness (4)
21	Injury (6)
22	Lost diver(s) (23)
23	Rescuer (11)
24	Rescued (24)
25	Resuscitation (8)
26	Unconsciousness (9)
27	Embolism (2)
28	Pressure accident (3)
31	ABLJ (10)
32	Breathlessness (2)
33	Buoyancy/weight (6)
34	Carelessness (9)
35	DV performance (9)
36	Equipment - faulty (11)
37	Equipment - fitting (3)
38	Equipment - use (3)
39	Equipment - wear (1)
40	Equipment - inadequate (5)
41	Fire/explosion (2)
42	Foul air (0)
43	Fuel (1)
44	Hypothermia (1)
45	Illness beforehand (10)
46	Ignorance (4)
47	Malice (1)
48	Motor (8)
49	Narcosis (6)
50	Out of air (10)
51	Pre-dive check (3)
52	Repetitive diving (4)
53	Ropes (0)
54	Rough water (14)
55	Bad seamanship (3)
56	Good seamanship (0)
57	Separation (6)
58	SMB absent (9)
59	SMB inadequate (5)
60	Solo dive (12)
61	Three diving together (4)
62	Training drill (4)
63	Training inadequate (4)
64	Sharing (1)
65	Deep dive (6)
66	Low vis. underwater (1)
67	Disregard of rules (9)
68	False alarm (5)
69	Cold (5)
70	VVDS (4)

Membership: B (108)
I (5)
O (16)
C (1)
N (3)
X (15)

Qualification: O (19)
S (6)
3 (41)
2 (16)
1 (1)
Inst (7)
X (62)

Organisation of dive: C (80)
P (18)
O (2)
Comm (5)
H (11)
X (36)

Locality: H (135)
A (9)
F (20)
S (111)
L (4)
P (8)
X (6)

SUMMARY REPORTS

- November 8/80: Trapped nerve due to a road accident in the past gave symptoms of a bend. (It had happened before once.) B.J.C.B.H/S. 30. 20.45.68.
- November 9/80: Death while on holiday abroad due to embolism, narcosis contributing at 51m. N.B. This 7 months-lapsed member was signed off by both the Branch Secretary and Diving Officer and given the Branch Stamp of approval right up to Second Class Diver, yet was without the following lectures signed off: Snorkel Diver: Rescue and resuscitation, Diving suits and protective clothing. Third Class Diver: Burst lung and emergency ascents, Decompression sickness, avoidance. Second Class Diver: Decompression sickness, condition and treatment, Basic seamanship, Basic navigation and position fixing, Expeditions, safety and emergency actions.
- He was signed off Second Class the same month his membership lapsed. His logbook was validated the month before he lapsed.
B.Ø.H.X.A/S. 51. 7.18.36.49.65.
- November 19/80: Strange diver could not prove his qualifications but was allowed to snorkel. He was found unconscious at 6m. He was rescued and resuscitated.
B.Ø.C/P.Sn.A/S. 6. 19.25.26.60.
- November 20/80: Scallop diver bent.
O.X.Comm.B.H/S. 27. 11.12.
- November 21/80: He confused his buddy when he vented his ABLJ, so the buddy thinking it was an emergency rescued him. B.J.P.Sh.H/F. 12. 5/68.
- November 25/80: Failed to check contents gauges. Out of air. Panic free ascent. B.O/3.C.Sh.H/F. 36. 4.50. 51.
- November 90/80: BSAC member walking along the edge rescues attempted suicide from city docks.
B.1/Inst.B.Ø.H/F. 1. 19.23.25.
- December 23/80: Assisted ascent drill - DV froze on free-flow. Real assisted ascent followed. (Water 7°C).
B.J.C.T.H/F. 14. 2.19.35.69.
- January 47/80: Report by HM Coastguard of recovery of body of diver.
O.X.Comm.B.H/S. 7. 18.
- February 29/80: Holiday in Israel. Narcosis at 60m requiring rescue and trip to hospital.
B.X.H.Sh.A/S. 60. 19.24.26.49.65.
- February 30/80: DV froze on 'purge' at bottom in cold water. So did 31/80 and 32/80. B.J.C.Sh.H/F. 20. 1.35.69.
- February 33/80: Navigation training. Briefing too long, cold, missed objective, couldn't inflate VVDS Rescued.
B.J.C.T.H/F. 5. 24.31.33.37.62.69.
- February 39/80: Compressor hoses ruptured injuring club member. Hoses had not been hydraulically tested and they should have been.
B.2.C.Ø.H/L. 1. 21.27.28.40.
- February 41/80: Full face mask 'fell to bits'. X.X.X.H/F. X. 2.19.36.
- February 45/80: Lost ABLJ cylinder. Came loose before dive during boat trial. B.J.C.Ø.H/S. s. 31.37.54.
- February 59/80: Holiday in Israel. 60m. Out of air, refused to share, "rushed to surface". Given oxygen and taken to hospital. He had in any case disregarded prior instructions not to go below 20m.
B.J.H.Sh.A/S. 60. 4.19.49.50.65.
- February 150/80: Strong current caused exhaustion and delayed pickup.
B.J.H.B.A/S. 25. 24.
- March 35/80: Attempting to cure boat trouble. Motor caught fire. Boat burnt out. Gear lost.
B.X.C.B.H/S. s. 8.41.48.
- March 37/80: Shared ascent training - water in mouth, panic, buoyant ascent.
B.S.C.T.H/F. 7. 3.38.62.64.
- March 43/80: Anaemia and hypothermia led to unconsciousness after a dive.
B.J.C.Sh.H/F. 20. 12.26.45.69.
- March 44/80: Panicked during assisted ascent drill.
B.S.C.T.H/F. 7. 3.19.25.63.
- March 48/80: False alarm. Birds at sea mistaken for divers. Coastguard and helicopter called out.
O.Ø.Ø.Ø.H/S. s. 13.14.15.68.
- March 81/80: Unhappy at start of assisted ascent drill. Dive aborted.
B.J.C.B/T.H/F. 24. 1.5.19.62.
- April 12/80: Starter gear sheared and nearby branch towed them back to shore.
B.X.C.Ø.H/S. s. 8.19.24.48.
- April 13/80: Member of one branch signalling distress, and in distress rescued by members of a more observant branch.
B.X.C.Ø.H/S. s. 19.24.
- April 42/80: He thought the dive had started. He went down on his own, had a look, surfaced, drifted off and was lost for a time while the anchor was raised. Faulty assembly of ABLJ did not help.
B.J.C.B.H/S. 23. 22.31.37.58.60.
- April 49/80: Boatman unsighted. Divers lost for 45 minutes. Believed that divers pulled the SMB underwater.
B.X.C.B/D.H/S. 20. 13.14.22.24.59.
- April 50/80: Burst eardrum while playing octopush. B.X.C.Sn.P. X. 6.
- April 53/80: BSAC Members rescue divers from a capsized boat.
B.Ø.C.Ø.H/S. s. 8.19.23.24.
- April 60/80: Independent-club member gashed by propeller as he entered the water. I.X.C.B.H/S. s. 21.55.
- April 62/80: Inexperienced boat-handler. Motor swamped. Divers and boat rescued.
B.J.C.B.H/S. 's. 13.14.15.22.48.54.55.
- May 14/80: Assisted in search for man overboard from nearby fishing boat. Fishing boat eventually found to have been rammed in fog.
B.X.C.Ø.H/S. s. 19.23.
- May 51/80: Member died in Israel while snorkelling back after a dive. Heart attack suspected.
B.X.H.Sh.A/S. 13. 18.45.

May 52/80: BSAC members rescue a member of a SAA branch. I.X.X.X.H/S. X. 24.

May 54/80: Correct no-stop dive, but diver tired and short of air on ascent (too quick?). Bent.
B.Inst.C.B.H/S. 30. 11.45.

May 55/80: Independent divers in 5m swell ignored by own club for an hour struggling against the current. Rescued and helped ashore by BSAC members. I.X.P.Sh.H/S. s. 24.54.

May 56/80: Mother died while snorkelling with son in Scotland.
X.X.X.Sn.H. X. 18.

May 57/80: Previous day had dived for 30 minutes to 25m, 43 minutes to 12m and 37 minutes to 12m. "No decompression was done as the last two dives were mainly at 10m". However as the dives were over 9m deep they all count and require decompression for 110 minutes to 25m. This is off the table and the extended table in the Manual has to be used. The stops missed therefore were:

Dive 1 ... none
Dive 2 ... 5 minutes @ 15m and
80 minutes @ 5m
Dive 3 ... 5 minutes @ 15m
20 minutes @ 10m, and
120 minutes @ 5m.

He missed a total of 230 minutes stoppages. He decided on the day in question to dive for 22 minutes to 33m and to decompress for 5 minutes @ 10m and 5 minutes @ 5m. He missed out the 10m stop, and in any case should have stopped for 5 minutes @ 10m and 10 minutes @ 5m.

He got a cerebral bend requiring extended treatment.

He was Branch D.O. at the time!

B.2.C.X.H/S. 33. 11.46.52.67.

May 58/80: Boat pooped, swamped, sank. Divers swam ashore.
B.2.C.B/D/T.H/S. 6. 8.15.36.54.

May 63/80: Diving too soon after a cold led to a ruptured eardrum.
B.3.C.B.H/S. 20. 6.45.

May 66/80: Motor stalled, boat hit by waves and capsized during launch.
B.2.C.Q.H/S. s. 8.13.48.54.

May 68/80: Club dinghy helped rescue boy who had fallen down cliff.
B.3.C.Q.H/S. s. 19.23.

May 69/80: Angler fish swallowed flash-gun. Gun recovered but flooded.
B.3.C.Sh.H/S. X. 34.

May 70/80: DV failed when cylinder pressure low (blocked filter). Assisted ascent. B.3.C.B.H/S. 33. 2.35.

May 72/80: 'A' clamp adapter exploded when cylinder received its first fill.
B.X.X.Q.H/L. 1. 28.36.

May 83/80: Dry suit with neck and face seals caused reversed ear during dive with varying depths. He did feel pain. It bled overnight.
B.Inst.C.X.H/S. 32. 6.70.

May 94/80: Assistant NSC Instructor in charge alone, when 12 year-old went unconscious in shallow water.
N.3.C.H.H/P. X. 19.24.25.26.67.

May 122/80: Lone diver pulled out of water unconscious.
X.X.X.X.H/S. X. 24.26.60.

June 15/80: Separation underwater leading to anxiety. De-brief clarified that diver's future behaviour!
B.3.C.B.H/S. X. 22.57.

June 34/80: Second-stage kicked out of mouth and out of reach. Assisted ascent.
B.Inst.C.B.H/S. 23. 2.34.

June 61/80: DV (recently serviced) alleged to have packed up. It worked again on the surface. Assisted ascent, and then re-entry decompression which was mis-interpreted and incorrect. They went in for 5 minutes at 10m and 15 minutes at 5m which in fact was just the decompression they had missed due to the ascent. They should have done 5 minutes at 20m, 5 minutes at 15m and 30 minutes at 5m! B.3.P.B.H/S. 45. 2.10.19.32.35. 36.46.66.

June 64/80: Changing depth while wearing a VVDS he forgot to vent the suit. He started to ascent inverted! By the time he had righted himself he was on the surface.
B.S.C.B.H/S. 20. 5.34.70.

June 65/80: Bleeding after a dive revealed his eardrum had burst during the dive. B.X.X.X.H/S. X. 6.

June 67/80: Solo scuba diver drowned on holiday. His body was recovered two miles away. O.X.X.Sh.H/S. X. 18.60.

June 71/80: Diver ill on entry. Taken to hospital. Later admitted panicking, and his DV was later found to be in urgent need of extensive servicing.
B.3.C.B.H/S. 1. 24.35.45.

June 73/80: On Saturday dived for 25 minutes to 20m and 22 minutes to 22m, followed by seasickness, headache, lager and paracetamol. Sunday - headache and 2 paracetamol which he kept quiet about, and four cigarettes.

They dived for 28 minutes to 'at least 31m' (one gauge, later found to be the accurate one, said 34m. It was not the one worn by the dive leader!) He was violently sick on surfacing, but they attempted re-entry decompression for:

5 minutes at 10m
15 minutes at 5m

This would have been correct, for 31m, if they had carried it out during the original ascent, BUT (Manual p.349) the correct re-entry schedule, if there were no symptoms, would have been:(31m)

5 minutes at 20m
(10m below first planned stop)
5 minutes at 15m
10 minutes at 10m
60 minutes at 5m

On arrival ashore he complained of pain in his back. The pain eased.

On Monday morning and evening he still said he was O.K., but late evening he complained of pains in knee and shoulder. He was taken to hospital overnight. Tuesday he was recompressed by the R.A.F.. Thursday he was recompressed by the R.N.

The Branch enquiry was a model of perfection. I would like to quote some of its conclusions:

"Dive planning for the whole week-end was completely inadequate."
 "Good basic diving practices and rules were ignored."
 "There was a failure to recognise symptoms promptly and to act accordingly."
 "Logged account/records show a divergence which cannot be satisfactorily accounted for."
 B.3.P.Sh.H/S. 34. 10.11.45.67.

June 74/80: Club members clear rope from the propeller of a Fisheries Protection Vessel. B.X.C.B.H/S. 5. 19.23.

June 75/80: Narcosis at 36m. Had apparently safely dived to 46m the day before, but that evening had a large meal and four pints of "Old Peculiar" ale. It may have still been in his blood the next day. Vertigo due to pressure changes also involved.
 B.2.C.Sh.H/F. 36. 1.5.19.20.34.49.

June 77/80: Motor broke down. Divers swam ashore.
 O.X.P.B.H/S. s. 13.14.22.48.58.

June 78/80: Boat lost sight of SMB. Passing boat picked the divers up after they had ditched their weightbelts.
 B.3.P.B.H/S. 12. 22.54.59.

June 79/80: Diving the Aeolian Sky a diver became unconscious. Possible embolism.
 B.X.X.X.H/S. X. 7.14.26.

June 80/80: BSAC Member scalloping.
 Friday 20 minutes at 33m no stops
 20 minutes at 33m 10 minutes at 3m.
 Saturday 20 minutes at 33m no stops
 20 minutes at 18m no stops
 20 minutes at 18m no stops.
 Sunday 27 minutes at 40m 3 minutes at 3m.

Bent shoulder! N.B. This was his THIRD therapeutic recompression for using SOS Decompression meter and not BSAC tables. He always dives alone. "He does not admit he is ever at fault but his extremely prompt attendance at the chamber on each occasion (always within 45 minutes of surfacing) would suggest that he is well aware of his diving discrepancies."

On BSAC/RNPL tables he missed stops totalling 65 minutes on Friday, 125 minutes on Saturday, and 32 minutes on Sunday. B.2.Comm.B.H/S. 40. 11.60.67.

June 84/80: Mask broken during octopus causing facial cuts.
 B.Ø.C.Sn.H/P. X. 21.36.

June 85/80: Failure to check contents gauge properly led to lack of air and assisted ascent.
 B.3.C.D.H/S. 20. 1.2.19.30.51.

June 88/80: Non-BSAC member separated from buddies and swam ashore during the search. I.X.X.X.H/S. X. 13.15.22.57.

June 95/80: Hyperventilation and endurance breath-holding led to unconsciousness underwater. Rescued and resuscitated.
 N.Ø.C.H.H/P. X. 19.24.25.26.67.

June 96/80: Hired boat had motor failure necessitating rescue in poor conditions. They had not anticipated that a strange motor might not be reliable.
 B.2/3.C.O.H/S. s. 8.14.15.48.54.

June 97/80: Three dived leaving the inflatable unattended. It drifted off. Two reached the shore, the third needed rescuing. X.X.X.X.H/S. s. 8.13.14.22.

June 115/80: Tiredness blamed for narcosis and lack of response to buddy's signals. B.3.H.B.A/S. 36. 19.49.

July 46/80: Young diver made to dive deeper, darker and in worse conditions than ever before. Frightened (quite rightly). B.3.C.B.H/S. 21. 1.31.63.

July 76/80: Diver working alone and unmarked, with others similar, working on wreck. Vomited underwater and died.
 B.3.P.B.H/S. 12. 18.20.60.

July 82/80: VVDS flooded.
 X.X.X.X.H/S. X. 36.70.

July 86/80: Divers stayed down too long. Lost. Found 3½ miles further out to sea.
 O.X.X.B/D.H/S. 24. 13.22.24.

July 87/80: On holiday. Ran out of air after deep dive. Attempted re-entry decompression. Bent.
 X.X.H.X.H/S. 42. 10.11.50.

July 89/80: "Clam diver" got bent.
 O.X.Comm.X.H/S. X. 9.14.

July 92/80: Instructor with dangerous gear (weights tied on with string over the quick release. No. lifejacket). Died in shallow rough water.
 I.Inst.Comm.Sh.H/S. 7. 13.15.18.31.35. 36.40.54.

July 91/80: Embolism due to pre-existing (but unknown) lung weakness. Advised never to dive again.
 B.3.C.B.H/S. 25. 7.11.13.45.

July 93/80: No-stop dives to 30m followed after an interval by a 12m dive without stops. Mild spinal bend requiring 4½ hours recompression.
 B.3.C.B.H/S. 33. 9.13.34.

July 98/80: ABLJ found faulty on the surface, in the water before dive. Rough water didn't help.
 B.X.X.X.H/S. s. 19.31.33.36.54.

July 99/80: Solo untrained diver with faulty ABLJ, faulty contents gauge (fitted to wrong hose) and faulty weightbelt release, died.
 O.O.P.Sh.H/S. 4. 18.31.33.35.36.50.60.

July 101/80: Dived in current on wreck. SMB too small, line too thick, line too short. Divers lost.
 B.2.C.B.H/S. 31. 13.22.59.

July 102/80: ABLJ direct feed knocked on by buddy's fin leading to inadvertant buoyant ascent.
 B.3.C.B.H/S. 15. 3.5.34.

July 103/80: BSAC Branch picked up strange lost diver near race.
 X.X.X.B.H/S. X. 22.23.

July 105/80: Members take inflatable and rescue members of another Branch swept on to rocks.
 B.X.C.O.H/S. s. 19.22.23.

July 106/80: Young teenager fired a spear through his hand.
 O.X.P.X.H/S. s. 12.21.

July 123/80: Two divers (BSAC) missing, rescue services alerted, but found by their own boat. Only report of this event appeared in a newspaper, the Branch has not bothered. (I.O.M.)
B.X.X.B.H/S. X. 14.15.22.58.24.16.13.

July 124/80: When he surfaced he panicked and had to be rescued.
O.X.H.Sh.H/S. s. 24.31.50.54.

July 144/80: Novice on first dive claimed DV failed so he made an emergency ascent. He later developed other symptoms typical of air embolism. Panic rather than DV failure seems probable.
B.Z.C.X.X. X. 4.7.35.

July 145/80: Diver suffering from suspected decompression sickness taken to hospital. Released and allowed home.
X.X.X.X.H/S. X. 12.13.15.20.

July 146/80: Divers rescued from a dory riding to a sea-anchor.
B.X.X.B.H/S. s. 8.13.

August 27/80: Repetitive diving over a period of days using U S N repeat tables (NOT recommended either by the BSAC or the Royal Navy) leads to a bend. The victim himself says "I am confirmed in the opinion that many divers must hide their symptoms, sometimes dangerously, due to shame attached to calling outside help." (The D I P says that using non-recommended tables was a major factor.)
B.Z.C.X.H/S. 30. 11.67?

August 100/80: Solo start to 56m, then joined by two more for final duration of 25 minutes. Decompressed according to SOS Decompression Meter. Bent. Needed two sessions of therapeutic recompression.
B.Z.P.B.H/S. 56. 11.40.60.61.

August 104/80: BSAC Branch picked up three other BSAC divers diving unmarked and lost by their boat.

B.S.C.T/B.H/S. s. 19.22.24.54.58.61.

August 107/80: Diver lost for two hours found over a mile off shore, far from the start, cold and frightened. They were without "Dayglo" hoods or SMB. They had ditched their weightbelts and lost their masks. The hired hard-boat was also poorly equipped for a dive in this area.

B.X.C.B.H/S. s. 13.14.22.58.

August 108/80: Divers found by another boat over a mile from their boat near a race. They used a fixed length of line on their tennis-ball sized SMB, which of course they pulled under.

B.X.X.B/D.H/S. s. 19.22.24.59.

August 109/80: One branch boat sank, rescued by two other branches. The victim branch did not help in the rescue despite having a spare boat. They have also not reported the incident.

B.X.X.X.H/S. X. 8.24.54.

August 110/80: Boat belonging to unknown Midland divers adrift from shore.
B.X.X.X.H/S. s. 8.

August 111/80: One of three divers ran out of air at 36m returning from a 40m dive. Sharing failed and she died. The leader was an experienced Second class diver, and all three had dived to 36m or more within the last three weeks.

It does seem however that the divers underestimated the effects of depth on (i) buoyancy, (ii) reaction to a stress situation, and (iii) the time taken for an incident to turn into an accident. This incident was further complicated by the very close relationship between the deceased and the dive leader.

B.Z.C.Sh.H/S. 40. 18.31.33.49.50.57.61.

August 113/80: Returning from a dive on a chartered 32' boat "it was noticed ... that the water level was around the level of the oil sumps of the engines and was rising rapidly". The boat sank under them. B.Z.C.O.H/S. 10. 8.24.

August 114/80: Aeolian Sky again! Divers separated. The one without a watch stayed 40 minutes. No stops on ascent. Got pain so re-entered (despite the TOTAL BAN on such procedures) to decompress. Subsequently recompressed by the Navy.
B.Z.C.B.H/S. 30. 10.11.13.57.67.

August 118/80: Young woman failed to surface. Found four miles away, safe, but lost. X.X.X.B.H/S. X. 13.15.22.57.

August 119/80: Trainee Snorkel Instructor failed to reveal he was an epileptic. Nearly drowned when he had a fit in the water.
N.Sn.C.T.H/P. 2. 19.24.25.26.45.

August 126/80: Second Class diver suffered vertigo during descent. Rescued by trainee buddy using an unorthodox method.

B.Z.C.D.H/S. 18. 1.5.19.20.24.

August 130/80: Decompression incident.
B.X.X.X.X. X. 9.52.

August 131/80: Solo dive.

B.X.X.X.X. X. 60.

August 132/80: Assisted ascent after second dive as one ran out of air when stops carried out. Decompressed after the ascent.

B.Z.P.B.H/S. 30. 2.10.

August 133/80: After one dive the boat skipper went down (alone) to free the anchor. Bent.
O.X.P.B.H/S. 30. 11.13.14.

August 134/80: "The cox was only 200 yds from the divers but still could not see the SMB. After half an hour contact was finally made." A slightly deflated inflatable buoy was used, and the flag had collapsed.

B.Z.C.B.H/S. s. 22.54.59.

August 138/80: ABLJ valve spindle sheared during pre-dive check.

B.Z.C.O.H/L. 1. 31.36.

August 143/80: Inflatable rammed by fishing boat alleging diver on pots. Considerable damage to inflatable, not to say danger to occupants.
B.Inst.C.B.H/S. s. 8.16.47.

August 147/80: Separated, surfaced, drifted a mile away. Dive boat, lifeboat and two helicopters involved in the search.

X.X.X.B.H/S. s. 13.14.15.22.57.

August 148/80: BSAC members assisted swamped, then capsized, then wrecked dory containing six divers.
O.X.P.B.H/S. s. 8.13.19.24.

August 149/80: Chartered boat and skipper put ten members at risk for

several days. Very serious incident, but sub judice.

August 151/80: Having completed E and F tests and eight dives he dived to 39m! He ran out of air quickly, necessitating an assisted ascent. B.Ø.C.B.H/S. 39. 2.19.32.50.63.

September 2/80: Members took three inflatables to the aid of a capsized yacht. B.X.X.X.H/S. s. 19.23.

September 4/80: Motor failure and lack of SMBs led divers to surface 1/4 mile from their own boat. Rescued by BSAC members on a chartered boat. X.X.C.B.H/S. s. 22.24.48.58.

September 5/80: Burst eardrum during a dive. X.X.X.X.H/P. X. 6.

September 6/80: Twenty five hours after a dive he reported to the pot with pain and other symptoms. He had tried to recompress at 30m, but the pains re-appeared on surfacing. Embolism was diagnosed, but he was not recompressed. The embolism was attributed to a bout of coughing at depth followed by incorrect ascent procedure. X.X.X.X.X. 38. 10.27.46.52.65.

September 10/80: False alarm re missing divers leading to much wasted time. Really due to "careless talk". O.X.X.X.H/S. s. 22.68.

September 11/80: Panic at 33m led to buoyant ascent. Buddy tried to hold him down but was kicked off. B.3.C.Sh.H/F. 33. 3.19.35.50.63.

September 16/80: Out of air, started to share, but went for buoyant ascent. B.3.C.B.H/S. 30. 3.4.38.50.64.

September 17/80: False alarm as shore party saw cox rowing ... he was following the divers and decided to row for a change. B.X.C.D.H/S. s. 13.15.68.

September 22/80: Two divers lost in deteriorating weather. Many joined search for three hours before they were found ashore. B.3.C.B.H/S. 30. 13.14.15.22.58.

September 24/80: Party went to sea in rough conditions. Aborted trip, broached to, capsized, water in fuel. Rescued. B.X.C.Q.H/S. s. 8.13.15.54.

September 26/80: Two boats attempted to go to the rescue of a yacht. Some boat trouble and one was given Coast-guard assistance. B.X.C.Q.H/S. s. 23.24.43.48.

September 28/80: White-water snorkel in river in flood. Lost fins and was rescued. Exhaustion involved. B.S.C.Sn.H/P. s. 19.24.39.54.

September 38/80: Knelt on urchin. Spines worked their way in to the joint capsule, requiring surgical removal. B.3.H.X.A/S. 15. 21.

September 112/80: Solo dive. First dive. No formal training, just a little help from a friend who was a lapsed BSAC member. He died. O.Ø.P.Sh.H/F. 6. 18.24.60.63.

September 116/80: Dry suit inversion in shallow water blamed for this fatality. B.X.X.Sh.H/S. X. 18.70.

September 117/80: Potential new member suffered "massive heart attack" and

died attempting 'A' test. B.Ø.C.T.H/P. 3. 18.25.45.

September 120/80: Loss of equipment and beaching of boat. X.X.X.B.H/S. s. 8.

September 121/80: Branch boat capsized. Towed back by passing boat. Only report from newspaper cutting. B.X.X.X.H/S. s. 8.15.24.

September 125/80: Impatient youngster tried out newly-purchased snorkel gear alone in shallow end (despite mother's ban). The mask was described as an "inadequate toy". He died. O.Ø.H.Sn.H/P. X. 18.25.40.60.

September 127/80: Cheese-shaped rock from wreck caught fire (it was phosphorus) and set light to M.V. British Diver. B.2.C.B.H/S. 46. 41.67

September 128/80: Blow-off valve cover broke away whilst under test. B.X.H.Q.A/L. 1. 28.36.

September 129/80: Buoyant ascent. B.X.X.X.H/S. X. 3.

September 135/80: Perforated ear drum during 'A' test. B.Ø.C.T.H/P. X. 6.2.

September 137/80: Motor failed to start - two divers swam to rocks. Others ultimately towed boat to them. Climbed rocks for help but got stuck. Two more swam for help and eventually the Coast-guard rescued them all. B.2/3.C.B.H/S. s. 8.13.15.24.48.

September 139/80: The day before the dive he woke at 0500, worked from 0600 till 1400. Drove to fetch boat and load it. 1800 he left the Midlands arriving at Plymouth at 2230. Stayed at disco until 0130. Woke at 0800. "Had blackout and fell out of boat. Regained consciousness in water, did not attempt to dive that day." B.3.C.B.H/S. s. 24.26.

September 140/80: At 6m his mask collapsed on to his face. Surfaced checked mask and dived again. 45 minutes later while surfacing it happened again. Overnight his eyes became very bloodshot and they took three weeks to get better. He could not explain the mask collapse. B.Ø.C.B.H/S. 8. 21.38.

September 141/80: Boat dragged anchor so boatman decided to re-anchor, and meanwhile lost sight of the SMB of one pair, and the bubbles of the other. 70 minutes later one lost pair asked a passing yacht to radio for help. The yacht left them! 15 minutes later they were picked up by a fishing boat which had already picked up the first pair (after 40 minutes lost). B.X.P.B.H/S. s. 13.22.24.55.58.

September 142/80: Sharing drill at 10m. Muffed changeover and was helped to the surface by the observer. B.X.C.T.H/P. 10. 4.19.24.61.62.

October 1/80: Decompression sickness due to misunderstood tables. "It later arose that in our club there would appear to be a lack of knowledge of metric decompression tables, especially where older members are concerned. B.3.C.B.H/S. 30. 11.34.46.65.

October 7/80: 45 minutes to 21m including a 4 minute excursion to 33m.

No stops. Missed 5 minutes at 15m, 10 minutes at 10m and 80 minutes at 5m. Bent. Recompressed. Learned nothing, same diver as 80/80. C.X.Comm.B.H/S. 33. 11.52.60.65.67.

October 18/80: Faulty ABLJ (dump valve leaking) led to aborted dive. S.2.X.X.H/F. 20. 1.31.33.36.61.

October 136/80: Aeolian Sky again. Leader dived without depth gauge. Planned no-stop dive. Two divers were seen a mile downstream so the boat investigated. They were strangers and their own boat had seen them. Returned to find own divers, but there is now some confusion about their bottom time. The subject vomited and blamed it on seasickness due to waiting for the boat to return. (They did not have an easy ascent either). Next day he had a pain in his arm, not thought to be a bend as it was now 26 hours after the dive. He was ultimately recompressed. The DO comments "I think this is purely a case of two experienced, normally very capable divers just not taking sufficient care about their depths and times and perhaps each leaving the decision to surface to the other." B.2.C.B.H/S. 30. 11.22.40.58.

As is inevitable late reports on last year's incidents came to hand after the annual report was presented. The summary of last year's incidents given

in this report are therefore corrected and more up to date than those that were published at DOC '79.

This also has led to some alteration and addition to the history of diving fatalities which is therefore given again.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
1958	2,815	1
1962	5,023	1
1963	5,255	1
1964	5,571	2
1965	6,813	3 (0)
1966	7,979	1 (4)
1967	8,350	1 (6)
1968	9,241	2 (1)
1969	11,299	2 (8)
1970	13,721	4 (4)
1971	14,898	0 (4)
1972	17,041	10 (31)
1973	19,332	9 (20)
1974	22,150	3 (11)
1975	23,204	2
1976	25,310	4
1977	25,342	3
1978	27,510	8 (4)
1979	30,579	5 (8)
1980	c 24,900	6 (7)

The numbers in brackets indicate the number of other, non-BSAC sports divers who died that year as well.