

EUSAC



UPCOMING EVENTS

8-10th October:

Crossover Weekend

14th October:

BSAC Webinar -
Understanding metal
shipwrecks

13th October:

Crossover Day Trip

18th October:

BSAC Webinar -
ScubaTrust: diving with a
disability

28th October:

BSAC Webinar -
Filmmaking for divers

30th October:

Ocean Diver Pool Session

5th November:

Ocean Diver Theory Exam

Welcome EUSAC members, new and old, to the autumn edition of the newsletter! We have already welcomed dozens of members so far this semester but, if you haven't gotten yours yet, don't forget to purchase both your EUSU and BSAC memberships.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello everyone and welcome back to EUSAC!

If you haven't met me already, I'm Robyn Lindeque and I've been with the club for 2 years now, having crossed over from PADI and joined the dark side in 2019. The experiences I've gained with EUSAC are unparalleled, from diving with seals and octopuses to huge WW2 wrecks. But it's the people of EUSAC that are my favourite part! I can't thank everyone enough for their hard work in getting this year started and for making EUSAC the friendliest club around!

The new year has begun and we are so excited to welcome all the newbies to the club, whether experienced or complete beginners. We kicked off the year with a fantastic freshers fair and then a packed pub night at Greenmantle! And of course, a cheeky trip to Hive. It was wonderful to see you all in person! We've had loads more Freshers events, all of which you can read about below.

I can't wait to see what 2021-22 brings us, hopefully amazing diving, super fun socials and lots of laughs! Dust off those drysuits, de-fog those masks and get ready, because this year should be amazing!

See you in the water!
Robyn

EUSAC'S BIG FRESHERS ADVENTURE - Struan Steptoe

On Friday 17th of September, EUSAC and the Underwater Hockey Hippos went on a Big Adventure to cap off Welcome Week! The destination was Seacliff Beach, a beautiful spot just to the east of North Berwick, with lovely sand and fantastic views of Bass Rock and the rear of Tantallon Castle. Meeting at the lockup at noon for a headcount, and to grab some kit (shout out to the Surf Club for lending us some wetsuits!), the newbies and some committee members headed to Waverly to catch the train out to North Berwick while others drove the kit out to the beach. After some minor travel hiccups (the fault of the Scottish transport system and definitely not the social sec!) everyone was ferried down to Seacliff, where snorkelling shenanigans ensued.



Choppy conditions meant that visibility was not as clear as it had been when the site was scoped out, but there were still many small shoals of fish and some crabs to be seen. September temperatures made the water and exit pleasant, and the sun even showed up for a little while!

Next up was a BBQ courtesy of EUSAC's resident grillmasters, and a little time to relax on the beach around a firepit. Or, in the case of most of the committee, it was time to go for another swim. Another bonus as everyone was finishing their food, was the appearance of a pod of porpoises to showcase even more of the East Coast's natural beauty.

Upon returning to Edinburgh, the most intrepid of the day's explorers tackled some pints in Greenmantle, with the night ending for some in Stramash.

Many thanks to all the drivers who made this possible, and to Biddy Hyde for really kicking this one into gear! Hopefully we can repeat the scale of this event in the future, something that is looking more likely with the recent expansion of the snorkelling inventory in the lockup. Biddy is very keen to arrange more snorkelling trips in the future, so keep an eye out for those! (In fact, she already took another group wild swimming on the 28th)

Snorkelling is covered by both the student and non-student EUSAC diving memberships.

We also offer a snorkelling-only membership if you'd like to be able to get into the water without dealing with the heavy SCUBA kit or missed out on a space on the Ocean Diver course this year. www.eusu.ed.ac.uk/organisation/subaqua



The Hippos play on Friday evenings at the Dalry Swim Centre. The first session is free, so it's always worth a try. Any questions can be directed to their Facebook or email.



edinburghunihippos@gmail.com



Edinburgh University Underwater Hockey-Hippos

Club Hoodies

It is worth mentioning that our 50th anniversary hoodies are still available, especially considering the recent influx of new members. They are super comfortable and ideal for keeping you warm during surface intervals.

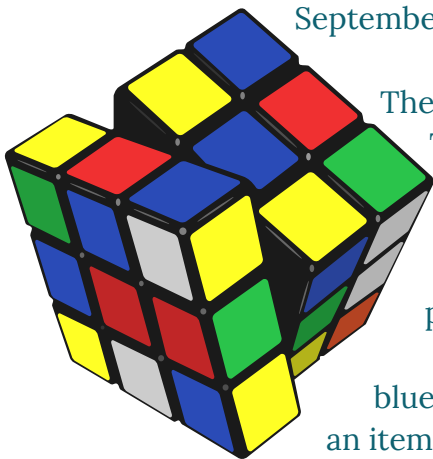
There are currently large and extra large sizes available for the blue diver and octopus hoodies, as well as medium and large sizes for the burgundy shipwreck hoodies. Both designs cost £34.99.

If you're interested, please email sub.aqua@ed.ac.uk to reserve yours.



Rubik's Cube Pub Crawl - struan septoe

Resurrecting a lost Freshers ritual, EUSAC's Rubik's Cube pub crawl social on the 24th of September was a blast!



The route was as follows – Greenmantle, Southsider, The Pear Tree, Doctors, Biddy Mulligans, and Brewdog – remarkably there were only small booking problems at two locations!

For those unfamiliar with the concept of the Rubik's Cube pub crawl; All participants (should) begin the night wearing at least one item of every colour on a Rubik's Cube – red, blue, yellow, green, orange, and white – and then, by swapping an item with someone after every pub, end up as close to having 6 items of the same colour as possible. A secondary goal for those inclined is, of course, the consumption of titanic volumes of alcohol.

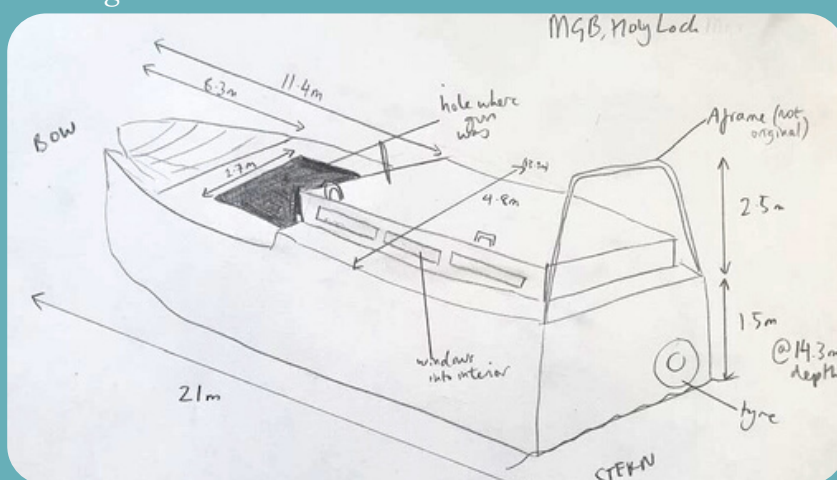
After a slower start, the night picked up and at some points the crawl numbered around 30 people, a great showing all round.

Inevitably, once the official business of the crawl was concluded, the remaining EUSACers ended up in Hive – one of these days it will end differently!

Clyde Expedition - Ella Penny

In mid-August, a small group of EUSACers headed over to Dunoon to dive Holy Loch and the Clyde area in order to practise some advanced diving skills. Armed with a colour coded rope system providing 10-45m of adaptable shotlines and cars crammed with tape measures, a newly designed and constructed trapeze and enough diving paraphernalia to sink a battleship, we set out to survey some of the less frequently dived wrecks equipped with local knowledge from Claire who joined us from Dunoon divers.

Day one we spent the morning measuring everything we could think of on the wreck just NW of the entrance Holy Loch Marina. We knew it had been a pleasure cruise converted from a type of WWII motor boat (gun or torpedo) but we were able to confirm from our measurements that it probably was a motor gun boat (MGB), originally built for high speed to make them difficult targets for German E-boats.



After the morning's unfamiliar territory, the afternoon was spent diving the Greenock, a bucket dredger sitting at 24m - 32m, infamous for causing narcosis in the dark and gloomy site. It's a fantastic site in the eerie green, covered in many species of anemones and the deck mounted bucket gantry is clearly visible. Though, its increased collapse over the years has been noticed by those who've dived the site more than once.

Day two involved diving a pair of landing craft near the mouth of the loch, one more degraded than the other and also more seaward than the other. The life is reportedly different between the two, being more representative of sea or loch life so we set out to test this. In the end, dodgy viz and disintegrating pencils meant the observations were more anecdotal, we had fantastic dives with lots of nudibranchs and found a solo sea pen! It's great to compare the two crafts as one has its front landing ramp down and the other raised.

A third dive was sneaked to complete a circular search for a sailor who'd lost his anchor - we didn't find it from the vague directions of its probable location but it was a fun dive to do, having never done one before. Boat driving and man overboard drills filled the final morning - with my condolences to the hypothetical casualty buoy - only run over once (sorry!) but definitely a good reason to practise more!

A great trip and one that brought home how interesting and exciting diving involves relatively little time underwater and lots of land planning, faffing and fiddling. Thanks to Paul Miller for organising!

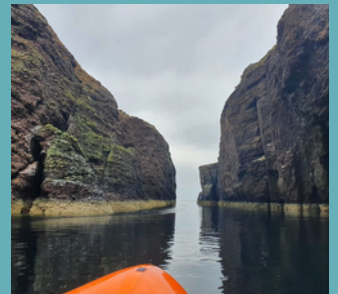
BOATS! BOATS! BOATS!

Over the summer, the committee purchased a new boat for the club! She is a 5.0m Humber SeaPro and is compatible with our existing 40hp outboard engine.



According to EUSAC tradition, we name our boats after whisky distilleries, so she has been dubbed *Balvenie*. The fleet also consists of Jura and Talisker, a 5.8m Humber Destroyer RIB and a 5.25m inflatable boat respectively.

Boats are a fantastic resource for dive clubs, allowing us to do more exciting diving, further afield than shore diving alone allows. We love any trip that gives us cause and ability to get the boats out, and they've really helped to make up for the limited diving options last summer this time around.



BSAC Member Benefits

Your BSAC membership does more than allow you to dive with EUSAC and cover your insurance. Here we will highlight some benefits that new members especially might not yet be aware of, all of which are readily accessible via the BSAC website.

e-Learning and Webinars

Since summer 2020, BSAC have offered many online courses and seminars and it seems that, even as we gradually move on from the restrictions of the pandemic, this is not stopping any time soon. An incredible array of volunteer-run sessions are available, from diver training and skills development courses (SDCs) to specialty interests and careers (e.g. police diving). Ecology, radio communications, shipwrecks and more - truly something for everyone! Although, if you somehow think of something you'd like to see that they don't have, you can always request a webinar (or offer to present one yourself).

News and Blogs

Though there is no official posting schedule for this section of the website, there is usually something new every other day or so. There's always a little bit of everything, from thought provoking articles on physical and mental health, dive site highlights, BSAC-specific kit discounts, to answering such questions as "How do scallops see?" and even tracking the location of Wally the Walrus, who has been spotted in and around the waters of the British Isles since March 2021.



iSCUBA

Via the BSAC website, members can also access the online version of BSAC's SCUBA Magazine. Though bi-monthly physical copies can also be ordered if you prefer.

New issues are released online monthly, with October's showcasing underwater photography in Scottish sea lochs and an underwater art installation in Cyprus among many other articles.

Members also have access to the iSCUBA archive, which hosts all of the issues since June 2020 when the move to the digital format was made. Keep an eye out for articles on and pictures of EUSAC (e.g. the Club Focus section from the May 2021 edition).



MALTA 2022

From the 5th - 12th of January, we are hoping to resurrect another EUSAC tradition - the winter expedition abroad.

COVID restrictions allowing, we hope to be able to head back to St Paul's Bay in Malta to visit the Maltaqua diving school again. Nearly 30 EUSACers last visited in 2019 for one of the most fun and memorable trips to date.

The price for the trip is **£430** and this includes:

- Airport transfers in Malta
- 10 guided dives
- Cylinder and weight hire
- Luxury apartment accommodation

Unfortunately (unlike normal) we are not able to arrange a group flight booking, so everyone is responsible for their own travel to and from Malta.

However, divers of all qualifications are welcome to come and enjoy everything from huge shipwrecks to teeny tiny nudibranchs, and everything in between.

Please contact sub.aqua@ed.ac.uk for more information on payment plans or if you have any questions.



Welcoming Our New Ocean Divers

Last but not certainly not least, we'd like to officially welcome the Ocean Diver cohort for 2021. The course is officially up and running, with the trainees having their first two of their theory lectures on the 1st of October. We can't wait to see them in the water.

A quick reminder to get yourselves a mask, fins, weight belt and booties before your pool session on the 30th of October. All EUSAC members get a 10% discount at Edinburgh Dive Centre on Watson Crescent but our Kit Officer, Billy, can also point you towards many useful second-hand kit groups on Facebook.

Additionally, congratulations to the 2020 Ocean Diver cohort (whose training was postponed due to COVID-19) who passed their theory exams the same evening!



Ocean Diver trainees and new members integrating into the EUSAC family

KEY CONTRIBUTORS



ELLA PENNY
Sports Diver
Assistant Diving Instructor



CHARIS WALTON
Newsletter Editor
FAPS Officer



STRUAN STEPTOE
Social Secretary
Ocean Diver Trainee

Special thanks to Adam Dunajski, Cara Nicholson, Oliver Eve, and Robyn Lindeque for their contributions.

CONTACT US

EMAIL

clubsu42@ed.ac.uk

FACEBOOK

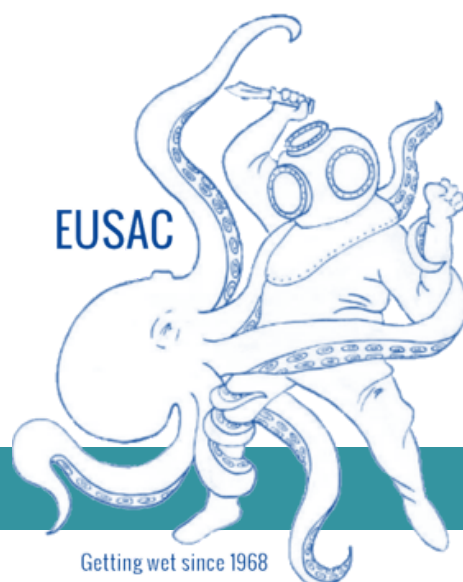
[@EdUniSAC](https://www.facebook.com/EdUniSAC)

WEB

www.eusac.co.uk

INSTAGRAM

[@edunisac](https://www.instagram.com/edunisac)



OCTOBER 2021