

# Ardnamurchan - Aug 2013

## TEESSIDE 43 - Trip Report



Well bright and early the team set off to the most westerly point of the main land Britain, Ardnamurchan.

After about a 9 hour drive we all arrived at the most spectacular part of Scotland (in my opinion) but not before John and Phil from Sheffield who had been planted firmly in the Kilchoan Hotel for the last couple of hours.

Once we managed to sort out rooms we all freshened up and down to the hotel for food and beer, to plan and talk about the up and coming weeks diving.

### Sunday,

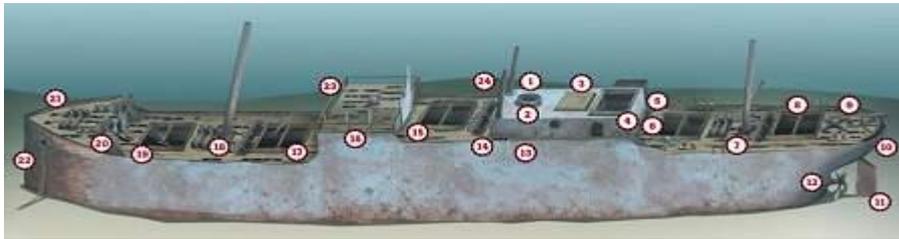
Early the next morning been like a young child I could not sleep so I was up and out walking round the headland at around 6 O'clock, what a stunning morning.

The plan for today was a shake down, after a long day in the cars we were going to ease in to it slowly and check that all gear was ready for the hard earned week up and coming.

As Orca and Jeff Pape were loaded up with all the equipment and divers at the slip we pushed off down to the SS Shuna which was the first port of call.

After an easy 25 minute blast we were there, lovely easy wreck to find and dive... this was to prove a dive which you exit the water with less kit on than when you entered for Mick Mc... to which the SS Shuna now has one more weight belt around it, other than that everyone enjoyed the first dive.

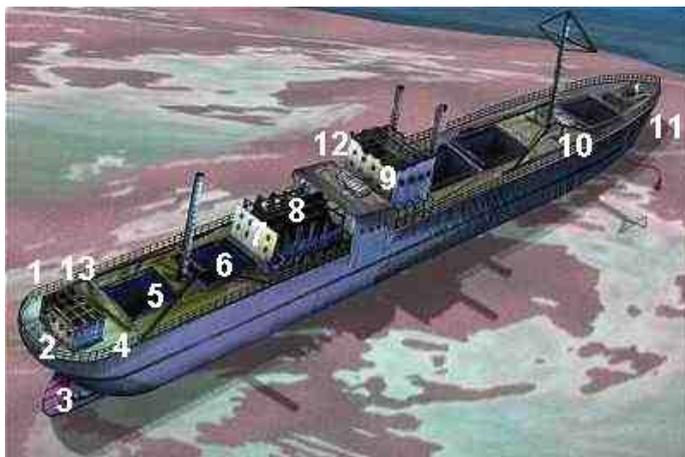
The next dive was to prove a bit of a nemesis for John, "I know where there is a water fall that's excellent, just round the corner" but before the afternoon Mr Mick Mc needed to go to Tobermoray for a taxi drive to find a weight belt, 15 miles and some hours later.... He returns !



After lunch we had a ride in to Loch Sunnart to find this elusive Waterfall.... It had not rained for some time !

Monday,

Today we are diving The Hispania but the best tide is after lunch so a quick easy scallop dive in the morning for the Orca crew whilst the Jeff Pape crew dived the wall of Calfe island, which they were



really impressed with it's worth going back. We met back up in "Tob's" for a fish Pattie.

The Hispania is best dived 1 -2 hours before H or L water Oban, some people said its one hour some said two, so we opted for a short lunch and a coffee break sat tied on the wreck, at least we would not miss it.

As the tide started to slow we thought we would put our elite team of divers down first who could with stand anything...."Dave Bennett and Mick McPhillips" were first in, after they had finally made their way down the shot the next team were getting kitted up with a quick return by the first team..... Obviously still running like a train, they made it to the wreck but with neither of them been a spring chicken they decided against the onslaught of what was ahead, and bailed. After another 15 mins had past teams started dropping in, and a good dive was had by all.



## Tuesday

After a night in the pub with some good food and plenty of laughs I came back and joined the dive lads again for another days diving....



A little exploring well, half-hearted exploring we ventured around Ardnamurchan Point, which we were met by some very large Atlantic rollers and some spectacular Scenery.

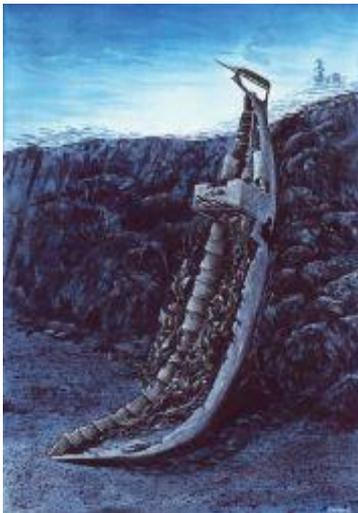
Once round the point we found a sheltered cove which was not the best but we all had a dive apart from Nigel (I only do rust) Watson and Dave, at least we had boat cover, for a quick easy dip.... Nothing much but some very nice white sand, on HMS Seabed !

Once back in the boat we decided to pop back into Loch Sunart out of the bigger seas where Gary and Dave decided to sit out the afternoon and go do some walking / exploring.

Orca continued down in to Loch Sunnart and picked up a scallop bed not to far away and Jeff Pape went chasing Waterfall again, making their way down towards Salen, which is half way down the loch.

## Wednesday

10:30 Rondo, another stunning morning for us to blast down the Sound of Mull heading towards the Rondo, this is one of the most picturesque wrecks in the Sound Of Mull, with it starting with-in 4m



of the surface it has plenty of life around the rudder to which she falls away at a very steep angle down the side of Dearg Sgir. This wreck suits any level of diver, from CCR to Trainee Ocean diver, but is still best dived at 1 hour before H or L water Oban.

We had teams that plodded down to the 15m some went to 35 then came off the wreck into 10m of water on abit of a hunt for tea and others went all the way down to the bow in 50m of water.

When we had our fill of the Rondo we went back into Tobermoray for lunch and for Mick mc to return his weight belt as he was leaving for another holiday in warmer clime's !!

Once back to the digs for a lovely evening Gary had found a local man asking for some Scallops who happened to be an Author, not just any Author but the Author of " The Good Launch Guide" website and book ! He even gave us a free signed copy for the club which now resides behind the bar

What a nice evening for scallops on an open flame.....



## Thursday

As the weather started to turn and was not looking good for the last couple of days Phil J and John decided to load the car up and head back to Sheffield. Orca went out with a reduced crew consisting of Phil, James, Gary and Dan we went down Loch Sunnart and dived behind the island of Carna, which produced many scallops and squat lobsters.

We then landed, built a fire and ate them fresh, Dave was rather jealous when we returned.

Jeff Pape went back over to the wall of Calf Island for another dip then returned as the weather closed in.

Once all crews were back at base Jeff Pape crew along with Gary and Dan decided to head home on the Friday morning, leaving the Bennetts to head to the pub and enjoy Scottish weather at its finest.



Until the next adventure..... Good night.

## Dive Team,

Orca

Phil Bennett, Dave Bennett, James Bennett, Gary McSorley, Dan Mcsorley and Mick McPhillips

Jeff Pape

Nigel Watson, Paul Nesbitt, Stu Winteringham, Phil Jameson and John Mitchell

## Equipment Taken,

Orca, 5.2m rib with 115 Evinrude Ficht with fixed DSC radio, Chartplotter, Echo sounder long range fuel tank and O2 kit

Jeff Pape, 5.8m rib with Evinrude 90 E-tec handheld DSC radio, Chartplotter, Echo Sounder, 90l fuel tank and O2 Kit

2no Mobile Compressors

5 CCR's

1x15ltr with 100% O2

5 x 7ltr Stage Cylinders

2 x 18ltr Cylinders

4 x 15ltr Cylinders

6 x 12ltr Cylinders

150ltrs of Fuel

Charts and map work

2 spare wheels

Trailer break down service kit

Outboard service kit.

250 cans of carling

12 Bottles of Red Wine

Some milk some bread.