



**Weymouth  
Breakwater Diving Centre, Portland  
27-29th June 2003**

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**Organised by Mark Jones  
Trip Report by Sam Waller**

**Divers:**

- Mark Jones
- Emma Faid
- John Kendall
- James Donnelly
- Nicola Armitage
- Matt Worsley
- Geoff Elliot
- Josh Robinson
- Stuart Moore
- Andrew Peel
- Nim De-Mendonca
- Sam Waller

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**Day 1: Friday 27th June 2003**

Met at the kit store on Friday. A usual kitstore faff - playing where's the wetsuit? and who nicked my weightbelt?, the rainbow coloured one. JK managed to get us a huge van which was mighty cool. Plenty of room for lots, even tempted not to bother messing around with hotel accommodation. I was in Mark's dive bus, sprawled in the boot. Managed to get approximately comfortable with zero leg room but my back was a bit sore afterwards.

Made it to Portland pretty late. Just about time for a pint before going to bed.

**Day 2: Saturday 28th June 2003  
The *Countess of Erne* and a drift dive at Grove Point**

The free breakfast was pretty nifty but waiting around for it did not help the pre dive morning faff. Nipped out on the RIB for short hop to first wreck. It was quite interesting to explore but vis was s\*\*te so not my kind of dive. I buddied with JK - it was handy having his power torch to keep track underwater.

Lunchtime saw many hot chocolates with ludicrous amounts of cream. 2nd dive was drift dive (allegedly) but managed to find no current. Vis was much improved and JK terrorised loads of crabs. Many lobster pots and sod all else really.

Back at Portland saw more playing/spending in the toy shops near to the hotel. Went to pub across the road for dinner and a few cough only one guvnor beers, then came back to the hotel to play some pool. Mark introduced a new nifty version of killer where you pay money every time any ball hits an ashtray in the centre. After a foolish start with me arguing with mark on the rules of his own game I actually won the first one. Or more survived because I was the last to take a shot and everyone else missed before me. A whole £1.20 the richer.

Andy won the next game and various people slackened off to bed. I was knackered at about 11 from silly early starts, and in the knowledge that tomorrow's start time was even sillier.

**Day 3: Sunday 29th June 2003  
*HMS Hood* and the *James Fennel***

No breakfast before diving on Sunday meant a considerable reduction in pre-dive faff. Think we were almost at the boat ready to dive on time (0800). I thought this was way the most exciting dive., one of the best I have done so far. Loads of interesting wreck bits to look inside, decent vis and plenty of wildlife. Me grins underwater lots. Buddied with James D. Slight trauma at the end of the dive when surge current meant returning to shot line would have been optimistic. James made a wise choice to abandon the shot line and deploy a DSMB in the current. We drifted a very long way though and had to wait ages for RIB pick-up. Swell was too large to use back ladder so had to come in over side.

While we were in the water some twits in a RIB ran straight over 4 divers on the surface. Mark's shoulder got a bit of a bash but everyone was okay if a bit shocked. Hope we manage with photos and contacts to deprive the RIB driver of doing it again. Apparently he managed to terrorise another group even after he had screwed us over, and he denied it afterwards, w\*\*\*er. Anyway enough abuse.

Lunchtime had more playing in toy shops. I wanted to hire out some scuba pro jet fins to try before buying but they were already out by the time I got there.

4th dive was hard boat and much longer trip to dive site. Slight current but not much. Myself and Matt struggled to find much wreck but eventually found large boiler and some other bits. Some cool fish were in and around the boiler which was kinda nifty. Managed to fail to communicate scissors paper stone to Matt on safety stops - quite an impressive failure because he had played it with Nicola diving earlier on!

Back at Portland for more food and faff. Think Mark and JK were sorting out details for the blind boat diver, networking to arrange more dive trips and waiting for Serena ;-), who I don't think I know. Traffic was screwed on M25 and M3 so had to take diversion long way home. Took ages but found Mark's car very handy to play cards on if you fold the middle seat down to use as a table. Was very late when we got back to the kitstore, but Matt, Emma and Andrew who had left earlier were still stuck on the M25 I think when we were home.

### **Some random quotes from Sunday lunchtime (reported with doubtful accuracy and unlikely integrity):**

- James to Nicola: "If you want me I'll be in the shower"
- Nim with Emma to Stuart: "you don't want to upset us else we'll squash you between us and then you'll be f\*\*ked"

### **Props to:**

- Mark for organising trip.
- JK for finding hardcore van of power to take all the kit.
- Everyone I dived with for good fun

### **Slops to:**

- Nitwit boat driver
- The M25