

# BRITISH SUB AQUA CLUB

Remember diving needs fitness, practice, experience and more experience. If you have not dived for some time, do not try and take up where you left off. A work-up period is vitally necessary for all age groups.

Finally, we hope that the next list - before the 1973 Diving Officers Conference - will be shorter, but the trend this year is already very serious. Please send any further reports with as much factual information as possible to:-

E.J. Towse,  
Chairman Diving Incidents Panel,  
c/o Royal Naval Physiological Laboratory,  
Fort Road,  
ALVERSTOKE,  
Gosport,  
Hants.

Copies of diving incident forms are included for your guidance and use and a further supply may be obtained from the above address or from the B.S.A.C. Administration.

E.J. TOWSE

Chairman - Diving Incidents Panel



# BRITISH SUB AQUA CLUB

PAST PRESIDENT AND HONORARY LIFE MEMBER HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT

THE NATIONAL DIVING OFFICER R. L. F. DARBY, "THE LEYS", YARDLEY, HASTINGS, NORTHANTS

SECRETARY DENNIS DAY 67 BROADSANDS AVENUE, PAIGNTON, DEVON TQ4 6JL

## THE NATIONAL DIVING COMMITTEE

### 1972 DIVING INCIDENTS

#### SUMMARY

The reason for presenting this summarized sheet on diving incidents reported during 1972 should be very clear to all of us. It is circulated in an attempt, prior to the main diving activities of 1973, to reduce the upward trend in the number of incidents and to prevent further tragic fatalities, especially in Branch diving activities. No one can afford to be complacent as the incidents listed here, cover experienced divers on organised Club dives to the completely inexperienced novice with no Club involvements. As many of the incidents could have been fatal and in a number of cases good training and experience prevented a possible Xf under the column headed "Physical damage to Diver", the incidents are presented in such a way so that you may extract your own statistics, but always remember that "statistics" may mean yourself or your fellow diver.

A recent meeting of the Diving Incidents Panel at the Royal Naval physiological Laboratory examined in some detail the fatalities and incidents in this list. Some of the more general points that arose may be summarized as follows:-

1. Individual diving or diver separation should never occur. If you lose contact with your companion, you have "not got one".
2. The standard of using ropes and roping techniques is very poor and requires practice and experience. Never attach yourself to a boat or the sea bed unless you know exactly what you are doing. Never dive without a knife.
3. Ascending at the end of the dive and the return to the boat and shore continues to be a very hazardous part of the diving operation and continual vigilance is necessary even if all appears to be well.
4. Faulty equipment continues to put divers at risk especially weight belts that do not release and mouthpieces that drift away or cannot be used for sharing.
5. Boating knowledge is essential especially for sea diving and complete assessment of tides and currents must always be taken into account at the precise diving site.
6. Do not try to "explain away" a disorder that seems to be connected with decompression sickness or air embolism. Suspect the worst and take action accordingly.