

Ray's Trip Report on Lyme Regis



At long last the weather looked good for the first club outing. Mike and Christine towed the boat down on Friday morning, I was to collect Carol Friday evening. At lunchtime I received a text – boat stuck in field bring Landrover (Mike and Christine had arrived at site, conditions not looking good).

I loaded up trusty Landrover and arrived at Carols around six thirty. After loading Carol's gear (you wouldn't believe how much gear required for 2 nights stay) we set off south arriving at camp site around 10pm to find boat had been retrieved by farmer.



We set up Carol's brand new tent, never before erected and with Mickey Mouse instructions in the dark (Fred Carnoes army came to mind) and retired.

6 am Saturday I'm up, kettles on, bacons frying. After breakfast kits loaded, boats hooked onto the Landrover and we're off.

Arrive Lyme slipway before it gets too busy. Weather overcast and windy, sea looks rough. We climb into Rib and head out to sea. Its decided that I can pilot the boat for the experience, so I'm given the compass bearings and off we go bouncing off the waves (It's a good job these ribs are well built) Alton Towers wouldn't be allowed to have a ride this exciting. After about 40 minutes we reach the dive site East Tenants Reef. Carol and I kit up. (It's at this stage that I see why some people don't like rib diving) A quick buddy check and into the water before breakfast re-emerges. We descend to sea bed @ 30 mtrs and collect a good bag of scallops whilst drifting with the current. Back up onto the boat and then bounce back to Lyme for lunch.

After lunch we are back in the boat and heading down the coast to Pollock Reef about 4 miles. Sun now shining but still wave bouncing Carol now driving boat (women drivers !!). Once dive site located Carol, Mike and I are quickly in the water (Christine boat handler) and we dropped down to 9 metres and had a very pleasant dive amongst the kelp, checking out the odd crab hiding amongst the rocks. It was then bounce back to Lyme. Boat out of water and back to camp site calling in on a very interesting gentleman for air fills and then a superb fish and chip supper.



Sunday morning, what a beautiful day, bright sunshine, no wind and almost flat calm sea. Today Carol, Mike and myself (Christine again boat handler) were off to dive the Baygitano @ 22 metres. I again was allowed to pilot the boat but this time no wave bouncing just give it some welly.

We dropped down onto the bow of the wreck and finned its full length and back again to shot line. The larger amount of fish life was amazing, large shoals of Bib, some very large Sea Bass, a couple of Ballan Wrasse seemed to like our company.



An absolute abundance of crab hiding under bits of wreckage and a large Conger Eel poked his head out of a pipe to study us. A very enjoyable dive.

We returned to Lyme for the last time (I managed to get 35 knots out of the Rib) and had well deserved full English at the Beach Café.

We then returned back to camp site to pack up gear and return home.

Verdict of weekend : Superb

Diving : Very Good

Company: Excellent