



# ESTEC SWIMMING & SUB-AQUA CLUB

[www.geocities.com/estecessac](http://www.geocities.com/estecessac)

June 2005 Newsletter

\* First Edition



In this issue:

- Editorial
- From the Chair
- Sweet Folk All
- Diving Matters
- Some Galapagos Pics
- The Swimming Gala
- Social Matters
- Helen
- Swimming Matters
- Training Matters
- Our Committee

*\* Updated versions of the newsletter, though automatically posted on our website, will not necessarily be distributed by email. Updates, following on from the first edition, contain corrections and/or information previously unavailable or overlooked.*

## Editorial

With our newsletter being normally published once every three months it sometimes happens that some events of interest become a bit dated by the time of issue. Our annual swimming gala we hope is not too affected by this syndrome nor, the input from the Galapagos expedition.

It was suggested in a newsletter last year that story's related to members interests other than swimming and diving should be written about so that we all might have an insight. Any sailors, pigeon fanciers, flower arrangers (perhaps not) out there? To get things going my 'Sweet Folk All' hopefully, might get some ideas rolling? Please think about it.

Phil



The Galapagos crew (one of whom appears to be headless) on top of The Devil's Nose train in Ecuador.  
Colin started and ended the adventure with a bad back - hence the casual attitude!

## From the Chair

My name is Göran Pilbratt and I have been first volunteered and then elected to act as Chair of ESSAC for the year 2005/06. Allow me introduce myself.

I came to ESTEC as a research fellow in October 1986, later became staff, and I joined ESSAC in the autumn of 1989 as a diver trainee, a Novice Diver as it was called at the time. I was trained by several people, most of whom are no longer around in the club - I did my first ever open water dive in May 1990 with John Ives for example.

I enthusiastically continued to dive and train with the club, and I also became an instructor. I was (sometimes very) active up to around 1995, and I was also Expeditions' officer for two years in this period - this is my only previous direct experience of the Committee. Since then until the last couple of years I have been far less active, but I have always been coming to the Sterrenbad for the snorkelling on Saturday mornings, and currently I am instructing and diving with the club again.

In this way I hope to be able to give something back to the Club, if you have ideas on how to improve the Club and its activities I encourage you to contact me.

Happy and safe Diving and Swimming!

Göran

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## Sweet Folk All

There was a time when I was passionate but, today I'm just interested. I'm referring of course to my association with music, in particular singing.

As a small boy I recall being singled out by various school teachers and choir leaders as a useful member of whatever line up I happened be in at the time. The peak achievement I suppose was, at the age of eleven, singing in Canterbury Cathedral. My memories of that are somewhat hazy but I seem to remember that church choirs, from all over, were gathered to compete in a competition. My contribution was to sing solo the verses of a well known English traditional folk song, the *Lincolnshire Poacher*, the rest of the (all men and boys) choir singing the chorus. We won no prizes that day but I did enjoy the glorious acoustics within the cathedral and, not being at all shy or nervous.

Moving-on quite a few years finds me in the Royal Air Force on a three year stint at Changi in Singapore. Early on in my tour of duty, aged 25, single, and always in the market for a drinking hole me and some chums stumbled on a local folk club run by the sort of anoraks that did that type of thing. The big attraction for us however was the exceptionally low price of Singapore's famous Tiger beer at that particular bar. Dark and dingy as, I subsequently learned, all the best folk venues should be, with a tiny podium, a succession of performers usually with guitar, sang many of the sorts of songs that I realised then that I knew most of the words to. This I enjoyed so much that I became a regular audience member (every Tuesday evening) of The Attic Folk Club, Changi.

After a while I felt the urge to get up on the podium myself so began to think things through. Singing a-cappella, perhaps asking someone to play guitar for me, join a group even and bash a tambourine were all options. The only musical instrument that I could play properly was a harmonica but that didn't allow for much singing when inserted in the mouth!

In the mid 1960's there was a very popular TV show called the *Beverly Hill Billy's*. The signature tune for the show was *The Ballad of Jed Clampett* as played by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs. Mr. Scruggs's banjo picking really got to me and I decided there and then that I would do the same! With knee-jerk enthusiasm I rushed out and bought the first banjo I saw in the first shop I saw - which turned out to be absolute crap (not the shop - the banjo) and that I had to live with it for the next five years! Three months later I'd made some progress and stepped on to the podium but, as for picking a-la Scruggs - forget it! Even to this day my fingers behave more like bunches of bananas. Anyway the good news was that I had broken the 'guitar-only' mould and found myself in demand on the Singapore circuit mainly because I was the only banjo player around who could also sing a bit. The free Tiger beers had begun to flow!

Regarding the quality of the singing . . ? By this time, the cherubic choirboy treble of old had transmuted into a gruff bloke whose only asset was perhaps an ability to deliver.

Another leap into the future finds me married with children, out of the military, the owner of perhaps the best banjo of its type ever made - which I still use today, a large repertoire of songs, plenty of audience experience and member of a busy folk trio called *Shandy Band*.

*Shandy Band* were together for over five years and brought in good money from our



bookings at a time when my family needed it most. It was hard work what with the day job, singing up to three nights a week and running a folk club but we loved every minute of it.

Gigs, such as the time we were booked by the Deaf Association or, a Sun Club - yup, a nudist colony! Not knowing quite what to expect that evening, I set my banjo strap to hang extra low! And then the time we arrived to find a full blown dance hall complete with chalk on the floor and everybody dressed in their best Scottish dancing outfits. It turned out that they were expecting Jimmy Shand - an internationally famous and extremely popular accordion dance band. Strange that nobody questioned our fee of twenty quid!

Some of my activities on the folk scene since arriving in Holland might be familiar to some readers but just in case you are really interested, here is a brief run-down in order of creation : A founder member of the *Noordwijkerhout Folk Club* (which still exists today), member of the folk trio *Beggars Oak* (2 years), member of the folk quartet *Brother Billy* (1 night), member of the folk quintet *Sweet Folk All* (6 months) and member of the folk quartet *The Pheasant Pluckers* (4 years). Of all of these *Beggars Oak* alone provided me with my 15 minutes of real fame - singing live, three times, on Dutch radio at the NCRV studios in Hilversum in 1978.

It's been a long time since I performed on a regular basis. Today *any excuse at all* is all I need to dust off the banjo, have a sing-song and enjoy a beer or two which, I find, as enjoyable as it ever was. By the way, I promptly forgot the words to *Lincolnshire Poacher* all those years ago so, it's not part of my current repertoire!

Phil

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## Diving Matters

The outdoor season has begun and we have already been out several weekends. The Dive Marshals list for the remaining 2005 summer months is:

11-12 June	John Nolan
18-19 June	Martin de Boer
25-26 June	Manuela Baroni
2-3 July	John Nolan
9-10 July	Bjorn Rommen
16-17 July	Martin de Boer
23-24 July	Keith Miller
30-31 July	Vladimir Pletser
6-7 August	Martin de Boer
13-14 August	Bas Galewicz

20-21 August

Björn Rommen

27-28 August

John Nolan

The latest information regarding diving activity can be found on our website:

[www.geocities.com/estecessac/diving.htm](http://www.geocities.com/estecessac/diving.htm)

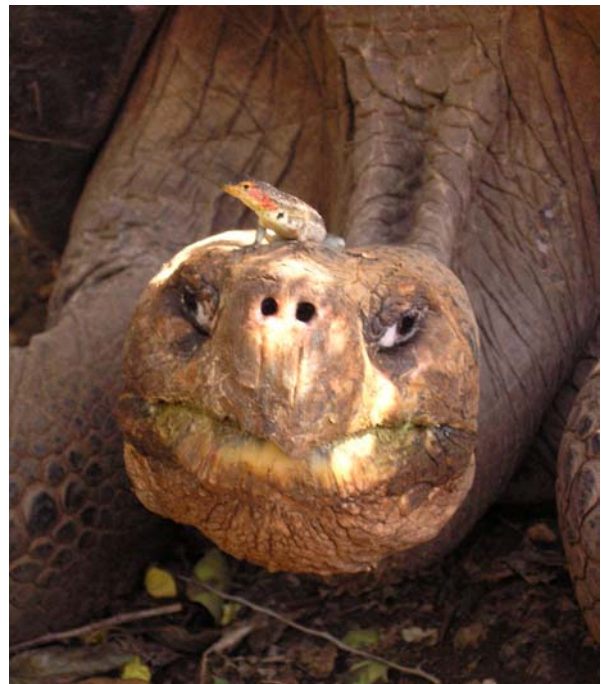
Peter

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## Some (more) Galapagos Pics



Our hotel



Get ahead



More chums!

## The Swimming Gala

In March the annual swimming gala followed by the traditional barbecue was every bit as much fun for everyone as all the previous ones over the years.

It should have been a somewhat subdued affair with fewer participants due to an unfortunate clash of other events on the day but, adjustments were made. In the pool for example, the lane count was reduced from six to four so that team sizes could become more 'balanced'. Competition, attempting the crazy games cooked up by Myra and her helpers was, none-the-less frantic. It has to be said though that the best team won. The photo depicts three members of the outstanding winning team with the trophy. I'm the one on the left!



Looking like winners!

The barbecue was typical of one of our tennis clubhouse efforts - Jeff wielding the skillet, Vladi pumping up the volume and everyone else eating and drinking a-plenty. There was a good crowd with youngsters whose

parents didn't feel it necessary to leave too early, the result being, an 'after midnight' journey home in the cool air! In fact everything about the whole day was cool!

An unbiased reporter

## Social Matters

Are you doing anything important on July the 9th? Well, you are now.

There is a Social evening planned for you with food, drink and dancing. This event will take place at De Tender Partycentrum alongside the Valkenburgse meer, a lovely spot beside the lake and, apparently, the weather is going to be really great...ahum! For those who've not been to De Tender before, the steam railway engines are right next door. We would love to see as many of you as possible and of course friends and family are, as always, very welcome.

I apologise if I do not have all member's e-mail addresses so if everyone can spread the word that would be great.

Costing only about €27 per person, depending how many bums on seats we have, we will have more information as soon as we have an idea of the numbers. Please let us know if you can join us as soon as possible.

For further information contact Maria McCarthy at the pool or me on [kathybaker@wanadoo.nl](mailto:kathybaker@wanadoo.nl) and let either of us know of your intention to be there.

Katherine

## Helen

Helen Jessica Tatman born 22 March 2005, a sister for Andrew.

Mum and Dad (Sharon and Bryan), Auntie Katherine, Nan and Granddad (all club members you will note) are naturally delighted.

By the time of writing, Helen had already dragged Mum and Dad along for a couple of Saturday morning sessions to our pool - as a swimmer!

Editor (and Granddad)

## Swimming Matters

The last twelve months has been a very busy time for me as there seems to have been various swimming related concerns. The most worrying of them being perhaps the potential lack of funding from ESA.

We need to retain our present level of funding if we want to retain both pools

therefore we need all the support we can get from ex-committee members and members alike, as we all know the cost of swimming pools is constantly going up.

If we can all work for the good of our club, it will help. Promote inside ESTEC how great our club is and get some new members.

There have been some awkward conversations with the management of the De Schelft, our Sunday pool, about our time keeping. Because some members are not getting out of the pool on time, they have threatened to bill us for an extra hour. When we start again in October could I please ask everyone to be punctual in leaving and if you see some members staying too long, please remind them, that 'time is up. It would be a shame to see the Sunday pool cancelled. However it is a lot more expensive than the Saturday pool.

I have also had frequent conversations with the management of the Sterrenbad swimming pool, concerning their pool/swimming equipment, the gala, our use of the small pool (those who use it must unfortunately pay extra for this), the cleanliness of the pool, our time keeping (too early in or too late out), men in the ladies changing room and ladies in the men's changing room! The last two issues have us all puzzled because the Sterrenbad answer is that we go immediately to their reception desk and their staff will deal with the offending person. They fully agree with us that there is no need for this as they have family changing rooms available to both sexes.

Myra

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## Training Matters

This is my first contribution to the newsletter as your new Training Officer.

How did I end up as TO? Well, I started diving in 1997 in Italy, but my diving addiction hadn't really kicked in yet. I started diving again full steam when I joined Estec two and half years ago, when I did the crossover from PADI to BSAC. Since then, I have been lucky in having great instructors like John Ives, Wayne, John Nolan and Bas who trained me to Sports Diver and beyond. At the end of 2003 I did the Instructor Foundation course, together with Anthony, that promoted us to Assistant instructors. Eventually, at the last AGM, Bas handed over the position as TO to me! Now, together with this commitment, I will try to finish my training for Dive Leader, and hopefully become a full Open Water Instructor (after a couple more courses and exams).

At the moment there are eight active students well on the way to becoming Sport

Divers, students from the previous years joining us on weekend dives and a new member looking to crossover from PADI to BSAC.

So now, here I am, looking forward to a successful year of training and fun and wishing everyone lots of happy bubble games!

Manuela

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## Our committee

Our 2004/2005 elected committee is:

Chairman	Göran Pilbratt
Club Treasurer	Audrey Paterson
BSAC Secretary	-
Diving Officer	Peter de Maagt
Equipment Officer	Martin de Boer
Expeditions Officer	Anthony Thirkettle
Snorkelling	Wim van Leeuwen
Social Secretary	Katherine Baker
Swimming Officer	Myra Macleod-Nolan
Training Officer	Manuela Baroni