

## Liveboard Red Sea Trip October/November 2007

I set off from Swindon early on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of October for a nice leisurely drive to Gatwick Airport. After parking the car I made my way to the Village at the airport to meet the rest of the divers who were going on the trip. I met my room colleague Norman Gillard a sprightly 65 year old who been diving for about 5 years. This was about the same time as me and had done roughly the same number of dives. We hit it off straight away and apart from my 4 deep dive course dives, we did the other 14 dives together

The arrival at Hurghada was without any fuss as we were met by our guides who sorted out our visas without any trouble.

We then loaded our kit onto the minibus for the short trip to the harbour and boarded our boat for the week. The boat I was on was the Blue Horizon part of the MY Blue One Fleet.

On arriving on the boat we were allocated a number each and that was our tank number and kitting up position for the rest of the week. Once we set up our bcd's at our kitting up space we were allocated our cabins. I dumped the rest of my luggage and headed for dining room area of the boat where a late tea was being served. After a relaxing beer I retired to my cabin in preparation of my check dives in the morning.

The next day started with a leisurely breakfast and Boat Briefing, I and 3 other divers doing the deep dive course had a separate briefing about the course we would be undertaking.

We got ourselves kitted up and completed a check dive to check our kit and weights were working ok. When this was completed we got into the rib and were taken out to do the first dive of the course at Gota Abu Ramada (Drop off). When this dive was completed we returned to the boat for a debrief and lunch. After lunch we had a brief for the afternoon dive in the shallower part of Gota Abu Ramada. We then enjoyed a lovely evening meal which was then followed by an evening dive again at Gota Abu Ramada. When the night dive was completed we got the boat prepared for the 7 hour crossing to The Brothers.

I didn't have much sleep as the crossing was very choppy and we had a tank check at 5.30 followed by the dive briefing for our first dive at Big Brother. After the dive was completed we had breakfast and relaxed before our 2<sup>nd</sup> dive. This was followed by lunch after which we completed the third dive of the day in the afternoon as there is no night diving at The Brothers. All dives were giant stride entry. This was the routine for the next the next three days diving at the Big Brother and Little Brother Islands.

I completed my Deep Dive Course at the first day of the Big Brother Island. The Diving there was excellent, with superb fish life and spectacular corals and I had two close encounters with a Thresher and a Grey Reef shark. (See pictures)

In the afternoon of the first day I went onto the Big Brother Island and climbed the Lighthouse and after I got back down I had a coffee with the Lighthouse attendant and purchased a souvenir tee shirt. After the last dive at the Little Brother we sailed to Elphinstone Island so we could dive it at first light the next day.

The next day started with the usual wake up call "Tank Check Check Check" and I went down to the kitting up area. The weather had changed dramatically from three days of glorious sun to very strong wind which was making the sea very rough.

We only did one dive here as the sea was so rough and the currents were very strong, so it was decided to move to a more sheltered site. About 3 hours later we arrived at Abu-Dabab to

dive at site no 3 .This a nice dive entering off the Zodiac swimming in the channel between no 2 and no 3 islands. There was an abundance of fish life including lots of blue spotted rays and a large turtle.

After this dive we headed to our last dive site,Marsa Shouna .These dives were similar to Abu-Dabab. I completed 4 dives in this area including a great night dive where I found a moray well hidden in the rocks.

So after 18 enjoyable dives we sailed to the new Marina at Marsa Shouna where I spent an enjoyable evening on board with the crew and the other divers  
The next day I went by mini bus to Hurghada for my flight home.

I can personally recommend this liveaboard , the dive guides Dray and Karin were excellent. All the crew are trained to a minimum of advanced Padi diver and were really helpful and friendly. Last of all the food was superb and a great variety.

This liveaboard was featured in the August 2007 edition of Dive Magazine  
I booked up through Gulfstream Scuba who I was recommended to by a friend and who I dived with last July. They were based in Hayle in Cornwall but sadly went bust last summer.

These were the dives I completed

#### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

*Dive 1: Gota Abu Ramada (Drop off)-Hugarda (Deep dive course dive 1)\_35mts*

*Dive 2: Gota Abu Ramada-Hugarda \_13.6mts*

*Dive 3: Gota Abu Ramada-Hugarda (Night Dive)\_10.7mts*

#### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

*Dive 4: Big Brother (Light House) (Deep dive course dive 2)\_29.4mts*

*Dive 5: Big Brother (Light House) (Deep dive course dive 3)\_38.5mts*

*Dive 6: Big Brother (Numedia Wreck) (Deep dive course dive 4)\_30.5mts*

#### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

*Dive 7:Little Brother (South East Side)\_22.4mts*

*Dive 8:Little Brother (South East Side)\_27.9mts*

*Dive 9:Little Brother (South West Side\_19.5mts)*

#### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

*Dive 10:Little Brother (South East Side\_29.3mts)*

*Dive 11:Little Brother (South Side)\_24.2mts*

*Dive 12:Little Brother (South Side\_21.9mts)*

#### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

*Dive 13:Elphinstone Reef\_21.2mts*

*Dive14:Abu Dabab(No3 Reef)\_14.6mts*

*Dive15:Marsa Shouna\_15.2mts*

*Dive 16:Marsa Shouna(Night Dive)\_12.4*

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

*Dive 17:Marsa Shouna\_22.7mts*

*Dive18:Marsa Shouna\_19.4mts*

Paul Gee



Great barracuda



Bluespotted ribbontail ray



Grey reef shark



The lighthouse on Big Brother