

<b>Minutes of the Meeting of Free Flow Divers British Club 22 February 2006</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>WELCOME</b></p> <p>Paul Blackburn opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and introducing Andy Miners whom many members knew from Raja Ampat trips.</p> <p><b>New Members:</b></p> <p>ASSOCIATE: Chris Albrecht Angie Sach Rod Steel</p> <p>BRITISH CLUB: James Dowden Gen &amp; Steve James Tony &amp; Kathy Monley Vince &amp; Angela Jenkins Ruth &amp; Mike Read Simon Taylor Charles Waldren</p> <p>OVERSEAS: Shawn Heinrichs Justin Ebert Simon Perse Jane Reed Delphine Reffet</p>	
<p><b>NEWS</b></p> <p><b>Subic Bay over Chinese New Year:</b></p> <p>Only 3 FFD divers – Nigel Gibbs was diving for pleasure while Angela and Michael Sausman were completing a technical wreck diving course. There are 5/6 wrecks in good condition, with the viz around 20m. Easy long weekend.</p> <p><b>ADEX/Celebrate the Seas</b></p> <p>This dive show is on at Suntec City 21-23 April.</p>	
<p><b>SHORT TRIPS (Angela Sausman)</b></p> <p><b>11 February – Singapore Diving:</b></p> <p><b>Goodwill Wreck:</b></p> <p>Around 1m viz and dangerous because of crumbling condition. Not recommended to do again.</p>	

<p><b>Ships' Graveyard:</b> Where Singapore bumboats are scuttled at the end of their working life – lots of the Singapore nudibranchs. Good local dive – but poor (Singapore) viz.</p> <p><b>Sunday 26 February – Discover SCUBA:</b> At the British Club, 10am to 1pm. Ages 8+. Gen and Steve James volunteered to help Angela and Michael.</p> <p><b>Saturday 11 March – Sentosa Aquarium Dive:</b> Contact Angela if you want to join.</p> <p><b>24-26 March – Samudera Quest:</b> Full boat</p> <p><b>Equipment Sale:</b> David Koh, Tech Divers, has Apex regulators for sale. Contact Angela if you are interested for advice and group discount.</p> <p><b>Black Manta:</b> Boat still not delivered and the prices not set.</p> <p><b>Safety Update:</b> It is essential that all members have their own timing device/depth gauge when diving with the Club. The Club has no liability for any members when diving on a Club-organised dive. Members should also have a whistle, and a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB), and ideally a mirror/old CD in their BC to use for signalling in case they get separated when surfacing. Insurance is also essential – Divers Alert Network (DAN) provides good insurance cover for divers.</p>	<p><b>GJ/SJ</b></p>
<p><b>QUIZ (set by Angela and Michael Sausman)</b></p> <p>Quiz was won by Angela Jenkins – the prize: a dive guide to the Pacific.</p>	
<p><b>LONG TRIPS (Alison Wilson)</b></p> <p><b>Layang Layang:</b> Fully booked.</p> <p><b>Manado:</b> Email with details sent out by Alison. Contact her if interested.</p> <p><b>Maldives:</b> Places on the liveboard for November – Paul sent out details on email.</p>	

## **'DIVING WITH TIGERS' - SLIDE PRESENTATION OF TRIP TO ISLANDS OFF BAHAMA**

Nick Jackson showed slides taken by an overseas member, Justin Ebert, of a trip that he and Shawn Heinrichs, another overseas member, took to the Bahama Banks from Florida, on Jim Abernethy's boat, The Shear Water ([www.scuba-adventures.com](http://www.scuba-adventures.com)). Amazing photographs of diving with sharks – particularly memorable for the tigers and great hammerheads. Contact Nick for more information on the photographic equipment Justin used, and on the possibility of a trip in November.

## **MISOOL ECO RESORT, RAJA AMPAT, PAPUA, INDONESIA**

Andy Miners gave a presentation on the eco resort that he is building on Batbitim Island. It will consist of a dive centre, guest accommodation on stilts over the water, and a conservation/research centre. Building is starting in April 2006, and he expects to be open in autumn 2007.

Raja Ampat has more species of fish and coral than any other region in the world, and by setting up a protected marine park and an eco resort Andy wants to educate both the local people and visitors to the importance of preserving such an environment.

Andy has raised half the money needed – US\$400,000 out of a total of US\$800,000 – and is looking to raise the remainder. His website is [www.indoeco.com](http://www.indoeco.com), and his email address is [andy@indoeco.com](mailto:andy@indoeco.com)

## **NEXT MEETING**

20 March is the date for the next meeting.

*Prepared by Heather Jackson, Secretary  
26 February 2006*