

Minutes of the Meeting of Free Flow Divers British Club 18 September 2006

ACTION

WELCOME

The meeting was held at the British Club, and chaired by Elenor Jones. She welcomed Jane Reed, an overseas FFD member who is visiting Singapore.

GUEST SPEAKER

Elenor introduced the guest speaker, Helen Newman.

Helen spoke about herself – she does contract consultancy work in the field of marine conservation. She has lived in Asia for 25 years, and three years ago moved to Bali. There she has set up the Bali Mooring Buoy project which is now in operation, and she is looking to do the same in Komodo National Park.

Her presentation emphasized the threats to marine life from:

1. bomb fishing
2. cyanide fishing (used for the aquarium and live seafood trades)
3. collection of coral
4. over-fishing
5. anchor damage, even at 40m depths.

For the mooring buoy project in Komodo Helen has been given a grant by the Indonesian government of US\$ 32,000, which is half the money required. She needs to raise the rest.

Her presentation showed the various types of moored anchors, and she has opted for the 'manta ray' style which is embedded in the substrate, rather than drilling a base with a steel pin, or using concrete blocks.

15 of these anchors were installed in June/July 2006; the remainder are to be installed in February 2007. Helen has sent details to FFD concerning the 2 trips that she is putting together. For each one week trip she is looking for 10 divers -

1. must be Nitrox qualified
2. insurance at diver's own cost

For more details go to the FFD website.	
Members to spread the word among other diving groups. Greta to contact BSAC to see if anyone would be willing to come out on holiday and take part in this operation.	Greta Derrick
<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday 16 October – Helen Newman will return to give more details on this project. With luck more people will be in town to hear her.</p>	
<p><i>Prepared by Heather Jackson, Secretary 23 September 2006</i></p>	