

BUPG

NEWSLETTER BRISTOL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

August 2025

Welcome to the August edition of our Members Newsletter!

Each month, we feature competition results and planned activities, but what will make this a better read is to include articles from you – our members. So don't be shy, send in your ideas, trip reviews and photo tips & suggestions to make our newsletter even more engaging!

In This Month's Issue:

- *Monthly competition results*
- *Jutland wreck dives – Rick Ayrton*
- *Kit for Sale*
- *UK Dive trips*
- *Competitions*

August Competition – Sunbeams

The definition of this month's competition theme :-

"An underwater image that captures the beauty and drama of sunbeams, also known as God rays, dappled light, shafts of light, or sun rays penetrating the water column".

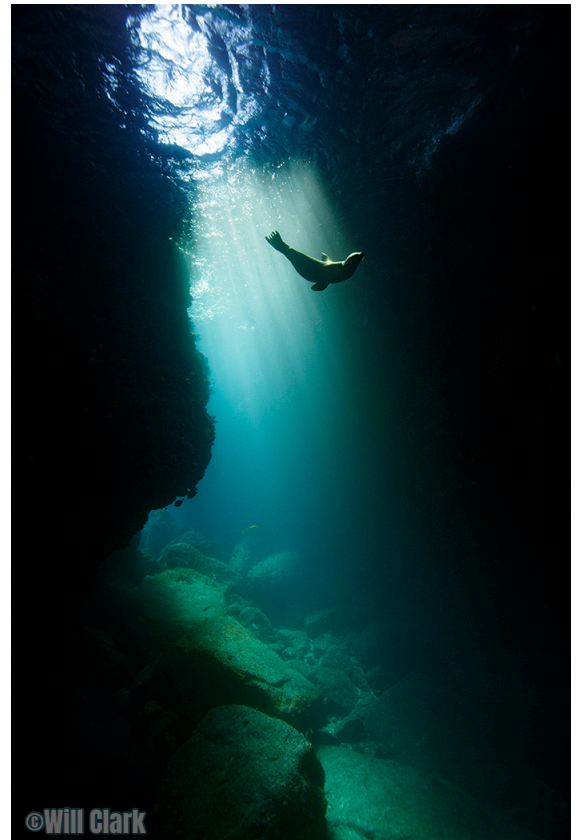
"Whether streaming through kelp, illuminating a subject, or creating patterns on the seabed, photos should highlight how sunlight transforms the underwater world".

As usual, entries were judged by attending members on the night, each casting a vote for their favourite image.

In joint first place were **Dan Bolt & Mark Drayton** with stunning sunburst images of a Jellyfish and Sardine shoal.



Two images tied for second place with 2 votes each, from **Will Clark & Kirsty Andrews**.



Third place with a vote each were images from **Cathy Lewis (2), Mark Drayton and Kirsty Andrews**. Well done to all who took part!



SEPTEMBER COMPETITION THEME - SPLIT SHOTS

Jutland Wrecks of WW1 – by Rick Ayrton

This year I joined an expedition to dive the wrecks of the Battle of Jutland, WW1's only major naval engagement.

I drove from Bristol to Thyboron NW Denmark to join Clasina. It was a planned 2 week trip but unfortunately the weather only allowed 5 days diving and the visibility was pretty poor!

That being said the wrecks were fantastic.

I include the images from a couple of them here.

All images ©Rick Ayrton



HMS Defence: Admirals walkway at the stern



HMS Defence – unusually for a large warship, is upright which makes it a tremendous dive easy to navigate with lots to see

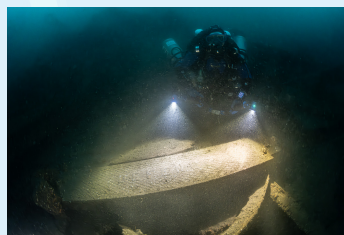
Despite limited dives due to the weather it was quite special diving, nearly 8500 sailors lost their lives during the battle and 25 ships were sunk, many more seriously damaged.

Photography was challenging with lots of fine particulates in the water. Wanting the big view, I made the most of utilising Jen & Clare to light up the distant areas with the spotting lights of my Retra strobes filling in for the foreground.

Strobes produced too much scatter, even the non strobe shots needed Backscatter exterminator to help clean them up!



HMS Defence: Jen Smith & Clare Pratt my lighting buddies –Gun in background



HMS Defence: We located the Footplate that would have been each side towards the stern. Lots of munitons.



Rather poor Viz on HMS Invincible – 12inch gun barrels here



We went looking for, and found, the emergency steering gear.

2026 Scilly Isles Dive Trip - Register Interest Now!

28th June - 3rd July, Diving with Skin Deep
- limited to 10 places.

Approx. costs: Boat - 2026 prices - £6425
so £642.50 each assuming 10 divers

Accommodation - this year it worked out at
£362.50 each

Travel - ferry & dive container approx £200
each

Total approx £1200 plus food and
refreshments!

If this goes ahead a 1/3 deposit - £400.00 is
required to secure your spot.

Contact **Rick Ayrton** for details



BIUPC 2024
Champion
Kirsty Andrews




British Society
of Underwater
Photographers
Inspiring and informing underwater photographers since 1967


The
British and Irish
Underwater
Photography
Championship

Both Kirsty Andrews and Dan Bolt were successful in last years' competition, plus Cathy Lewis, Rob Bailey and Nick Watson all had images placed.

BIUPC 2025 Competition Saturday 30th August

Don't forget to register and take part in the annual BSOUP organised 'splash-in' event, happening very soon!

BIUPC engages the British and Irish underwater photography communities in a one day photography shoot out. It is accessible to people who live and dive in Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland and England, including the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and the other 5000 or so other islands around our shores.

A late August/ early September on-the-day multi-location competition format reduces the logistic burden for competitors and encourages wide participation.

Photographers compete for a trophy in memory of one of BSoUP's co-founders, the late Peter Scoones, and the title British & Irish Underwater Photography Champion.

Register and check details and the rules [HERE](#).

Porthkerris Diving Trip 2026 - Book Now!

Friday 5th - Monday 8th June, Diving off the CAT - very limited places.

Contact Nick Watson for details: 07798-625832

Competition Calendar & Programme

2025

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

Theme

Long Exposure – meeting online
Super Macro – meet at Severnside
Theme Portfolio – meeting online
Wrecks – meeting online
Underwater Excellence (portfolio) – meet at Severnside
Silhouettes – meeting online
Nudibranchs – meet at Severnside
Sunbeams – meet at Severnside
Split Shots – meeting online
Best of British (portfolio) – meet at Severnside
Portrait – meeting online
Beginner's Portfolio & Print Competition – meet at Severnside

Please check the rules before entering any of our competitions – a copy can be found [here](#)

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th September

Please try to make it in person to our in-person meetings as its always great to meet members face-to-face.

Why not submit your tips, hacks or workflow ideas to share and we can publish in future newsletters?

If you have any news, feature ideas, trips or product reviews, then please drop me a message.
You can email info@bupg.co.uk or contact me directly [here](#)

Best regards and Happy Diving!

Mike

Mike Harding

Trips for 2025 & 26 on Red Alert Plymouth

18th -19th September 2025 & 29th April-2nd May 2026 - Contact Chris or Cathy Lewis!

Do you have Kit for Sale or to Swap ?

Why not advertise it here in our Newsletter? Or go to our club [Facebook](#) page!!