



BUPG

BRISTOL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

April 2026

Welcome to April's edition of our Members Newsletter!

It's a busy one this month with competition results, feature article and lots of up and coming events.

Don't forget, if you've got something to share in our newsletter, please email info@bupg.co.uk

In This Month's Issue:

- *BUPG Monthly competition results*
- *Vintage lens review*
- *The Great Egg Case Hunt*
- *Latest UK Dive trips*
- *Competition Calendar*
- *Articles for sale*

April Competition – Theme Portfolio

This month's competition was the classic theme portfolio – a collection of 3 images that must have a common theme or link and demonstrates the photographer's skills across different genres.

In joint first place with 4 votes each were **Dan Bolt** and **Arthur Kingdon**.

Dan 'clawed' his way to the top with this fabulous trio of crab images set off against beautiful background colours and used a vintage wet lens for a unique effect.



MAY COMPETITION - UNDERWATER EXCELLENCE

Arthur's winning portfolio used surface water reflections to great effect, giving texture and depth to his images – a very useful tip when you can't find a clean background .

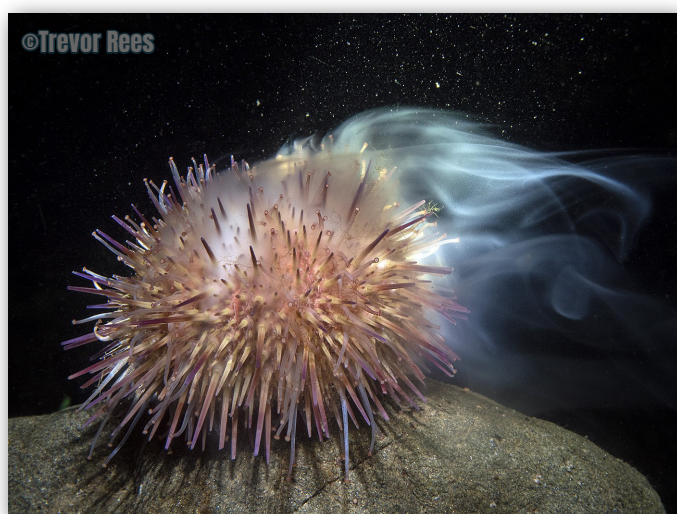
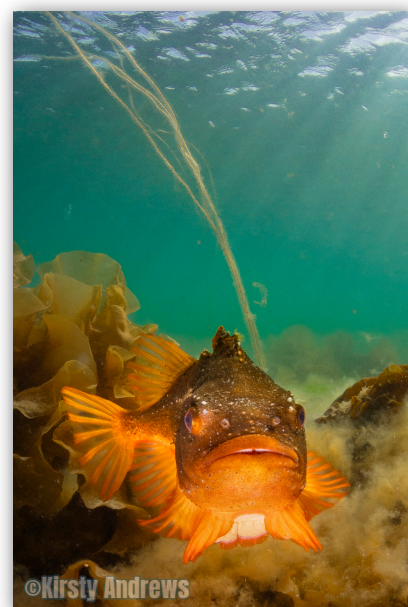


In second place with 3 votes was **Mike Harding**. A fine trio of Green Turtles in tropical seas around Bunaken Island marine reserve, Indonesia.



Two portfolios tied for third place, each with 2 votes: **Kirsty Andrews & Trevor Rees.**

Kirsty's rarely seen Lumpsucker fish were stunningly colourful and apparently quite difficult to find and shoot among the constantly moving kelp.



Trevor focused on Sea Urchins, a commonly found subject but still very photogenic especially when backlit during spawning.



The Splash-in Weekend: 20th-21st June

Red Alert, Yachthaven, Plymouth - Contact organiser Kirsty Andrews

Vintage Wet Lens review by Dan Bolt

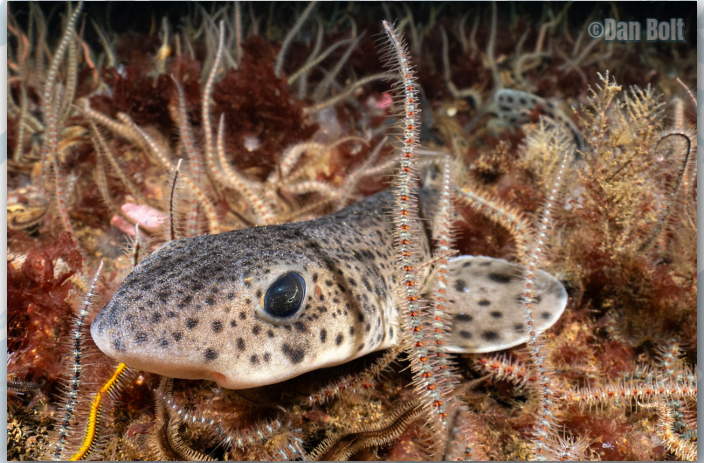
The Novatek Fish-Eye from Aquacraft is (was) a "Dirty Water Device". Yes, it's so old the term "wet lens" hadn't been invented yet!

Harking from the early 70's there were three version of this lens; a fisheye, 20mm and 28mm converters designed as push-on supplemental lenses for the Nikonos II.

I have been experimenting with the fisheye version for about a year and I'm amazed how good this all-acrylic, and therefore very lightweight device really is. On my kit-lens it gives a circular fisheye look, or zoomed in a very wide field of view with a 0mm minimum focusing distance.

I've also been using it with my macro lenses, and this is where it really shines. The macro lenses (Olympus 30mm and Panasonic 45mm m4/3rds lenses) have a narrow field of view and therefore shoot through the centre portion of the wet lens. This is obviously the sharpest area of the Novatek because the results I've been getting have been impressively sharp, even using quite open apertures.

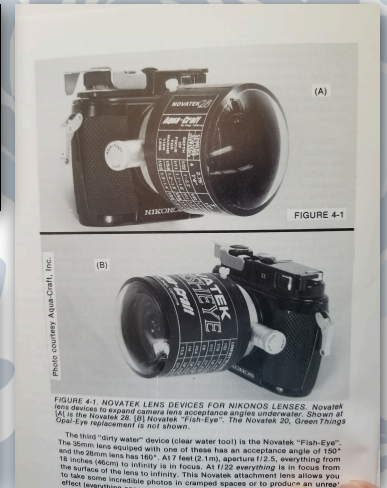
I have managed to get hold of a couple of other vintage wet lenses and will try to experiment with them sometime soon too... one is even positively buoyant which is quite a change from my WWL-!!



Above: Used with a macro lens, the Novatek fisheye allows very close focus, wide angle effects.

Below left: Two different effects with a kit lens zoomed out or in.

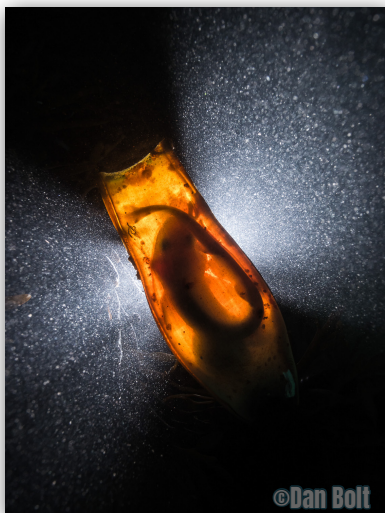
Below right: The original Novatek review from the early 70's.



The Great Egg Case Hunt needs your help!



SHARK
TRUST



Shark Trust's flagship citizen science project continues to expand as they welcome new recorders from around the world.

Something as simple as kicking through the strandline on a beach can lead to valuable data that helps shark conservation. Thanks to citizen scientists, they've already collected over 600,000 eggcase records.

But what's needed now is more recordings of underwater identifications, which accounts for less than 1% of the data gathered so far.

So please keep an eye out for any shark or ray egg cases when you're diving this year and record / photograph the location and type if known.

There's more info and a great app available too which can be accessed [here](https://www.sharktrust.org.uk).

2026 Dive Trips - Register Interest Now!

BUPG Splash-In, 20 & 21 June on Red Alert hard boat out of Yachthaven, Plymouth.
Please contact Kirsty Andrews to book.

Porthkerris, Cornwall - 5-8 June. Last few places. Contact Nick Watson 07798-625832.

Shetland Trip on Clasina - 29 Aug to 3 September. Contact Yo Han Cha for details.

Photography Expedition - Skye, organised by Dive & Sea The Hebrides. 12-19 September.
Contact Tom Ingram for more details.

Competition Calendar & Programme

2026	Theme
January	Divers
February	Scenery
March	Animals in their Environment
April	Theme Portfolio
May	Underwater Excellence
June	Behaviour & Splash-In
July	Natural Artistry
August	Circles
September	Macro
October	Best of British
November	Mammals
December	Beginners Portfolio & Print Competition



Nauticam housing for Nikon Z9 with vacuum leak system (Camera also available if required)

Various ports:

8.5" Acrylic dome

6" Acrylic dome

4.33" Fisheye acrylic dome

140mm Fisheye glass dome

60mm Macro port

Plus many more items - contact **Rick Ayrton** for details

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

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th May

Why not submit your tips, hacks or workflow ideas to share with other members and we can publish them 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

Do you have Kit for Sale or to Swap ?

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