

## The Full Monty by Dave Wootton

Back in Whit 2006, whilst the club were doing their annual Scillies trip, myself Maddy and the kids went down to Cornwall, for a weeks break.

For Xmas 2005 I had bought us a book entitled 'DIVE – THE ULTIMATE GUIDE – 60 of the World's top dive locations', by Monty Halls.

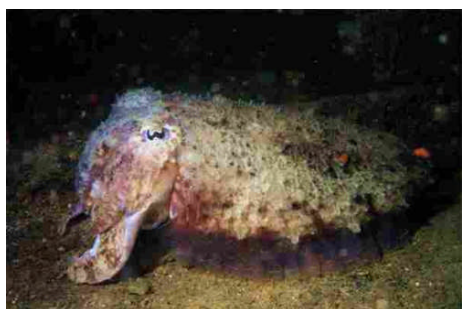
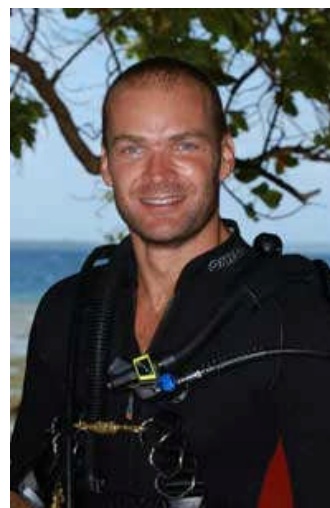
Monty Halls if any of you have not heard of him is a TV presenter – he has done 2 series of 'Great Ocean Adventures', as well as writing monthly in BSAC Dive magazine.

Anyway, one of the 60 locations in the book was for a place called Porthkerris, down in Cornwall, so we thought whilst we were down that way we would give it a try as it was recommended for shore diving! So beforehand, I emailed the centre and arranged tank hire and we took the rest of the kit with us.

Upon arrival at the site, we parked up, got out of the car, started to walk down the hill to book in as someone approached us from the other direction. As we got closer the someone turned out to be - you guessed it – Monty Halls!

We stopped and chatted and it transpired he was there researching basking sharks for his forthcoming new series. He did tell us where to go for the shore dive and what to look for.

So after kitting up, we set off did a 20m swim to a reef just off the shore and proceeded round the best shore dive I had (still have) done! Loads of life, fish, anemones and cuttlefish! The dive went extremely smoothly, we got back, de-kitted and went to hand our borrowed tanks back, when we bumped into Monty again.



He asked us how we got on and if we were going to 'hunt' for basking sharks whilst we were there. So when we handed the tanks back in, we booked onto the following days trip and spent a good 5 hours at sea (without being sick too!) in the company of Mr Halls. We had a good chat during the trip – he is very down to earth and certainly

knows what he is on about, he actually joined his local BSAC branch in Bristol and was amused by the shenanigans that go on and he was amused by the story of our (at the time) brand new trailer being wrapped round a gate post on its first outing!

Upon arrival on dry land, we got a nice happy snap with him, for prosperity. All in all a top trip for us, who at the time were wet behind the ears Ocean Divers.

Dave