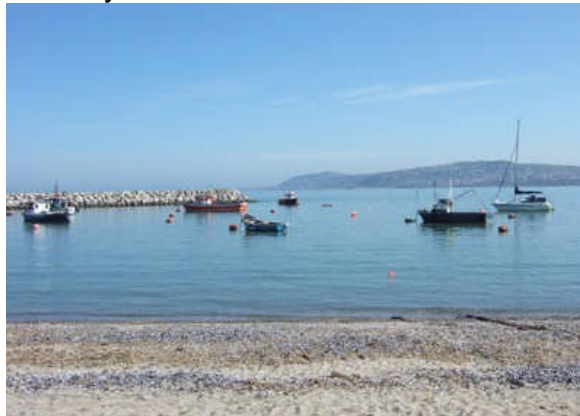


The Penrhos

After arriving on a beautiful afternoon at Rhos on sea, we launched the RIB smoothly and without a hitch. Mark had decided that first he would launch a search party to find a set of regs that had accidentally been lost at sea, that is the very bottom and in the middle of nowhere.



First in were Mark and Jason, First out was Mark who had been attacked by a terrible sea creature - a jelly-fish had stung his upper lip, later followed a confused Jason. Next in to take up the daring challenge was Dylan and Dave. However the set of regs was nowhere to be found (I declined to join in and chose to save myself for the next dive). After a good 30 minutes Dave surfaced and told us

that the set of regs had been joined by a nice new shiny dive knife (this was getting expensive).

We then set off deciding these two items would be either lost forever or found at a later date.

Ten minutes later we arrived at the dive site, conditions looked good, calm sea with the sun peering behind the clouds. I was buddied with Jason Green and soon we were in. The descent was uneventful but as we neared the wreck an oasis appeared out of the desert.

The outline of the ship could be seen covered completely from head to toe (or bow to stern) with white, cream and orange anemones.



Two large jelly-fish could be seen trapped by the feeding anemones, flapping frantically in the current trying to escape. The ship was lying slightly on its side on a sandy bed. Not a firm bed,

but it felt a little like quick sand, as I found out when trying to kneel on it.

Things were moving in the sand — different types of flat fish — this was a wreck full of life. Moving away from the shot line we continued to explore the wreck. Different sizes of fish were passing by keeping one eye on us. The current was stronger by the stern of the ship and I had no choice but to place one finger now and again on the ship to stop myself drifting past. The ship was 60 years old and parts were beginning to disintegrate, but it was still in good condition. Jason was interested in funnels and other parts of the wreck, I enjoyed the diversity of life. Jason's eagle eyes pointed out a small eel like creature, may be a sand eel? This was truly a wonderful dive and when conditions are right, it is superb. Our ascent proved more interesting than the descent because when we stopped at 6 metres to do our deco stop we encountered jelly-fish soup. All shapes, sizes and a few different species were drifting in the current, around our ears. After being stung myself at the bottom

by drifting tentacles, I didn't fancy coming face to face with one of these giant babies. Jason was being very gallant and gently wafting them away from my head, In the end I found turning my head away from the current (and hoping for the best) the best option. Thankfully Jason eventually signalled for us to go up.