

Visions in the Sea 2002

A highly talented cast of internationally renowned underwater photographers and cameramen make up the bill for the sixth annual two-day conference, Visions in the Sea at Imperial College, South London on the weekend of November 16/17.

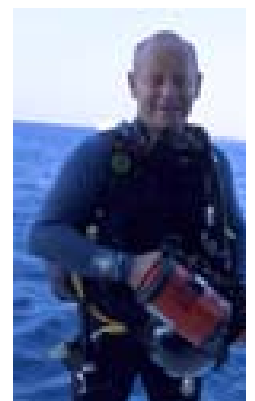
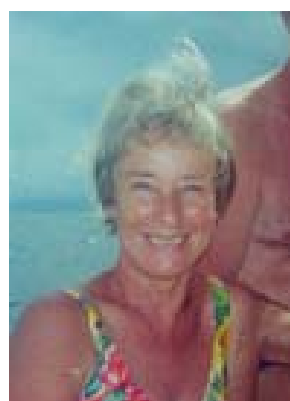
They and their fellow speakers will be sharing the secrets of their success with the delegates at this popular and established event staged annually by Ocean Optics, the specialist suppliers of underwater photographic equipment who are based in central London.

Several of the speakers first trained as professional photographers and gained experience in the photographic industry before turning their full attention to underwater photography so they have special skills and knowledge to share.

The speakers will be Kurt Amsler, Gavin Newman, Tony White, Alex Mustard, John Collins, Kevin Capon, Mark Walker and Georgette Douwma. In addition there will be short talks by Andrew Pugsley and hopefully Wild Insight.

As well as the speakers, Paul Kay and Linda Dunk will be on hand to review your slides.

The highlight of the weekend must be An evening with Peter Scoones followed by the chance to have dinner with the speakers.



Visions in the Sea 2002

The photographers are:

Kurt Amsler



Swiss-born photographer Kurt Amsler, author of many quality books and articles on diving and underwater photography will speak each day. So competitive and specialist is the medium of underwater photography that only a small handful of people manage to make a full time income from it.

Kurt is one of the very few to achieve this status. Thousands of hours have been spent underwater to produce awe inspiring images. This in turn keeps Kurt one step ahead of the competition. To help facilitate this drive he takes time out between assignments to teach people his own hard-earned skills.

Delegates from Visions 2000 were gifted some of these 'tricks of the trade'. With two sessions allocated this year this will allow more time to get the information hammered across. A passionate campaigner for the protection of turtles, Kurt will describe techniques to take pictures without harming the marine environment and also recount some of his recent photographic assignments.

Gavin Newman



Intrepid cave diver and action photographer Gavin Newman learned to dive at the age of 18 and took up caving as an interest. Working as a cave lighting specialist on several television films prompted a move towards film and video work, which now constitutes to up 75% of his current work.

Pushing the envelope to obtain stunning images from the dark bowels of the earth requires Gavin to modify or design equipment for particular jobs. A major part of this work over the last couple of years has been for the environmental group Greenpeace which has led to a whole range of new adventures including diving on Nuclear waste pipelines, camping on the frozen arctic sea ice and chasing pirate fishing vessels across the southern ocean.

Tony White



Tony White was trained as a land photographer in the Royal Navy some 27 years ago. His job took him around the world covering many diverse aspects of photography from highly critical engineering work, aerial and PR. He left the Royal Navy 18 years ago to pursue a career in commercial and industrial photography which he did for a further four years.

14 years ago he left the photographic industry to start a new career within the print industry, involved heavily with Fuji Graphics supporting various print related companies at a technical level. He now contributes to major nature and dive magazines worldwide including the BBC Wildlife Magazine, and Nature's Best in the USA. His initial decision to concentrate on the more unusual dive locations around the world has paid off not only in articles, but the diversity of tours and workshops he now offers.

His company Sea of Dreams Ltd is now the biggest provider of underwater images to the public Aquarium Industry in the UK and this is now being extended abroad. He has won numerous awards both at home and internationally including a gold medal at Image 2001, and 1st prize in the prestigious African Wildlife awards 2001.

Alex Mustard



Marine biologist Alex Mustard is one of the most imaginative and creative photographers in the water today. He is no newcomer, taking his first pictures in the sea at the age of nine. What sets Alex apart from his photographic peers is that he has a PhD and works as a marine biologist at Southampton Oceanography Centre, giving him a much better understanding of the subjects he photographs. His approach to underwater photography is strongly influenced by his scientific background. Concentrating on coral reefs, he strives to produce images that are informative about the goings on of the community. Recently, he has had articles and/or pictures published in *Amateur Photographer*, *Diver*, *Dive*, *The Sunday Times*, *Oceans Illustrated*, *Underwater Photography Magazine*, the *British Society of Underwater Photographer's In Focus*, and *What's Hot Magazine* (Grand Cayman). He won BSoUP's best shot of 2001 and that same year won a round of the Amateur Photographer of the Year competition, and received a gold medal. He has already won the Wrecks Online Competition for 2002. He will reveal the ideas and background to some of his latest experimental work and encourage his audience to be more adventurous with their own shots.

John Collins



Irish photographer John Collins, who works mostly in the emerald green waters surrounding his homeland, will explain how he tackles the problems of obtaining eye-catching shots in low visibility. Since 1990 John has provided photostories for *Sport Diver*, *Diver*, *Scuba World*, *Sub Sea* and *Dive International* along with providing features to more general publications. John is one of the most experienced low viz, low light photographers and promises a presentation that will provide you with skills you can take away from *Visions* and apply in your own challenging conditions. He is particularly well qualified having taken the first ever images of U260 which sank off Cork and lies in simply appalling conditions. He'll show you that you don't have to pack up and go home just because the viz is low. John will also showcase his work with monochrome, a much neglected aspect of underwater photography. When the conditions are against you John's tips will enable you to exploit the possibilities to the max.

Kevin Capon

Media Ops photographer Kevin Capon travels the world capturing images of the Armed Forces at work and at play. Underwater he specialises in shooting wide angle vistas and he is an exponent of using manual flash settings to subtly light his subjects. As a full time professional photographer whose assignments range from covering the Army's work on the foot and mouth crisis to joint services expeditions exploring the wrecks of Bikini, you can be sure Kevin will provide a fascinating glimpse of what it takes to carry off exacting military briefs time and again. Expect Kevin to offer a more disciplined and creative way to getting pictures that sell.

Mark Walker



Mark Walker started diving in 1989 and a few years later in 1994 became obsessed with the art of underwater (u/w) photography. Mark has travelled to many of the world's top diving destinations over the past 12 years. During his travels he has built up an extensive photographic library of quality images. Having only recently decided to enter into the world of international photographic competition Mark has won 6 medals at the "DIVER" IMAGE

2001, plus a special BSoUP award for the most promising underwater photographer of the festival. Mark has had his articles and photographs published in various diving and photography magazines and has given lectures and slide presentations to diving and photographic groups in the UK. Mark is particularly keen on the artistic appeal of his work and is always experimenting with new techniques and ideas. This is to sure inspire delegates with the variety and originality of his images.

Georgette Douwma



In addition, there will be a “live” demonstration of the wonders of Photoshop, the image manipulation computer software, by Georgette Douwma, who is particularly adept at exploiting the benefits of this widely used programme to enhance her natural history images and to create ones with even greater impact. Georgette is one of the United Kingdoms most successful underwater photographers. Her work is marketed internationally and as stills photographer and partner to “Blue Planet” cameraman Peter Scoones her life as a professional is full of adventure, opportunity and frustration!

Short talks

This year sees the conference being expanded to include a few short sharp presentations of general interest to increase the value of the weekend still further.

There will be thumbnail guides on where to go and who to dive with from veterans who are fully familiar with the unique difficulties underwater photographers face at many destinations. You’ll get the low down on who to use and who to avoid and we’re sure this will spark lively input from the audience. The insiders view will prove invaluable for helping you get the standard of service, safety and flexibility you need.

Young Underwater Photographers Group

The newly formed Internet society called the Young Underwater Photographers Group will be profiled by founding member Andrew (AJ) Pugsley. The objectives are to encourage more young people into underwater photography and to put young photographers in contact with each other. It has members in many parts of the world. It’s the nature of youth to challenge the Establishment and YUP is already attracting a lot of attention. YUP members will have a strong presence at the conference.

We’re also hoping for a short talk from Wild Insight the specialist designers of cameras and tracking equipment used to learn about animals natural behaviour. This team is

responsible for developing deep water crittercams for monitoring sperm whales and seals. Not only will they describe their fascinating work, they may also be persuaded to talk about a new consumer product of great interest to recreational underwater photographers...

The Regular Favourites

Slide clinics



Slide clinics will take on a new format, with photographers having the opportunity to introduce some of their own work as well as to benefit from advice from experts like author **Paul Kay**, the professional underwater photographer who lives in North Wales has been a freelance photographer for over 11 years. He works in industrial and illustrative photography, produces stock landscape, environmental and underwater images and writes illustrated articles. Paul also runs underwater photography courses and workshops with an emphasis on the understanding of the basic photographic techniques relating to underwater photography. Paul has agreed to come along just to help advise delegates over the weekend.

Past BSoUP chairman **Linda Dunk**, winner of



'Underwater photographer of the year' in 1997 by DIVER magazine, will be on hand to help out with slide clinics. Linda has been a regular speaker at Visions and is well known for her images published in magazines, books and travel brochures. As a three time consecutive gold medal winner in the prestigious BSoUP "Open Portfolio Competition" delegates will largely benefit from critiques on slides presented.

As usual our panel of speakers will also take their turn on the lightboxes. This is a vital part of the Visions weekend. Nowhere else can you receive the wisdom of such an illustrious panel of experts so conveniently. Take full advantage. Remember don't just bring your best work - you'll learn more from your mistakes. And don't be shy. If it is your first time at Visions you'll find it's full of friendly, likeminded people.

Competitions



There will be a print competition where delegates get to vote for their favourite image. Once again London Camera Exchange will be supporting Visions with a generous prize (last year they provided a Nikon digital camera). They'll also be mini prizes for delegates whose work is chosen to be projected by the slide clinic panel.

Equipment



There will be plenty of equipment to lust over including the latest housing from Subal for the Nikon Coolpix 5000, the camera seen as the breakthrough model for taking digital into the serious underwater electronic shooting arena. There'll be the new strobes from Inon along with their famous Quad Flash,

Subal housings for 35mm SLRs, the bespoke Subtronic underwater and topside lighting system and a few other goodies. You'll be able to handle the kit and discuss it with the Optics team. Andrew, Steve and AJ can usually find a number of speakers or delegates to introduce you to if you'd like to chat with an owner of an item of equipment you are considering adding to your arsenal. There's also a bring and buy table for moving on the kit you've outgrown but which may be exactly what another delegate is searching for.

London Camera Exchange staffers will also be on hand to answer your in depth questions on the land equipment so often chosen for housing by serious players. LCEs product knowledge is second to none and you'll find them very approachable.

The Book Shop

As always we'll have the latest titles and some of the classics for sale at Visions. This is an easy way to pick up those coffee table books like the excellent Antibes winner Silent Symphony, Realm of the Pygmy Seahorse or useful identification guides from the Helmut Debelius stable. There will also be a fine selection of travel guides to help you plan your next adventure. Kurt Amsler will be available to sign books. You don't have to purchase at Visions to get his signature - if you already have his books just bring them along.

Special Events

An Evening With Peter Scoones

Last year we introduced a special “An Audience With.....” event after the main conference closed on the Saturday evening. The larger than life personality Constantinos Petrinis gave a wonderful and humorous account of the trials and tribulations of getting his first book “Realm of the Pygmy Seahorse” from concept to reality. This year we are delighted to offer an evening with Peter Scoones. Peter is undoubtedly one of the most artistic of underwater photographers.



His stellar career has included BBC Natural History classics ReefWatch, Sea Trek, Land of the Tiger, Life in the Freezer, Great White Shark and numerous Wildlife on One specials. Peter was also the man behind the lens for much of the footage screened on the groundbreaking Blue Planet series.

Peter is also co founder, with Colin Doeg, of BSoUP, a much published author of underwater photographer articles and the developer of some of the most specialised underwater camera equipment in the world. Peter is a superb presenter and extremely generous with his advice. This is a wonderful opportunity to be captivated by one of the world's very best underwater image makers. The event will be held at the Holland Club at Imperial College and the entrance fee will include a glass of wine.

Entrance is by pre-paid ticket only.

Evening Dinner with the speakers

At previous Visions conferences there has been a private dinner for speakers and their partners and the Optics crew. For the first time we're offering places at the meal to all delegates. This takes place on the Saturday after Peter Scoones' evening presentation. Seating is strictly limited - one reason that the event has had to be kept private in the past. Now that we have been able to organise more space approximately 35 - 40 places will be available. The restaurant is Italian and can cater for vegetarians. We've organised a set price to include starter, main course, desert, coffee and a bottle of wine between two. There's a cash bar for any extra drinks. Please go along with our non smoking request.

If you really want to make a full weekend at “Visions in the Sea” think very seriously about sharing the evening with us and the presenters.

Attendance is by ticket only and we regret that we will have to enforce this rule rigidly! So if you want to come along, tick the box and get your booking form in NOW. Strictly first come, first served.

In just six years, Visions has become the premier conference in Europe for underwater photographers keen to learn how to improve their own work while mixing and talking with other enthusiasts from as far afield as Scandinavia, Italy and Greece. Be there!

Visions In The Sea 2002 Booking Form

Imperial College, London, on the weekend of November 16/17, 2002.

Two day Visions conference, including morning coffee and afternoon tea each day, as well as a lunch buffet — £99.50

A social evening with Peter Scoones in the Holland Club, Imperial College, from 18:30 to 20:30, after which a cash bar will remain open for delegates who wish to remain. - £15.00 includes two glasses of wine.

Speakers' Dinner, to include starter, main course, desert, coffee and a bottle of wine between two. — £20.00

	No of Places	
Visions _____		@ £99.50 each.....Total £.....
Peter Scoones _____		@ £15.00 each.....Total £.....
Dinner _____		@ £20.00 each.....Total £.....
		Grand total £.....

Please supply name(s) of delegates, and also list any special dietary requirements:

Name of delegate(s):.....

Address:.....

.....

Daytime tel: E-mail:

Dietry requirements.....

For payment by Visa or Mastercard (please circle as appropriate), please give the following details:

Card number: _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____

OR Please make cheques payable to Ocean Optics

Bookings can be made by phoning the conference hotline - 020 7930 8408
Ocean Optics, 13 Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5AQ

Underwater Photography

a web magazine

Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you!

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques -

Balanced light, composition, wreck photography etc

Locations -

Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards

Subjects

Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews -

Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities

Interviews with leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.**

My e mail is peter@uwpmag.co.uk

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable to produce we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text for the article should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be "attached" to the e mail and they need to be:

Resolution - 144dpi

Size - Maximum length 15cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 15 cm wide and verticals would be 15cm.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality

This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.

We pay a flat fee of £50 (+VAT if invoiced).

I look forward to hearing from you.

