

Blue Planet II

We have only just been privy to the first episode of this major new BBC, four years in the making, Blue Planet II and I have to say it's 'looking good'.

From the first jawdropping trailer (how many trailers do you remember that kept you riveted for 5 minutes?!) to the much anticipated first episode, they have flown our flag high. A world class team of a dozen principal photographers and ten additional/assistant photographers backed up by a dedicated team of researchers and producers.

The series is a BBC Open University Partnership with credited co-productions with what look like a select body of likeminded companies. The result, admittedly only based on the trailer and first episode, just gets better the more I think about it.

The original Blue Planet was produced when, believe it or not, it was a world away in terms of digital camera technology. High speed and low light performance to name just two were the stuff of cinematic dreams back then but now, just 16 years later the technology is totally available. But what has impressed me so far is how that imaging capability has been harnessed so positively and artistically rather than gratuitously.

Soaking in sublime slow motion footage to the beautifully understated score of Hans and his team enveloped by the word perfect script delivered, as only Sir David can, produces a tremendous sense of pride of such a representation of the world we are so immersed in.

Thank you to all of those involved.

Editorial

99 not out

That's the score that puts pressure on a cricketer batsman especially but, in fact, any sportsman or woman as they battle to control their nerves and steer their career to a fist pumping 100; be it runs, tries, goals or caps.

Back in August 2001 we had UwP 1, a pumped up newsletter riding on the capability of the world wide web. History has proved that UwP was, in fact, the very first downloadable pdf magazine on any subject, anywhere and that was just pure luck. Right place, right time, right people.

That luck seems to be still on top of the wave as Issue 99 turns out to be 'another bumper issue' and my thanks, as always, goes to our contributors and all that is interesting happening in our world of underwater photography.

As has always been the case, the UwP article cupboard is now empty and we'll see what happens in the next six weeks before work starts on UwP 100. That's what keeps me interested and motivated to produce something that is a product of its time and in its time.

I look forward to working with you on UwP 100.

OpenROV Trident and the Gladius Submersible Drone

Way back in November 2015 I pledged a not insignificant amount of money into a Kickstarter project in the hope of getting an OpenROV Trident but it turns out that the product still does not exist. I covered the story behind its demise in UwP94 Jan/Feb 2017.

At about the same time that I got my refund earlier this year I became aware of another project; this time through Indiegogo. You would have thought "Once bitten etc etc" would come to mind but the refund burnt a hole in my pocket and I pledged a similar amount but this time to a new Chinese company, Chasing Innovation, with no track record that I knew of.

It turns out, as you can read in my review of the Gladius Submersible Drone later in this issue, that I backed a winner and in September I was rewarded by a knock on the door from FedEx.

You can read my review to take up the rest of this story but I cannot end this without a word of caution if you are seriously interested in an ROV and are looking to make a purchase soon.

If you are tempted to "pre-order" the Open ROV Trident at <https://www.openrov.com/products/> this website states at the time of writing: UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2017: Due to high demand, new orders are expected to ship end of 2017 / early 2018.

In November 2015 I was reassured that I would get delivery of the same product in Nov 2016.

I'll leave you to do the maths.

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