Clubs and Societies Board
25th May 2010

Imperial College Underwater Club (ICUC)

RCC Contingency Funding Request

Introduction

Imperial College Underwater Club (RCC Underwater), one of the oldest student dive clubs in the world, has a reputation for being one of the most active university dive clubs in the country.

This request for funding is for a new GPS/Depth Sounder/ Weather receiver unit for RCC Underwater Club's RIB (Rigid-hulled inflatable boat); Icy Diver. The current unit fitted in the RIB will not turn on and when inspected and opened by a professional boat service company they found a large amount of water inside and the electrical contacts very badly corroded by sea water.

The RIB is a 6.3m Ribcraft diving boat custom made for RCC Underwater in April 2006. The current electronics unit on the RIB dates from then.

Effects of the Problem

At the start of the diving season this year; RCC Underwater replaced the engine on the boat using our Union Capital Expenditure Plan. It was while this work was being done that it because apparent that there was a problem with the electronics unit.

After inspection by the boat service company they stated that there was no way of repairing it and so the unit must be replaced.

Without a functioning electronics unit it is not possible for us to use the RIB for diving. Part of the BSAC training we offer to club members requires that we teach them dive planning on a RIB which we have currently had to suspend. Also;

- GPS - essential for navigation to off-shore wrecks and other dive sites. Due to the busy shipping channels round the UK knowing exact locations is very important to avoid divers drifting into these potentially extremely dangerous areas.
- Depth Sounder – many of the wrecks we dive are not marked with surface buoys. This means before most of our dives we drive a search pattern on the surface and watch the depth sounder to identify the location of the wreck.
- Weather – the unit receives weather data using SIRIUS satellite weather

Currently the unit not working is severely affecting diving within the club.

Due to the temperature of the UK seas most of our diving activity takes place between April and October. Diving trips at start of this year's season has been

seriously stagnated by not having a functioning RIB. Several trips have had to be cancelled and other rearranged to shallower shore diving trips.

Cost of Replacement

We have obtained quotes from several companies for a replacement unit and the cost of fitting it. The most practical quote to go with is from 'All Boat Services' based in Plymouth where our boat currently is;

For the Raymarine A50D they charge £832.05 + VAT.

Obviously as fitting the unit requires wiring it into the consol, connecting up a depth sounder below the boat and wiring the GPS onto the antenna we cannot do this ourselves.

They charge £334.26 + VAT for fitting and testing it for us.

This means in total the replacement will cost: £1,370.50

Funding

We charge our members to use our RIB on top of our club membership fees. The current charge is £10 per person per day. This has build up money in our SGI to contribute towards replacement of equipment for the RIB.

However, we were expecting the unit to last for at least another 5 years allowing us to have built up more funding for it in our SGI and also had the opportunity to seek additional funding to help cover the replacement cost if needed.

The engine work that was done earlier in the year required a significant contribution from the RCC Underwater Club SGI. This is combined with a long planned (from 6 years ago) replacement of our air compressor next year (partially paid for with a Union CEP) which will require a large SGI contribution means, we request addition support for the replacement.

We would like to request 50% of the cost be covered by RCC Contingency with the remaining part being paid for out of RCC Underwater SGI. **This means we are requesting £685.20 from the RCC Contingency**.

Summary

RCC Underwater requests £685.20 from the RCC Contingency to partially fund the replacement of our GPS/Depth Sounder/Weather unit.