

Every Breath Is Gold

Jack Morrison is a convert to top-end dive gear thanks to his new toy, Scubapro's MK25-S600 Regulator. In fact it's so special, it's gold ...

THERE IS an ancient tale retold best by George Bernard Shaw, called Androcles and the Lion. In the story a Roman slave called Androcles helps an injured lion by removing a thorn from its paw. Later when as a Christian he is being fed to the lions in the Colosseum the lion recognises him and eats everybody but Androcles. Well the story's not quite as simple as that but the moral of the story is that a good deed done can lead to an unexpected reward much later.

Many years ago a young enthusiastic student at Clydebank College became a customer of mine. During his visits he kept asking about diving although he hadn't at that time tried it he went away with copies of **SCOTTISH DIVER** and tales of adventure fuelled by my shark pictures hanging on the walls. Some years later he popped up again working in Aquatron as a fully fledged PADI instructor. Chris is now general manager although that may not be completely accurate he is probably more important than that.

Anyway to cut a long story short Chris along with the nice people at Scubapro generously presented me with a regulator to celebrate 50 years active diving. By coincidence it was 50 years since Scubapro started producing dive equipment.

And this is not just any regulator, it is an MK25-S600 special gold coloured 50th anniversary regulator. I wrote about it at the time but I have had it now for seven months and have done quite a few dives with it so I thought I would let you know what I think.

Now don't get the idea that this is an in-depth review - I've never been interested in flow rates, resistance forces or whether it lets in water when you stand



Jack does a 'selfie' while donning his Scubapro regulator

on your head, it doesn't by the way. I'm only interested in how easy it breathes. So this is more of a user report than a review.

I have to admit I have always advised trainees to buy simple regulators like the Scubapro MK2-R190 such as the one I was using for the last 20 odd years. It has been undoubtedly the best regulator I have ever used, except perhaps my Siebe Hienke Merlin twin hose. However I have been forced to eat my words.

My buddy Gordon who has heard me denigrate top-end regulators too often was crying with laughter when I started singing the praises of my new toy. Okay I admit it this regulator is brilliant, I love it, but I don't take it to bed with me. No I leave it on the chest of drawers so it is the first thing I see when I awake.

Joking aside I really am impressed with it. Although this has not been the coldest winter there has been some very cold fresh water in the top few metres on the sea lochs. The regulator has performed perfectly, no free flows and steady breathing throughout the dive. I quickly got

used to the pre-dive / dive switch and the knob on the end that allows you to set a breathing flow that suits you and once set can be forgotten.

However the biggest surprise and one I am still getting used to is my air consumption, wow. I have been diving with Gordon for years and he always surfaces with more air than me, not anymore.

While breathing has never been easier I am now using less air than I ever have, an example, started with 235bar in a 12 litre cylinder average depth 15 metres duration 78 minutes temperature eight degrees surfaced with 90bar.

Now diving as we all know is a non-competitive sport and I can just hear lots of you saying: 'I can do better than that' or 'so you're a bit of a gas guzzler' but I don't care. That's fine for me I'm looking forward to the summer months when I can stay in longer because I won't be cold, but I will have to keep an eye on my computer as I may be able to stay long enough to require stops.

Anyway once again my sincere thanks to Chris at Aquatron and Andy at Scubapro. As the bishop said to the actress: "You've made an old man very, very happy."

One last thing; the only problem with having a gold regulator, it's costing me a fortune replacing my lead weights with gold ingots!

