

Back-up torches



Looking at the Best Value Award, several were in the running, including the Scubapro Nova 200, Seac Sub R1 and the Underwater Kinetics SL4. However, while the UK torch is a solidly built, durable unit that produces a vivid beam of light, we felt that its dated looks let it down in its present company, and it was a bit chunky for use as a back-up torch to be tucked away in a BCD or drysuit pocket, or attached to your wing harness. So it came down to a straight shoot-out between the subtle Seac Sub and the shiny Scubapro, and in the end there was nothing to separate them - they both turn on with a push button in the hilt, they both gave a bright, fairly tight beam of light, and they are both well-priced. So, we gave **both the Seac Sub R1 and the Scubapro Nova 200 the Best Value Award**. The reviewers said: 'Scubapro have gone for a bit of bling, and it looks good, too' and 'The Seac Sub R1 is a compact, neat-looking torch which fits nicely into your hand'. The Choice Award was much more straight-forward. Just seeing how bright all the torches were in dismal conditions in Gildenburgh, it was immediately obvious that the **Light & Motion GoBe Spot 500 was the clear winner** - substantially brighter than the competition, well made, has some neat features, and is still competitively priced. A worthy winner in this price bracket. The testers said: 'A fantastic little back-up torch'.

Primary torches



For the Best Value Award, it was a straight shoot-out between the Scubapro Nova 700 and the SubGear ProLight SP30. Not surprisingly given they have the same parent company, both torches look very similar in their basic design, and when you look into the head at the LED, they are pretty much identical. One has a nifty tech-black finish, the other has a slick polished look, but other than that it is impossible to separate the two - they even cost the same amount! As such, we gave **both the Scubapro Nova 700 and the SubGear ProLight the award**. The reviewers said: 'The Nova 700 is the latest light to join the Scubapro range, and it certainly looks handsome with its polished aluminium body' and 'This SubGear ProLight adds another string to the company's bow'. The Choice award was a little harder. The Mares EOS 10R, the BigBlue TL2500 and the Light & Motion Sola Dive 2000 were all in the running. The Mares gave a decent showing, but the BigBlue and Light & Motion were brighter. If money is no object, the Sola 2000 is an awesome, multi-purpose unit, but nearly £700 is a lot of cash. The BigBlue is not cheap either, but it is a solid performer and would make a fine UK or travel primary torch, and so the **BigBlue TL2500 took the Choice Award**. The testers said: 'The TL2500 sits comfortably on the back of your hand'.

