



The glass ball bobbing in the water off Long Beach, South Abaco



Becky Scrivens

Becky's story goes worldwide

A CHANCE find by an American sea captain, beach combing in the Bahamas, has led to the sad story of a young Alton girl being launched on a national scale.

Becky Scrivens, a pupil at Eggar's School, died tragically from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) in May 2004, exactly three months short of her 12th birthday.

Becky's parents, Roger and Sandie Scrivens, are now deeply involved with the charity Epilepsy Bereaved, which helps to raise awareness of SUDEP and Mr Scrivens is now a trustee of the charity.

He also runs a company, RS Aqua Ltd, based in Privett, which supplies ocean measuring equipment

to research organisations, offshore installations, ports and harbours. One of RS Aqua's products is a glass buoyancy sphere (a glass ball) which is used to provide buoyancy for mooring lines attached to underwater instruments.

Recently, out of the blue, Mr Scrivens received an email from a Captain Clint Kemp of the Blackfly Bonefish Club in Abaco, Bahamas. Cpt Kemp had found a 'glass ball' on the Abaco beach and, curious as to its heritage, had employed detective-like qualities to track down the supplier. On reaching the company's website he read about the product and then noticed a sub-heading on the menu bar entitled Epilepsy Bereaved which led him to read Becky's story.

So touched was Cpt Kemp by the experience, he emailed Roger Scrivens and the two struck up a friendship.

It was agreed that Cpt Kemp could send a link to Becky's story to all on his fishing lodge mailing list, and to many friends around the world. He also plans to submit an article to the Abaco press and to add Becky's story to the Blackfly website.

Cpt Kemp's story reads: "It's amazing-what washes up on the beaches of South Abaco. I spend hours beach combing, looking for interesting treasures, but sometimes the treasure finds you. Such was the case this week when a large glass ball in a curious plastic shell washed up on Long Beach. Staff at the Blackfly Lodge

retrieved the ball that was unlike anything I had seen before. We were all very interested to discover what it was and where it came from.

"The ball was stamped with the word Vitrovex and a quick Google search revealed that it originated from the UK and was distributed by the RS Aqua company. I found the company interesting and spent more time exploring the site to see what else they made and that is where the real story begins.

"In the menu bar on the site there were several buttons that were related to the business of the company but one that seemed very out of place was labelled 'Epilepsy Bereaved'. When I selected the button, a story opened that touched me so deeply it brought tears to my eyes. I

often wonder about the stories behind the trinkets I pick up on the beach and although I have never found a message in a bottle I have now found a story in a glass ball from the deep.

"It was the story of Becky Scrivens, the 11-year-old daughter of Roger and Sandie Scrivens, owners of the RS Aqua Company. Becky's story is one of a beautiful young girl taken tragically as a victim of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). I had never heard of this syndrome and as I read further, the story of Becky's life unfolded with pictures and poetry.

As a father of two daughters, one that is about the same age as Becky, my heart broke and I was stunned by the reality of the ball washing up on the beach in front

of our lodge with a story from the deep that was touching my heart in such a deep place.

"I took the time to respond on the website to tell the story of the ball washing up in South Abaco and the impact it was having on my life. The following day I was delighted to receive a response from Roger Scrivens expressing his deep appreciation of hearing how Becky's story had come to me. Turns out that Roger was giving a presentation in a few days at a symposium on SUDEP and

shared the story of the ball and how a little girl's story was touching hearts on distant shores."

According to Cpt Kemp he will now be doing all he can to raise awareness of SUDEP.

He added: "When the ocean brings you treasure it must be shared with others."

Becky's story and information about SUDEP and Epilepsy Bereaved can be found on Roger Scrivens' website at www.rsaqua.co.uk or the Blackfly site at www.blackflybonefishclub.com

ALTON HERALD
2 DECEMBER 2012