



STRANGE FIND ... The traction engines found by deep-sea divers 70 metres down off the Scarborough coast submitted

Divers come up with challenging mystery

by **Liam Higgins**

liam.higgins@scarborougheveningnews.co.uk

A PAIR of deep-sea divers have uncovered a mystery of the deep 28 miles off the coast of Scarborough

Andy Jackson and Carl Racey were diving 70 metres below the sea when they came across a pair of traction engines at the bottom.

The engines would have been used in the Victorian era to help plough fields, so the discovery of the two engines, mixed up with the wreck of a very early steam ship, was surprising.

The divers, who are both members of Scarborough Sub-Aqua Club, videoed what they found, although they weren't sure at first what they had discovered.

Mr Jackson, a catchment manager for Yorkshire Water, said: "This is our most challenging mystery with none of the facts.

"This type of ship shouldn't be where it is, and the ship and her cargo are several decades apart in time, and, without knowing even the right decade in which they were lost, the records that might help us are just too vast to search.

"It will be months before it is clear enough for us to go back to the wreck to find any more clues."

It is thought the wreck would have sank around 1900, but the team have had no luck in tracing where it came from.

Mr Racey, vice-chair of the



EXCITING DISCOVERY ... Divers Carl Racey, left, and Andy Jackson submitted

sub-aqua club said: "It could well be that there were no survivors as it is so far offshore. We have been in touch with the Wreck Receivers, The Salvage Association and Lloyds Insurers, but nothing has come up.

"It could be that this boat is just recorded as 'lost in the North Sea', which means that it set off and never arrived at its destination."

If the pair find out the story behind the wreck it could end up being made into a TV documentary.

Mr Racey, said: "It was very clear when we did the dive so the film footage, that Mark shot, is really good, and we have worked with the BBC and other companies before so that is a possibility."

The engines were made by

John Fowler and Co, of Leeds.

Charles Roads, president of the Steam Plough Club said: "The incredible thing is that all the original Fowler order books for all the engines are still in existence.

"We have checked and rechecked and there is no mention of these engines being lost and nothing was ever said about it."