

## **Club Dives and Club Diving**

Club Dives must follow BSAC Safe Diving practices and a dive can only be a Club Dive if it receives the explicit sanction of the DO. Simply informing the DO is not the equivalent of it being sanctioned. A prospective Dive Manager for a Club Dive must contact the DO, or his nominee if he is not readily available, in sufficient time and with sufficient detail to allow an assessment of the proposed dive plan and for a discussion of modifications to it, if necessary, before the dive is carried out. The prospective Dive Manager must receive an explicit go-ahead before carrying out the dive.

The DO may decide to implicitly sanction particular classes of dive to be carried out by suitably-qualified Dive Managers, but Dive Managers need to be careful to ensure that there is no ambiguity related to the sanctioning of a proposed dive. If in doubt, ask! At the present moment, no implicit sanctioning applies to any Dive Manager. I will review this situation in consultation with Dive Managers who might wish to establish such a principle, as the year goes on.

During a sanctioned Club Dive, the appointed Dive Manager is completely in control and has delegated responsibility for the safe conduct of the diving. They may limit the diving of any person involved in the dive – including more highly-qualified members of the club, even including the DO. In the event that any club member is unhappy with a decision made by the Dive Manager, this should be referred to the DO and Committee for consideration at the next meeting. Any club member, unhappy with the circumstances, may of course decline to dive or take part in a particular activity, while bearing in mind that they too also have a duty of care to other members of the group.

Any dive making use of club equipment must be a club dive.

Training can only be carried out on Club Dives and the nature of the training and arrangements for it must be discussed with either the TO or DO in advance of the event.

As soon as practicable following a Club Dive, a report of the event must be sent to the DO. If the event involved training, a copy should also be sent to the TO.

## **Private Dives and Private Diving**

There are many circumstances under which members may engage in private dives – i.e. dives not explicitly sanctioned by the DO. Examples include holiday dives and dives outwith normal club diving.

Where a dive is 'private', responsibility for its safe execution no longer falls on the DO or a designated Dive Manager. Therefore the DO cannot require that it is carried out in a particular manner. However, BSAC expects all diving to be carried out in accordance with Safe Diving Practices [see the attached document] and while the club and DO might not bear immediate responsibility

for the particular dive, there is a continuing responsibility for the quality of the training of the member or members concerned and the nature of the diving and the practices of those involved can also reflect on the club in general.

Therefore, while I cannot demand it, I will nonetheless expect at least a brief report related to all diving carried out by club members. I will expect to see that it was carried out in accordance with BSAC Safe Diving Practices or if for any reason that was not the case, I'll expect an account of why and evidence that a suitable risk assessment was carried out.

Members should bear in mind that Ocean Divers are still considered to be 'divers in training' by the HSE until they have achieved a Sports Diver qualification. More stringent requirements are therefore placed upon the circumstances of their diving. Details of these can be found in the Diver Training Programme.

## **The Advertising and Availability of Dives**

Unless there is a pressing reason for it to be otherwise, I will expect members to attempt to make as many dives as possible Club Dives. It is usually the case that most dives can be opened up to the club in general, or at least a suitably-qualified sub-set of the club. In order to do this, the dive plan needs to be sanctioned by the DO and the dive advertised to the membership of the club sufficiently in advance. Our aim should be to make as much diving as possible, both in terms of breadth and number, available to the club as a whole.

In order for the club to pursue a wide range of diving, suitable for and attractive to all members, there will inevitably be some dives that need to be limited to more qualified or more experienced members. This is a positive thing and also gives less qualified members something 'exciting' to aspire to, but members organising such dives should take care to ensure that they also organise a suitable number of more general dives. Often, though not always, an event can contain a mix of adventurous and less adventurous dives and so, even if you don't have the requisite qualification or experience for the planned dive, there is nothing wrong with asking the Dive Manager whether it might be possible to be included in the party (so long as you appreciate that both "yes" and "no" are possible answers!)

Our overall aim should be to provide the widest range and greatest amount of diving possible for our members, carried out as safely as possible. Anything that furthers those aims will always be warmly welcomed and I'm always happy to discuss potential dive plans and ways that diving can be facilitated.

As ever, if anything in the above is unclear or you don't understand some detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wayne