

Training

As you may (or may not) know, the quality and provision of all diving-related training in the branch is the responsibility of the Diving Officer. They have a responsibility to ensure that suitable training can be provided or to find alternative sources if it cannot, and, most importantly, to ensure the overall quality and safety of that training. Should a court of law decide that your necessary training was lacking in some respect, then I would almost certainly be there answering questions as to how that came about.

The DO may, and often does, delegate the organisation of all or much of that training to a Training Officer, but the DO nonetheless remains responsible for overall standards and procedures and the adequacy of each member's instruction.

The BSAC does not support independent instructors. All instruction must come under the quality assurance procedures provided by being run either in a Branch, or under a Regional Coaching Scheme, or in a BSAC School.

It follows, therefore, that if you have instructional needs or desires, these should first be discussed with the DO or TO, who will set about finding either appropriate instructional arrangements within the branch or the availability of appropriate instruction from outside. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with you chatting to any instructor in the branch regarding training questions and making use of all the expertise that the branch provides, you should not expect an instructor to agree to a particular instructional request without first consulting with the TO or DO.

It is only with the oversight of the TO and DO that we can ensure that all aspects of your training are completed in a thorough, safe and appropriate manner and with proper consideration of your overall level of skill and experience.

Also, you should bear in mind that it is not necessarily fair to ask the 'most visible' person to help with your training. BSAC instructors offer their time and their expertise for no recompense. In fact, they often end up out of pocket in the process. It is therefore important that we spread the instruction as widely and as equitably as possible. Also, of course, it is valuable for trainees to have a range of instructional experience. You should bear in mind that there is no single person who 'owes' you training. It is the club, in general, that owes you an obligation, and since you are a member of the club, you need to take as much responsibility for it as everybody else.

That means that you:

- a) have an obligation to take advantage of training opportunities when they arise, rather than assuming that they can be put on to suit you,
- b) need to make your training needs and desires clear to those responsible for coordinating and providing them (the TO and DO),

c) should not expect to be 'chased up' for your training. The responsibility is on you to make it clear what you need and to do any 'chasing' that is required.

Nonetheless, the club also has an obligation to:

- a) fully inform you of any training opportunities that arise,
- b) offer as much flexibility in the timing and nature of that provision as can reasonably be achieved,
- c) not unnecessarily delay your training, given an appropriate level of flexibility on your part,
- d) offer or suggest alternative means of achieving the training, if it cannot reasonably be completed within the club within a suitable period of time.

Training Officer and the Conduct of Training:

Bob Pitman had kindly agreed to take on the post of Training Officer for this year.

Bob will principally be concerned with coordinating our Ocean Diver and Sports Diver training, but will, I am sure, be happy to answer questions related to any aspect of training and to point you in the right direction. Both students and instructors should ensure that instructional needs and opportunities related to this training are always discussed with Bob.

Responsibility for coordinating Dive Leader and Advanced Diver training will fall on my shoulders and I am happy to provide relevant information for anybody contemplating First Class. I am also happy to discuss either our provision or the alternative availability of any of the wide range of BSAC Skill Development Courses.

In addition to the formal training detailed above, we will also provide mentoring for Dive Managers – that is, either supervised training of those not yet fully qualified to manage dives on their own, or the 'getting back up to speed' of any suitably qualified member who has been inactive for some time. Additionally, workshops and refreshers will be provided for qualified instructors whose skills are a little rusty or out of date and for Assistant Diving Instructors who wish to develop their skills or prepare for an exam. If you are interested in any of these possibilities, please contact me directly.

Finally, *everybody* is reminded that diver training within the branch can *only* take place in the context of authorised club dives, and the DO and/or TO must give their explicit approval to the planned training.

Happy and safe bubbles all,
Wayne