

Diving Recommendations 2012

(Applying to ALL dives made by members of this Branch)

- 1) Without a current membership receipt and medical your BSAC insurance may not operate fully.
- 2) All diving will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the BSAC and the BSAC Safe Diving Practices.
- 3) Trainees may dive only under the supervision of a Nationally Qualified Instructor, Advanced Diver or Dive Leader of this Branch.
- 4) All Branch diving will be conducted in accordance with the BSAC '88 Decompression Tables or Computers which are at least as conservative on a rectangular profile dive as the BSAC 88 Tables. (Refer to relevant section on dive computers).
- 5) Club/Ocean divers may not dive in excess of 20 metres.
- 6) Sports divers may not dive to depths in excess of 35 metres, except with prior approval of the Diving Officer or Expedition Leader.
- 7) No diver shall dive to a depth in excess of 50 metres.
- 8) Any member planning a dive to depths in excess of 40 metres should notify the Branch Diving Officer at least 3 days before the dive is due to take place.
- 9) A Buoyancy Compensator must be worn by all divers during all dives.
- 10) All divers should carry an alternative air source.
- 11) Appropriate training in the rescue of a dry suited diver is to be undertaken by all diving members, and in the case of Novices, prior to any open water diving.
- 12) Trainees are not permitted in the pool unsupervised.
- 13) Bring your logbook on all dives and allow the Expedition Leader to inspect it. All dives should be recorded in the red logbook and those for qualifications should be supervised in each case by two Advanced Divers or a Club Instructor of this Branch. Divers supervised by any Open Water, Advanced or National Instructor are also acceptable. Foreign dives are not acceptable unless signed by an appropriately qualified instructor giving their name & number. Training dives should be written up in the Qualification Record Book on the same day as the training undertaken and signed by the NQI supervising the training. Please surrender your log books to the Branch D. O. when required to do so. Ensure that you have a recognisable photograph of yourself in your Qualification Record Book and current membership card (or copies). Self Certification medicals are required each year which should be submitted to the membership secretary.
- 14) Expedition Leaders are in absolute charge of dives and because they are responsible in Law for what happens on the dive site, their decisions are binding on all members taking part. They must ensure that dives are run according to the club Code of Conduct and in accordance with these regulations and recommendations and for proper care of Branch equipment used on their dives.
- 15) A dive log must be presented to the Diving Officer for all dives that any member may wish to be considered as a qualifying dive. It may be that the dive will be considered not to have taken place if the essential information regarding it is not recorded other than in the member's logbook. For Branch dives, it is expected that a full Dive Report should be presented to the

D.O. together with the Dive Log. Expedition Leaders who are unsure of the information required should consult the D.O. All logs and reports should be in the D.O.'s hand before the first Monday of the month following the dive. The Dive Log must be completed on site.

- 16) All incidents and accidents involving injury to a member or non-member, whatever the cause, or any form of diving ailment must be reported immediately to the Branch D.O. and within seven days to the BSAC Diving Incidents Panel. Incidents involving loss or damage to Branch equipment must be reported as soon as possible, and no later than the end of the diving expedition concerned, to the Branch Equipment Officer. It is a condition of the Club insurance policy that damage or injury to property or persons which might result in a claim being made against the Club must be reported at once. Page 6

Incidents involving harassment of divers by any other persons must be reported immediately to the local police and the Branch D.O.

- 17) Alcohol, Smoking and Medication: Expedition Leaders are advised not to allow anyone who has taken alcohol within a period of four hours prior to any dive, to take part in that dive. Anyone with a noticeable hangover is strongly recommended not to dive. The after effects of alcohol or medication can cause severe problems particularly increasing susceptibility to most diving ailments. Smoking before diving increases the level of carbon monoxide in the blood, reducing its oxygen carrying capacity and again increasing susceptibility to most diving ailments.
- 18) The use of adequate surface marker buoys is to be recommended on all dives and members should regard them as an essential item of personal equipment. Where a line to the surface is not appropriate due to the diving conditions, the buoy reel should be employed as a distance line from a shot line or other fixed datum.
- 19) All items of a 'wreck' removed from the seabed should be reported to H. M. Receiver of Wrecks in the proper manner. Branch diving will not take place on listed historical wrecks without prior permission from the appropriate authority. Members are advised that injuries received from artifacts recovered illegally from any wreck for which permission to dive has been denied will be outside the responsibility of the Branch or Club. The removal of ordnance from any wreck is illegal.
- 20) Nitrox may only be used by members who have been trained by a recognised agency (BSAC, IANTD, TDI) and in accordance with current BSAC recommendations.
- 21) All Nitrox cylinders that are filled on the club's compressors must be supervised by their owners.
- 22) If you become separated from your companion underwater, you must surface at the recommended rates of ascent, commencing your ascent within 30 seconds of separation. If both divers of a pair do not surface within one minute of each other, remaining divers will be recalled and a search started for the missing diver. Divers who disregard this recommendation will be asked to explain their actions to the Branch Committee.
- 23) Experienced divers and Branch Officers are asked to please not interfere with the running of dives by appointed Expedition Leaders, unless it would lead to an incident. Dive Marshals and Assistant Dive Marshals who are not themselves the Expedition Leader are immediately responsible to the Expedition Leader alone.
- 24) A responsible attitude to conservation should be maintained. Please do not remove crabs, lobsters or crayfish that are too small and do not remove 'berried' crustaceans under any

circumstances. Members are requested to acquaint themselves with and observe the minimum size of fish that may be removed and to observe closed seasons and conservation areas for all marine creatures. The wholesale removal of sea urchins and scallops is actively discouraged, as is spearfishing. Members are reminded that the possession of a speargun may require either a gun or firearms license.

- 25) Branch dives must have an Advanced Diver in charge on the surface at all times, unless the site provides adequate surface cover, i.e. Capemwray, Eccleston Delph.
- 26) Club boats must be under the supervision of an Advanced Diver (old ¹ scheme) or a holder of a Diver Coxswain Certificate at all times. Members who have attended a Boat Handling Course are entitled to drive the boats under supervision.

Any member found in breach of the regulations will be liable to suspension of membership for such a period as the Branch Committee may determine.

Branch Definitions

BRANCH DIVES

Shown on the calendar or with prior approval of the D.O. Please consult the notice board for details of these dives. Please consult the Expedition Leader before you attend any Branch Dive. Dives are frequently arranged at short notice; contact the clubhouse on Thursday evenings for details.

A Branch Dive is one of the dives on the calendar, or with prior approval of the D.O., on which all Branch members are welcome to attend, although in some cases, numbers or grades will be restricted. Other Branch Dives may take place from time to time.

A Training Dive is one whose prime purpose is training at any level. These are usually organised as part of the Branch training scheme, but may be organised at a more advanced level. It is hoped that those divers who have already been trained by the Branch will make themselves available to assist in the training of new members. Boat levy will be waived for those giving instruction.

A Qualifying Dive will normally be either of the above but may also be any dive for which the D.O. receives a properly completed Dive Log and complies with the conditions stated in the Qualification Record Book. The D.O. must have prior knowledge of all Branch Training and Qualifying dives. Branch dives must be well advertised before the event.

A Private Dive may be organised by any group or individual and need not conform to any of the above. No private dive will be considered as a Qualifying dive leading up to Sports Diver qualification. Private dives following Sports Diver qualification will be considered as a Qualifying Dive, except that all drills must be carried out during a Branch Dive.

Those organising private dives need not inform the D.O. or submit a report or log. However, in this case neither the D.O. nor any other member of the Branch Committee will be considered in any way responsible for the dive which is carried out at the organiser's and the diver's own risk.