



Welcome

Welcome to Clidive – I hope you will enjoy diving with us.

In this booklet, you can find out lots of useful information about the club and who's who, membership, the diving and training we do, how to go about booking on a club trip, our own safe diving practices, and how much it all costs.

Clidive is a branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), the biggest diving club in the world. We are a large, friendly club with around 100 members. We organise lots of diving and training. By joining Clidive you are now a proud part-owner of two very powerful boats.

Every year, Clidive organises 90+ days of diving for its members. We dive both in the UK and abroad. We are one of the most active diving clubs in the country, and have endless enthusiasm for UK diving, which can be some of the best in the world, with its huge variety of environments and marine life. We have twice won the Heinke Trophy – BSAC's most prestigious award.

Our two boats, which are RIBs (rigid-hulled inflatable boats), are mainly based on the south coast. They have operated from Weymouth and Portland in Dorset, Plymouth in Devon, north and south Cornwall, and as far afield as the Shetland Isles, Mull in the Inner Hebrides and the south of France. We also occasionally dive from chartered boats or do shore diving.

Both Clidive and BSAC are non-profit making, and are run for the benefit of our members.

I hope this will help you settle into the club, but if you ever have any questions, just let me know, or email me at: mary@clidive.org.

Best wishes and safe diving!

Mary Brown
Diving Officer

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The Committee

Our club is run by and for its members. We have a committee, who look after the club's running and planning, and are elected every year by club members. You can see photos and find out more about each committee member on the website. The 2013 committee is:

Ben Jaffey	Chair	ben@clidive.org
Brian Arnold	Treasurer	brian@clidive.org
Lucy Rickards	Secretary	edward@clidive.org
Neil Rickards	Membership	neil@clidive.org
Mary Brown	Diving Officer	mary@clidive.org
Don Downer	Equipment	don@clidive.org
Martin Rishton	Ocean and Sports Training	martin@clidive.org
John Davies	Advanced Training	john@clidive.org
Bart Wagrowski	Social Secretary	bart@clidive.org
Stefano Patacchiola	Web master	stef@clidive.org
Rory Budds	Bosun	rory@clidive.org

Every year there is a half-yearly open committee meeting in the summer to which all club members are invited. It's a good chance to find out what goes on behind the scenes. In November, we hold the AGM, where the committee give reports, a new committee is elected, and awards are given out for Trainee of the Year (top TOTY) and Diver of the Year (top DOTY).

Social media

Our website, www.clidive.org, is a good place to go to find out more about who we are and what we do. It has lots of helpful information such as the dive programme, training dates and a blog. You will be given a password that will get you into a members section where there are dive planning resources and other handy documents and policies.

We have two Facebook presences. One is a group, for internal communications, where everyone can post – and say what is on their mind! You need to be invited to join this - ask the membership secretary. The 'official' Clidive page is in the public domain and can be seen by everyone. You just need to 'like' this page to receive updates.

Address - Facebook/CliDive

We also tweet, our Twitter address is - @clidive

Thursday club nights

Thursday night is Clidive night!

As you'd expect, most of our UK open water diving happens in the summer. However we are a very sociable club, and continue to meet throughout the year on Thursday nights.



We are based at Ironmonger Row Baths, only seven minutes walk from Old Street tube station. Free parking is available outside the pool after 6.30pm. Beare we are in the congestion zone – so don't arrive too early in a vehicle.

On Thursday nights we have the use of a classroom at the pool for training, which takes place from 7-8pm. Any member is welcome to sit in on any lecture. You do not need to pay anything if you have already done the course. So it is easy to refresh your knowledge.

Then, from 8-9.30pm, we have use of the whole main pool. Our 16 sets of club scuba kit are available if you want to practise your skills, but if we are running training courses, trainees have priority use. For obvious reasons, it is best to dive with a buddy in the pool. Always let the lifeguard know what you're planning to do, especially if you're practising rescue skills or testing out new/unfamiliar equipment. There is also a dedicated lane for swimming on the far side of the pool.

There are normally enough cylinders to go round. But you can also email the Equipment Officer and book one if it is very important that you get some practice in.

After the pool, we go to the Britannia pub opposite. It's a good place to meet other members, get log books signed, and find out more information on dive trips.

Newsplash

Newsplash is the club newsletter, which comes out regularly throughout the year. To suggest articles or send in news contact the editor at newsplash@clidive.org

Membership

To dive or train with Clidive you need to be a member of Clidive and BSAC. BSAC annual membership costs £55.50 (less for instructors, advanced divers and joint members). Clidive membership is £15 per month if you pay by standing order or £165 if you pay annually. We have a common annual renewal date of 1st March.

Where does our Clidive membership money go?

Clidive membership fees, and any other money we collect is spent on pool fees (£7,000k), storage and upkeep of our boats and vans and equipment. Our fixed running costs are over £17k a year so we always need to bring in more than this to cover breakages, repair and replacement. No money is spent on paying the club's instructors, lifeguards, dive managers and committee members. We all give our time and skills for free.

What does your BSAC membership get you?

BSAC membership automatically provides public liability insurance cover for diving and club activities. It is important to understand that this is third party liability only. It is not personal health, medical or travel insurance, but insures you if a claim is made against you for negligence. If you dive outside the UK, you will also need diving travel insurance. The insurance covers private diving as well, providing

BSAC Safe Diving Practices are followed (details on www.bsac.com). Because BSAC membership includes this insurance, you must be a member before you start diving with us – though the club is allowed to take a number of guest divers every year.

As part of your BSAC membership, you also receive a copy of SCUBA magazine every month, and get full use of Member Services on BSAC's website, and access to courses run regionally or nationally.

Medical Forms

You don't have to be Superman or Wonder Woman to dive, but you do need to be fit and well. When you join Clidive, you'll also receive a Self Declaration Medical Form to confirm that you are fit to dive. If there are any issues as a result of completing the form, you may need to consult a Medical Referee. Medical Forms and a list of these doctors can be downloaded from www.bsac.com.

New Members from other Agencies and Training

We warmly welcome divers from all dive training agencies. Many of our divers and instructors have trained with PADI and others organisations. BSAC recognises the qualifications issued by other agencies and allows you to immediately start training for the next higher BSAC qualification. The most common 'cross-overs' are:

<u>Qualification</u>	<u>Equivalent to:</u>	<u>Can start training for:</u>
PADI Open Water	BSAC Ocean Diver	BSAC Sports Diver
PADI Advanced Open Water	BSAC Ocean Diver	BSAC Sports Diver
PADI Rescue Diver	BSAC Sports Diver	BSAC Dive Leader
PADI Divemaster	BSAC Dive Leader	BSAC Advanced Diver

If you are qualified as a PADI Open Water or Advanced Open Water diver, the BSAC Sports Diver course is the ideal next step. Sports Diver covers the rescue skills included in courses such as PADI Rescue Diver plus the use of more advanced equipment and techniques needed to dive safely in the UK.

We do most dive training within the club. Our Instructors and Assistant Instructors don't get paid, but get a great deal of satisfaction out of training new divers. Training keeps us very busy, as we run three Ocean Diver and three Sports Diver courses every year, as well other qualifications such as Dive Leader, Nitrox, Lifesaver, Boat Handling, VHF Radio and Oxygen Administration. Instructor expenses are covered by the training fees for open water training trips.

Drysuits

UK diving really is fantastic. However, it's colder than tropical diving, so many club members prefer to dive in a drysuit, which keeps you warm and dry both underwater and on the boat. By any stretch of the imagination, these are not the sexiest of outfits. Not so much a question of "Does my bum look big in this", more "Could my bum look any bigger?" And that's just in the undersuit.

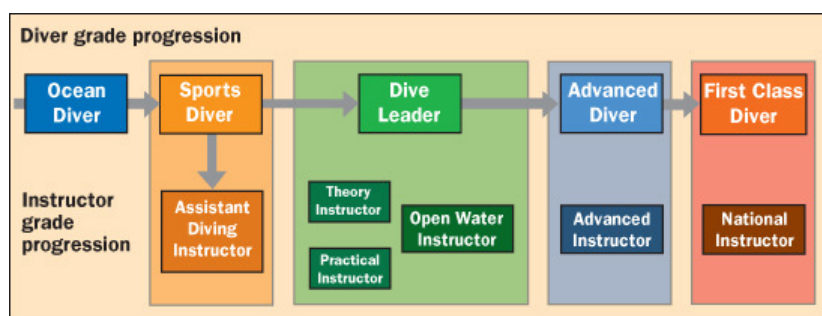
Drysuits are different from wetsuits in that they are an air space in their own right, like a BCD. Therefore, some training is needed before using one in open water, and they can take a season to get used to. If you are new to drysuit diving, we will make sure you do a course with an instructor, with a lecture, pool sessions and open water tuition, so you are happy diving in it. There are different kinds of dry suits. It is best to do research and talk different members about their suits before you decide which one is best for you.

Want to become an Instructor?

The first stage of the BSAC Instructor Training Scheme is open to Sports Divers and above, and is a great way of improving your diving skills, as well as getting you on the road to becoming an Instructor. This first stage is the Instructor Foundation Course (IFC).



Once you've done this two-day course, you'll be an Assistant Diving Instructor, and will be able to teach theory and practical lessons under the supervision of an Open Water Instructor. When you have become a Dive Leader, you can progress through the Open Water Instructor Course to the Theory Instructor Exam and Practical Instructor Exam. When you have passed both the Theory and Practical Exams you will become a BSAC Open Water Instructor (OWI).



For full details of dates and costs of courses and exams contact BSAC HQ at 0151 350 6209 or www.bsac.com.

Instructors from other agencies (PADI etc.) only have to attend the 2-day IFC to learn the BSAC way of instructing. They then just submit their proof of instructor qualification to HQ (plus the qualification card fee) to receive the BSAC Open Water Instructor qualification.

Training Officers

The job of the training officers is to serve every member of the club and their training needs. If you learn to dive with us the training officer will know you. However, if you join as a qualified diver it is a good idea to drop them a line and let them know if you have any training needs. Don't expect anyone to remember your diving CV if you have told them in the pub. Follow up conversations up with an email.

The Dive Programme

What we're really about in Clidive is the diving especially in our own RIBs. Every year, the Diving Officer organises a dive programme, with all the diving for the year to come. Anyone can suggest sites or trips they'd like to see in the dive programme, or would like to organise themselves. However, to avoid any clashes of time or place, it's essential to talk to the Diving Officer before booking anything. Each year in autumn a dive planning meeting is arranged to evaluate the year's diving and plan ahead for the following year.

The dive programme gets unveiled at the Christmas party, when it also goes up on our website. So that everyone gets a fair chance of booking on the trips they want, no-one can advertise or book on a trip until then.

The dive programme isn't set in stone, and new trips can be added at any time during the year. The website is regularly updated.

Qualification Requirements

The Dive Programme is really varied, and we try to make sure there's enough diving suitable for members of all levels of qualification and experience. To make sure trips are safe and enjoyable, for each trip there is a minimum qualification requirement, which gives you a guide as to the type of diving planned. This isn't a hard-and-fast rule, and if, for example, a Sports Diver is particularly experienced, they may be able to go on a trip for Dive Leaders (although they still have to dive within the depth limit of their qualification). In such cases, it's up to the Dive Manager (DM) and/or the Diving Officer to make this decision, which is taken purely on grounds of safety and suitability.

The qualification requirement for each trip is on the dive programme, and the definitions are as follows:

All: Suitable for everyone including trainees and people with new dry suits.

OD: Ocean divers and above, recommended start for divers new to diving in the UK.

SD: Suitable for all Sports Divers and above. No new dry suit divers!

SD+: Experienced, UK dive-fit Sports Divers. Depths up to 35m. May be challenging conditions.

DL: suitable only for UK dive-fit Dive Leaders and above. Depths can be up to 50m. The diving is likely to be deep, in remote locations and/or in very challenging conditions with decompression stops.

How to Book onto a Trip

Just follow these simple steps:

1. Look through the Dive Programme, and pick out the trips you want to go on within your qualification/experience.
2. Contact the DM or Assistant DM (ADM) for each trip you're interested in. Their email address will be on the Dive Programme, but if you have any problems, just ask the Diving Officer.
3. Once the DM has confirmed that you can book onto the trip, pay whatever the deposit is for the trip, by cash, cheque or electronic transfer. **Only the payment of a deposit will ensure your place on the trip.**
4. For electronic transfer, our bank is Barclays
Name: **Clidive BSAC 410**
Sort Code: **20-00-00**
Acc No: **30231142**
5. Don't give your name or deposit to anyone other than the DM otherwise it can get confusing, and you might not get booked on. Please do though let the treasurer know if you pay a deposit by electronic transfer (brian@clidive.org) and add a useful reference to the transfer (e.g. Name/Trip).
6. If you have to drop out, you will get your deposit back if someone else fills your place. Most trips end up with a waiting list, so book early to avoid disappointment!



7. If you drop out of expeditions or charter boat trips, you may have to pay your share of the costs as well as your deposit, if your place isn't filled by someone else.

What does it cost?

Diving: one day of diving on the club RIBs costs £30 per person, however many dives you do.

Accommodation: for most trips, this is pre-booked, and is usually around £25 per person per night. If it's not pre-booked, the DM will let you know, and give you information on B&Bs etc.

Snacks: We always have water and chocolate aboard for a small charge.

Club van: when a van is available it is used for towing the RIBs, launching and recovering them, and transporting equipment. If you or your kit needs a lift, you can check with the DM if there's space. For this we will ask for contributions for fuel costs for the trip, such as Weymouth £20, Plymouth £25, kit only £10 for cylinders and weights return, an additional £10 for other dive kit.

Kit Hire: Clidive has many sets of kit that are available to anyone in the club for hire. This costs £3 per item per day, or £10 for full kit per day. You'll be asked to pay for any gear you lose or damage.

Hard boats: if we dive on a chartered hard boat, we charge a levy of £5 per trip for a trip of up to 3 days, and £10 for a trip of four or more days.

Club trips – who's who?

As you might imagine, organising a dive trip, even a weekend on the south coast, takes a great deal of planning. A safe, fun and successful trip relies on everyone doing their bit to help. That said, there are some people who play key roles on each trip:

The **Dive Manager (DM)** plans and organises the diving. Although they can delegate some jobs to others, the DM is in overall charge. If you are a Dive Leader or above, you can run trips to known sites. Advanced Divers can manage and supervise diving in unfamiliar locations.

The **Assistant Dive Manager (ADM)** assists the DM to gain experience and lighten the workload. Anyone who is a Sports Diver or above can be an ADM.

The **Money Marshall (MM)** collects the money from everyone at the end of the trip, and reimburses people who've bought things like petrol for the boats. The DM gives them a list of who is going, what deposit they have paid, who is hiring club kit, and any extra expenses. The MM fills all the information in on a sheet, collects and checks the money, and hands it all over to the club Treasurer. This can be a really complicated job, especially on busy weekends, so it's important to make sure you pay up before you go home at the end of a trip. A Money Marshall sheet can be downloaded from our website and submitted to the Treasurer electronically.

Boat Handlers (BH) are in charge of the RIBs and their passengers, driving, dropping off and picking up divers. All our boat handlers are qualified Diver Coxswains, have been examined in using VHF radios, rescue management and oxygen administration and ratified by the Diving Officer if they are going to be in charge of a boat on their own. However, if you want to have a go at driving, or get some practice in, just say – the more the merrier!

Fuel Marshalls (FM), as the name suggests, get the fuel. Our boats have outboard engines which run on unleaded petrol, so obviously people need to go and get fuel regularly during a trip. Anyone with a vehicle can help with the fuel runs, getting the cans filled so we can go diving!

The **Equipment Marshall (EM)** is the person to be contacted if you want to hire club kit for a trip. Any kit to be hired is to go through them only, and they will arrange it with the Equipment Officer. Under no circumstance should anyone remove equipment from Ironmonger Row Baths without following the procedure for hiring club gear.

A guide to hiring club gear

The Dive Manager nominates an Equipment Marshall (EM) for the trip – or if there is not much hire expected they will do it themselves. This person's name and contact details will be advertised well in advance to those booked on the trip. It is the individual divers' responsibility to contact the EM or DM at least two weeks in advance of the trip informing that person exactly what equipment they intend to hire. This includes size of cylinders, fins, BCs etc., and estimated amount of lead. The EM will collate the various requests and forward them to the Equipment Officer (EO) one week before the trip.

On the day of collection, normally the Thursday before a dive trip, the hirer will meet up with the EM at the pool to collect their kit. It is the hirer's responsibility, under the supervision of the EM, to check the requested kit is present and correct, signed for and tagged. The EM and EO can take no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring that the right kit is taken. Immediately the kit has been signed out it should be removed from the building. Hirers should be aware that we can never guarantee a full cylinder. You should make sure that getting a fill is arranged in time for the first dive (which may be very early in the morning).

Throughout the period of the dive trip the hirer is fully responsible for the care of the equipment at all times. It must be washed after use. Any loss must be paid for by the hirer. If you have any concerns about the kit not working properly or are unsure of anything during the course of the weekend this must be reported to the DM or Diver Coxswain.

Payment for hire is due to the Money Marshal by the last day of the trip. The EM should have informed the MM of the amount due, however it is the hirer's responsibility to check that the hire amount has been included in the final total.

The hirer is responsible for ensuring that the hired kit is returned to the cupboard by 7pm latest, on the Thursday following the dive trip. The kit will be signed back in by the EM or the EO. Any faults or damage must be reported to the EO.

All cylinders hired **MUST** be returned to the store **FULL**. It is usually easier to do this at the dive site.

The cost of hiring club gear is £3 per item per day or £10 per day for full kit.

Club RIB trips – a quick guide

So, you've booked on a Clidive RIB trip. What happens next?



1. As the trip approaches, the DM will let you know details such as where you'll be staying (if it's pre-booked), how to get there, and who the other Marshalls are.
2. The DM will allocate other jobs and ask for help with buying and cooking food (if the accommodation is self-catering), and getting water and chocolate for the boats.
3. Make sure you sort out your transport early. Don't leave it to the last minute, and always ask the DM if you've got any problems. There is usually someone driving down who can give you a lift.
4. If you need to hire kit contact the Equipment Marshal.
5. Most people travel down for a weekend trip on the coast on the Friday evening after work.
6. Usually you'll be told the start times for the next morning, the buddy pairs, which boat you'll be on and what's to be done on the Friday night. Of course all this could have changed by the next morning! The first morning is usually the most hectic as the boats have to be launched, and kit sorted out.
7. The DM is in charge. Please do as they ask, and be ready when they tell you to be. They'll be having a very busy time of it.
8. At the end of the weekend, please do not leave without speaking to the DM first, as they may need your help with getting the boats out of the water or other duties, and everyone needs to be accounted for.
9. Don't go home without paying up – **you** are responsible for finding the Money Marshall.

Apart from dive gear what should I bring?

The DM will advise you on what to bring apart from your dive gear, but below are some tips for what you'll need for most trips:

1. Even if you don't have your own kit, you should get a 'goody bag', a simple draw-string bag to keep your mask, fins and other small items in. This helps the boat stays tidy and your kit doesn't get lost.
2. In some accommodation you may need to bring a sleeping bag and/or towel.
3. Pound coins are always useful for parking.
4. Always bring a waterproof/windproof jacket that will go over your suit plus a warm hat. When the RIBs are travelling at speed there's quite a wind chill. You can also start to cool down when just sitting around waiting for divers to surface. This is especially important if you're diving in a wetsuit.
5. Bring sunscreen. It's worth putting on even when it's not sunny as it can protect your face from the wind. A cap to shade your face and cheap sunglasses are handy too.
6. If you don't already have a log book, it's a really good idea to get one, so you can log your dives to prove you've done them, and have a reminder of what and where you've dived.
7. When you start getting your own gear, it's worth getting together a set of spares such as mask and fin straps, O rings and allen keys. It's terrible to miss a dive if your fin strap snaps at the last minute, and you'll make yourself popular if you've got spares!
8. A spare old towel is useful to dry off yourself and your gear during the day.
9. A shatter proof flask for hot drinks at sea is often handy.
10. A Clidive branded t-shirt is good to have when we are out and about.

On our website there's a guide to RIB diving, which tells you all about how our boats work, and what you need to do to enjoy diving off them.

Safe Diving Practices

Last but not least, at Clidive we like everyone to enjoy their diving and, most importantly, make sure it is done safely. So apart from BSAC's Safe Diving Practices we have devised our own set of rules in addition to these to help make diving with Clidive as safe as possible.

Clidive BSAC 410 Branch Rules

1. Club members must surface under a shot line or surface marker buoy (flags as back-up only), except in an emergency.
2. Club members must carry a delayed surface marker buoy on all dives unless under instruction.
3. All Clidive RIB trips must have an Advanced Diver (for unknown sites) or a Dive Leader (for known sites) and a ratified boat handler in support.
4. All members shall carry an alternate air source i.e. Octopus or Air 2.
5. No dives below 35m or requiring more than 1 minute of compulsory decompression unless each diver has a fully independent alternative air supply i.e. pony, or twinset.
6. The hirer of any club equipment should book out any equipment properly, return it on time, and is liable for any loss or damage.
7. To be able to be in sole charge of a club RIB you need to be a Diver Coxwain with a VHF licence and an O2 qualification and be ratified by the Diving Officer.

We hope you have lots of enjoyable and safe diving with Clidive