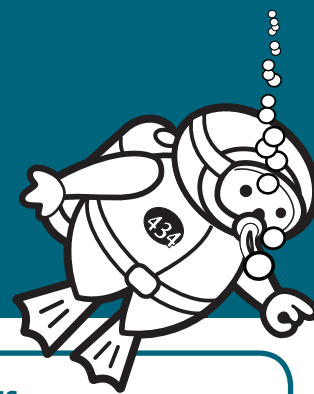


Club Boat Dives

General information for new members



Boat booking

All dives are listed in the club diary www.bracknellscuba.org.uk. Make sure you meet the minimum dive qualification advertised and speak to the Dive Organiser about availability of spaces. You need to sign up with them and pay a £20 deposit to the club Treasurer if you wish to go ahead. The balance is due a minimum of one month prior to the dive date.

Once you sign up for a dive, you will have committed to paying the full cost of the trip. If you cannot attend, it is your responsibility to find a replacement – ask the Dive Organiser if they have any reserves on their list, place an advert on the club email members@bracknellscuba.org.uk or canvass on a club night.

If you place your name on a reserve list, you are not committed to the cost of the dive, but you are not guaranteed a place on the boat either. Most dive boats do fill up quickly so you have a better chance of picking up a cancellation if you have pre-registered your interest as a reserve.

Administration

You will be required to supply information to the Dive Organiser or Dive Manager prior to the dive (usually by email). Please help by checking your email regularly and supplying any requested information promptly. You will also be asked to read and sign a Risk Assessment – it is an important safety document so you should seek advice if there is anything you do not understand on this assessment.

Preparation

You should have tried out your equipment and skills in the pool and/or Wraysbury prior to your dive. You should also be comfortable that you have the correct weight for the open water protective clothing that you will be wearing on the dive.

Remember that you need to add 2kg in salt water and that your cylinder weighs more when it is full of gas. So, if you are checking your buoyancy/weighting with a full cylinder, you will need to add a further 2kg to allow for the extra buoyancy as you use the air in your cylinder.

Accommodation and travel

Unless otherwise stated, accommodation and transport is **not** included and you need to make your own arrangements. Typically club members will get together to share the cost of fuel and B&B or hotel rooms. We also have a growing contingency of campers within the club. These arrangements are usually best made in the bar on a club night.

Remember that you may need to travel the day before the dive if there is an early start or if the dive is at a distant location such as Plymouth, Pembroke or Ilfracombe.

What you'll need

Full open water scuba kit – as an aid there is a check list of typical items in side panel, but this list is not exhaustive, so do add your own items according to the type of diving you will be doing.

Contacts

Dive Manager (DM)

Name:

Mobile:

Email:

Please ring the DM as requested to confirm timings!

Equipment check list

- Cylinders – see note overleaf
- Regulator with console (depth and contents gauge)
- BCD
- Semidry suit and boots or drysuit
- Hood (if your suit doesn't have a hood attached)
- Gloves
- Sea fins (not pool shoe fins)
- Mask
- Dive watch, bottom timer or dive computer
- Weight belt with sufficient weights for open water
- DSMB
- Knife
- Compass
- Other ancillary items
- Goody bag / box or crate
- Lunch and snacks
- Drinking water
- Sunhat and sunscreen
- Warm clothes to change into after your dive
- Waterproof, windproof coat or jacket, hat and gloves
- Towel

Equipment can be hired from dive shops – speak to them in advance about availability and costs. Club members may only dive in drysuits if they have completed a drysuit course or drysuit orientation sessions in the pool. Please speak to the Dive Manager of your boat if in doubt.

Cylinders

You will usually need to have two full cylinders for club boat dives as the majority are booked on hard boats which do not return to port until the end of the day. 12L would be recommended as minimum capacity (10L may be OK for those with good air consumption – if in doubt, please ask for guidance). Most single cylinder divers purchase a 15L and 12L or 2x15L for boat dives. If you are currently hiring club equipment and need a larger cylinder, speak to the club Equipment Officer a minimum of two weeks prior to the dive.

If you do swap cylinders, note their weights. If the 'new' cylinder is 2kg heavier than your usual cylinder, take 2kg off your weight belt. If it is 2kg lighter then you will need to add 2kg to your weight belt.

You need to arrive at the boat with full cylinders. These can be re-filled at the end of the day. Every dive location will have different arrangements for filling so please check with the individual Dive Manager for any dives you have booked on. Please bring cash to pay for cylinder refills.

Dive details

The Dive Manager will issue details prior to the dive. This will typically include start times, dive plans and buddy pairings. Lunch is often included on Weymouth boats but this is not the norm – find out before the dive so that you can come prepared. You also need to drink plenty of water so hydrate yourself by drinking plenty in the days leading up to the dive and bring drinking water onto the boat with you.

Timings can, and often do, change – usually due to weather. The Dive Manager will ask you to telephone them (usually the evening before the dive) after they have spoken to the skipper to confirm timings. It is your responsibility to make this call so make sure you have their mobile number handy as it is unlikely they will be at home.

Please remember that you need to allow time for boat loading so 'Ropes Off' time is not the same as 'Boat Loading' time (see side panel). If you are late, the boat will leave without you!

Kit preparation

Assemble your unit, analyse if using nitrox, and make sure that regulators are working properly. Turn off the gas and bleed regs once checks are completed. Make sure that your kit is securely tied down before leaving port using rope or bungee supplied by the skipper. You may find it useful to purchase your own bungees/straps for additional protection.

Kit care

Remember to protect your dive kit by strapping regulators inside the BC and tucking mask inside your fins or in its box. This will help to avoid damage between dives. Do not leave kit lying on the floor or on benches as people sit on them and it presents safety issues.

All ancillary kit should be stored tidily in net bags or crates. Boat layouts vary and sometimes there is no room for crates so check this out prior to the dive.

All kit should be washed in fresh water immediately after the trip.

Weight

My pool weight when using full OW equipment:

My cylinder weight:

My hire suit number:

Timings

Boat loading

The time the skipper arrives. You should be at quayside with your kit ready but do not board the boat until the skipper or DM tells you to do so.

Ropes off

The time the boat leaves the quayside. You should be aboard with all your kit stowed and cylinder tied down by this time...otherwise you will have literally, 'missed the boat'.

Notes

Deeper dives

Sport Diver grade and above

For all club dives deeper than 30m, all divers must carry an 'independent air source'.

Refer to Sports Diver theory lesson ST5 for more details on independent gas set-ups.