



Welcome to Basildon Sub Aqua Club! You have just joined (or hopefully soon will be joining) a very successful and friendly diving club which has been active for more than 40 years.

SCUBA diving is a great way to meet new people and to make new friends. We have a wide age range (currently 16 to 76!) and our members come from all walks of life.

Our Club is a Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) which is the largest dive club in the world with approximately 1500 Branches worldwide and 50,000 members.

We offer training under the BSAC banner following a structured programme which progresses divers from beginner to being qualified through a series of steps at a pace driven by you. (As instruction is given freely, there is no time pressure on you – our aim is to ensure that the training provides you with the means to enjoy your diving safely). We have a number of nationally qualified instructors, all of whom are Branch Members, who will be only too pleased to help you achieve whatever goals you set yourself.

About the Branch

We meet Fridays alternately at James Hornsby Sports Academy and The Underwater Studio (our 6mt deep training facility which allows for more progressive and realistic training). James Hornsby commences in the club room at 7.00 ready to be in the water for 7.45. The Underwater Studio is slightly later - meeting at 8.00 ready to go in the water at 9.00. The sessions are followed with a post-training drink at the Sports Bar, Basildon (membership of the Branch brings with it complimentary membership of the Sports Bar Snooker Club).

We have a very busy Dive Programme that runs throughout the year. We aim to have an arranged day trip dive from a hard-boat at least once a month supplemented by long weekends at sites such as the seal colony in the Farne Islands and the wrecks off Lyme Bay. Whilst we focus mainly on UK sites, we do regularly venture abroad to places such as the Red Sea and Malta. In amongst all this, regular training days are also arranged so our divers continue their progression at all times.

As well as actual diving, we have an active social calendar throughout the year.

The Branch is run by a committee, elected from the membership on an annual basis. The Annual General Meeting is held April/May.

Branch Fees

Fees are reviewed on a regular basis but are currently fixed at £330.50 (less than £28 per month) for the first year with renewals falling to £135.5. ***(The first year fees will be reduced if you have your own SCUBA gear)***. New members pay on a pro-rata basis linked to when you join. The membership year runs from 1st April (date renewal payments are due) to 31st March. Some Fees can be paid by Direct Debit.

What do you get for your money?

- Full membership of Basildon Sub Aqua Club (including voting rights if over 18)
- Complimentary membership of the Sports Bar
- Full membership of BSAC incorporating third party liability insurance
- Free use of James Hornsby Pool for training
- Free use of the Underwater Studio for training
- Free regular swimming sessions where immediate family are welcome
- Subscription to 'SCUBA Magazine' – delivered to your home monthly
- Free training manual covering your first 2 diving qualifications
- 6 months use of Branch SCUBA equipment



Diver Qualifications

Ocean Diver

This is the first qualification. As a BSAC Ocean Diver you will be able to dive progressively to a maximum of depth of 20 metres accompanied by another Ocean Diver (with the prior approval of the Dive manager) or with a more qualified diver.

Sports Diver

As a BSAC Sports Diver you will be able to dive progressively to a maximum depth of 35 metres. The training builds on the Ocean Diver training already received to provide a greater understanding of the science of diving and safety issues.

Dive Leader

As a BSAC Dive Leader you will be able to dive progressively to a maximum depth of 50 metres. At this level of training, you will be taking responsibility for planning and running more adventurous diving – and passing on knowledge to lesser experienced divers. At this level, you are able to undertake BSAC Instructor qualifications.

Advanced Diver

A BSAC Advanced Diver is recognised as a highly competent diver. This training covers a wide range of related areas such as boat handling, navigation etc in greater detail. Most of the training for this qualification can be carried out within the Branch but some external work will be required.

How Does The Training Operate?

*The first and key thing to mention is as part of BSAC, you will never dive alone. For training, that means on **EVERY** dive (whether in the pool or open water), you will have a nationally qualified instructor with you at all times to offer guidance and assistance.*



Each qualification follows a similar pattern namely:

- Some sheltered water sessions (in the pool) to either gain, improve or extend in-water skills (such as getting water out of your mask underwater, buoyancy, rescue techniques etc)
- Theory lessons followed by a multiple-choice exam – we try to form ‘study groups’ but can accommodate individuals too. These lectures are crucial to your understanding, enjoyment and safety when diving.
- Transfer of sheltered-water skills into ‘open water’ – usually this would be done in the confines of one of the national diver training facilities such as Stoney Cove (www.stoneycove.com)

When it is felt you have achieved the required standards, a recommendation will be made to the Diving Officer to ‘qualify’ you.

Who Are Your Instructors?

They are all Branch Members who have achieved a minimum of Dive Leader qualification who have not only demonstrated the high level of personal diving skills to achieve this standard but have also displayed the ability to pass that knowledge on. They will all have undergone the rigorous BSAC Instructor Training programme ending in both theory and in-water practical exams.

Important Note: **NONE** of our instructors are paid – they are **volunteers** who give their time freely for the fun of helping you.

So How Do I Get Started?

- Let us know you’ll be coming back!
- Complete a self-certification medical form – if you can’t comply with the requirements, please seek advice from a Branch Training official before seeking any specialist medical advice.
- Bring with you at least 2 items of proof of name and address
- Completion of a means of paying BSAC & Branch fees (cheque, cash or we can use Direct Debit. *(Unfortunately we can’t accept cards)*)
- As soon as possible you’ll need to buy your own mask, fins (if you buy open-water fins you’ll also need the boots to go with them), weight-belt and weights. Talk to any Branch Member for advice then either check the ‘Items for Sale’ on our website, notice-board or visit one of the local dive shops (see Appendix). *(As previously explained, your actual SCUBA gear will be provided for 6 months as part of your fees. This will obviously be your responsibility to look after and ensure you have sufficient air in the tank for your training – again see Appendix).*
- Come along to the Club and start your adventure!



APPENDIX

Local Contacts:

- **Sales Service & Air Fills** – Nutty’s Dive Centre
Childerditch Lane CM13 3EH - tel 01277 811 855 Mob 07957 367 876
- **Sales, servicing & air fills** – Kent Diving & Watersports
Lawson Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 5BP – tel. 01322 277107
- **Sales, servicing & air fills** - Mike’s Waterfront
42 Lichfield Terrace, St Mary’s Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3JX – tel. 01708 227122
- **Sales, servicing, manufacture & air fills** – Bel-Air
82 Fairfax drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 1AF – tel. 01702 353205
- **Sales & air fills** – Dive Odyssey, 1 South Street, Rochford, Essex – tel. 01702 542759

Diving Medical Referrals and Examinations:

- Dr. Alistair Challiner – 11 Birch Crescent, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7QE – tel. 01622 224361
- Dr. Lucas Fischer – London Hyperbaric Centre, Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, London E11 1RG – tel. 0208 539 1222
- Dr. Oliver Sykes – The Harley Street Clinic, 35 Weymouth Street, London W1G 8BJ – tel. 07947 272974

