

## Further Training

**Q. How much does additional training cost once I've completed my basic training?**

**A.** We do not charge for subsequent training to Sports Diver and beyond, other than for training materials (approx £38/grade), any room hire charges and diving costs, provided you are a full diving member of both the Branch and BSAC. However, you will be expected to have your own equipment by this stage. BSAC also offer lots of skill development courses (SDCs) on topics such as Boat Handling; Navigation and Chartwork; Dive Planning and Marshalling; First Aid for Divers; Practical Rescue Management; and many more, and again these are generally charged at cost. This is where the branch system really comes into its own as a commercial enterprise would typically charge £250-350 for each additional diver grade and £100-250 for SDCs.

**Q. What are skill development courses?**

**A.** BSAC provides a wide range of SDCs for divers at varying levels of proficiency. These courses aim to expand the range of activities open to divers, to introduce them to new subjects and to guide them to higher levels of competence in specialist areas. SDCs are self contained short courses, usually of 1 or 2 days duration. The skills taught are complimentary to existing diver training and aim to enhance the overall safety of diving, develop diving and related skills and to enhance the diving experience. Current SDCs include the following and, whilst we cannot necessarily offer all of these within the branch, the regional coaching scheme gives you access to courses we cannot provide:

- **Rescue** - life saving, first aid, oxygen administration
- **Technical Diving** - use of mixed gases and rebreathers, nitrox, extended range diving
- **Seamanship** - boat handling, chartwork, navigation, outboard maintenance
- **Scientific** - marine life appreciation, underwater photography
- **Diving** - dive planning, ice diving, searches, wreck appreciation

**Q. Why would you want to do a skill development course?**

**A.** Because each SDC is self contained then it will provide a complete package of new skills for anyone who undertakes the training. Some courses are complimentary to the Diver Training Programme (DTP) and give credit for specific and sometimes large groups of lessons for the DTP (e.g. Oxygen Administration counts for lessons DT2 - DT7 of Dive Leader but can be taken by Ocean Divers). Other Courses (especially Seamanship) require no diving skills whatever and so can be attended by any member.

**Q. I'm already an instructor with another agency. Can I teach on BSAC courses?**

**A.** Yes, BSAC recognise instructors qualified with most agencies. However, you need to attend an Open Water Instructor Course and apply to BSAC HQ with payment for the OWI Pack and card (currently £65) and then you will be awarded BSAC's Open Water Instructor qualification. This is to ensure that you understand the BSAC syllabus and methods of teaching, as all agencies have variations in their training, even though the basic skills are similar.

**Q. How do I become a BSAC Instructor?**

**A.** The first step in qualifying as a BSAC Diving Instructor is to attend the two-day Instructor Foundation Course (IFC), where the essential elements of instruction are



taught. Members who have attained Dive Leader grade can complete the Theory Instructor Exam (TIE) at any stage after attendance on the IFC. On completion of the IFC members who are Dive Leaders can further build their teaching experience by attendance at an Open Water Instructor Course (OWIC). Following OWIC attendance and after further practice and experience at Branch level those who have gained Dive Leader status can apply for the Practical Instructor Exam (PIE). On completion of both TIE and PIE you will be awarded BSAC's Open Water Instructor qualification.