



Membership of Totnes Sub-Aqua Club: Information for trained divers

Thank you for your interest in Totnes Sub-Aqua Club (TSAC), part of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC). We really hope that you choose to join us and look forward to diving together. By way of introduction to the club, here is brief summary of some of the key information for people who are already trained as divers. Please ask if there is anything that we have missed, or that is unclear.

We are a large and diverse club with almost 100 members. We have members who are in the process of learning to dive, through to those who have been diving for 30 years or more; trainee Ocean Divers and qualified First Class Divers / National Instructors; members who have exclusively trained with BSAC and those who have trained with other agencies; members who enjoy the marine life, enjoy wrecks, enjoy photography, enjoy marine archaeology, or just enjoy being under water; and those who prefer to dive on an open circuit and those that dive with rebreathers.

We are sure that you will find others that share your interests and quickly make new friends.



Codes of conduct

The club has a constitution, policies and codes of conduct which we ask all members to read and abide by. These are based on mutual respect for each other, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or ability. This includes our safeguarding policy to ensure the wellbeing of our junior members and our Safeguarding Officer, Rosemarie Longfield, is available should you have questions or specific concerns. See *TSAC Membership Handbook* and *Totnes*

BSAC Safeguarding Policy.

Pool use

TSAC has access to Totnes Pool on Wednesday evenings between 19.30-20.30, which we use for training and for individual members to try out kit, practice skills or just swim. It is free for members to use.

Club Night – Wednesday

We subsequently meet up at Meadowbrook Social Club in Dartington

(<http://www.meadowbrookindartington.co.uk/contact-us.php>) from 20.30 on Wednesdays and plan the diving for the week and beyond. This is the opportunity to meet other members socially, find out about what diving is planned and to sign up for club dives. Following the Wednesday meeting a club email is sent to all members providing an update on club activity, including upcoming diving.

Going Diving

If you want to join a dive you can sign up on Wednesday nights, or email the Dive Manager once you have read the club email. Weather depending, diving takes place every weekend and, in addition, over the summer, Tuesday night shore dives are organised in Torbay and Thursday night hard-boat dives are organised out of Plymouth. Expeditions are often being planned, including to Cornwall, the Scillies, and the Red Sea and beyond. See *How to Dive with Totnes BSAC*

Club diving is supported by 2 well maintained dive ribs, equipped with chart plotters, VHF radios, first aid kit, oxygen kit, AED and flares. We have a 4 wheel drive Shogun, which allows us to pull one of the boats; members use their own vehicles to tow the second boat. Being able to tow our boats allows us to dive out of whichever launch site is best in terms of conditions, be it Plymouth, Salcombe, Torbay or Teignmouth.

Costs

To join the club you need to become both a TSAC and a BSAC member. The current costs are as follow:

Totnes SAC Membership		BSAC Membership	
Full	£152.00 (<i>£13 per month if paying by Standing Order</i>)	Full	£59 (<i>A slightly reduced rate for instructors/higher quals</i>)
Junior	£100.00 (<i>£8.50 per month if paying by Standing Order</i>)	Student/junior	£30.50
Reduced	£63.00 <i>This entitles you to 6 boat dives per year.</i>	Joint	£40.50

The cost of the club boats and other equipment is supported by membership fees and a charge for boat diving. Local diving from club ribs is £15 for the first dive of the day and £10 for the second. This is irrespective of the dive site - thus, Eddystone or Hands Deep would cost the same as the Maine, and James Egan Layne. Expeditions away from the area have to be self-financing, so the costs will vary slightly. There are no costs for shore diving.

The club also has its own compressor which, after training, allows you to fill your own tanks with air on a Wednesday night - £2.25 to fill a 12 litre cylinder; £3.25 to fill a 15 litre cylinder.

Training

The club is fortunate to have a number of volunteer instructors, including National Instructors. In addition to training entry level Ocean Divers, the club is also able to provide training for subsequent grades: Sports Diver, Dive Leader and Advanced Diver. As a trained diver you have the option of embarking on further training should you wish to do so, or to dive at your current BSAC grade. If you trained with another agency (e.g. PADI), having presented your qualifications, you will be able to dive to the equivalent BSAC level (see *BSAC: Divers Qualified with other Agencies* www.bsac.com). We also run a range of additional training based on demand, such as boat-handling, oxygen administration, compressor training.

Personal Dive kit

If you do need to buy kit or get it serviced there are a number of people in the club who can provide advice, or help directly. It is also possible that other members will have second hand kit to sell.

A club managed by volunteers

All TSAC activity takes place thanks to volunteers, be it managing dives, providing training, maintaining club equipment, fundraising or towing the boat. Whether you already have particular skills and experience to share, or are willing to learn new skills, there are plenty of opportunities for getting involved.

Further sources of information

A wide range of resources and information about the club and diving can be found on the club website (www.totnes-bsac.co.uk/), including the documents referred to above. See in particular the section marked *Information*. Members of the Branch Committee (see below) can also answer any further questions that you may have, including through the club email: totnes.diveclub@gmail.com.

We hope that you choose to join us. We are in a fantastic part of the country for diving and look forward to enjoying our local dive sites with you.

Happy diving,

Dom Walley,

TSAC Diving Officer