



St Albans Sub Aqua Club

Joining as a qualified SCUBA Diver



If you are an existing scuba diver and want to join a thriving local club to continue your diving we'd love to see you. Our club is one of the largest in BSAC, the sport's national governing body that provides internationally-recognised diver training and development. As a member of SASAC you'll join a group of people from the St Albans area who share a real passion for scuba diving.

Our club is run by the members for the benefit of the members. We are a volunteer organisation not a commercial diving school. We encourage our trainees to take an active part in club life both socially and by diving with us.

As a member you will have access to our facilities for air fills and blended gas mixtures; Westminster Lodge on Wednesday evening and our 30m long outdoor swimming pool at any time; Use of our diving boat, normally moored in Weymouth; BSAC Skill Development courses, diving equipment hire and other club house facilities.

It doesn't matter whether you trained recreationally, commercially or in the military or if you've never dived in the UK before or if you haven't dived for a few seasons. All are very welcome. Divers can join and enjoy diving according to their experience and within the recommendations of their existing qualification and BSAC Safe Diving Practices.

Don't worry if you did not qualify with BSAC. Many of our members joined from other agencies like PADI. BSAC recognises other scuba qualification so you can join BSAC and continue diving on an equivalent qualification. You do not have to do any cross-over or further training unless you want to! The *BSAC DIVERS QUALIFIED WITH OTHER AGENCIES 7.17* on page 3 shows in details how the other agency qualifications compared to the BSAC qualifications shown below.

Ocean Diver

Maximum depth of 20m with another diver and within the restrictions of the conditions already encountered during training. Or with a Dive Leader or higher grade, to expand experience beyond the conditions encountered during training.

Sports Diver

Depth can be built progressively to a maximum of 35m. After qualifying a Sports Divers can embark on the first stage of the route to scuba diver instruction.

Dive Leader

Dive Leader training covers responsibilities and safety of leading

other divers. Depth can be built progressively to a maximum of 50m. After qualifying Dive Leaders are eligible to progress to Open Water Instructor.

Advanced Diver

Divers gain experience in planning dives at different sites and different circumstances. Additional experience will be gained in using small boats, chart work, navigation and many other related skills. Advanced Divers are eligible to progress to Advanced Instructor.

First Class Diver

BSAC's highest diving grade requires a higher than average level of theoretical knowledge, organisational and skills.

We encourage you to participate in the other skill development courses regularly run in the club and are sure that once you are a member you will enrol on a course to take to the next level or even train to become an instructor yourself.

With the relevant training you may go onto join the member divers who operate on deep dives using technical gases or those who use closed circuit re-breather scuba equipment.

* Children can dive with SASAC from the age of 14 years assuming whenever they dive they will be accompanied by a diving parent or another adult diving member who is formally authorised by the child's parents to act in loco parentis.



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Need to know more

Come down and see us at on our Wednesday club night after 9:00 PM and see for yourself who we are. Introduce yourself at the bar and they will put you in touch with one of our diving members for a friendly chat and to hopefully answer all of your questions and you will see why we have so many members already!

Becoming a Diving Member

You will need to complete the following forms and return the signed copies to the Membership Secretary along with a payment for your membership at the rates shown in the form. All applications are subject to committee approval.

[Membership Application Form](#) (click on form for download link)

[Declaration of Fitness Medical Form](#) (click on form for download link)

As a member you will be provided with a logon to the club forum to access member only information and search for dive trips and further training.

You will be asked to attend an induction session where we can go into details about the club facilities; how you can access them and provide you with the opportunity to meet the club officers and members of the committee.

Equipment

We encourage members to purchase their own diving equipment suitable for British waters and there is always plenty of advice available to help you choose, but we realise this can take time. So we have a small selection of club equipment available to hire and an arrangement to hire other equipment from a partner at favourable rates. The club equipment is available at a one-off hire cost of £65 when training for your first qualification at the club and thereafter on a per trip basis although its use is prioritised for those needing it for training.

As a qualified diver we are able to rent members scuba equipment but we strongly recommend you aim to buy your own equipment. There are opportunities to get recommendations and even try out other members' equipment before you buy it. You will need a diving suit for the UK open water. If you opt for a dry suit rather than a wet suit and you have not dived with a dry suit before, you're required to undertake additional dry suit training.

Applying for a place on a Dive Trip

Trips are being organised all the time and are published to our members. Contact the Dive trip organiser to request prices and further information. Once you have made a commitment to go on a dive trip, you will be expected to attend and if you have to pull out of a trip, depending on the nature of the trip planned, you may be liable for some costs.

Applying for a place on a BSAC Diver Course

Courses are being organised all the time for diver qualification and skill development. Contact the Training Officer to request course and further information. Whilst all the training is free you are required to pay for your costs on the dive trip, any official training packs and course materials and towards the cost of your instructor's expenses when attending inland dive sites.

Contacts for further Information

Membership Officer
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Training Officer
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