

Welcome and Introduction

Dearne Valley Divers is a BSAC diving club established by the late John Gill in the 1980s to promote Scuba Diving. The club is a not-for-profit organisation and is run by members for members, no one is paid, and we are all volunteers.

We meet at the Dearnside Leisure Centre in Goldthorpe on a Monday evening at 8.00pm. We have use of the pool and club scuba equipment from 8.30 to 9.30pm. After the pool session, many members go to the Glass House public house in Wath for a social drink and chat. This is also where we hold our monthly meetings. The club is a very active club and members organise regular training and diving trips in the UK and overseas.

How old do I need to be to join?

You can join BSAC and learn to dive as a 'Discovery Diver' from the age of 10. A discovery diver can dive to 12m under water. However, Dearne Valley Divers (DVD) will only teach children to dive from the age of 12 and one adult must join and train with them. When children reach the age of 14, they can join but must be accompanied by a responsible adult if diving in open water. The adult does not need to dive, they are just there for supervision and support.

Is BSAC recognised world-wide?

Yes. Once you hold a qualification you can dive all over the world and it lasts for life, even if you are no longer a member, a bit like a licence.

Can I do more advanced diving with BSAC?

Yes. BSAC offers courses from Discovery Diver 12m all the way to advanced technical diving using rebreathers, specialist gases, and everything in between. Unlike commercial organisations, once you join, your training is less expensive because you don't pay for instruction.

How much does it cost to learn to dive?

Let's look at the two most common options in the UK. One with a commercial business like PADI and one with BSAC and Dearne Valley Divers. The PADI costs are from a PADI centre in Yorkshire.

An example

PADI - Open Water		BSAC Ocean Diver	
Qualification Depth	18m	Qualification Depth	20m
This course is basic course, usually runs over two or three weekends. Once the course is completed you have to pay again for any further qualifications and it becomes costly - see the example later.		BSAC Membership	£62.50
		Ocean Diver Pack	£45
		Club membership £10 per month - total year £120	£120
		Benefits include; Includes drysuit training, one year's club membership, pool access for the year, 10 issues of Scuba Dive magazine, unlimited use of pool, use of kit in pool after qualification. Usually takes longer to complete than PADI. Once qualified you can move on to the next course at very little cost	
		Kit Hire at Dive site and Entry	£120
Total	£370	Total	£347.50

This looks like a similar price. However, the benefit of being a member doesn't stop with your first course. Being a member means that you can start training straight away, you can also use the pool every week, take part in trips when qualified, get advice about kit, where to dive, etc.

What are the benefits for more advanced training?

Let's compare two divers who each have their own equipment and want to do a more advanced diving course. The diver wants to be able to dive using Nitrox (enriched air) and use a Delayed Surface Marker Buoy, essential if boat diving.

A PADI Rescue diver is still not as highly qualified as a BSAC sports diver, since a PADI Rescue Diver is still not qualified to do decompression diving but a BSAC Sports Diver is. For the benefit of this comparison, let's forget the Decompression. Essentially the qualification is the same.

PADI - Rescue Diver		BSAC Sports Diver	
Qualification Depth	30m	Qualification Depth	35m
Advanced open water (need this first)	£215	Assuming you are already a club member	£40
Nitrox Diver	£30	Nitrox training and qualification	Included
Drysuit Speciality	£160	Dry suit training free or cost of hiring	£45
DSMB course	£120	suit and site entry (3 weekends)	
Rescue Diver	£299	DSMB Course Included	
(not sure if this includes cost of kit hire for more advanced courses)			
Total	£824	Total	£85

The PADI Diver who wanted to carry out decompression diving (mandatory stops) would need an extra qualification which costs about £300. The BSAC Sports diver is qualified to do this.

What if I qualified on Holiday with PADI?

No problem. If you are a qualified diver, you can join BSAC through a cross-over route and start the next phase of your diver training with BSAC.

What opportunities are there to take part in diving?

Every year DVD and our sister BSAC club in Barnsley plan diving days, diving weekends, diving holidays in the UK and overseas. There is something for everyone. The branch website is a great place to watch our diving videos and we even have our own YouTube channel!

Branch Activities

RIB BOAT - DVD has the use of a RIB Boat which it keeps at Largs Marina from Sept - April. Many members of Barnsley and DVD are qualified Boat handlers and have use of the boat all year round, which is great fun.

Photography and Videography - There are a number of members who are keen photographers and videographers, so if you want to learn how to take great underwater pictures and videos, you're in luck.

Social Activities - we have lots of club events, including a Christmas Meal and Club Diver Awards Evening, etc.

Regular Diving and Diving Holidays

The club is a very active club and organises lots of diving. These range from a one day trip, to long weekends, to full diving holidays. Popular trips include: St Abbs, Eyemouth, Kinlochbervie, Mull, Scapa Flow (Orkney Islands), Farne Islands (diving with seals), Largs, Egypt and Gozo. For those who want something more exotic we have run trips to Truk Lagoon Micronesia, The Great Barrier Reef and regular Maldives liveboards, etc. There is an annual Farne's trip and usually at least one trip to Scapa Flow as well as regular weekend dives.

Here are some links to our trips;

[Farne's during Covid](#)

[Learning to dive with DVD](#)

[Egypt 2022](#)

[Mull 22](#)

[Christmas with our Friends from Barnsley Club](#)

[Scapa Flow June 21 \(TECH TRIP\)](#)

[St Abbs Harbour](#)

[Scapa Flow Tabarka](#)