British Sub-Aqua Club

FIRST CLASS DIVER

PROJECT PREPARATION EVENT CANDIDATE NOTES

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Introduction

There are several formal First Class Diver Preparation Events available to candidate teams – Hard Boat/Small Boat Expedition prep event, Project prep event and a Classroom or Webinar Introduction Event. Each event will focus on different aspects of the FCD exam.

This document contains some supporting information for candidates attending the Project Preparation event.

Background

The decision has been made to **NOT** organise centrally formal First Class Diver preparation events, but to encourage candidates to form teams and request the preparation events they feel they need, there will be a minimum 3 month lead in for the request to the FCD Chief Examiner for an event to be staffed at a location decided by the candidate team.

It is intended to bring some consistency to events and improve quality of preparation for candidates, whilst also ensuring the event will be delivered when the team are available

The practical exam is held over two days of which one day will be focussed on completing an underwater Project.

Definitions

Candidates should be aware of the following definitions as they help set the underlying role for First Class Divers and their fit within the wider organisation.

First Class Diver

A First Class Diver is the highest diver grade available within the BSAC and is defined as a diver who has: a high level of practical diving skills and knowledge beyond BSAC Advanced diver the ability to organise groups of divers and lead major diving expeditions to achieve specific aims or objectives the ability and knowledge to contribute to the BSAC at a branch, regional and national level.

Object of the BSAC

To promote underwater sport, exploration, science and related studies, to promote safety in these activities and by co-operation with other organisations with related objects to provide the widest exchange of knowledge and experience therein and by setting and maintaining the highest standards to sustain recognition as the governing body for all such amateur activity.

In addition, BSAC supports a policy of conservation for all water resources.

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Project

The dictionary definition of a Project is “an enterprise that is carefully planned to achieve a particular aim”. The project is constrained in what it can achieve by the time available to complete the project and resources available to complete it.

A diving project from a practical Sports Diving point of view can simply mean “an enterprise that is carefully planned to achieve a particular aim using divers”.

There are similarities with the definition of a diving Expedition “a group of divers going diving for a purpose”. The terms may indeed be used interchangeably.

Indeed, it could be argued that one of the best examples of a diving project, The Mary Rose project started out as an Expedition to find the site before it developed into a recovery project.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that BSAC branches that have been involved in well organised and interesting projects have generated a great deal on interest amongst members of the branch and generated good publicity. Consequently, Projects can be good for BSAC branches although they will take more effort than your typical weekend dive.

The Law and Diving Projects

There are specific laws in the UK for divers who earn their living from going diving. These generally do not apply to recreation divers unless they become part of a commercial project, which is surprisingly common in the realm of Scientific and Archaeological diving.

The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) have produced Approved Codes of Conduct (ACOP) which cover the responsibilities of Sports Divers who find themselves involved in such a project.

Generally, it means diving within the guidance and rules of your training organisation and also complying with any additional reasonable requirements from the Diving Supervisor in charge of the Diving Project.

A diving project in the realm of commercial diving in the UK has a particular legal meaning as defined in the Diving At Work Regulations 1997 “diving project” means any activity, made up of one or more diving operations, in which at least one person takes part or will take part as a diver and extends from the time when that person, or the first such person, commences to prepare to dive until that person, or the last such person, has left the water, chamber or other environment in which the dive, or any part of the dive, took place and has completed any requisite decompression procedures, including, where it may be reasonably anticipated that this will be needed, any therapeutic recompression;”

The HSE ACOP’s are freely available online from their website.
http://www.hse.gov.uk/diving/acop.htm

The Role of the FCD within BSAC

In line with the definition above and the objects of the BSAC, these are some of the things we would expect our First Class Divers to be confident and competent to:

- Be role model and ambassador divers striving for excellence, maintaining of a high level of knowledge and practical diving skills and promulgating of this high standard by leadership and osmosis to less experienced divers.
- Provide the lead for REDS expeditions.
- Support BSAC Marine Conservation and Environmental Policies. Capable of conducting marine life surveys. Able to organise a Seasearch to remote and challenging sites and report back in a professional manner.
- Support wreck heritage projects. Able to organise a detailed wreck survey and report back in a professional manner.
- Act as a support diver for a major Technical Expedition (assuming they have any pre-requisite technical qualification).
- Organising and accomplishing a major underwater search and recovery task and report accurately.

Background reading

For Project Prep events homework may comprise as a minimum:

- Read chapter 9 of the BSAC Expedition Manual
- Research recent examples of club or other diving projects in the news (SCUBA and other diving press, national Press etc.),
- Revise underwater search techniques.

Expectation of candidates

At this level of diving candidates are expected to take the initiative to develop. First Class Divers are leaders after all.

The BSAC provides support in a number of ways.

- Online material (See www.bsac.com/fcd)
- Support for events requested by candidate teams with FCD Examiners.

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Project Preparation Format

The FCD Project Preparation event is designed to be run as a shore based event. That is not to say boats cannot be used, rather the baseline design is without for a variety of reasons:

- Permits the event to maintain a high focus on delivering a quality project rather than being distracted other aspects of the FCD exam
- The format enables the use of inland sites, many of which have suitable attractions to provide the focus for the project work e.g. wrecks to practice survey techniques on, areas to lay lines and conduct searches in low visibility conditions, etc
- Where sheltered coastal sites are used the possibility opens for marine life surveys, although it can be now argued that some inland quarries have sufficient freshwater fauna to enable a limited survey
- Using the shore rather than a hard boat or RHIB lowers the cost of the event.

Coaching and Mentoring Focus Areas

Focus Criteria: P = Primary focus of teaching, S = Secondary Primary:

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P = Primary focus of teaching, S = Secondary

1. Personal Diving Skills	P
2. Dive Leading Day One	S
3. Dive Leading Day Two	S
4. Attitude	S
5. Safe Effective Dive Management	P
6. Contribution to Leadership	P
7. Contribution to Teamwork	P
8. Practical Position Fixing	S
9. Response to Emergency	S
10. Achieve Dive Op. Objectives	P
11. Seamanship skills	S
12. Diving Knowledge	S

Typical Project Preparation Weekend Timetable

There are standard power point presentations to accompany many of these sessions. See later in this document for details.

Day 1:

8.00 Instructor Brief
8.15 Introductions and Local Organiser Briefing
8.30 Presentation: The BSAC First Class Diver
9.00 Presentation: The Diving Project
9.15 Group Planning Session for first Project – Instructor Led
10:15 Break
10:30 Dry Run - Instructor Lead Demo
11:30 Diving Activity (2 hours)
13:30 De-kit
14:00 Lunch and Debrief on Morning Activity
14:30 Presentation: Project Reporting
14:45 Practical: Compile Project Report Outline
16:00 Candidate: Presentation of Project Report Outline
16:30 Group Planning Session for second Project – Candidate Led
17:30 Candidate Presentation: Briefing
18:00 Day Ends

Day 2:
8.00 Instructor Briefing
8.15 Dry Run of second project
9.15 Second Project Dive – Candidate Lead
11:15 Debrief and De-kit
12:00 Lunch
12:30 Preparation of Presentation Reviews
14:00 Candidate Presentation
14:30 The Way Forward
(Other Prep Events. Feedback from Group and Instructor Team)
15:00 Event Close
15:30 Instructor de-brief

APPENDIX 1: Useful Diving Project References

BSAC

British Sub Aqua Jubilee Trust – Funding for Projects
http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1913

The BSAC Peter Small Award – History about the award and Prize Money
http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1935&sectionTitle=Peter+Small+Jubilee+Trust+Award

BEGS – British Sub Aqua Expeditionary Grant Scheme
http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=2715&sectionTitle=Expeditions+Grant+Scheme+%28BEGS%29

Various Expedition and Project Reports on members only section of website at
http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=2716&sectionTitle=Documents

Example Club Projects

Southsea BSAC – Example recent projects
http://www.bsac.com/news.asp?section=56&sectionTitle=News&itemid=10146
http://southseasubaqua.org.uk/SSACdbJ1526/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75&Itemid=34

Queens University BSAC – Example project documented in BSAC Expeditions Manual
http://www.sub-aqua-ni.org.uk/alastor/

Mary Rose – One of the most famous marine archaeology projects of all time which had its roots in the British Sub Aqua Club.
http://www.bsac.com/peopledetails.asp?section=1059&sectionTitle=BSAC+Pioneers&itemid=92
http://www.maryrose.org/discover-our-collection/story-of-the-ship/raising-the-mary-rose/

Operation Kelp – Let by Dr David Bellamy and involving many branches of the BSAC
http://www.bsac.com/peopledetails.asp?section=1059&sectionTitle=BSAC+Pioneers&itemid=93

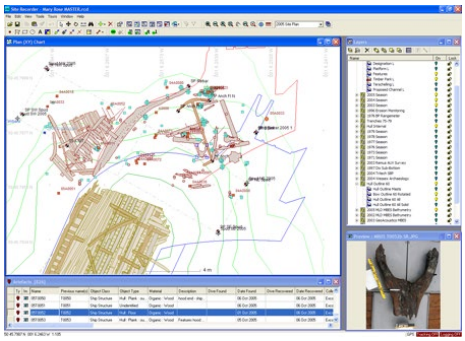
External Links

Wreck Heritage and Nautical Archaeology
http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1006
http://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/
http://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/content/adopt-wreck-scheme
http://www.biganchorproject.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=6&Itemid=4

Marine Conservation
http://www.bsac.com/page.asp?section=1004&sectionTitle=Protecting+our+marine+environment&preview=1
http://www.mcsuk.org/
http://www.seasearch.org.uk/

APPENDIX 2: Useful Software for Project Reporting

Site Recorder 4 (SR4)



Mapping, recording and finds handling software for maritime, freshwater and intertidal archaeology projects

http://www.3hconsulting.com/

Google Sketchup

Free software to enable you to create 3D models.

http://www.sketchup.com/

Autodesk 123D Catch



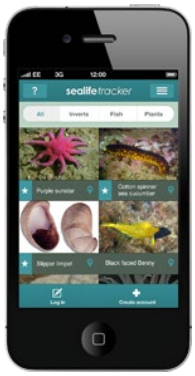
123D Catch is a free app that lets you create 3D scans of virtually

Autodesk 123D Design

123D Design is a free, powerful, yet simple 3D creation and editing tool which supports many new 3D printers

http://www.123dapp.com/

BSAC Sealife Tracker



BSAC has co-created a free new app – Sealife Tracker – that will enable divers to help monitor the spread of both invasive and climate change indicator species in British seas.

Download from BSAC website
www.bsac.com/sealifetracker/

APPENDIX 3: Power point Slide Aid for Teaching a Planning Session

