

11th November 2016

Dear Mrs Mason, Senior Coroner

Dulwich BSAC 102 are keen to engage with and are fully committed to supporting the process of improving the safety of our sport for the future. However we are finding it challenging to see how many of the points raised can be effectively incorporated into recreational diving without further guidance.

As a branch of the British Sub Aqua Club we are reliant on the organisation for training, advice, and guidance. We understand BSAC have responded to this report and we will follow and comply with any guidance produced by BSAC.

In the meantime Dulwich would like to respond to each element:

- 1) A training record is kept in every divers log-book that they should have with them on every dive, this details dive time, depth and any training undertaken. The instructor has to sign off exercises. Where partial training has been completed the club will develop a means of recording this.
- 2) We will seek clarification from BSAC regarding sequencing of lessons.
- 3) The plan in the briefing was for DC to inflate the DSMB with an Assistant Instructor on hand when ascending from the Stangarth within sight of the fixed shot line (20 metres max or 15 metres from Deck). We had been assured Denis had completed dry practice, used a DSMB in the pool and confirmed to the instructor that he had done it "many times". We will remind all instructors to follow BSAC guidance in the training programme.
- 4) DC was accompanied by a Dive leader/Assistant diving Instructor another Assistant Diving Instructor and another Open Water diver, with a Full Instructor/Training Officer on shore. When separated by visibility he was with an Assistant diving instructor and no instruction was delivered from that point. All Instructors within the club have been reminded about instruction and supervision levels.
- 5) No written risk assessments are currently required when visiting a known site, this is in line with the current guidelines. We always produce a dive plan, log the dive and use a marshalling slate and follow BSAC safe diving practices with a full briefing and buddy checks before the dive.
- 6) The BSAC safety manager said that he would not necessarily have carried the dive out in the same way, he subsequently confirmed that dives are carried out in different ways, by different people and this does not make them wrong or unsafe. We will seek further guidance from BSAC and advise all our members accordingly.

- 7) This is incorrect, he had dived to 18 metres over 3 hours before, the correct calculations for Nitrogen uptake were carried out before the second dive to ensure a sufficient and safe surface interval for a second dive at 2 metres deeper. This meant the second dive to a maximum of 20 metres was safe in accordance with the current guidelines. Denis was qualified to dive to 20 metres and Phil to 35 metres. It is our usual practice to dive the deeper dive first particularly when the first dive is for instance - a boat dive at 35 metres and the second dive may well be restricted to a 15 metre dive as the surface interval may be restricted due to tides etc. This was not considered an issue when the second dive was only 2 metres deeper than the first and the correct calculations to ensure a safe surface interval were carried out.

- 8) The site is very large and 3 small signs were apparently displayed, one on the back of a door one in the lavatory and one on a map of the lake, none of these areas were visited by any of the divers, it is not a case of ignoring them, it is a case of not having seen them at all. Even if they had seen them the divers were briefed by their Instructor before the dive on what to do if they have a free flow, we do not consider it a "special" risk until 5 degrees C as it can happen at any time. All divers on the day were using regulators designed for cold-water use. There is no temperature ceiling in any BSAC safe diving guidelines. We currently consider it unsafe not to use a DSMB, we are seeking clear guidance on what the best practice is going forward.

- 9) The weight belt and kit configuration is personal choice there are no existing guidelines governing this, the correct procedure for removal of DC's weights was discussed in the briefing before the divers entered the water and DC informed Phil of the need to remove the harness crotch strap before the weights can be removed. DC also participated in a weight removal exercise that morning where he demonstrated the correct procedure for dumping weights to another diver, stressing the importance of ensuring they are held at arms length away from the body before being jettisoned. It had also been practiced dry and in the pool. We will continue to encourage students and qualified divers to follow their training and to practice regularly with their chosen configuration.

Yours sincerely

Tony Chapman

(Ex Chair) on behalf of Dulwich BSAC 102