

Organising Successful Diving from Club RIBS

Early Considerations

Availability of RIBS and likely location

Objectives of Expedition

Enjoyment/ Training (what level - suitability)/ Investigation/ Wreck Finding

Type of Diving

Depth/ Currents/ Tides/ Wreck/ Scenic/ Drift

Individual divers Experience necessary

Dive Co-ordinates/ Charts/ Air supply (Pressures/Availability Times/ Nitrox)

Boat towing/Launching

Vehicle requirements, Size capability

Slip access, costs, and ease of access dependant on state of tides

Where are boats going to be stored at night? Camp Site permission. Harbour (advise our Insurance Company)

Alternatives dependant on prevailing weather

Permission and Guidance from Diving Officer- where will he want the boats left at end of Expedition?

Where are group going to stay, camping , B&B. Group Booking

Where are group going to eat - Pub? BBQ ?- take club BBQ set?

WHEN WOULD BE THE BEST TIME TO DIVE THIS EXPEDITION/SITE

Sources of Information

Dive Books i.e 'Dive Devon' etc

Dive Magazines

Club Members

Known skippers

Harbour Masters

BSAC HQ and Clubs Local to site

Web Sites

Admiralty charts - which will also give you slack water times, however local or experienced knowledge is more accurate

Experienced Club members Co-ordinates/ Slack water times

Almanacks/ Tide Tables / local / moon phases / web sites

Local tourist office, camping sites etc

Club Library of reference books and Charts held in Football Club locker

One Week Before

Confirm RIBS with Diving / Equipment Officer

Keep an eye on weather forecasts

Contact Harbour master re launching

Contact DO/EO to pick up boat GPS/Keys/Radio/Hand Held Radio and Charger/ Oxygen/ Spare fuel can

Record sheets and Record/Dive Marshalls

Confirm with party members and give briefing notes

Transport/ Air/ Equipment & Number of Cylinders required/ Accommodation/ Timing of Events/ Fuel for Boats

Plan dive marshalling giving consideration to:-

Objectives, Tide state. Launching and retrieval scenario. Dive pairs. Fuel requirements/ Delegation of jobs

Establish an understanding of which sites would best be dived on what days and times, under what

prevailing weather conditions, with consideration to overall timing, second dives and needs of members

3 Days Before

Re-affirm Air supply

Opening times

Check weather forecast - Radio. News. Marine call. Magic Seaweed web site

Consider prevailing wind conditions on sea, shelter

Pick up Boat Equipment and GPS etc as above

1 Day/Evening Before each dive

GPS co-ordinates

Time table

Buddy pairs Ensure each boat has dedicated non dive cox or ideally 2 cox's not in same buddy pair

Duties

Dive Marshall Can be you

Cox Do not make one person responsible for more than one duty, it leads to delays.

Boat tow and Launch

Record Marshall

Air Marshall

Fuel, Water and Food Often together as a trip to the supermarket

Does everyone know the plan, timings and equipment needed

On site

Direct and Check- give individuals specific tasks within their capabilities and learning curve

Boat prep and Check- many items need to be checked well before arrival on site if possible I.e on picking up RIBS / CampSite etc

Fuel. Spare Fuel. Spare Fuel Hose Connector

Quantity of fuel required - highly dependent on loading and sea conditions-

assume could be as low as 2 litres per mile heavily loaded in adverse sea conditions

Hornet takes 90 litres, Portia 70 litres Normal premium Unleaded petrol

Tube pump available and pump up tubes if required

Fit GPS, Hand held Radio. Chart. Dive site Info. Mobile phone as back up. Diver record slates.

Check radios and set up GPS

Check anchor is connected, tidy . Spare stern anchor.

Shot and ropes to lengths anticipated - usually depth plus 30%

Fit and stow oxygen, check flare and spares box, drinking water.

Which handle fitted

Fuel primed, keys fitted, dead mans lock engaged, neutral, choke, start engine to check and then turn off immediately

Agree Radio channel 77 for Dive club chat, dual watch with 16

Hull is empty of water and draining bung fitted

Safety

Harbour master. Coastguard Shore party.

Inform - Plan, numbers and timing.

Boat launch and trailer securing

Have equipment ready on boat or at beach/habour/slip - depends on wieghts / tide/ surface etc

Remove trailer board, rear straps and wheel lock and stow safely in someones car

Ensure elephant trunk drain is up (closed)

Slide in trailer board support arms and secure

Direct launch team, one cox, one with and on winch, 1 on painter, 2 banksman, trailer recovery team.

DO NOT disconnect whinch strap until RIB trailer safely in water

If there is enough depth start engine before final release from trailer

Return

Boat retrieval - think of launching in reverse, speed is often of the essence

Mooring considerations- tide, wind , how long, what is likely state/ depth under keel when you return, boat drying, hanging.

Air marshall collection- how long is it going to take?

Re-fuel requirements ?

Records of slate to paper

Confirm next dive plan and timing

End of Expedition/ Days Diving Transportation of RIB

Fit ears to motor and using hose flush out engine with fresh water whilst running engine in neutral on low revs

Hose down boat and trailer including flushing out brakes using piped system fitted

Strip down boat and securely store items removed

Keys/ Spare Fuel/ GPS/ Hand held Radio/ O2 set

Refit straps, wheel lock in RIB, Trailer board (having slid out support arms and secured)

Take hull bung out and leave out to drain hull

Ensure elephant trunk drain is down to drain water from hull

Return of RIB to storage

Ensure power battery switch is off

Ensure jockey wheel is extended or preferably blocked up so that any rainwater entering boat will drain through elephant trunk

Chock wheels, and ensure handbrake is left off. Fit wheel locks

Deflate tubes a little so they do not over inflate in sun

Fit boat cover and secure

Return boat boxes. O2 to DO along with Dive Logs