

FULL PROGRAMME

BSAC Diving Conference

26 Oct 2019, The Vox, NEC, Birmingham



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#BSAC19conf





KENSINGTON PALACE

Just like my grandfather and my father, I am proud to say that I learnt to dive with BSAC, and share your passion for the sport and the underwater world.

The skills and experiences gained through BSAC snorkelling and scuba diving can have a profound and lasting impact on people's lives, giving them confidence and building their aspirations.

I am delighted to introduce this year's conference, which will undoubtedly be an immensely positive day for members, clubs and centres. During my own training with BSAC, I benefited from the high quality of teaching and the close attention paid by volunteer instructors. As President, I would like to thank the many thousands of volunteers that give up their time for others. You are at the heart of our organisation and carry the responsibility of nurturing the all-important next generation of underwater explorers, pioneers and protectors.

I wish you all the very best in your work to grow the sport and to preserve and protect our precious marine heritage and environment for future generations.



Main Hall running order

Your host for the day is underwater explorer,
BBC presenter and member, Andy Torbet



CONFERENCE STARTS 09:15

09:15	Host Andy Torbet opens conference	
09:20	National Diving Officer (NDO) update	<i>Dai Atkins</i>
09:45	Scuba diving, BSAC and mental health	<i>Eugene Farrell</i>
10:05	BSAC Expeditions Trophy, sponsored by Paralenz	<i>Andy Hunt</i>
10:15	Environmentally-responsible club diving	<i>Scotland Conservation Officer at MCS, Catherine Gemmell</i>
10:35	Growing our sport	<i>Debbie Powell</i>
10:55	COFFEE BREAK	
11:20	Heinke Trophy Award	<i>Phil Harrison MBE</i>
11:30	Saving divers at sea	<i>RNLI crew</i>
11:45	HMS Royal Oak, 80 years underwater	<i>Lt Jen Smith</i>
12:15	The future of diver protection	<i>Dr Neal Pollock</i>
13:10	LUNCH	
14:40	Suunto (Eon Steel) Prize Draw	<i>Andy Torbet</i>
14:45	Incident Report 2019 and lessons to be learned	<i>Prof Clare Peddie</i>
15:25	Safety awards and stories	<i>Prof Clare Peddie and Eugene Farrell</i>
15:40	Ocean exploration and wildlife film making	<i>Ocean wildlife filmmaker, James Honeyborne</i>
16:05	The shortest road to increased safety in diving	<i>Prof Simon Mitchell</i>
17:00	Aqua Lung Award	<i>James Sanderson and Dai Atkins</i>
17:05	Closing and thanks	
17:10	ADJOURN to post-event drinks courtesy of blue o two	



Please note this programme
is subject to change

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Breakout sessions

Breakout session places need to be reserved online when you buy your conference ticket.

Vox suite 1

Newly qualified Open Water Instructor (OWI) workshop

08:20-09:00

Luisa Smith and Steve Capes

Aimed at recently qualified OWIs, this interactive session will help you on your way to becoming a successful active instructor. It will cover tips and advice on getting started, what to expect in your early teaching days and how to progress your instructing training.

Introduction to rebreather diving

11:00-11:30

Sophie Heptonstall, Mike Rowley and Nick Jewson

Curious about rebreather diving? Find out more about rebreather diving – from the units themselves and how they work, to the training options and where it could take your diving. Have your questions answered and find out if it could be right for you.

How to grow your club's active instructor base

13:40-14:20

Dave Lock and Dai Atkins

Does your club have enough active instructors to service demand? This session will deliver practical advice and tips on how to work towards tackling a shortage of in-club instructors. Share experiences and learn from others.

Advanced Diver lecture – AT1 - The Role of the Advanced Diver

14:30-15:30

Andy Jarvis and Kevin Ford

Dive Leader (or equivalent) and would like to start (or continue) the journey to becoming an Advanced Diver? If so you can get this lecture signed off at the conference. As well as the session itself, general training advice will be on hand.

Vox suite 2

Diving Officer Workshop

08:20-09:00

Andy Jarvis and Kevin Ford

The role and responsibilities of the all-important Diving Officer position within clubs will be outlined in this session. The session will offer practical tips and advice to support you in your role.

Dive Leader lecture – DT1 – Role of Dive Leader

09:45-10:45

Ade Cadman

Sports Diver (or equivalent) and would like to start (or continue) the journey to becoming a Dive Leader? If so you can get this lecture signed off at the conference. As well as the session itself, general training advice will be on hand.

Q&A

13:20-13:40

Dr Neal Pollock

This questions and answers session follows Neal's talk - The future of diver protection - on the main stage.

Dive Leader lecture – DT12 – The Role of the Dive Manager

14:30-15:30

Ade Cadman

Sports Diver (or equivalent) and would like to start, or continue, the journey to becoming a Dive Leader? If so you can get this lecture signed off at the conference. As well as the session itself, general training advice will be on hand.

Boardroom 1

BSAC Snorkelling – new developments and have your say!

08:20-09:00

Ade Cadman and Sophie Rennie

The current team behind BSAC snorkelling will be sharing progress to date on various projects and thoughts for the future. This is a great opportunity for snorkelling clubs to feedback and influence future plans.

Diving in Costa Cálida

11:00-11:30

Neil George and Miguel Ángel Gallego

Find out why the waters around the Spanish region of Murcia are one of the best secrets in the Med for divers, and make for perfect for BSAC club diving trips. Prepare to be surprised!

University clubs workshop

13:40-14:20

James Mudge and Poppy Disney

This session is for members of university clubs. Clubs will be updated on support available. Plus the session will provide a platform for challenges and ideas to be shared, both with fellow uni clubs and with BSAC.

Boardroom 2

Instructor Training Scheme (ITS) Q&A

08:20-09:00

Jim Watson and Dave Lock

This session for instructor trainers to feed back on anything and everything to do with the ITS. It's to share thoughts and ideas and to have questions answered by those that manage and put the programme together at headquarters.

BSAC Centres – new developments and have your say!

11:00-11:30

Adrian Collier

Adrian will cover plans for delivering greater value in the BSAC centre offering. The floor will be opened up so dive business owners and representatives can feed back, share challenges and discuss opportunities.

How to become an instructor

13:40-14:20

Steve Capes

Understand the process, the joys and opportunities, and also the challenges of becoming a BSAC instructor. Get the insider view from instructors, have your questions answered and meet others considering taking the same steps.

Guest speaker abstracts and biographies

Your host for the day – Andy Torbet

Diver, adventurer, BBC presenter and more recently 007's underwater stunt double on the new Bond film, Andy Torbet, will be keeping the main stage programme running smoothly as well as delegates entertained.

Andy joined Aberdeen BSAC at aged 12 as a Snorkel Member, back when diving was forbidden until aged 14. His first dive was in the freezing, near-nil viz waters of North Scotland in a poorly fitting wetsuit and Fenzy ABLJ. The intervening 29 years of diving have seen him on many an adventure. From commanding the Army's Underwater Bomb Disposal Team and operating as part of the UK's Maritime Counter-Terrorist Unit, through to freediving under Alaskan ice and carrying out cave diving exploration projects, this diving action man has seemingly done it all. Andy has presented 22 TV series' on various channels and has written over 300 articles, mostly about technical and cave diving. However, his longest running series is his monthly column for BSAC's SCUBA Magazine on nothing more extreme than snorkelling! Which, incidentally, was meant to be a short nine-month run... 96 months later he's still going.



Dr Neal Pollock

Neal Pollock is an Associate Professor in Kinesiology at Université Laval in Québec. He is also the Research Chair in Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine and conducts research at the Centre de Médecine de Plongée du Québec.

Neal is academically trained in zoology, exercise physiology and environmental physiology. His primary interests focus on human health and safety in extreme environments. He currently serves on the executive board of the Canadian Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association (CUHMA), as Scientific Director of Undersea Medicine Canada, and on the diving control board of the University of the Virgin Islands. He is also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal Wilderness & Environmental Medicine and on the editorial board of the journal Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine. He lectures extensively, both locally and internationally.

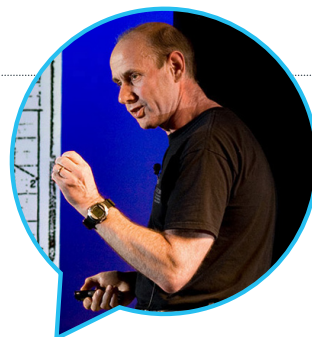
In his talk – **The Future of Diver Protection** – Neal will consider the changing nature of equipment dependency in our sport and juxtapose human physiology alongside recent, emerging and future technologies to demonstrate how both risks and protections are evolving and are likely to continue evolving.



Professor Simon Mitchell

Head of Anaesthesiology at the University of Auckland, Simon's award-winning work has been widely published. A lifelong passionate diver Simon has been a leading contributor to the development of diving medicine and diver safety for most of his academic life, with more than 150 research papers and book chapters in the medical literature domain. Simon has received the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society's highest award for scientific contributions to the field, and awarded Rolex Diver of the Year by DAN in 2015. He's currently the editor of the highly-acclaimed quarterly scientific journal, *Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine*. A much-sought after speaker internationally Simon will treat BSAC delegates to the valuable insights of a topic close to his heart.

In his talk - **The shortest road to increased safety in diving** – Simon will surprise those familiar with his talks and delight all, as he draws deep on his wealth of professional experience and knowledge to distil for us all, what every diver wants to know...how to deliver extraordinary gains in our own personal diving safety.



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RNLI operational crew

RNLI's Community Safety Product Manager, Nick Fecher, along with RNLI crew members Neil Withers, Aodh O'Donnell and Derek Sutton will share their experience and insights from diving 'shouts' with delegates in their talk: **Saving divers at sea**. They'll be getting everyone involved with what's planned to be an interactive and thought-provoking session with members.



RNLI photos: Nigel Millard



Catherine Gemmell

Scotland Conservation Officer at the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), Catherine Gemmell is involved with many projects from education and public engagement to campaigns and policy. Recently she has been focusing on the promotion of beach cleaning and litter surveying project Beach Watch. Catherine is passionate about inspiring ocean optimism and encouraging everyone to take practical action.

In her talk - **Environmentally-responsible club diving** - Catherine will offer a practical guide for clubs to help them become even more environmentally responsible.



James Honeyborne

James is a biologist by degree and a storyteller by heart. He was Executive Producer of the BBC hit series, "Blue Planet II". The so-called "Blue Planet Effect" became part of the national conversation, and created undeniable impact both in Britain and around the world. The series broke all records as the most-watched wildlife documentary in a generation.

Emma, Alex and Sarah will be joining James as part of his new team producing a landmark natural history series for a streaming service. Between them they have over 50 years of diving experience in BSAC. The marine world is their passion.

In his talk - **Ocean Exploration and Wildlife Filmmaking** - James and his team will share their adventures, challenges and filmmaker's role in conservation.



Lieutenant Jen Smith

Commissioned Officer in the Royal Navy Jen Smith has been deployed on maritime operations around the world. More recently she has been the Royal Navy Liaison Officer to a number of licensed underwater surveys of Royal Navy wrecks. To preserve their heritage Jen works with a team of volunteer civilian divers to record these poignant sites.

In her talk - **HMS Royal Oak, 80 years underwater** - Jen will be sharing new images and 3D Photogrammetry models of HMS Royal Oak, now lying at 33 metres in Scapa Flow.



Eugene Farrell

Qualified in radiotherapy, health economics and psychology Eugene has more than 30 years' experience in UK healthcare. For the past 20 years, he has specialised in the development and provision of mental health, counselling and wellbeing support services in the corporate environment. Former BSAC Chair and board member Eugene continues to volunteer as a coach and Instructor Trainer.

In the session - **Scuba diving, BSAC and mental health** - Eugene will talk about how the diving community can play a positive role in mental health.



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Venue information

Top-rated venue – The Vox Conference Centre, Resorts World, NEC, Birmingham B40 1PU.

This ultra-modern new venue is just a short walk to Hall 1 where the Dive Show will be (as previous years, conference tickets will gain you free access to the dive show all weekend).

Bring the family!

If you have any time to spare (or have a non-diving partner coming along), Resorts World will keep you entertained. With 18 bars and restaurants, 50 outlet stores, an 11-screen cinema, international casino and even a spa – all on the doorstep of the conference venue - there will be plenty of things to do.

Getting to The Vox

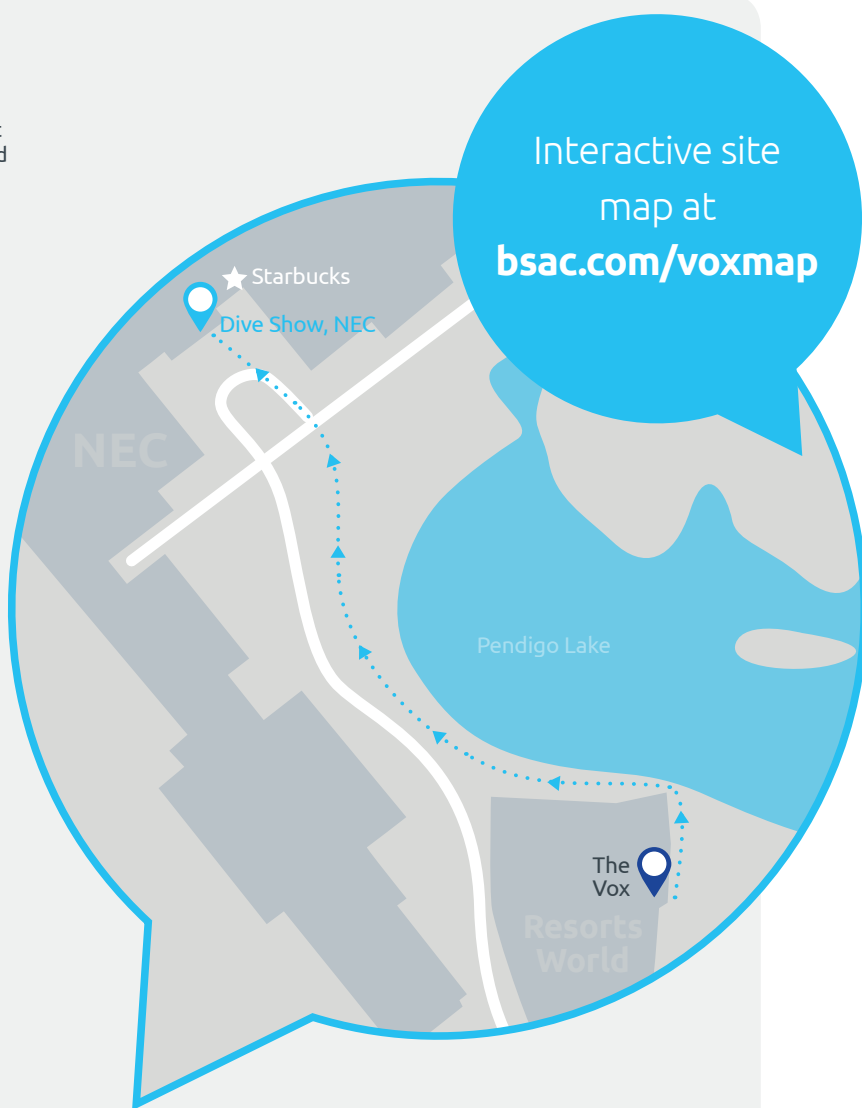
The Vox is located at Resorts World Birmingham and is a stone's throw from the NEC (five mins walk from Dive Show). If you are using a sat nav to get to the Vox please enter postcode **B40 1PU**. There is an interactive map available at bsac.com/voxmap

Free parking

Ample parking is available on site at the NEC within a short walk from Resorts World. If you have parked in one of the official conference car parks (E5 or S6) you will need to get your ticket validated at the conference. You will be able to do this at registration and throughout the day. If you do not get your ticket validated you will not be able to exit the car park free of charge. The conference car parks are highlighted on a map at bsac.com/confcarparks.

Walking to the Dive Show in Hall 1

To walk to the Dive Show (it takes about five minutes) exit the Resorts World building on the lake side. Turn left, follow the lake around (keeping it on your right side) and head for the large white NEC sign. The entrance is to the left of Starbucks. It's closer than last time as the show has moved!



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BSAC Diving Conference Dinner

BSAC is organising a dinner for members to relax and debrief after the full day's conference. This will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on Saturday 26 October 2019, beginning with a wine tasting at 19:00 from Sea Change Wines. Members will sit down at 19:30 to enjoy a delicious three-course meal and afterwards hear from **Professor Simon Mitchell**.

Success will be celebrated at this event

There will be an awards presentation for BSAC's First Class Divers and National Instructors.

The dinner will be held at: The Pavillion Suite, Hilton Birmingham Metropole, Pendigo Way, Birmingham B40 1PP.

The hotel is on the NEC site. It's just a seven-minute walk from The Vox (conference venue) or five minutes from the Dive Show.

Need a room?

To receive a 10% discount on the best available rate at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, please email Alex at alexr@bsac.com or you could call Alex on 0151 350 6260.

Book quickly!

Please note there is limited availability for rooms in the hotel so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Sold out!

To sign up for the waiting list, please email alexr@bsac.com



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