

## Dai Atkins



**Please give details of all diving industry related interests, whether remunerated or not, and any other potential conflicts of interest**

None

**What do you think are the key challenges facing BSAC, and what should we be doing to address them?**

Our organisational challenges include

- improving IT infrastructure to support data management and communications between members and the administrative centre
- promoting better engagement between members, DIVING subject matter experts and the administrative and governing arms of the organisation
- staying current in respect of DIVING safety, technology and retain our valued accreditation with internationally recognised industry standards
- retaining a lead position as National Governing Body for the sport of DIVING
- providing fulfilling DIVING related opportunities for all members and branches to participate in
- ensuring our DIVING related products and services which predominantly encompass training, support and insurance remain fit for purpose
- demonstrating awareness of environmental concerns we have sight of as DIVERS, and acting in ways that support our members in addressing them
- cost of living rises that impact our organisational overheads as well as affordability of our DIVING products and services to our members

We have seen a moderately pleasing return to usual club based and nationally organised activities in the last few years but there is still work to be done to remain vigilant to new challenges We need to

- invest members' subscription fees wisely into appropriate methods, expertise and training to support our volunteers and operational staff in delivering high quality DIVING products and services
- be all inclusive and welcome increased diversity to continue to provide DIVING products and services that suit everyone's needs, demands and abilities, ensuring DIVING can remain an accessible sport for participants of all ages and backgrounds
- introduce schemes that support uptake and development by younger DIVERS and instructors to ensure the cycle of DIVER -> DIVING Instructor -> Instructor Trainer can continue
- sanity check our DIVING related products and services are serving their intended purposes and provide best value to our members
- be agile, dynamic and innovative, reacting appropriately to changes in culture, behaviour and beliefs using sound, evidence-based approaches
- work closely with organisations who hold similar values and visions, sharing ideas and solutions to issues that affect us all

Our members hold a wealth of knowledge and expertise not just with DIVING but in a myriad of other disciplines which, when made best use of through a concerted effort of volunteer management and engagement, demonstrate the best of what the club has to offer – so it is most important that we support and manage our volunteers who give so much to the Club, and is ultimately who the Club should work for.

**Please describe how you would contribute to any / all of these areas**

My personal background and work history incorporates a variety of skillsets

- as a business owner in the construction industry I maintain strict control of financial budgets to ensure my company remains financially viable as well as performs to the expectations of its clients with the best quality resources
- as a gas quality auditor I am familiar with regulatory compliance, service quality requirements, and the continued professional development of engineers with wide ranging skills to maintain high safety standards and good service levels
- as a project engineer I oversee delivery of a strategic environmental operation throughout the UK that contributes to national flood defence management requiring the coordination and support of many individuals often working in remote areas
- as a volunteer I serve on my local council ensuring public funding is appropriately used to maintain essential community services that can benefit local residents

- all roles require an innovative approach to keep up with fast-paced changes in society whilst still relying on sound risk management and communication skills to a wide range of others from varying backgrounds

In so far as understanding the organisational history and our current means of operation, I have been a BSAC member for 18 years, DIVING with four branches comprising both mainstream and university and holding posts as Chair, Treasurer and DIVING Officer.

More nationally I have served in previous roles as Wales Regional SDCO, Wales Regional Coach, Chair of Welsh Association of Sub-Aqua Clubs and more recently the incumbent National DIVING Officer, and remain active on our Instructor Trainer Scheme circuit up to National Instructor level having sight of and input into our full suite of training products.

Having served as National DIVING Officer for the past six years, supported by a highly committed and agile team within National DIVING Committee (NDC) who have not tired from continuing to deliver in all areas of DIVER and instructor training, manage the latest safety considerations, commit to ongoing regional programmes of development and support the Club at local as well as national levels, it is for this reason I seek your continued endorsement as a board member to support my successor as NDO in pushing the good work that NDC has carried out and enable it to merge seamlessly with, and support the forthcoming strategic objectives of the organisation.

### **Personal statement**

As a DIVE club, DIVING is found throughout our organisation, our branches, our products and our branding; Membership benefits, services and products include DIVER training, DIVING instructor training, DIVING insurance; Our branding reflects our club model, ethos and our product - DIVE with Us; even historically DIVING for DIVERS, DIVE with Friends, The largest DIVING CLUB in the world.

To this end it stands to reason that DIVERS are our core subject matter experts, and who can provide the knowledge and understanding required to further our aims and objectives and sustain us as a viable club for the future.