

David George



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?

The key challenges facing BSAC have already been identified by Council. These include:

Enabling within Clubs those who want to dip in and out and keeping post-University students onboard.

Cost of living.

Supply of rapid training.

Communications and IT.

Losing facilities.

We must accept that different demographics within our membership need different support. University members move on to work and potentially family life and so have less flexibility at that new stage of their lives on time and disposable income to spend being fulltime members of local clubs. We should develop a club-based offering, in addition to online training, that allows these qualified divers to continue to dive and train locally without expecting them to own all their own kit or be a regular club volunteer. We should support clubs that help with such an initiative.

We need to make diving as cost-effective as possible whether that is through more support/encouragement for clubs or through increasing income by encouraging centres to better promote our offering over those of other agencies.

We should further promote the Centre/Club partnership programme rather than trying to offer a direct training service ourselves, so that smaller clubs, without their own instructors, can get new members trained quickly and onboard diving with them. It is a win/win situation as new divers who go direct to Centres can be steered towards the Clubs once qualified as well as Clubs sending trainees initially to a Centre.

We can never communicate enough. Communications have improved with online conferencing methods, like Zoom and Teams; these being one of few positives that has come from the Covid pandemic. We need to continue to improve communications between the BSAC Leadership and Clubs, Centres and Members so that everyone knows what is available to them be it diving, training or other support initiatives.

Council are already working hard on modernising the IT systems, and together with the members-section on the website and the device app we are heading the right way. Digital transformation projects are difficult, expensive and time-consuming and have to be got right; the forthcoming AMS will hopefully be a big step forward.

The Coaching Scheme should continue to assist with inter-branch working; whether that is for training, diving, facility sharing or support. Facility access can be maintained more robustly if members pool together to use them and it also makes them more cost-effective.

Evolution rather than revolution would be best.

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

Although I am standing for the role of National Diving Officer where my diving and instructing skills and knowledge will be of primary need I have other skills that will support the general requirements within Council.

For the last 5 years I have worked for an organisation that supplies certification services to clients within the global healthcare market. I have worked face to face with a variety of healthcare equipment manufacturers, from Board Management to Shop floor Operator level personnel. I have assessed their compliance to relevant quality management systems standards and Global medical device regulations and recommended (or not!) their certification to these standards and regulations. I am fully conversant with the structure of ISO Standards, UK, European and Global Regulations. Managing risk is a big part of these assessments.

I fully support BSAC's ongoing EUF certifications to ISO standards. I understand the need to ensure that improvements and developments to BSAC's Diver and

Instructor training must remain within the scope of the current and future regulations, and other ISO Standards such as those associated with training with rebreather technologies. This will allow demonstration and promotion of the high quality of training that BSAC continues to provide.

My background is as an Electrical and Electronics Engineer and I am a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. I have been a practical, hands-on installation, commissioning and support field engineer and manager within the Healthcare sector for around 25 years, working on a vast range of equipment from hospital ward/department based hardware to software products used to assist with patient treatment planning in radiotherapy cancer treatment.

I am a practical, problem solving person working through issues to solutions in a calm methodical way often in stressful and emotive environments. I believe these skills are transferable and of great value to BSAC Council.

Personal statement

I am a committed BSAC diver and have been for 40 years, my wife and children are all qualified BSAC divers too! I'm a recreational diver who loves being out on a boat away from the stresses of life. I enjoy teaching people; faces on trainees who have achieved a new skill is brilliant!

My experience as a diver, instructor, and instructor trainer together with my professional skills lend themselves to work pragmatically and calmly with Council, HQ and Members to further the activities of BSAC.

We require a mix of club, direct and centre-based BSAC diving as we need to enable more people to discover, and then continue to experience the underwater world.

There will always be those who only dive on holiday or are consistently mobile; our direct membership and centres support them.

We need to develop our club network to allow members to dip in and out of diving rather than expecting them to follow the model of becoming lifelong members taking a turn eventually on committee.

Club diving should be the most economic way to dive and it also improves general wellbeing. Life is expensive and with pressure on finances continuing, within a club should be the best place to continue easily with diving sampled on holiday or when at University. Inter-branch trips, training and pool hire already happens in many

regions together with the Club/Centre partnerships. I would help these collaborations expand further.

I learnt to dive at school, continuing at University, before joining local clubs as I moved with work, belonging to BSAC in several UK regions.

I have held Training Officer, Records/Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Chair positions. As an Area Coach I was instrumental in bringing together local clubs for combined events where there had previously been animosity between them. I was Chair of a Bristol club where we achieved Sport England Clubmark certification which championed safeguarding and well run community sports organisations.

I became a Club Instructor in 1991, Advanced Instructor in 1992, First Class Diver and joined the Instructor Training Scheme in 2001 and a National Instructor in 2010. I am a National Instructor examiner and was Open Water Instructor Chief Examiner between 2015 and 2019.

If elected I will construct a team of enthusiastic experts to assist in developing diving and training within BSAC; no one person can know or do it all.

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