

## Thomas Hawksworth



**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?**

BSAC are adapting and progressing its ways of working continually which is evident in the changes to Sport Diver/Dive Leader and the announced launch of the new Club management System in 2024. Even though there is a lot of amazing changes happening there will always be challenges with the change of times. One of the biggest challenges I think BSAC are facing is the retention and enjoyment of the younger membership. The younger membership within BSAC could have a great impact on the amount of membership there is. In my opinion the younger generation, if kept enthusiastic, would progress and stay within the British Sub Aqua Club for a larger amount of time. One of the biggest impacts our club is facing is keeping the younger membership engaged and enthusiastic about the training and next steps.

Snorkelling can be seen as a great entry point for youngsters to build up their skills and knowledge before reaching Scuba Diving. If BSAC had a revamp or add-on to the current Snorkel training program this would be greatly beneficial to clubs and their members. Currently there is the Dolphin Snorkeller, Snorkel Diver, and Advanced Snorkeller as the progression within training (there are other SDC's and Instructor grades). However, if the modules within were awarded separately with a certificate or badge this might keep younger generations more enthused.

Alongside this I think if there was a greater number of resources available to clubs and centres with under 18's for organising trips away would be beneficial. There are lots of different factors and paperwork that needs to be done beforehand and our club is currently in the process of organising a week away to Cornwall. If this

type of knowledge and material were available for clubs, which could have not previously organised trips due to this, could also increase the enjoyment for the younger membership.

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

One of the main contributions I could make with being a Council Member for BSAC is the knowledge and passion for Snorkelling and Scuba Diving alongside the younger perspective. I took over the role as Chairman within my local club with little knowledge of governance and organisations, but this has changed drastically. Alongside my day-to-day job and the role as Chairman I have come a long way with understanding the ways of working and policies/procedures that need to be followed and abided by. The club has developed its training program, Open Water Program, and the overall membership number. Being in my late teens (19) having built up these skills and been part of developing a local club, and having the younger perspective, I think I could bring a great deal to the BSAC Council.

**Personal statement**

I see myself as a motivated and organised individual who is up for a new challenge and opportunity. I am currently early on in my career within Systems Engineering working towards my bachelor's degree where I have been a part of many different projects and workstreams. These workstreams and projects involve a variety of different skills including Project Management, Collaboration and Teamwork. Alongside this career I have also been the Chairman of a local BSAC club as stated above, but this has built up more skills and knowledge for myself. I now have a greater knowledge of the Policies and Procedures that Not-for-Profit volunteer-based sports clubs should adopt and abide by including Child Safeguarding, EDI, and Terms of Reference.

Bringing along this knowledge and the skills I have built up over the past two years, with me being of a younger generation, I feel enthusiastic and excited to use this as a Council Member of BSAC. Alongside these skills and Knowledge, I am very passionate about building up people's skills in this sport that we all love and enjoy which can be seen in my Snorkelling and Scuba Diving progression. I have been a Snorkel Instructor for nearly two years and am working towards becoming a Scuba Diving Instructor with having just booked a place on a Instructor Foundation Course.