

Chair

Maria Harwood



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- a: Maria Harwood
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- b: Retired
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- c: None
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- d: Chorley branch, 37 years
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- e: Diving Officer, Chair, Secretary, Club Development (various dates)
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- f: North West Regional Coach (2013-2016), Coaching Advisor (2017), Vice Chair (2017-2019)
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- g: First Class Diver, National Instructor
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- h: I have held senior management roles in UK/overseas, including IT Director (FTSE 100 company). I am retired, enabling me to dedicate time and energy to BSAC. 2 years as Vice Chair of BSAC has given me exceptional insight into the challenges and commitment required.
- In my working life, my responsibilities included developing business strategy, negotiating contracts, delivering large projects and management of teams, budgets, and customer satisfaction. I have a degree in Business Administration and the professional acumen required to be Chair. Fundamentally I'm a branch member and want to develop BSAC for the benefit of our members.
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- i: I'm passionate about diving and BSAC. I dive around the UK and overseas, as well as instructing in branch, region and on the ITS. I meet lots of divers and get feedback on what's important. My approach is to listen, understand the facts and options and then agree a course of action and provide the direction and support to make it happen.
- The key priority for 2018 was to support clubs to recruit and retain members, and it seems to be making a difference. We've seen a small increase in members in 2018, compared with a steady decline for many years. It's too early to declare this to be a success, but it is encouraging news for branches. We also need to respond to changing trends in diving, and broaden our appeal to include those divers who aren't members of traditional UK clubs.
- As the National Governing Body we want to work closely with other organisations to raise the profile of issues that are important to divers and collaborate to protect our underwater environment. Likewise, we know that some people prefer to learn to dive with a commercial centre, so we need to improve our offering to centres.