

Honorary Secretary

Rachel Sharp



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?

We are a Club that has falling membership in a sport that is seeing decline, and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Covid Pandemic has hit BSAC and its membership, as most of the time it has been hard to train people since the pools have shut, or go diving since it is a sport performed in groups on boats which don't make social distancing easy. However, as a result we have learnt how to use digital platforms for teaching, and both Ocean diver and Sports Diver are in e-learning format for the theory lessons, making us more assessable.

We need to learn from this and move more of our training to a digital platform to enable an ease and flexibility of learning. This will help resolve some of the problems in training people to dive in a shorter period of time. We can be cheaper than other agencies, but not as fast in our training, which can be a stumbling block for the would be diver.

We need to support our training branches to enable them to produce trained divers in a much shorter time, maybe by using the regional coaching scheme, when needed, or working with other branches or centres and by using BSAC's digital offering.

We need to be more inclusive and attract a more diverse membership. Although it has improved, we need to help our branches to be more attractive to people who might like to dive, but wouldn't normally join.

There is a lack of awareness about BSAC, it isn't in most people's minds. If I look up "diving" on Google I do not get BSAC on the first page, the same for "I want to go scuba diving", it is only by putting in "learn to dive" or "learn to scuba dive" that the British Sub Aqua Club comes up on the first page. Most people do not know about BSAC, and certainly not that we are the governing body for water sports. This needs to be remedied so that we are the place to go for diving and training in the UK and abroad Everyone knows who the SAS are, and most people have heard of PADI. BSAC needs to out there as the first point of call on all matters diving. A Club ahead of the game leading the way in diving and diver training.

We have identified that the Board would benefit from the following areas of knowledge, skills and experience:

- Legal Expertise
- Commercial / contract management
- Human resources / Organisational transformation
- Business development and product development
- Finance
- Numerical or analytical skills
- Strategy and Risk Management
- IT, especially IT-enabled business change and programme management
- Policy development
- Marketing and Branding
- Communications and Social Media

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

I have my own Ltd Company since Jan 2008 and do all my accounts and invoices etc. I am well developed in management, sales, communication, marketing, numerical and analytical skills. I am used to doing accounts to trial balance, and working within a budget. Having working on Council initially for six years and now a further four years, I am versed in strategy and risk management. I have also become developed in governance.

I am standing for Honorary secretary and am the current incumbent, having held the role for three years. Before this, I was the secretary of my branch level for a couple of years as well as my local residence association for three years. I have the skills to fulfil this role, which involve keeping council to the articles of association and ensuring accurate records are kept of our meetings just to name a couple of the tasks. I have also identified the difficulties I faced on first joining council and have helped in the induction of new Council members to enable a smooth transition onto Council.

Although legal expertise is not a strong point, I worked with a solicitor on the articles when we started looking at amending them. Ensuring that any changes fitted a legal framework

I am also a trustee of the Waterside Centre in Guildford which is a Centre where my dive branch meets as well as several different types of clubs, from kayaking to mountaineering, but is also the home of the Samson Centre with Baric chambers delivering oxygen therapy to people suffering from multiple sclerosis, and other illnesses, which can be helped by such therapy. So again, using my numerical skills, risk management, communication, and business development.

I believe that one skill not listed is change management. As we move forwards with the new strategy there will be change. This is something that I am skilled at. I am able to help people to embrace change and to make the process as easy as possible. In my role as a nurse working in a private hospital, I implemented the change from picking all the dry goods needed for the operations the next day, to have them made up by stores from start to finish. So, I have learnt how to manage change and bring my colleagues along with me.

Personal statement

I learnt to dive in 1976, but family got in the way and I had a break until I joined Kingston & Elmbridge in 1986. I changed branch in 2017 I am enthusiastic and have thrown myself into both branches from the beginning. As soon as I was able to I became an instructor and starting at branch level worked my way up to working on the region, on ITS events, and on Council, I hear from a large range of members and experience many levels of the BSAC.

. I also snorkel, do recreation, as well as technical diving, so again experience most levels of the BSAC.

On Council, I ask probing questions to ensure the members are represented, and my votes on matters reflect that. It is a balance between what is needed for the effective continuation of the organisation and providing the best for the members. I believe that I make a difference on your behalf

in Council I am passionate about the BSAC, I am very experienced, I have the skills for the role and will work hard.

I ask for your vote so I can continue to serve you and the BSAC