

Andrew Shenstone



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

N/A

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

BSAC needs a new Chair - someone capable of leading the organisation at a crucial point in our history.

You, our members, tell us that:

- The costs of living and of diving are real barriers to participation in diving.
- You want to learn to dive on a more flexible basis and alongside other pursuits.
- You want BSAC to demonstrate a stronger commitment towards water focussed environmental issues.

BSAC is a community of 23,000 divers and snorkellers and we are now smaller than we have been for decades.

A new Chair is needed to lead Council and address these challenges. BSAC needs to:

1. Give you, our members better value for money by modernising how we run the organisation and make better use of IT. BSAC HQ itself needs to become more efficient and cost effective.
2. Improve support for our fantastic network of national and branch volunteers by modernising and modularising the Diver Training Programme (DTP). We must give greater priority to the work being led by our National Diving

Officer, Sophie Rennie and the Head of Diving and Training, Sophie Heptonstall.

3. Play a much more visible role in addressing water quality in the UK. Promoting and implementing effective environmental practice must become a core priority in our engagement with partners and stakeholders.
4. Ensure our long term sustainability. Completing the current modernisation programme of core IT systems must release the promised savings that will give members better value for money. Addressing the needs of future snorkellers will help us build up a pipeline of future divers.

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

An effective Chair is a good team leader - they know their own strengths, seek to understand the strengths of those around them and make effective use of these wherever possible.

My day job is being the Chief Executive of the UK's largest and most successful occupational health and safety (OSH) awarding body – NEBOSH – which is an educational charity that provides educational services to over 68,000 learners across 160 countries.

This means that I have direct and applied experience of many of the requirements of the role including:

- Charity or National Sports Governing Body (NGB governance) – through my work in domestic and international education and leading a national charity committed to safeguarding lives
- Brand development and marketing – through my professional career in business development and product development
- PR, Media, Comms and reputation management – from my being responsible for creating new businesses and developing organisational value propositions
- Sources of funding – from identifying and successfully securing grants and partnership funding
- Implementing EDI – I have been an advocate for EDI in all of my leadership roles and am committed to inclusive provision of any and all of BSACs services to members
- International business development and partnering – from my role in leading NEBOSH.

I understand the importance of maintaining clear boundaries between the responsibilities of HQ and those of Council (BSAC's Board of Directors).

It is the role of the CEO and HQ to deliver the strategy. It is the responsibility of the Chair and Council to seek assurance, hold HQ to account on behalf of our members and ensure we deliver on the commitments we have made.

Personal statement

As a branch Diving Officer and an active instructor/diver in a fairly 'typical branch' (c30 members year to year), I am well versed in the priorities and needs of members.

I am also pretty typical of BSAC's active membership – I enjoy spending time with my friends on the RIB, and under the water. On many out of season weekends you will find me instructing in Capernwray or Stoney Cove and when the weather allows towing the club RIB to Anglesey, Llyn Peninsular, Plymouth, Loch Fyne, North Berwick (and yes Shetland).

I try and learn a new diving skill (or get qualified to teach a new skill) each year – last year I qualified as an ADP instructor.

I dive because I find being underwater to be both tranquil and exciting. I especially enjoy sharing my love of diving with anyone who will listen – and often those who would rather not! – because the underwater world is a very special place and I know I am privileged to be able to go there and to share in the experience with other divers.

I have now served on Council for five years both as an 'ordinary member' and more recently as the Honorary Secretary. I 'know the ropes' – and understand the responsibilities of being a Director of BSAC – members can be assured I will continue to do so if elected as Chair.

I propose three key priorities for the Chair of BSAC:

- Prioritise retaining existing members and also attracting new members from a wider group to generate the investment needed to modernise the Diver Training Programme (DTP) and wider member services.
- Challenge and support the CEO and HQ team to enhance how BSAC promotes and communicates its purpose, values and services beyond the current membership including the environment.
- Promote and personally demonstrate the values of an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community that shares a love for the underwater world.