

Timothy Smith

Affiliated: Thames Dragon Boat Club

**Overview:**

I have lived in London for 14 years. Prior to that I lived in Exeter for 6 years (3 years at Exeter University), and before that I was raised in Basingstoke in Hampshire, and Northampton in Northamptonshire!

I love Dragon Boat Racing. I was never massively sporty until I started doing it, but the sport has sucked me in and made me an addict! I look forward to training and races (even in winter), for the fun, the competition, and for meeting new people. I am gay and am passionate about equality for all whatever your race, gender, religion, sexuality or nationality and am involved in a few organisations to try to achieve that.

**Aims:**

I have been on the BDA Executive Committee for coming up to two years and would like to continue for two more years to try to complete some of the work that has been started.

Some of the things I have been involved in over and above the normal decision making of the committee:

1. Creating a five year strategic plan to move the BDA forward
2. Setting up the BDA Club Forum to try to improve communication out of the BDA Exec and into the BDA Exec from clubs
3. Working on better communications on social media and emails from the BDA Exec
4. Helping improve the information we share with clubs through the BDA website (including trophy information, history, Development fund etc)
5. Working with bluefin to develop the Insurance microsite
6. Working on definition of the digital membership platform which should see a change in the way the BDA executive manages the sport, members etc

I feel, while a lot has been achieved in the sport in this country, there is a lot more potential for Dragon Boat racing in this country. The BDA can improve and increase participation and/or recognition amongst all sections of the population, which in turn can help the clubs increase membership too.

I'd like to see more communication between the clubs and the BDA and more involvement from the clubs in shaping the sport. At the moment I don't think enough discussion occurs between the clubs, and between the clubs and the BDA Exec.

Id also like to see the BDA get more involved in promoting the sport and supporting clubs across a number of different area. I hope with the introduction of a better managed digital platform we can start to take steps to do more for the clubs.

**Paddle Life:**

I have paddled for Thames Dragon Boat Club for five years. I have also taken part in The Great River Race, Henley Winter Series and Vogalonga in Venice for Thames – and various other charity races.

I sit in the Out For Sport LGBT Forum on behalf of Thames, which is a group that is bringing all the LGBT+ friendly sports clubs in London together to improve participation and governance amongst the clubs.

I sit on the committee for Thames Dragon Boat Club, entering my 3<sup>rd</sup> year, where I have been Boat & Equipment manager as well as acting Chairman and general dogsbody due to a very small committee over the past two years (thankfully this year it is much larger!)

I have volunteered for a number of organisations including Alphington Scouts (assistant), Princes Trust (Mentor), Terence Higgins Trust (Emotional Support Helpline Operator), Opening Doors (Event organiser) and Devon Youth Service (Youth Assistant).