

## **Applicants' Biographies: Non-Executive Director, Angling Trust**

### **Andrew Wood**

I started fishing at the age of 12.

I love fishing the Yorkshire rivers, this started when I joined the junior section of the Leeds Amalgamation of Anglers. Here I fished my first matches on these rivers, moving on to fish in two junior nationals where in one I won my section.

I consider myself a good coarse angler not a great angler probably because I do a little bit of everything, not specialising in any. I equally enjoy fishing a canal for little roach and perch or fishing the Trent for barbel. Although my skills are many and varied I have caught some quality fish, Chub 6lb 7oz, Barbel 12lb 15oz, Roach 2lb 1oz, Perch 3lb 4oz, Carp 24lb, Pike 20lb 10oz.

In 2001 I stood down from my Charge Nurse position on intensive care to pursue my passion to create an angling coaching centre, this was started in in 2004 where I formed a community group to work with UK Coal.

Before this I fished three year-long challenges to raise money for BBC Children In Need.

2003 Fishing every Leeds Amalgamation water to catch every species of fish in each water system

2004 Fishing for Specimen Fish, each Month had an allocated species where I would try and catch a specimen of that Species, two months April and October, I could fish for any species.

2005 Fished Canals and Rivers returning from years of Pollution to try and catch as many species and quality fish as possible.

I have also dressed as Elvis, fished for 12 hours with no hook or bait for Comic Relief.

I walked with a friend from Castleford to St James Hospital Leeds dressed as a fish, then appeared on TV.

Now I am trying to create a Coaching Centre at Pontefract Park.

### **Chris Munro**

I'm 43 years old and live in West Wales with my wife and three-year-old son. I have been a keen angler since my childhood particularly sea and coarse and returned to the sport about 10 years ago as an occasional match but mainly a recreation coarse fisherman. I regularly fish waters in the South Wales area and I'm eagerly waiting for the day when I can visit my local fishery to catch silvers on a float rod with my son.

Professionally, my current role is with the Welsh Rugby Union as National Development Manager overseeing all off-field aspects of the community club game. The remit of my Department includes:

- Facilities Development
- Project Management

- Delivery of our Facilities Grant programme
- Sourcing external investment
- Volunteer Recruitment/Training
- Business Development

I've also worked in Local Authority for over 10 years as a Project Manager developing and sourcing funding for a range of community-based facilities including two fishery projects delivered in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales. Prior to that, I was employed with Sport Wales where my role involved National Governing Body liaison and management of a Club Accreditation Programme. I firmly believe that I am ideally suited to the role and have the drive and experience to add value and progress the sport that has given me so much enjoyment over my lifetime. We are currently living in unprecedented times. I've worked tirelessly over the previous weeks and months to ensure that all rugby clubs in Wales will remain sustainable during this period and are working closely with Welsh Government on how rugby will return. I'm keen to share the knowledge and experience gained throughout my career and during this time with the Angling Trust, to help clubs not only survive but also to thrive in the new normal.

## **John Ellis**

I've been involved with fisheries and angling in a professional and voluntary capacity for over 35 years. My day job is with CRT, the largest single owner of freshwater fishing rights in England & Wales. I've a direct working relationship with over 250 angling clubs with memberships from ten to 10,000 and deal with hundreds of others who book events at the commercial fisheries portfolio I manage.

I've significant experience in angling participation starting aged 14 with Grindley Brook AC and later in partnership with Wyche Anglers. I now direct the Let's Fish participation campaign, part of the National Angling Strategy. In 2019, this involved over 300 events, 8,400 participants and 100 plus active coaches on the bank over the campaign period. We've learnt much and still have further to go before work reaches the scale and consistent quality of delivery allied to ongoing participation pathways. I believe we can collectively make the significant difference needed to secure the sports future.

I've had a deep interest in match fishing, making my competition debut aged 7. I've run club and open matches at grass roots level and have a great interest in the sports history and heritage, including our historical national angling championships. At international elite level, I managed the USA national coarse fishing team in the 1998 World Championship. I've met and studied many of the nations' truly great competitive anglers and understand what makes them tick.

I've been an active angling volunteer starting at club secretary level followed by Thames Fisheries Consultative Council and NAFAC National Council representative until the 2009 merger to form Angling Trust. I'm now a member of the England Fisheries Group. 35 years of working with clubs has given me a deep appreciation of the volunteer effort that makes successful clubs tick.

## **John Williams**

I started fishing when I was 30, which by most people's standards is a very late entry. I realised that because of my love of fishing and the camaraderie that I felt I could give a lot back to the angling community by using my organisational and communication skills.

I started my career in electrical retailing and soon worked my way up to being, firstly a store manager, and then a super-store general manager. Whilst fulfilling these roles I learned about the importance of different roles within a team. I learned that equality and diversity is so important to consider when forming that team. In 2000, I took a career change and retrained as a financial consultant culminating in running my own financial services business for the past fifteen years. My business has grown and developed, and I now employ five staff, and am responsible for marketing (including social media), personnel, payroll and profit and loss. During the financial crisis and current pandemic, I have had to use my tenacity and resilience to reassure my clients and staff.

For the past three years I have been chairman of Hungerford Canal Angling Association. When I joined, the club was a loss-making concern with no palpable procedures in place. Since taking over, I have increased the revenue by approximately 40% through marketing and networking. I have reviewed the constitution of the club and rewrote it to reflect current legislation. I have promoted the club within my local community, by liaising with Hungerford Town and Manor who are out landlords. I promote inclusion within the club, something that had not been considered until I became chairman. During our Christmas matches, and event which attracts people from all over the south east, I have made provision for some anglers with restricted mobility to be included.

## **Keith Elliott**

I am an Angling Trust Ambassador, and much of my life has been spent in fishing, both as an angler of all disciplines and as a writer on the sport. I am also editor of the magazine Classic Angling, and chairman of the Angling Writers' Association.

Outside angling, I was chairman of PMA Training, once the largest media training skills company in Europe, dealing with senior executives of newspapers, magazines and public relations. I took over the company in 1980 and it grew from a company turning over £45,000 to one with a turnover exceeding £1 million, with an international reach. It was taken over by the Press Association in 2013.

A proportion of the company's work involved looking at organisations from the Home Office to charities and advising (and often implementing) how change could be accomplished.

I have practical experience in all aspects of the sport, having written several books on fishing, from Bob Nudd's autobiography to one for the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. I am also a member of The Flyfishers' Club.

I launched and have run the bi-weekly magazine Classic Angling for more than 20 years. Aimed at those interested in the history of angling and collectors, it takes a strong line on the environment, abstraction and pollution.

Having retired from the seven-days-a-week slog of running my own business, I have time and, I believe, the relevant experience to devote to the Angling Trust.

## **Neville Fickling**

I am 67 with no intention of retiring. I was born in King's Lynn Norfolk and now live near Gainsborough in Lincolnshire. I am married to Dr Kathy Fickling and have two grown up children. I started fishing in 1961. I was lucky in 1970 to break the zander record in 1970 and was lucky again in 1985 to land the then record pike of 41-06. Along the way I discovered that my fishing was continually under threat. I joined the ACA. Another way to protect my own fishing was to get involved. I became active at club level in the 1980s, proposed the banning of the gaff for pike fishing at the NFA conference in the 1980s. Writing in various angling publications I joined others in the campaign to get anglers to return pike and zander alive.

I regularly attended meetings of the Great Ouse Fisheries Consultative Association. When the British Record Fish Committee rejected Chris Yates record carp myself and fellow NASA members set up an alternate record fish committee which eventually on the formation of the Angling Trust became part of the new official committee. With many others I helped convince stillwater trout fisheries that pike could exist in these waters and provide important income.

For a period in the first decade of the 21st century I was less politically active as I built up my own business. In the next decade I was called in as new Chairman of the PAC to negotiate a solution to a serious crisis which could have seen PAC collapse. I managed this retaining almost all the old committee.

I still fish regularly, but believe that getting involved is the way forward. Most recently I've been involved with the Trust's help to get zander classified as a naturalised species.

## **Peter Gibbinson**

Peter Gibbinson is a Managing Director at Standard Chartered Bank, where he has worked for 14 years – currently as head of a controls and surveillance team. Previously he ran several regional and global trading businesses.

Peter studied Biochemistry at Bristol University. He considered applying for a PHD but decided to follow his fascination with financial markets, and became a Junior Trader in the Foreign Exchange division of Citibank in 1993 – where he worked for 13 years.

Fishing has always been more than just a pastime; and Peter has been an avid angler from a very young age. He is predominantly a specimen hunter, focussing on different species with the changing seasons; however in recent years has also found an affinity with trout and salmon fishing. He is happiest by water – and whether sitting behind matching carp rods, float fishing for roach or casting a dry fly for chalk stream trout loves the sport in all its forms.

In 2010 Peter bought a large gravel pit in Kent where he now runs a fishing syndicate, whilst also creating 5 stock ponds for the future of the lake and surrounding fisheries. Watching the fish and fishery grow has taught him valuable lessons in the commercial side of the sport.

Peter sits on a number of senior Standard Chartered committees and forums. He is also a pension trustee for Standard Chartered and sits on the main board as well as the investment committee.

In addition Peter is passionate about breaking the stigmas around mental health, and co-chairs the Standard Chartered UK Wellbeing Committee, instigated Mental Health First Aiders for the UK, and won the Chairman's award for his "This Is Me" video as part of the City of London Lord Mayors appeal, which involved sharing his experiences and challenges with mental health.

## **Pippa Medd**

I am passionate about fish and all types of fishing which I have done since the age of ten on lakes, rivers and the sea. I support conservation of the species and understand many of the challenges presented by climate change, pollution, politics and predators. I am a strong advocate of the sport and relish the opportunity to work with those with a common passion to protect and promote it.

I am pragmatic, commercial and focussed on getting things done.

After reading law at Kings College, London I worked in Financial Services selling Unit Trusts to retail investors and then benchmark Indices to institutions.

After a career break where I had various volunteer roles, I focussed on my interest in people and ability to connect them with the most suitable and best opportunities. As a result, I built a successful recruitment business with a good base of loyal clients.

Most recently at Viewber Ltd I was able to contribute to growing a company from an idea into an established business by recruiting the right people, providing advice to the founders and, as part of the Senior Management Team, finding solutions for a constantly changing business. I enjoyed the challenge and pace of shaping a new business model.

As a Director of the Endsleigh Fishing Club, I work with the Board to drive the direction of the Club, ensure good financial management and consider the interests of all stakeholders. My approach is to talk to all relevant parties and bring information to the Board in order to help make the right decisions, and to promote discussion to help the club adapt to change.

## **Captain Stephen Mardlin MBE Royal Navy Captain**

Stephen Mardlin MBE joined the Royal Navy in 1989 and trained as a Logistics Officer. Recent assignments have included serving in Gibraltar as the Commanding Officer of the Joint Support Unit where he led and managed over 300 civilian and 20 military staff. Leading a transformation programme in Navy Headquarters he delivered a series of complex projects and was awarded an MBE. He then had a series of short assignments including secondment to the Border Force for EU Exit Planning, and the Department of Health and Social Care for Covid-19 liaison to support the NHS. He is now one of two deputies working for Commander Maritime Reserves as the Board member with responsibility for

transformation, finance, business management and future development of the Reserves, a force of 3,400 people.

Stephen is Chairman of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Angling Association, Chairman of the UK Armed Forces Angling Association and Chairman of the Royal Navy Squash Rackets Association. Additionally, he is Chairman of a Portsmouth club that has two waters and over 400 members. A keen coarse angler, Stephen has fished since 1976 and has competed for the Royal Navy and UK Armed Forces teams in National events, Opens and Association fixtures, and in local club leagues.

He has held a variety of roles in the associations including Treasurer, Secretary, PRO, Match Secretary and Tour Manager. He was honoured to be awarded Royal Navy Sports Official of the Year 2019 for his insatiable appetite to seek out opportunities for individual and team development, coupled with his knowledge, leadership and absolute passion that has improved opportunity, attendance, ability, and most importantly, enjoyment of the sport. Married to Amanda they enjoy three children Toby (24), Freddy (21) and Eleanor (18) and live in Wickham, Hampshire.

## **Tim Walton**

I was brought up in Southampton and went sea and coarse fishing from an early age. Many days were spent catching roach from the lower part in the river Itchen. I graduated from Sheffield University as a metallurgist and then joined Rolls-Royce in Derby somehow dropping out of fishing with a wife and young family. I worked for Rolls Royce for 30 years in technical, operational and commercial roles, finally taking early retirement from the post of Director of e-Business.

Since then I have worked on various boards as non-executive and I have enjoyed working with colleagues in the NHS, the Highways Agency and MoD. I have developed a sound understanding of how boards work, especially where the board needs to engage with a large dispersed stakeholder network.

Having more time on my hands and a grown-up family, I returned to fishing in 2002, joining a local angling club and teaching myself fly fishing. I now enjoy fishing for trout and grayling in the Dove, Manifold and Churnet. I am fortunate to have a cousin in Seattle and I have fished for steelhead and rainbows in Washington State.

Having regained my fishing passion, I became involved in the administration of Swainsley Fishing Club and Leek and District Fly Fishing Association. I liaise with Natural England, the National Trust and local wildlife trusts. I am a member of the Grayling Society and the Wild Trout Trust. I have gained a good appreciation of the challenges faced by angling in general and fishing clubs in particular.

I believe that angling needs a representative body such as Angling Trust, one benefit of which was demonstrated by the successful representations to government to bring angling out of the lockdown as quickly as possible.