



Virtual Fisheries Forum 26/07/2023 (Helping Clubs and Fisheries Reach New Anglers).

Q&A session

Q. You say people are at the end of a phone to help out on health and safety questions but are these people qualified?

A. (Mark) When I say at the end of a phone, Regional Angling Development Officers (RADOs) can provide templates for risk assessments and session plans. Also, level 2 angling coaches which all the RADOs are, as part of their level 2 course they complete risk assessment training. Coaches are also covered by their coaching insurance.

(Dave Munt) Yep, experience over the years goes a very long way as well. A thorough risk assessment & risk mitigation process with guidance from a qualified coach is all you need.

Q. What would be your thoughts on running an event for anglers that are not complete beginners? Say an event for anglers who know the basics but want to develop more advanced skills like distance casting & feature finding etc?

A. (Dave Munt) This isn't something our events cater for currently. We are all about trying to get people into angling and integrating them into supportive angling clubs & fishery environments. We don't have the resources to run events for advanced angling skills.

A. (Sam) I think we can all agree that grass roots angling is the most important focus of resources with participation events as recruiting new anglers and getting them 'hooked' is what will form the future of the sport. With regard to progressing & developing more advanced angling skills once within a club/fishery environment these things will come from learning being around other more experienced anglers plus it has also never been easier for newly hooked anglers to access a wealth of self-learning resources on the internet through platforms like [Fishing Buzz](#).

Q. How are volunteers covered on the day of a coaching event if there only a single qualified coach there?

A. (Dave Munt) Your coach is qualified to lead. Volunteers should be chosen with common sense as well. You are looking for people with enthusiasm and a modest degree of angling skill to guide/teach the young people & their parents the very basics.

A. (Mark) It is a numbers game of having a manageable ratio of volunteers to coach/coaches. Where juniors & vulnerable adults are concerned having parents/guardians present at the session to supervise and provide duty of care is the best cover volunteers can have. Again, with our events you will have coverage through coaching insurance as well if your club is a member of the Angling Trust. If you are not AT members, we advise you obtain clarity from whoever you're insured with.

Q. We (Middlesbrough Angling Club) have been granted some funds to put on sessions, we have already spoken to Dave Munt and are now looking to put some dates in our diary, we don't have toilet facilities on site (yet) is that a major issue?

A. (Dave Munt) The toilet issue is always a difficult one when trying to run an event. A 2-hour time span of coaching sessions is about right so that attendees can have a good go at fishing and get hooked but not too long so that they will be overly tired or be unable to plan toilet movements etc. I will come to your club's next committee meeting and discuss.

Q. We have around 10 juniors in our Club. Could the Angling Trust help us to organise an event for our Juniors on one of our venues? We are based in Oxfordshire.

A. (Sam) Yep, in Oxfordshire your local angling development officer is Tom Humphreys so definitely get in touch with Tom to discuss. His email is tom.humphreys@anglingtrust.net or mobile 07808 779470.

Q. I think the issue here concerns the technical details of 'cover' as regards safeguarding and insurance. In the modern world this is obviously difficult ground. Our association has recently begun running junior coaching open days on our newly completed coaching pond. I can recommend if there are any questions regarding insurance cover then get in touch with Fish Legal to

clarify any position. As regards toilets, we have been fortunate enough to have portable toilets provided at our venue by a local drainage company. It's well worth investigating your local area and asking the question on social media platforms as these companies often have charitable budgets and enjoy publicity from these types of endeavours?

A. (Sam) Great to hear the local community has been so supportive of the work you & your club is doing. We see it time & time again where gestures of good will occur to help support such positive angling initiatives. Also sounds like you have an excellent coaching set up there so keep up the good work!

A. (Dave Rushton) We did exactly the same with our event Sam, I approached a few local tackle shops like Angling Direct and BobCo in Leeds who supplied us with some bait and tackle to help out. If you don't ask you'll never know and as the original questions says, many companies have charitable budgets if you're proactive.

Q. I am a level 1 coach and our club is running coaching events with volunteers and myself (We are Donnington Angling club) and are in our 2nd year of coaching but are only getting 1 or 2 new members how can we improve on this?

A. (Dave Munt) That would fall into James Roche's area of Regional Angling Development. Give James a call.

A. (Mark) I assume at Donnington AC you are getting a Rod license waiver to run your coaching events so you will already have contact with your local RADO to do this. You can advertise your events on the Angling Trust Get Fishing events section of our website. I can also suggest setting up a good base on social media like platforms of Instagram and Facebook. This can greatly help widen your advertising reach as it has for many clubs I have worked with already.

Q. To the representative of Donnington Angling Club who asked the question above: You are local to us here at Peterborough & District Angling Club so please feel free to get in touch with us, happy to advertise, support and share on our socials. May also have volunteers and some of our trainee coaches to support?

A. (Sam) Very kind offer to make and some great potential for collaboration there by the sounds of it!

Q. Would we be able to run these events ourselves with support through yourselves? Obviously funded through our club. It's a great way of people getting into angling but not all clubs have heavily stocked waters available. Your support would be a big help with the legal and admin side of such an event.

A. (Mark) Yep, we can help in this situation. The following link from my original presentation is a good resource base to learn about what the AT can help with and under what scenarios Get Fishing events can run <https://anglingtrust.net/2020/03/10/running-your-own-get-fishing-events-event-guide-and-factsheets/> . Contact your local RADO and have a good chat about your circumstances.

A. (Dave Munt) Just to follow on from Mark, insurance and safeguarding would be the main things you would need advice on in that situation to run your event and we can definitely support you with that. You said you were based in Northampton so that would be James Roche as your local REDO who can be contacted at james.roche@anglingtrust.net or on 07791 786251.

Q. Promoting the event is what prevented me from organising an event on my newly opened fishery. I had visions of no one attending. It would be good to see more on how AT help with promotion.

A. (Mark) We can help and have helped people in this exact position. It goes back to contacting your local RADO and explaining what you're aiming to do and where. Then your RADO can assist with advertising through the usual Get Fishing event avenues plus more where applicable.

A. Dave Munt) Yep, an obvious way we can help advertise is there is our main Angling Trust website platforms but there is also lots of other initiatives with their own platforms such as Take A Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month where we can list event details that are suited.

Key contacts from this forum meeting:

- Alex Clegg (Angling Trust National Angler Engagement Manager)
alex.clegg@anglingtrust.net
- Sam Hubbard (Angling Trust National Angler Engagement Officer)
sam.hubbard@anglingtrust.net
- Mark Gambles (Angling Trust Yorkshire Regional Angling Development Officer)
mark.gambles@anglingtrust.net
- Dave Munt (Angling Trust North East Regional Angling Development Officer)
david.munt@anglingtrust.net
- Dave Rushton (Leeds DASA Fisheries & Liaison Officer)



If you haven't already done so, buy your licence [here](#)