

Neville Fickling

My first 3 year term as a member of the board has been a learning process. My main interest is in keeping the fishing opportunities we have and hopefully increasing them. This during a period when water quality is becoming one of the most important issues facing us. Though I am mainly a coarse angler I am interested in sea and game fishing and so appreciate the problems facing these parts of angling. The same applies to competition fishing. I'm not good enough to enter any competitions but I can see what people get out of it. What I do offer the board is input from a specialist angler which hasn't always been the case on the Board. I would like to serve another 3 years on the Board, having come this far and having learned a lot, I now feel able to contribute more.

Though specialist angling is only a part of what the Trust is involved in, it is vital to have someone on the Board with interest in this. Predator fishing in particular continues to increase in popularity in spite of numerous problems facing this branch of the sport. Working in the retail trade I also bring 30 years' experience of this which is important bearing in mind the Trusts involvement with the angling trade. The support we get from the trade is vital to the work we do. I have been active in angling politics since the early 1970s and will continue to be active.

Finally the biggest question I have still needs to be answered. Why are so many anglers not members of The Angling Trust? How do we engage with them and convince them that with increased numbers comes increased strength? A strong Angling Trust is more important than ever before.

Beverley Clifford

I am a passionate outdoor enthusiast enjoying carp fishing, ultra running and most outdoors sports. Born in 1984, daughter of Kevin Clifford, once hailed “The Carp King of the North” you could say angling is in my blood. My career has always been in the angling industry. I worked at the family publishing company, known for Carp-Talk, Pike & Predators and Coarse Angling Today, plus numerous books.

I progressed through all areas of the family business, running the company with my brother when my dad retired. We closed the business in February 2020 due to increased costs and a decline in advertising. I’ve continued to be involved in the angling industry, firstly on a freelance basis for Catch (the booking app) and KUMU Clothing, and then on a fulltime basis until recently with ELLA Digital, where I was part of a team working with two angling clients on their digital transformation.

I became an avid angler in my late twenties and very passionate about growing the number of female anglers. We utilised our position in the media to showcase more diversity in the sport, highlighting through our magazines, online and social channels.

Alongside Rob Hughes and Miranda Brown, we started the Ladies Carp Team England, encouraged other nations to form national teams and created a world stage for Women’s Carp Fishing Competitions. I also created the Ladies Carp Academy, running low-cost female only events, teaching angling in a safe and secure environment. One event with 12 people in 2017 grew to seven events in 2021 with 100’s of ladies attending.

Although I am no longer the Ladies Carp Team England manager, I will always be committed to raising the profile of angling, growing our sport, highlighting the benefits of being outside in nature, the diversity of angling and its inclusivity.

Christopher Johnston

Firstly, I run my own company working in ICT area and have been providing consultancy services to UK government and private sector organisations since 2006.

I am quite a recent angler and started my coarse and carp fishing back in late 2016 and now carp fishing is my main passion. Over the years, I've had the chance to encourage and introduce many people to the joys of fishing which has been rewarding and enjoyable.

In terms of supporting the Angling Trust environmental agenda, I've got a keen interest in environmental management and sustainability matters and I have a qualification MSc, Environmental Management (Climate Change) gained some years ago.

Also, I'm a member of the Warlingham and District Angling Society and recently was selected to join Kent Particles as a sponsored team member.

Why I'd like to be considered for the Nominated Director vacancy:

- To have the opportunity to positively contribute to the sport and help Angling Trust on the policy and management of waterways which are a vital part of the UK infrastructure and vital to our environment.
- To offer my skills and experience gained from the business as senior ICT professional for more than 30 years to help Angling Trust to aid with managing, campaigning, and promoting the "Fishing for Good" strategy.
- As an avid angler myself, to bring my understanding of fishing based on my first-hand experience to aid the Angling Trust.
- I would like to explore opportunities to increase awareness of the Angling Trust (its mission and services) to wider audiences to promote membership and investment.
- Importantly, it would enable me to positively contribute ("give-back") and recognise the great work of the Angling Trust which directly impacted me and helped thousands of anglers and their families over the last 3 years during the difficult COVID-19 times.

John Ralphs Craddock

I became a Lifetime member of the Trust rather by default. I had my own business in Cheltenham, but through a variety of circumstances became involved with Severn Sound in the late 1980's, the local radio station in Gloucester. I helped present their angling programme Tight Lines. This subsequently led to an invitation to Ireland to join a group of angling journalists. All this courtesy of the Irish Tourist board. By coincidence, bad luck, or whatever, my birthday happened to fall in the week we were there. These 'kindly' journalists celebrated my birthday in style (as I did!) to the point where I was eventually dragged back to my room, but during the evening had foolishly bragged about my running skills. They sent round a pint mug, filled it with cash, then bet me I couldn't run three miles in wellies the following morning. Even today I only have a vague recollection of accepting the bet!

Despite finishing the run, well more of a drunken wobble, the money raised went to the Trust (then called the ACA). The rest as they say is history.

I'm retired, have travelled worldwide, fished extensively in some of the most exhilarating places imaginable, and am passionately concerned about our aquatic environment. I lend support to both Worcs and Herefordshire Wildlife Trusts and should add that I'm lucky enough to own a beautiful stretch of the Wye. If I can help further the Angling Trust's aims, I would very much like to be involved..... and also resolve in future to stay well clear of Guinness.

Prof. Keith Neal

I have fished for over 50 years; first sea fishing and introduced to coarse fishing when recruited for the school fishing team in a county wide competition. Fifteen years ago, I started fly fishing whilst continuing my sea fishing. The club also has coarse fishing.

I have significant scientific and political expertise gained over 40 years which would allow me to provide support and oversight in key areas of interest to anglers and the Angling Trust.

We need to encourage more young anglers to take up the fishing and not rely solely on fathers to sons. Linked to this is increasing the number of women and girls who go fishing. This is crucial for the long-term future of the sport. People in inner city areas have limited access to places where they can fish, but usually there is a river through a city. These need cleaning up and access arrangements discussed with clubs that currently have the fishing rights to widen access.

Measures to increase the Angling Trust membership need to be taken given how many anglers there are in the country.

River and sea pollution remains a critical issue. From my research and public health work with enforcement agencies I understand the limitations and barriers to getting this sorted and the knowledge to counter arguments made by the water industry.

Rivers that are good for fishing are good for biodiversity. Anglers are part of the solution. We need to support the campaign against alien species and highlight the lax controls currently in place.

We need to be tougher on commercial fishing quotas, increase habitat reserves and no take policies. Targeting bass spawning grounds is nonsensical. Commercial fishermen are important but the economic impact of tourism around angling is greater. 3 million anglers mean thousands of votes in every constituency.

Sean Corbett

As a career military professional, and latterly in the commercial sector, I believe that I combine all the personal and professional qualities needed to make a difference with the Angling Trust. But above all my unbridled passion for and extensive background in angling in all its forms and love for the natural environment will be of great value. I have been fishing since I was 4 years old and have considerable experience in each of the disciplines. As a match angler I represented the RAF and two civilian clubs at Division One national level on numerous occasions, on a diverse set of venues, and I was a regular RAF competitor at both fly-fishing and sea angling (boat). For five years I was Chairman of RAF Angling. I established competitive RAF Carp Angling in 2010 that has since flourished and am lucky enough to be a member of several exclusive carp syndicates. Over the last few years I have focused on specimen barbel fishing and more recently have enjoyed predator fishing on the nation's major trout reservoirs (lures and fly fishing) with some success. I have also fished internationally, both freshwater and sea) catching numerous species to specimen size. As a life-long ichthyophile, I completed my honours degree in Biology, specialising in freshwater ecology and parasitology. I am as committed to angling and as active as ever, wetting a line on a weekly basis and have tried my hand at most forms of fishing. I am also a member of the Angling Trust Voluntary Bailiff Service and on the committees of several angling clubs, where I have been active in improving fisheries, providing advice and mentorship and maintaining the natural environment. I would relish the opportunity to contribute in a more formal role in optimising fishing for all in England.

Brendan Tonks

I have fished all my life, following in the footsteps of my dad and his family. Although I have predominantly match fished on canals, rivers, and lakes across the midlands, I equally enjoy targeting specimen barbel, perch or carp, as well as enjoying our shore and boat fishing opportunities offered by our beautiful coasts.

I like to think I understand the needs and challenges of most anglers. I have supported my local angling association for several years in the position of Chairman, and now as a Trustee. We work tirelessly to support a range of angling opportunities for juniors, pleasure anglers, match fishing, and specimen angling alike. I have also been an Angling Trust VBS for a number of years. I value the importance of partnership working between angling and environmental organisations to best protect our natural environments.

I currently work at Cerebral Palsy Sport, as the CEO. The benefits of sport on the body and mind are well documented, and fishing is in my opinion the best example of this. Before being appointed as the CEO at CP Sport, I worked across the sport sector, supporting a number of National Governing Bodies including the Angling Trust.

Before working in the sporting sector, I was a safeguarding specialist. I qualified as a Child Protection Social Worker in 2010 and worked for the Ministry of Justice, until I moved into the sporting sector in 2018. I have been a safeguarding specialist in statutory, education, and sporting settings.

I have been lucky enough to fish for nearly 40 years. I am passionate about growing our sport, offering a safe and enjoyable environment for newcomers of all ages and abilities. I would like to join the Angling Trust Board of Directors, to share my passion, expertise, support, and encouragement on a national level.