

# Neil Pickles – Personal Resume

I have been dragon boating since Sept 2008, having first experienced it and getting bitten by the bug whilst organising a charity work team which came 3<sup>rd</sup> in our first event to be followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> place the following year. Since then I have raced in virtually every national league event since the 2008 National Finals and have developed my own personal skills. I am now a qualified Level 3 coach and helm and have also attended various other coaching courses as my time allows so as to further develop my coaching capabilities.

I have been an active member of Notts Anaconda since 2008, being elected to the club committee as Equipment Officer in October of 2008 and have taken a very active role in helping to grow the club along with the other committee members. Since 2008 we have more than doubled the number of active members and attended just about every BDA League event as well as every National Finals. We have also been promoted from standard to premier and have run a second crew many times.

I have now served 2 years on the BDA Executive Committee, taking primary responsibility for updating their communications and website as well as getting race results updated and out to crews in a timely manner and also working with other committee members on other projects to further the development of the sport. It has been a great 2 years and I really want to make it two more to continue the work I have started.

I find the whole team camaraderie of dragon boating to be hugely rewarding, it doesn't matter how good an individual person is, it is the whole team that counts when racing as you all have to work together. When coaching or racing you have to be able to motivate not just one person, but a whole boat full of people. I get a huge rush from racing as I am a pretty competitive person, whether it is just two boats racing in training or 6 boats racing in the national finals 500m cup final.

In the time I have been involved in the sport, I have become very passionate about dragon boating and really want to grow the sport, both for my own club and for the sport in the UK overall.

I am definitely a doer, a real hands-on type person, I can turn my hand to just about anything and am good at organising and seeing 'the big picture' when working to achieve a goal either on my own or with a team of people. If someone needs help I am often the first person to volunteer, sometimes at the expense of doing something I need to do myself. I am very good at problem solving especially where that involves thinking around a problem where you cannot take the direct route for whatever reason.

I have a strong IT background, I have worked for the same systems company, CSY Retail Systems Ltd, for the past 30 years which I think is extremely unusual these days. Having worked my way up from a mere trainee when there were just 3 people in the company including myself, to today where I am the Technical Director, a company director with a share in the company and there are over 30 other people working in the company.

I was instrumental in replacing the original Notts Anaconda website, a further update to which is currently in the works and is due to be released in the next couple of weeks or so. I was also primarily responsible for getting the club to use Twitter for communications and also for setting up the clubs email system which uses only @nottsanaconda.co.uk email addresses for all committee roles rather than individuals personal email addresses. This vastly simplifies the contact process for club members.

I have quite high expectations of people and can be quite demanding though I would never ask anyone to do something I either haven't done myself or wouldn't be willing to do myself.

When I am not working or dragon boating I also enjoy scuba diving, I am a PADI certified Advanced Open Water Diver, as well as being a keen skier also.