

British Pest Control Association Statement of Board Candidacy

Name: Anna Mollins

Member Organisation: PestFix (Crisp Websites Ltd)

My professional background:

I started my professional pathway in 2010 when I graduated from Sussex University with a BSc Honours Degree in Ecology and Conservation. But it wasn't until 2015 that I started a career in the pest management industry when I was hired by PestFix as a sales office administrator. During the 5 years after my graduation, I spent time working in pharmaceuticals and business development of architectural interiors firm.

The mix of skills and experience from all of these meant that I was key in developing the small family run business from it's infancy. Within 2 months of starting at PestFix I achieved my RSPH Level 2 in General Pest Management and continued my professional development in all things pest management and business operations. Though covering all aspect of pest control, I found that specialising in bird control was an important step so I could support pest management professionals by offering technical advice in an area that is less common but can be tricky to get into.

My job role developed as the business grew, though I started out taking calls from professionals and the public, I ended up as the Operations Manager responsible for HR, Health and Safety, Sourcing, Events, Training, Debt Management, Intellectual Property, Quality Control, Internal software package management and so much more. Whilst also somehow fitting the births of my two beautiful girls.

I turned my focus to a mix of work and home and became part time, focusing on the administrative development, debt management and taking on business publications and marketing. This worked well but by the end of the pandemic, I wanted to have a more impactful role in the industry.

My job title is now 'Strategic Business Executive' within PestFix, in which I lead projects, product development, technical administration, communications, events, public relations, SEO, compliance and more. With just shy of full time hours I have been able to work with the professional industry and be an active member within the BPCA in committee roles, including Outreach and Communications and often proxy for the M&D committee also.

Why I am putting myself forward:

I am applying for a position on the executive board because I have a deep passion for professionalism, development and growth of individuals and businesses in the pest management industry. Having been part of committees for the past couple of years I can see how my skills can be utilised to enhance the BPCA's ethos to Enhance, Support and Assure it's members. I can only do so much within the scope of my day job, and in taking on a voluntary BPCA board executive role with the backing of my employers, I can do so much more.

I want to encourage more women in our industry to take steps into roles that they may be unsure about. Whilst I apply for this role with my own trepidation, and though at 35 I definitely don't count as a young person, I hope that my application and hopefully acceptance on the board will give courage to younger women in other industry roles try and make a difference.

The skills I bring:

I feel that I bring unique skills and a different perspective which will offer more for the board and for BPCA members than it does currently. My role within the sector has always been that of a supportive supplier and training facility. This mentality is second nature and I have pushed for equality within the pest control industry since I started in it myself.

I communicate with the public, professionals, manufacturers, clients, media, local authorities every day. I can see the importance of the relationship between each of these and how our interactions can influence them. It also allows me to have an 'ear to the ground' to gauge the views of many parties.

Much of my skillset is self taught, having to think on my feet to learn and use what is available to get a job done to a professional standard. This past year alone I have taken on graphic design and videography to better inform the public or pest professionals by social media content, publications, press releases, radio interviews. My target is always to better the image of pest management, to try and remove the prejudice stereotyping. Whilst also trying to get the industry itself to value itself better and understand they are a skilled workforce worth protecting.

I think the most important thing I bring to the table is my honesty and belief that the smallest things can have a huge impact. One idea, question or passing comment can start the wheels of change turning, but if no one speaks up then we'll remain sedentary in a world that is always changing.

If I am elected, I will endeavour to.....

- represent the pest management industry with a focus on continuing professionalism and equality amongst all individuals and businesses.
- be a positive role model for women for those already in the industry and those looking to enter it.
- be a communication channel to listen to and take on board the views and opinions of BPCA members.
- volunteer my time, skills and experience for the betterment of the pest management industry.
- retain my passion, integrity and dedication throughout my time on the board.

Signed by candidate:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DATE: 07/02/2024