




Work/life balance

➤ Vidett Limited client director, Geoff Winn, talks about his career in pensions, his koi carp pond and a typical week in his life

Fire service and was in three dedicated special operations teams in the Balkans, Iraq and Northern Ireland.

Helping people to attain a good pension to afford a great retirement.

Work:



➤ What was your dream job as a child?

To be a fireman – I managed to do this for 10 years when in the RAF after leaving school.

➤ Do you have any unusual job experience outside of working in the industry?

I was in the RAF, served in the RAF

➤ How did you end up working in the pensions sector?

I was unfortunately involved in a plane fire, which meant I had impaired visibility, so I re-trained in accounts and left the RAF four years later. That was my glidepath into pensions.

➤ What path did your pensions career take, that led you to your current role?

After starting as in-house admin and finance, I progressed to be secretariat of the Thomson Corporation (now Thomson Reuters) Scheme, and then pensions manager & secretariat of Anglian Water, PA Consulting and The Bank of England Schemes before joining 2020 Trustees (now Vidett).

➤ What's one thing about your job that you particularly enjoy or are proud of?

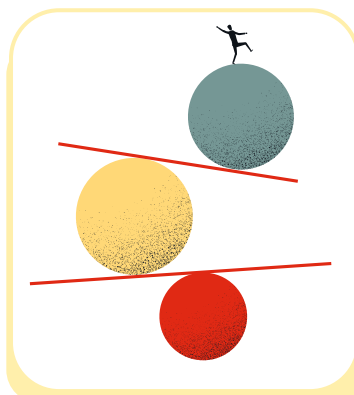


➤ If you weren't working in pensions now, what would you be doing?

Probably still be in the RAF doing rather mad things...

➤ What's the best piece of career wisdom you've been told, or acquired yourself?

Teamwork – this is embedded in you in the forces, and it is key to any job in any sector/company. After teamwork, and in pensions, the notion that there is no such thing as a stupid question – ask if you aren't 100 per cent clear.



A typical work/life week:

➤ Monday

Coffee, emails, client work and copious Teams calls. Try and go for a walk after work, cook tea, watch some TV, read and then bed.

➤ Tuesday to Friday

Pretty much the same as Monday...eat, sleep, repeat!

➤ Saturday

Usual household chores – cleaning up after my sons, gardening, ironing etc. You catch my drift. If not, I try and escape to the golf course.

➤ Sunday

Usually go out for a walk and see friends or family.

Life:



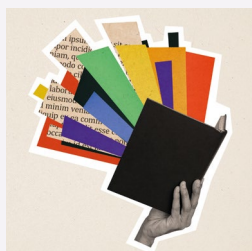
➤ **What do you like to do in your spare time? Any hobbies?**

I'm an avid keeper of koi carp. I have a large pond at home of 46 in total, (largest one at 102cm), a full quarantine system as well as several koi in Japan that are entered into the top tier of Japanese koi shows. After that, bonsai keeping and fishing.



➤ **Is there a particular sport/team that you follow?**

England Rugby. I used to support West Ham, but after this year's performances I'm not so sure.



➤ **If you had to choose one favourite book, which would you recommend people read?**

Steven Adler's autobiography (the original Guns n Roses drummer). I just couldn't put this book down.



➤ **What film/boxset do you most enjoy?**

Star Wars – still a big kid really.

➤ **Do you have any music/band/song suggestions?**

My latest Spotify trend is a Canadian band called Monster Truck.



➤ **What's one of the most interesting places you've travelled to?**

Kuwait, when Saddam Hussain was setting fire to the oil fields at the start of the 1st Iraq war.

➤ **What's your go-to comfort food?**

Roast dinner.

➤ **Who would be your dream dinner party guests?**

Probably family members who are no longer with us. My dad, my grandparents and my brother-in-law.



➤ **If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be and why?**

Winston Churchill – I would love to see what he would say of the state of the UK and our current political issues.



➤ **Do you have a favourite quote or saying?**

There's no such word as 'Can't' – take the 't' off and you can!

➤ **Finally, what's the most random fact you know?**

The oldest recorded koi carp lived to 226 years old – it was called Hanako (which means flower girl in Japanese).