

Adam Jankowski MBICSc

Director

Valetek Limited



A brief CV

I was born in 1961 in London. My father was a Polish refugee following the second world war, unable to return home to the communist Stalinist regime which had been responsible for deporting him and his entire family to Siberia. My mother, a Warsaw child survivor of the war and a disillusioned product of that post war regime managed to “defect” in the late 1950’s to join my father in England. (www.zpwb.org.uk/eg/poles-in-uk.php)

My education was not in any way inhibited by being brought up by immigrants whose first language was not English. I did well at school and progressed to further education with the advantage of being bi-lingual and having been good at several languages at school (French, German, Latin and Ancient Greek- all at the same time!!). Although I studied Civil Engineering for my degree, engineering was not for me. In any case, I was much too involved in my community of polish exile friends in activities which included the exiled Polish Scouting Association in Britain and more than one Polish ex-pat/exile volleyball team.

One of these teams was Polonia Volleyball Club – www.polonialondonvc.co.uk . (My picture is still there in a couple of the 1976-1986 line ups in their History and Gallery pages!!) Polonia was a top national team full of Polish names who also played for England and GB. They won the National Cup (the year I “retired” to focus on my new family) and the National League the next two years running. I myself just about squeezed into the England U.20’s squad for about a year before my age qualified me out. I may have been quite good at the time but not quite good enough to make the full England squad like my little brother did a few years later. Besides, I married at 21, became a dad at 23 and anything other than playing small league volleyball just to keep fit was all I could manage.

After college I started my adult working life in the logistics industry working for the Littlewoods Group. Looking for a career which fitted my volleyball and looming family commitments I found work in the Telecoms and IT industries (not that they actually gave me the flexibility I hoped for in achieving my sporting hopes). Working for nearly 10 years for well known companies like GEC and Olivetti amongst one or two others, my job description shifted over this period from sales, to sales and marketing, to account and project management and finally IT and business consultancy. My experiences were also greatly enhanced by a period of service of 8 years as a school governor serving on several committees including the Finance committee and chair of the Site and Buildings committee.

I was always keen to start my own business. It did not matter to me what this was to be so I was finally tempted out of the IT industry in 1992 to become Finance Director of a small venture capital construction company started by an acquaintance of mine and one of his friends. Unfortunately, that did not work out as my financial advice fell on deaf ears and I had no option but to leave them to their own devices. Although I had the unpleasant experience of having lost a substantial amount of money in this venture I had by now been bitten by the “self-employment bug”. I now looked for new opportunities.

To cut a long story short, here I am. Owner and director of a small carpet cleaning business called Valetek Limited (established in 1993) (with the support of my good lady wife, Alicja). I now thoroughly enjoy being in this industry and with the benefit of some skills acquired in my previous careers, I have become involved in the wider aspects of it. I now sit on the board of directors of the National Carpet Cleaners Association and the UK Council of the IICRC, I am an instructor in the industry and undertake consultancy and carpet inspection work.

Although I dedicate some of my “spare” time to these organizations, I remain committed to Valetek and its long term development. My belief in the business is based on employing only good and competent people who are willing to learn their trade and apply what they learn to the benefit of our customers.