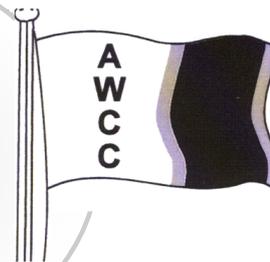


# A.W.C.C. ALERT

Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs  
www.awcc.org.uk



SPRING 2011  
EDITION

## Boaters raise funds for Breast Cancer

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September this year saw the Friendship Cruising Club hold a BBQ and live Music evening at Hoo Ash Bungalow, Coalville.

This event was held to raise funds for the Breast Friends Cancer Charity. Phil and Merle Adkins, who organised the



event, said that a friend of the Cruising Club had suffered breast cancer and although now fully recovered they wished to show their appreciation for the magnificent help given by the charity by holding this fund raising event.

The cheque for £705 was presented on the 4<sup>th</sup> December by Jim Butterworth, Captain of the East Midlands based Friendship Cruising Club at the Hermitage Park Hotel Coalville. It was received by Ursula Jones on behalf of the Breast Friends Cancer Charity. Photograph by Martin Glover: Left to right Merle Adkins, Phil Adkins, Henry Jones, Ursula Jones, Jim Butterworth, Sandra Butterworth.

Send your pictures & accounts of club events for inclusion in Alert by email to the editor please

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Christmas calm in the basin at South Pennine boat club (picture Rodney Watson)

## Chairman's Report



I wonder how many articles I have started with the words that we live in uncertain times? What is now called the New Waterways Charity (NWC) – a working title until something permanent is decided, has been increasingly taking up more of my time, and that of the National Executive Committee. It is likely to do so for the foreseeable future and we are expecting a major announcement in the next few days, so keep an eye on the DEFRA web site. In the mean time, I would like to share a few thoughts with you. BW has been working with the user and industry community on a charitable proposal for about three years, so there is much developed thinking on all sides. It is now seen as a workable solution, given much development of charitable law in the last decade and politically, it fits nicely into the current government's Big Society agenda. So, is it in our best interest?

The simple answer is yes, but as with much else, the devil is in the detail. You may recall that at the beginning of all this, Robin Evans said that we cannot continue as we are, something has to happen. His concern then, which is still the same today, is that resources were insufficient to do the job properly. BW commissioned a report from KPMG that investigated and basically agreed with him, but then you do not have to be a financial expert to realise that! The economic recession has not helped. It has reduced the income from the property portfolio, but at least it has been confirmed yet again that the portfolio is to be retained as the endowment for the NWC. That is all very sensible and as the UK economic recovery in general gets going, the prospects in that direction are good. So, where are we now and what are the prospects for a happy eventual outcome for us all?

The Public Bodies Bill is still going through Parliament and the House of Lords has given it a rocky ride, but it is still hoped to gain Royal Assent in the summer. Without it, nothing further can happen. The new Act of Parliament will abolish BW and transfer all its legal rights, responsibilities and privileges to NWC. This will be put into effect by a Ministerial Order, which must contain details of all the previous legislation relevant to BW and some of it goes back a very long way, such as one Act concerning the River Lee from about 1400. A two-stage consultation process is planned, the first on the concept and the second on the order.

In the mean time, the Waterways Minister, Richard Benyon will appoint seven interim trustees, initially to sit beside the BW Board and to immediately take over the function of the non-executive Board as soon as it is abolished, the idea being that they will hit the ground running. Three trustees will be current non-executive

**STOP PRESS** The Waterways Minister, Richard Benyon announced on Monday 28 February that he intended the EA Navigations join BW in a New Waterways Charity, but that its entry would be delayed until 2015. The decision will be reviewed in 2014. This decision was expected and we should regard it as a pragmatic and correct answer to the current situation. In AWCC, we look forward to the satisfactory establishment of the NWC very soon and the entry of EA at a sensible timing.  
**More at <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/>**

directors, with an almost certainty that Tony Hales will continue as chairman, and four will be selected from a wider public. The Minister made it clear from the outset that these would not be normal public appointments, so he has now appointed a team of four senior people to advise him. I met this team last week, together with senior civil servants, to brief them and discuss their task. They now realise that they have a task of considerable significance, as the interim trustees will have a crucial and formative role in getting the NWC going.

It is clear that the DEFRA team are a bit concerned about the economic situation, discussed as we went on a walk-about in Birmingham last week. This is clearly the crux of the matter, as the concept will not work unless the start-up situation is right. I made the point very firmly to the Minister at the AINA Conference last December that any major change in any organisation requires a resource hump to get it going. Whilst he smiled and liked my expression, he did not say then how he would deal with it. I am sure you all know the current DEFRA grant-in-aid figures for BW. It is sufficient for me to say that if left at that, the first three years of NWC will be extremely difficult. Hence, the first job for the new trustees will be to talk turkey to the Minister and his colleagues and it is up to us to see that they do just that.

I should mention the British Waterways Advisory Forum (BWAFF). My colleagues and I in BWAFF have had increasingly positive discussions with the executive and non-executive board members over the last 18 months and it has all been very much to mutual benefit. We reviewed the current situation with Robin at the beginning of February. He was extremely open and frank about what needed to be done to manage BW in the short term. We were in unanimous agreement that we would all give NWC our best possible shot, but we also understood that it was not a done deal and that success was by no means guaranteed. However, I believe that the Secretary of State cannot go to the House of Commons again and announce another failure, and still survive, so maybe things are moving in our direction.

What should we in AWCC do? At the top level, we will be there with IWA, NABO and the rest of the user and industry community and we will continue to support and

continued overleaf

(Chairman's report continued)

develop this initiative, which is likely to be the Government's Number One example of a successful Big Society organisation. You, the members, can also help by being positive about NWC to non-boating friends, convince them of the way ahead and seek their support. And as well, let your local politicians know that this cannot succeed without full political support, so basically, it is down to them. Remember, all three main parties apparently continue to support NWC. My prediction is that it *will* lead to a bright new future,

but it could be a close run thing!

Finally, we have our AGM coming up soon and how appropriate to have Tony Hales as our guest of honour. Tony came with us last summer to the World Canal Conference in Rochester, USA and gave a splendid account to the conference of what he saw as the new future for UK inland waterways. Delegates were impressed! He will give us the very latest at our AGM, so talk to him and let him know your hopes and fears.

David Pearce, Chairman

28 February 2011

## News from clubs

Erica Martin, Midland Region, writes.

### OUR LORD MAYOR IS A BOATER!

There's nothing like having a friend in high places, and in Stoke on Trent you don't get much higher than the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Stoke on Trent Boat Club are very proud that among their membership is Clr Denver Tolley, Lord Mayor of the City. His wife Lynne is the Lady Mayoress. Denver and Lynne keep their boat 'Kelty' in the club moorings. Up until the club's recent AGM, Lynne was Vice Commodore of the club.

Members of the Boat Club were invited to a reception at the Lord Mayor's Parlour, where Denver wore the ceremonial robes, something not usually done for such visits. Before visiting the Council Chamber club members saw the civic silver, and a priceless display of gifts to the City from retiring Lady Mayoresses. . Being in the Potteries, many of these items were rare pieces from world-famous names. During the visit, Jade Mountford [the youngest visitor] presented the Lord Mayor with £200 towards his

Fund, being the Club's annual donation, in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other.

The charity fund this year includes The Beatrice Charity, Beatrice being a specially adapted narrow-boat on the Caldon Canal, for 'children with a need to get afloat'.

Clr Tolley is very supportive of the club, and of the canal network in Stoke on Trent. Indeed, he is the instigator of a unique initiative, the Stoke on Trent Waterways Partnership which is supported by the City Council [including the Planning Department], British Waterways, the Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust, English Heritage, IWA, RENEW North Staffordshire, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Trent & Mersey Canal Society and last but not least, Stoke on Trent Boat Club. One of the Partnership's first actions is to approve the design for 'gateway' signs marking the three entry points to the City by water. These should be in place before the start of the 2011 cruising season.

Stoke on Trent Boat Club are pleased to have the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress as members, and happy that despite their hectic schedules, they have always found time to support the club during their tenure.



Stoke on Trent Boat Club Commodore Erica Martin far left, Clr Tolley Centre with Mrs Tolley to his left and other SoTBC members. Picture by Brian Martin



## Calling Club Representatives

### AWCC AGM is being held at Stafford Boat Club 11.00 Sat April 16th

#### CONSTITUTION REVISION GROUP

Dear Club Members,

Please find herewith copy of the Final Draft Revised Constitution as agreed at the meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) on Jan 5th 2011. The intention is to seek ratification at the National AGM to be held at Stafford Boat Club on April 16th 2011.

The document is complete and is currently being examined by a volunteer solicitor club member for legal correctness. It is envisaged that this action will be complete in the very near future.

Formal Statement: -

The new Draft Constitution is to be placed before the membership at the National AGM to be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2011.

If passed by the appropriate majority it will become effective at the end of the NEC meeting to be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2011

The NEC seeks powers to incorporate "legal comments" at that meeting provided they are of a minor and technical nature.

The NEC looks forward to seeing as many club representatives as possible at the AGM.

Best wishes,

Paul Le Blique - on behalf of the  
Constitution Revision sub Group

*Paul Le Blique*

***The proposed new constitution  
has been distributed to all affi-  
liated clubs it is reproduced in its  
entirety, page 12 onwards***

**National Quartermaster  
position is currently vacant.  
Any willing volunteers  
out there?**



**Put your  
pressing  
questions to BW  
Chairman Tony  
Hales  
who will speak  
at this years'  
AGM**

**Do you know a boater who has  
committed an act of bravery in the  
past year?  
Nominations for the Harry Sykes  
trophy welcome.**



**AGM lunch bookings  
Please call Sheila Smith  
on  
0115 938 4129  
by April 9th**

# TECHNICAL ADVICE FROM ANDREW PHASEY



## FUEL REQUIREMENTS FOR INLAND VESSELS FROM 01 JANUARY 2011 by Andrew Phasey

(Summary of all the recent communications)

### Introduction

1. Fuel Quality Directive 2009/30/EC was implemented on 01 January 2011. The Directive places requirements for Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM), which includes inland vessels, to use diesel fuel containing no more than 10 milligrams of sulphur per kilogram of fuel, making the fuel virtually sulphur-free. Importantly, this sulphur-free fuel may include biofuel of up to 7%.

### Addition of biofuel

2. As biofuel is blended, fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) are added to mineral diesel. It is the addition of FAME that may lead to adverse effects on fuel systems. These effects are well documented and widely known. Principal amongst them is that fuel containing biodiesel will also be more prone to bacterial contamination than gas oil, partly brought about by the increased water content. This bacterial growth is known generically as “diesel bug” and can result in blocked fuel filters and lines and increased corrosion. Prolonged use of contaminated fuel can result in damage to engines.

### Elimination of water in fuel

3. Good housekeeping is regarded as key to the prevention of the “diesel bug”. Bacterial growth can be prevented by eliminating water from fuel storage tanks and conducting monthly checks that tanks remain free of water. Where fitted, use should be made of bottom tank drains. Where bacterial growth has occurred, this can be addressed by emptying and cleaning the tanks and fuel system. To minimise the likelihood of this occurring, it is recommended that users take particular care to ensure a fuel

turnover of 6 months and no longer than 12 months.

### Safety concerns

4. As part of the consultation with Department for Transport (DfT) many boating organizations, including AWCC, made strong representations regarding the addition of biofuel. Clearly stating its proposed use is a serious safety concern for boaters, when engine failure could place at risk vessels and crew. DfT has acknowledged the safety aspects and has worked to find a satisfactory solution.

### What fuel to use?

5. Though the DfT work continues, it has identified that a number of fuel majors and distributors are aware of boaters’ requirements and will have supplies of fuel available, without the biofuel content, but the distributors will have to be asked to supply the fuel. This fuel will probably be “road diesel” with a red marker dye added.

### Action by boaters

6. Inland boaters, and by extension boat yards, marinas, chandlers etc., are advised that they should specify to their suppliers that they require fuel with zero biodiesel content, i.e. without FAME. They should supply a fuel that is fit for purpose and be able to advise on the sulphur and biofuel content. If, on occasion, you are unable to find a supplier with FAME-free fuel, the use of a fuel additive or conditioner is recommended.

### Additional information

7. Additional information on this subject is available from Andrew Phasey.

NB

*Sulphur-free gas oil is needed to ensure the reliable operation of pollutant emissions control systems, which will be fitted to new off-road equipment to meet EU emissions requirements. Without sulphur-free fuel these systems would suffer progressive and irreversible damage, ultimately bringing the equipment to a halt.*

## The K&A Mooring Regulation Trial

Pauline King, from Pewsey Wharf Boat Club, has represented the AWCC in ongoing meetings. She has reported back to the AWCC executive at regular intervals. Recently this has resulted in the production of the: **MOORING STRATEGY STEERING GROUP— VISION OF THE WESTERN KENNET & AVON CANAL — space restricts me from providing all the detail however the following is the full script of the Background and Vision statements:**

### Background

All Mooring Strategy Steering Group (MSSG) members place great value on the Kennet & Avon Canal as an extremely important part of their heritage and landscape.

The canal, together with the associated stretches of the River Avon, is a unique and important heritage feature, with a large section located within The City of Bath World Heritage Site landscape setting and Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is highly valued by Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) and Wiltshire communities as a recreational amenity and is a very popular tourist attraction for both UK and overseas visitors.

The MSSG considers that it is paramount that any decisions regarding the canal's sustainable future, or conservation of the wider landscape along the canal, be made with regard to the stated objectives of the October 2000 Kennet & Avon Canal Conservation Plan. These can be summarised as -

- ◆ Conservation of the canal, in all its aspects, for the enjoyment of the population at large.
- ◆ Conservation of the canal as a unique example of a working waterway.
- ◆ Enablement of the existing habitat and wildlife, particularly, aquatic or wetland species, to continue and flourish in areas where they would otherwise disappear.
- ◆ Conservation and enhancement of the character and setting of the canal and its environment, working in close co-operation with the local community, landowners, developers and other partners.

It is also extremely important to recognise that -

- ◆ Since the adoption of the Conservation Plan, there has been a significant increase in the number of boats using the western end of the canal and a step change in the recreational use of the waterside path and environs.
- ◆ The canal is a finite resource for boaters with a limited number of moorings, potential water supply issues and concerns over the impact that boating

can have on the environment.

### Vision

Against this background, the MSSG's vision of the western Kennet & Avon Canal is one where -

- ◆ The overall appearance is that of a dynamic, congestion-free, boating environment in which the canal and waterside can be fully enjoyed by all users (walkers, cyclists, anglers and boaters), with the boating community comprising a 'balanced' mix of leisure, hire and holiday craft, continuous cruisers and a limited number of permanent moorings.
- ◆ Any future limits or restrictions placed on the number of boats, for operational reasons, are made in a fair and equitable manner for the various boating groups.
- ◆ Residential moorings are subject to relevant policies within the B&NES and Wiltshire Councils Local Development Framework and related supplementary planning documents.
- ◆ Mooring zones and 'breathing spaces' are clearly defined and respected by all members of the boating community. Mooring zones and British Waterways (BW) licence terms and conditions are monitored effectively and strictly enforced by BW.
- ◆ The attractive green environment, e.g. hedgerows and amenity of the canal towpath and waterside is undamaged and respected by all users and free from inconsiderate behaviour, e.g. inappropriate spill-over from boats and aggressive behaviour by cyclists.
- ◆ The waterway, towpath and infrastructure are effectively maintained.
- ◆ The level of effective collaboration between the two unitary authorities (B&NES & Wiltshire) and its transparency is significantly improved.
- ◆ The two unitary authorities play an active role in the Waterway Area Board and -
- ◆ Ensure that BW fulfils its statutory responsibilities for managing the canal.
- ◆ Ensure that BW and all canal users respect planning and environmental health legislation.

For those who would like to read a lot more on this subject I would direct you to notes on the meeting held on 28th January detailed in the February archives section on an active website produced by the Kennet & Avon Boating Community at:

[www.kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk](http://www.kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk)

*The next meeting, due to be held on 25th February, had not been reported at the time of Alert going to press*



## QuarterMaster—Position vacant

AWCC supplies currently held by Treasurer Geoff Ashton

*Membership cards @ 10p each*

### Special offers AWCC stock to clear

*Polo shirts @ £12; XXL dark blue, XL red or maroon,*

*L maroon, M grey or red*

*Gymbag £3*

*Lapel studs £1*

*Peaked caps with neck flap black or dark blue £5*

*Burgees £5*

*Double sided two hole punched A5 log sheets free*

*Map inserts for handbook free*

*All available by email or at the AGM*

*Contact [geoff-l.ashton@ntlworld.com](mailto:geoff-l.ashton@ntlworld.com)*

AWCC Handbooks will be available for collection at AGM April 2011

Amendments to current edition and orders for collection @ £2 per copy to be received by Brian Rich by March 12th at the latest:

[communications@awcc.org.uk](mailto:communications@awcc.org.uk)

# EDITORIAL

Hello, my name is Heather Bearpark. I was recently asked to try my hand in the role of Alert editor. My husband & I are boating members of South Pennine Boat Club. Among my other activities are a full time job and acting as editor of our club newsletter 'Handspike'. As there has been a gap since the last edition was released in April 2010, on this occasion, I have briefly summarised info of interest to boaters from recent regional / national reports.



This year I have had the task of judging the Inter Club Trophy (the AWCC award for best newsletter). I have received 2010 newsletters from a great many clubs. I also put out a request to send these in to me via your regional representatives since they needed to be received by Saturday March 5th.

I would like to see what club activities could be put into upcoming editions of Alert. It would be helpful if you could add me to your club newsletter circulation lists. I know that several of you have been sending copies to Sally Moore at SPBC, the address is the same but Sally is having a well earned rest so you can replace her name with mine. I will ensure that all copies are handed on to the next winner of the competition in time for the next round of judging too. See page 17 for a bit more info on the Inter Club Trophy.

You can contact me as follows:

Email: [heatherbearpark@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbearpark@gmail.com)

Post: Heather Bearpark, c/o South Pennine Boat Club, Wood Lane, Battyeford, Mirfield, WF14 OED

# OBITUARIES



The AWCC is sad to announce the death on Saturday 18th September 2010 of Tony Mason, our National Vice President and Vice Chairman, after a short period of illness, aged 76. Tony was an enthusiastic boater and long term campaigner on many waterways' issues of the day. Tony served as Chairman of the AWCC for 11 years a position which he led with integrity being respected by all those with whom he had dealings.

It was with great regret and much sorrow that the Wilderness Boat Owners Club announced in mid November 2010 that Keith Hadden, Chairman since May 2001, passed away suddenly on Tuesday 9th November 2010 due to an unusual heart condition. Keith's funeral took place on Monday 29th November at Chilterns Crematorium where his family, relations, work colleagues and his many friends attended to pay tribute and to say goodbye. Afterwards at a nearby pub, there was a gathering to remember Keith and to celebrate his life and friendship. Donations in memory of Keith may still be made out to the 'IWA Inglesham Lock Appeal' and may still be sent to:



Sawyer Funeral Service, 32 West St, Marlow, SL7 2NB. (Tel: 01628 483331). If £1000 is raised, the IWA will place a plaque on the lock side in memory of Keith.

# Reports from the National Executive & the Regions



**Midlands region** reported queries raised regarding Pump-Out reliability. There is a card reader problem at some facilities. The most pressing issue is the fuel directive. Boaters must ensure that they use FAME-free fuel. Information received about fuel types and supply has been circulated to the NEC previously. It has also been circulated to all Midland Region clubs.

BSS examiners are now required to have 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance of £5m. This has increased premiums and it is expected that some if not all the cost will be passed on to boaters

The government spending review will probably mean an end to free advice on fire prevention and free smoke alarms. Before this has happened, the number of *reported* boat fires has increased year on year.

**NW region** reports issues with water shortages which have been taken to a BW Customer Services Meeting. Water wastage at locks has been advised to BW and although lock-keepers have been very helpful to boaters there will be fewer lock keepers employed in 2011. The new crossing of the Mersey near Runcom has been approved in the revised Government spending review. This will hopefully in the not too distant future, facilitate the restoration of the former line of locks.

**Visitor Moorings – Lion Salt Works T&M south of Anderton**—over the years the number of boats mooring long term adjacent to the historic Lion Salt Works (and Salt Barge Inn) have increased to a point where boaters wishing to visit either venue had no where to moor nearby. Over two years ago we approached BW to have suitable short term Visitor Moorings put in place. Following public consultation BW agreed to have Visitor Moorings. However, responsibility for that part of the T&M passed to the Manchester office (along with the Manager) and the process was started once again. We are waiting for BW to resolve a ‘confidential’ matter with one final boat and hopefully the new facility will then be in place.

**Plank Lane Lift Bridge – L&L Canal near Leigh**—last year BW reduced the opening hours as a cost cutting measure. They have cited lack of any complaints as a reason to continue the policy but the restrictions at first on the L&L followed by closure significantly reduced demand on useage. We have asked if conversion to boater operation is an option. BW is considering it. There is a new marina opening adjacent to the lift so reduced operating hours will impact on those boaters in particular. Reservoir levels are about average for the time of year so hopefully restrictions and closure will be avoided in 2011.

**Vale Royal Barge Lock (River Weaver)** - despite spending over a million pounds to rebuild the lock entrance it remains closed whilst the bridge across the lock awaits repair and/or replacement. We continue to press BW.

**London region** reports that A new lock has been built on the River Stort enabling access to a 315 berth ‘Marina Village’ development which has been built from a former quarry.

Mark Benstead former British Waterways director has been awarded an OBE for services to the marine industry.

## Finances

The National Treasurer Geoff Ashton indicated that finances will probably ‘break- even’ for this year.

Suggested consideration of a subscription Rise for 2011 to £50.00 per club. The treasurer reminded the meeting that the possibility of a scaled subscription to reduce the burden on smaller clubs had been put the AGM some 3 years ago where it was defeated when put to the vote. Regions can decide each individual club’s level of subscription, but must forward details of number of clubs x subscriptions to National Treasurer. A vote was taken with a majority in favour of a £2.00 rise for 2011.



## Boat Shows / Rallies

It has also been decided to have an AWCC presence at the Crick Boat Show as opposed to the IWA National Rally since this had in past years been a more effective way of meeting grass roots boaters.

## A letter from the North East Region following their AGM held on February 16th



I am Bob Mennell and would like to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Northeast region. Firstly I must say a huge thank you to Ken Wild for his past six years as Chairman and the support he has devoted to this Region. I certainly know he will be a very hard act to follow.

I have been mucking about with boats and the restoration of the Chesterfield Canal since 1965 and it is remarkable to see the all the improvements not only to the Chesterfield Canal but to the network as a whole. I do so hope that this improvement will continue when the waterways become a Trust. I feel it is our duty during the next 18 months to work closely with the BW and input as much information as possible prior to April 2012.

Following my first meeting it became quite apparent how many Club Representatives were extremely unhappy to see how many Boaters were abusing the Continuous Cruising Licence by mooring their craft for long periods so close to moorings where club boats required a Mooring Licence. Basically it is very unfair and I personally feel that we should endeavour to resolve this situation prior to the formation of Trust status.

**Bob Mennell**  
NE Chairman

arrangements. To mitigate the impact of the large increase in three and six month fees, BW will look at making the direct debit instalment options more attractive by enabling people to spread the cost evenly over 12 months.

### Colour doesn't matter!

The BW licensing team is turning over small as well as large stones in its quest to cut costs without detriment to customer service. A recent slip up in a print specification resulted in purple becoming this year's colour of choice for licence disks. Unfortunately, the purple ink turns out not to be waterproof. In actual fact, now that enforcement checks look at the boat index number rather than the disk, the colour is immaterial and once stocks of coloured stationery are exhausted, disks will become black and white. For the next few months, boaters can expect disks to be red or green. The only thing that's important is that you continue to display your disk as that's what gives other paying customers the confidence that they're not subsidising others.

Who is waiting with bated breath to hear how BW has been rebadged?

Did any of our readers vote? .....  
or are we more concerned to know whether our waterways will still be viable for ongoing enjoyment?

**Liverpool Boat Show**  
**29 April – 8 May 2011**  
**CANCELLED**  
**due to current financial climate**

Thanks to Graham Myatt, Midland Region for his summary extract from the Boaters' Update published February 2011

### Changes to boat licence fees

These were outlined in December's Boaters Update and feedback was received from about 50 customers and user group representatives. Detailed comments and suggestions within the feedback are still being reviewed but changes to prompt and late payment

## **ADVERTISERS**

Do you know anyone who would like to reach boating communities across the UK?

How about advertising in Alert which is distributed to more than 90 AWCC affiliated boating clubs across the UK.

Please contact Brian Rich for more details:

[communications@awcc.org.uk](mailto:communications@awcc.org.uk)



## NORTH EAST REGION SPRING DANCE

Saturday 16th April Bridgewater Motor  
Boat Club

Featuring the Harry Goulden Quartet and  
Jacky Quillam

Tickets £6 contact your AWCC Rep or ring  
01925 491 743

# EVENTS OUT & ABOUT



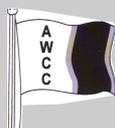
## SOUTH PENNINE BOAT CLUB RALLY

Friday 6th—Sunday 8th May 2011

To be opened by local MP Simon Reevell  
Visiting AWCC members welcome to join  
in activities & events. For mooring  
bookings & further information go to  
[www.southpennineboatclub.co.uk](http://www.southpennineboatclub.co.uk)

## LONDON REGION Basingstoke Canal Trip

Saturday 14th May



£14.00 for light lunch + tea/coffee on board. BBQ  
at Byfleet Boat Club later on for a small extra  
charge.

Tel: 01707 646876 for more details or  
check [www.awcc.org.uk](http://www.awcc.org.uk)

## CRICK BOAT SHOW

28—31 May 2011

AWCC will be there so come &  
say hello!



If you can volunteer to help  
with the AWCC stall please  
phone Paul leBlique

01327 811659

[www.crickboatshow.co.uk](http://www.crickboatshow.co.uk)

## SOAR BOAT CLUB ANNUAL RALLY

Friday 27th—Sunday 30th May 2011

Bookings through Glenis Hulmes  
[glenisjh49@talktalk.net](mailto:glenisjh49@talktalk.net)

Discount for bookings received by 13 May  
[www.soarboatingclub.co.uk](http://www.soarboatingclub.co.uk)

## IWA National Festival/ Boat Show

28 July 2011—31 July 2011

Shobnall Fields, Burton on Trent

The National Festival is a great three  
day celebration of the waterways.  
There are hundreds of boats and ex-  
hibitors, as well as a full programme  
of entertainment for all the family,  
especially the children.

## ASSOCIATION OF WATERWAYS CRUISING CLUBS

(Founded 1964)

Constitution 201n

Revised Constitution Proposed for Adoption at the 2011 AGM

### Name and Burgee

#### Name

The name of the Association shall be the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs.

#### Burgee

The Association burgee shall be a blue and white chevron with yellow bars between the white and blue at the tail end of the burgee. The white portion shall bear the letters AWCC.

#### Patron

The Association may have an honorary Patron or Patrons who shall be persons of substance that have rendered assistance and supported the AWCC objectives. Patrons shall have no formal role, other than the promotion of the AWCC in public life. The appointment of Patrons shall be at the discretion of the National Executive Committee. They shall not have a formal vote, but may attend the AGM and other events by invitation.

#### Objectives

The primary objectives of the Association are:

To encourage friendship and cooperation between member organisations in boating and social activities.

To foster inter member organisations activities and events.

To represent the Association in National consultations and on such bodies or councils where collective negotiations are necessary.

To make available a handbook detailing member organisations, their facilities and contact details.

To provide assistance, moorings, etc., when available, to cruising boaters of member organisations.

#### Membership

##### Classes of Membership

There shall be two classes of membership, Full or Associate, open to groups that operate on the inland waterways:

Full – Full membership shall be open to bona fide boat clubs, cruising clubs, boating associations and other cruising organisations. Full membership shall not be open to collective or umbrella organisations.

Associate – Associate membership shall be open to appropriate waterways related organisations. The terms of Associate membership shall be the subject of individual agreement between the Association and the prospective Associate member organisation.

##### Termination of Membership

Termination of membership of an organisation in either class of membership shall take place under the following circumstances:

Failure to Pay - Any member organisation that has not paid its annual subscription by 1st March of any year, or within 30 days after dispatch of a final renewal notice calling upon it to do so, shall be deemed to have terminated its membership.

Suspension or Expulsion – If any member organisation brings the AWCC into disrepute the NEC shall have the power to suspend or terminate their membership subject to an appeal by the member organisation to the AWCC AGM.

If membership is terminated then the organisation will receive no further notification of the activities of the Association and will immediately cease to benefit from AWCC membership. All entries relating to that member organisation shall be omitted from the handbook. No AWCC burgees, motifs, etc. may thereafter be displayed by the defaulting organisation or members of that organisation.

On termination of an organisation's membership there shall be no return of any subscription already paid.

##### Full Membership

If approved, the membership will be confirmed to the applicant organisation, which will then be asked to pay the subscription applicable at that time. Upon receipt of the membership fee the applicant organisation will become a Full member of the Association.

##### Associate Membership

Membership will only be approved once the terms of associate membership have been formally agreed with the

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applicant organisation and the membership fee received. It may be appropriate for the National Executive Committee to allocate the Associate member to a Region with the agreement of the Region

#### Subscriptions

##### Period and Amount

The annual subscription to the Association covers membership from the 1st January of any year to 31st December of that same year. The National Executive Committee will set the annual member and associate organisations subscription rate at its autumn meeting. This will be applied from January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

##### Period Extension

In the event of a new organisation joining after the 30th September of any year, the initial subscription shall cover membership to the 31st December the following year.

##### Due Date

Subscriptions are due to be paid by the appropriate Region or Special Representative to the National Treasurer, annually by the 31st January.

#### National Executive Committee and National Officers

##### Role

The National Executive Committee (NEC) shall be:

The national level management committee for the AWCC.

Subject to any direction or guidance given by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or a Special General Meeting (SGM).

##### Responsibilities

These shall be:

Implementation at the national level of the objectives of AWCC.

Day to day management of the National activities of AWCC including delivery of National services to the Regions.

Identifying, in conjunction with the Regions, National Issues and ensuring that they are addressed with the appropriate body.

Providing advice on issues and policy to the Regional Committees.

Ensuring that National funds are used cost effectively to further the interests of AWCC.

##### Composition

The NEC shall consist of:

Honorary Officer – President, the primary function of the President is to provide advice to the NEC.

National Officers – The executive officers of the NEC:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Communications Officer

Regional Representatives – Two representatives of each Region:

Regional President or a nominated representative

Regional Chairman or a nominated representative

Special Representatives – One:

Representative for national and unallocated member organisations

Specialist Roles:

Technical Officer

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Officer

Editor of the national newsletter

Quartermaster & Marketing Officer

##### Voting Rights

At meetings of the NEC only those present shall have the following voting rights:

Honorary Officer – No vote.

Officers – One vote each, if also acting as a Regional representative they may cast an additional vote on behalf of

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the Region. In the event of a tied vote the Chairman of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

Regional Representatives – Each Regional representative shall be entitled to one vote.

Special Representative – One vote.

Specialist Roles – No vote.

Other Attendees - No vote.

#### Frequency of Meetings, Quorum and Presiding

Meetings shall be organised as follows:

Frequency – The NEC shall meet four times in any one year, with an additional meeting held on the day of the AGM immediately prior to commencement of the AGM. If necessary meetings may be held more frequently

Quorum – This shall consist of three National Officers, two of whom should be either, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer, together with a total of at least four Representatives drawn from at least three Regions.

Presiding – The Chairman or Vice Chairman, or in their absence a chairperson elected by those present shall preside.

#### Appointment of NEC Members

Members of the NEC shall be appointed as follows:

Honorary Officer – The President shall be proposed annually by the NEC at the meeting prior to the AGM, for ratification at the AGM. Honorary Officers shall serve for a maximum of 5 years.

National Officers – Elected at the AGM or an SGM. They shall retire annually at the AGM but shall be eligible for re-election. No elected National Officer shall be elected to more than one position. The National Chairman shall have served on a Regional Committee for at least two years.

Regional Representatives – These shall be selected by their Regions in accordance with the requirements of Section 9 below.

Special Representatives - Elected at the AGM or an SGM. They shall retire annually at the AGM but shall be eligible for re-election.

Specialist Members – These shall be proposed as necessary by the NEC at the meeting prior to the AGM, for ratification at the AGM.

Nominations – Nominations for elected Officers/members from outside the retiring NEC shall be proposed and seconded by member organisations and received in writing by the National Secretary at least 21 days before the AGM. In the event that no nomination is received for a particular position the Presiding Chairman may invite a nomination at the AGM.

Method – If the number of candidates for a particular post is greater than one then there shall be a paper ballot for that post at the AGM or SGM.

#### Delegation, Co-option and Specialist Advice

The NEC shall have the following powers:

Delegation – The NEC shall have power to establish a sub-committee for any purpose, and to delegate to that sub-committee by way of formal Terms of Reference such powers as are deemed necessary.

Co-option – The NEC shall have power to co-opt any person to fill any vacancy, except for Regional President or Chairman, among the Officers and members of the NEC,

Specialist Advice - The NEC shall have powers to invite to its meetings representatives of any member organisation or any other appropriate person should it be desirable for some specific matter

#### National Funds

The Treasurer shall keep the funds in one or more bank accounts in the name of the Association, professionally examined accounts, as at 31 December each year, shall be presented at the next Annual General Meeting.

#### Regions

##### Structure

The Association shall be divided into Regions as defined by the National Executive Committee; Regions are an integral part of the Association and are not separately constituted bodies. Each member organisation will be allocated to a Region or to representation by the NEC Special Representative, subject to any appeal.

##### Regions Responsibilities

The responsibilities of a Region are to promote the objectives of the Association listed in Section 3 and in particular:

To be the main channel of communication between member organisations and the National Executive Committee.

To represent member organisations in the Region in respect of navigation and other relevant bodies in the Region.

To promote support and communication between member organisations.

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#### Regional Annual General Meetings

Each Region shall hold an Annual General Meeting of its member organisations in order to:

Appoint a Regional President.

At minimum fill by election the roles of; Regional Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Receive and approve the annual accounts for the Region.

#### Representation on the NEC

A region shall be represented at the National Executive Committee by the Regional Chairman and Regional President or their nominated substitutes.

#### Internal Structure

It is for Regions to decide an appropriate means of communication between its member organisations in order to achieve the responsibilities defined in section 9.2.

#### Regional Funds

Management of Regional funds:

Each Regional Committee shall be responsible for its own financial affairs.

In the event of a Region ceasing to function:

Any funds remaining shall be remitted to the National Treasurer

Clubs still in membership at the time of cessation will be allocated to another region, or may become unallocated as appropriate.

The National Treasurer shall distribute the remitted funds to those regions to which these clubs have been allocated, or retain them nationally for unallocated clubs, in proportion to the number of clubs so transferred.

#### Annual General and Special General Meetings

##### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> April each year. The National Executive Committee may set a date outside the above under extreme circumstances.

Notification – The National Secretary shall issue a formal notice convening the AGM to all member and associate member organisations at least 90 days before the date set for the AGM. This notification shall include details of any NEC Resolution to be put to the AGM and request:

Resolutions by member organisations to be included in the Agenda

Nominations for NEC posts

Resolutions for the Agenda – Resolutions requiring a formal decision or vote at the AGM must be submitted to the National Secretary at least 70 days prior to the meeting.

The National Secretary shall issue details of any Resolutions received from Regions and member organisations at least 56 days prior to the meeting.

Discussion Items for the Agenda – Items for discussion at the AGM shall be notified in writing to the National Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting.

Nominations for NEC posts shall be submitted to the National Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting.

The National Secretary shall issue the Agenda for the AGM at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Representation – Each Full and Associate member organisation shall be entitled to send two participants to the meeting.

Presiding - In the absence of the National Chairman or Vice Chairman at the commencement time of the AGM, the assembled members of the National Executive shall appoint a chairperson for the AGM.

##### Special General Meeting (SGM)

A Special General Meeting of the Association may be called by the National Executive Committee, by direction of the National Executive Committee, or upon written request from representatives of not less than three Regions, 21 days notice of the meeting must be given; stating the business for which the meeting is being called this being the only business that shall be discussed.

##### Voting at AGM and SGM

At both Annual and Special General Meetings the following voting rights and majorities will apply:

Each Full and Associate member organisation in good standing and represented at the meeting shall have one vote.

Except for Constitutional Amendments a simple majority shall decide.

For Constitutional Amendments any amendment must be approved by at least two thirds of those member organisations at the meeting eligible to vote and voting.

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In the event of a tied vote the Presiding Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Quorum for AGM and SGM

This shall consist of:

Three National Officers, two of whom should be either, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

Representatives from at least 15 member organisations

Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution shall be made in the following way:

At an AGM of the Association after consideration by the member organisations, they having been advised of the proposed amendments at least 56 days prior to the AGM.

At a Special General Meeting, where the meeting has been called specifically for that purpose, and of which meeting each member organisation has received 56 days notice.

Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, any funds held Nationally and Regionally, once outstanding debts have been paid, shall be divided equally amongst the paid up member organisations at the time of the resolution to dissolve.



This revised constitution will be subject to a vote at the AGM

## **British Waterways announced cost saving measures on February 5th 2011**

This followed on from the announcement in December 2010 that DEFRA's grant to British Waterways in 2011 will be £41.5m (a reduction of £9.8m (or 19%) from the 2010/11 baseline grant of £51.3m).



BW faces a tough three years ahead as a result of the general economic climate, reductions in income, cuts in government grant and increased pension costs. It has announced a number of cost reduction measures over and above savings already in place:

- ◆ Recruitment freeze
- ◆ Consolidation of offices
- ◆ Outsourcing some activities

The announcement states that day to day maintenance of canals and rivers is seen as a priority. The 2009 structure is

expected to remain the same at present.

Robin Evans, BW chief executive has indicated that some difficult decisions have had to be considered in order to make more savings in 2011 /12. These are likely to be achieved by:

- ◆ Pay freezes
- ◆ Reduction in payroll of office staff by around £3.5m with a loss of around 60 posts.
- ◆ Reduction of spending on major repairs
- ◆ Prioritisation of repair projects
- ◆ Further outsourcing of vegetation works
- ◆ A review of bank staff allowances.

Robin Evans has also said that there will be less available to spend on major waterway repairs.

BW Scotland is exploring similar cost cutting through staffing efficiencies.



## Inter Club Trophy

This is an annual award to the club judged to have the best newsletter in the preceding year. It is judged by the winners from the previous year. I thought it would be helpful to let you know a little about how we came to the decisions that will be announced at the 2011 AGM. This may be of help to those clubs who wonder why they haven't reached the top 3 places.

I asked for help from among our club members in setting the criteria and came up with a long list. So, **among** the things that SPBC members identified were;

**The cover** Is the club name on it? Is it eye catching?

**Contents page / Editorial** List of contributors, info about contents?

**Club contact details** Location, phone numbers, key personnel, web address etc.

**Reflection of the membership** Member contributions, letters, new members, 'voice of the people'

**Pictures / artwork / clipart** Relevance, quality, balance, context/ understanding.

**Boating issues** National, local, is AWCC mentioned?

**Reader ease** Page numbering, print quality, types of font used, legibility

**Club events** past & future

AND

**The X-factor/Wow factor** Things not already covered. Originality, use of humour etc

If you think you covered most of these your magazine could be in the top three!

Thanks go to Peter Davies of South Pennine Boat Club who also spent many hours reading your magazines whilst helping me with the judging.

Heather Bearpark

Did you know that there are 7000 km of publicly available waterway paths in Great Britain? Source IWAC 2010 'Making more use of waterway paths and their surrounding corridors'

## HEALTH AND SAFETY EMERGENCY SERVICES 112

It remains best to phone 112 in an emergency instead of 999 as this allows the emergency services to locate your call position and get to you.

Suggestion; When out cruising write down your nearest bridge & road location before retiring to bed at night.

This issue of AWCC Alert was produced by Heather Bearpark of South Pennine Boat Club.

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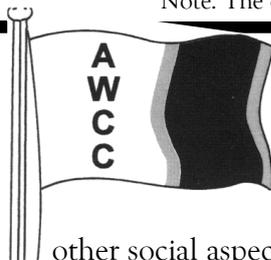
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Note. The editor reserves the right to edit copy and views expressed may not be those of the AWCC



## What is the mission of the AWCC?

AWCC represents the particular interests of inland waterways club boaters as one of the larger user groups in the UK. We foster the principles of self-help in the creation of club moorings and other facilities, including all the other social aspects of boating, and extend a welcoming hand to all like-minded boaters. We join with other associations to campaign for a better future for the inland waterways.

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