

The Historic Boat Licence Discount Scheme.

02 March 2007 Report by David Daines, Historic Narrow Boat Owners Club

I was asked some time ago to assist BW in creating an objective system for assessing the suitability of individual boats for the granting of the 'Historic Boat Licence Discount'.

I was a member of the original 'Historic Boat Working Group', which was initially involved in this task and I have largely based my recent work on the grounding achieved by that Group.

I have designed a Lotus Approach database with the following characteristics:

- The data may be recorded by anyone capable of basic data entry work.
- A 'Final Score' should be obtainable for each entry and once a 'Pass' mark is calculated, the decision to grant the discount or not should be easily made.
- No specialised knowledge of boats, historic or otherwise, would be needed for the day-to-day operation of the scheme.
- Data entry staff have no need for knowledge of advanced database operations.
- If the basis of any calculation is re-assessed in the light of experience, a single change to the parameters, made by the 'Owner' of the scheme, would instantly be reflected throughout the database.
- The person responsible for overseeing the system would need to have some expertise in such database work.

Some 60 members of the HNBOC have been kind enough to fill in and return a sample enquiry form and I have processed these within the 'System'. As might be expected at this experimental stage, some intuition and specialised knowledge of the historic boat collection has greatly helped in the interpretation of these returned forms and It maybe has to be admitted that it is likely that no system could entirely and completely remove the need for this. Experience gained during use should steadily lessen the frequency and significance of any such intervention.

On the basis of information so far processed, I am suggesting a simple 'Pass Mark' of 100 points".. Practically all the boats whose particulars have been put through the mill score in excess of this mark, many significantly so. I have also assessed a few boats that my intuition suggests should not have the discount granted and, reassuringly, these do indeed fail to reach this benchmark.

Full details of the scoring system are available on request from David - davididaines@btinternet.com

Example A – “Cyprus”

Historic Boat Licence Discount				<u>Total</u>
				170
Serial No.	Boat Name	Present Licence Discount		
1	Cyprus	Yes		
Builder's Name	For Whom Built	Year Built	Age Bonus	
W. J. Yarwood & Sons	Erewash Canal Carrying Co.	1935	17	
Originality		Present Visual Condition		
Present Overall Length (Ft)		Hull	Points	
70.5		Excellent	10	
Length of Original Boat Present (Ft)		Cabin Exterior	Points	
70.5		Excellent	10	
Original Length (Ft)		Cabin Interior	Points	
70.5		Excellent	10	
% Hull Length	% Hull	Engine Room	Points	
100	12	Good	7	
% External Cabin	% Ext	External Equip.	Points	
100	12	Excellent	10	
% Internal Cabin	% Int	Engine		
100	12	Other Vintage	Eng. 7	
% External Equip	% Ext E	Present Cabin Appearance		
100	12	Undercloth Conversion		
		Cabin Lengthened by... <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> Ft.		
		Cabin Length Calc.		
		<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> 7		
		Unsigned Bonus Points		
		<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>		
Bonus Factors				
Originally Built For		Points		
Cargo Carrying		8		
Present Propulsion		Points		
Internal Combustion		8		
Present Construction		Constr		
Iron or Steel		8		
Present Circumstances		Circums		
Paired with Original Partner		20		
Name of Pair, if Applicable				
Cedar				
Notes				

Example B – “Aston”

Historic Boat Licence Discount				<u>Total</u>
				85
Serial No.	Boat Name	Present Licence Discount		
41	Aston	No		
Builder's Name	For Whom Built	Year Built	Age Bonus	
H & W	GUCC Co	1936	17	
Originality		Present Visual Condition		
Present Overall Length (Ft)		Hull	Points	
71.5		Good	8	
Length of Original Boat Present (Ft)		Cabin Exterior	Points	
71.5		Good	8	
Original Length (Ft)		Cabin Interior	Points	
71.5			0	
% Hull Length	% Hull	Engine Room	Points	
100	12		0	
% External Cabin	% Ext	External Equip.	Points	
80	10	Fair	3	
% Internal Cabin	% Int	Engine Eng.		
10	1	Non-vintage 1		
% External Equip	% Ext E	Present Cabin Appearance		
10	1	Full Length Cabin		
Bonus Factors		Cabin Lengthened by... Ft.		
Originally Built For	Points	Cabin Length Calc.		
Cargo Carrying	8	0		
Present Propulsion	Points	Unassigned Bonus Points		
Internal Combustion	8			
Present Construction	Constr	Notes		
Iron or Steel	8	Hydraulic drive to prop in elum.		
Present Circumstances	Circums			
As Is	0			
Name of Pair, if Applicable				