



**British  
Waterways**

**Notes of Boating Issues Meeting  
Held at BW Offices, Hatton  
Thursday 7 April 2005**

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**PRESENT:**

**User Groups**

Sam Clarke	Association of Pleasure Craft Operators
David Pearce	Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs
Adrian Stott	Barge Association, The
Kevin East	British Canoe Union
Sue Day	Horse Boating Society
Audrey Smith	Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (observer status)
Tony Hirst	Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (observer status)
John Baylis	Inland Waterways Association
Stuart Sampson	National Association of Boat Owners
Ivor Caplan	Residential Boat Owners' Association
Scott Deverell	Hartford Marina, The Yacht Harbour Association
Richard Booth	Historic Narrowboat Owners' Club
John Crisp	Royal Yachting Association

**British Waterways:**

Simon Salem	Marketing & Customer Services Director'
Eugene Baston	Customer Relations Manager
Peter Wade	Safety Advisor
Debbie Lumb	Service Manager, North West Waterways
Amanda Strang	Customer Relations Administrator
Jonathan Ludford	National Communications Executive

**Apologies:**

Alan Meegan	Amateur Rowing Association
Ann Davies	Association of Pleasure Craft Operators
David Dunning	Boating Association, The
Mike Bools	Boating Association, The
Dr M A Perkin	Boat Museum
Howard Pridding	British Marine Federation
Barry Smith	Canal Boat Builders' Association
Andrew Burge	Commercial Boat Operators' Association (no response)
John Hustwick	Electric Boat Association
Neil Edwards	Inland Waterways Association
Paul Bryan	National Community Boats' Association
Neil Northmore	Royal Yachting Association

**These notes are also circulated to British Waterways' Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Operating Directors, General Managers, Service Managers, Operational Managers & other key personnel.**

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Simon began the meeting by welcoming the group and introduced two additional people from British Waterways to the meeting; Debbie Lumb – Service Manager, North West Waterways and Jonathan Ludford, National Communications Executive. A service manager and communication executive would attend future meetings to aid the delivery of actions arising within BW.

### **1. REPORT ON ISSUES SINCE LAST MEETING**

Simon referred the group to an update paper produced ahead of the meeting (paper attached – Item 1). The following issues were discussed further.

#### **1.1 'Veg Pledge'**

General discussions took place. Users acknowledged that a significant improvement had been achieved.

Users were encouraged to provide specific examples of any existing poor vegetation management to Amanda Strang (with images, dates and locations). Well managed examples were also encouraged.

Users /  
Amanda  
Strang

Discussions took place on woody vegetation close to wash walls. Paul Beckwith to re-circulate the guidance note previously issued to Operations Managers detailing actions to be taken to prevent re-growth of treated woody vegetation.

Paul Beckwith  
(NSU)

It was recognised BW could leave waste from vegetation management for boaters to take away for use as fuel.

Paul Beckwith  
(NSU)

#### **Local Actions**

Adrian Stott questioned vegetation management on the River Kennet & Bristol Avon. The Operations Manager would be asked to provide a summary of practices undertaken on this navigation for circulation to attendees.

Eliza Botham  
(Service  
Manager, SW)

David Pearce reported a tree on the River Lee that had been left in the piling whilst everything around it had been cut. Simon asked David to inform British Waterways London (Amanda Dunk) of the exact location so that it could be dealt with or an explanation provided for its existence.

David Pearce /  
Amanda Dunk  
(Marketing  
Manager)

#### **1.2 Pump-out Cards**

The Boaters' Directory should include details of the locations of two different types of electricity bollard issue on the network.

Richard  
Fairhurst

BW reported that the Boaters Directory will include a list of where pump-out cards can be purchased, both from BW outlets and from third party suppliers.

#### **1.3 British Waterways Work Boats**

A discussion took place on visitors using BW work boats to dispose of domestic rubbish and waste.

#### **National Actions**

BW to consider using signs to deter this practice.

Stewart Sim

Staff would be encouraged to promptly clear refuse and other waste materials placed in

boats from usual working practices to further discourage general public use.

#### 1.4 Red Diesel

Users discussed the current threat to the ending of the derogation on red diesel. The joint campaign ("seeing red") was noted.

Scott Deverell (TYHA) to raise with BMF and fellow council members the possibilities for encouraging BMF members to clearly display the type and price of diesel available from member outlets, in response to Tony Hirst's concerns that such information was only available once a boat had moored up to a facility.

Scott Deverell  
(TYHA)

#### 1.5 British Waterways Chairman

Simon informed the group that a new BW Chairman has been appointed (Tony Hales) who will start on 10 July 2005. Further information is available on BW's website.

#### 1.6 British Waterways Advisory Forum (BWAFF)

Simon informed the group that the first meeting will take place 11 May 2005 and invites for this meeting would be issued shortly.

### 2.0 LICENCE EVASION / OVERSTAYING ON MOORINGS

#### 2.1 Licence Holders registered as Continuous Cruisers

A discussion took place on new boats on the network registering as continuous cruisers as a result of a lack of moorings availability.

Simon informed the group that BW had recently implemented a process which automatically identifies boats where licences have not being renewed. This process should allow patrol staff to concentrate on persistent evaders and manage resources effectively.

Overall discussions took place on the methodology for monitoring overstayers and implementing overstaying charges.

Eugene advised that all new licence holders were now asked to declare their home mooring. If they didn't have one they were asked to sign a confirmation that they had received the guidance on continuous cruising and accepted their responsibility to meet the requirements of the British Waterways Act 1995

Eugene reported to the group of those new boats registered to British Waterways last year 7% declared Continuous Cruiser status.

Adrian Stott suggested that BW should concentrate on making enforcement tougher on those overstaying. The group accepted that BW had taken noticeable steps to do this on the western end of the Kennet & Avon, southern Grand Union and Oxford canals.

Simon informed the group of the marina prospectus and explained how it may encourage action to help alleviate the problem of moorings and overstayers.

Sam Clarke reporting that a number of boats on the Grand Union around the Weedon area have not had a mooring since June 2003 and commented that she felt that BW are doing what they can but supported Adrian's view of tougher measures.

#### National Actions

Sam Clarke (APCO) commented that marinas used to receive reports from BW on boats recorded as having a marina home mooring, for checking against the actual situation. This no longer happens. BW would report back to APCO on this matter.

Sally Ash /  
Nick Weston

Tony Hirst requested that BW provide figures on the cost of enforcement under the new procedures compared with that of the old.

### **3.0 VISITOR MOORINGS**

#### **3.1 Historic Boat Harbours**

A handout was provided on a review of the 'Historic Boat Discount'. A discussion then ensued (see Item 3). Eugene reported that John Robinson had been appointed to head up the review of the 'Historic Boat Discount'.

A discussion took place on historic boat harbours (areas where historic boats can moor in interim periods whilst travelling round the network. It was recognised that these arrangements also provided spontaneous attractions for the public.

Eugene informed the group that Historic Boats travelling to Preston Brook canal festival could use Icknield Loop free of charge whilst they were on their way to the festival.

Richard Booth thanked BW for their work towards Historic Boats.

#### **National Actions**

It was suggested that BW should consider separating Historic Boat discount from the licence fees. Adrian Stott was asked to provide his views to Sally Ash.

Adrian Stott /  
Sally Ash

BW to ensure that visitor mooring sites and their status are updated regularly in the Boaters Directory.

Sally Ash

#### **3.2 Time Limited Moorings Proposal**

General discussion took place over when and how time limited moorings should be implemented with particular emphasis on visitor mooring charges at popular mooring sites. (e.g Llangollen).

Debbie Lumb provided an overview on how North West tackle overstaying on visitor moorings.

#### **National Actions**

BW to encourage customers where they cannot meet the 14 day rule to contact the local waterway unit to agree an extended stay. BW would be sympathetic to genuine difficulties.

Sally Ash

It was generally felt that where moorings are to be charged, the first 24hrs should be free as per the licence terms & conditions. *(2.1 The licence does not allow you to moor the Boat in any Waterway except for short periods ancillary to cruising.)*

Service  
Managers

### **4.0 PROVISION OF SLIPWAYS, TURNING AREAS AND TRAILER PARKING**

Discussion took place on slipways and users expressed concern that they were on the decrease. IWA to provide BW with their guidance on design of slipways in CD and paper format to circulate to waterway engineers and David Pearce.

John Baylis /  
Eugene  
Baston

Simon commented that the Marina Prospectus could help to alleviate the problem with potential new marinas incorporating slipways.

Peter Wade in drafting BW's own safety guidance document on slipways, would take account of the IWA document.

## 5.0 **MARINA LOCATIONS**

Discussions took place on marina locations and congestion on the canal system. Simon explained how the marina prospectus would encourage marinas to be developed in the most suitable locations.

Debbie Lumb confirmed David Pearce's assumption that local authorities prefer expansion of current marinas rather than new builds.

It was recognised that old, and now disused, canal arms (particularly in London) can be brought back into use for new moorings.

Stuart Sampson suggested that some of the congestion issues could be due to poor training from boat operators and timeshared boats. Sam Clarke responded that Hire Boat Operators use the Hire Boat Handover Procedures. However, some of the time share boats do not use this procedure.

There was concern at the lack of training for crews of Canaltime Boats and Simon agreed to talk to BWML about user concern for Canaltime at Sawley and asked if Sam (APCO) could take this matter up with BMF.

Simon Salem /  
BWML / Sam  
Clarke (APCO)

Scott Deverell gave feedback from The Yacht Harbour Association on the subject.

### **National Actions**

Users suggested that BW considers talking to property developers to encourage moorings to be provided at canalside developments.

James  
Froomberg

## 6.0 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Discussions took place on problem areas around the North West. Debbie Lumb was able to provide information on what BW is doing to address these issues. Adrian Sains is seeking approval for appointing an anti-social issues officer to work in the North West.

### **National Actions**

BW to consider sensitive reporting to the media on anti-social behaviour particularly to protect work currently under way in local communities.

Vanessa  
Wiggins

## 7.0 **DIMENSIONS**

Users asked that for an update on the 'dimensions' project.

The first stage of the project was to provide maximum dimensions of length 'v' beam, based on Richard Booth's original work is published on BW's website. This document will also be in the Boaters Directory.

Richard Booth explained to the group that the hoped for second stage of the project was identification of pinch-points. Simon responded that this was not a priority at present.

Peter Wade commented that when dimensions have been previously published boaters have tried to get through locks with craft larger than was safely possible.

BW assured the group that where restoration or repair takes place it will be done to the original dimension.

## 8.0 **BOATERS DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Simon apologised for the project running late but stressed the importance of the information

in the guide being correct.

Users requested that paper versions are dated and when amendments to the online directory take place, these are made clear on an update page.

### **National Actions**

Eugene updated the group on the Boaters Directory current position which will go out to the User Groups for comment on accuracy.

Eugene  
Baston

## **9.0 CREATION OF ACCESS ROAD FOR STOPPAGES**

Richard Booth (HNBOC) raised concern that BW was creating expensive access roads for stoppages instead of accessing sites by canal.

Simon assured the group that the engineering teams make a balanced decision on access by road or by water. This included the need for quick emergency access in the event of an incident that affected the safety of staff and/or contractors.

### **National Action**

John Baylis suggested that where access roads are laid down that BW consider using the areas for other uses (e.g car parks). This suggestion would be communicated to Operation Managers.

## **10. DREDGING**

The following areas were discussed:

- Confirmation of BW's ongoing commitment to dredge to 'original profile' in all projects.
- Report on progress towards 'steady state' budgeting with respect to maintenance. BW responded that Jim Stirling is taking the lead on 'steady state' and this will evolve over the next 18 months.
- Discussion of separation of BW's budget of backlog from maintenance dredging and of BW's plans for the eliminating the remaining backlog.

### **Amendment to summary point from notes issued immediately after meeting :**

Simon confirmed that the plans were that by 2012 the whole canal network would be dredged to original profile.

### **To the following Amended note:**

Backlog of maintenance does not include dredging. The commitment is to dredge to the minimum standards as per the waterway standards. This is the 'minimum profile' and not to 'original profile'. A survey of the whole network is due to take place to review the dredging needed as the last review was six years ago. The dredging programme is an ongoing programme and no commitment made to dredge to original profile by any specific time scale (e.g 2012).

- Discussion of the methodology for setting priorities for lengths to be dredged, within the list of lengths on which depths have degraded past the dredging 'trigger' points. BW to circulate breakdown on dredging spend per waterway.



## **13.0 PETER WADE PRESENTATIONS**

### **13.1 AINA Signs Presentation**

At the Boating Issues meeting in May 2004, Peter Wade presented to the group a consultation that the Association of the Inland Navigation Authorities proposed to undertake.

Peter Wade presented to the group the AINA proposed signs documentation.

Overall there were mixed feelings about the AINA signage and the appropriateness of CEVNI.

Further discussions took place on the proliferation of signs and quality of data in notice boards. BW to discuss issues such as these at an upcoming Service Manager's meeting.

#### **National Actions**

Simon asked Peter Wade if AINA would consider extra time for its consultation to allow BW's Boating User Groups to respond. Peter Wade

Adrian Stott to provide full comments on the proposed signage within the AINA consultation. Adrian Stott

John Baylis commented on out of date information in notice boards. Simon responded that these issues will be discussed at a forthcoming Service Manager's meeting. Simon Salem

### **13.2 Visitor Incident Reporting Form Presentation**

At the last Boating Issues meeting, Peter Wade presented to the group the finalised version of the Visitor Incident Report Form which would be distributed and used by visitors to the network.

Peter Wade presented to the group results of the number of Visitor Incident Report Forms returned to BW.

Users were encouraged to promote the use of forms in their respective magazines.

## **14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion on frequency of Boating & Corridor Issues meeting. BW to continue with the current system.

Amanda Strang provided dates for 2006 meetings.

#### **Dates of next meeting and 2006 dates**

Thursday 27 October 2005 – Boating Issues

#### **2006**

##### **Boating Issues**

8 March 2006 – Hatton

4 October 2006 – Hatton

##### **Corridor Issues**

29 March 2006 – Hatton

25 October 2006 - Hatton

Simon closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.