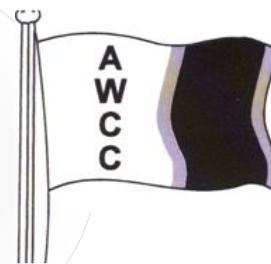


A.W.C.C. ALERT

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



SPRING 2010
EDITION

Alison Smedley,

a member of Stoke-on-Trent Boat Club, was awarded an **MBE** in the New Years Honours list for services to inland waterways. Alison is currently Secretary of the Historic Narrow Boat Owners Club, as well as being Secretary (and a former Chairman) of IWA Stoke-on-Trent Branch. She was also a trustee of IWA for 7 years and work party organiser for the Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust for several years.

Alison lived on a Humber Keel on the River Thames as a child. In '93 she got involved with the IWA and the Waterway Recovery Group where she



met husband, Rupert, owner of historic working boat Ben.

They joined the Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust and Alison became an IWA trustee in 2000.

Alison was extremely surprised to be awarded an MBE, and feels very much that the award is an accolade of the work of everyone involved in the waterways movement, particularly locally in Staffordshire.

2011 CALENDAR

We need some more of your stunning photos by June. Boat club themes - e.g. club houses, club events, two or three club boats cruising together, more than one club meeting up even if by accident, etc. The calendar needs to have a specific AWCC orientation not be just another waterways calendar!

Send to Geoff Ashton: geoff.l.ashton@ntlworld.com
Please contact Geoff regarding picture file-format, etc. (JPG preferred)



Hawne Basin Snowy photo from Erica Martin

In this issue

“The waterways movement is facing a major crossroad. ... Radical change is on the table and it is likely to go further than just BW. If it is to happen, the politicians will have to grip it, but do they have the bottle? Our reaction, I believe, will be vital.”

David Pearce
Chairman's Report:

-see also 'What's Going On?' P15 :)

Chairman's Report

David Pearce



"I believe that the waterways movement is facing a major crossroad, maybe the first really major one since the 50s and 60s, when canal closures were the call of the day and there was little money to do anything. Radical change is on the table and it is likely to go further than just BW. If it is to happen, the politicians will have to grip it as they know things cannot stay as they are, but do they have the bottle? Our reaction, I believe, will be vital."

David

I met the Waterways Minister, Huw Irranca-Davies, at the end of January, together with a selection of heads of other user organisations and representatives from other bodies e.g. EA and BW. He supported the concept of a Third Sector without formally committing to it, but he did understand the vital nature of the BW property portfolio within a trust, apparently safe for the time being. He warned of a tough financial future and Sarah Nason, the head of the DEFRA waterways branch, gave warning about government resources in the future. AWCC will respond at national level to the developing situation, both before and after the forthcoming election. I will list the areas I consider important and where actions will be necessary.

Draft White Paper – Waterways for Everyone

The meeting with the Minister was good natured, despite BWA's anger that the result of the workshops in 2009 had apparently been ignored. A partnership approach with DEFRA was nevertheless considered the way forward and the BWA agreed list of points was presented. In summing up, Clive Henderson (IWA Chairman) identified that the correct balance between boaters and the rest had to be restored. I offered to identify all the good parts of the previous White Paper, still not fully implemented, and subsequently was asked to co-ordinate a working meeting with DEFRA in late March. Hence, our approach was vindicated and demonstrated the advantage of the BWA meeting.

Meeting with the Shadow Waterways Minister – Anne McIntosh MP

There is a substantial Conservative paper on water in general but the only thing "guaranteed" from a future Conservative government is what is put in the manifesto. One of the proposals is to put all water-related bodies in one organization

and certainly all would welcome a coming together of the Navigation Authorities. This is currently AWCC policy, established back in 2001 and even the Thames group now sees this as desirable. The five topics for the meeting are:

- ◆ Our view on Waterways for Everyone;
- ◆ Conservative Focus Group Paper - inc. views on one navigation authority
- ◆ Opinions on BW Third Sector Proposals
- ◆ Broads situation. Navigation, conservation & promotion
- ◆ IWAC: Inland Waterway Advisory Council's role as a statutory organisation.

Setting a New Course – The Compass Report

There will be much to negotiate in the years to come and it will involve us in much work, but here at last is a promise that we, the users, may run the waterways, via a Board of Trustees. All the user organisations must put forward suitably qualified people for this role. We can expect that the Treasury will fight it, but *IF* the major political parties remain behind it, we may just move forward. Hence, all the major user groups now agree that the principle is right, but that much detail remains to be worked out. Nigel Stevens, the BWA Chairman, has now drafted a letter which sums up the mood of this meeting very well. In it he condones the proposals for a Waterway's Trust and the move to the third sector. While emphasising the need for charitable status (rather than dependence on volunteers) and financial safeguards. The meeting was much appreciated by BW and Nigel's letter will take the process forward. Finally on the subject, do not compare too closely with the National Trust, as the likely organisation will inevitably be different and Rail Track may be a better organisational example, but we shall see.

Lessons from the Marsworth Debacle.

I have put forward the view that there should be a process within BW to review all planning applications at senior level before submission and that it could be monitored by BWAFF.. Simon Salem agreed that the Marsworth application was another example of their poor handling and that he would investigate an enhanced process and report.

BW Moorings Consultation.

AWCC have officially responded to BW on this matter in the form of a letter. My thanks to those that contributed, Dick Elder and Paul LeBlique, and particularly to Geoff Ashton for attending all the meetings and providing the drafts.

BW Licence Commission.

There is a need to put forward a specific solution to BW from AWCC. I have suggested that club treasurers could be set up to pay for members' licences on-line, but this may not be practical. Further work is needed and various proposals are being considered.

The Chairman's report on AWCC Internal Matters continues on page 4.

IF YOU ARE CONFUSED BY ALL THESE PAPERS AND REPORTS (and who isn't—apart from David of course!) —See the Editor's review on page 15.

Extract from the
**'British Waterways Mooring Policy Consultations 2009
– Response from AWCC'**

“This response does not provide answers to each individual question on the response form because AWCC was a major contributor to the revised paper now under consultation. We are content with much of the document. We are particularly keen to be involved in the proposed local pilot studies, which are a welcome endorsement of our view that local mooring challenges should be dealt with locally within a broad national framework rather than under some 'one size fits all' policy previously suggested. Local discussion should cover the question of achieving an appropriate balance between use of visitor moorings for accommodating continuous cruisers in winter and meeting local needs for boaters still cruising.”

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Chairman's Report cont.

AWCC Internal Matters.

The Constitution Sub-Group. Paul LeBlique is chairing the group and his report is below. From a personal point of view, I would like to see at least two things in the revised document:

- ◆ That the constitution of the National Exec. (NEC) clearly identifies roles and responsibilities and equips us for the considerable challenges of the brave new world, of waterways;
- ◆ That all our retiring NEC executive members are properly honoured and respected for their past contributions and allowed to continue to participate and contribute where they are able and desire to do so.

Royal Yachting Assoc. I have received a proposal from Assoc. of Thames Yacht Clubs about an enhanced training scheme for Thames users. My initial response is that if something extra is needed, it should be included in the current RYA courses. I believe that this is also the IWA view. My thanks to Andrew for looking at this one in detail. I am of the firm belief that AWCC should affiliate to RYA (as well as IWA) but the pending Constitution discussions may need to be resolved first.

Malcolm Wood is in the process of selling his boat and would like to consider his future position with AWCC National Exec. He was co-opted a year ago in order to continue to attend the BSS Advisory Committee for us, but feels that without a boat, he has less right to speak on such matters. He will continue until such time as we arrange for another representative. May I express my thanks for all that Malcolm has done over many years. Keith Noble is also stepping down and a message from him appears on P7.

David

CONSTITUTION REVISION GROUP

Paul Le Blique, Dick Elder, Geoff Ashton, David Pearce

The group met prior to Christmas to create a work programme aimed at ratifying a revised document at the National AGM 2011. To meet this date a number of revision steps will be presented the NEC and regions for consideration throughout the programme.

The current constitution is felt to be lacking in clarity and may not be appropriate to AWCC in today's climate. It is intended that revision documents will be signed off as the programme develops. This note is offered as an introduction to the topics of the programme.

TIMELINES:

The following dates for 2010/11 were chosen to ensure a proper and informed development of the task:

March: - Briefing Paper on group activities to be presented at National AGM 2010.

May: - Discussion Draft to be circulated to Regions followed by a Working Draft by September.

Oct (end): - Final date for comment.

Early 2011: Final revision for approval at National AGM

REVISED CONSTITUTION

General topics identified were the aims, objectives and management of the organization, types of membership and qualifications, rights and privileges, and the responsibilities of the NEC and Regions.

VOTING RIGHTS

It was felt that the weight of voting must ensure that the NEC correctly represents club members. There may be advantages to have VP's linked to regions and having voting powers on behalf of their adopted region. The VP knowledge and experience base could be utilized to regional benefit.

REGIONS

Should remain undefined in area with the NEC empowered to ensure fair balance and coverage. The position of regions within the national constitution should be clarified along with legal and financial responsibilities. An additional post could be created with responsibility for national and owner's clubs. Regional Chairmen should become full members of the NEC.

AFFILIATIONS

Aspects of Affiliation such as Umbrella Organizations, reciprocal mooring agreements and potential affects on subscription levels will need to be reconsidered further.

Paul Le Blique

From our National Officers



Technical Report

Andrew Phasey

BSS Technical Committee met at Hatton in December
Agenda items of interest:

Flame supervision devices (FSD).

The current examination checking procedure (ECP) demands examiners confirm the presence of FSD on LPG and liquid fuelled appliances that require them. BSS have drawn-up a procedure to determine effectiveness which is now undergoing testing with external consultants.

It is worth noting that all burners and pilot lights on LPG appliances installed since Jan 2000 must be fitted with FSD. This is not appreciated by all owners fitting their own appliances and on more than one occasion I have asked owners to replace hobs/ovens.

Bubble tester procedure.

Alde produce a bubble tester for use in LPG installations. Circa 300 per month are purchased by boat and caravan owners in the UK. The manufacturers' instructions for use and the ECP promote the depression of the button on the tester for at least a 10 second period. If bubbles do not appear in the fluid chamber during the period, the installation is gas tight. Many examiners have queried whether this test period should be longer

Alde International (UK) Ltd., agree that a longer test period may be warranted on boat installations. Both the TC chair and BSS Manager are working towards an early resolution of this issue. Examiners are aware of this and use the tester .

Exhaust lagging.

I reported on this issue in Nov 08. Since then a revised ECP has been drafted by BSS and a further revision is being worked on.

Vegetable oil fuel.

Risks associated with the use of vegetable oil as fuel for heating or propulsion is being assessed by BSS.

CO KILLER COOKERS

Please follow the link to narrowboatworld.com from the awcc.org website to learn the latest news regarding a range of cookers that have been found to have the potential to emit Carbon Monoxide if used with the grill door closed. - Details on back page

Examination Checking Procedure (ECP) review.

A review of ECPs is underway, the current version being almost 5-years old. The aim is to ensure consistency of application by examiners, and only essential changes will be made. The full list of proposals will be available to BSS committees categorized as "essential" and "desirable." It is anticipated that the process will be completed by April

Electrical hazards presented by 230v AC systems.

Tony Plews is being commissioned by BSS to produce a report for the April 2010 meeting concerning the nature of electrical hazards presented by 230v AC systems on boats. This work has, in some measure, been brought about by examiners reporting various unsafe practices seen on boats. Examples include: cables from inverter AC outputs with live 13 amp square plugs, the ability to use multiple shore power supplies (un-switched bow and stern inputs) at the same time, the ability to use inverter and shore power supplies at the same time, and many more.

EU restrictions on sulphur in marine fuels.

Sulphur-free gas oil will have to be supplied to inland waterway craft from the end of 2010. This will mean that red diesel outlets will be getting sulphur-free gas oil, or alternatively, road fuel with up to 7% bio-fuel content.

The effects on fuel system components is not yet clear however it is known that bio-fuels have a detrimental effect on rubber seals. The effect on fuel hoses is unclear but the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is looking at potential effects. Most engine makers are indicating that they do not envisage problems with diesel engines less than 10 years old.

British Standards Institute (BSI) Code of Practice Solid Fuel Stove Installation.

The Code has not been published. The delay being brought about by a member of BSI Solid Fuel Committee raising last minute comments. It is anticipated that the Code will be published early 2010.

BSS Policy Guidance to Examiners.

BSS have issued policy guidance regarding the allowable time period between an initial BSS examination and subsequent re-examination. The short answer is 3 months, though various conditions need to be met.

Andrew

Communications

Brian Rich



Regional Club Meetings

I was able to attend a Midland region meeting at Stafford Boat Club on 10th October to discuss progress with managing the Club information through a single on-line database and also making the Handbook information available on-line via the AWCC website. The meeting seemed to be in favour of this approach and keen to see it happen.

I hope to attend meetings in the Northwest, South East and London regions in the near future.

AWCC Website

I have added two new areas onto the AWCC website. A separate ALERT page has been added to the top level of the website. This page contains PDF versions of ALERT which can be readily downloaded and printed off by any Club member with internet access. The most recent version of ALERT will always be at the top of the page, with previous editions below. A brief description of the articles contained in ALERT is also provided for reference.

A members-only area has also been added to the website, although this is not currently visible to casual visitors – this area will only be accessible by logging in. It is intended to hold the latest versions of the handbook and handbook pages as PDF files, so the logged in users can download these as desired. It may also hold AWCC specific information at some point in the future. The main issues I am working on are a way of keeping the pages up to date automatically and managing a sign-up process so Clubs and perhaps Club members are allocated a login. The plan is to have this facility available beginning 2010.

A recent glitch in the internal file storage on the website has caused a number of images on the site to show up with broken links – these will be repaired in due course.

ALERT distribution

With the Post Office workers dispute, the last version of ALERT was published on the website prior to it being distributed in printed form. We asked regional secretaries to forward a message to all Club secretaries in their region to say that ALERT was available on the AWCC website and this seems to have met with a degree of

enthusiasm. I am now considering how to extend the facility to ensure all Clubs who are not currently in one of the regions are fully informed. Once this is in place, we can seriously consider if we can reduce the number of printed copies we need to send out.

Club Information Database

All Regional Secretaries have been given access to the new online database and instructions on how to update the information it contains. As a result of this, a significant number of changes have been made to the database and the feedback so far appears to be very positive. The intention is to keep the database as up to date as possible in 2010, but this largely depends on getting regional and Club secretaries to remain engaged and confident with the process. Work is ongoing with regard the Handbook on-line and loose-leaf paper copies

Club Finder

I hope to add some additional information (maintainable by Club secretaries) to the Club database so that the physical locations of Clubs can be made available on Club finder maps. These will be available in the members only pages on the website, where Clubs have indicated they are willing to allow this on the forms circulated last year – although a significant number were not returned – almost certainly because they didn't get to the Club in the first place.

Club of the Month

Hopefully, there should a Club of the month in March 2010—visit the website to see who it is!

Brian Rich

www.awcc.org.uk

Treasurer
Geoff Ashton



I have not had much in the way of 2010 subs yet.

I have prepared the draft accounts for 2009 - Roger will have examined then by the AGM as usual. Despite the projected deficit in November, we should more than break even when all invoices paid, largely due to the sale of calendars.

Geoff



QuarterMaster Terence Balchin

Calendar Sales

Calendar sales were very successful - 269 ordered and sold.

Top selling regions: Midlands 76, London 50, South-East 49, North-West 48, North-East 30.

In view of various suggestions from clubs, I propose a slightly different format for 2011, one along the lines of A4 size. This will allow a larger picture and also calendars can be posted large letter rather than packet rate. Cost of production should not be increased other than any increase added by the printer. New pictures needed for 2011 calendar—see front page ad.

Burgees

Stocks of burgees are to be replenished for the AGM. -Initial retail estimate was considered too high and alternatives are being sought

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from Mid-March—order
your copies now for
collection at the AGM!**

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Terence Balchin:**

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Handbooks

Production of the printed copy of the 2010 handbook will be started very soon. All updated information for this print run will be taken from the National Database. The Region Secretaries have been able for the first time to input directly into the database, which should minimise errors. I wish to pass on my thanks to both Brian and the Region Secretaries for their work in the last few months making this update run very smoothly. Brian has achieved a great deal despite his heavy work load, Thank you Brian.

Terence

A Happy New Year to everybody!

However it will be without me. There are a number of reasons. which include the fact that we no longer have a share in the family boat and time spent on it is down to a couple of days a year. This does not give me a view of what is happening on our waterways

There is also a feeling of disappointment. Resistance to change does not help the bigger picture and I strongly believe that it is in the interest of the canals for AWCC to have affiliates as there is the need for a stronger voice to achieve a stable and sufficiently funded national network.

So, my friends, it is goodbye after 28 years in your company. I will still have a waterway connection as I have been co-opted onto Sale Cruising Club committee as Safety Officer and thus will learn of the fortunes of AWCC. Wishing you all good cruising in 2010 and in the years to come.

Keith M Noble

AWCC members expressed appreciation of the many years service and considerable contribution Keith has given to the Waterways and the to AWCC. All agreed Keith's knowledge, wisdom and wit would be greatly missed.

ALERT will also be looking for a new Editor as I will be standing down as Editor after a mere 2 years.

When time permits, between working full-time, personal, family and local boat-club commitments, I hope to return to give some more time to AWCC .

Thanks to all those that have contributed to ALETRT in the past 2 years.

Sally

From our Regions



Midland

Graham Myatt

Poor maintenance strikes again. A major breach occurred in November 2009 approx. half a mile from the terminus of the Leek branch of the Caldon (-photo below by Julie Arnold, Waterway Images)

There was a hole in the towpath about 30 feet wide and 12 feet deep and a section of canal bed



was also swept away. It was 4 hours before BW had a report as it happened at 01.30. First repair estimates are £500,000 and 4 months. Repair is essential as Rudyard Reservoir has been cut off and the water is needed to supply the T&M (the reason the Leek arm is there in the first place).

User Group meetings Autumn 2009: – W&BC under the old setup and a combined West Midlands / Central Shires one under the new setup. Both the latter are based at Fazeley but are planning separate meeting in the future. The reorganisation was said to be giving a net reduction of 113 staff. Information and contact details were distributed

The new e-bay style mooring auction was announced. Facilities for those not on computer will be available.

At the Fazeley meeting the enforcement team were roundly criticised for allowing a boat to remain on the visitor moorings right opposite the BW office at Fazeley for 18 months.

The 'Environment Rangers' were discussed at Fazeley as the subject had been brought up again at the October Midlands meeting. BW stated that this group have no jurisdiction over canal users. Any problems should be reported to BW.

At the W&BC meeting we had a detailed presentation about the repairs to the Shroppie breach.

The 'new' buffering at Radford bridge on the S&W which has been a major pinch-point is presently are being sorted.

The planned Sawley Weir hydro scheme on the Trent is giving rise to concerns locally as water levels above the weir will be raised. It seems dependant on EA.

Midlands AWCC Meeting

14 clubs were represented at our January meeting which considering the weather was excellent.

Database/Handbook. Secretary Erica Martin fully explained the situation with the new arrangements and seemed to allay fears about security. Cooperation from the clubs has mostly been excellent.

Mooring Proposals. Information on the BW mooring proposals was sent to all clubs with guidance on responding to them. Midlands Region has responded to both following full discussion at our January Meeting.

Marsworth Planning Application. Midlands sent in objections and was pleased to receive notice of their withdrawal. I look forward to seeing the modified application.

Licensing Consultation Clubs have also been asked to respond to this. Our main objections are :-

- 1 that individuals will have reduced or no "prompt payment discount"
- 2 that clubs acting as agents will have reduced or no commission
- 3 that some clubs will have to change their rules to enable members to get the "online discount".

BW 'Customer Service Standards Advisory Panel' (CSSAP) Meeting:

Lock length. In some locks where the cill is U-shaped, the cill markings have been put in the wrong place. This has effectively shortened the lock, in some cases making it impossible to fit a full length boat between the cill markings and the bottom gates. BW are proposing to put another set of markings stating "max" in red. They will also inform those people with full length boats what this means.

BW Boaters Handbook is to be updated.

Lock gate fendering All bottom gates will be risk assessed for possibility of boats being 'hung up'. BW put the approx. cost of correcting at £500,000 with a timescale completion by Easter 2011.

Towpath Surfaces. BW is putting a draft document together on principles of towpath surfacing.

New Year's Honour

Alison Smedley, a member of Stoke-on-Trent BC, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours for her work on behalf of Britain's waterways. Alison is active in the local CUCT, IWA and WRG. See front cover article.

Graham

From the Alert Editor:

Apologies for any omissions or errors in the Family Tree published in the last issue of Alert. A corrected list from Graham appears opposite.

Sally Moore

M Ashby Canal Association
I Ash Tree Boat Club
D Black Buoy Cruising Club
L Boaters Christian Fellowship
A Coombeswood Canal Trust
N Coventry Canal Society
D Coventry Cruising Club
Z Derby Motor Boat Club Limited
C Erewash Canal Pres. & Dev. Assoc.
S Fradley Junction Cruising Club
B Friendship Cruising club
S Goldsbrough Boat Owners Club
S Hinckley Boat Club
S Lichfield Cruising Club
S Longwood Boat Club
S Mid Warwickshire Yacht Club
S Norbury Cruising Club
S Nottingham Yacht Club
S Saul Junction Boat Owners Club Ltd
S Sea Otter Owners Club
S Soar Boating Club
S Stafford Boat Club
S Stoke on Trent Boat Club
S Stourbridge Navigation Trust Ltd
S Swarkestone Boat Club
S Tamworth Cruising Club
S Waterways Recovery Group
S Wolverhampton Boat Club

Going, going, gone

Past Commodore, Derek Higgins, offered Stoke on Trent Boat Club a large collection of books, mainly on boating and canals, but also a selection of 'local interest' publications. At a book auction in January, auctioneers - Commodore Jason Burnham and Secretary Steve Condliffe pictured below - demonstrated hidden talents as a double-act in their efforts to persuade money from members' pockets. Bidding was lively on most items, with Ken Marek parting with a record amount for a superb volume of old photographs. At the interval, an excellent ploughman's supper



was interrupted by the arrival of Police at the clubhouse. Earlier that evening, a gang had raided Morrison's in nearby Leek, getting away with a large consignment of cigarettes. Some of the gang made their get-away by car - driving towards the club, they were spotted, and abandoned the vehicle, weapons and cigarettes then 'legging it' [villain speak not boater speak!]. The Police thought they might have tried to escape through the club grounds and wanted to search everywhere, with dog handlers. Members were told to stay in the clubhouse until advised it was safe. The Police checked the grounds, then checked boats for any signs of damage or hidden miscreants, but none were found. Exciting stuff.

Nearly £250 was raised from the auction which has been used to purchase a new sound system for the clubhouse.

Erica Martin

Footnote:: One villain was apprehended, and appeared in court. A lady's car was damaged in the chase, and another lady was bitten by a Police dog - neither being members of SOTBC.



South East *Paul LeBlique & Jenny Sullivan*

Problems created by deficiencies in funding are well known but we feel that EA and BW managed their budgets well in SE Region in 2009. BW responded well to requests from users and group meetings are much improved. EA have completed real improvements, particularly on the Nene, although there remains much to do. There are two regional projects, which challenge the current gloomy trend; the new marina at Northampton and the new base for Aylesbury Canal Society.

Northampton Marina

The riverfront at Becketts Park was, in Edwardian times, a vibrant leisure area for the town's residents. Time, flood prevention schemes and apathy have seen the area deteriorate until there is currently no reason to visit the place.

That is about to change with the granting, by Northampton County Council, of a £2M funding package for a new 8-berth marina and boating centre in the park. Planning was submitted last September with the aim of completion in March 2011. EA is responsible for design, construction and operating the marina, which will be ideally placed with access from the River Nene and the Grand Union.

Aylesbury Basin

The redevelopment of the town basin continues at a slow pace with many outstanding details to be finalised. The good news is that the future for the Canal Society appears secure with the provision of a new mooring at Circus Field, a site situated one mile and a couple of locks from the basin. This move was prompted when the Local Council, having bought much of the land surrounding the basin from BW, were committed to provide alternative facilities for the society.

The new site should provide an appropriate and secure future for the society.

The old canal basin is a major cause of concern to the local boating community. The society has, for many years been the watchful eye and welcoming party for boating visitors. It remains unclear how this will be provided following the move. Region intends to take this concern to BW and the Local Council.

Paul Le Blique
Region Secretary 2009

Changes to SE Region Committee. John Brown has been voted to replace Paul Le Blique as Regional Chairman. Because John's knowledge of BW Waterways is limited mostly to his expertise on rivers, it was decided that the role would be a shared one. Ralph Sullivan and myself will attend NEC Meetings and contribute

SE Region has a new Chair

in the person of John Brown.

John is an ex-commodore of Northampton Boat Club and currently heads up ANRC. He will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge of EA Local Management and working practice to the NEC. The post of Vice-Chairman, vacated by John will be confirmed at the next SE Region meeting early in March.

reports. Ralph Sullivan has put himself forward for Vice Chairman and at the next regional meeting we hope to vote him into that role.

Social Outing

A day's cruise on the River Nene has been

booked for 24th April for region reps on board the trip boat 'Crusader' belonging to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Last year we visited Foxton, being a canal based venue, so we thought it would be good to enjoy a river based activity this year. We hope that members of the Association of Nene River Clubs committee will be able to join us.

Marsworth Development The developer has withdrawn the current application in the light of fierce and widespread condemnation of the proposals. This development created strong feeling well beyond the local area, not only as it was felt to be totally inappropriate for the site but also for the lack of a firm commitment to replacement sanitary services. The thought is that the developer will return with revised proposals. The rep. from Dunstable and District Boat Club said that members of the club make use of the facilities at the site and that if they were moved to the location proposed it could create difficulties not only for visiting boaters but also for long term moorers nearby.

BW Volunteer Proposals. This topic was discussed at the SE Region meeting held Jan 2010 with particular emphasis on AWCC involvement in the creation and assessment of BW strategy and consultation papers. Region was very supportive of any initiative that involved the association in such venture. It was felt to be good for AWCC and BW alike to have

user input at all stages of implementation. It was accepted that the association would need to be mindful of the potential work involved.

Crick Boat Show. It is hoped that members of the NEC would be willing to man the stand at the show along with volunteers from SE Region.

East Northamptonshire Tourism Strategy.2010-2015. This is a draft document which could have far reaching as well as positive implications for the River Nene and the clubs based there. The Council recognises 'the potential for tourism within the local economy and the role in supporting the well-being of our communities'. It intends to investigate ways that increased leisure use of the River Nene and development of existing and new active leisure centres can benefit the area, this would happen in conjunction with the EA. Private sector companies are seeking to develop marina potential within the district.

At the committee meeting it was suggested that this strategy could be some encouragement towards the continued progress on the Bedford/Milton Keynes Link to broaden cruising potential for a much wider area. The complete document can be downloaded from www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/tourismstrategy.

EA Workshop: 'Enjoying Water in the Midlands'. John Brown will be participating in the workshop based in Northampton in February, representing both the AWCC and the ANRC. The purpose of the workshop is to 'develop a plan that sets out where new or improved water related sport and recreation opportunities can be best placed to deliver the greatest benefits to the region, and the people who live there'. This has definite links to the aforementioned Tourism Strategy.

Jenny Sullivan
SE Region Secretary 2010.

CRICK BOAT SHOW

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The dates for your diaries for 2010 will be 29-31 May. SE Region will organise the AWCC stand as before. We will be calling for volunteers to man the stand. In 2009 the National Exec. was well represented which was appreciated by club members and visitors alike. We aim to have an Exec. member on the stand throughout the day, but need help from local club members. We also need lots of visitors so put that date in your diary!

Best wishes, Paul LeBlique (SE Region)

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London
Trevor Gillam

I.W.A.

I attended the launch meeting for the Beale Park Festival to be held 27th – 30th August 2010, where AWCC will have a stall.

A.T.Y.C.

The meeting (October 2009) reported an increase in visitor numbers and also new craft registrations this together with new hire bases is good news for the Thames. Chris Turner Stressed that all visitors should be welcomed to the river. Richmond Lock costs £400,000 per year a toll of £5 to use it will be made from January 2010. Weybridge Mariners have rebuilt their clubhouse after the disastrous fire, they have asked for donations of club burgees to hang in the clubhouse.

NINF October 2009 meeting

NABO have over 400 replies to their survey on poor maintenance on the system. Many boats are using moorings on the K&A as a base for work. They are not making a progressive journey so are not continuous cruisers. The police liaison officer for the Surrey stretch of the Thames has been assigned other duties. E.A. signage to have national grid reference—considered a very good idea. A boat at Denver CC caught fire and within 8 minutes four boats were destroyed, ten fire appliances at the scene. A narrowboat on the Trent tangled with a gravel barge and capsized, some new boaters don't seem to understand the rules of navigation, the skippers guide can be downloaded.

Thames estuary 2100

The project commenced in 2001 to investigate tidal and flood risk management the best estimate for sea level rise by 2100 is 1 metre. The project

MOORINGS AVAILABLE

Taverners Boat Club, a small, friendly club situated on the Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire has mooring space available for boats up to 45 foot in length.

Applicants should contact the club secretary, Chris Taylor - email:

Christian.taylor@ntworld.com.

however will cope with 2.7m and will be split into three phases.

1. Management of the existing flood plains (£1.5 bn).
2. Maintain and replace existing defences (£1.8 bn).
3. Build new barrier downstream of existing one. This will be linked to a power generation scheme. £(6.7 bn)

Olympic Legacy Plan

- ◆ Find suitable sites for freight depots along the Lee and near the Olympic park.
- ◆ Install charging for electric boats
- ◆ Landscaping at the Powerday site on the Paddington arm to be chased

The Mayor was disappointed that the diagram of The River Thames was not on the new underground map.

Sad news

Lastly I am very sorry to report that Giles Higgitt who was the skipper of The Pirate Princess since 1983 has died. Giles did an enormous amount of work to introduce young people to our waterways he will be greatly missed at the Pirate Castle.

Trevor

Visit the AWCC stand at the
**IWA National
Festival/ Boat Show**
28 August 2010 - 30 August 2010
Beale Park, Reading, Berkshire

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

To celebrate the centenary of Tom Rolt's birth (co-founder of the IWA), The IWA will be holding their 2010 festival in his honour.

The event is to be opened by Timothy West, the well known actor who is also a great waterways supporter.

AWCC will be there so come & say hello!



**North East
Ken Wild**

Very little to report because NE Region meeting does not take place until 14th Feb at South Yorkshire Boat Club.

I have reluctantly decided that I will have to stand down from the NE Region Chairman Job (That is of course providing we can get someone to take over). My reasons for standing down are because I am Secretary to my Boat Club, I am involved in a number of other voluntary organisations and I also have a big involvement with Lions Clubs International. when I will be a Vice District Governor next year.

With regard to the boating situation we have a problem on the Aire & Calder navigation with continuing subsidence along the canal from Heck Bridge to the section above Whitley Lock caused by recent mining operations. The Air Draft for the road bridge at Heck is down to 3.3M and commercial craft are having problems getting under the bridge. There is a possibility that BW may have to reduce the depth of water which in turn will mean that the commercials will have to reduce their load capacity.

I have recently had an e-mail from IWA minute Secretary, Ian Moore, informing me that ISIS the developer working within the Leeds Canal basin for boat owners to visit the Basin next week and also during the first week in March to be part of

the publicity surrounding the re-opening of the basin ISIS have offered to pay expenses for boats taking part, we have publicised this to our local clubs.

Our clubs are responding to the request by BW for comments on the Mooring review and also about the possible loss of income due to the possible removal of commission for clubs collecting licence fees for BW.

Within the my own Club we have briefly discussed the suggestions put out by Paul Le Blique and his sub committee looking at the constitution, we are reserving our comments until we see exactly what comes out in the final discussion paper. We would remind the executive that we in the North East consider that the region representatives should not be in the minority but the representatives from the regions being at least equal in numbers to the elected membership of the executive and the Chair having a casting vote.

Ken

John Maynard, one of the founders of the Huddersfield Canal Society, has died.

Follow link for more information:
<http://waterwaynews.blogspot.com/2010/01/hcs-founder-john-maynard-dies.htm>

**CHESTERFIELD CANAL
FESTIVAL**

**17/18 July 2010 at Worksop
Rugby Club, Morse Lock, off
A57**

Part of Bassetlaw Arts Fortnight. Loads of interesting exhibitions and continuous eye-catching performances as well as the usual stalls, rides, boats and trips, etc.

Rod Auton

Chesterfield Canal Trust / Partnership
For further information, please email
rod@uton.org

**HUDDERSFIELD NARROW
CANAL FESTIVAL**

Frenches Wharf Marina,
Greenfield, Saddleworth
MAY 28th–30th

This is a very popular weekend incorporating the brass bands on Whit Friday evening and the beer walk on Saturday (a charitable event) .

Moorings available at the marina (which has the new Kingfisher pub on-site). Contact John Lund: telephone; (0161) 652 6331
Email: lund637@btinternet.com



North West *Roland Dotchin*

The Region has been in discussion with BW and the Bridgewater canal Company over a number of issues.

Liverpool Link

BW have agreed to raise the daily limit to 8 craft and are sympathetic to facilitating organised club cruises to the Link.

Lancaster Canal – security fobs to access the Sanitary Stations.

This year to avoid visitors having to pay £20 for a special security fob to access the facilities on the Lancaster, BW will be for this coming season, de-activating the system.

Bridgewater Canal.

United Utilities are planning to put a new gas main across the canal north of Manchester which might mean the closure of the canal during the ‘season’. We are supporting the Bridgewater Canal Co in their efforts to minimise disruption to boaters by either finding alternative engineering solutions or delaying the work until next late autumn. We are watching with interest Salford City Council’s vision for upgrading the canal corridor through their area.

Marple service station – closure.

Like the situation at Marsworth, we continue to object to the non replacement of the facilities on this important part of the Cheshire Ring.

Runcorn Locks Restoration Society

We continue to support the aspirations of the society to restore the locks down to the Manchester Ship Canal to create another cruising ring which could come about when the new Mersey crossing gets the go-ahead and the access roads to the current bridge are re-aligned.

Bridgewater Canal Regeneration.

Salford Local Authority are planning a multi million pound regeneration of a 5 mile stretch of their Bridgewater Canal Corridor, with a new visitor centre at the Historic Barton Swing Bridge and other major improvements. Good news, as it also gives an example to other Local Authorities to take an interest in their Canal corridors

Roland

Santa Visits Runcorn.

Sunday 6th December 2009.

In spite of his tremendous work load Santa found time to make it to the Waterloo Hotel at Runcorn “top locks” onboard narrow boat “Laughing Tam”.



Bringing His own sensational blaze of

light Santa was greeted with an amazing show of dazzling kaleidoscopic colours from the lights and fireworks put on by “Top Locks Les’s” team of mature youngsters!

With the kiddies waiting on the quay with anticipation it was possible to feel the excitement in the air. The “Laughing Tam” was followed by, with horns blaring, more narrow boats all decked out in festive seasonal lights and decorations.

Somehow Santa, who was accompanied by the prettiest Angels you have ever seen, managed to find presents for all the children. He was rewarded with mince pies and hot mulled wine, which he never seems to tire of.

The whole evening was a terrific credit to the Landlady of the “ Waterloo ” and all the efforts of the members Bridgewater Motor Boat Club.

Doug “Wild 1” Wildman.

This years event was in aid of the Clare House Children’s Hospice

**Hilary Foster,
Bridgewater Motor Boat Club**

WHAT'S GOING ON?

A personal 'tongue-in-cheek' review by the Editor.

BW proposed their **20/20 vision** last year and are now "setting a new course" (set out in their '**Compass Report**') which basically involves BW becoming a "third sector" (ie not under state control) charity run by volunteers. This will allow them to borrow money to put things right (a strategy that the government - having advised Joe Public not to buy on credit they can't repay - has used to give us the biggest deficit in years that we will be paying for the rest of our lives!)

Meanwhile the government (ie. DEFRA) are prosing "**Waterways for Everyone**" (formerly "Waterways for Tomorrow") in the form of a draft **White paper** where boaters are marginalised in preference to 'the wider public'. They are promising to be 'supportive' of BW, but there is little or no funding.

BW meanwhile are attempting to carry on with their heads above water :)

- ◆ They are reviewing their **mooring policy** to deal with boaters flouting the rules.
- ◆ They are revising their **License renewals** to encourage speedy renewals, but with reduced prompt payment and commission. (More money from the marginalised users!)
- ◆ They managed to hang onto their assets and are selling them where possible to raise much needed cash. Planning permission for developments at **Marsworth** though were not well thought through and have been withdrawn.

Despite all this the Boaters and canal enthusiasts in AWCC continue to love and cherish the waterways and even remain enthusiastic in the face of such adversity. A little sunshine on the troubled waters makes them look as attractive as ever and the wildlife at least seem unconcerned!

Sally

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Association of
Waterways Cruising
Clubs

National Annual
General Meeting

STAFFORD BOAT
CLUB

13th MARCH 2010
11 o'clock

Club delegates required.
Please book lunches in
advance by 7th March.
Tel 0121 705 0808.

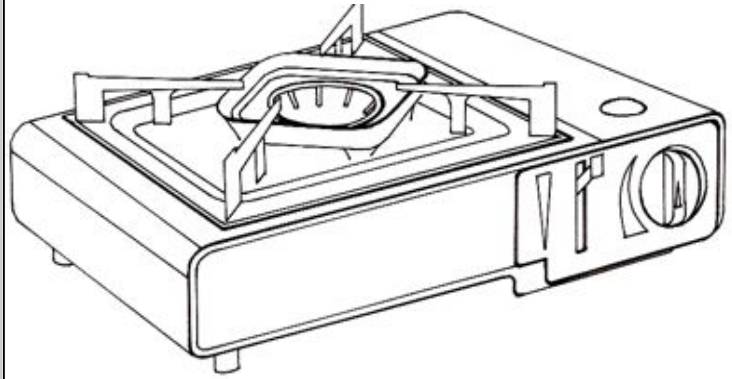
SPEAKER:
Caroline Killeavey,
Head of Customer
Relations, British
Waterways.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

CARBON MONOXIDE KILLER COOKERS

Please follow the link to narrowboatworld.com from the awcc.org website to learn the latest news regarding a range of cookers that have been found to have the potential to emit Carbon Monoxide if used with the grill door closed.

Andrew, Technical Officer



NEAR MISS INCIDENTS

BW have requested that people report "near misses" to them, preferably using the incident forms which they supply.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: 112

It was again stressed that in an emergency ring 112 not 999 as this allows the emergency services to locate your call position. BW is looking at other electronic location possibilities.

(Graham Myatt, Customer Service Standards rep)

New Alert Editor needed!

Please send
nominations to secretary
Ann Banks by the end of
February.

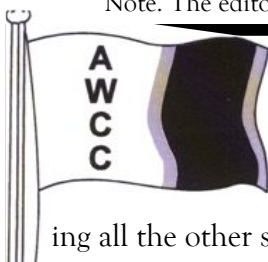
This issue of AWCC Alert was produced by Sally Moore of South Pennine Boat Club.

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to : Alert@awcc.org.uk

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



waterways.

What is the mission of the AWCC?

AWCC represent 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

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AWCC, The Yacht Basin, Camley Street, London NW1 OPL.

<http://www.awcc.org.uk>