

A.W.C.C. ALERT

Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs

www.AWCC.org.uk



SPRING 2012
EDITION

Calling All Boaters – Use Your Vote

IN THE
Canal & River Trust Election!



AWCC is pleased to announce that DAVID PEARCE, their former National Chairman, will be the AWCC nominee for the CRT Council.

David has many years of experience negotiating for boaters as a member of the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs, National Executive Committee,

He was a founder member of the British Waterways Advisory Forum and has worked hard over 3 years with BWAFF members to establish the Trust proposals,

He has a background as a Chartered Engineer and knows how to handle politicians!

David says – “I am committed to making CRT thrive both nationally and locally in protecting and improving our waterways, with emphasis on navigation through a fully interconnected network. Together, we will make CRT a success.” For more details, about David and the elections visit www.awcc.org.uk

BOATING BUSINESS VOTES Clubs that are enfranchised and have voting rights in the business section of the elections are asked to seriously consider supporting Nigel Stevens of Shire Cruisers based in Sowerby Bridge. The AWCC believes that Nigel has the relevant qualities & experience to support boating interests into the future of the Canal & River Trust.

This newsletter is available online and in print. It is aimed at AWCC members as well as the wider boating and water related community.

The AWCC is an association run by volunteers, which fosters links between member boating organisations and represents their interests in consultations and negotiations.

To sign up for electronic receipt of Alert please go to page 10 for instructions

Please send your pictures & accounts of club events for inclusion in Alert by email to the editor <http://awcc.org.uk/contact-us/> Details of upcoming events open to members of the AWCC may also be publicised in Alert and at www.awcc.org.uk



The National Executive needs help from you

Do you have

Time to spare? Enthusiasm?

A willingness to help take the AWCC forward?

Experience/skills to help in the following areas?

1. ALERT We need a new editor for our newsletter. Could it be you?

Are you organised? Can you pull together ideas sent in by clubs and the executive?

You won't be alone- help will be at hand to make Alert a must-read publication.

We also need a keen writer, with flair. To create articles ; contact anyone and everyone who loves boating and scour the web for interesting ideas. Help available to get you up and running.

2. COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER Got good ICT skills? Love your keyboard? Then why not be our Communications Officer and update and maintain our database of member clubs.

3. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Got some time on your hands? Good at talking to people?

Then why not be our Development Officer, and make positive relationships with boat suppliers and services; get us some good deals and find some new and exciting ways to generate income for the AWCC.

If you would like to discuss any of these roles please contact AWCC Chairman
Paul le Blique

email: chairman@awcc.org.uk



I write this as the boating population has the best opportunity in history to influence how our waterways are managed. The creation of the Canal and River Trust will give those who are successful in the election for Council a responsibility to protect and improve the largest living heritage site in the land. Navigation is at the core of the waterways and must be the driver from which all other uses are derived. My hope is that all who wish to go boating will find a route that suites their aspirations. It is particularly important to enable the young to become the boaters of tomorrow and this is where AWCC clubs have a part to play. Clubs are very special, often having second and third generation members in their ranks and are places where families can safely share the enjoyment of the canals and rivers which will soon be held in trust for the future. The terms that have been achieved for the trust exceed what we could have hoped for by some margin. AWCC has played its part in that success but we must congratulate BW, Transition Trustees and DEFRA for giving CRT a superb opportunity to carry our waterways into the future.



Our own David Pearce, as I am sure you are aware, is standing for election to the CRT Council and I urge all members to do their bit by voting for David. We know from experience that David will champion our waterways and ensure they are available for all to enjoy.

AWCC needs additional help in order to fulfil the requirements of a large, national association; you will find details elsewhere in this edition of ALERT. Please consider if you have time and enthusiasm to fill these posts.

The next big event for AWCC is the National AGM to be held at Stafford Boat Club on March 17th. We are privileged to have Lynn Berry from the CRT Transition Trustees and Ruth Ruderham who is BW Head of Fundraising with us to give an after-lunch presentation on the future of the waterways under CRT. I hope as many clubs as possible will be able to attend on the day which promises to be an enjoyable and informative event.

Best wishes, Paul le Blique



The AWCC will be at the Crick Show from again from 2—5 June 2012.

This is a plea to AWCC club members to spend part of one day manning our stand. You will receive a pass for the show and be able to browse the exhibitions and stands in return for helping to promote the AWCC's work on your behalf. <http://www.crickboatshow.com/visitorinfo.html>

Please contact secretary@awcc.org.uk if you can help on the stand.

Hello again

Regular readers of this publication will be aware that this is my final edition due to increasing personal commitments. At the time of writing the National Executive team is seeking assistance with several roles including that of Alert editor. The 2011 interclub newsletter competition has been judged by last years winner Mrs Linda Davies of Retford and Worksop Boat Club. Results of this will be made know at the national AGM. You will need to attend the AGM to find out if you have won. Finally, I hope that clubs will continue to support my successor in the role of Alert Editor by providing articles and pictures of your cruising related events for publication. I am happy to continue receiving copies of your club newsletters by post and will forward these on to my successor and the judge of the 2012 Interclub newsletter competition in due course.



Heather Bearpark, c/o South Pennine Boat Club, Wood Lane,

Battysford, Mirfield, WF14 OED

Email: <http://awcc.org.uk/contact-us/>

AWCC National AGM Stafford Boat Club Sat 17th March 2012

Speakers are confirmed as C&RT transition trustee [Lynn Berry OBE](#) and [Ruth Ruderham](#) Head of Fundraising for C&RT since July 2011. This should make for an interesting meeting where AWCC members can raise issues in person.

AWCC member handbooks

Pre ordered printed copies will be available to collect at the AGM at £2 per copy.

On an interim basis any additional orders need to be directed to secretary@awcc.org.uk

Club representatives or secretaries can also arrange to download PDF copies of the handbook for distribution to AWCC members by contacting Brian Rich, National Secretary / acting Communications officer for a secure password: secretary@awcc.org.uk

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Reports from the Regions

South and West region has recently reformed. Currently there are 3 member clubs that are listed in the AWCC handbook: Burghfield Island Boat Club, Canal Taverners Boat Club & Pewsey Wharf Boat Club. A fourth club, the Cotswold Canals Cruising Club is in the process of formation and is applying for AWCC membership.

Pauline King (PWBC) has been involved in representing the AWCC at the Kennet and Avon Mooring Regulation meetings and has agreed to be Chair for the region.

Wendy Beamont (Cotswold Canals Cruising Club) has taken on the role as regional secretary.

The region welcomes enquiries from other clubs interested in joining the AWCC. Enquiries should be directed to Wendy Beamont.

[Email: wildcat@rya-online.net](mailto:wildcat@rya-online.net)

Tel: 01235 764172

North East Region Following its AGM the region finds itself seeking both a chairman & a secretary who can work together to ensure continuing meaningful communications between the National team and local clubs as well as ensuring local dialogue on matters of concern to boaters. Ideally this will comprise individuals who are able to make essential phone calls during the working week and have effective organisation and communication skills. Pressure has recently been brought on

BW for the following NE regional issues:

Facilities at BWML [Lemonroyd Marina](#) (Aire & Calder) have been closed to general boaters with a change of locks keys only being made available to BW marinas moorers.

Since the demise of [Sagar Marine](#) at Brighthouse (Calder & Hebble) pump out facilities have been lost between Sowerby Bridge and Stanley Ferry. Concerns relate to both inconvenience and environmental considerations. Initial representation to BW has not been promising as they have stated that the cost of installing card reader systems are prohibitive.

Tinsley Boat Club (Sheffield & South Yorks) are pleased to report removal of a longstanding sunken boat much due to the efforts of retiring Chairman Bob Mennell.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE AWCC 2014

Preparations are underway for the anniversary rally which will be held at Black Buoy Cruising Club on the Grand Union Canal during the summer of 2014.

The first planning meeting will be held shortly. People interested in becoming involved in any way are asked to contact National Vice Chairman Ann Banks email teal1940@hotmail.co.uk phone 0121 705 0808

Further details will be posted at www.awcc.org.uk when confirmed.

Reports from the Regions

Midlands region

[Longwood Boat Club](#)

on the Rushall Canal made the news on page 6 of the March 2012 edition of [Towpath Talk](#) for undertaking their own dredging for the second time in their 42 year history. Members of this small club have been complimented on helping to keep “local and comparatively little used canals open”.

The region continues to seek a new Quartermaster as well as the vacant position of Chairman since Graham Myatt previously gave notice that he would be relinquishing this role from Spring 2012. Graham is applying to become a member of the Central Shires partnership. More about the Partnership can be seen on Page 14 of the same edition of [Towpath Talk](#).

South East region

The region is currently seeking a willing volunteer to take over the role of Treasurer.

[Thrupp Cruising Club](#) is expecting one of their members to be undertaking daily voluntary work as a patrol warden for BW / C&RT.

From April 2012 a Cam Conservatory Licence will be required if you intend cruising into Cambridge. Telephone 01223 863785 for advice or check out the website

AWCC must get up to date

Every month I get a copy of each of the principal waterway magazines. Inserted in one was an informative leaflet published by the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs (AWCC). But the problem was that it was out of date on at least two counts simply because it was produced in 1994 - at least that's what it said.

The leaflet stated that the AWCC “is consulted by waterways administration” including the National Rivers Authority and had contact with other user groups including the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (IWAAC) and the Waterways Parliamentary Group.

I would respectfully point out that the Rivers Authority disappeared with the birth of the Environment Agency, the IWAAC dropped the word Amenity to become IWAC and then disappeared with the Government's cull on quangos. Finally, the correct term is the Parliamentary Waterways Group NOT the Waterways Parliamentary Group. Methinks an eye for detail is now needed.

Response below from Paul le Blique AWCC National Chairman following publication of the misleading letter (above) was spotted in ‘Canals, Rivers & Boats’ in January 2012:

It was difficult to decide if irritation or amusement was the appropriate reaction to this letter as it is misleading and ill-informed; for as I am sure readers will know, AWCC is at the forefront waterway matters just as it was eighteen years ago when the leaflet referred to in the letter was written. AWCC is unaware how the leaflet came to be distributed as the association has no formal link to the waterway press. Keep an eye on the magazines for an official article on the association.

Oh, I am also delighted to inform you that Mafeking has been relieved by the British Army under Colonel B Mahon!

<http://www.camconservators.co.uk/index.html>

Cruisers on the River Nene should be made aware that the owner of the land above Cogenhoe lock has withdrawn permission for mooring.

Reports from the Regions

The Federation of Bridgewater Clubs is holding a boat gathering on the weekend of June 28th at Dunham Massey on the Bridgewater Canal



North West region

Roland Dotchin regional Chairman reports that BW depth soundings on the Ribble link have resulted in an agreed draft maximum of 2ft 9in instead of the previous restriction of 2ft. Deeper drafts may be permitted to travel at certain times of year depending on water levels. Info on booking arrangements can be found here

<http://www.waterscape.com/canals-and-rivers/ribble-link/boating>

[Broken Cross Boat Club](#) are involved in the Northwich River Festival running from 22-24 June 2012. The club has also been working with BW on plans to improve and extend the Visitor Moorings at Bramble Cutting, on the Trent and Mersey Canal near Middlewich. This work will be done by Volunteers with BW help.

London Region reports that several AWCC members from St Pancras and West London Cruising Club are joining the Queen's diamond jubilee flotilla at high tide on Sunday June 3rd. The flotilla will run for 7 miles

from Wandsworth Bridge to Tower Bridge.

<http://www.viewlondon.co.uk/whatson/queens-jubilee-thames-flotilla-feature-roundup-4048.html> Participants are asked if they could kindly provide some pictures and a short write up for Alert please.

Olympic preparations continue. The latest information on restrictions to passage from mid June onwards can be found at

<http://www.waterscape.com/in-your-area/london/olympic-moorings>

The region recommends that boaters forced by closures to travel downstream on the Thames Tideway exert caution as this stretch can be very challenging for inexperienced skippers.

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Advertising service

For a modest fee you may place your short advert in this publication. £3 cheque prepayment to 'AWCC' is required for up to 20 words + £1 for every additional 5 words. Please contact the editor to discuss further.

Please note that space allocation may be different to that seen above.

Commercial advertisers quarter, half or full page adverts charges POA from the editor.

AWCC Club news—snippets of news taken from club magazines

To ensure that news and invitations to your club events are featured in Alert & at www.awcc.org.uk please forward copies of your magazines to the editor



Erewash Canal Preservation Development Association have recently been involved in refurbishment of the Langley Mill swing bridge under a contract with British Waterways (East Midlands). It was originally made in 1986, replacing a wooden structure. A lot of welding and new steel was needed as much of it especially in the weight section had deteriorated due to water ingress.

Pictures show the start and completion of the project.

More information about the association can be viewed at <http://awcc.org.uk/club-of-the-month/erewash-canal-preservation-development-association/>

On an interim basis matters for the attention of the National Treasurer should be raised with Geoff Ashton as detailed below

This issue of AWCC Alert was produced by **Heather Bearpark** of South Pennine Boat Club & Cutweb Internet Boating Club

Contacts:

President Geoff Ashton: president@awcc.org.uk
Chairman Paul le Blique: chairman@awcc.org.uk
Secretary Brian Rich: secretary@awcc.org.uk

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ALERT

NEWSLETTER



New notification service for AWCC ALERT Newsletter

November 2011 sees the launch of a new service to Clubs and individual Club members.

This ALERT newsletter is published three or four times a year and for many years has been circulated to Clubs as a paper copy. More recently, we have produced an electronic version as a PDF file which has been available on the AWCC website at <http://awcc.org.uk/alert>. However until now we had no way to inform AWCC members or Clubs when the latest version had been published.

The AWCC ALERT notification service will send you an eMail whenever a new version of ALERT is available on the AWCC website. The eMail will include a clickable link which will download the PDF version of ALERT to your computer or smartphone.

To sign up to the service for a personal notification, please go to the web link below and follow the instructions there.

<http://eepurl.com/f2Dk5>

Smartphone users can scan this Q-Code to get to the link directly from their phone.



Once you have submitted the subscription form, you will receive a link eMail asking you to confirm your subscription request. You need to respond to this email and confirm your request. You will receive one further eMail confirming your details, so you know your registration is confirmed.

You can unsubscribe at any time from the service by clicking the link on any eMail your receive.

We have already contacted all Club secretaries asking if they would like to receive an electronic copy rather than being sent a paper copy by post. Clubs who opt in to this service help reduce the costs of producing and distributing ALERT, which helps us to keep costs to a minimum. Any Club who does not subscribe to the service will continue to receive a paper version by post.

(For your information, the service we are using is managed by Mailchimp <http://mailchimp.com> and the AWCC has a free account to the service which does not cost us anything. However you should be aware that the details of your subscription are held on a host system outside the UK and therefore may not be covered by UK Data Protection Law. The information you provide is used only to notify you of new versions of ALERT and will not be used for any other AWCC services or passed on to any other parties.)

If you have any questions about this procedure or about the notification service in general, please eMail me at the details below.

Brian Rich

Acting Communications Officer

Email: communications@awcc.org.uk