

SOAR BOATING CLUB MAGAZINE

SOAR POINTS



SPRING

2015

At the AGM in February the following new members were elected:

David Barsby

Andrew Elliott



David Barsby

The following retired from the Management Committee at the AGM:

Gary Askam

Ian Hutchinson

Melvyn Knight

Peter Lyons

During her AGM speech, Helen Taylor expressed thanks to Committee members who were standing down for all their work over the last year and made a particular mention to Pete Lyons for his 10 years' service to the Committee. The SBC owes Pete a debt of gratitude for managing the Bar and various other tasks he has undertaken during his period as Committee member.

The retiring Commodore Jane Askam became Vice President.

John Wilkinson agreed to remain the SBC AWCC representative.

John Wilkinson highlighted that AWCC membership cards are available from him at 20p each.

Please contact John if you wish to purchase.

Commodore's Letter

When Frank and I first joined The Soar Boating Club in 2008 little did we know where we would be today!

I am very happy to say that I am looking forward to my year as commodore and I will do my very best for our club.

This year I am going to try some new ventures, as well as the traditional ones we all enjoy and hope many members will choose to join me in them. There will be cruises, social events such as quiz nights, B.B.Q's, inter club events and of course our Birthday weekend.

This year I would like to move the dinner dance to earlier in the year. This will hopefully be more amenable to more of our members as well as making it easier for our friends at other clubs to join in with us.

My chosen Charity for this year is Myasthenia Gravis, a little known condition which a couple of our members suffer with. It can be very disabling and I hope you will join with me and support this very worthwhile Charity.

Frank and I are very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as we can, both at the club and out on the water. We hope you have a safe and happy boating season and look forward to seeing you soon.

Happy boating.

Glenis Hulme

SBC Commodore

Soar Boating Club Annual Calendar of Events 2015

May

Saturday 2nd to Monday 4th *Shakedown Cruise to Shardlow and on to Trent Lock, then a cruise back to base*

Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th *Interclub Challenge - A weekend full of activities, games indoor and out, food and festivities.*

June

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th **Birthday Weekend- Celebrate SBC 62nd year.** *Sat pm cream tea, Sat evening party and Sunday Church Service.*

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st **Classic Motor Boat Festival.** *Fun weekend with marquee, craft stalls, dancing and entertainment.*

July

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th **Sailing/Camping Weekend-With Roundhill Sailing Association.** *Try your hand at sailing on the river. .Caravans and Motorhomes welcome.*

August

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd **Nottingham Festival-***Details to be advised*

Monday 3rd to Saturday 15th **Commodore's Cruise -** *Visit Birmingham Canal.*

Saturday 29th **Masquerade Summer Ball-** *Make or buy your own masks to come along in disguise to SBC summer ball and dance the night away after a fabulous buffet.*

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th Quiz Night- *Another opportunity to test your general knowledge and quiz skills whilst socialising with friends.*

Saturday 19th Skittles at Shardlow- *Cruise or drive to Shardlow for a fun-packed game of skittles.*

October

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th Working Weekend- *All members are encouraged to attend to help spruce up our clubhouse and field.*

Saturday 17th SBC Bake Off - *An afternoon for the ladies to bake cakes, gents to make pizza. Prizes for the winners.*

Saturday 31st Laying Up Supper- *Halloween theme. A chance to dress up in spooky costumes.*

NOVEMBER

Saturday 14th - Charity Poker Night - *To raise funds to help people with Myasthenia-Gravis and St James' Church Organ Fund.*

Saturday 28th Pool Challenge- *Pool tournament to crown this year's club champion.*

December

Sunday 13th Carols at SBC - *Will be hosted by the club*

Saturday 19th Secret Santa - *A festive evening and fun night.*

January 2016

Saturday 9th Quiz Night- *Test your minds after Christmas*

Saturday 23rd Burns Night - *Celebrate the Great Bard*

SOAR BOATING CLUB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Treasurer	Mr George Bishop	
2. Treasurer Deputy	Mr Paul Sharpe	
3. Secretary	Ms Helen Taylor	
4. Social Chair	Mrs Glenis Hulme	
5. Social Assistants	Mrs Jo Allington / Mrs Karen Millhouse	
6. Website	Mr Stan Sidorowicz (NC)	
7. Amenities Chair	Mr George Bishop	
8. Amenities Assistants	Mr Karl Allington / Mr Andrew Elliott	
9. Diesel Sales / Returns	Mrs Karen Millhouse	
10. Membership Secretary	Mrs Di Bishop	
11. 100 Club Coordinator	Mrs Di Bishop	
12. Soar Points Bulletin	Mr John Storton (NC)	
13. Moorings Officer / Field Coordinator	Mr Philip Stafford	
14. Bar Chair	Mrs Glenis Hulme	
15. Bar Committee	Mr Paul Sharpe / Mrs Karen Millhouse	
16. Boat Licensing	Mr Alex Mackay	
17. Club Merchandise	Mrs Jo Allington	
18. Mrs Jo Allington	AWCC Representative	Mr John Wilkinson
19. Club house Coordinator	Mrs Rosemarie Alltree (NC)	
20. Future Development	Mr Paul Sharpe	
	Mr Andrew Elliott	cont'd

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| | Mr Karl Allington |
| | Mr Frank Hutchinson |
| | Mrs Jenny Westby |
| 21. Communications | Ms Helen Taylor |
| 22. Rules/Trust Deed | Mr Paul Sharpe |
| | Mrs Jenny Westby |
| 23. Insurance | Mr Nick Taylor (NC) |
| 24. Health & Safety | TBC |
| Risk Assessment | Mr Karl Allington |
| | Mrs Jenny Westby |
| | Ms Helen Taylor |
| 25. New Committee members | Mr David Barsby & Mr Andrew Elliot |
| 26. Rally Chair | TBC |
| 27. Points Coordinator | N/A. Sign in sheet for events to collect data. |

NC = Non-Committee members

THE SOAR BOATING CLUB TRUSTEES

AUTHUR KENNEY, appointed in 1999

DAVID GASSOR, appointed in 2000

ROBERT PICKERING, appointed in 2000

STAN SIDOROWICZ, appointed in 2001

NEXT YEARS AGM IS ON SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY

Outgoing President's Remarks



Mike Hammond remarked at the AGM in February 2015 that throughout his three year term he had tried to attend as many Committee meetings and social events as possible.

Mike recognised that Committee Members are playing an important part in the management of the Club.

Mike expressed his particular thanks to:

- Jane Askam for her efforts during her year in office, including a varied programme of events and for planning the Commodore's cruise
- John Storton for publishing the Soar Points magazine and MJH welcomed contributions to articles.
- Pete Lyons for his support in running the Club bar over the last 10 years.

We are sure members will join us to thank Mike for his support and dedication to the Soar Boating Club during his term as President!

New President- Frank Hutchinson



As your new President I need to introduce myself and via Soar Points seems like a good way.

I first joined SBC way back in 1968 or thereabouts. Over the years I have both watched and helped the Club grow to what it has become today. Like so many others my boating interests have changed over the years from what today is seen as relatively small cruisers, to a more adventurous vessel, and today to classical small boats.

For the last 40 years I have been operating a commercial boat yard which may make me useful when the facilities at Normanton are discussed. I am a member of 3 other clubs, namely the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, the Windermere Motor Boat Racing Club and the Classic Motor Boat Association, the latter being well known to many of you.

To family now.. June and I have been married for 64 years and have a son, Ian and daughter, Janet, two granddaughters and one great grandchild, soon to be 2 (baby to make an entrance March/April so we may have a new family addition by the time you read this!).

I attended the first of the new Committee's meetings in February and am also looking forward to being present at the Open Meeting to be held at the Club-house on the 28th. I hope there will be lots of new ideas put forward during those discussions and at any future Club Development meetings.

What do I look forward to? Perhaps an enthusiasm from the membership that will make the running of this Club be shared by more than just a few.

Spring is almost upon us, so finally I wish you a safe and successful boating season ahead.

Your new President, Frank Hutchinson

Log of Bon Viveur June 2014



Caves de Bally mooring

Sunday June 8th We caught the 11-42 from Nottingham to St Pancras and then having admired St Pancras station, took the Eurostar to the somewhat underwhelming Paris Gare du Nord. As it was Sunday, the RER line to the Gare de Lyon was not busy so crossing Paris with luggage was less of a chore. We arrived in Joigny on the River Yonne just before 9 and failed to find a taxi so walked about a kilometre to the Rive Gauche Hotel where they willingly provided a modest meal.

Monday June 9th Roger and his crew were busy cleaning the boat while we had a leisurely breakfast on the riverside terrace. Around 11 we strolled down to take over the boat and after provisioning we had lunch and set off up the Yonne. From the confluence with the Seine up to Auxerre the Yonne is a large commercial waterway- the smallest locks are 93m x 8.3m and the lock keepers often use a bike to go from one end to the other. We stopped for the night at the village of Gurgy where the only restaurant La Riviere produced an excellent meal.

6 locks 20km

Tuesday June 10th Leaving fairly early the next morning after going up the last 5 large locks, we stopped in Auxerre for lunch. The boatyard in Auxerre is run by a Brit and is possibly the cleanest and tidiest yard I have ever come across. Here we saw the first of the “small” locks (38.5m x 5.3m) and boated on to Vermonton at the end of a branch. We nearly had an international incident when a “Kiwi” hire boat crew were accused of working a lock with no lock

keeper present. In fact it was a passing Frenchman who drew a paddle and then walked away leaving a significant argument in place between crew and keeper! The moorings at Vermonton were very full and we had to breast up to another boat. Ate on board.

5 large locks, 13 small locks and 34km

Wednesday 11th June. Set off back to the main line and turned left for Chatel Censoir- this is one of the most attractive parts of the Nivernais. There are massive limestone cliffs and the navigation follows the course of the Yonne up the valley. There are several Chateaux along the route including the Chateau Mailly which featured in the Timothy West TV program. In this area the bridge clearances are reduced and according to the Navicarte, Bon Viveur would be too high to pass them.



Fortunately (as expected) the guide was out of date and we passed without difficulty. Chatel Censoir proved to be a charming village with an excellent restaurant where we ate in the shade in the courtyard. I should add that the temperature at this time was climbing rapidly and shade was the over-riding consideration when looking for moorings. Here we enjoyed free water and power.

10 locks 20km

Thursday 12th June Today we learned that the French rail workers were on strike! As we planned a crew-change at Auxerre we decided to retrace our steps and check out the situation at Auxerre main line station. We stopped for the night at Cravant in a nice quiet shaded mooring and explored the town. Cravant is a walled town and still has some of its gates intact. Ate on board.

11 locks 22km

Friday 13th June We left early and stopped in the village of Vincelottes to have lunch at “Les Tilleuls” . We have been here by road in the past and the place is

Run by an eccentric chef Alain. The food was up to his normal standard. The railway system seems to be in “meltdown” at Auxerre station there are a few trains running but no-one knows when? We decide to stay in Auxerre and explore it properly, we also want to go to visit Guedelon the place where they are building a medieval castle using traditional methods. We arrange to hire a car on Sunday to visit Guedelon (1 days hire was 60 euros 2days was 35! We took 2)

10 locks 18km

Saturday 14th June Spent all day sightseeing in Auxerre. We ate in a hotel in town, Auxerre is a truly attractive place.

Sunday 15th June

Picked up hire car and drove to Guedelon. Sunday proved to be a good choice as there were no school parties, even so the car park was more than half full at around 10-30. We learned from the woman in the dye-house that we had just missed the BBC team who were filming a series there. As we were mobile we took the opportunity to visit another lovely village with good moorings. Visited station and got copy of “provisional” timetable! ty to go to our original destination Clamecy by car. Yet another lovely village with good moorings. Visited station and got copy of “provisional” timetable!



Guedelon

Monday 16th June

Saw Crew A off on the train to Paris (Eurostar was not affected by the strike) and waited for Crew B to arrive. Fortunately they had stayed overnight in Paris and caught the first possible train to Auxerre. Accordingly we were able to head back to Gurgy where once again we sampled the fare at La Riviere.

5 large locks 10km

Tuesday 17th June Boated back to Joigny where we started, explored the town and stocked up the larder. Walked towards the station and ate at the Hotel Paris Nice. Very nice food in a relaxed atmosphere.

6 large locks 20km

Wednesday 18th June Left Joigny around lunchtime and boated down towards Sens where we just missed the last locking through St Bond at 6pm. At St Aubin we had encountered our first large lock with sloping sides. These are a peculiarity of the Yonne. When we first ventured here in a hire boat there was no provision for small craft and it was necessary to station a crew member at each end of the boat with a shaft or broom to fend off the lock sides and not get hung up. It was easier going up. Now most of the sloping-sided locks have a pontoon with rollers and guides on sloping rails to which you can tie. The pontoon floats up or down the rails and makes life a lot easier.



Locks with sloping sides and pontoons

6 Locks 34 km

Thursday 19th June Left St Bond and boated through Sens and on to Montereau where the Yonne meets the Seine. We moored close to the junction and went into town to find a restaurant. This was a nice mooring but already we noticed a significant increase in the amount of commercial traffic carrying predominantly building materials into Paris. We were on a floating pontoon with power and water.

9 locks 42km

Friday 20th June Entered the Haute Seine and immediately were in a different world where we were the intruders into an otherwise totally commercial waterway. The commercial traffic increased and we saw several abandoned small peniches which at 350 tonnes were regarded as unviable for carrying. Here it is vital to keep a careful eye astern as the carrying boats are a bit quick! We stopped at St Mammes at a Port de Plaisance to buy the Navicarte for the Lower Seine. This is another attractive town where the older Bourbonnais Route from north to south leaves the Seine to head off towards the Loire. By this time, we had decided that due to the strike we should head for Melun. This is the terminus of the RER tube line which goes straight through to the Gare du Nord. Here we had the choice of SNCF or RER to get our crew and ourselves home (and of course to get the next crew on board). This section of the Seine is particularly attractive especially where it passes near to Fontainebleau. We tied up with power and water outside the Mediatheque in Melun which is situated on an island close to the old part of town. The bonus was that it was their 10th Anniversary and a rock concert took place on the wharf. We had the best seats in the house! And it finished at 10-30.

3 locks 40km

Saturday 21st June. Daughter Ellen and son in law Pete set off early for the station to try to get back to Cornwall in the day, fortunately they managed it and we prepared to enjoy the rest of the Mediatheque birthday celebrations. Today we had several young ladies doing aerial ballet to music on elastic ropes – again we had the best view of all. The mooring here was against a stone quay and with the heavy goods traffic we were getting rocked about on a regular basis which meant adjusting our ropes, springs and fenders several times a day.

Ate on board.



Melun gravel boat heading for Paris

Paris Tied up all day



Aerial Ballet on elastic ropes

Monday 23rd June Alan and Chris arrived by train and we took the RER into Paris to catch the Eurostar home.

Total 84 Locks 262km

Sunday
22nd June Cleaned
boat inside and
out filled up with
diesel with cans
from a garage
and topped up the
water ready to
hand over tomor-
row

John Wilkinson

SBC AWARDS AT THE AGM



The names of the trophy winners were read out at the AGM in February and presented to the award winners as follows:

Points for attendance at events and cruises:

The Bloor Trophy (1st place) Frank and Glenis Hulme

John Bennett Trophy (2nd place) Gary and Jane Askam

Jarvis Tonge Trophy (3rd place) Ian and Sally Hutchinson

Skipper Heathcote Trophy Patricia Gassor

The above trophies will be engraved in accordance with the above list. None of the other trophies were awarded on this occasion.

Junior Points/Children's Trophy will be presented at the Birthday Weekend (13th / 14th June 2015) where more children are present.

There was a special presentation of a bottle for the Commodore's spouse (Gary Askam) and the President's Lady (Paula Hammond) received plant.

SOAR BOATING CLUBS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND



Dear Members

Soar Boating Club 62nd Birthday Celebrations Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June 2015

The Club's Birthday Celebrations for 2015 will be taking place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June, hosted by our Commodore, Glenis Hulme.

The format of the proceedings will be similar to previous years, with a trip by boat from our moorings on the Sunday to Normanton on Soar Parish Church of St James for a special service; returning to the Club by boat, after a short trip upstream towards Loughborough.

There will be a toast and the traditional cutting of the Club's Birthday Cake. This will be followed by a buffet lunch at which our members and also representatives of Normanton church and village will be present.

The event is always an important date in our calendar and we will be delighted if are able to join us.

JOHN'S QUICK QUIZ

- 1/ Which novelist won the Booker Prize in 2011 with *The Sense of an Ending*?
- 2/ In *The Life of Brian*, which of the Pythons took the lead role?
- 3/ Who was known as the Nine Day Queen?
- 4/ Joseph Merrick is better known as who in Victorian times?
- 5/ Winston is the middle name of which former Leicester City and England footballer?
- 6/ What is the name of Una Stubbs' character in *Sherlock*?
- 7/ Daniel Lambert laid claim to which dubious honour in the late 18th century?
- 8/ George Fox founded which religious movement?
- 9/ *Coronation Street*'s Carla Conner is played by which actress?
- 10/ Who in 2009 became the first woman to row solo across the Indian Ocean?
- 11/ Which Leicester born journalist was the first person to report the outbreak of World War I?
- 12/ What is the name of the founder of Walkers Crisps?

Answers on page 36

THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW MARINA AT REDHILL REJECTED

The plans for a new marina at Redhill have been rejected by an appeal from Nottinghamshire Planners.

Objections had been lodged by English Heritage, The Environment Agency and Natural England.

It was 2 years ago that the plans were first announced for a 550 berth Marina at Redhill by the land's owner Red Hill Marine Ltd. The original plans were for a Marina even larger on a 50 acre site. As you know Red Hill is next to the Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station and the planned HS2 Rail Link is planned to cross the River Soar very close by. "If it ever happens!"

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Soar Boating Club Merchandise for sale!

Soar Boating Club polo shirts, sweatshirts, hats and ties are all available for purchase either through Jo Allington directly or via the website.

Get with the latest trend and look the part for your boating outings!

Place your order online

<http://www.soarboatingclub.co.uk/sbcPages/merchandise.php>

Or download an order form from the website and send to

Jo Allington

Soar Boating Club

Main Street

Normanton on Soar

LE12 5HB

Or contact Jo on 07763 377403

joallington@hotmail.co.uk

Ties



Colour:  

Price: £9.70

Hats - Adult






Colour:    

Price: £7.20

Hats - Childrens



Colour:    

Price: £6.60

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Colour: 

Price: £7.25

Sweatshirts- Adult



Size: X-Small 34"-36in" ▾

Colour: 

Price: £11.30

TRY ME A RIVER

CANAL & RIVER TRUST SEEKS VIEWS ON RIVER BOATING

The Canal & River Trust is conducting a survey to better understand what can be done to encourage more boaters to venture out onto the tidal River Trent.

The survey is being developed by the Trust's East Midlands Waterway Partnership along with The Boating Association and Inland Waterways Association. Together they are keen to attract more boaters onto the tidal Trent, but it's hoped that the findings will provide useful insights for other rivers across the country.

The Partnership has developed the short survey to understand boaters' perceptions of cruising on tidal, non-tidal and canalised rivers. It's hoped this will identify possible barriers which may prevent boaters from exploring parts of the river.

The findings will then be used to develop a package of measures which could include training courses, instructional videos, more readily-available information or informal boating convoys.

Danny Brennan, chair of the Trust's waterway partnership in the East Midlands, said; "We firmly believe that every boater should experience the River Trent at some point in their lives but we also recognise that there are some things we could do to encourage them to do so.

"Whether it be a degree of fear or a simple practicality, such as not knowing when locks will be open, we want to properly understand why more boaters don't venture out onto the Trent.

"Once we've identified all the issues we can then start to look at ways in which they can be addressed. We want to make it easier and more attractive for boaters to venture onto our rivers so that they can really get out there and explore a different aspect of life on the water."

The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQ7RDTZ.

SOAR POINTS

I would like to thank club members who have contributed items for this issue of Soar Points. It only takes a couple of minutes of your time to help me with future issues. Thanks J Storton

For example

Do you have a story to tell

An article about a cruise you have done

Technical Information

Advice for new members

A Story or a Poem

And anything else of interest

Children you can enter too!

There is a prize for the best entry for Adults and Children
All entries to John Storton or any member of the committee

Thanks

J.Storton

The closing date for the next edition is :- October 30th 2015

Soar Boating Club – Future Development

Dear members

Background

You will recall that following the AGM the Committee were starting a process of reviewing the Club's activities to ensure we remain relevant and attractive to our current membership and also to potential members.

To start, we held an open meeting at the end of February. The meeting was reasonably well attended with 35 members present and I would like to thank those that chose to give their time. In addition, a number of members also fed comments in by email where they were unable to attend, and again that is appreciated.

The review of Club activities comes against a back drop of many similar organisations struggling to mobilise their membership to actively participate ...this is not an issue limited to either boating clubs or our boating club. None the less, this does not make the issue less important to us.

To underscore the issue, I read today that Lathome Marine Cruising Association was recently wound up after 40 years, caused by the ageing membership and the same few volunteers running the Club.

Volunteers

One of the key points that came out of the open forum was the lack of volunteers to participate in running the Club and events. I would encourage any member who has time available to volunteer. It can be a lot of fun, a good way to make new friends or renew old friendships and doesn't have to involve joining the Committee or committing huge amounts of time. So, if you are interested in helping in any way please don't wait to be asked. Whether it is working the bar, mowing the field, helping to maintain the Club premises or washing/drying up after an event, your input will be appreciated. Training can be given where needed.

Communication

One of the points that came out of the open forum and email comments from members was around the amount and quality of information on Club events needing some improvement. Your Committee have taken this on board and Helen Taylor has agreed to act as our Communication's lead. Hopefully you will have already noticed regular communications about forthcoming events at our club.

Future actions

Rather than go over all of the points discussed at the open forum and the subsequent Committee meeting to follow up, I thought it might be useful if I outlined some of the areas we plan to explore for a starter:

Social Team: In the hey-days of the Club there was always an active social team. In recent years this has fallen on a small number of members making it a much more onerous commitment. A new social team has been formed and had its first meeting during the recent working weekend to plan this year's activities (with around a dozen attendees). We would welcome more members to this team...many hands make light work. So if you would like to be involved in any way please let either Glenis Hulme or Helen Taylor know.

Wider involvement in waterways issues: When the Club was formed, it was very active in general waterways issues. Over more recent times this has been less of a focus...perhaps because of less need, perhaps because as volunteers have dwindled the day to day activities take more of the time of the remaining volunteers. We will reorganise an event or helping explore ways in which the Club can become more active in relevant issues...there are many:

- The impact of regeneration of Leicester and how it can benefit the local waterways
- Pennywort on the Soar
- Boating facilities in the Soar, there will be many others.

You might ask how this will help the Club? We hope that being more involved in the wider boating community will not only benefit the waterways, but also raise our profile improving awareness of the Club, our events and activities and help to attract new and active members.

Attracting new members: This is a key need for the Club. The Club is pretty static in terms of current member numbers. However, we do have an ageing membership and need to look to attracting the future generation of people interested in boating (as well as continuing to appeal to our existing membership). This will be an ongoing strand of our strategy and will continue to develop.

Initially, we plan to try and forge links with wider groups to see how we can encourage use of the facilities and our beautiful stretch of river.

- We will be considering whether attracting an existing group or club of leisure canoeists to link with the Club is possible.
- Forge links with Duke of Edinburgh awards providers (particularly those with a water based element) to encourage use of our facilities by younger people who may go on to enjoy the waterways as part of their future.

- Target other waterways users and see how we can benefit one another to widen usage and raise our prof• Possibly use C&RT contacts to widen the publicity of our Club events with a view to increasing attendance and encouraging new members.

Review our events calendar: There are certain types of events that have in the past proved very successful for the Club. Some of these have dwindled in recent years and need to be resurrected (or made more frequent), such as:

- Talks on various interesting topics.
- Music events.
- More boating events...like the Inter Club Challenge.

WiFi: There have been discussions over the last year over introducing WiFi at the Club. There is a growing reliance on the internet in many areas of our lives and younger members may be put off by a lack of such facilities. Currently the village is not served by a particularly fast broadband connection. However, fibre is coming to the village this year and the Committee will review whether there is a practical solution that works for our members.

Advertising: The Club does not currently actively advertise for new members. This is an area in which we need to take care as it is governed by the Alcohol licensing laws. However, the Committee believe that there is some scope for advertising the many benefits of the Club to likely interested parties...both locally and more widely (other Clubs etc.).

Dogs: There has for some time been a rule that dogs are not allowed in the Clubhouse. This has put off several members from attending at one time or another. The Committee are planning to trial some Saturday evenings where well behaved dogs will be welcomed in the Clubhouse. These will be publicised in advance and will not be a feature of every Saturday at the Club.

I am certain that this note does not cover all of the issues the Committee will be pursuing, but hopefully gives you a flavour. There will be lots going on.

But...most of all what we need is our members to participate, encourage people you know who are interested in boating to come along...they don't need to own a narrowboat or cruiser. They might like canoeing, dinghy's, or perhaps be aspiring to own a boat in the future.

Come along and enjoy your Club.

Paul Sharpe

Please do get in touch:

Helen: helen@thebarsby.co.uk
07828597585

Glenis: glenisjh49@hotmail.co.uk
07947047711

DIARY FOR FIELD MOWING 2015

Your week will commence on Monday & finish on Sunday. It will be up to you what day(s) you wish to mow. The week will cover both the ride on & hand mowing

06-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr
Ian Millhouse		Ian Millhouse	David Barsby
04-May	11-May	18-May	25-May
			Darren Coupe
01-Jun	08-Jun	15- Jun	22-Jun
Gary	Gary	Gary	Gary
29-Jun			
Gary			
06-Jul	13-Jul	20-Jul	27-Jul
David Barsby		Ian Millhouse	Ian Millhouse
03-Aug	10-Aug	17-Aug	24-Aug
31-Aug			
07-Sep	14-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep
05-Oct	12-Oct	19-Oct	26-Oct
	David Barsby		

If you feel you can help with the mowing in any way please contact:

Carl Allington / Andrew Elliott or any member of the committee

KENT - END OF OUR VOYAGE

Pat Gassor asks, Where did it all begin?

Early in 1975 we purchased a small 19' Dolphin Cabin Cruiser which would sleep 4. Seemed ideal for our small family of 2 young sons and a dog. We had an urge to get on the Rivers and Canals and go exploring. I was not so sure as had never been on the water even though I was born and brought up right by the sea. The boat called the Jacqueline needed a bit of work and fresh coat of paint, was constructed of Plywood with an Evinrude outboard engine. 1976 we got her launched and away we went, off up the Trent & Mersey. We had a glorious start to our boating life with the hot summer that year. The boys loved it. We brought them a little inflatable dingy so they could do their own bit of boating. By the end of 1976 we felt we liked this boating lark so decided to get something a bit more suited to our needs and invested in a Springer 30' Steel hull & superstructure complete with engine. We got cracking on fitting her out, painting her up etc and called this boat Road Runner, yes we got all the meep meep jokes too. 1977 we were afloat and enjoyed a years cruising. This boat slept 6 as my parents also liked to come along on holiday with us, now we were finding it a bit cramped and it was not long before we were thinking along the lines of something a little bigger. Back to Springers again and ordered a 40' hull only. Dave soon got cracking with some steel and welder and put the superstructure together. He installed the engine a 1.5 BMC, before long we were well under way with the fit out again having learnt from the 30' fit out. This boat also slept 6 but had more space complete with lovely heating system, we loved it and even ventured up to York on the Tidal Trent via Trent Falls. This boat we called Magic, as everyone that came to watch our progress kept saying "This is magic" so we ended up naming her that. By Early 1980 though Dave was already making comment that "he could probably build a complete boat" I was not so sure but once the seed was sewn we started searching the boat magazines and boat builders for ideas. By this time we were well and truly hooked on this boating lark, with good bit of locking under our belt so were full of ideas of what we wanted to achieve to carry on boating. Summer of 1980 we headed for Hancock & Lane boatbuilders to look at what they called their Norsman Kit Boat. This would be a DIY Package to build a 60' Traditional style narrowboat. By the time we left the boat yard Dave had convinced me he could build this boat. I was not so sure, where would we build it, our garden was not quite big enough to accommodate it as we had not moved to our present address then. Sleepless night's drawing paper, long discussions etc commenced. So ahead we went and ordered this kit boat. Arrangements made with Redhill Marina for

us to build the boat there in one of the barns. November 5th 1980 saw this kit arrive on the back of a flat bed lorry down at Redhill Marina. (Flat sheets of steel) OMG, what have we done???, what if we could not put it all together or even follow the plans that came with it. So for the time being we decided to hang on to Magic so at least we could still cruise. Work was soon under way to start the major job of welding this shell together, well 3 months later which included Christmas Day & Boxing day the shell was certainly taking shape. Couple of visits back to Hancock and Lane for advice and a few phone calls saw Dave's confidence grow. We decided on a larger engine for this length of boat and decided on 2.5 Leyland BMC which gave 60hp. Dave had a short spell of work of 3 months abroad which brought the construction to a halt but it left me with a paint brush to keep me occupied. Once he was back, work really got started on fitting the shell out and engine installed. We spent all of 1981 getting some lining in and some electrics installed and engine installed to. 1982 we decided we were ready to get the boat on the water and do the main fit out afloat. So Magic was put up for sale and Kent came to life. We basically camped on board while fitting out for the next year or so but it enabled us to take part at SBC cruising events. We have covered most of the inland waterways during our time afloat mainly done during our holidays, but weekends too. We have had wonderful times and even ventured on the Thames, up to York, down to Peterborough on the Nene, Peak Forest, Leeds & Liverpool, Birmingham, down the Severn to Gloucester, Stratford, Kennet & Avon, the whole of Grand Union, Leicester ring, 4 Counties, lots of Rallies, just too much to put it all in here. 2014 we were starting to feel that we were finding the up keep of Kent getting too much, plus we felt that a lot of the pleasure and magic was disappearing for us to continue boating so we made the sad decision to end our boating life and put Kent up for sale. We have had 40 years of boating and not regretted any of it. We have had so many happy times with Soar Boating Club and this will continue. Kent has now been sold and gone to a new home so a new Era will begin for us to find something to replace it. Many have asked what we will do with our time now. Who knows but am sure new adventures will be waiting for us.

I am sure that Dave and Pat will soon be involved in another hobby and will be out and about enjoying themselves and still be involved with Soar Boating Club.

Cruising the Birmingham Canal Navigation

Some friends announced that they had booked their next cruise in the Caribbean. I told them we were also off for a cruise but around Birmingham. Try as they may they could not understand why.

Nor apparently does it appeal to many visiting boaters. Having moored overnight in the Gas St area most tick Birmingham off their list. They overlook that there are over 100 miles of canal left which used to be the main transport arteries within the Brummigham and Black Country industrial heartland. However there are many committed boaters in the area who regularly cruise the system and wish to see it used more. This is why the Birmingham Canal Navigation Society (BCNS) organise a couple of 7 day 'Explorer' trips each year to attract new visitors. The very title 'Explorer' conjures up the impression of journeying into uncharted territory so what intrepid boater could resist that?

Having cruised along Telford's new main line we joined our fellow explorers in Wolverhampton as part of the 14 boat fleet which had arrived from as far away as Kent, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Lincolnshire. After an evening of introductions in the Great Western pub (a must for 'God's Wonderful Railway' enthusiasts) we were briefed on the week's plan.

The first day involved cruising the Wyrley and Essington canal, initially to Wednesfield and then onto Sneyd and Birchill. The canal follows the contours of the Wolverhampton level and is nicknamed the 'Curly Whirley' for obvious reasons. It runs through a mix of pleasant rural, housing and commercial scenery much as you would expect in a suburban area and it continually surprised us that so much of the old industrial building and waste areas have been cleaned up to be replaced by modern buildings and open spaces, even to the extent that part of it was a nature reserve. The journey down the 8 locks to the new Walsall Town basin was quite prolonged because of the number of boats and the consequent shortage of water at the bottom 2 locks. Who would have believed that we had chosen to spend the evening sight seeing in Walsall of all places? Nevertheless in the fading light it came over as an attractive town.

Next there followed a short trip to view the disused Bradley Arm and also to visit the lock manufacturing workshop in Bradley. Once moored our walk took us across green open spaces where horses graze and locals walk their dogs. Our guide explained that the area was once filled with collieries and foundries each with its own canal basin, typical of the Black Country. Its demise came once

the underlying coal seam was worked out and the surrounding industrial buildings suffered the subsidence that followed.

Our third day continued along the Walsall canal a little further until we reached the long straight Tame canal where the 'cut and fill' method employed on the railways took us across some impressive aqueducts and gave us extensive views over the surrounding countryside. There was also a certain irony here; while we were slowly chugging along we were in sight of waving lorry drivers gridlocked on the M6. So much for progress! Thereafter we climbed the single locks of the Rushall canal to finish the day at the hospitable Longwood Boat Club.

Next day we weaved our way past Aldridge and the huge Ibstock Brick quarry below us to finish close to the scenic Chase Water reservoir which helps feed the system. There are walks, cafes and leisure facilities close by but alas no pub.

Our fifth day started in rain with a short cruise to Pelsall via Tesco at Brownhills. The wide open Pelsall Common makes a superb mooring and even here there is buried industrial history where the canal played a vital role in linking the now long gone local collieries and steel works that fuelled Britain's prosperity right into the 1960's. Fortunately the pub escaped demolition .

Finally we took the 18 mile homeward run to Tipton, once again on the Curly Whirley. The weekend bought out the fishermen and dog walkers amazed to see so many boats around. After the final night out at the 'Pie Factory' we woke up to attend a lecture on the history of the local area and thereafter went our separate ways.

We all finished very much the wiser about an area which previously appeared only as a disjointed piece of knitting on the map. The plus factors of good leaders, the company of fellow boaters, safe moorings, the kindness of local folk and guides far exceeded earlier unnecessary worries over safety, graffiti and vandalism. However, one word of caution, you may have to lift the weed hatch once or twice!

Our thanks to the BCNS, and Marie and Stuart in particular, for making the week such a success. Any boater wishing to join in should watch the BCNS website for up and coming explorer trips.

Thereafter we moored up at Hawne Basin on the Dudley No2 canal to drive home. A week later made our way down the Stourbridge canal to join the Staffs and Worcester. This was a solo trip stopping at Black Country Museum, the Merry Hill complex and the Glass Museum on route – but that is another story. Tony and Carole Gamble (and Betty the Boxer) Nb Chance

Summary of main Points from CRT local waterway forum on 24 March 2015

Venue: Nottingham Sailing Club.

Nottingham / Beeston Canal.

Signage to be installed on towpath to instruct cyclists who speed too fast, to slow down. If this fails to deter speeding, speed bumps may be introduced.

Chesterfield Canal.

4 new CRT visitor moorings completed, locations incl. Ranby and Babworth.

River Trent.

CRT are trying to encourage greater use of the river on both the tidal and non tidal sections. They are compiling a survey document which will be advertised in the boating press for people to complete which will include questions such as: asking those who seldom boat on the river, why? and what would encourage them to boat on the river.

Lincoln.

The existing 50 m of CRT visitor moorings where the Fossdyke Canal enters Brayford Pool, are being extended to 88 m.

Moorings are also available at the western end of Brayford Pool, operated by the Brayford Trust. As the moorings are very popular pre-booking is recommended, particularly during the holiday season and at weekends. The Harbourmaster can be contacted on 01522 521452 or 07751 271786.

CRT are looking at installing visitor mooring signage for the existing moorings on the River Witham by the shopping centre, just past the Glory Hole.

Existing visitor moorings.

All visitor moorings such as 24 hour and 48 hour, will revert to 14 days during the quieter winter period (1 November to 31 March).

The Boating Association (TBA).

The TBA has updated its River Trent navigation guides, in a clearer more up to date format. They are available from local chandleries and from the TBA web site.

Robert Aspey

Update to Mooring & Caravan and Motorhome Regulations

The following changes to the Mooring and Caravan and Motorhome Regulations were approved at the Soar Boating Club AGM in February 2015.

Small changes consisted of a few minor improvements to the wording.

The more substantial amendments were under the Caravan and Motorhome section, namely:

Item 1: Only after 6 months' membership can people join the list

Items 3 and 4: Physical proof of insurance is not required on the advice of the Club's insurers.

If you would like a full copy of the Mooring & Caravan Regulations, please contact Helen Taylor
helen@thebarsby.co.uk

Soar Boating Club Members' Discounts Available!

MIDLAND CHANDLERS WILLINGTON

Any member buying any items from Midland Chandlers will receive a 5% discount with their Soar Boating membership card. Also when the amount reaches £500 on a card that they hold for us, Midland chandlers will send the club a voucher worth £20 for the Club's use or as a raffle prize.

www.midlandchandlers.co.uk

Midland Chandlers
Century Park
Ballin Road
Nuneaton
Warwickshire
CV10 9GA
Tel: 02476 390111



TIME TO RENEW YOUR RIVER CANAL RESCUE

Did you know that as a member of Soar Boating Club you are entitled to a 5% discount when you renew your RCR membership

On renewal please state and quote our club code number, you will find this on the Club notice board or contact John Storton. Contact details for John are in the Membership Book.

If you have no claims discount you will get another 5% discount, and if you re-new by Direct Debit you receive a further 5% discount

We are grateful to one of our members who found out about the discount for members!

Contact RCR via their website:

www.rivercanalrescue.co.uk

Tel: 01785 785 680

or email enquiries@rivercanalrescue.co.uk



New Shower Key

Dear members



Please note that the shower cubicle has been refurbished and a new door installed. A new key to the showers is hung on a hook in the Clubhouse porch for members' use when visiting the Club. There are spare keys for the showers behind the Bar.

Enjoy your warm, refreshing shower at the Boat Club!

Best wishes

Glenis

Your Commodore

AWCC...

Stands for the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs and each club has a representative who liaises between the club and AWCC at quarterly regional meetings.

The organisation came into being over 50 years ago and has been representing the interests of its members ever since. It is represented in technical circles including the committee on boat safety it is also active in lobbying politicians through the parliamentary waterways group. It supplements the efforts of other waterway based organisations such as The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) and National Association of Boat Owners (NABO) with the specific intent of looking after the interests of the “ordinary” club boater.

Services and Benefits

In addition it tries to offer services and benefits which the other organisations would find impossible. For instance a handbook is produced which lists the details, facilities and personnel of each participating club. It offers a prize each year for the best club mag and the best club web-site. When members are cruising away from their area they may be able to utilise the facilities of other clubs in terms of reciprocal mooring or use of social and amenity benefits not available to the general boating community.

Other benefits including insurance, burgees, clothing etc are also offered. Probably the most valuable benefit is to meet local boaters and “plug-in” to local intelligence, such as where to buy diesel, where to eat, where to moor (and where not to moor), advice about local towns and all other facilities.

Contact

If you wish to buy a handbook, membership card or any other AWCC merchandise please call 01159452100 or e-mail John Wilkinson on johnwilk@webaccess.co.uk.

John Wilkinson

AWCC Representative

BOAT LICENCES

I would like to thank all members who licence their boats through the Soar Boating Club. The commission we earn is approximately 7% so obviously the more members who use the facility, the more money that comes into your club and in turn benefits all of us.

You will note when your renewals come through that CRT have increased licence charges by approx. 1.75% from April 1st. nothing we can do about that except moan!

If any member wishes to renew their licence by debit or credit card, this could not be simpler. When you receive your renewal notice from CRT, ensure that the document carries a current daytime telephone number, and fill in the last four digits of your card, and send the document to me in the usual way. In a day or two you will receive a telephone call from CRT who will request the information from your card, you will still receive your prompt payment discount, and SBC will receive the commission. NOTE. If you pay by credit card there is a £7.50 surcharge.

Thanking you once again for renewing your licence through your Soar Boating Club.

Alex Mackay.....Licensing Officer for Soar Boating Club

ANSWERS TO JOHN'S QUIZ FROM PAGE 18

- 1/ Julian Barnes
- 2/ Graham Chapman
- 3/ Lady Jane Grey
- 4/ The Elephant Man
- 5/ Gary Lineker
- 6/ Mrs Hudson
- 7/ The heaviest Man in England
- 8/ The Religious Society of Friends (The Quakers)
- 9/ Alison King
- 10/ Sarah Outen
- 11/ Clare Hollingworth
- 12/ Henry Walker

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to our new members

David and June Alcock

John and Teri Browett ZEPHYR

Wendy Kay and Charles Bradshaw

Peter and Karen Makin PETER'S PRIDE

Dick and Sally Batters ELMBEE

Resignations

Dave & Kathleen Allcock ANOTHER WHIM

Edward & Marianne Shillingford

Paul & Linda Hopper SWIFT

Marianne Gilbert CUDDY

Ian Willetts

John Blashkiw & Alison Kettle ELOISE

PLEASE REMEMBER

If you intend going out on your boat and there is an event due to take place at the clubhouse or field could you please park your car near the gates.

Thanks

Normanton on Soar Community Shop

(Main Street rear of Village Hall, opposite Church)

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday

10.00 am to 1.00 pm

2.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Saturday

10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Local Baked Bread & Cakes

Local Organic Milk & Free Range Eggs

(Duck Eggs when available)

Local Jams & Chutneys

Local Hand Made Chocolates

Range of Meats from Local Butchers

Selection of Wines and Local Beers

Hand Made Jewellery and Accessories

Greeting Cards & Postage Stamps

General Groceries

Emergency Medical Cabinet

Harlequin Dry Cleaning Agents

Loughborough Echo on Sale

Cafe' for hot drinks & cold drinks & a selection of Cakes, Muffins etc.

Orders can be made up and delivered locally

Tel: 01509 646464

Candlelit Carol Service for 2014



On the evening of Sunday 7th December, Soar Boating Club and Normanton on Soar Village joined members of St James' Church for the annual Candlelit Carol Service which was led by The Revd Canon John Bentham, Area Dean. Lessons were read by the then Commodore Jane Askam and President Mike Hammond and the singing of the carols was accompanied by Newmount Brass Band from Littleover, Derby, together with Brian Archbold on the organ. The children from Normanton village school sang for us and Normanton on Soar Village Choir's contribution included a flute solo.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Rushcliffe, Cllr Ron Hetherington and The Revd Glynis Hetherington attended the service.

The congregation were invited back to the Clubhouse for mulled wine and mince pies after the service.

President

Frank Hutchinson

Commodore

Glenis Hulme

Vice Commodore

John Wilkinson

Rear Commodore

Vacant

Honorary Secretary

Helen Taylor

Honorary Treasurer

George Bishop

Moorings Officer & Field Co-ordinator

Philip Stafford

Membership Secretary

Dianne Bishop

Editor “Soar Points”

John Storton & John McKay

Website Co-ordinator

Stan Sidorowicz