



The quarterly newsletter of the National Community Boats Association Summer 2008

### ***Good News Bad News Opportunity News***

**A**fter four years as its Training Development Officer, Paul Bryan has decided to hang up his national community boating hat and leave the NCBA. Paul's efforts were formally recorded at an NCBA Board meeting and, on behalf of both the directors and the members of the Association; I want to publicly thank Paul for his efforts during that time. Paul has helped develop and improve our range of waterborne and other courses. He was the driving force behind the Complete Crew Course and the Certificate in Community Boat Management being accredited by the Open College Network a massive benefit for many community boat users and has supported the work of many NCBA members in the delivery of quality training to those who access the waterways through community boating organisations. He remains a community boating trainer and, of course, is still active with his own project The Truman Trust. We wish Paul the very best for the future. NCBA training enquiries should now be directed to: the office on 0845-051-0649 or email [staff@national-cba.co.uk](mailto:staff@national-cba.co.uk).

### ***So Why "Good News Bad News Opportunity News"***

**T**he good news is Paul will still offer us advice, the bad news we will no longer have such ready access to anecdotes such as "one April the first I told the morning school assembly that the surveyors had found weak foundations on one side of the school. I then made them all sit on the far side of the hall". Away from work, Paul enjoys music and digital photography, and idling aboard his 52' Narrowboat "Enigma". He firmly believes that a day without boats is a day wasted. You have the opportunity to visit his website <http://www.wolverhamptonboatclub.co.uk> and to be hosted by him at the IWA National Rally in August 2008.

### ***Four Pillars***

**O**ne of your four pillars of the NCBA i.e. A National Voice could be found at the recently inaugurated PLA Harbourmaster's Recreational Navigational Group, who met on the 9<sup>th</sup> April to consider matters that affect the London Community Boat Projects which do venture onto the Tidal Thames (yes there are quite a few). The next meeting will be in September and again the NCBA will be making its presence felt upholding your interests.

### ***Accessible Boating Charity's Olympic Dream***

**W**ith just over four years to go to the London 2012 Olympics, the NCBA and the Canal Boat Project are working with a leading paralympian, Anne Wafula Strike, to make the most of the opportunities the games will bring to the area and to Community Boating in general.. They hope, by working together, they will be able to develop the use of the waterways for local and national disadvantaged and disabled groups to enjoy. The NCBA is also involved in much wider negotiations with the Olympics Delivery Authority and the Inland Waterways Advisory Council about how the legacy of 2012 will be felt throughout community boating. A number of the local projects are working to advise on this endeavor and updates will be published as they become available. If your organization is interested in participating, please contact the NCBA Chairman.

## Report of the AGM

Approximately 40 delegates and presenters from the Baldwin Trust, BDN Guide Counties Narrowboat, Birmingham Council, Bradford Motor Project, Canal Boat Project, DART, Ethel Trust, Hillingdon Narrowboat, James Strangeways & David Hardman, London Narrow Boat Project, NCBA, Sobriety, South Staffs Narrow Boat, The Open Lock Project and alphabetically last the Wharf Narrowboat Project.

Some highlights

- Noted that training is still effectively being subsidised by the NCBA
- Regional meetings went well & will continue for 2008/9
- The Four pillars continue and in particular the National Voice was heard in Parliament, within BWB and at the Olympics
- The Projects of Y Afloat & Flow are coming to a satisfactory conclusion during 2008
- Sue Ellis spoke about those under 25 year olds being brought into the Governance of their Training Centre and hence coming forward to becoming involved with the Governance of the NCBA itself
- Questions were fielded by Diane regarding the audited accounts for 2007 and the accounts were adopted.

The directors have changed viz

### Director Changes

Sir Bob Watson, Ian Hearn (Director of Common Sense) and Claire Porter left during the year, as did Mike Simmonds, whilst Paul Treble rejoined the directorial team. Your Chairman thanked Jenny Thorne (Knowledge Bucket) who speaks at the Parliamentary Group in "The Other Place", Peter Page who represented the NCBA for the EureauWeb, Sue Ellis (the dynamo of FLOW), Trevor the erstwhile deputy and The CUT editor who apparently creates the articles from thin air?

- The new nominations were from Phil Bassett (SW Herts NB Project) and Paul Cooper (Sobriety)
- Paul Treble: involved from 1984 with Community Boating, then Disabled Afloat Riverboats Trust & CBA (for half a decade)
- Paul Cooper; a boater for 40 years including both salty waters, tidal and fresh waters and a passionate believer that community boating should be greater than simplistic canal based trips
- Phil Bassett; a decade of community boating with South West Herts Narrowboat Project, who have a vision of access for all without exclusion. Phil also holds a BML & RYA training instructorships. All were elected *nem com*

## Training at the AGM

Paul outlined the gamut of courses NCBA Training Centres (ATC) can now deliver



including four new modules

- Developing household skill
- Health & hygiene
- Heritage Project (Young Roots)
- Environmental projects

Paul also reminded us that every Trainer will be visited during the next two years as part of the rigorous scheme of moderation that is now required by the MCA (and others).

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## AGM Speakers

This first talk arose from a Regional Meetings request, regarding Sustainability. Kevin Moton <http://www.socialenterprisewm.org.uk> from the West Midland Social Community



Partnership defined a social enterprise model where the Government wants to encourage the Third Sector Provision. A vibrant and dynamic speaker who suggested that Organisations should deliver social enterprise activities, but within a competitive environment and then plough back their surpluses into their organisations. We should explore opportunities for gaining contracts via training, marketing and contracting. For example: rebutting unreasonable demands to produce the same level of support for

less (*echoes of The Lifeboat*), ISE (actually a commercial group but with socially aware membership) are writing the modules and are aware that access is to be easy for the community groups via all media styles. A Social Enterprise status strengthens the opportunity for gaining grants and access to a legal framework. Social Enterprise Models provide this support structure.

## Tuptonia

Cynthia & Lyn from <http://tuptonia.org.uk> described to the AGM their 70 foot Sam Springer n/b Tuptonia (Tupton Hall



School) and its role. This aging Sam Springer design has mellowed and spread with age so that she now has a tendency to get stuck in narrow locks. Birmingham Guide Counties hopes to raise 95K£ to build a new boat.

## PLA Harbour Master's Recreational Navigational Group Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Apr 08 Minutes

As national Voice is one of our four pillars NCBA representation was felt at this inaugural meeting of the group. Brief highlights from the minutes are:

- Most river users represented on group apart from Dragon Boaters
- A new edition of PLA byelaws will shortly be released as a Consultative Notice to Mariners
- Byelaw concerning drink - has been changed to include drugs
- Bathing and Swimming – will now be formally banned in central London
- Diving Permissions – now includes recreational diving
- Tugs creating wash are a particular hazard which the PLA is aware of
- Recreational Users Guide, new version to be printed as a fold-out chart

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## *Dorton House Training*

**A**nd in a busy start to the season, just one week after the Thames Tidal Course Banny and I were to be found on the river Medway training staff from Dorton House School aboard a boat called the *Golden Duck* on behalf of Dorton House, a school for the visually impaired. The school is in Kent, which is why Golden Duck is now moored on the River Medway. Although the boat is now used much more frequently than when it was moored at Harlow, there are very few trained staff to help run the boat. Consequently CBP agreed to supply the trainers for CCC courses in April and May with a CCBM later in the year. The boat is based at Allington Lock, which is the dividing point between the tidal and non-tidal Medway. Currently they are limited to non-tidal trips in the direction of Maidstone and Tonbridge, but hopefully one day we will be able to introduce them to the tidal rivers course, which will open up a completely new picturesque cruising area for them.,



It was a pleasant and enthusiastic group to work with and all of the students passed. Banny and I were well looked after and we would like to thank Peter Mannering who runs Golden Duck on behalf of the school for his hospitality.

## *If Carlsberg did boat shows . .*

**J**ames highlighted the business success of the 2007 show, but accepted that the marketing of the show could be improved. He said he would "let ten times as many people know about the 2008 show" in order to meet the target of double the number of visitors to the show. The Earls Court Boat Show are pleased to announced a new partnership with lager company Carlsberg for the 2008 show, no doubt with the intention of making it the best boat show in the world... probably..



**A**mbitious plans for the 2008 show include more exhibitors, products, and entertainment, and on the question of whether there is enough room for two boat shows in London he said the Earls Court Boat Show and the London Boat Show at ExCeL can co-exist happily and that "competition is good for the consumer and for the trade". A spokesman for Carlsberg said "they look forward to partnering the organizers' of the Earls Court Boat Show or many years to come".

*James Brooke* MD Earls Court Boat Show.

Earls Court 2008 Probably the Best Boat Show in Kangaroo Valley?  
The Carlsberg partnership is in addition to the ongoing support of Whyte & Mackay, who sponsored the 2007 show



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## ***Tidal Course Red Watch Rescued!!! RNLI Saves the Day!!!***

**A**ctually Red Watch took part in an exercise with the RNLI on the second NCBA Tidal Rivers Course, which took place in April on the river Thames. Resplendent in her new livery, Red Watch was delivered to Limehouse Dock. As before, the course was run along similar lines to the CCBM, with theory sessions, multiple choice questions and practical sessions on the river.



Saturday was mostly theory with a short session on the river (including a 'man overboard' drill closely observed by a police launch) and an opportunity for the students to attempt entering Limehouse Lock, considered by many inland waterways boaters to be an extremely difficult manoeuvre. Up bright and early on Sunday morning and a treat for Banny and myself as the students prepared breakfast. Usually this is done by the trainers, however we did not escape the washing up (!) and then out onto the Thames where we met up with the RNLI river Thames lifeboats which operates from Westminster pier. They arrived in a flurry of spray, took us in tow, in an exercise that the lifeboat helmsman described as 'very helpful'. They explained that they see more and more boats taking on the Thames without ever having the opportunity to practice rescuing them. We also provided plenty of photo opportunities for the passengers on the passing pleasure boats. Congratulations all round as all four students passed.

*Tony Plunkett*

## ***The Safe Anchor Trust***

**T**he Safe Anchor Trust waterways charity, with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Kirklees, celebrated the launch of their marina project partnership with the news that TRH Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex had visited their Shepley Bridge Marina Mirfield in February.



## ***The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award***

**F**or the work of its volunteers in providing waterway trips for special needs groups and those with health problems. In 2007 for the second triennial period, Safe Anchor was named as a beneficiary of the Duke of York's Community initiative. The Trust was founded in 1995, has provided boat outings for over 50,000 people from over 500 local groups, who care for the elderly, people with health or mobility problems and young people. A major focus is to support organisations that require social and recreational activities to maintain or improve the health of their users and to support groups who have difficulty in taking part in everyday leisure activity. All the work of the Trust is undertaken by local volunteers and consequently the Trust is able to maintain its' principle of not charging for its' services. British Waterways and Kirklees Young People's Service provide significant financial support and guidance, which has enabled this small local charity to develop and thrive. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Kirklees at any one time has in excess of over 3,000 young participants, supported by a large group of active and committed volunteers. The Award in Kirklees has an outstanding track record in involving young people with disabilities and hard to reach young people.



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## **Policy Statement Issued by HMRC**

**O**n Friday 29 February it was announced that: "Private pleasure vessels will continue to be permitted to use marked fuel (red diesel) but at the rate for heavy oil, repaying the rebated duty via the Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils (RDCOs) who will declare this to HMRC. An allowance for domestic [heating/cooking] use will be permitted." HMRC's decision means that red diesel will be retained, at two different rates of duty, a higher one for pleasure craft using it for propulsion purposes, and a lower rate for commercial purposes. " The NCBA is continuing negotiations to establish the exact situation regarding community boat projects – many of whom do not easily fall into either private or commercial categories – and details will be circulated to members as soon as possible.

### **Remember CARP in the Spring CUT?**

**I**n the Spring CUT we saw CARP, but now seahorses have been seen breeding in the Thames!

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/london/7333980.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/london/7333980.stm).

Why does the South East region get so much mention? Is it because NCBA is London Centric or is it because they submit the most articles?



### **ISARA**

"*Isara*"<sup>1</sup> is a new project based in York. With the support of an established organisation, the *Sobriety Project*, Isara will be operating community boats in York for a few weeks this summer with the intention of creating a permanent project, with its own boat, in the city.

The new project aims to attract statutory, community and voluntary sector groups who, for whatever reason, do not have access to the waterways and the benefits (educational, social, therapeutic) that 'messing about in boats' can have. To give groups the opportunity to experience these benefits, there will be two boats in York during the summer, 7<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The boats will be offering half day and full day bookings, as well as activities, exhibitions and workshops. For more information about the boats, their potential, and bookings contact: The Yorkshire Waterways Museum; 01405 768730 or [julie@waterwaysmuseum.org.uk](mailto:julie@waterwaysmuseum.org.uk). For more information about Isara, and this summer's events, contact: [susiegridley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susiegridley@yahoo.co.uk)



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<sup>1</sup> ISARA: old Celtic root for the 'ure' which evolved into 'Ouse' the name for the river

## Networking Pillar

**NCBA** was represented with a prime spot at Cavalcade in May. Our stand was highly visible and attracted a lot of attention; however, we only had literature from four projects! Even some projects who had boats there did not provide anything for our stand and we only had one volunteer other than the crew from South West Herts Narrowboat Project who hosted our presence. The SWHNP again hosted an NCBA stand at Rickmansworth Canal Festival. I am looking for projects who are attending other Canal Festivals and Boat Shows - or any other event- to host the NCBA Stand. all you need is a small table and space to hang a banner. I will provide it all in one box. Coming soon, we have Crick, Tring, Ware and Angel that I know of. So if you can represent the NCBA and your fellow projects at these or any others.

Please get in touch.

[PhilBassett@gmail.com](mailto:PhilBassett@gmail.com)



## Regional Meetings

It appears that of all the projects that we have contacted about regional

meetings, only four have any interest in helping, hosting or attending. This is not enough to hold meetings. I cannot believe **this few** projects are really, the only ones interested? So, what is happening? Are you too busy to reply? Are you not the person in your project to address? Or, do not think regional meetings are any help to you. Please let me know. For those four projects that did reply - many thanks and I will be in touch soon. [PhilBassett@gmail.com](mailto:PhilBassett@gmail.com)



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**I** know, policies and procedures is about the most boring title/subject that I could have chosen. However, it does not have to be too much hard work if we work together and, of course, working together is what the NCBA is all about. Isn't it?

Back in 2001 the then CBA published a booklet of example policies and procedures which were distributed to the membership. At a recent meeting the Board reviewed this document and thought that it should be updated and made available. So if you have a policy or procedure, terms and conditions or other boring old document that you think does the business for you how about letting me have a copy for review and possible inclusion in a revised booklet. All items will be edited to ensure that the project or person that submitted it cannot be identified. Please help and give yourself a pat on the back for supporting networking within the NCBA. Ideally contributions should be emailed to [ptreble@cix.co.uk](mailto:ptreble@cix.co.uk). By July 31st 2008.

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*Are you proud to belong?*

**N**CBA makes great efforts to publicize your work – via the web, at exhibitions and waterways events (as seen above) and at all relevant national forums – and this work will be increasing during 2008. So how about retuning that favour? Our collective strength is how the national voice works and it works better if we are all showing pride in our membership. Every organization that has reached the appropriate standard to join the NCBA should be shouting that on their websites and in publicity material. How many projects have the NCBA logo on the front page, or even included at all?

No other membership organization represents community boating issues in the same way and, remember, the NCBA does not exist in isolation. Publicizing the NCBA is about raising the profile of what you and other similar organizations are doing. The increased profile for the NCBA only means it can represent you better on the national stage.

NCBA directors are you! They all run community boat projects, they all have the same stresses and pressures as you and they all know a great deal about how to run community boating organizations. They are a dedicated group who give their time freely to raise a national profile which they know will help their own. What are you doing to help them? Let's see a link to the NCBA on your website – and not just for training; let's see the NCBA logo on the front of your leaflets; and let's shout about community boating. If what we are doing is worthwhile, shouldn't we be proud to belong?

*James Bryan*

**Chairman**

**The Baldwin Trust**  
Narrow Boat Charlotte is for sale.

Looking for a Project Boat? Offers over £15000 are invited for Charlotte a 66ft narrow boat in need of internal re-fitting. It is presently in a 'sail-away' condition, the BMC engine has been over-hauled. It is presently moored at Raynsway marina at Pinfold Road, Thurmaston, Leicester.



For further details and to arrange a viewing please contact John Townsend on 07889 080635

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