

GOBA

Great Ouse Boating Association



news

Summer 2018

In this issue



**MINUTES OF THE
GOBA AGM**



FIVE CREEKS CRUISE



**NEW GOBA MOORING
ON THE CAM**

Cover photograph courtesy of Cleveland bridge



From the helm

Ian Cox: GOBA Chairman

A week ago I did not expect to find myself in the position of Acting Chairman writing a "From the Helm" introduction to the GOBA magazine.

Many of you by now will be aware that John Hodgson, the elected Chairman at the last AGM, decided to resign his position. Along with several other resignations, the GOBA committee is reduced to half a dozen individuals and a number of problems.

A lot of people over the years have put a lot of effort into making GOBA a successful organisation, well respected in the boating community, both locally and nationally. I, and the remaining committee members are not prepared to let the current problems affect our assets and indeed our role on the Great Ouse. Just imagine the river without GOBA moorings, bearing in mind that would be a loss of nearly half of those that are available.

In consequence of the recent events I have been co-opted on to the committee and elected as Acting Chairman.

I have every confidence that this committee will overcome the current problems and get GOBA back on an even keel (very nautical). Nevertheless, we would be grateful for any additional help from members who care about the river and have a few hours a month to spare.

Finally, on behalf of GOBA I would like to extend my thanks to John Hodgson and Geoff Parrish for many years of service to the boating community.

Let's hope the weather stays dry, the river at its normal level, and there is no weed to block the filters!

Happy Boating

Ian Cox



From the engine room

Phil Thane: GOBA News Editor

Don't worry, I've no intention of making this a regular feature, but as Ian was only drafted in as chairman just before the deadline, he didn't get chance to write very much and as I'm new to this seemed like the best place for an introduction.

I had a boat on the Great Ouse 30 years ago, but in those days could barely afford the mooring and insurance, so joining GOBA was out of the question. Then when the mortgage rate hit 15% we had to sell it. Twenty years ago I went to work in North Wales and although I could see the Llangollen canal from our house we were too busy restoring the house and creating a hillside garden to think about boating.

Now we're retired and living in Potton to be near our family, I bought a boat as a project. It needs a lot of work but it floats and goes and I've just been to the Crick boat show in it, 10 days each way and single-handed because Linda (my wife and regular crew) was injured and unable to make the trip.

This time I can afford to join GOBA and, like most members, I got involved purely for the moorings. But then I saw the appeal for an editor and as I've been a freelance writer for years I naively thought it would be a doddle. It isn't: it's given me a lot more sympathy for editors I've worked with in the past, but it is interesting.

Now the appeal. A magazine is only as good as its content, so if you have something interesting to say please get in touch. If you aren't happy about writing it yourself we can arrange an interview and I'll write it up for you.

And finally, you'll read elsewhere that GOBA needs more committee members to share the workload. I have a slightly different request, I want a deputy. Someone who can shadow my work, maybe take on a section of the magazine as their own and ultimately be a backup should I be hit by the proverbial bus. Or fall in a lock.

Phil Thane



**Copy deadline for the Winter 2018 GOBA News is Monday 1st October.
Send stories, comments or questions to editor@goba.org.uk**

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Minutes of the GOBA AGM

Held at CMBC at 11am on Sunday 29th April 2018

The Vice Commodore of the Cambridge Motor Boat Club ("CMBC") welcomed GOBA to the CMBC and introduced the GOBA Chairman, Mr. Sidney Fisher.

The meeting was then opened by the Chairman who thanked the members of CMBC for allowing us the use of their clubhouse and facilities and welcomed the guest speaker, Irvén Forbes, the Navigation Manager of the Environment Agency ("EA").

Attendance

The attendance record was signed by 44 GOBA members.

1. Apologies for absence.

Mike and Jayne Mackay (Mike in hospital), Commodore of OVRC, Commodore and Treasurer of Upware Boat Club.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 23rd April 2017

The minutes had been circulated previously within GOBA News and this day posted on the notice board prior to the meeting and available in the GOBA News magazine displayed on the table by the entrance door. The Chairman ascertained that all present had been able to read these Minutes.

Acceptance proposed by Roy Wood and seconded by Phil Armstrong. The Motion was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's report by Sid Fisher

Thirty six years ago in 1982 I was asked to join the GOBA Committee as the representative of the Pike and Eel Boat Club. The first meeting took place in John White's office at 85 High Street, Huntingdon. At the meeting were the four members of the Committee who ran the whole of GOBA, Geoff Hughes as Chairman, John Soanes as Secretary, Neil Kinselly as Membership Secretary and Bob Briery as Treasurer. I was soon informed that I was not there to represent the Pike and Eel Boat Club, but every member of GOBA on the whole river. I decided to stay.

In those days GOBA was a completely different animal than what it is today. We had 800 members with some 300 boats.



The Cambridge Motor Boat Club, venue for the GOBA AGM.

Now we have 1800 members with some 1600 boats. (membership is counted differently now being by boats). That makes about 3,700 boating members. We had 7 moorings in 1982. In 2017 we had 25. All have been surveyed for depth and cleaned out. The Hockwold Fens mooring has been lengthened to 200 metres long. Our mooring officers have worked really hard to ensure that all our moorings are fit to use.

At first, nobody wanted to know what GOBA was or what it stood for as we did not have the word 'National' in our name but now we are recognised nationally and are represented on the National Navigation Users Forum of the EA, the Parliamentary Waterways Group and by DeFRA.

I must say something about the Environment Agency. We were hoping that the navigation would be handed over to the Canal and River Trust, mainly because the Agency is tied to the Treasury rules that state that monies cannot be handed forward and that all money must be budgeted for and used in a particular year. The Canal and River Trust is a charity just like the National Trust and is responsible for its own finances. Unfortunately, Government has decided that at present, navigation will stay with the Agency. I am confident that the staff at the EA do the best they can with the funds that are available but it is never enough.

There is not enough money to repair the Prickwillow mooring in spite of the fact that GOBA has offered to take over

the mooring and repair it. Yet, the EA has turned down our offer, in spite of the fact that our navigation licence has gone up by 7.5% this last year. Perhaps, Irvén Forbes, the Waterways Manager, will tell us more today.

I offer my sincere thanks to all the Committee members over the years that they have worked so hard for the members of GOBA and supported me as Chairman. In particular, Alistair Reid who has served on the Committee for the past sixteen years. I think that Alistair should be given Honorary Membership – don't you? (shouts of "Yes" from the floor. There were no objections). Taken as a proposal the membership at AGM thereby approved the offer of Honorary Life Membership to Alistair Reid.

We do however, need more members to come forward to form a strong and powerful committee. You will all know by now that our Treasurer, Mike Mackay, suffered a heart attack and is very poorly in Kings Lynn Hospital. So, we need a new treasurer! I am sure that we all wish Mike a successful recovery.

You will shortly be asked to vote for a new Chairman. John Hodgson has put his name forward to succeed me. John, however, is already the Secretary of the Great Ouse branch of the Inland Waterways Association, a Director of the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd., and a Director of the Hereward Trust for the rebuilding of Welch's Dam lock and the reopening of the

continued over...

...from previous page

Old Bedford River to navigation. All I can say to that is, "Good luck" but remember when you are Chairman, it is GOBA first, GOBA, GOBA, GOBA!!!

After thirty six years on the Committee it is time for me to have a rest. I think, overall, with the help of the Committee it has been a successful tenure. With the legacy that was left to us by Arthur Fleming, GOBA has never been in a such a strong position. I wish the new Committee all the best for the future and thank you all for your support.

5. Treasurer's Report – Mike Mackay (Read by Sid Fisher)

Firstly, let me apologise for non-attendance, the first since 2002, but we hit a small local problem which became overwhelming.

Secondly, may I, through your good selves at this meeting or through friends, boat club members or family advertise for a new Treasurer and Membership Secretary, an exciting, interesting and very worthwhile function. More of this role later.

Referring to the Accounts page 10, you will see that although GOBA News advertising revenue has increased, our overall income has decreased, hence the decision to increase subs from £18 to £23 this year. This increase has had no discernible effect on the number of members we have. Unfortunately we are an ageing group unlike the younger generations who prefer short sharp foreign holidays with almost guaranteed weather and who neither have the desire to spend on boating nor do they have the wherewithal.

All general running costs are within bounds. However, the £22,222.00 with £3,000.00 increase shown under mooring maintenance, although obviously a cost to the Association in order to cover new signage and work on the moorings, were paid for by part of the legacy fund held back from investment especially for that purpose.

On page 4, our investment of the major bulk of the legacy continues to grow – even in turbulent times. Provided that no withdrawals are made, growth, unlike a savings account, is not subject to any corporation tax. Our tax burden this year is £ zero. Had we paid tax on the legacy it would have been a hefty £1,478.00.

On page 8 the debtors and creditors shown, are from early subscriptions (2105 in 2016) and bits and pieces paid over the year end period. Overall I am very pleased with our financial position this year and

wish to commend our accounts to the AGM.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Roles

Though this may change under new regulations, currently the membership database can be accessed through our website to allow members to check their own details. The website is also involved in registering applicants and giving access to both applicants and re-joiners accessing PayPal for payment or issuing a direct debit form for completion or details on cheque payments.

A Microsoft access database is used to administer applications, renewals and cancellations. This database is used to issue the thrice annual membership letter and obviously, statistics. A second access database is used to manage direct debit payments with a third database in charge of advertising invoices.

All financial matters, payments, receipts, etc are recorded on our Sage software with the results of such recording sent to the accountant at the end of the year. Access to the BACS system for direct debit payments and management is through commercial software as are various other activities. So, a new Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be able to use all our existing applications and full training will be given. Roles that I fully recommend.

6. Hon. Secretary's Report – Alistair Reid

As this is my last AGM report for GOBA, I thought I would look back at the issues that were current when I wrote my first report in 2002.

Most people join GOBA to have use of the moorings. Still true. New moorings are difficult to find. Still true. We have managed to add a few since then. EA liaison meetings with the EA take place every 6 weeks. Still true. Shoaling is a problem. Still true.

The use of members' money was high on the agenda as we raised funds from membership fees only. Subs were increased to £15. Since then we introduced advertising in GOBA News, which almost covers the cost of production and of course, the legacy left to us by Arthur Fleming puts us in a very strong financial position. Discharging effluent into the river by using sea toilets was frowned upon by some and the situation has not changed as the number of pump outs has barely increased.

Moving on to 2017/2018 the very unsettling situation for everyone

concerned of - will the CRT take over the navigation from the EA - has temporarily been resolved and this is not likely to take place in the immediate future. The committee, at one point, considered scrapping the Forum as it was being misused. It was decided to continue with the forum and to closely monitor the posts. Currently this action has meant that the problem has all but disappeared.

Floating Pennywort has been a serious problem for boaters and the EA, who have struggled to keep it under control. Lifting it out of the river and letting it dry out on the bank has been partially successful, however, small pieces left in the river grow very rapidly making it a constant battle to keep the navigation clear.

The proposed sale of the land on the riverbank in Ely near Bridge Boatyard caused GOBA and a number of other organisations to lobby the Minister for the Environment not to sell the land on a closed bid basis which was successful. The land will be sold to the local council which should protect the three businesses which would have been adversely affected if the land had gone to a private buyer. Another problem in Ely was the partial blocking of the navigation by Ely Marina which was rafting up a number of boats across the river. I believe this situation has been resolved by the EA river inspector.

The retiral of Beverly Jenisis as editor of GOBA News caused some difficulty with the publication of the last two issues of the magazine and we are extremely pleased that Phil Thane has joined the committee and taken over the role. As most of you will be aware, our Membership Secretary and Treasurer, Mike Mackay, has been extremely ill. We are pleased to report that he is on the mend and we send our best wishes to him for a full recovery.

The appeal made by our current chairman in a letter sent with GOBA News for new committee members has met with a positive response, details of which will become apparent when we come to item 7 on the agenda.

I am pleased to inform you that after many months the agreement between GOBA and the Conservators of the river Cam to grant GOBA the lease of a mooring at Baits Bite has now been signed by the Conservators. The mooring will be in use in the near future.

GOBA is sixty years old this year and to mark the event a sixtieth pennant has been produced and will be available for sale as of now.

I have just recently completed a cruise on the River Douro in Portugal and would



GOBA 60th anniversary burgee

like to report that they have the same problems with high water levels as we have causing locks to be closed. They blame the Spanish for letting water out of the reservoirs and the snow melt on the Spanish hills. Perhaps Irven could blame Scots when we have problems?

To conclude I would like to thank Sid for his kind words. A resolution was passed at the last committee meeting that anyone serving on the committee for 10 years or more and had acted in an officer role could be proposed as a life member. (Shouting from the floor, Geoff Parrish disputed this). As Sid has served on the committee for 36 years twice as chairman I propose that he is made an honorary life member.

(This proposal was seconded by Brian Higgins and passed by the great majority of those present by a show of hands and shouts of agreement. Sid Fisher thereby from a proposal put at AGM via the Committee (Rules 16e and 43) and also agreed by the membership, became an Honorary Life Member.)

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Still acting as Chairman, Sid Fisher, turned to the election of officers. There was only one nomination for Chairman and that was for John Hodgson. The proposal was by Geoff Parrish and seconded by Stuart Turvey. It was passed unanimously.

John Hodgson took the chair. He confirmed that, with the exception of Mike Mackay, who in his report had stated that he would not stand for re-election, Sid Fisher and Alistair Reid also not standing, the following were proposed and seconded en bloc. Jeff Hide, Tony Langford, Geoff Parrish, Phil Thane, Geoff Sutcliffe, Mary Pryor and Michael Lazarus. This was passed unanimously. It was proposed by The Chair that Tony Langford be Company Secretary and this was seconded by Geoff Sutcliffe. Passed unanimously.

8. To vote on rule 45(a). Appointment of auditor or accounts examiner

The Chairman outlined the difference between an accounts examination and

an audit advising the members that auditors fees would be far in excess of an accounts examiner, both giving the same end result. It was

proposed by Geoff Parrish that an accounts examiner be appointed and seconded by Jeff Hide. The Motion was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

9. To appoint an Accounts Examiner

Geoff Parrish proposed that C.J.Dyke & Co. be appointed as Account Examiners, seconded by Tony Langford and carried unanimously by a show of hands.

10. Topics raised by members

Phil Armstrong commended the committee on its hard work over the past year.

Brian Higgins proposed a vote of thanks particularly to Sid Fisher which resulted in an ovation of agreement and clapping of hands.

11. AOB

There was no other business and all present were keen to hear the speaker. The Chair reminded members that the Committee will continue to support members' interests as ever and that it was a case of déjà vu as he had followed Sid Fisher as Chairman in 1998. There being no further business the meeting was closed and the Chairman handed over to the Guest Speaker.

Guest Speaker

Irven Forbes, Waterways Manager of the Environment Agency for the Anglia region.

Mr. Forbes asked for audience participation which he received throughout his address. He opened by describing the 656 kms of waterways for which he was responsible from the Stour in Essex to near the Humber in the north. In fact it is more than the Thames and Medway regions of the EA put together. His areas are under the day to day control of managers such as Sue Cant covering the Nene and Paul Separovic covering our area and into Essex. Neil Pope leads the Assets Team responsible for moorings and locks with the job of SLA and Nathan Arnold now the EA partnerships officer, which he explained.

He referred to the taking on and training of volunteers, two last year following the setting up of the scheme through Cambridge ACRE and with the hope of up to twenty this year onwards. Such volunteers will not just cut grass and paint structures but will also be involved

with activities such as enforcement. His team will be involved with more PR now attending water festivals with their own gazebo at Ely Aquafest and Bedford, Nene etc.

Upon his asking of those who use Twitter only three in the room put up their hands. He encouraged more to use it as really up to date information is on Twitter now. The elephant in the room was referred to and Mr Forbes made it clear that the subject was not one that the EA was allowed to make recommendations upon. They had spent a lot of time advising CRT and the Government but the EA was required by its legal position to remain impartial. The decision not to transfer duties from CRT was that of Government, in particular, announced by Teresa Coffey then Waterways Minister of State. Jeff Hide, vice chairman of GOBA and along with Geoff Sutcliffe, mooring officers who attend EA liaison meetings confirmed that since that decision, the EA staff seemed a lot happier. Mr Forbes stated that the whole issue had been, and still is to some extent, a burden on his staff's shoulders and at least there appears to be a breathing space for a while. He also confirmed that whilst main contracts under SLA had to be dealt with in accordance with Government rules, where the size or urgency of a task required it, more work was being undertaken locally and in house.

He went on to disclose the sums of funding received and from where they came. In particular that increases from Government will occur in the next few years for capital expenditure but will drop a lot thereafter. Reference was made by several members in the audience about the 7.5% increase and the lack of discernible improvements. Those who benefit should pay, was the Government mantra said Mr Forbes who then referred to the new five year review which will consider all river and waterways users and their contributions. Sid Fisher raised the question of efficient use of funding and the offer by GOBA to take over and repair the Prickwillow mooring left cordoned off for years on the grounds that there were no funds to maintain it. Mr Forbes admitted that he was aware and will look again at the offer. He also asked for audience suggestions of why boat registrations had decreased and of the many answers, the cost, ageing and moves to other waters such as the Norfolk Broads were given.

Questions were asked by some members and fully answered and the meeting was closed in time for lunch at 1pm.



A 600 tonne crane places the first beam across the river near Buckden. Photo courtesy of Cleveland Bridge.

UK's biggest road upgrade crosses the Great Ouse

As part of Highways England's £1.5bn A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme, Cleveland Bridge is creating a 750-metre viaduct bridge spanning the river and a large area of bordering flood plain on each bank. During June a major milestone was reached with the installation of a 39 metre long beam joining the two sides.

Containing 6,000 tonnes of steel and comprising 76 separate main girders and 800 cross girders, the structure was fabricated

at the company's production facility in Darlington. The majority of the main girders are 40 metres long, two metres deep and weigh 50 tonnes each.

To enable the installation of the structure, including the most recent viaduct sections, a temporary platform was constructed under the length of the new bridge to provide a solid base for cranes and lorries. To save time and site congestion, Cleveland Bridge used a 600-tonne crawler crane for the installation,

which could lift all components for each section of the bridge from a single position at the side of the bridge.

Chris Droogan, Managing Director of Cleveland Bridge UK, said: "The River Great Ouse viaduct is a showpiece element of the A14 project and will have a major impact on improving this part of the UK road network."

Boat owners are pleased that so far the work has caused little or no disruption to river traffic.

How to improve the shelf life of polyurethane glue and mastic



As boaters we all know how useful polyurethane glue and mastic, such as Gorilla Glue and Sikaflex, is. We also know

how expensive it is. Unless working on big jobs, one is inevitably left with some still in the tube and if it is just left lying around the workshop, even with the cap on, it will harden and become useless. A shipwright friend of mine gave me a useful tip – put it in the freezer and it will stay perfectly usable for months. In his case he put it in the ice cream cabinet of the adjacent chandlery!

When storing a polyurethane mastic like Sikaflex I suggest putting a piece of polythene film over the cap of the "tube"

and then screwing the nozzle back on. Don't forget a. to put some masking tape around the working end of the nozzle or you will get some nasty marks in the freezer and b. you'll need a new nozzle when you come to use it again. One vital point, when you take it out of the freezer: let it thaw before trying to use it.

The Sikaflex you see in our freezer has remained workable for over a year. At a tenner a tube it isn't cheap so it's worth taking the trouble to keep it cold.

Tony Langford

Computer Aided Design improves canopy manufacture



Steve measuring roof

Computer Aided Design has been common in boat building, engineering and architecture for many years but now low cost equipment and software makes it feasible even for small companies in niche markets like boat canopies.

When the cockpit roof on John and Juliette Pridmore's Birchwood 'Wild Garlic' began to leak the choice was - renovation or cover? A couple of years ago they had a new canopy made by Titan Canopies of St Ives which they are pleased with so they asked Titan to make a clip-on cover for the roof.

The starting point for any bespoke design is accurate measurement of whatever the design has to fit. Rather than set to work with the traditional tape measure and notebook Titan's MD Steve Johnson used a Prodim Proliner IPT device to capture accurate measurements that can be loaded into the designer's workstation. The Proliner IPT uses a 'pen' connected to the device by a wire. The operator touches the pen on key points of the object (boat roof in this case) and the Proliner registers

the length of wire and the angle at which it leaves the Proliner. Different pens are selected to measure hard-to-reach points and the angles and sides of the roof and also the anchor light box and the measurements are again fed back.

After checking the measurements in the machine on site, the Prodim is returned to Titan's design studio where the information is loaded into the designer's computer.

Using Rhino 3D Julian Dodman produced a detailed 3D design which was turned into 2D working drawings using Alphacam software. This data controls a Blackman & White Orion cutter/plotter which cuts an accurate shape whilst the pen marks stitching points and the position of windows, bars, anchor light, studs, etc.

From there on the process is reliant on



Cutter-Plotter



Seamstress Nicky

skilled machinists who stitch the parts together.

Steve says, "The investment in this technology has helped us maximise on material utilisation. In turn this enabled us to provide our valued clients with a product that can be produced cost-effectively but has also helped maintain the quality levels for which we have become known."

John points out that, 'The roof cover made for Wild Garlic should fit hundreds of Birchwood 25's on the Great Ouse. If yours leaks contact Steve with your details and he will talk it through with you and, with all the measuring and design work done, he should be able to offer you a special deal!'

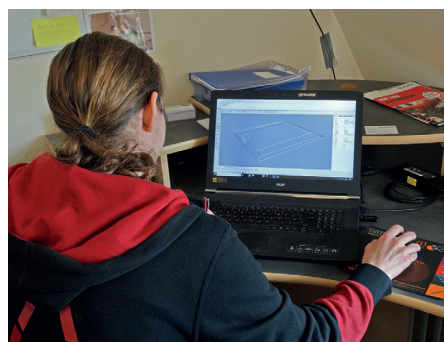
www.titanboatcanopies.co.uk

Tel: 07463 643356

email: sales@titanboatcanopies.co.uk ■



Prodim proliner



Julian the CAD designer



Seamstress Gil



Photos: Ben DiGuilio.

Narrowboats on the Ouse

There are plenty of narrowboat styled cruisers on the Anglian Waterways these days but it's rare to see genuine old narrowboats here. This pair of visitors were photographed by lock-keeper Ben DiGuilio as they passed through

Denver Sluice lock heading for Salters Lode and the Middle Level. Aquarius was built by Harland & Wolff in 1936 and Petrel by canal carriers Fellowes, Morton & Clayton in 1914. FMC was a big concern with it's own yards

and often built its own boats. Both are motor boats of composite construction. The earlier Petrel has iron sides and a wooden bottom, by the 1930s when Aquarius was built steel had replaced iron, but the bottom was still elm. ■

New members in the making



This extensively modified GRP cruiser was spotted recently under Wilton Bridge on the Little Ouse/Brandon Creek. Good to see the hankering after water borne adventure continues in the younger generation. Thanks to Laurie Morton, CMBC.

GOBA on the web

GOBA has had a website for a long time and unlike many organisations we've been pretty good at adding new stuff to it. What we haven't been so good at is keeping the underlying technology up to date and improving the look of the site. As it's grown it's got more complicated and a bit confusing. Time for a rethink.

Meanwhile the admin involved in dealing with membership renewal, new members and the associated finance has become a serious issue for the committee which is a lot smaller than it used to be.

A couple of members of the committee (Phil and Tony) have been given the job of looking at what the website does, could

do and should do in future.

One suggestion is that we move all the work associated with membership onto the web. At present even if you apply online someone has to download your information and input it manually into the membership database, then add your direct debit details (or cheque payment) to the accounts software.

Under a web-only system you would input your details, including payment details, into a web form and software would deal with the rest, greatly reducing the work load on the membership secretary.

At the moment this is just a suggestion, so let us know what you think either via the website forum or by email to editor@goba.org.uk

Old Bedford River – IWA 2018 Campaign Cruise to Welney and Welches Dam lock

In the lead up to the IWA Festival of Water at St Neots, IWA Peterborough Branch is organising a Campaign Cruise on the Old Bedford River through Welney and up to Welches Dam lock. The event will take place from Sunday 19th August to Wednesday 22nd August.

There are also plans for associated gatherings to support the campaign cruise to take place simultaneously at Horseyway Lock and at Salter's Lode, so even if you can't take part, why not support the campaign by gathering at one of these locations. People are also encouraged to take part with canoes or small portable boats, or just to go for a walk along the river in the Ouse Washes Nature Reserve and enjoy the unusual sight of a number of boats in addition to the wildlife for which the area is renowned.

There are a number of different ways to get involved. You can:

- Take part in the Campaign Cruise with a powered boat (two flotillas - departing from Salter's Lode on Sunday 19th and Monday 20th August, returning on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd)
- Take part in the Campaign Cruise with a canoe, kayak, rowing boat or other unpowered craft (by launching direct into the Old Bedford River)
- Support the Campaign Cruise by joining the gathering by boat at Horseyway Lock
- Support the Campaign Cruise by joining the gathering by boat or car at Salter's Lode to watch the flotilla depart

Two days have been allowed in each direction to enable more boats to take part as the number of boats will be restricted



▲ Old Bedford River Campaign Cruise Nov 2017 by David Mercer

► Welches Dam during Nov 2017 campaign cruise photo by Eddy Edwards.jpg



by the limited time available for boats to pass from the tidal Ouse through Old Bedford Sluice on the level. Boats will also need to be 50 ft or less in length to take part. Local and visiting boats, including those on their way to the Festival of Water at St Neots, are welcome to take part and are invited to express their interest by emailing Alison Smedley,

IWA Campaigns Officer (alison.smedley@waterways.org.uk).

Full details can be found on IWA's website at <https://bit.ly/2MuFifF>



St Ives Illuminated Boat Parade

The parade of weird and wonderfully illuminated boats along the river is a bi-annual event, and its time has come again. This year it will be on September 8th. The actual parade of boats starts at dusk, but turn up at on the quayside any time after 7pm to get a good view.

If you want to take part, contact the organisers via their website at www.stivesboatparade.co.uk

If you need inspiration watch this YouTube video of the 2016 event <https://bit.ly/2Ne55Ta>

B&MK, LEP and DfT acronym soup explained

There have recently been reports in the local media to the effect that the scheme to improve the A421 in the Milton Keynes area, approved by transport minister Chris Grayling, will scupper the proposal to link the Great Ouse to the Grand Union canal which forms part of the long term plans of both Central Bedfordshire and MK councils. Whilst poking any government minister with a sharp stick is amusing, the story is a bit more complicated.

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway (B&MK) has been approved by both local authorities to the extent that they have both promised not to allow any development to intrude on the proposed line of the canal making its eventual completion impossible. The A421 does cross the proposed route so clearly there's an issue but leaping to blame 'failing

Grayling' as some have done is no help.

The first thing to note is that the scheme was not proposed by, or designed by, the Department for Transport (DfT) it was a proposal in the Strategic Economic Plan of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The government accepted it and earmarked £22.5 million towards the cost from the Local Growth Fund administered by the DfT. The scheme was designed by and will be carried out by the two local authorities who will pick up the rest of the bill. As you would expect the DfT checked the figures to ensure that the government's contribution was warranted, and when the scheme was approved the 'black water' hit the prop.

So, have the councils broken their pledges to keep the route clear? Not

really. The scheme makes provision for the road to be raised on an embankment at the point where it crosses the line of the proposed canal to ensure headroom and additional land has been purchased to enable this and the eventual construction of a culvert underneath the road. What they haven't done is include the cost of a culvert in the road scheme.

Perhaps if the B&MK were actually under construction and the work on the A421 co-ordinated with it then money would have been saved but the reality is that the B&MK is still a long term aspiration with very little happening on the ground and with the current pressures on spending no council can afford optional extras on a road scheme.

Phil Thane



Committee news

As you may have heard there have been a few changes to the GOBA committee. The current membership is as follows:

Acting Chairman.....	Ian Cox
Vice Chairman (and Moorings Officer, downstream)	Jeff Hide
Company Secretary	Tony Langford
Membership Sec and Treasurer.....	Mike Mackay
Moorings Officer, upstream.....	Geoff Sutcliffe
GOBA News Editor	Phil Thane
Other committee members:	Mary Pryor
	Roger Lill
	James Robinson

In addition to the positions listed above various members have also agreed to represent GOBA on various external bodies. These are:

Conservators of the River Cam	Tony Langford
EA/GOBA Liaison	Jeff Hide and Geoff Sutcliffe
Anglia Waterways Group	Ian Cox and Mary Prior
National Navigation Users' Forum	Ian Cox
National Inland Navigation Forum	Phil Thane
Parliamentary Waterways Group.....	Mary Prior

See contact details on back cover



New address

Committee members come and go, but GOBA goes on. In the past we have been in the habit of using current committee members' private addresses for GOBA correspondence but that is problematic when committee members change, or when one is ill or otherwise unavailable. They might even be away on their boat!

A PO Box is one possibility, and it has been tried in the past, but it's expensive and it's not always convenient to collect the mail during Post Office opening hours. Thanks to the generosity of the Environment Agency we now have a post box at Hermitage Lock, Earith that we can access any time – and it's free.

So if you want to send us a letter please use this address:

GOBA
Hermitage Lock Office
Earith Bridge
Earith
HUNTINGDON
PE28 3PS

New GOBA mooring on the Cam

After many negotiations, agreements and drafting, the Cam Conservancy Board have now signed a ten year agreement for GOBA members to moor at a new venue situated between

Baits Bite lock and the road bridge at Clayhythe. The mooring is to be known as Baits Bite. There is a cycle track alongside the River Cam at this mooring but no road vehicle access. The mooring has the

advantage of new piling with mooring points on top and in consequence a very sure solid edging between the water and the path.

Our mooring officer, Jeff Hide, together with his wife

Jacquie, erected the GOBA mooring signs on 3rd June 2018 and so were the first to use the new mooring.



The new mooring has new piling and secure mooring points.

Mooring Officer Jeff Hide erecting GOBA signs on the new mooring.

Helping hands –

volunteers making a difference on our waterways

Our precious waterways are an important part of our nation's rich heritage and beauty. They give enjoyment to countless people – not just to those who navigate them but also those who walk alongside them, sit by them, fish on them, cycle beside them or simply enjoy being near them.

Partnering with Cambridgeshire Acre, a rural community council, means we can work with volunteers to do more for the 1 million visitors who enjoy our waterways every year. This Volunteers' Week, we're recognising all the diverse skills, personalities, perspectives, knowledge and experiences local volunteers can bring.

Here, two of our assistant lock-keepers describe what motivated them to volunteer and what they're enjoying most.

"It's like working on the East Anglian Riviera"

David Myers, 54 (right), is a retired care worker. Now he volunteers with the Environment Agency as an assistant at Denver Sluice in Norfolk

"In the same way that some people just have to live by the sea, I've always had a connection to our rivers. There's something

clean and natural about it, and the pace of life is gentle."

"I grew up with the River Cam and remember boating, canoeing and holidaying on the Broads. Then, three years ago I stopped working and my partner and I have been living on our boat ever since. At first it was an adjustment, but there's nothing like waking up in the morning, opening the shutters, and looking out at the sunrise over the farmland from the end of the moorings."

"It's a dream job, in a rural location surrounded by nature and wildlife," David says.

"These days I spend about 98 per cent of my time on the water, and last year I became a volunteer at Denver lock. I'd seen an advert online and I'd always wondered about being a lock-keeper – the way of life was so appealing."

"So, when I'd finished working and was looking for something interesting to do with my time, I applied. It's enjoyable, light work with something to appeal to everyone. Working in a pair, one person mans the controls on one side of the

bridge while the other talks with the folks in the boat, explaining what we're doing, reassuring them and giving helpful guidance."

"Although I've spent a lot of time on the water, I never knew there was such a knack to operating the locks – you have to account for the tides, winds, weather, and keep an eye on the computerised system to make sure conditions are right and the water is calm enough to let boats through."

"And while it's not always busy, it's never dull. You're outside, surrounded by nature, meeting all different kinds of interesting people including holiday-makers, full-time river-dwellers, and visitors from France, Holland and all over Europe – in fact I think it's like working on the East Anglian Riviera. It's a bit of a dream job, really, out in a rural location surrounded by nature and wildlife, with a relaxed pace of life and a real sense of community."

"I'd encourage anyone who's thought about volunteering at a lock to look into it further. You'll be trained and supported, get to work in the fresh open air, and help others enjoy our wonderful rivers, too."

"Oh, and if you're lucky, you might even get to see a seal or two swim through a lock, like I have. Apparently they do that from time to time!"

"I love passing on my local knowledge"

Tina Everett, 57 (right), is a part-time carer and photographer who has recently signed up as a waterways volunteer.

"I never knew volunteer lock-keeper assistants existed until last year. But I got chatting to a fellow boater who lives nearby, and he told me how rewarding he found volunteering with the Environment Agency at Denver Lock."

"I was intrigued. I love to learn and it seemed a great opportunity to further my knowledge about the rivers and natural world around us."

"My partner and I have lived on our



David Myers's view.

News from the



Environment
Agency



Tina Everett's tree.

own 62ft canal-boat for about three years. He's always wanted one and I've since come to relish the freedom, peace and quiet of river-living. Last year we spent three months away in our boat and travelled 450 miles and went through 427 locks."

"When you travel by river, it gives a different perspective on the country we live in. You notice different things because you've got more time to do it. I've been able to see birds like king-fishers and herons, and observe the behaviour of nesting swans – things I've never experienced first-hand before."

"I want to help people find the same enjoyment on the rivers that I have," said Tina.

"Now I've signed up as a volunteer, and so far, I've really enjoyed learning about the rules and regulations of the waterways and what our roles are, thanks to excellent training from Rachael at Cambs. Acre. I'll be working at Denver Lock on the Great River Ouse, helping boats get safely through the lock, and doing a bit of gardening, too, to make the area more attractive to visitors."

"I also help people learn more about the local area – answering their questions and helping them learn more about the local area. Everyone's really friendly and it's great to be able to pass on my local knowledge. I want to help people find the same enjoyment on the rivers that I have, so I'm already finding that volunteering is really rewarding. Who knows – maybe they'll then go on to volunteer at some

point too."

"Being a volunteer at the lock is ideal whether you want to find hours that better suit your lifestyle, meet new people, or just be by the water as it's so peaceful and relaxing.

"Plus, doing something to help the community just feels good."

You can find out more about Anglian Waterways on our website. If you'd like to learn more about opportunities to volunteer, search online for Anglian Waterways Volunteer Scheme, or contact us on 01353 865037.

Volunteering Q&A

What does a Waterways Volunteer do?

We are currently looking for volunteers at Northampton Marina, Denver Complex, near Downham Market and St. Ives/ Houghton locks. Representing the Environment Agency Anglian Waterways team you will be an important source of information for boaters using our waterways and will help with many aspects of our work, so the tasks will always be varied. You do not need any boating experience but you must be confident to be around water.

What will you get out of it?

You will learn how our waterways are managed for public use, meet new people, acquire new skills, and make a valuable contribution to providing safe facilities and a warm welcome for boaters and other visitors alike. You will be given appropriate training as part of your induction to the scheme.

Who is running this scheme?

Cambridgeshire ACRE is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to manage this scheme. As a Waterways Volunteer you will be volunteering on behalf of the Environment Agency and will wear an Environment Agency Volunteer uniform. Cambridgeshire ACRE will recruit you as a volunteer, organise your training/ networking events and generally support your volunteering activities with the Environment Agency.

How do I find out more?

If you want to meet new people and making a difference locally, or gain new skills and experience please phone or email scheme coordinator Rachael Brown.


Phone: 01353 865037 Email: rachael.brown@cambsacre.org.uk

Want to apply to become a volunteer now? There are lots of ways you can do this:


Go to: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RO427/> to complete an online application form.

Or download the application form <https://bit.ly/2KtXyBV> and send a completed version to Rachael at the email address above. Alternatively you can post a paper copy to Rachael at: Cambridgeshire ACRE, 72 Market Street, Ely, CB7 4LS.

If you would prefer a paper application form to be sent to you in the post then please either phone or email Rachael and she can arrange this. ■




Love Waterways? Volunteer!



We are looking for volunteers to be an important source of information for boaters and help keep our waterways special places for people to enjoy.

Contact: Rachael Brown, 01353 865037. rachael.brown@cambsacre.org.uk
anglianwaterwaysvolunteerscheme.wordpress.com

Register your vessel or face court

Failing to register a boat for use on Environment Agency waterways is an offence under the Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Order 2010, and carries a maximum fine of £1,000.

Boat owners on Anglian Waterways are being urged to make sure their vessels are properly registered after an increase in the number of people being fined.

The call comes after six boaters were ordered to forfeit more than £7,200 between them – all for failing to register their craft for use on Anglian Waterways. At the time of writing a further 12 cases are still expected to be brought before the Magistrates.

It is a legal requirement for boat owners to register any vessel they keep, use or let for hire on Environment Agency waterways, and to clearly display a valid registration plate. None of the six boaters found guilty had done so.

It brings the total amount of avoided registration charges that have been recovered by the Environment Agency this year to almost £120,000.

The agency said cash is reinvested into maintaining, improving and protecting waterways.

Nathan Arnold, waterways partnerships and development team leader, said, "Our historic and precious waterways are an

important part of our nation's heritage and are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people every year."

"Those who don't contribute as they should are threatening the future of our waterways – and we won't hesitate to take action against them."

As well as not contributing to the upkeep of waterways, unregistered boats can be unsafe, hazardous to other river users, and a pollution risk to the local environment and its wildlife.

The Environment Agency looks after 353 miles of navigable waterways in the Anglian network, which includes the Ancholme, Black Sluice, Glen, Welland, Nene, Great Ouse and Stour, as well as associated locks and navigation facilities like moorings, showers and toilets.

More information about boating and waterways, including registering vessels, is available at www.gov.uk/ea.

If you suspect a boat is illegal, you can contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 or e-mail waterways.enforcementanglian@environment-agency.gov.uk.



Summer of festivals

The Environment Agency made a return to the Crick Boat Show as Anglian Waterways this year to kick off the official summer of festivals on Anglian Waterways. There's a

busy events schedule, not only on the Great Ouse and River Nene but also on our smaller navigations such as the River Stour. If you're attending one of these major events why not pop by and pay us a visit. If you'd like a poster to display to let other know of the events please get in touch. We have attended or will be attending:

- Crick Boat Show
- Ely Aquafest
- Bedford River Festival
- IWA National Festival

We will also be present at numerous other events and festivals on our rivers whilst we have staff out and about at weekends over the busy summer months so please say hello if you see us or one of our dedicated volunteers out and about!





Pump-out token introduction & tap devices information

Boaters and river users are being informed that after the current boating season, during the Autumn and Winter of 2018, the existing public pump out facilities operated by the Environment Agency on the River Great Ouse will be switched over to token operation ready for the 2019 boating season. This will affect the Environment Agency pump outs operated at Westview Marina in Earith, the Ely Waterfront Willow Walk and Denver pump outs.

These are some of the last pump out units on the inland waterways network to move to token or paid for operation which will help to offset the operating costs for these facilities and enable the Environment Agency to stand a better chance of providing these sorts of non-statutory facilities further into the future.

We hope it will encourage more responsible use of these facilities as they are incredibly expensive to provide, maintain and operate. The vast majority of break downs and outages are caused by unusual items finding their way into the pumps. Items such as rags (clothing), bottles, tin cans and drinks cans have all been retrieved from these pumps and items such as non-return valves etc. have been completely destroyed by them in the past.

The Environment Agency provides these facilities as we recognise they are much needed by boaters on the river and in short supply. Private operators find it is not economically viable to provide these pump-out facilities but the Environment Agency is not obliged to provide such ancillary facilities

and at times when funding is becoming ever tighter, yes even in the light of registration fee increases, we have little choice but to introduce tokens in an attempt to offset the costs involved with pump outs.

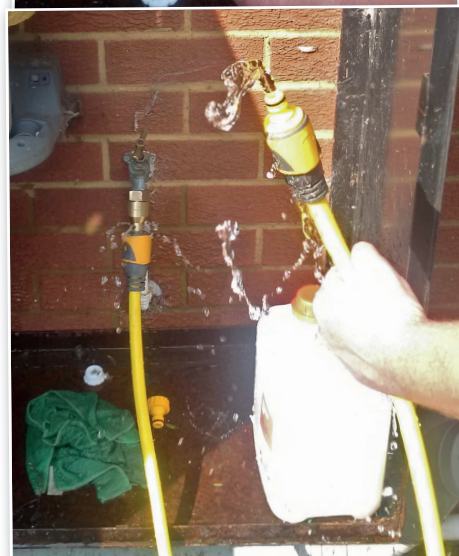
We are busy at present recruiting a network of additional navigation agents on the river system in order that you will be able to buy pump-out tokens nearby to where they are located throughout the week. Once up and running, we will place notices on the facilities and a map and or lists of local agents where you can go to purchase a token. Currently for 2018 the pump out tokens are £10 per token which will give you a long enough period to empty the holding tank of inland waterways craft. The tokens are also the same as those used on the River Nene Environment Agency Navigation so you will be able to use all tokens on both rivers.

You may also note additional metal work on our water supply taps on this and other navigations. These are being dictated by water regulations and have to be fitted to maintain legal compliance. Please don't be tempted to alter, remove or damage these devices as they are a legal requirement and if damaged or removed may jeopardise the provision of the facility for the future. Where fitted please be patient as it is likely it will take longer than usual to fill water holding tanks and try where possible to keep any hoses below the tap level to ensure the water doesn't vent and fills tanks at the maximum achievable capacity.

Thanks for your co-operation and patience.



Tap additional fittings



If hose pipe raised too high interrupter will activate, resulting in loss of water at hose end.

Income from moorings up

We are forecasting another record year of income for our rented moorings across the Anglian Waterways. The renewal program has been completed and we have again retained a high number of mooring customers. Northampton Marina is still near capacity, some customers have left, but recent years have shown that this is usual with natural turn over, and some people have relocated for work or sold their boats. Enquiries are still being received and people on the waiting list have been contacted with offers of moorings.

The Denver Complex is fully occupied with a waiting list in operation and plans are being drawn up on ways to increase capacity to meet demand. Upware moorings have retained high numbers of occupancy with enquiry numbers still strong.

The occupancy rate on our Ancholme moorings (South Ferriby and Brigg) continues to be low, the site at South Ferriby is going to be downsized to save on maintenance costs, and the remaining few moorings will be improved.

Overall Occupancy and Income

To the end of the financial year 2017-18 our income from our rented moorings totalled £193,000, an increase of nearly 12% on the previous year.

Overall, the sites on the Great Ouse and the Nene have reached, or are near to reaching, their capacity. We are looking at managing utilisation of all sites, where we can expand busy sites and finding efficiencies will be some of the key areas for us to continue focusing on this year.



Five Creeks cruise

In addition to my membership of GOBA, I am also have the honour of being a country member of St Pancras Cruising Club. Regular users of trains into St Pancras will have noticed their moorings, on the left just before you arrive – although I do not moor there (hence the rather quaint “country” bit). We organise regular trips on the tidal Thames, especially for novice tideway narrowboaters, but also occasional more adventurous trips. By way of advance warning, a sizeable contingent of club boats will be invading the Fens in 2019 – some via the Nene, some via the Wash from Boston. For 2018, our objective was five of the rarely visited tidal creeks on the

Thames – Bow, Deptford, Dartford, Crayford and Barking. A small team did the work on passage planning - which requires careful perusal of the tide tables, as all five creeks dry out completely at low water, picking the brains of previous visitors, and a couple of reconnaissance trips to take photographs and measure out the moorings. I also contributed along some of my collection of gadgets. We had three VHF radios, a wind gauge, GPS plotter, and depth sounder on board CORACLE, the lead boat for most of the cruise. After a rich and varied maritime heritage – including a major role in the construction of Mulberry harbours in World

War 2, Dartford has been bereft of boats for several years. The lock in the town has also been out of use for several years, which means that visiting boats need to take the ground at low tide – not something narrowboaters are very keen to do.

The cruise was spread out over two weekends. We started with a 90 minute briefing on the Friday evening at the Cruising Association’s excellent clubhouse in Limehouse. The Vice Commodore did a general reminder of our safety drills, and I followed up with more detail on our passage plan, including three group manoeuvres that we might need to execute



Bow Creek, heading down to Blackwall point.

Deptford Creek.

Dartford Crossing, and some bigger ships.

– for example when crossing the fairway in front of a large ship, or waiting until an obstruction is cleared. Quite a bit of this is available, for those who are interested, on <https://nbsg.wordpress.com/fivecreeks/>, which also includes GPS tracks showing where we went, and also proving that we didn't cut the corner on left hand bends (easy to do!).

On the Saturday morning, the seven boats involved did a quick tour around the newly re-opened waterways in the Olympic Park, and then locked out into Bow Creek as early as possible – about 2 hours before High Water – punching in the tide until we entered the main channel at the O2 Millennium Dome. We then travelled up to Greenwich and up the ancient Deptford Creek – Peter the Great visited here in 1698, to learn how to build a decent navy. At this point one boat overheated: after rescuing them we left them tied up to a convenient barge and pressed on. Time and tide wait for no-one.

We set off from Deptford at high water, and were then committed to the run down to Gravesend, where there is an excellent pontoon for us to spend the night. The wind was running at about 15 mph, which is fine, but was from the East which was less so, so we had a slightly unpleasant wind over tide effect. The Port of London Harbourmaster, who keep a close and supportive eye on all we do – advised us to waste some time, so we arrived at Gravesend at low water. Time for one of my manoeuvres: half a dozen laps of a quarter-mile long loop just downstream of the Dartford Crossing.

After dinner in a local pub (with a very

continued over...



Dartford – DECIMA and the narrowboats behind.



Final skippers briefing on the pontoon.



Moorings at Gravesend.

Settling on the mud for the first time.



Fast tideway traffic.



Dartford Lock at High Water.



Gadget central.



Barking Barrier.



Dashing through the Barking tidal barrage.



Some more big ships.



Back on the nice safe canal, at last.

...from previous page

noisy party downstairs), a spectacular lightning storm, and at least some sleep, on Sunday we set off at half tide for the short run up the Thames, under the Dartford bridge, and into the (almost invisible, and completely unmarked) entrance to Deptford Creek. We were one of the centrepieces of the first ever Dartford Nautical Festival, which also featured the DECIMA, a very fine Thames sailing barge. The locals were very pleased to see boats in the creek again, and gave us a very warm welcome.

Our moorings in Deptford were somewhat unconventional, using the lock there, but with all the gates permanently open. There was a lot of silt in the Creek, after years of neglect, and so the boats took the ground from about 3 hours after HW to about 2 hours before. We had a rota of skippers, so there was someone on duty

on each occasion, to check the boats settled in the right place and that they did not get stuck in the mud on a rising tide. We were quite concerned about this beforehand, but it all worked fine. In between times there was quite a lot of chatting, and drinking of gin (though I had to go to work).

After a week – which included a short trip up the Crayford Creek – we had to make our next move, to Barking. Similar to Bow, this involved leaving as soon as possible on Saturday, on the flooding tide, in order to get to Barking at the right time. The moorings there are upstream of a tidal barrage, which only opens 1 hour either side of High Water. There's a sizeable community of barges and ships of all sizes there, and the residents were very welcoming (including laying on a BBQ. And then, on Sunday, after some exploration of Barking, we again had to

depart smartly in order to get up Bow Creek before too much of the ebb was running. There was a real risk of being stranded in this creek, with not enough water to get to the lock. After that we were then back to normal canals, and many more boats and people, for a glorious evening run back to base, arriving at 22.15 hrs.

The whole trip was huge fun, and involved a real sense of adventure, as we took a group of narrowboats to somewhere that had not seen visitors for many years. I'm looking forward to a similar trip to Horseway Lock this August, as part of the campaigning activity to persuade the EA to reopen the Old Bedford River and Welches Dam lock.

Simon Judge

General Secretary's Report

Tony Langford: GOBA General Secretary



The very first thing I must do is to thank Alistair Reid for the many years of service he has put in as General Secretary during which time a great deal has happened, both in the world and on the Great Ouse. There have been difficult times which Alistair has helped steer GOBA through and we can see some difficult times now (more later). It is with some trepidation that I take over the pen from Alistair and I hope I shall be able to come close to matching his efforts and expertise.

The Committee has seen some dramatic changes in the last two months and you will find reference to this in "From the Helm". Although we have been lucky in recruiting two new Committee members, Michael Lazarus and Phil Thane (the new Editor of GOBA News), this did mean that the Committee numbers had been reduced to just seven – well below the seventeen of a decade or so ago.

Some good news, however, is that Ian Cox, a past Chairman of GOBA, has kindly agreed to rejoin the Committee and has taken on the role of Acting Chairman. Ian

has an enormous knowledge of the river and of boating in general and the Committee welcome him back at this difficult time.

A Committee of eight is just too small to sustain an organization as big as GOBA, with so many members and 26 mooring sites to manage and maintain. We also face a challenge in finding a new Treasurer and Membership Secretary to replace Mike Mackay, who has indicated his wish to pass these roles on as soon as possible. I don't think I am exaggerating when I say that the Great Ouse would not be as attractive a river to cruise on if there were no GOBA. I can remember first cruising the river 50 years ago without the benefit of all the GOBA moorings!

The message to you is "if you want GOBA to thrive, please consider sharing your skills with the organization by becoming a Committee member". You will find my contact details on the back cover of the magazine.

By now we will all have paid our new EA fees for the year and whilst the increase has come as a shock and despite robust

representations to the EA, I hope you will agree that the presentation to the AGM by Irven Forbes was both interesting and encouraging. We have high hopes of establishing a closer and yet more cooperative relationship with the EA over the coming months. You may know that we have been trying for some time to get action from them over the mooring at Prickwillow which has been out of action for a while. At a very recent meeting with the EA I am pleased to say that members of the Committee were given assurances that remedial work is now in hand.

The boating season is now upon us and so is the grass-growing season, but our grass cutting teams will be at work on the moorings too. The weather does not yet seem to have made up its mind whether summer is upon us or not, but my recent excursion on the river was pretty encouraging and I hope you will all enjoy another great season of boating on the Great Ouse.

Tony Langford ■

High tide at Earith.



Mooring Matters

Jeff Hide: Moorings downstream • Geoff Sutcliffe: Moorings upstream

As the season progresses with both wet and warm weather the grass is growing apace, as are the nettles. The grass cutting schedule seems to be keeping on top of things but we are always open to being told by members where there is a problem so we can bring forward a cut where possible. My inspection of all the moorings at the start of the season showed them to be in good serviceable condition.

Subsequent inspections has shown the rapid growth of grasses and nettles due to both the rain and subsequent warm weather. Our grass cutting contractor is attempting to keep on top of this but in some cases (Pike and Eel) access has been restricted due to flooding. This is an ongoing challenge but hopefully boaters will see improvements throughout the season.

The only mooring that I would draw attention to that requires a 'Caution' is the meadows at Hemingford Grey. High water levels during the winter and spring have caused some erosion of the bank behind the piling. This is not immediately apparent when approaching by boat, partially because of the grass growth. The wooden capping to the piling is sound but in places behind this there is soft or collapsed ground. Signs adjacent to the GOBA signs

have been erected stating 'Caution soft bank behind piling' but not along the length as these would be an additional hazard!

GOBA is currently establishing who will take responsibility for restoring the bank. Boaters are always advised to take care when mooring as conditions can change from day to day. Whilst GOBA extends its best efforts to maintain all moorings in a safe state, members are reminded that the use of GOBA moorings has always been at their own risk.

A thank you to members who have contacted us regarding over-stayers on our moorings - a perennial problem. When we can establish beyond doubt that a boat has overstayed a 48hr period we serve a contravention notice against the offending boat owner. In most cases the boat duly moves along. We know of repeat offenders who try their luck, staying as long as they can, then bounce between EA and GOBA moorings. We have other deterrents beside the contravention notice, if the repeating offender is a GOBA member then we can revoke their membership denying them the right to moor on any GOBA mooring. Whilst this does not physically prevent them mooring it does allow us to evict them any time they are found on our mooring without having to establish an overstay,

which is sometimes difficult and time consuming. One of the advantages of being a non-government organisation, is that we are not bound by the rules adversely affecting government bodies. GOBA's legal rights to allow only its members to moor on its moorings, subject to terms, is a bit like allowing someone to park on your drive. Those without permission or those breaching the agreement they have with you, can simply be removed. No court orders needed, just a straightforward written or oral requirement to leave being ignored. Ultimately GOBA does have the right to physically remove vessels of offenders when they refuse to move on. The vessel can be disposed of to recover costs incurred.

We expect a busy river this summer with many events on along the river attracting boats from all over the network, so we need to have all moorings fully available to those who have the right to moor. Considerate mooring also adds to available space so please consider the space you leave when mooring and move closer if possible when other boaters are struggling to find a space.

The River Great Ouse downstream from St Ives is somewhat different with its many tributaries creating some of the most idyllic waterways and vistas. It is a long way



Overstaying on Nobles Field.

moving at some 4mph near habitations and 7mph where there are miles of isolated stretches down the Lark, the Little Ouse and the Wissey. Seeing them all could take days and nights.

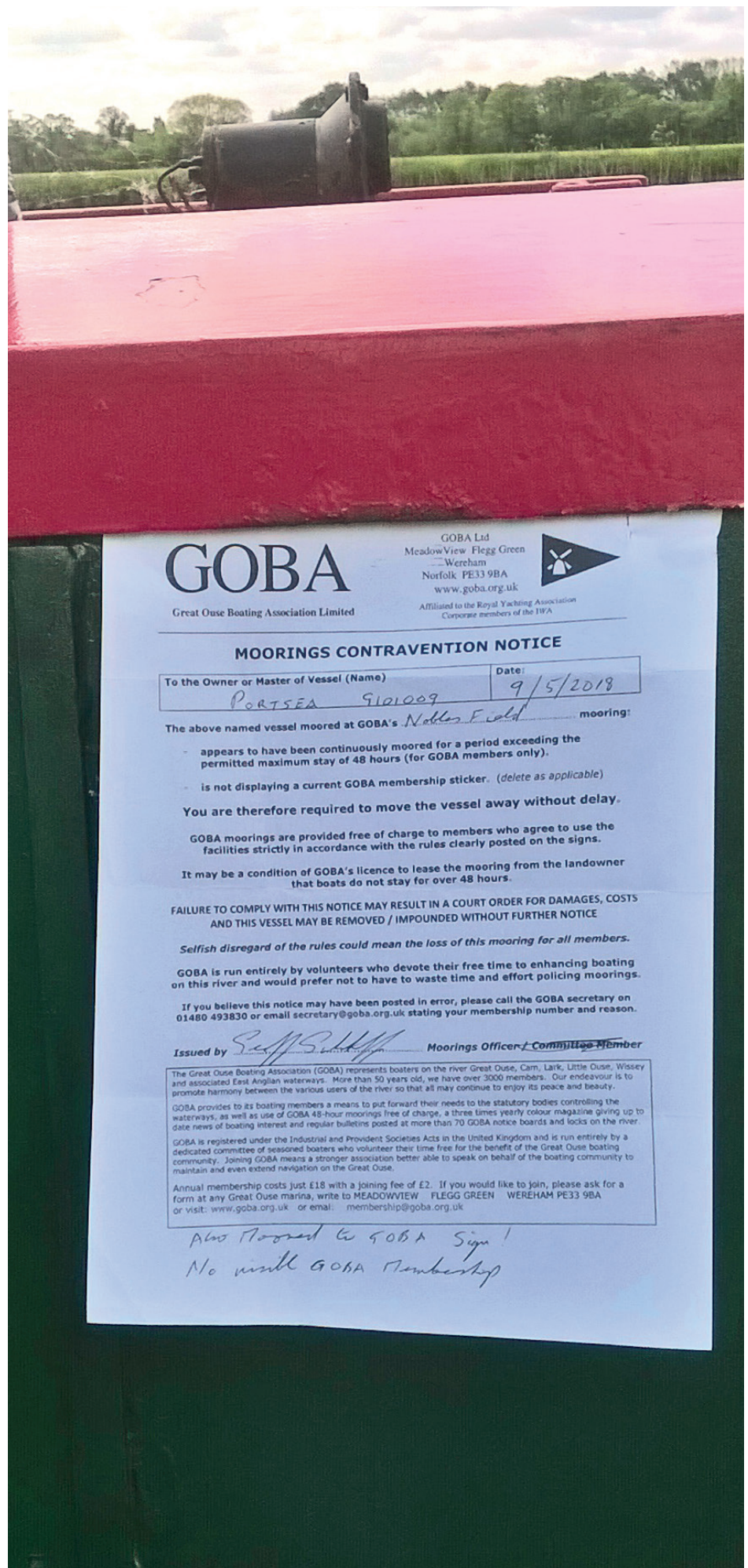
From the lodes to Wicken, Reach and Burwell off the River Cam there are challenges to be faced. The usual weeds are one of these. Bearing in mind that to move forward, a vessel's propeller needs as much water as possible on which to have a bite. Where the depth is only a foot or so below the propeller, more water may appear to be pulled backwards than the thrust for the vessel to go forwards. Thus, on some lodes an engine may be turning at a regular speed but the vessel moving at half normal speed. The land seems to go backwards – just! But, if you get to Wicken or Reach, what beautiful spots to moor for a while.

It is clear to us all that the Navigation side of the EA at local level continues to face shortages caused by central Government policies, yet it is expected to provide the same standard of performance. Where our extra 7.5% on fees will go we don't really know. I doubt if it helps with the 1% per annum that their workers get. But, it is pleasing to note that our local EA officers are making improvements where they can. Following our AGM in April, the request to Irvn Forbes to fix the Prickwillow EA moorings resulted in success from what we were told at the following monthly EA/GOBA liaison meeting in May. Likewise they now have volunteers doing meaningful tasks. One of our committee members, Mary Pryor is one of them. Other ideas are being developed.

Further to this, in view of the significant problems GOBA faced with the retirements and resignations of about half its committee members, an offer to help was made by senior EA Navigation officers that resulted in a meeting and a number of ideas are being developed to the advantage of GOBA members. One concerns the improvements to our moorings at the village of Reach which will be of advantage to all boaters and the village. Our 26 moorings are an essential facility to aid the EA's 35. Without ours even more problems would exist.

We hope you make best use of the summer and that we get opportunities to be out on the river well into Autumn.

Geoff and Jeff



Issuing a contravention notice.

Bedford Boat Club



Dare I say that summer is finally here? We have really enjoyed a couple of club events since my last piece.

We organised a Charity Royal Wedding Tea Party on Saturday, May 19th, which kicked off by watching the Royal Wedding, then an afternoon tea party with all food supplied by members, and what an absolute feast of sandwiches, cakes and scones appeared. This was followed by the FA Cup final, and finally in the evening a BBQ. All the proceeds raised were for The Primrose Unit, Bedford Hospital and we managed a total of £350. A brilliant effort from everyone and a great idea from our Commodore's wife Emma. Big thanks to everyone who supported the day.

The May Bank Holiday weekend club cruise to Great Barford was attended at various points by 17 boats, with some members joining us by road on the Saturday evening and Sunday. Members enjoyed the usual grass games, a quiz, and a flying display from our Vice Commodore Mick "Biggles" Jamieson with his array of drones and radio controlled aircraft. The weather was very good to us on the Saturday evening but rain marred the evening on Sunday, however, a meal organised at the Anchor pub for the majority of members was very well received.

Our next event coming up on Sunday June 10th is the Dinghy Run, with a lot more names up this year we hope to get more members out on their dinghies up river to Kempston for BBQ lunch at "Davey B's locker" (Dave and Jan Bouttell). It's always great fun and we'll have plenty of pictures for the next GN.

With the River Festival looming in July our boating team Ian and Lorraine are busy organising and preparing our club entry ready for the "Club class" as usual. It's always a great event and has always been very well supported by Bedford Boat Club. A week before the River Festival is our club Summer BBQ Saturday July 7th, with food, a live band and bouncy castle.

I always like to mention when members of ours decide to call it a day boating. This year it is Graham and Barbara Lincoln, very long standing members. Graham is a past President and was also Commodore for quite a number of years. We wish them both all the very best in whatever they get up to in the future.

Well that's a roundup complete. I hope it's a very enjoyable summer for everybody on the river. Stay safe,

Paul How

*President, Bedford Boat Club
phow58@gmail.com*



The Royal Wedding Tea Party charity event.



Club cruise to Great Barford, photos by Commodore Mick "Biggles" Jamieson

Whitehouse Boating Club



Hi all,

Just a quick catch up report before I plunge into our forthcoming events.

So far so good: a bad start to the year with snow and ice threatening the cancellation of few events but since then what blistering weather we have enjoyed? Membership is up on last year, the bar is open regularly, Friday and Saturday and the events we've had to date have been very well attended. Is it the weather or is it folk trying to get away from the awful media headlines? Who knows.

Forthcoming events:

Sat 23rd June - Afternoon tea from 3pm, quality baking from Sally and Co served with a bit of culture!

Sat/ Sun 14th & 15th July - Many of us will be heading off to the Bedford River Festival, berths all booked up

Sat 28th July - Our big annual event, A Greek Summer Feast with Mez BBQ starting at 4pm and Sophia Soul singing us into the evening. Ticket only at £20 each from behind the Bar, all welcome

Sat 4th & 5th Aug - Our mystery weekend away, found only by the treasure map. Check in at the Bar for details. Our annual event, good company and always a good laugh.

Sat 25th to Mon 27th Aug - St Neots Festival of Water - Right on our doorstep, should be fun and very interesting... Can't wait!

Sat 1st Sept - DJ Pete Cob entertaining in the Bar, a bit of booze and

boogie.

Sun 7th Oct - WHBC Annual General Meeting. 11am - Always exciting and unexpected stuff, just like East Enders but without the murder plots.

I've highlighted just a few events above. All and more are advertised on the WHBC website,

www.whitehouseboatingclub.org.uk
More impromptu events appear on the Whitehouse Boating Club Facebook page.

If you are interested in more information on any of our events or want to become an Associate Member at £20/ pa please feel free to call me on 07428 647882

Happy Boating McBoaters

Bryan D

WHBC Commodore

Ouse Valley River Club



OVRC's boating season has got off to a great start. We reported in the spring edition of GOBA News that we were about to get into our spring work party and, as usual, we had to repair our access road which by the end of every boating season is full of pot holes. 6 tonnes of type 1 hardcore, Russell's JCB and a big roller along with a willing band of volunteers sorted out the road into the club so that we don't do in the suspension on our vehicles.

Lots of other stuff has been done as well; sorting out the grounds, trimming hedges, burning all the old tree cuttings, painting the slipway edge, cleaning club windows and clearing all the spider's webs from the outside of the club house eaves and finally a thorough clean of the inside of the club house to get it all ready for the season. The weekend's workers were all slowed down by the great tucker put on by Mike Brightman's social team which was all very welcome.

The social team have already been very busy with this year kicking off with our Valentine's night in February closely followed by our opening of the season event where we were treated to home-made onion soup served with crostini, Hunters chicken served in a barbecue sauce with rice and sweet corn and to follow, sticky toffee pudding served with custard. (Mmmm!) Entertainment was provided by the Soul Man a great singer. And so it goes on, every event so far, lovely food and great evenings of entertainment.

Our Open Cruiser Meeting was a particularly important one as we celebrated the 90th birthday of one of our dearest and cherished members, Dave Norbury, who, despite finally having to sell his beloved boat Jodin, continues to come to the club and continues to support every single event.

In April we had our spring social (great nosh once again) and were entertained by the Bluerays.

Summer starts at the OVRC with the Commodore's Sail Past. We had 38 boats and over 125 people attend this event on the 13th May. The sun shone throughout the day as we processed past Keith Madgett and Chrissie the Commodore and his Lady to pay our respects. This event was closely followed by our Cruising weekend, 27 boats and one caravan all cruised up to Hartford Marina over the bank holiday weekend, blessed with great weather. The theme was



▲► Cruising Weekend at Hartford Marina.

Pirates of the Caribbean and we are pleased to say the members did not let us down. Everyone made the effort as can be seen from some of the photos. Members enjoying silly games, music, quizzes, karaoke, disco, dinghy booze cruises to the pub, slap up meals at the Hartford Mill, quiet walks to the garden centre or simply lazing about on their boats.

As we write this report we reflect on the event of this very weekend our annual Club BBQ and this year we decided to have an open day, inviting guests from other boat clubs, our friends and family from outside the boating fraternity and most of the membership were present. Once again, the sun shone, the people came and we fed, watered and entertained over 200 people on Saturday 9th June in the OVRC grounds. Four live bands played throughout the day, there was a Pimm's stall, a cake stall, a boat Jumble, bouncy castle, a fudge stall, a challenging water balloon catapult game, and an even more challenging ring the Dove game! And we even managed to get six boaters to do some boat handling on the day. To round it all off, we had an amazing BBQ and gateaux from the social team and danced the night away to the music of another great band, Joyrider. Thanks to all who organised this event it was a great success.

We would also like to remind everyone that over the August Bank Holiday, St Neots will be hosting the IWA Rally on Regatta Meadow. Should you be attending you are cordially invited to visit our excellent clubhouse opposite the event. We do have limited moorings for the week end and they are available on a first come basis but, you are welcome to come around to the club if you do get a mooring elsewhere to enjoy the hospitality of the OVRC.

We now look forward to our summer



OVRC member Dave Norbury celebrates his 90th birthday.



OVRC annual barbecue.

holidays and certainly look forward to seeing all our boating friends in the sun and on the water.

Happy Boating All!

Russell Sleet & Phil Armstrong

Vice Commodore & Rear Commodore Team
OVRC welcomes all membership

Enquiries please view www.ovrc.co.uk or e-mail info@ovrc.co.uk for more information.

Upware Boat Club



What a great start to the year! In February we visited Littlecote House, a Warner's Hotel in Berkshire, for our kick-off event. Fourteen of us gathered there for our Winter Cruise, the threatened snow showers held off for the weekend and we all arrived safe and sound and on time as the bars opened. Well, what else did you expect from the UBC gang?

There was plenty to see, do, eat and drink and the entertainment on the Saturday night was fab – "The Rollin Clones" although some of our members were suffering from an acute case of narcolepsy, especially after dinner and much to everyone else's entertainment.

Archery was held outside in the freezing cold, so attendance by other guests was poor, which meant we had more time to fire arrows and fewer practise sessions. Barb won the first round, Nigel the second and Terry who by this time had a swollen finger the final round.

Littlecote House is haunted, all the rooms in the old house are open for guests to wander through at leisure any time of day or night, so some of our braver UBC members did their own midnight ghost hunt - spooky. Well done Terry who organised the event.

The Commodore's welcome was held in Ely Masonic hall in April. This was an evening of good food followed by a disco

that officially started our boating season and welcomed all members.

Now on to the fun events. Early May Bank Holiday, we had a Mexican themed event at the Denver Lock complex. The club Marquee was decorated in Mexican flags, bunting, balloons and fiesta banners and we were plied with Tequila and Margaritas. We listened to Mariachi music to get us in the fiesta spirit - not that we needed much persuasion. Senors and Senoras dressed from head to toe in Mexican themed outfits and, there was an abundance of sombreros and thick black moustaches that over a period of time became detached from their owners and were found stuck in various places on other people's clothing, like an infestation of black hairy bugs.

We were also visited by another strange creature, Terry in a Mexican flag Morph suit, complete with rolled sock. When he brought the outfit he boasted, "no one else will have this costume." Ha, no one else would dare wear it.

The weekend also featured a walk to the "Engine Bar" at the Denver Windmill and a mini-bus trip to "Timbers Country Lodge" for dinner one evening.

The whole weekend was bathed in glorious sunshine and high spirits. Thanks to Jon and Debbie the event organisers.

Late May bank holiday was based at the Lazy Otter Moorings. This gathering is the UBC sports event, a favourite of many club members and the event was well attended. We started with an optional meal in the Lazy Otter pub on the Friday night. On the Saturday there were numerous games revolving around "Brexity" such as 'glass



Lazy Otter Moorings.

half empty/glass half full' and hoops over bottles to find 350 million. Steve and Wendy the event organisers were very tough adjudicators, so there was little wriggle room for cheating. When the games were over we settled down to a relaxing evening of BBQ food, drinking and music under gazebos.

On the Sunday, several boats took a trip up to the Stretham pump house. With guests on board enjoying drinks and nibbles on the way, the evening was completed by a sharing of Italian themed dishes, wines and cheeses. Once again, we were blessed with some fair weather.

We have an interesting program of events planned until the end of the year and this can be found on the UBC website, but just to give you some idea, our next event is at Brandon Picnic Moorings and then we have our flagship event the "Regatta" held at the "Swan on the River" in July.

Special thanks to the committee who work hard to make sure that, although the events are at the same old venues, we have lots of new and interesting things to do, and to the members for their support at these events.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon on the river.

Jane Read

Commodore, Upware Boat Club.
www.upwareboatclub.com



Terry as Morph.



Winter Cruise 2018.

IWA Great Ouse Branch



The boating season is now well advanced (early June at the time of writing) – and will be even further on by the time you read this. The branch meetings have successfully moved half a mile down the road to North Lodge (post code CB24 6UD.) We now have exclusive use of meetings premises which is a far better arrangement with no extraneous noise. The branch magazine, Ouse News, has further details.

The branch meeting on 22 February was an update. Roger Sexton and David Mercer from Project Hereward, which regular readers will recall is a joint venture between EAWA and IWA to re-open Welches Dam lock and the Forty Foot navigation at no cost to the Environment Agency (EA.) They gave an interesting summary of the latest state of negotiations with the EA particularly the way of taking over the navigation on a temporary basis in order to undertake the works. This will include clearing and lining the cut and renovating the lock pen itself. More information can be found on the Project Hereward website:

www.project-hereward.org.

Following that, 22 March was the branch AGM. This was conducted in the traditional speedy manner and usual format of any AGM, minutes followed by Officers' reports which have, for several years, been circulated prior to the meeting. Gail Mead

and David Anderson were both re-elected to the committee having come to the end of their three year terms. The meeting lasted a full six minutes! This was followed by the traditional report by the EA, this time in the person of Irven Forbes who has not joined us for several years so it was good to be able to welcome him again. He updated us with the ways in which the EA now imparts information about their work, strong stream advice, cautions etc particularly using social networking and the Agency's own website, detailing the procedures used to upload onto these media.

The branch arranged a visit to the RSPB reserve at Lakenheath on Saturday 28 April which unfortunately was a wet, miserable day. Fourteen members and friends were given a detailed and informative explanation of the history and work at the site by David White, the Visitor Experience Officer. There are but five full time staff supported by volunteers. From 1995 the site has evolved into a breeding ground for the usual array of birds to be expected in the area but also for cranes, bitterns and marsh harriers. After a splendid buffet lunch some of the hardier amongst us ventured for a walk round some of the site in the rain.

The annual gathering of boats was held at Reach over the May Day bank holiday weekend, Reach Fair itself being held on the



Moorhen photographed by E. Hodgson.

Monday 7 May. The Saturday evening dinner was moved to Swaffham Bulbeck and an excellent meal was enjoyed by 11 members.

I'll remind readers again that the annual IWA Festival of Water will this year will be held within our branch area at St Neots. This will be on the August 2018 Bank Holiday weekend Saturday 25 to Monday 27 August. More details in the newsletter and on the website below. The autumn meetings will be on 25 October and 22 November and details of the subject will be found in Ouse News.

As always, I commend to you a visit to the IWA Great Ouse branch website at www.waterways.org.uk and following the links. It contains more information of both the local and national activities of the Association.

John Hodgson

greatouse@waterways.org.uk

01234 344884

07867 558084

Pike and Eel Boat Club



Great start to the season with the Pike & Eel Boat Club

Our Easter Event this year was a huge success again and despite the weather we still did our Easter Bunny Hats! We had a great turn out and as you can see from the pictures everyone made an effort. The prize went jointly to Tony and Lelia Rea's Granddaughters.

The May Bank Holiday was a huge success when the PEBC went to Nobles Field near St. Ives. There was a great turnout. Our Commodore, Fred Allen, organised a meal at the Golden Lion Hotel. On the Sunday we had a barbecue in the afternoon which went into early evening

followed by some Ceroc Dancing by some of the members!

Over the Spring Bank Holiday the PEBC went to the 'Five Miles from Anywhere' and had another great weekend joined by some members of the CMBC. We had a lovely meal followed by lots of dancing into the night. Our Vice Commodore Nigel Brazier played a 60s number on the drums for fun!

The PEBC look forward to seeing you all on the river this summer.

Susan Brazier

PEBC Honorary Secretary

pebcsecretary@gmail.com



Easter.



May Day.



Steal Away Nottingham town lock.

Milton Keynes to Bedford Waterway Link – advantages and disappointments

I believe that our waterways, rivers and canals, are for everyone to enjoy, boaters and non-boaters alike. We have been boating for 25 years, mostly on the Great Ouse and its tributaries, always based in St Neots. I mostly enjoy the river from Bedford to the Pike and Eel pub, mainly because of the trees lining the banks, the twists and turns in the river, and the interesting towns along the way. I also enjoy the Cam, the Lark, Brandon Creek and the Wissey.

Many years ago we took our Elysian 27, Jan-Sar, through the lock at Denver and through Salter's Lode lock to visit the Middle Level and the River Nene, an interesting experience with all the low bridges and new places to visit. In recent years we have taken our 32' Dutch steel cruiser, Steal Away, to the Norfolk Broads, which was excellent as we like Norfolk and there are no locks to navigate. A couple of years ago we braved the trip across The Wash, to cruise the rivers Witham, Trent, Soar, Aire, Ouse and many connecting wide canals. Our three month trip on Canal and River Trust waters made us really appreciate the facilities we have on the Great Ouse.

So it is great that when the Milton Keynes to Bedford link is opened more boaters will enjoy the Great Ouse, as we have enjoyed visiting other waters.

However, I am concerned that height and width restrictions on the new link will not allow access by cruisers to the canal network from the Great Ouse. There seems to be little information on the width and height restrictions on the proposed new waterway. Currently boats with an air draft in excess of 2m are not able to get under the railway bridge upstream of Bedford, so would not even be able to reach the start of the new link at Kempston.

All the locking facilities on the Great Ouse were originally designed and built to accommodate broad beam cruisers. When we started boating it was a rare sight to see a narrow boat on the Great Ouse. Over recent years boat owners on this system have purchased narrow boats, and we now see a lot of visiting ones. We have witnessed two narrow boats trying to go through Brownhill lock side by side, and getting stuck. Whereas our locks can accommodate anything up to five cruisers, they can only accommodate one long narrow boat at a time. Mooring facilities are provided by GOBA, the EA, and town councils, and were originally geared to the cruiser market, the majority of them are short. However this situation is slowly improving with the provision of longer moorings.

Will the system cope with a large influx

of visiting narrow boats? We may find out this summer as the Inland Waterways Association are holding their annual festival in St Neots over the August bank holiday weekend.

Currently visitors come through the lock at Denver, some go all the way to Bedford and then return. Perhaps the new link will mean they can come in at one end of the system and leave it at the other, so they would be on the Great Ouse for a shorter time. On the other hand, there may be a lot of narrow boat owners who do not want to cross the short stretch of tidal river between Salter's Lode lock and Denver lock. They would be able to come on to the system at Bedford, cruise all the way to Denver, and go all the way back again.

We have learned recently that the plans for the new waterway link may be jeopardised due to the fact that the planned upgrade of the A421 from the M1 to Milton Keynes has omitted the need for a culvert under the A421 to accommodate the new waterway as there is no funding for it (*see news item on page 10*).

My concern over the proposed new waterway link is that it may not be of any benefit to cruiser owners on the Great Ouse.

Lin Cox



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Great Ouse Boating Association Ltd
 Meadowview, Flegg Green
 Wereham
 King's Lynn
 Norfolk PE33 9BA

INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
 Please pay **Great Ouse Boating Association Ltd**
 Direct Debits from the account detail in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with **Great Ouse Boating Association Ltd** and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Branch Sort Code

--	--	--	--	--	--

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To the Manager Bank/Building Society		
Address		
	Post Code	

Originator's Identification Number

4	1	4	2	5	7
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Reference Number

G	O	B	A	-					
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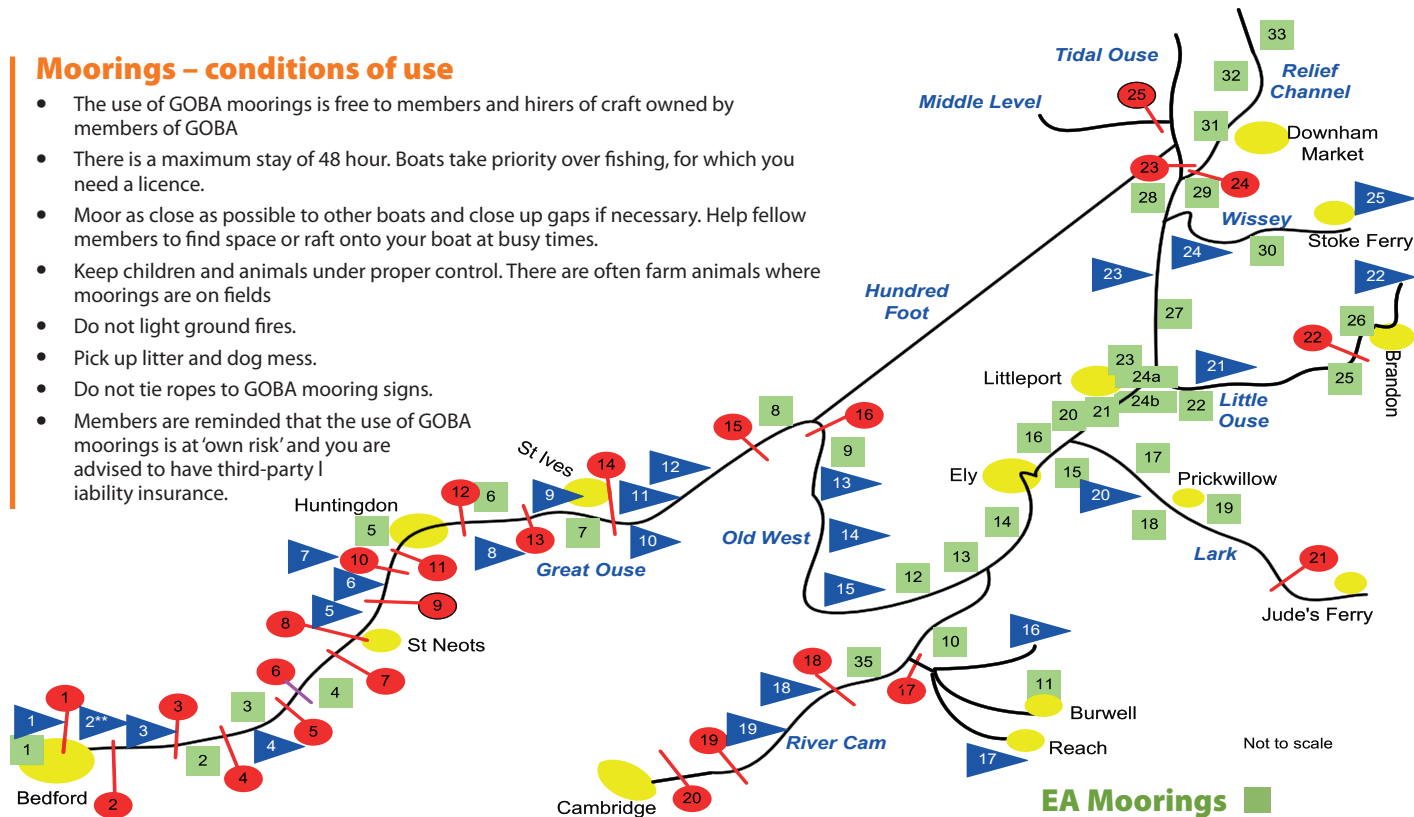
Your membership number

Signature(s)	
Date	

The Great Ouse Boating Association subscribes to the Direct Debit Guarantee scheme

Moorings – conditions of use

- The use of GOBA moorings is free to members and hirers of craft owned by members of GOBA
- There is a maximum stay of 48 hour. Boats take priority over fishing, for which you need a licence.
- Moor as close as possible to other boats and close up gaps if necessary. Help fellow members to find space or raft onto your boat at busy times.
- Keep children and animals under proper control. There are often farm animals where moorings are on fields
- Do not light ground fires.
- Pick up litter and dog mess.
- Do not tie ropes to GOBA mooring signs.
- Members are reminded that the use of GOBA moorings is at 'own risk' and you are advised to have third-party liability insurance.



Locks

- Bedford
- Cardington
- Castle Mills
- Willington
- Barford
- Roxton
- Eaton Socon
- St Neots
- Offord
- Brampton
- Godmanchester
- Houghton
- Hemingford
- St Ives
- Brownshill
- Hermitage
- Upware
- Bottisham
- Baits Bite
- Jesus Green
- Isleham
- Brandon
- Denver
- Relief Channel
- Salters Lode

GOBA Moorings

1	Fenlake Meadow	52 07'51.57"N	0 26'47.03"W
2	Priory Marina**	52 07'52.13"N	0 26'22.22"W
3	Goldington	52 08'23.25"N	0 25'16.55"W
4	Great Barford	52 09'04.36"N	0 20'33.38"W
5	Little Paxton Pits	52 15'33.69"N	0 14'18.87"W
6	Mailers Meadow	52 17'52.38"N	0 13'07.85"W
7	Brampton	52 19'13.48"N	0 12'06.63"W
8	Hemingford	52 19'10.46"N	0 06'31.50"W
9	Noble's Field	52 19'38.50"N	0 05'06.24"W
10	Ferryboat	52 18'59.95"N	0 01'40.12"W
11	One Pound	52 18'56.97"N	0 00'37.70"W
12	Pike & Eel	52 19'15.37"N	0 00'19.26"W
13	Aldreth Drain	52 19'49.50"N	0 06'10.31"E
14	Lazy Otter	52 19'38.35"N	0 12'21.80"E
15	Stretham	52 20'02.48"N	0 13'22.63"E
16	Wicken Fen	52 18'26.78"N	0 17'13.57"E
17	Reach Lode	52 16'26.78"N	0 17'31.79"E
18	Waterbeach	52 15'57.41"N	0 12'28.15"E
19	Baits Bite mooring	52 14'35.23"N	0 11'01.73"E
20	Padnal Fen	52 25'50.57"N	0 19'17.55"E
21	Hockwold Fen	52 26'56.83"N	0 26'56.04"E
22	Santon Downham	52 27'31.63"N	0 40'21.46"E
23	10 Mile Bank	52 31'20.78"N	0 22'00.96"E
24	Railway Bridge	52 33'52.22"N	0 21'17.83"E
25	Whittington	52 33'56.85"N	0 31'36.74"E

** First night on the Priory Marina mooring is free.

EA Moorings

- Sovereign Quay
- Old Mills
- Great Barford
- Eaton Socon
- Godmanchester
- Houghton
- The Dolphin, St Ives
- Earith
- Hermitage
- Reach Lode (Upware)
- Burwell Lode
- Hundred Acre
- Goldsmere
- Little Thetford
- Queen Adelaide
- Diamond 44
- Toms Hole Farm
- Prickwillow
- Mile End Farm
- Sandhills, Littleport
- Black Horse, Littleport
- Brandon Creek
- Station Road, Littleport
- Little Ouse Brandon
- The Ship
- Brandon Lock
- Brandon Town
- Windmill
- Denver complex
- Silt Fen Farm
- Hilgay
- Downham Market
- Stowbridge
- Wiggenhall St Mary
- Fidwell Fen

Public moorings are available at: Bedford, Huntingdon, St. Ives, Ely, Clayhithe and Cambridge

Useful Contacts

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Mooring – upstream from St Ives

Geoff Sutcliffe, 07813 947038, geoff.sutcliffe@goba.org.uk

Mooring – downstream from St Ives

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GOBA is run entirely by a committee of seasoned boaters, who volunteer their free-time for the benefit of the Great Ouse boating community.

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Application forms for membership can be obtained at most marinas on the Great Ouse; from our website – www.goba.org.uk; by post – GOBA, Meadowview, Flegg Green, Wereham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE33 9BA or by email – membership@goba.org.uk.