



Camboaters Community Association Annual General Meeting

The Fort St George – Wednesday, 22 October 7.00pm

Present: Andy Rankin (Chair), Amy Tillson (acting as Secretary), Craig Abraham, Roz Conyngham, Emma Cosham, Rod Downie, Ryan How, James Howard, Rob King, Clare Laidler, Paul Mennell, Andie Page, Geoff Page, Ben Phalan, Luther Phillips, Jay Quick, Tanja van Riesen, Julius Rix, Mark Rogers, Toni Rogers, Freya Rogers, Clare Rosscornes, Jared Rossouw, Charlotte Synge, Graham Thomas, Basil Thrush, James Tidy, Liz White, Helen Wright

Apologies: James Doherty, Tom Lynn, Elizabeth Burmeister, Kris Koper, Rhian Salmon

1.0 Treasurer's Report

- 1.1 The accounts from years 2004-2008 were distributed and presented. Accounts from 2004-2007 were included since there was very little to note during these years.
- 1.2 Roz proposed that from now on, the accounts should operate in financial years, and should include a budget and petty cash records. This will make a better impression when applying for grants. This was passed unanimously.

2.0 Chairman's Report

- 2.1 The chairman offered his thanks to the rest of the committee and summarised that the year had been a positive one with good relationships being maintained with both the Conservators and the Council.
- 2.2 Residential moorers in Cambridge had again been threatened with an increase in fees but the proposed drop of the single-occupancy council tax rebate was successfully countered by speaking to the Council and writing to newspapers.
- 2.3 This was the third time in three years that we have had to fight a fee increase. However, the Council appears unlikely to press for a fee increase again in the near future.
- 2.4 Camboaters fought successfully against the prevention of mooring on a section of the railings but the decision has only been postponed for another year. Further discussion will be required.
- 2.5 The Chairman offered thanks to: Luther and Mark for their work in organising the River Cam Clean Up, which was very successful; Tarquin for organising the cruise in the summer; Luther for representing us as a Cam Conservator; Lisa for looking after the Camboaters website.
- 2.6 The Boat Jumble and the Nautical But Nice events also helped to raise the profile of boating in Cambridge. There was no Boat Open Day this year but there are plans to organise one again in 2009.

- 2.7 Several topics were raised for debate, and the ensuing discussions recorded below. These were:
- Mooring Rings
 - Waiting List
 - Recycling

3.0 Waiting List

- 3.1 The questionnaire sent out by the Council regarding the list was distributed.
- 3.2 Key issues with the system are
- Lack of transparency
 - Licence priority given to those who live afloat (under old system) – It is considered that a purely chronological list would be fairer.
 - Widebeam/narrowbeam licensing problems (currently it is necessary to hold a narrowbeam licence in order to apply for a widebeam one)
- 3.3 Discussion about the terms of the licence. Jay Quick pointed out that at the moment the licence is issued to a person not a boat, and does not therefore specify width, so the Council may in fact have no grounds to prevent someone with a normal licence getting a widebeam!
- 3.4 Possibility of two lists dismissed as unfair and vulnerable to abuse.
- 3.5 Possibility of considering each case individually (such that families might be given priority when applying for a widebeam licence) was raised, but dismissed as being extremely difficult to administer fairly and objectively.
- 3.6 It was asked why the number of widebeam licences was limited to only 15, when there is space for more. Most people at the meeting felt that more moorings could be made available. Andy reported that this had been brought up with the Council and Conservators but neither was keen to see an increase in the number of widebeam boats.
- It was proposed that a new survey could be carried out to accurately determine where widebeam boats could safely moor (taking vegetation on opposite bank into account, as this would directly affect the number of licences that could be administered). This issue needs to be brought up with the Conservators.
- 3.7 It was noted that many widebeam boats are only marginally wider than narrowboats and in many cases, much shorter - they do not necessarily take up much more space on the river.
- 3.8 Additional meeting to discuss this matter. Possibly at next committee meeting. Andy encouraged everyone to return the questionnaire that the Council had distributed about widebeam moorings.

4.0 Mooring Rings

- 4.1 Camboaters committee has been discussing with the Council the possibility of installing/reinstating mooring rings along the areas of river bank used by residential moorers. The Council are prepared to consider this but are not very keen - they feel it may be expensive, and they may need to apply for planning permission. They want to know what the feelings of most boaters are about rings.

The meeting was therefore asked whether they would be in favour of reinstating or installing mooring rings. The meeting was strongly in favour – 3 members were ambivalent about rings, 1 was against, and all other members would like to see them reinstated.

- 4.2 Andy suggested we should write a report to the Council, stating the reasons why we are in favour of rings. The primary reasons voiced by the members present were:
- Security from flooding
 - Prevention of being cast off – an adrift boat is dangerous to all other river users and in some cases, the railway lines.
- 4.3 It was mentioned that there are existing rings on Midsummer Common and Jesus Green, which could be reinstated.
- 4.4 This work would need to incorporate repair of the concrete edges of the riverbank. These are apparently already part of a 'rolling' repairs programme but the timescale is unclear.
- 4.5 Location of rings to be decided – given the many different boat lengths that they would need to accommodate, they would have to be placed at frequent intervals.

5.0 **New Committee**

- 5.1 Old committee stood down
- 5.2 Outline of what committee membership involves
- Monthly meetings
 - Quarterly meetings with Council and Conservators
 - Event organising
- 5.3 Andy asked which members of the current committee intended to remain as members. Roz Conyngham, Luther Phillips, Rod Downie, Ben Phalan, Mark Rogers and Andy Rankin confirmed they wished to remain on the committee; Rob King, Liz White, Helen Wright, and Ewan Wakefield stood down.

Other members were asked to put themselves forward for the committee if they wished. Clare Rosscornes, Jared Rossouw, Ryan How, Toni Rogers and Clare Laidler all asked to stand, which would bring the committee up to eleven members. It was felt that this was a healthy number, so no formal election was held, and the eleven who had stood were duly appointed.

The three officer positions (chair, treasurer and secretary) will be decided at the next committee meeting.

- 5.4 The point was raised that Camboaters as a community association includes both those with licences to moor and those without. However, it also represents to the Council a part of the community i.e. residential moorers with licences in Cambridge. Some members were concerned that the situation might arise that the Chair could be a member on the waiting list, without a licence, and might have a conflict of interests when representing licence holders at meetings with the Council.

6.0 **Any other business**

- 6.1 Committee meeting to be held on the second Wednesday of next month i.e. 12 Nov. Location to be decided.
- 6.2 Luther reported that progress had been made on implementing recycling for boaters, particularly on Stourbridge Common.
- 6.3 Composting bins may also be provided. Basil Thrush offered to collect boater's compost, as he knows people with allotments who might be keen to have it!
- 6.4 River dredging – increasing issue especially in certain areas e.g. corner by the Fort St George. Needs to be brought up with the Conservators. The rowing community are also keen to see some dredging taking place.