

CamBoaters News - March 2004

To all concerned

By now, you should have heard that Craig Darbyshire (nb Jack) resigned as our representative, on the Conservators of the river Cam committee. I am sure we would all like to say a big **THANK-YOU** for Craig's efforts in the past. (Maybe a pint at the Fort St George wouldn't go amiss the next time you see him.)

A meeting was held to elect nominees to fulfil the now vacant position, I was nominated and have submitted my CV to the Conservators of the river Cam selection committee. (Apologies to those who didn't hear about the meeting or who couldn't make it. The intention is merely to set up a trial system in order to get the ball rolling.) Ryan How (nb African Queen) had already submitted his CV to the selection committee, they will now choose a replacement and the successful candidate will then be notified in the coming weeks.

Trial System

Should I be selected, I propose that we implement the following trial system:

I act as Chairman/Spokesperson with a Sub-committee assisting me with all CamBoaters affairs. Nominations are now being welcomed in order to fulfil remaining positions on the Sub-committee. Robin Cocker (nb Uisce), Craig Darbyshire, Ryan How and Alistair Frost (db Nooit Volmaecht) have already volunteered to be on the Sub-committee. If you wish to nominate someone, please let me know by 8th March 2004 (contact details below).

Sub-committee

Members of the Sub-committee should be:

- Permanent live-aboards on the river Cam.
- Able to assist with the communication of any information to and from all live-aboards on the river Cam.
- Able to help with the distribution of CamBoaters news.
- Able to provide the time, energy and humour it takes...
- Committed to supporting CamBoaters issues.
- Motivated to tackling CamBoaters problems!
- Able to encourage support from people on the stretch of river you represent.
- Able to provide the following resources and facilities:
 - Email
 - Access to data/information - legal etc.
 - Photocopying, etc.

Gatherings & Meetings

CamBoaters Gatherings will be held once a month, alternating between The Fort St George and The Pike and Eel. These Gatherings would be an opportunity for us to get together socially, but also an occasion when issues, opinions, ideas can be discussed, and presented to the Sub-committee, as well as the Sub-committee reporting news, etc back to the CamBoaters community.

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If you have an issue but cannot attend a Gathering, simply forward your issue in writing to a Sub-committee representative, it will then be aired at the next Gathering, or before if deemed necessary.

All Sub-committee members have to attend the monthly Gathering, as well as, a once monthly Sub-committee Meeting. The Sub-committee meeting is designed to tackle relevant issues presented to the Sub-committee at Gatherings, as well as, to decide what action needs to be taken, any committee business, etc. The results of these meetings will always be reported back to the CamBoaters community before any action is taken.

It would be nice to give you a timetable for implementation of this trial system, but as you well know by now, Council-related issues take an awfully long time! However, I do suggest we have a Gathering on the second Tuesday of every month, the next one being Tuesday 9th March 2004, 8:00pm-9:00pm, at The Fort St. George. Please be on time! The Sub-Committee will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Why have I volunteered?

After being nominated a few weeks ago, I thought the election/selection process wasn't entirely fair. However, people who took the time to attend the meeting made this decision to nominate me. It also occurred to me, the only reason I gave for accepting at the time was that I wanted to see the job done properly. Here are a few other reasons why I feel I am capable of doing the job:

1. I would like to encourage and provide proactive solutions to the problems faced by boat owners on the river Cam.
2. Improve the quality of life and facilities available to boat owners on the river.
3. Change and dispel the myths widely held about live-aboards.
4. Establish and maintain good relationships between all river users, all relevant authorities, landlords/waterlords and skeptics of live-aboards.
5. As residential moorings or a residential mooring policy on the river Cam is inevitable, I would like us all to assist with the development of sensible proposals.
6. Investigate the feasibility of building a marina in Cambridge.
7. Contribute new ideas aimed at preserving the beauty and wildlife on the river.
8. Assist with the implementation of any new policies, which affects houseboat owners.
9. Enjoy all aspects of the river from navigation to recreational activities.
10. Promote a healthy way of life on the river.

Furthermore, I welcome any ideas of how the CamBoaters Committee can be formed and how the needs of live-aboards can be addressed. What happens next and how well it happens, is up to you all, so please contact me if you can help in any way.

Be safe on the water

Luther Phillips - (nb Corn Dolly) *email:* lutherp1@orange.net
Current Nominee for representative of the Conservators of the River Cam

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Ps. A big **THANK-YOU** to Paul Mennell (nb Merchant), for organising the CamBoaters Community Noticeboard, which is now on the wall at The Fort St. George. An equally large **THANK-YOU** also to Liz (nb Moon Under Water) for providing the Noticeboard. Please feel free to use for communicating.

Pps. Did I forget To mention the Fort? ...

THANK-YOU FORT ST. GEORGE, Staff, patrons, cats, dogs and the rest!