

# CamBoaters News - April 2004

## TO ALL CONCERNED

Great to see so many of you at the last Gathering, Thanks for coming and I'm confident our numbers will be greater the next session to be held at the Pike and Eel on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of April, at 8:00pm - 9:00pm.

**New members for the Sub-Committee.** I'd like you all to welcome Mark Rogers (nb Lily Margaret) and Susanna Powell (nb Liberty ) to the Sub-Committee. Mark is a creative, experienced cabinetmaker and is happy to advise on general mechanics.

Susanna works for the NHS Mental Trust and has lived in Cambridge for the past twenty years including two on the river. She will be responsible for minute-taking and will provide well deserved humour to a rather dour group.

**River Moorings.** The ongoing debate regarding river moorings continues and I would like to make you all aware of the decision to be made and recommendations by Cambridge City Council, as reported by the Head of Parks (John Roebuck).

1. Decision - To consider the progress made on regulating the moorings on the River Cam and whether to proceed with the first phase of consultation.
2. Recommendation - That the Head of Parks and Recreation be instructed to initiate consultation on the proposal to introduce a fee for a 48-hour stay on Jesus Green and Jubilee Gardens down-stream of Jesus Green lock.
3. Recommendation - That consultation on regulating long term mooring on Midsummer Common and Stourbridge Common is deferred pending the outcome of the Conservators of the river Cam's decision on additional restrictions on Midsummer Common.

Currently, as we are a principal stakeholder in any decisions made, we should really be involved at all levels of the consultation process to the stages of implementation!

(The entire report by John Roebuck is posted on a CamBoaters notice board near you or can be found on the City Council website. Go to the committee section, then click on Meetings 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004.)

## **Change in seasonal mooring regulation.**

Now that spring is upon us, please take note of the seasonal change in mooring regulations along Jubilee Gardens and Jesus Green. There are signs posted by Cambridge City Council asking boats moored there to respect the 48-hour no return policy. (I know it is not enforced and there are times when it is necessary to stay there longer than 48-hours, but can we at least try and respect this mooring policy please!)

**Mooring Code of Practice.** It is unfortunate that self-regulation is not working! Although the Cam Conservators and the City Council are the only authorities who can enforce mooring policies, it would be nice/very much appreciated if the boats permanently moored on Jubilee Gardens and Jesus Green (some have been there for the last two years) occasionally moved to allow other live-aboard boats/holiday boats to have the access that this area allows. Surely these boat owners flouting the law must realise they are not only abusing mooring policy, but behaving in a very selfish manner and attracting unnecessary grumbling from the community. Due to the escalating numbers of complaints that the Cam Conservators and Cambridge City Council have received, it has made them more determined to implement residential mooring policies. These moorings won't be free!

We must be continuously aware of our impact on the local community. We must recognise that the dumping of rubbish along the

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embankment or stacked besides an already overflowing bin is an eyesore. There are recycling points on Chesterton Road beside the Boathouse pub car park and beneath Elizabeth Way bridge - please use them. Running your engine/generator outside of reasonable hours, may be considered by your local community to be offensive so be considerate. Otherwise it forces the general public to write rather derogatory letters about boat dwellers to the Cambridge Evening News, Cambridge City Council and the Cam Conservators. And ultimately, whether you like it or not they may well decide your future on the river...

I would ask everyone to read the byelaws; they are posted on a notice board beside Jesus Green lock and Baits Bite lock. It not only provides us with a simple code for living on the river but also a calendar for race days. This may save some of us the embarrassment of cruising into a race! Just in case you can't be bothered to cruise/walk/cycle to the notice boards, the byelaws are available on the Cambridge Conservators website and failing that, ask one of your Sub-Committee members to provide you with a copy.

## Logo competition



As we endeavour to establish ourselves as an organised body, I thought a logo would give us some credibility and responsibility. Please submit any ideas/designs or suggestions to be considered to a Sub-Committee member or myself by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of April. (Just in case you forgot... it's the date of The Gathering at the Pike and Eel, @ 8:00pm.) The Logo will be used on all our

correspondences and there is a drink to the lucky designer.

**Census.** It was suggested that in order to help our cause it would be useful to have a precise number of permanent live-aboards and their living facilities, number of pleasure boats, size of boats. etc. This information would be useful for determining which boats we deliver the newsletter to, what kind of mooring facilities are required and other useful statistics, which we may be able to use, if and when we have to. We intend to carry this out in the form of a questionnaire. Please fill it in and return when you receive it, as this affects us all.

**Marina/Haven.** There has been much talk of a marina over the years but many CamBoaters don't like the idea. However it may be the answer to everyone's problems. Personally I can only see the benefits: security, electricity, diesel/petrol, gas, water, phone-line/internet access, dry/wet dock. Now, a council built marina may/may not be possible but I would like to hear your thoughts on a marina. Maybe a few of you may want to invest? Cooperative anyone?

## FUNDING

Some of you reading this letter will have considered and appreciate the time and effort required to produce and distribute this document. It is not expensive but it certainly costs money to produce and takes time to distribute. As a Sub-Committee we have discussed what it costs; some of us feel it's unfair to ask for a contribution but I personally feel there is no way around it. If you are prepared/not prepared to help finance our newsletter and committee to the tune of a minimal amount please let us have your feedback. Otherwise, Newsletters and other communications will only be posted on the notice boards at the Fort St. George, Pike and Eel and the Plough. Any ideas for financing it,

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such as sponsorship or advertising are welcome.

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**The Water point.** What a nasty, dirty unhygienic place to hang out! Anyone up for a Spring-clean? Anyway it has come to my attention that the pump-out has not been regular, in fact the service has been S4\*t, but thanks to Richard Allen (nb Wind in the Willows ) for organising its swift repair. Oh, by the way if for whatever reasons its not working when you get there, a simple phone call to the helpdesk, will usually result in someone looking at it fairly promptly. And a phone call or a text to a fellow boater will prevent any possibility of congestion at a non-functioning water point.

## RULES OF THE RIVER

Mooring within 36 metres of any lock or weir is not allowed, except for passage through the lock. The lengths of bank where the Conservators do not allow mooring are clearly marked and river users are requested to observe these restrictions. In the event of an obstruction caused by mooring the Conservators have the power to take action to have the offending vessel(s) moved.

## Prohibition on litter and limiting navigation

13.1 No person shall leave on the bank of the River, otherwise than in a receptacle provided for litter, any glass, plastic material, metal, fishing line, fishing hook or other material likely to cause injury to any person, animal or bird.

I still welcome any ideas of how the CamBoaters committee can be formed and how the needs of live-aboards can be addressed.

Be safe on the water

Luther Phillips - (nb Corn Dolly)

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