

A VOICE ON THE RIVER

News for all living on the Cam

March 2006



Latest licence information

If you've been offered one, you have until 31st March to sign up

Everyone who applied for a permit should now know whether they were successful. There were 91 applications for 70 spaces, and 19 application packs were not returned.

How were they chosen?

Applicants without a boat safety certificate (or without good progress towards getting one) were put to the bottom of the pile. Likewise those without a river licence, and those not lived aboard. Apart from that, it seems they were taken in date order of the owners being in Cambridge.

What happens next?

Those who were offered permits have until **31st March** to sign the agreement, not three days as in Julie Durrant's letter. See box opposite for more information. The policy comes into force on April 1st.

We are told that those without permits will be given three weeks to leave. After that they will receive a summons, then will be 'displaced' within seven days. We do not know where to.

Is there now a waiting list?

Yes. Top of this will be the live-aboard

boats with safety certificates and river licences, who only just 'missed the cut' in terms of the date they arrived in Cambridge. Then comes those not in Cambridge at all, and those whose boat is not their sole residence.

Space for wide-beams

Wide-beams can only moor on part of Jesus Green or on Stourbridge, downstream of the Green Dragon bridge. This means that we will have to police ourselves and give wide-beams priority there (as we do now). In future the council will monitor new wide-beam applications, and if there is no space, they will be refused.

Problems?

We support the scheme and believe the council has been broadly fair, but if you have a problem, get in touch with Julie Durrant on 01223 457532.

Obviously Riverside is the first choice for displaced boats — some boaters there may have got licences and will swap. Also try asking at houses whose gardens have moorings.

Got other ideas for solutions? Come to the meeting on March 20th.

Meeting

Monday 20th March, 7.30
Fort St George snug. Open to all.

Terms and Conditions

There were concerns about some of the clauses in the original mooring contract. The council fixed only some of these. After some to-ing and fro-ing we got some more changes, then took the document to a lawyer. She was of the opinion that it was generally fair. In terms of liability on the bank, boaters will not be held responsible for things we don't have control over, such as strangers causing damage, or bad weather.

Also, according to the new contract:

- 'Grey' washing up water can be discharged into the river legally.
- Smokeless fuel will not be insisted upon.
- The council will not demand entry into boats, they just want to be able to inspect them from the outside.
- People who 'work from home' from the boat will not be breaking the mooring terms. We just won't be allowed to sell from the bank, or turn our boats into cafes or hairdressers or whatever.

Remember to show the document to your insurers before you sign. Also consider taking a photo showing the condition of the bank near your boat, with a newspaper to prove date.

Gatherings

The Camboaters gatherings have returned! These are evenings organised so that boaters know they'll meet other boaters in the pub. This year they're going to be themed to add a bit of interest. On 9th March we had a games evening, and the next will be Boaters' Question Time — a panel of experts(!) answers your boat-related questions. Ideal for newbies!

**So join us for the next gathering
— Thursday April 6th at the Fort
St George.**

An almighty row

One thing that came up in the last meeting was the behaviour of some rowers in the mornings — particularly their noise and speed.

The University's own rules say they're not allowed to make a sound until 7.30am, and they must keep to 'light pressure paddling' only (whatever that means), upstream of the Green Dragon Bridge. The only exception to this is during the two days before the Bumps, when they may do 'racing starts' for ten strokes only, outside the boathouses. They've just held the Lent Bumps, which is probably why they've been so annoying lately. However, we're going to send every University boathouse a gentle reminder to be nice considerate neighbours.

If you see a crew behaving inconsiderately or breaking the rules above, take a note of the boat number (they are of the form QU05) which should be clear on all boats, the blade colours and the time. We will compile the info. Craig has already mentioned the problem to the big cheeses at the University and Town clubs..

Bird flu

From Elisabeth, NB Sirius

Bird flu hasn't hit Britain yet, but as Bottisham lock reopens and the cruising season starts, you are in a much better position than most members of the public to spot waterfowl that might be carrying bird flu. From the DEFRA website:

If you find one or more dead swans/wild fowl (ducks and geese), more than 3 dead birds of the same species or more than 5 dead birds of different species, in the same place, you should contact the Defra Helpline (08459 33 55 77). Currently the

Helpline is available between Monday-Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday-Sunday 9am to 6pm. You will be asked for details of your finding and its location.

Bird flu is spread through bird faeces as well as direct contact with birds, therefore be diligent about washing your hands after handling mooring lines or cleaning the outside your boat.

And keep your eye on your moggies and mutts, as they can get it too.


Bird gig


A packed audience of women and about three men watched Clare, Helen and Roz play their second ever gig in the Guildhall on 8th March, for International Women's Day. They wowed the crowd with their great singing and awesome ukulele control, and Helen covered up very professionally after slightly forgetting the words!

Afterwards they were approached for another gig, so look out for them at future events.

Joining Camboaters

Remember that the council hasn't leafleted boats about all this mooring stuff. We've done it all ourselves in our own time. Photocopies, publicity and events all cost money — we get this from members. Representation with the council and CamCon is only possible if we have 'weight' — we get this from members too. So that's why we ask you to join using the form below. Cheers.



join!


MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I (print name) request to become a:

PLEASE TICK	COST
FULL MEMBER *	£ 10.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBER **	£ 10.00
JUNIOR MEMBER ***	FREE

Cheques payable to Camboaters Community Association and sent to Richard Allen (Treasurer), CCA, 33 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge CB3 9EE, or given to any committee member.

* A full Member is anyone who lives upon the river Cam within the Cam Conservancy waters who supports the aims and objectives of the Association.

** An Associate Member is anyone that has boating / rowing / fishing interests within the Cam Conservancy waters or is a Residential Boat owner outside of this area who supports the aims and objectives of the Association.

*** Junior Membership is free for anyone under the age of 14. Please state Junior Date of Birth in this box >>

Comments / Suggestions :~

Boat name

Address

.....

Post Code

Tel No.

Email Address

For boat security purposes, your contact details may be shared with other Members if you tick this box >> This will help if your boat is in trouble and we need to contact you.

Membership is from 15th October 2005 for 12 months.