



BCBM BOAT SHARE LTD

# Newsletter

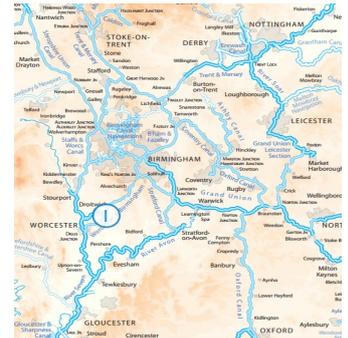
## BC Boat Management

### Issue 3

#### Making a move

With lots of canals to explore, many of the boats we manage are moving around this year. With all the canal closures which Canal and River Trust put in place, it can often involve a couple of owners doing a remote handover en route. One boat is even making a move from as far as Hilperton Marina on the Kennet & Avon to Overwater in Audlem. The syndicate are taking advantage of making this move in time for the Braunston Boat Share Show in April

which will allow them also a great half way point between the two destinations. Tracey will be working hard on all that is involved in a boat moving from one marina to another. It's always great to hear from you as owners though on anything that you like (or dislike) about a particular marina. We can then use some of this feedback on the moorings options sheet. By putting some feedback on this document it may help other syndicates, (including



your own), to know what is good at a certain marina to be able to make informed decisions and pick the perfect marina for you. Local/marina facility needs do vary from syndicate to syndicate and what is important to them. Any feedback you have from your current marina is very welcome. Contact us at [info@bcm.co.uk](mailto:info@bcm.co.uk)

#### Special points of interest:

- Update on Andrew
- Win a bottle of Prosecco
- New team member
- Boat sales on the up
- Media interest

#### Some of what's in this issue:

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#### Carry on Barging

After the airing of the brand new Channel 5 TV series 'Carry on Barging', many in the industry were expecting interest levels to be raised, and they weren't wrong. Ed Helps, Managing Director of ABC Boat Hire told Canal Boat Magazine 'since the episode went out on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, we've seen an uplift in web traffic of

nearly 40% and our bookings for the last two weeks are up 50% on this time last year'. He further goes on to say he believes other programs such as Channel 4's 'Great Canal Journeys' with Timothy West & Prunella Scales along with John Sergeant's show 'Barging around Britain' are also doing their bit to bring canal holi-

days to new audiences. The four part series which featured Simon Callow, Lorraine Chase, Debbie McGee and Nigel Havers, showcased the ever popular K&A & Llangollen Canals - and as BCBM has close links with a number of marinas in these areas, we hope in turn these new hirers fall in love with life on the canals and become owners with us very soon!!

From the Chair



Dee Barton & Andrew Barton  
(MD of BCBM)

Well this is the part of the newsletter that Andrew normally writes. However as he is resting at home after the year he has had, I have taken over this section too. What a year it's been! Many of you have been asking after Andrew and for this he is very grateful so many of you have taken the time to do so. Andrew has made a great recovery, and his mobility is much better than when he left hospital last March. His speech is much improved and he is able to hold a conversation with anybody, before it was just friends and family who knew him that would understand what he was trying to get at. His speech therapist is so pleased with him and how he is coming on in leaps and bounds that she is taking him to Manchester University to do a talk with him in front of a class of students learning about stroke patients and

how it can effect speech and language. This progress has only been possible so quickly due to his determination and persistence. With the help of the Stroke Association he is also trying to establish a weekly coffee morning in the village too. Andrew is also coming into the office to do a lot of jobs which have been invaluable during the AGMs and in preparation for the boat shows such as Braunston and Crick. He also enjoys talking with prospective buyers who stop off in the Audlem office. So thank you again to everyone who has been asking after him and even stopping off in the village when passing on their boats for a quick pint in the village pub! The rest of the team have been busy with the season now under way and a lot of the

boats are going out more. Tracey has been busy with all the boat move preparations and creating the marina guides which are full of useful information on the marina itself, local amenities and also emergency contact information. Carole has been busy as always with all that is finance as a lot of syndicates start their new financial year about now, and what a brilliant job she does with all that is accounts related. Not forgetting of course Charles who is always busy at one marina or another, checking over the boats/ engineers/ faults and of course carrying out appointments and show overs for prospective/new owners, with the help of course of John Preece and Phil Crisp as Turnaround Managers.



**“This progress has only been possible so quickly due to his determination and persistence”**

**“So thank you again to everyone who has been asking after him and even stopping off in the village”**



The BCBM office in Audlem

The Team – Who’s who!!

**Carole Briese – Finance Manager** Based at our office in Braunston, our owners over the years have come to find Carole’s knowledge of the industry and BCBM is second to none. These days however, with over 60 syndicates to look after, Carole is now our Finance Manager. She keeps a very keen eye on the accounts side of things, and if your query is related to anything at all financial, do get in touch with her and she’ll always be happy to help.

**Charles Briese – General Manager – Technical** Charles has been boating for many years and this stands him in good stead to ensure this role is fulfilled. He has extensive knowledge when it comes to the technical side of looking after your boat, and takes great pride in looking after all the boats entrusted to his care. He is as enthusiastic and

committed about your boat as you are, always there to help and support you on all matters technical.

**Tracey Merrall – Boat Share Administrator** Tracey is there to help and support no matter what your admin enquiry may be; correspondence by email, allocation charts, boat moves and insurance requirements.

**Turnaround Managers** John Preece & Phil Crisp work part time but at important times and days when your boat turns round. They may not be at the marina every time you arrive or depart, as they will be fulfilling a multitude of tasks and duties to ensure your cruising time is as trouble free as we can make it. With the support of Charles, they are back and forth making sure that various parts and materials are delivered on time.

“He is as enthusiastic and committed about your boat as you are”

Make it unique

Lots of the syndicates we manage have personal items which are unique to their boat. Often we step on-board and see something unique which makes us smile. From mugs with a syndicate signwriting printed on it, to painted

boat poles with a syndicate name on. Here are just some of the ones we have seen recently, including the lovely painted coal scuttle by one very talented owner on ‘Dawn ‘Til Dusk’. The owner that did

this isn't even a professional sign writer! Andy Russell watch out! Do you have something on your boat or at home which is unique to your syndicate? We would love to see.



Re-paints



2016/17 was a busy year for repaints amongst the syndicates we manage. No two were done at the same place and all have sailed out of the shed and into the water looking like glass!

Swallow had hers done at the start of last year at Braunston Marina. Slipstream had hers done at Willow Boat Painting at Swanley Bridge Marina. Avington had hers done at Aq-ueduct Marina.

Cropredy is currently prepar-

ing to go into the shed to have hers done. At the end of this year she will be followed by Apperley, Endeavour & Valkyrie who have theirs booked also. We even have one syndicate who have booked the renowned Andy Russell in 2019. (yes he really is booked up that far in advance!)

All that remains for these syndicates is to confirm if they are remaining with their current colours or going for a complete change, and good luck to the first owners out on them, I'm sure it will be a little bit daunting.



Meet Tracey

As many of you know Tracey has been with us some months now. I am sure many of you will have corresponded with her by email, phone or had the pleasure of meeting her at the AGMs. Tracey works from the office in Audlem so now the weather is getting better and you're cruising through the village, why not pop in and put a face to a name! Tracey's family have always been into

narrow boats with her dad having built several boats, one of these was even from scratch! So is familiar with the workings of narrowboats to some extent. This all enabled Tracey to once work at Wrenbury Marina (ABC Base). Tracey also grew up around the Whitchurch area. Tracey's passion is art and crafts having studied in London, but these days she prefers the slow lane and lives

in the country enjoying long walks during her free time, also gardening and cooking some great Rocky Road! (You may even get a slice if you pop in!) Since leaving London, Tracey went on to administrative roles allowing her to gain the perfect skills to be an asset to the BCBM team and help owners with all of your admin needs from the allocation charts, boat moves and insurance requirements.

**“why not pop in and put a face to a name”**

## Marina mentions

Great Haywood Marina situated in the heart of rural Staffordshire was completed in July 2007. The marina is situated within a stone's throw of Great Haywood Junction; enjoy the Trent & Mersey or Staff & Worcs Canals, or Cheshire and Black Country Rings. Some of the nearby attractions include Etruria, Harecastle Tunnel, Shugborough Hall and Market Drayton—the home of Gin-

gerbread! Great Haywood still has that friendly village atmosphere with plenty of local amenities. The marina boasts an adjacent farm shop selling local produce and a new canal side Bistro with licensed restaurant. The main building is the hub of the marina where Reception is located with a small chandlery selling consumables. The building also houses high quality showers

and toilets, laundry and ironing facilities are also available. All boating services are provided at competitive prices and include Calor gas, diesel, smokeless coal, pump-out and cassette disposal. Jetties have electrical and water services, and there is ample car parking space provided. The marina is home to an abundance of wildlife and there are pleasant walks around the landscaped perimeter.

**“friendly  
village  
atmosphere with  
plenty of local  
amenities”**

## Final call on mugs



Now that the weather's getting warmer and Spring is finally in the air, we at BCBM have been having a bit of a spring clean in readiness. We have come across a selection of crockery such as cups, saucers and teapots which were included in the inventory of all boats launched by Challenger. Most of

the syndicates who had this pattern have over time changed these for something a bit plainer, and we no longer get asked for these replacements. We were wondering if there's a syndicate who still use this set and would like to add to it or keep a number of items as spares? We are fairly sure this particular

decorative pattern isn't available anymore and possibly could be a little tricky to get hold of. Therefore, please do let us know should your syndicate require any of these; alternatively, all items are free to a good home or they will be donated to charity. We will be keeping these until 31st May 2017.

## C&RT closures

As many of you will be aware, each winter Canal and River Trust take the opportunity of reduced cruising activity to concentrate efforts on essential repairs and maintenance to the canals. In many cases they have to close the waterway and occasionally the towpath. That's why we recommend that if

you're planning a trip, do check their website before you make your journey—just in case!

This year Audlem's very own historic flight of 15 locks on the Shropshire Union Canal was scheduled for repair. Visitors were given the opportunity to climb down inside the drained Lock 13

and walk along the bottom of the chamber. Spooky! At a cost of around £96,000, these repairs such as replacing the timber top lock gate as well as making repairs to brickwork usually hidden below the waterline, are part of a £43 million restoration and repair programme across England and Wales.



**Leaflets**

I am sure you have been out on your boat at some point and engaged in a conversation with a fellow boater who was new to the concept of shared ownership. For this reason we have created some leaflets for you to give out. On board you should

find a small box (like in the picture) containing some information. This will be boat specific if you have shares for sale, or general about shared ownership if not. Do feel free to give these out if you feel it appropriate or if someone who is interested asks. Should you be running low on these please let the BCBM team know

and we can make sure they are replenished. If there is a share for sale in your syndicate, don't forget to have your 'Share for Sale' sign in the window. Some syndicates have also taken up the offer of the signs for the roof we provide, these really do help and have generated sales as they have been spotted by interested passers by.



**Boat handling**

Ever been interested in a boat handling course? Now's the time to do it. The season is starting again and these are getting booked up fast. Our very own Dee had one & very much enjoyed it. Dee said "I would recommend a boat handling course for anyone, I thought I knew all I needed to when it came to cruising a narrow boat but now I know so much more. I enjoyed it so much I bought a one day course for my hus-

band who as a beginner learnt so much so quickly, he now thinks he's the more experienced one out of the

or Trines Ward for the Braunston area. Both Terry & Trines have done these with many BCBM owners who all recommend their services. They are able to come and show you on your own boat or Terry has his own boat he is willing to teach on. They cover everything from rope work to running aground. To book a course contact Terry on 07947 337492 or Trines on 01788 899105.



two of us." T.R Boat Handling can offer a 1, 2 or even 3 day boat handling course,

**"he now thinks he's the more experienced one"**

**Hirer discount**

Many of our owners will already know this, however for those of you who are new to us, we have a partnership with ABC Leisure and this allows us to be able to offer a discount when hiring a boat from them. ABC have 16 locations up

and down the canal network where they operate their hire boats from. So if you fancy a trip along the Kennet and Avon from Hilperton, a cruise over to the Welsh Borders from Wrenbury; or even experience some-

where your boat may never cruise from such as Falkirk Marina in Scotland, with the incredible Falkirk Wheel. So contact one of the ABC team today on 0330 333 0590 and see what you could save on a few days away or a week some-

where new by quoting 'BCBM'.



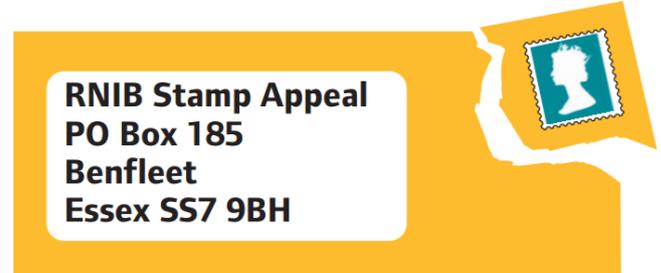
### Donate your foreign and British stamps to RNIB

Every day 100 people will start to lose their sight. Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is the leading sight loss charity offering information, support and advice to anyone with a sight problem. They also campaign to eliminate avoidable sight loss and support research into sight loss and eye health

issues. They can raise money from British and overseas new and used stamps. Stamps are sorted by volunteers - they are usually sold by weight, but if they can identify any valuable stamps they can be sold for a higher price. They expect to receive around £10 for one kilogram of British stamps, and

up to £15 for a kilogram of overseas stamps. Please leave approximately 1cm of envelope around each stamp and send them to:

For more information, please contact RNIB at [fundraising@rnib.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rnib.org.uk) or by calling 0845 345 0054.



### Over to you

Attention all owners! Do you have any top boating tips or stories you'd like to share? What about a favorite pub you've visited, or a particularly lovely mooring spot/place of interest? We're looking to run a feature in our next newsletter written by and star-

ring our owners, and we'd love to hear from you. We'll include a selection of entries received, and as an extra bonus all names will be put into our famous bowler hat and the lucky winner picked will receive one of our wine bottle holders. We'll

even include a bottle of Prosecco! So please, do get in touch with Tracey or Dee via email on the usual addresses with your stories, photos and more. The Draw will take place in July so you have plenty of time before the next edition.



### Get to know the team more

Why not get to know the team? This time it's Dee, we asked her a few questions to help you get to know her more.

#### **What is your favourite part of the canals?**

I love the basin at the Black Country Living Museum, mainly for the museum!

#### **Best time of the year to cruise?**

The Autumn, it's not too cold and the trees have beautiful colours.

#### **What is on your bucket list?**

I would love to ride an elephant

but you can't do that at Chester Zoo....yet!

#### **Best way to relax?**

I love making things and more often than not I am getting told off by my other half for leaving scissors, needles and knick knacks abandoned as I've moved onto something new!

#### **Who is on the guest list for your ideal dinner party, alive or not?**

Derren Brown, I met him on stage at a show once but would love to know some amazing magic tricks/illusions.

#### **What quote do you live by?**

Every day is a gift, that's why it's called the present.

#### **What is one thing people would be surprised to know about you?**

My husband & I are big Geocachers! (For those that do not know what this is, it's a real treasure hunt all around the world!) You may even be surprised to know there are possibly some at the end of your road and you didn't even know.....

Sales

With a dedicated team we are doing more than ever to help sell your shares. We take many calls and emails throughout the week asking if we are advertising shares and where. We currently advertise in a number of places such as:

- Newspapers — Towpath Talk & Canal Boating Times
- Magazines — Waterways World, Tillergraph, IWA Members magazine, Waterways World Annual
- Websites — there are 8 we are currently on, see below
- Window Displays — both of our offices and the boat windows themselves display For Sale signs
- Shows—from open days to the big shows like Crick
- Don't forget our snazzy little vans and Smart car which turn heads wherever they are!

We really do our best to get your share out there to our target market and the right people.



BCBM BOAT SHARE LTD



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