



BCBM BOAT SHARE LTD

Newsletter

Special Points of Interest

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BC Boat Management

Issue 4

Alarming News

We were recently sent an interesting link to an article about the importance of CO alarms.

Most syndicates now have CO alarms along with fire alarms, and it is worth giving these a test when you join your boat for a week, and also making sure all the vents are open and unblocked. It can be tempting to cover them in winter, but they are there for a reason which is why it is such an important part of the boat safety certificate which is needed to be valid for your safety and the insurance of the boat. You wouldn't believe the amount

of times Charles and the team have arrived at a boat to find the vents blocked up with cling film, paper and Sellotape. This not only causes serious risk to you and guests but also other owners who may be unaware they are blocked up. The organisation who wrote the article is run by the UK Government and called the 'Marine Accident Investigation Branch', you may or may not have heard of them. Their remit is to investigate serious accidents on merchant, fishing and pleasure craft.

They have just released an accident report about 2 people who sadly

passed away on a pleasure craft in the Norfolk Broads.

This is the 4th such incident in four years they have investigated.

All were caused by CO poisoning. In this case the craft had a large petrol engine but it is scary how fast the gasses built up.

It is not compulsory to have a CO alarm but this shows why it is such a good idea that they should be compulsory.

The report makes interesting reading and if it only raises awareness to us all then that is a good thing.

www.maib.gov.uk
Search for 'love for lydia' at the top to find more details.

Always lend a hand

BCBM has always been on hand in times of need, and when you're in trouble and miles from anywhere the below example highlights just how important it is that when you need our help and call us, you know where you are. Unfortunately an owner

became very unwell and just wanted to get home. As the crew on board were unable to handle the boat, John Preece went out to help cruise the boat back the short distance to her home marina. While on route there was a medi-

cal professional on board a boat nearby to who was able to help and urged an ambulance to be called. Once the paramedics arrived, John was on hand to offer support, and then continued to help move the boat back to the marina.

From the Chair



Dee Barton of BCBM

What a cold winter we've had. Many of you decided to still brave the cold temperatures and used this opportunity to explore the local areas near to your home marinas and use the boats as a B&B. Recently I went to Finland to try and see the Northern Lights (I was unsuccessful), but it felt colder in the UK than my time out there. Although my hair and eyelashes froze as you can see in the picture to the right!

Braunston amongst many other places had very thick ice and the marinas were on lock down, as you can see it didn't stop the ducks though!

Some of you may know also that John Preece decided to retire at Christmas. He has chosen to make use of his new caravan with

his family and we don't blame him. John was replaced quickly with a new Turnaround Manager, Guy Lambert. Many of you will get to meet him at Aston and Kings Bromley on your next trip out. For now, stay warm and let's keep our fingers crossed for better weather soon.

"it felt colder here in the UK"



Get to know the team more

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

What is your favourite part of the canals?

The Shropshire Union near Beeston, where my grandparents used to live.

Best time of the year to cruise?

Has to be early mornings in Spring with bacon sarnies and a brew!

What is on your bucket list?

Watch the Northern Lights, learn

to play the piano, see a blue whale and cuddle a lion cub!

Best way to relax?

Sat in the sun in my garden with a good book and large glass of chilled white wine.

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

Paul O'Grady, Mary Berry, Jonny Vegas, Samuel L Jackson and Jennifer Saunders.

What quote do you live by?

'What's the worst that can happen?'

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

I completed a parachute jump to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer care—it was a static line (i.e. on my own) parachute jump at 4,000ft and I've never been so terrified in my whole life!!! Would I do it again? I might consider a tandem parachute jump, at least there's somebody else to take over if something goes wrong!



The BCBM office in Audlem

New Owners

Some of you may know as part of our sales package we give a hand-over to new owners, usually on the first day of their first time on the boat. A member of the BCBM team is there to meet them and complete this handover, following a comprehensive checklist which we've put together containing many helpful hints and tips drawing on our many years of experience. The handover is intended to give new owners a working knowledge of their new boat, and to help them find their way around it so that their first cruise aboard is an enjoyable one. It also provides the rest of the syndicate peace of mind that everyone on board is fully aware of relevant procedures; after all, your boat is important to you and we want to make sure she is looked after and enjoyed by all.

basic items such as checking the water and oil levels, bow thruster, stern bearing and heating system which all helps to minimise any breakdowns, damage and inconvenience caused by the lack of these essentials. We also ensure safety on the canals and general tips for cruising are highlighted, providing guidelines of what to do in an emergency and where life-saving equipment can be located. General checks and the daily routine running of the engine are covered, as well as refilling water and fuel tanks, and of course the essential operating of the toilet and pumping out. Not forgetting familiarisation of the electrical system and safe usage of gas appliances/stoves.

At the end of the handover our aim is to make sure each new owner is well informed, prepared and looks forward to many happy holidays on board their new boat. As an increasing number of shares have recently been sold, the team have been very busy at various marinas with meeting and greeting!!

Specific to each boat, we explain how the many fittings and pieces of equipment should be operated, and how to maintain them. We start with those checks that are essential to be carried out at various intervals during time on your boat;

**“Would I
recommend
boat share?
Most
definitely”**

First years' boat share

The following article is from an owner on Keynsham.



Our decision to try boat share was prompted in no small part by a chance meeting with Andrew Barton outside

the BCBM office in Audlem where we happened upon Andrew just about to leave his office for the day. He very kindly spared us twenty minutes of his time, explained the benefits (and possible pitfalls) of boat sharing, and left us enthused. We viewed Keynsham at Droitwich, knowing that the boat was

moving to Aston in March. The BCBM representative thoroughly explained how boat share worked and we took the plunge. The necessary paperwork, administrative and monetary arrangements all went smoothly and we became proud joint owners. As boating virgins we were grateful for John Preece's thorough introduction to the intricacies of Keynsham, and prior to our first trip we arranged some training with TR Boat Handling (highly recommended) and have not looked back (even when reversing!). One learns to plan ahead,

plan manoeuvres well in advance and NOT PANIC. BCBM have been very helpful and pro-active, and have responded quickly to queries, even though they have doubtless heard the same questions time and again. We have been north along the Caldon canal, south beyond Alrewas and west to Atherley. We have had rain, sun, ice and wind and have enjoyed it all, other than wind which makes handling an interesting occupation. Would I recommend boat share? Most definitely.

Moving Boats

“volunteer boat movers for us to call on in times of need”

Calling all owners! From time to time, we need a little help moving boats to and from various locations around the country. This might be moving boats to and from shows such as Braunston and Crick from their base marinas (with the added bonus of getting to take part if you wish), taking them to their Winter maintenance marinas (so warm jumpers and woolly hats could well be needed), or helping moving stranded boats

further to awful weather conditions. Many of you may remember the high winds we had earlier this year – some boats were just not able to get past fallen trees in time for their owners to return them to base.

Of course, many owners manage to cover for any eventuality within their own syndicates, however it would be great if we could create a ‘stand by’ list

of volunteer boat movers for us to call on in times of need. We would cover your petrol costs in getting to a boat’s location, and ensure we help you get back to your car once you have arrived at the final destination which of course will usually be different to the one you start at.

So if you think this is something you’d like to help with, then please do get in touch. We’d love to hear from you!!

Meet our New Turnaround Managers

Norfolk Broads

Born and bred in Norfolk, Trevor Curson joined Richardson’s Pleasurecraft as an

a Marine Engineer and Plant Fitter for the next 16 years. In 1992, he went into partnership running a

successful building business employing 11 people at one point. Now semi-

retired, he joined us last year and his knowledge and experience is proving in-

valuable! Trevor and his wife Jill will be celebrating 39 years of marriage in July and are kept busy with their two dogs – a 9 year old Labrador and 18 month old Border Collie.

Hilpert Marina

Now retired after working for Toyota Material Handling for 38 years, Dave Newman worked as a service technician, and then in Toyota’s Training Academy as a technical instructor teaching the repair of

engines, transmissions and hydraulics, also DC electric control systems for forklift trucks. Dave and his wife Pam have a share in NB Dawn Mist, and he is a member of his local woodturning club. He is also involved in clubman level motorsport, and is the mechanic for his son who races a Classic Formula Ford and his grandson who races Karts. Dave volunteers for C&RT on the Kennet and Avon Canal - if you need to know anything about the K&A then he usually knows what’s going on!



apprentice Marine Engineer, going on to work for May Gurney all over the Broads as

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