



NORFOLK & SUFFOLK BOATING ASSOCIATION

President: S.C. Bushell Chairman: J.M. Evans
www.thegreenbook.org.uk

Report of Results of Opinion Survey in connection with the proposed Broads National Park Authority Private Bill

Method

The survey was carried out between 9th May and 16th June 2006. Copies of the survey form were mailed to all individual members of the NSBA (940) and to the secretaries of all organisations affiliated to the NSBA (38). The form could be downloaded from the NSBA website and a facility was provided allowing online completion of the survey.

The form had three sections. The first sought information on the respondent's status with respect to the NSBA:

Individual member;
Member of an affiliated organisation;
Officer of an affiliated organisation, replying on behalf of that organisation;
None of the above.

The second sought the respondent's views on each of twelve issues relevant to the proposed Private Bill. A statement was made about a provision of the Bill, the NSBA position in respect of that provision was outlined and the respondent was invited to mark a box to signify agreement or disagreement with the stated NSBA position.

The third provided a space in which the respondent could add their own comments.

Results

475 responses were received.

NSBA is aware that a circular was distributed by the Eastern Rivers Ski Club (ERSC) encouraging their members to respond and instructing them on the response to make. (See annex 1). This wrongly advised them to describe themselves as members of an affiliated organisation. Eastern Rivers Ski Club is not affiliated to the NSBA, although one officer of ERSC is an individual member of NSBA. The ERSC members were told to answer question 6 (concerning skiing and wakeboarding as "agree", but to alter the question by deleting the words "However, for reasons of wash..... activity on the Broads"; replacing them with, "to include wakeboarding with no restrictions."

62 replies were received with the response recommended by the ERSC. In order to report the results of the survey accurately, these responses have been treated as coming from people in the fourth category in section 1 of the form ("None of the above") and their

answer to question 6 in the second part of the form has been taken as disagreeing with the NSBA position.

The status of respondents was:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Individual members of NSBA | 347 |
| Members of affiliated organisations | 24 |
| Officers of affiliated organisations responding on their behalf | 17 |
| None of the above | 87 |
| Total | 475 |

The responses received to each of the questions in section 2 were:

1. The Bill will change the name of the Authority and the Area to “Broads National Park”. The NSBA Committee believes that, if there is a need to change the name, it should include the phrase “Norfolk Broads” and is concerned that the phrase “National Park” implies a move to impose a culture which is at odds with the intention of the 1988 Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| aff_member | 24 | 2 | 21 | 1 | | 8.33 | 87.50 | 4.17 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | 6 | 309 | 32 | | 1.73 | 89.05 | 9.22 |
| other | 87 | 9 | 67 | 11 | | 10.34 | 77.01 | 12.64 |
| total | 475 | 17 | 414 | 44 | | 3.58 | 87.16 | 9.26 |

2. The Bill will give the BA power to issue General and Special Directions to vessels. These powers are wide ranging and cover both the navigation and contiguous waters. The NSBA Committee believes these are substantial new powers, the potential exercise of which could seriously curtail rights of navigation and the activities of recreational and commercial boating interests. They feel that, if they are to be introduced, safeguards will be required to protect those interests.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 23 | | | 4.17 | 95.83 | |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | 2 | 337 | 8 | | 0.58 | 97.12 | 2.31 |
| other | 87 | 9 | 73 | 5 | | 10.34 | 83.91 | 5.75 |
| total | 475 | 12 | 450 | 13 | | 2.53 | 94.74 | 2.74 |

3. The Bill gives the BA power to require designated categories of vessels on the navigation and contiguous waters to carry third party insurance. The NSBA Committee supports the proposal to require insurance cover. The Authority is suggesting that some categories of vessel (e.g. small or non-powered craft or windsurfers) should be exempt.

The NSBA Committee feels that all vessels should be insured. This is for two reasons: small vessels can cause expensive accidents and drawing boundaries between exempt and non-exempt categories will be difficult.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 21 | 2 | | 4.17 | 87.50 | 8.33 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 16 | 1 | | | 94.12 | 5.88 |
| individual | 347 | 4 | 316 | 27 | | 1.15 | 91.07 | 7.78 |
| other | 87 | 6 | 73 | 8 | | 6.90 | 83.91 | 9.20 |
| total | 475 | 11 | 426 | 38 | | 2.32 | 89.68 | 8.00 |

4. The Bill gives the BA the power to impose standards of construction and equipment on vessels on the navigation and contiguous waters. The NSBA Committee supports the introduction of the national Boat Safety Scheme to the Broads. They are concerned that the Bill as currently drafted would allow the BA to introduce unique standards and appeals procedures to the Broads. The Committee believes that it is important that the same standards and procedures should apply nationally.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 3 | 19 | 2 | | 12.50 | 79.17 | 8.33 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 16 | 1 | | | 94.12 | 5.88 |
| individual | 347 | 4 | 316 | 27 | | 1.15 | 91.07 | 7.78 |
| other | 87 | 7 | 74 | 6 | | 8.05 | 85.06 | 6.90 |
| total | 475 | 14 | 425 | 36 | | 2.95 | 89.47 | 7.58 |

5. The Bill gives the BA power to require hire boat operators to become licensed. The NSBA Committee does not object to the principle of licensing hire boat operators, but it does feel that the definition of hire boat included in the Bill and accompanying explanatory literature is too broad and might be used to include arrangements between friends and non-commercial arrangements common within sailing clubs, youth groups etc.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 3 | 20 | 1 | | 12.50 | 83.33 | 4.17 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | 6 | 324 | 17 | | 1.73 | 93.37 | 4.90 |
| other | 87 | 7 | 72 | 8 | | 8.05 | 82.76 | 9.20 |
| total | 475 | 16 | 433 | 26 | | 3.37 | 91.16 | 5.47 |

6. The Bill gives the BA power to designate zones for waterskiing and to regulate the way in which the sport is carried out. The NSBA Committee believes the ideal arrangement would be to provide a dedicated closed broad for the pursuit of such sports. Failing that, it will not oppose waterskiing on the Broads under suitable management arrangements.

However, for reasons of wash and the safety and enjoyment of other river users, wake boarding is not in its view a suitable activity on the Broads.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | | 21 | 3 | | | 87.50 | 12.50 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 16 | 1 | | | 94.12 | 5.88 |
| individual | 347 | 4 | 325 | 18 | | 1.15 | 93.66 | 5.19 |
| other | 87 | | 20 | 67 | | | 22.99 | 77.01 |
| total | 475 | 4 | 382 | 89 | | 0.84 | 80.42 | 18.74 |

7. The Bill will extend the navigation area to include the Lower Bure and Breydon Water. The NSBA Committee does not object to this extension.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 20 | 3 | | 4.17 | 83.33 | 12.50 |
| aff_officer | 17 | 1 | 15 | 1 | | 5.88 | 88.24 | 5.88 |
| individual | 347 | 2 | 324 | 21 | | 0.58 | 93.37 | 6.05 |
| other | 87 | 5 | 72 | 10 | | 5.75 | 82.76 | 11.49 |
| total | 475 | 9 | 431 | 35 | | 1.89 | 90.74 | 7.37 |

8. The Bill gives the BA power to require vegetation on land adjoining the navigation to be cut when it believes that that vegetation obstructs or endangers use of the navigation. The NSBA Committee supports this proposal.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 22 | 1 | | 4.17 | 91.67 | 4.17 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | 2 | 340 | 5 | | 0.58 | 97.98 | 1.44 |
| other | 87 | 7 | 76 | 4 | | 8.05 | 87.36 | 4.60 |
| total | 475 | 10 | 455 | 10 | | 2.11 | 95.79 | 2.11 |

Schedule 6 of the proposed Bill makes a number of changes to the 1988 Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act. The following questions relate to those changes.

9. The constitution of the Authority will be changed in a way that might reduce the number of Authority members representing the interests of navigation. The NSBA Committee opposes this change.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 22 | 1 | | 4.17 | 91.67 | 4.17 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|-----|----|--|------|--------|------|
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | | 330 | 17 | | | 95.10 | 4.90 |
| other | 87 | 7 | 72 | 8 | | 8.05 | 82.76 | 9.20 |
| total | 475 | 8 | 441 | 26 | | 1.68 | 92.84 | 5.47 |

10. The navigation officer for Norwich will cease to exist. There will be no required qualifications or experience for the navigation officer. The NSBA Committee believes that there should be required minimum standards of qualification and experience for the navigation officer.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 22 | 1 | | 4.17 | 91.67 | 4.17 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | 4 | 329 | 14 | | 1.15 | 94.81 | 4.03 |
| other | 87 | 7 | 75 | 5 | | 8.05 | 86.21 | 5.75 |
| total | 475 | 12 | 443 | 20 | | 2.53 | 93.26 | 4.21 |

11. There will no longer be a requirement to keep a separate Navigation Account for tolls and other navigation income. The NSBA Committee strongly oppose this change. Particularly in view of the refusal by the then responsible minister, Alun Michael, to agree to this change at the recent Defra Review of the Authority, the Committee feels that this would be a retrograde step and doubts the Authority's ability to demonstrate that all navigation income is spent for the benefit of the navigation unless they maintain separate accounts. Using modern accounting systems, the additional administrative cost is believed to be negligible.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 23 | | | 4.17 | 95.83 | |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |
| individual | 347 | 1 | 336 | 10 | | 0.29 | 96.83 | 2.88 |
| other | 87 | 9 | 71 | 7 | | 10.34 | 81.61 | 8.05 |
| total | 475 | 11 | 447 | 17 | | 2.32 | 94.11 | 3.58 |

12. Schedule 7 of the proposed Bill repeals section 9 (8) of the 1988 Broads Act. This section requires the Authority to delegate all matters concerning the management of the navigation to or through the Navigation Committee. The NSBA Committee feels that, coupled with the other proposals in the Bill (e.g. item 2 above), this would further reduce the safeguards available to navigation interests on the Broads and should be opposed.

| status | total | don't know | agree | disagree | | %don't know | %agree | %disagree |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| aff_member | 24 | 1 | 22 | 1 | | 4.17 | 91.67 | 4.17 |
| aff_officer | 17 | | 17 | | | | 100.00 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|----|-----|----|--|-------|-------|------|
| individual | 347 | 3 | 333 | 11 | | 0.86 | 95.97 | 3.17 |
| other | 87 | 11 | 68 | 8 | | 12.64 | 78.16 | 9.20 |
| total | 475 | 15 | 440 | 20 | | 3.16 | 92.63 | 4.21 |

Conclusions

Responses were received from approximately 37% of the NSBA individual members and from officers of affiliated organisations representing more than 50% of the total membership of NSBA affiliated organisations.

This is an unusually high response rate for a survey of this kind and demonstrates the strength of feeling the proposed Bill has created. The response rate achieved by the Broads Authority Tollpayers' Questionnaire in 2005 was about 15%.

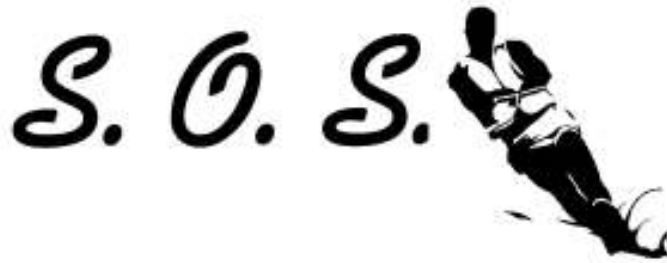
Support for the NSBA position was expressed by between 86% and 96% of respondents on all questions except question 6 which dealt with waterskiing and wakeboarding. This response was obviously affected by the ERSC campaign, but the degree of support for the NSBA position on this question still topped 80% overall and was just under 94% for the responses from NSBA individual members.

The survey has demonstrated strong feelings within the boating community and support for the stance being taken by the NSBA.

It should be emphasised that, on the 12 issues raised in the survey, NSBA supports the general intent of the Bill on 6 of them, albeit with some reservations on the detail of the proposals, and opposes the remaining 6.

The remarks written into section 3 of the survey form were very revealing of attitudes within the boating community to the way the Broads navigation is being managed.

Philip Ollier
 Executive Secretary, NSBA
 19th June 2006



URGENT! PLEASE DO NOT THROW AWAY

Dear Member/Supporter,

This letter is to bring everyone up to speed on the proposed Private Bill being sponsored by the Broads Authority. We had a productive meeting back in April with John Packman and Professor Kerry where our initial thoughts and fears were aired.

After the meeting John Packman said our organisation had been the most helpful! This is only the first stage and a second draft will be published at the end of May.

In the meantime please find enclosed the latest N.S.B.A. Newsletter and Opinion survey. Please, please fill in the opinion survey, there are only seven questions. Under No. 6 please agree **but must include wakeboarding** - write this on the survey form, and strike out the last sentence. See below.

There is a campaign being run by a character called Tree Hugger, who operates on Speaker's Corner and his supporters will all fill this survey in. Therefore please encourage all of your friends to fill in this form. If more are required please download form the N.S.B.A. website.

Finally, our club is an affiliated organisation i.e., status B.

Thanks for your time.

9. I am not an individual member, but I am a member of one of NSBA's 39 affiliated organisations and I am completing this survey on my own behalf.

6. The Bill gives the BA power to designate zones for waterskiing and to regulate the way in which the sport is carried out. The NSBA Committee believes the ideal arrangement would be to provide a dedicated closed broad for the pursuit of such sports. Failing that, it will not oppose waterskiing on the Broads under suitable management arrangements. ~~However, for reasons of wash and the safety and enjoyment of other river users, wakeboarding is not in its view a suitable activity on the Broads.~~

Agree

To include wakeboarding with no restrictions. ✓