

## SECTION 1: Introduction

As I write this we have almost completed the annual production of our members' Handbook.

Some 11 members, all volunteers from the NSBA General Committee, have once again stepped up for this 4-month task to check, edit or re-write, each dealing with their own personal section of the book; not a simple task, including calling phone-numbers to confirm that they are still the right ones, sometimes actually going out to locations to confirm an availability remains or a landowner is still willing... etc.

The whole team should be applauded. I would also like to thank outside contributors for their always positive responses to the questions and sometimes time-constrained demands by the team; these thanks go everywhere – to club secretaries, fixtures leaders, advertisers and some that I have probably forgotten, and also to the Broads Authority for their help on numerous subjects.

I have in front of me a 1958 version (approximately half the size of this *Green Book*); at some stage a mouse must have had a go at a corner; the only colour is a flags insert, manually glued onto the first page; tide tables refer to Bure-mouth into the Yare, which may well become another 'project' for us to revert to next year; there are obvious similarities with what we are producing today, but we have clearly moved on apace... in almost 130 years.

Last year we introduced some major editorial revisions with coloured flick-tabs to aid in finding sections, a more logical grouping of content and a detailed information index. Generally this has all gone down well and to allow this structure to settle-in we made a conscious decision not to undertake anything significantly different for this year, although we do hope you enjoy the local history articles from some of our advertisers, dotted throughout the book.

Key points, therefore, in using this book:

- Contents on page 3, if you know which of the sections you may need
- Information Index on page 190, for key-words; very subjective, with a bold page number and any other associated page numbers
- Advertisers' Index on page 192, for core boaters' needs
- Membership Application on page 22 – as a "Birthday Gift" for friend or family – surely the £10 membership for NSBA's support and a personal posted hard copy of *The Green Book* is an easy win!

Otherwise do support yourselves by keeping in touch with us; report issues directly so that we can grow data on what is really important to boaters, what, when, where and how. While sole individual reports on single issues can carry little weight, once included into a group of several similar S.M.A.R.T. issues this does give the NSBA greater clout for passing further; nevertheless the NSBA does respond to each and every report whether from members or affiliated organisations.

I wish for all... fair winds, useful currents and a happiest boating season.

Yours aye,



LtCdr Ben Falat, NSBA Chairman

