

## SECTION 1: Introduction

I am sometimes told that this publication is an anachronism and that most of the information contained within can be found on the Internet or by other means. It is true that some of the content of this publication can be obtained using a smartphone, but the strength of this publication is that it is current, it is comprehensive and it is available 24/7. If you think your smartphone will receive a signal throughout the Broads, then I wish you good luck with that.

This book represents a tremendous effort by a small cohort of individuals on the General Purposes Committee of the Association. The effort to put the book together takes place between November and February and The Green Book is published in March. The content is checked annually for accuracy and the aim of the Association is to have all the facts and information concerning the Broads in one place. The information contained in this book will be available to you irrespective of the strength of the available mobile phone signal.

**By the time you read this, Incorporation of the Association as a limited company will have been fulfilled.** Our e-newsletter, *BroadsSide*, has also flourished over the past year. We have however, found it necessary for the first time in 12 years, to increase our annual subscription as inflation has finally caught up with us. The work of the Association is on-going and covers a wide variety of issues from dredging and flood defences, scrutiny of planning applications, to the legal niceties of the bridge opening regimes, engaging positively with, and also frequently challenging the Broads Authority and supporting like minded initiatives; last summer we brokered a visit by Sara Sutcliffe, CEO of the RYA, not just to inform of specific issues, but also a half-day engaging with the Broads Authority's team.

Our roots are in our Affiliates. In the beginning, the NS(Yachting)A was an association of clubs who wished to have one voice in dealing with matters of interest to all Affiliates. Since 1975 NSYA has metamorphosed from an association of 25 Clubs and 16 personal members, into today's NSBA of 48 organisations and nearly 800 Members. This book is the representation of what the NSBA is all about; a coming together of like-minded people and organisations to protect what we value most, namely boating on the Broads.

We are now short of personnel, and in the coming year we face a number of retirements – Anno Domini is relentless and is no respecter of the needs of organisations such as the NSBA. We need to recruit to the GPC/management committee and we also wish to increase, significantly, our individual membership overall to a majority of the toll paying community. So, please talk about the NSBA and point out the advantages of membership to your friends and colleagues.

Yours aye,



Ben Falat  
Chairman, Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association

