

FOREWORD

The Green Book has been published annually for over 80 years and is almost certainly the best single source of the information you need if embarking on a trip by boat on the Broads.

Over the years the Green Book has expanded to contain more information, and this year's, for 2018, is stuffed with the latest information, much of it provided by our affiliated clubs and classes. The fixtures lists, regatta details, club and class contact details, boat lists, members' list and tide tables are all updated with the latest information when we go to print in January.

The Green Book is available on-line, at www.thegreenbook.org.uk (scroll down to the third line on the menu on the left on all pages. Whereas your printed copy is the perfect companion when you are afloat or enjoying a remote part of Broadland without internet access.

Peter Mantle, our dedicated Green Book Editor, refreshes the Green Book with new content each year to keep it interesting as well as indispensable. He is assisted by a team including Sue Hines, Julia Bower, Chris Balls and John Tibbenham. I am most grateful for all their good work – producing the Green Book is a considerable undertaking.

Lobbying for the interests of private boat owners on the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads is one of the NSBA's primary purposes, in addition to producing the Green Book. The pressures arising from conservation and environmental legislation continue to present threats to boating on the Broads in its present form. Interestingly, there are over 7 times more private boats on the Broads than there are hire boats. There were almost 11,000 private boats, and about 1600 hire boats at the end of last year. In 2017 the number of tolls paid for privately owned motor boats increased by 2.8% over 2016, whilst weekly hired motor boat numbers increased 1.5%.

In the past year we have continued to campaign for the reopening of parts of the Broads closed to navigation, responded to planning consultations, made representations about mast lowering moorings at bridges, boat friendly moorings' construction and surfacing, assisted to identify dredging priorities, supported the Upper Thurne Working Group, lobbied for limiting rises in Broads Authority Tolls, helped appoint new members to the Navigation Committee and taken initiatives to get replacement floating moorings at Thurne Mouth to replace the piling closed several years ago and which will be removed by the Environment Agency in conjunction with the Broads Flood Alleviation Project.

We are represented on, variously, the BA Navigation Committee, the BA Broads Forum, the RYA Eastern Region, the RYA Inland Waterways Group, the Port of Great Yarmouth Leisure Community Meeting, and the Upper Thurne Working Group.

Tolls, BA Income and the drive for efficiency.

Broads Authority tolls are on average 9% of the cost of keeping a boat on the Broads, and considerably lower than on other UK inland waterways.

We aim to keep Broads boating affordable and continue to press for any increases in tolls to be modest, and justified by the quality of the service provided by the Broads Authority (BA).

Keeping the BA's navigation account and functions separate from its National Park budget is necessary to ensure tolls are spent on relevant work, dredging, river rangers, tree clearance, moorings and so on.

Tolls for the coming year have been increased by 3.0% across the board, in line with the CPI at the time of the October 2017. It is hoped that this small increase will facilitate investment by the BA in better equipment for tree clearance on the river banks, and speed reactive signs to help improve speed limit compliance in busy areas such as the River Bure at Wroxham.

We have pressed the BA hard for greater transparency of Navigation and 'National Park' expenditures and better reporting of targets met and cost efficiency. The dialogue continues.

NSBA Regattas

I am pleased to relate that our flagship events, the inter-club, Ramuz Trophy competition and the Broadland Youth regatta, were again a great success last year, (with reports inside) and that arrangements are well in hand for these exciting regattas in the coming year.

Membership

The NSBA has over 50 affiliated clubs, classes and other organisations, with a combined membership of nearly 10,000 and about 1000 personal members. However, the more personal members the NSBA has, the stronger it will be in the political arena. If you are not already a personal member, I do urge you to join. We need you, so that we may continue to serve, promote and protect boating interests in the Broads.

The GDPR and you

The EU General Data Protection Regulation is expected to be in place on 25 May 2018. However, the Information Commissioner's Office will not be issuing guidance until April 2018, so there is no clear course of action at the time of writing in January 2018. Please look out for communications from us on the web site and newsletters on how the GDPR may affect how we hold your data, and whether you need to opt in to be in our Green Book listings.

If you are already a member, thank you, please maintain your membership and please pass on word of our work and persuade your friends to join, even if they already belong to a club or class.

Finally, I wish you fair weather and good boating in 2018.

Brian,

Brian Wilkins
Chairman, NSBA
January 2018

