

FOREWORD

At the 2019 AGM, the NSBA's General Purposes Committee (GPC) experienced a very significant turnover of members, and replacement of both Chair and Vice-Chair, which now clearly results in a new emphasis. The GPC is moving forward with revitalised vigour and determination. It is being highly self-critical and developing strategy to focus on what are the perceptions and expectations of our community, members and clubs.

So one aim is to ensure that boating representations are fully heard, ensuring meaningful consultation with outside bodies on environmental matters and swing bridges. Locally, this involves focusing on levels of Broads Authority tolls, waterway facilities – moorings, demasting/waiting points at bridges, and clearance of the navigation – bankside clearance, dredging targets and reopening presently restricted areas. To ensure that the NSBA can properly represent its members the GPC Strategy Group is developing a survey of members which is anticipated soon and which will drive the new way forward.

The other core aim is to raise the profile of the NSBA. Key elements of how the NSBA is perceived and how we transmit lie within social media and we look forward to appointing a Communicator who can manage the various platforms as well as our website www.thegreenbook.org.uk

Most recent NSBA activity has centred around boating representations at HM Inspection of the Third Crossing bridges for both Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, direct liaison with Network Rail regarding what they perceive as their “minor assets” of swing bridges, and response to the Glover Landscape Review for DEFRA which included the real National Parks and the Broads. Day-to-day involvement includes liaison with the Broads Authority and setting up this year's Broadland Youth Regatta and Inter-Club Championship (Ramuz Trophy). Producing the Green Book reflects a massive piece of work by the Green Book Organiser liaising with and cajoling many various contributors for an annual whole-scale review of the previous work; we should be highly appreciative of her magnificent coordinating role

and of the contributions made by other GPC members, in particular our eagle-eyed proof-reading Vice-Chair.

Climate Change, sea-level rise and general abnormal weather effects are increasingly important with the public and NSBA should soon be involved with consultations over clean air and use in boats of various different kinds of engines; the supply of new diesel engines will not only be reflected in road usage but in boating as well.

It should be recognised that since early 2019 the Royal Yachting Association has re-engineered its management as well as abolishing the RYA Council; various functions are now devolved to its Regions, with the expectation that they be informed by their constituent boating associations. In this respect NSBA must take increasing responsibility for representation from the grass-roots boating community up to RYA (East) and thence to RYA (HQ) at Hamble, Hants.

Please enjoy this latest Green Book 2020, make fullest use of all the various sections of information and reference, and do please engage by returning your feedback for improvements, new ideas and indeed amendment of errors if you can find any!

Best wishes for the 2020 boating season,

Ben



Ben Falat, Chairman, NSBA, January 2020