



PUNNET

The magazine of Strawberry Island
Boat Club in Doncaster

SPRING 2025

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In your Spring 2025 edition of Punnet

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Front cover - Sunrise over the River Trent at Cromwell
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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the Spring edition of Punnet

Jambo!

I hope each and every one of you is fine and dandy as we approach our new boating season. Our Social Team have definitely been working hard over the Winter with all the events that have taken place and more is promised through Summer 2025. So, if you are not able to get away on your boat this year keep an eye on all the activities that are being planned as there is something for everyone. There is also the opportunity to volunteer to help with these events too, many hands might light work as they say. Keep an eye on the website and in the Clubhouse for event dates and see Mandy or Lesley if you're able to assist.

It is this time of year when we have our Awards evening and AGM. See pages 37 and 5 for updates of all that has happened regarding these events. We also had a delegation that attended the AWCC AGM, see page 24 for the latest here.

Malcolm and Ken are still 'talking rubbish' but it does seem that we have a problem at the moment as refuse is ending up in the wrong place and this means the Club gets charged extra by the bin company for taking it away. There are also items that we cannot dispose on the Island such as old tyres and oil and these must be taken home or disposed of by you at the Dumpit site. See page 12 for more details regarding this.

We will be one of the crazy people who are attempting to cross the Wash this year. I know that many have done this before but I do feel a little trepidation about this and wonder whether we will come home minus our lovely boat. I have not mentioned this to Bennie (the ship's cat), who is unaware that he will have to sleep in a hammock like all good sea faring cats that have gone before him. He is also unaware that I am trying to find him a cat 'lifesaver' jacket. Personally, I'm not liking the idea of getting him in it as it will be akin to putting an

octopus in a string bag. Anyway, keep a watch on Facebook and also in the Clubhouse as it is our intention to send photos back so members can see how daft we are!

Before I sign off there is my usual plea for material for the Summer Punnet. I will be putting this together whilst on the boat with Bennie as assistant and Mick as 'press operator'. The easiest way of sending material is by email: punnet@sibc.club but I can receive items by Messenger and this is fine too. I am always on the lookout for funny stories, boating mishaps, recipes, poetry, quizzes or anything that floats your boat that you would like to see in your Punnet. If you have an idea, contact me.

Enjoy the next few months,

Donna Ward

S P L

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Commodore's Column

Hello everyone,

I can't believe a full year has passed since I became Commodore of this wonderful club of ours. We've had a busy year with functions and events only made possible By the commitment of you the members.

As many of you will be well aware the outside moorings have now been completed, a big shout out to Ken and his team of volunteers who have done a sterling job. However, this doesn't mean that Ken is sitting twiddling his thumbs as I'm sure he has plenty to be doing to ensure our moorings are upgraded and safe for years to come.

As I write this the Social Team, led by Mandy, have just put on a great TV show games night which I'm sure those that attended enjoyed immensely. Don't forget these functions can only happen with you, the members, helping the Social Team to put them on.

Big thanks as always goes to Malc and Ken for keeping all the general maintenance jobs up to date. I'm sure you all will agree the Island is looking great, A quick reminder the skip on the car park near the bridge is not for domestic waste, a charge is incurred for household waste in these skips. Please use the bins near the sanitary station for your household waste and we operate a recycling policy to reduce costs.

As you will now see the conservatory has had a refurbishment and is now looking very modern. Thank you to all involved in the process of making it happen.

Many of you may be aware of the dispute between SIBC and SIAA. I'm glad to bring you the good news that we now have resolved the issues with an agreement that welcomes a number of new associate members, a partnership that I hope will flourish and ensure both parties share a space that is precious to all.

There are many members departing the Island this cruising season for planned events, some going to a rally with other clubs to a Fund British Waterway's campaign which is an organisation our club supports, then on to a trip across the Wash. This is a trip I've been told my boat has done alas not with me at the helm, I may add I'm not at all jealous of you guys doing this MUCH and wish I could be with you all. Good luck to all of you.

For all of you going away wherever it may be this year I wish you happy and safe cruising. Take plenty of photos and please share them with Lesley so we can enjoy them and virtually be with you as we will display them on the tv, and so make some amazing memories.

For us that are left behind rest assured we will be having some great functions and enjoying our time at the Island. There are many things already in the planning stage not least of all the rally which I hope you'll be able to attend and have fun at, like so many years previously.

All the best everyone,

Chris

AGM 2025 Report

SIBC Annual General Meeting 2025

On Sunday 16th March, the SIBC Annual General Meeting was held in a packed clubhouse. It was good to see so many full members of the club taking part.

The meeting commenced with approval of the minutes of last year's AGM held on 17th March 2024 and there were no matters arising. Peter Harbon then presented his report and made a request for as many members as possible to use the secure payment link on the new Sage invoices sent out by email to members when subscriptions and mooring fees are due. The use of the 'Pay Now' button is secure, reduces the opportunity for error and reduces workload for the Treasurer and bar staff.

Derek Brodderick, the club accountant, walked us through "your

accounts, not mine". Despite the club making a loss on paper this year (due mostly to the expenditure on repairs and renewals), he said the accounts were healthy and the club is in a good financial position. The AGM voted to re-elect Derek as accountant for the following year.

Chris then presented his Commodore's report for the 55th year of SIBC's existence. He touched on the many events that have taken place over the past year including completing the offside mooring replacement, updating the fire alarm system, adopting the Harassment and Bullying and Safeguarding policies, work barge refurbishment, paperless billing, the 5 star hygiene rating for the galley and the extensive calendar of social events that have taken place. He closed his speech by thanking everyone for making SIBC such a success.

All club officers were re-elected unopposed. For the management committee, this year there were eight vacancies (rather than the usual six) due to co-opted members standing down. Twelve club members stood as candidates for the eight positions and prior to the voting each introduced themselves to the meeting. A secret ballot then took place which was overseen by Martyn Walsham, one of our trustees. Following a count of the submitted votes, the following members were elected to the committee: Malcolm Dawson, Michael Hirst, Sharron Lomas, Ken Shaw, John Southcombe, Donna Ward, Colin Whitworth and Derek Wildsmith.

Whilst the counting of votes was underway, Mandy Atkinson presented her report as Chairman of the social committee. Mandy drew attention to the introduction of the Summer programme and the huge list of events that the social committee have arranged over the past year. She concluded her report by thanking the social team, volunteers and all who have helped to make this year so successful. The social committee were re-elected unopposed.

There were three proposals for rule changes put to the AGM. The first, proposed by management, to increase the bar tab from £25 to £50 from January 2026 provoked discussion particularly regarding those members who do not regularly use the clubhouse. The amendment was passed by majority vote. A second proposal, also presented by management, to amend section 7 of the club rules (conduct) highlighting the expectation of positive friendships and actions by members was passed unopposed. The third proposal, submitted from the club membership, seeking to prevent resigning

committee members from re-election for two years was defeated by majority vote.

The final section of the meeting, any other business, raised one request for the club to consider electronic voting for future meetings. The Commodore asked that this request be submitted in writing to the committee for consideration.

The Commodore declared the meeting closed at 12:00

Mick Hirst

Harbourmaster Matters



Hello Everyone,

With the mainline moorings now finished, the moorings team have now turned our attention to much needed repairs to the East Loop. Already we have rebuilt two moorings and are currently extending another mooring from a 45ft berth to a much - needed 57ft berth. In addition, we will have a visitor mooring on the outside of this.

Talking of visiting boaters, along with Mick Hirst we have now created a visiting boat request form on the SIBC website.

Being the good members that you are, you might want to invite a friend or acquaintance on your travels to visit Strawberry Island. If so please steer them towards the website as the form asks all the questions needed to accommodate their requirements, leading to a trouble-free experience booking visitor moorings with us.

Thats all for this Punnet, happy cruising,

Ken

STRAWBERRY ISLAND BOAT CLUB

Milethorn Lane, Doncaster, DN1 2SU

Telephone – 01302 364954

www.sibc.club

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SHARRON LOMAS

DEREK WILDSMITH

TRUSTEES

MARTYN WALSHAM

JOHN FOSTER

PETER HARBON

JOHN ROBINSON

Committee Responsibilities

Chris Drayton	Commodore
Don Musgrave	Slipway / Hardstanding
Phil Jefferson	Estate Manager / Cruise Master
Lesley Drayton	Membership Secretary / Galley Compliance / Participation / Keys and Fobs
Ken Collier	Harbourmaster
Mandy Atkinson	Social Chair / Galley
Malcolm Dawson and Ken Shaw	Work Party Coordinators
John Southcombe	Maintenance Manager / Awards
Derek Wildsmith	Health and Safety
Paul Mellors	IT / GDPR
Carole Thomas	Administration / Club Compliance
John Clark	Fire Safety
Trevor Bailey	Bar Manager
Keith Brough	Showers / Pool Table / Social Shed
TBA	Estate Grounds Manager
TBA	Plant
Donna Ward	Punnet / AWCC Rep
Mick Hirst	Website
John Robinson	Slipway / Hardstanding

SOCIAL 2025



As we gear up for the 2025 boating season, let's take a moment to reflect on the fantastic festivities that made Christmas at Strawberry Island Boat Club truly special!

We kicked things off with Christmas Jumper Night, where members fully embraced the 'Go big! Go bright! Go Christmas!' challenge— with very deserving winners crowned in our Fa-La-La-Fabulous and Ho-Ho-Hilarious jumper competition. The Christmas Singalong, featuring the Rickety Rockers, Martyn Walsham, and Donna's choir, set the festive mood ahead of our Christmas Party, where Marina Mae delivered a show-stopping performance. Christmas Lunch gathered over 70 members for a fabulous feast, and the Christmas Draw night brought laughter, entertainment, and great prizes.

New Year's Eve was definitely a dazzling affair. Our 'All Things Silver' party celebrated both the new year and Chris and Lesley Drayton's Silver Wedding Anniversary, with 80s vocalist Crystal Marie bringing the energy for an unforgettable countdown to 2025.

The fun didn't stop there as we kicked off 2025 in style. Race Night may not have made any millionaires, but it delivered plenty of laughs. We welcomed the Year of the Snake with a delicious Chinese-themed night and celebrated Valentine's with music, dancing and cocktails at our Wear It Red night.

In March, we introduced something new with Lesley delivering our first Food Safety Level 2, allergen and food labelling training, where all attendees passed with flying colours. The Deal or No Deal gameshow night was a hit, and the Annual Dinner honoured 55 incredible years of Strawberry Island Boat Club with a glamorous Emerald Anniversary celebration.

Now, as the winter season winds down, we're gearing up for our final event of the season—the Wild West themed Fitting Out Supper. Expect fantastic food, live music, and great company—grab your tickets now.

What's Next?

We know not everyone gets the chance for extended boating trips, so we're putting together an exciting summer social calendar which we hope to share with you very soon. Here's a sneak peek:

'Fly Me Round the World' Supper Club' (starting in May) – Thanks to Sara and Richard, we'll hop aboard SI Flight 7025 and explore different international cuisines, collecting stamps in our SIBC passports as we go.

Gameshow Nights, Speed Quiz & Casino Night – Plenty of fun-filled evenings ahead.

And of course the key Christmas 2025 dates – all coming soon.

A huge thank you to the social team for their hard work and support and all of the volunteers who have stepped up to help —these events wouldn't happen without you. If you'd like to help out or have event ideas, please let us know. **WE NEED YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!**

Looking forward to another fantastic season together.

Mandy

Dates for your Diary

(All may be subject to additions or change)



Your social team are working hard to put together an exciting programme of events for you to enjoy over the Summer season and throughout the Winter non-boating season.

Please keep an eye out on Facebook and on the Calendar page of the club website (which is reached from the link on the home page) as details will be posted there once things are finalised.

'Dates for your Diary' will return as usual in the Summer 2025 edition of your Punnet.

Island Maintenance



Talking Rubbish Again

Despite our article in the Winter Punnet members are still using the bins and skip incorrectly. Please use them properly as this is costing the Club money (the refuse company will either not remove the items or are charging us extra for the privilege) and time due to work parties having to sift through the rubbish.

Type of Waste	Where to Stick It
Non-recyclable domestic waste that you generate whilst spending time on your boat	General Waste Bin
Cardboard (flatten), Paper, Tin Cans, Clean Aluminium Foil, Plastic Bottles, Recyclable Plastic Containers (clean)	Recycling Bin
Glass Bottles and Glass Jars	Bottle Bin
Large Items which are not recyclable	Skip
Tree Branches	Compound
Tree Trunks	Compound
Engineered Wood	Compound
Metal including Empty paint tins	Behind Sanitary Station
Oil	Take Home or Dumpit Site
Paint and Blacking	Take Home
Tyres	Take Home or Dumpit Site
Clinical Waste	Take Home

If you're not sure what to do with your rubbish either take it home or ask Malc or Ken and they will tell you where to stick it! Alternatively, Armthorpe 'Dumpit' site is only three miles away and can be found at post code: DN2 5QB.

Malc and Ken



Licence YOUR Boat through your Club

You should *all* know that SIBC gets 5% commission on your Boat Licence if you renew through the club.

Unfortunately, 40% of members do not use the club to renew their licence. This means we are losing out on a considerable sum of money each year, which could help to keep our mooring fees down!

This year we have 'lost' around £2000.

It is unfair on the Members who do use the Club to renew their licence as they are contributing to Club funds and the others are not.

You are probably already aware that when you licence your boat, the Canal and River Trust give an early payment discount of 2.5%. Another 2.5% discount is available if the licence is purchased online.

If you license your boat through the Club, you will still get the 2.5% discount for purchasing on line as we license your boat via an agency website i.e. online.

It is easy to renew your Licence:

I will license your boat at the club or you can ring me on 07831 169880 and I will do it over the phone. All you need is your boat index number and your up-to-date insurance details. Payment is by credit or debit card only.

Please license your boat at SIBC as we earn 5% commission on each licence, which helps to keep your mooring fees down.

Just a note of caution. CRT will automatically renew your licence when it is due if you have registered your card details with them and the Club will lose out on the commission! You need to log in to CRT and uncheck the automatic renewal box. Ring me if you need any help with this!

Peter Harbon Treasurer & Trustee

S.I.B.C. CRESTED CLOTHING

If you would like to order garments, please call my mobile 07505 787722 or e-mail me on elaineab@btinternet.com

The garments come in various colours and sizes from children to adult sizes up to XXL. Kid's garments are cheaper.

Cheques or cash only please with cheques made payable to E A Chambers. Please note I have to order 8 garments at a time therefore, you might be waiting a while for your garments. I normally order about three times a year and your cash/cheques will not be banked until your garment arrives.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any queries. Please note that all prices are subject to change in January.

Sweats crew neck - unisex	£14.75
Sweats V neck - unisex	£15.20
Cardigans - unisex	£16.40
Hooded tops - unisex	£14.99
100% cotton V neck jumper - unisex	£20.10
Fleeces - unisex	£18.15
Reversible shower proof jackets - unisex	£25.75
Heavyweight Storm reversible jacket - unisex	£26.50
Polo shirts - unisex	£8.50
Polo shirts - ladies fit	£11.65
T Shirts	£ 5.95

Please note that ALL prices are plus VAT at the current rate.

Baseball caps and acrylic ski hats can be purchased from Sarah at the bar.



Alan Tharratt submitted this photograph along with the suggestion that it might well be quite apposite to SIBC.

<p>In your Summer 2025 edition of Punnet:</p>	<p>Your cruise logs, disasters, funny stories. It's your stories that make your Punnet so submit your articles now to punnet@sibc.club</p>
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<p><i>Strawberry Island Loo Blue</i></p>		<p>5 litres for £10 Please ask at the bar for further details</p>
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Fun, Frolics and Breakdowns on the Trent

2022

We were returning to SIBC. Our summer's cruising was coming to its end and our journey home involved a downstream voyage from Cromwell to Keadby, overnighing at Torksey en route.

The first day's travel was in clear calm conditions and was as pleasant as it was uneventful. We spent the evening having a jolly time catching up with friends.

The following morning, having confirmed our departure time with Keadby lock, we set off with one other boat from Torksey. The weather was not as pleasant, cooler and with a brisk wind that was raising a bit of chop.

An hour into the voyage, we started to experience problems, the engine was starting to run rough, revs dropping off despite the throttle being opened up and the engine was starting to hunt.

We attracted the attention of our buddy boat's crew and explained our issue and they agreed to shadow us to West Stockwith. A steady chug for a couple of hours saw us safely into the basin where I whipped off the fuel filter to find it blocked with sediment. I can only surmise that the rough conditions had stirred up the silt in the bottom of the tank causing the filter blockage. A new filter and a quick shakedown cruise up the Chesterfield and we were good to go. The learning point for us was don't take anything for granted. Despite a full service in April, including changing both fuel filters, we have had four months of trouble free cruising. But we then experienced fuel issues at the most crucial time. My mental note: In future change fuel filters prior to any tidal river journey. And brim the fuel tank to minimise turbulence.

2023

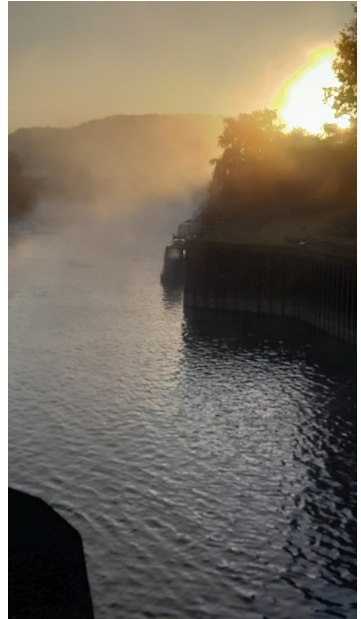
Once again on our return journey to SIBC we departed Nottingham, heading for Newark. As we approached Holme lock we started to experience an intermittent clicking noise from the engine, which though it didn't affect the boats operation in any way was a little disconcerting.

We carried on our journey to Hazelford Lock, planning to stop on the visitor moorings for lunch and to do a spot of brambling. As we left the lock, angling in towards the moorings we lost drive completely, we were adrift!

We were drifting past a cruiser which was tied up. Fortune was smiling on us though, as the skipper was stood on the stern deck, he reacted quickly to my hail and I was able to pass him our stern line. We tied up on the moorings and there we were, stuck. For a week.

It transpired that the drive plate, which conducts power from the engine to the gearbox had failed and we had been very lucky indeed.

I was able to fashion a 'Spanish' winch from a mooring rope and a bank stake which allowed me to lift up the engine sufficiently to take the weight off the mounts. I chocked it up on some lumps of firewood and this meant I could remove the bell-housing and gearbox to access the broke bit.



I discovered also that one of the engine mount bolts had snapped and needed replacing. After a bit of googling, I was able to call PRM-Newage Ltd and order a new drive plate. It was sent to Strawberry Island and very kindly brought down to us by Ian and Ally Marr (Ally unfortunately just in the early throes of a COVID-19 infection).

In the meantime, a bus trip into Newark and I was able to source some threaded bar, nuts and washers to rebuild my engine mount. Having a battery angle grinder on the boat was a huge bonus I must say.

Once I had all the parts aboard, within an hour I was able to carry out the repairs and realign the engine, we were back in action once more.

The learning point from this episode was when on rivers, tidal or otherwise, have the anchor and rope ready for deployment at all times. We were very lucky not to have needed it.

2024

We were heading north and east, along the Trent, yet again on our journey back to base. Our water cooled stern gland had started to leak quite badly. I suspect it had taken some damage when the engine mount failed and finally it had given up the ghost. I kept it going by pumping grease into the seal to prevent water ingress. This was very much a stopgap measure whilst I sourced all the parts I needed to do the repair.

We made it to the visitor moorings Trentside of the Erewash Canal, and were able to tie up on the pontoon. Reaching down through the weed-hatch, I wrapped a plastic carrier bag around the prop shaft pulling it tight into the cutless bearing. This reduced the water flow to a trickle. I was then in a position to uncouple the prop shaft and undo the damaged shaft seal. I pushed the prop shaft out through the cutless bearing, moving the tiller to one side to give me even more room to work. I then slid the carrier bag down there shaft to once again reduce the ingress of water.

Within a few minutes I was able to fit the new shaft seal and put everything back as it should be. Once the plastic bag was removed we were good as new. I don't believe we've had as much as a single drop of water through the new seal since it was fitted. Oddly enough, the boat adjacent on the pontoon also needed a new stern gland so I was able to teach the owner what was necessary to replace it himself, whilst in the water.

Our Trent journeys haven't been the most straightforward and uneventful ones that we might have wished for. Indeed, I would far rather breakdown on a nice shallow canal if the choice was open to me. That said I have learned a huge amount, and though at times there might have been a little bit more stress and worry than is healthy, I feel a lot more confident that I am able to deal with at least some of the mechanical issues we might meet on our travels, and it has taught me to be prepared and not take anything for granted. Hopefully next time our journey will be boring and mundane.

Hopefully....

Duncan Wright

Haven't we come a long way in the last 55 years?

Just a few past and present pictures. But all this was achieved by the members.

Our first Club was the Barge Olive, which can just be seen approaching in the East Loop picture. Members then built the Clubhouse which was lost in a fire.



But again, the club rallied together to build the clubhouse as it is now.



Notice the east loop and the lack of moorings, but what have we now? Moorings galore and all built by members.



East Loop looking back towards the Lock and can you see the cottage hidden in the trees?



But look at it now



With just these few pictures can you see a theme emerging?

Strawberry island was built by its members many of whom we have lost, but today's members need to help maintain the ethos of Strawberry Island being a participation club. Getting involved with all aspects of the club, social events which take a great deal of time and effort to organise, work parties maintaining what we have and building new. The galley ensuring that workers are well fed and we enjoy delicious meals prepared by members for members.

So come on members when we need volunteers to help in whatever way, come forward, get involved. You'll make new friends and trust me we've seen a good number of boat clubs around the country, and you won't find a better club than STRAWBERRY ISLAND.

Fund Britain's Waterways Launch Party

Members are invited to the Fund Britain's Waterways Launch Party to be held at SIBC Saturday 29th March 2025. From 12 noon – 2:30pm when the boats will leave the Island to undertake the first part of our journey of 266 miles and 159 locks to the Inland Waterways Association Cavalcade at Little Venice. The Campaign Cruise to the Palace of Westminster will take place on the 7th May.

Follow us on Facebook - 'Fund Britain's Waterways – Cruises 2025'

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AWCC Report

AWCC Annual General Meeting

On 15th March I attended the AWCC AGM at Lymm Cruising Club. You may be aware that the present Chairman of the AWCC National Executive Council is none other than our own Club Secretary and immediate past Commodore, Hazel Owen. The meeting was attended in person by roughly 40 members of various affiliated boat clubs along with a further 11 people attending via Zoom.

The AGM was preceded by a Special General Meeting where two amendments to the Constitution were proposed. The first was to increase the number of executive officers from 5 to 6 (by inclusion of the IT Officer) and the second amendment was to permit treating on-line attendance as being equal to physical attendance at meetings. Both resolutions were passed unanimously.

Following the SGM the AGM commenced with the usual 'standard' agenda items such as approving the minutes of the previous AGM, receiving reports from the Regional Committees and the Executive Officers and the Treasurer's report.

The incumbent President of the AWCC, Ann Banks, stood down from post. Her successor, chosen by the National Executive, was named as Des Barnard. Des Barnard stood down as Communications Officer and all other members were re-elected unopposed. Brian Clarke was elected as IT Officer.

A request was made for the AWCC to increase its online presence by use of a Facebook page or similar social media and this will be looked into.

Hazel then presented a detailed report about the upcoming Fund Britain's Waterways cruise. The cruise starts on 29th March from SIBC and will travel down to St. Pancras CC arriving at the end of April for the May Bank Holiday weekend cavalcade. This will be followed by the campaign cruise to the Palace of Westminster on 7th May then returning north to Boston in early June for the Wash crossing. After exploring the Fens, Mid-level Navigations and river Nene they will return back to SIBC with a target date of 9th August. Many AWCC boat clubs will be visited en route. At the moment it is anticipated that 27 boats will join the campaign cruise and 18 boats

are booked in for the Wash crossing. The plans for the cruise can be found on the IWA website (waterways.org.uk) and progress can be followed on Facebook (Fund Britain's Waterways – Cruises for 2025). All AWCC club members are asked to support the campaign by displaying car stickers (available from our clubhouse), flying flags or displaying banners (available from IWA website) and also joining in the fight by the methods shown on the IWA website.

A brief discussion was held regarding the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and if the AWCC should seek to become a member of the IWA's Sustainable Boating Group. More information about this is presented at the end of the report of the AGM. Regional committees were asked to consult with individual clubs on this matter and feed back opinion to the National Executive Council for consideration at their next meeting in May.

A brief report prepared by the Bridgewater Canal Company (BCC) regarding the recent breach which occurred near Little Bollington was read out. BCC confirmed that they would be repairing the canal. The temporary portadams will shortly be replaced by a new stop plank installation at the Dunham end of the drained section and a clay bund will be installed to the Lymm end. Initial consultations have taken place and it is expected that a design consultancy will be appointed in the next few months. It is anticipated repairs will take 18-24 months to complete.

The final part of the meeting was to present awards – the Bluebell Trophy for the person contributing most to AWCC was presented to Jon Jones, retiring secretary of the Midlands region. The Interclub Trophy for best club magazine was awarded to Stoke on Trent Boat Club with the British Christian Fellowship being runners up.

Following lunch, a presentation was given by Bowman Bradley of the IWA's Sustainable Boating Group where he introduced us to the benefits of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil). This product has shown great promise as a replacement for bio-diesel although at the moment it is somewhat more expensive than 'normal' diesel and has very limited availability on the network). A short list of suppliers is available on the IWA's website. The main points of Bowman's presentation are shown on the information sheets shown on the next two pages. Much more information, including ways you can support the campaign for greater availability, is available on the IWA website.

Mick Hirst

Let's Talk About HVO

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil: A sustainable fuel for your boat's diesel engine

If you care about the environment, you will be considering how to minimise your carbon footprint when out on the water.



Like most inland boaters, your current boat is probably powered by a diesel engine, and you may not be ready to transition to electric drive.



Fortunately, there is a way to dramatically reduce the CO₂ emissions of your current diesel engine.

In line with our commitment to the [sustainability](#) of boating, the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) is working with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), British Marine (BM) and the Cruising Association (CA) to raise awareness about the environmental and safety benefits of switching recreational vessels from fossil diesel to a **cleaner, greener, sustainable fuel known as HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil)**.

How can inland boaters make the switch?

HVO can be used immediately in your boat's current engine to significantly reduce carbon emissions.

Renewable HVO fuel is:



Historic nb Spey using HVO

- Tried and tested in a range of modern and traditional canal boat engines
- Approved by the leading marine diesel engine manufacturers
- More resistant to 'diesel bug' than mineral diesel and especially 'FAME' biodiesel
- Safe to use as a drop-in replacement for mineral diesel, at any concentration, with no engine modifications required

So, what's the problem?

There are two key barriers to the widespread adoption of HVO (for both propulsion and domestic use) in the leisure boating sector: **Limited Availability and Inconsistent Price**.

Despite a Government managed subsidy ('RTFC's) the price of HVO is very volatile and usually significantly more expensive than mineral diesel. As a result, boaters are reluctant to buy it and suppliers are reluctant to stock it.

The IWA, the RYA, BM and the CA have formed a HVO Joint Working Group to change government policy and increase the adoption of HVO in existing diesel engines across the whole UK recreational boating sector.

TAKE ACTION: Support Our Campaign

The Inland Waterways Association now invites all boaters to help promote HVO.

We need your support as a boater to help increase demand, expand supply and stabilise the price of HVO to encourage the adoption of the biofuel in the leisure boating community. Please:

- ✓ Use HVO whenever you can get it.
- ✓ Inform your fuel supplier (marina, boatyard, hire base) that you would buy HVO if they stocked it.
- ✓ Lobby or write to your MP asking them to pressurise the Government to support our campaign to adopt policies that will make HVO available and affordable to leisure boaters.



THE TECHNICAL BITS: What is HVO?

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil is a new generation renewable fuel produced from bio feedstocks, often waste oils, and stabilised using hydrogen. Certified by the UK Government as sustainable, it is widely reported to reduce carbon emissions by up to 90%. HVO does not suffer from the drawbacks of first-generation biodiesel (known as FAME), such as diesel bug, and is stable for long periods of time.

HVO is:



- Clear, colourless and odourless
- Cleaner than mineral diesel, with lower particle emissions
- More biodegradable than mineral diesel
- Suitable for use in any concentration with mineral diesel, from 1% to 100%
- Suitable for supply and distribution using the existing marine infrastructure

UNITED FOR GREENER BOATING: About the Joint Working Group

The mission of the HVO Joint Working Group is to persuade government to adopt policies that will make HVO affordable and available to leisure boaters. We are also raising awareness among boaters about the environmental, safety and compatibility aspects of the biofuel with the view that an increase in demand will stimulate the supply network in the leisure boating sector.

Backed up by practical evidence and international research, plus [tests](#) and surveys of the use of engines carried out by the Group, we conclude that sustainable HVO is a simple, cheap and immediate pathway to greener boating. We believe it can enable more UK owners of existing inland and seagoing recreational boats to contribute towards Net Zero while novel propulsion technologies are developed for new boats.

THE CHALLENGE: Improving the availability and price of HVO

The price of HVO is very variable and, at times, unattractive to some leisure boaters, partly due to the cost of production and the nature of the markets for feedstock and finished product and despite a Government managed subsidy (RTFC's). This means that distributors and retailers have been reluctant to market it to the boating community in the UK and boaters are hesitant to buy it.



Our surveys suggest that many boaters would be prepared to pay a small premium to reduce their environmental footprint, but there is still work to do to lower and stabilise the price of HVO in our sector.

For inland boaters, our Group is working with suppliers to help explain to boaters about the benefits of adopting HVO in place of mineral diesel. HVO is becoming available for inland waterways vessels in the UK, through the IWA's list of current UK [stockists](#) and other suppliers.

See our webpages: [IWA Sustainable Boating](#)

Join us to help ensure all recreational boating in the UK is more sustainable.

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The Boater's Kitchen



This edition Shirley Sefton has chosen one of her recipes and she says that, 'Eggs Florentine makes a cheap, quick meal and if you poach the eggs in heart shaped cutters, a romantic breakfast or brunch too. How about giving yours a tasty twist and swap the usual toast for a warm, buttery jacket potato instead. The soft potato and the runny egg work wonders together'.

Eggs Florentine

Ingredients:

Knob of butter
250g fresh spinach leaves
A little grated nutmeg
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 large eggs
2 slices brioche bread
6 tbsp ready-made cheese or Hollandaise sauce, warmed

Method:

Melt the butter in a medium pan, add all the spinach, nutmeg and seasoning. Cover and cook over a medium heat for 2-3 minutes or until spinach has wilted. Drain in a sieve and keep warm.
Place two non-stick heart shaped egg rings in a frying pan, add just enough water to come up to the top of the rings. Season with salt and bring the water to a gentle simmer. Carefully crack the eggs and tip into the centre of the heart rings.

Cook the eggs over a gentle heat for 3-4 minutes or until poached to your liking. Toast the bread and cut the slices in half, top with the warm spinach. Use a slotted spoon to lift the eggs from the water and place them on top of the spinach. Finally spoon over the sauce and serve.

Ask Agatha

Our Resident Agony Aunt - Always there to help with your boating conundrums and worries.



Dear Agatha,

Last year I found myself suddenly single when my husband of 20 years ran off with the window cleaner. This year I decided it was time to 'get back in the saddle' and hopefully meet the man of my dreams. I signed up to Hinge, Bumble and Tinder and started swiping right enthusiastically.

After encountering a lot of weird and frankly unpleasant men, I finally matched with one who is both attractive & apparently normal. He is, however, a bit of a MAMIL (aka middle aged man in Lycra). He is ultra keen on cycling, running, climbing and all sorts of sporty nonsense. I may have exaggerated my love of exercise in my profile and now I'm having to find convincing excuses to avoid joining him for a half marathon, wild swimming or white water rafting. I've run out of strains, sprains and infectious diseases and he is starting to get a bit suspicious.

He has now suggested hiring a narrowboat and doing something called the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. This sounds a bit less worrying than some of his ideas, but will it expose the fact that my idea of a strenuous trip is a stroll to a nearby Costa for a Frappuccino and a muffin? Or that it can take several hours to make myself presentable before a date?

What do you think Agatha?

Regards,

Couch Potato of Barnby Dun

Dear Couch Potato,

I must admit that a lot of your letter was gobbledygook to me. Hinge? More like unhinged, I'd say!

However, I gather you have fallen for a muscular, athletic Tarzan and that you have portrayed yourself as a bit of a gym bunny when you're more of a sofa sloth.

Well, the good news is that narrowboating is just the activity for you! I must admit that my expertise on this subject comes solely from watching Timothy West on the telly, but I believe that he was in his 80's when the programmes were made, so how taxing can it be? Imagine a long lie-in, a leisurely breakfast and then sitting on the bow in a beautiful white dress, trailing your fingers in the sparkling water. It sounds idyllic! Should you be allowed to steer, don't worry if you collide with other boats. Just laugh merrily and shout 'It's a contact sport!' That always worked for Timothy!

There is a very slight chance that after several days together in a rather confined space, you will find you are not as compatible as you hoped. If so, why not get a cat instead? Or several? Just a thought.

Good luck,

Agatha

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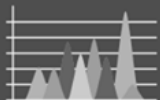
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S.I.B.C. WEDNESDAY FUN QUIZ

I'm not sure when the Wednesday Quiz started but it must be over 20 years. John and Jamie have been going almost as long as we've been members – coming up 20 years. Past members Mick and Mo Rafter were Quizmasters then and its format hasn't altered since then. John and Eric took over about 8 years ago. The prize for the first line way back then was £5 and it still is! Can you imagine how serious the quiz would be if it was a huge amount we were playing for? It's a 'fun' quiz hence the £5 prize. (There is sometimes some swapping of answers I understand as well but definitely no 'Googling' allowed!)

The word 'Quiz' can sometimes be off putting, ours is a 'Bingo' quiz. Your quiz sheet (at a cost of £1) has 25 circles randomly numbered. We start about 8.30pm and number 1 answer goes in circle 1, answer 2 in circle 2 etc. Some weeks there might be a few music questions i.e. name the artist or the song after hearing the intro. or it might be a picture quiz..... who's the famous face? (we have had photos of club members as bonny babies!) Halfway through the quiz we have a break to sell raffle tickets at a bargain price of 50p and the chance to win £20 and an opportunity to refill your glasses. Money over the bar on what would be a quiet night!

After the second half, the answers are given at random. If you have five correct answers in a row, diagonally, horizontally, corner to corner, or four corners and the middle the whole £5 is yours. Immediately in your hand and tax free! The Quizmaster loves a tie break or even two! After the first line call we continue for the second line. To win this one you select a ping pong ball from a bag and if it says 'Winner' you win a total of £3 or if it has accumulated, as it does, you win the total. This can be a life-changing £50! At £50 we start the accumulation again so it has a limit. Nail-biting times if there is a tie break for line 2!

The remaining answers are given for interest before we enjoy a light supper. Our regulars take turns at making the supper and are reimbursed from funds.

John does the music and picture questions and the others are provided by our Quizmaster Eric Stevens – a popular and very long-standing Associate Member. Eric has a few health issues now but

keeps his sense of humour and woe-betide anyone who dares to query his answers! As Eric says the Quizmaster is always right even when he has occasionally been proved wrong!



Occasionally there is a surprise super raffle when any accumulated funds are given as raffle prizes. For obvious reasons, only John knows when this will happen.

The quiz runs every Wednesday from the week following the Rally with a two week break over Christmas and Easter and has a longer break from mid May. We appreciate that members living too far away find it difficult to attend on a regular basis but it's great to see newcomers or visitors and there is always a warm welcome at the Wednesday Fun Quiz.

Teresa Robinson

SIBC 2024 awards night

24th February 2025

The theme of the evening was 'Pirates' and as the raunchy sounds of 'What do you do with a drunken sailor?' belted out, it was all hands on deck as the Awards Committee came dancing and prancing onto the 'Black Pearl' and the celebrations began.

John warmly welcomed a hearty roomful of cheery shipmates. It was good to see so many pirate hats, tattoos and even a few parrots in the crowd.

The first award given was the **Jean Skelland Award** for female personality. The worthy winner for all her commitment to art and to the club was Annette Wildsmith.

Next up to the podium was Barry Kirtlan for the **Phil Hancock Award** for male personality and third the **Myra Shay Award** for the most meritorious journey. There were only three boats nominated in this category with the award going to Ian and Ally for their unexpected detour en route to London, racking up 866 miles in the process.

The fourth category was the **Commodore Hart Award**, given to the couple who had significantly contributed to helping the club in the past year. This popular category had nine couples nominated. The winners were Anne and Simon Mitchie for their many years of dedication to SIBC.

Hazel took to the helm and talked to the shipmates about this year's campaign cruise. Six boats will be pretending to leave the Island on Saturday 29th March following a short ceremony, attended hopefully by a few influential guests. The actual cruise will begin on Sunday 30th March as there is a



rather special party on the evening of the 29th that nobody wanted to miss. The flotilla will cruise down to Little Venice in London for the annual gathering of narrowboats, stopping at boat clubs along the way where various welcome parties will support the crews on their mission to raise awareness of the need for more funding for the inland waterways. As in previous years there will be a protest cruise past the Houses of Parliament where the vessels will 'make some noise'.



We then took a break for rations. No ship's biscuits or pickled rat's tails for this crew. Simon, Anne and Mick's superb pie and peas were on the menu. A hearty feast indeed. Soon it was time to set sail again with awards for the:

Longest Tow and Frosty Cup awarded to Mick and Pam Bowley towing John and Judy Southcombe.

The White Heather Award (Longest Inland Cruise) to Richard and Hazel Owen.

The Tetley Trophy to the Moorings Team for their fabulous work on the new moorings.

The Gutteridge Award (Best Ship's Log) to Allyson Marr

The Klinkenberg Award (Best Maintained Mooring) to Chris and Rachel Yorke

The Danum Salver Award (New Members) to Andy and Anna Middleton

The Bracken Award (Associate Member) to Patrick and Liz Talbott

The Rioja Photo Award to Pam Bowley for a wonderful photo of Saltaire.

The most hilarious speech of the night was written and delivered by Captain Red Legs Marr for the **Brightside Award** for boating mishaps.

He began by sharing a video of Jo Sharples delicately falling backwards out of a dinghy in true 'you've been framed' style.

The next shanty was a tale of Drunken Ducks and Dave Gray, who, after a few 'Babychams' in the Gorilla Bar, fell backwards into the cabin of the Drunken Duck whilst trying a new tee shirt on. Described as a flapping

turtle by a tittering Mick Bowley, Dave received no sympathy whatsoever. The crew continued to cause havoc after leaving The Gorilla Bar in high spirits only to return 10 minutes later, somewhat shame faced when they realised they left their child behind in the pub.



The next nominee was Mr Simon Mitchie and here is the actual transcript of Captain Marr's hilarious speech.

'Now British folk are renown for talking about the weather. But British boaters' conversations always gravitate to toilets... What type do you have? Are you a cassette or a pump-out person? What's the score with these combustion units? Compost! Yuck'.

So it is no surprise, this year's winning '*submission*' is toilet based. However, the winner this year quite literally reached into the deepest, darkest depths of the subject.

Our winner, a cassette man through and through, had done his daily routine of taking his and hers daily routines to the elsan point. All went well with the *'dispatch'* and he returned to the boat ready for the day ahead. A decent breakfast set him up for a pleasant cruise, in fine weather, with a few brews at the tiller. Inevitably, the brews worked through and a trip to the loo was in order. Now, with the fine breakfast aboard this was a two trip not a one trip. Trousers 'n' pants around his ankles and a copy of the Trent tide times in his hands, our 'winner' set about the task at hand. Satisfied with the expulsion, but a little concerned things did not *'sound'* right, he rose and turned. He stared down the hole, and to his horror, realised he had failed to replace the cassette earlier...! He was all at ones and twos - quite literally.

You have heard of people staring into tea cups and reading tea leaves, well ... the immediate future did not look good. Our winner was no winner that day. Armed with Anne's best rubber gloves, cloths and every available cleaning product, plus their finest Waitrose Bag for Life, he set about the 'hygienic' task. With the cramped conditions on the poop deck, the smell and the moist nature of the activity, our winner pushed the boundaries of what a man can do, with poo. The Bag for Life became the Bag for Shite and was last seen in a bin at B&Q's car park.

Gathered pirates, I give you our winner. Simon 'can-do-poo' Mitchie.

Perhaps the most important award of the night was for **Outstanding Achievement**. This award recognises a couple who have given their time, energy, expertise and commitment for many, many years to SIBC. With our deepest thanks this award was given to Peter and Carol Harbon. A very well deserved couple indeed.

The awards are a bit of fun but also an evening to say thank you to the many who keep our club ticking over. For all the tasks seen and unseen, carried out by you and for the responsibilities taken on by our Committee. Without you, we would not have this wonderful club.

Ally Marr

Awards Committee



