

WUSIG Updates

In the last issue of NABO News, I reported on the spring 2009 WUSIG meeting and two items in particular are of concern for many boaters – the issue of cycling on towpaths, and also the pre-consultation draft of a document being prepared by British Waterways prior to circulation to the wider boating community in early summer.

Cycling issues

The latest news is that, as previously reported, a sub-group of WUSIG members are going to meet in early September to discuss in depth the suggestions put forward by cycling groups. A number of NABO members have advised me of their concern about conflicts between cyclists and other towpath users and these will, of course, be included in the deliberations of the sub group. Any other submissions for this first meeting will be welcomed – please e-mail me with your input. The sub-group will be reporting their conclusions and suggestions at the next WUSIG meeting in early October.

Online Mooring Policy Consultation

You may have gathered that at the Spring WUSIG, members felt frustrated that because of the time taken by the cycling paper, not sufficient time had been given to the draft Mooring Policy Consultation document. As a result, BW decided to invite interested parties to a meeting in London to discuss in more depth their draft document which covers many aspects of mooring use in the increasingly congested inland waters. NABO was represented by Geoffrey Rogerson and myself; other delegates were from the AWCC, IWA, RBOA and HNBOC, so a whole range of inland waterway users groups were represented.

The original draft document concerns such issues as visitor mooring provision, congestion at “honey-pot” sites, overstaying, mooring densities at on-line moorings, and non-compliant continuous cruisers. We also asked to consider a parallel draft document from BW which specifically addresses the provision of berths for residential use, planning issues etc., together with the unauthorised use of leisure moorings. I think it is fair to say that the two documents were thoroughly analysed and BW have also received a considerable detailed suggestions from other WUSIG members.

The next stage will be that BW will re-write the draft document which will be issued for consultation to all interested parties – user groups and individuals - in the next few weeks. Please have a look at it when issued and let NABO Council have your comments, suggestions and criticisms so that we can truly represent you when the issue is debated in the latter part of the year.

Howard Anguish