

Consideration for single-handed boaters

Please confirm that visitor moorings can be reserved.

I have just read about the single woman boater and her predicament regarding the visitor mooring. [Editor's note: With the exception of one area, [in London](#), visitor moorings are not bookable and are used on a first come, first serve basis.]

I thought boaters were supposed to be a friendly bunch and these "reserved" moorers should have been more considerate.

Surely a third party cannot "reserve" a space on a public mooring, it's a case of first come first served. These sorts of inconsiderate people need to think of others, especially if it's a single handed boater. I'm afraid I would have told them where to go.

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The first boat had rights to the mooring, he / she was there first, you cannot 'reserve' a mooring the person holding the space for the pair was out of order. In fact, the 'pair' should breast up anyway to take only one boat length of mooring. The biggest problem with new inexperienced boaters is they come to an empty visitor mooring and plonk themselves in the middle of it instead of going to one end. I have a card that I put on such boats it reads 'well done another foot and your boat would have taken up three mooring spaces instead of only two' always moor button to button on visitor moorings especially in the busy season.

I would have thought it to be quite simple. If you arrive at a mooring first, then broadly speaking, it is yours for the taking. Does not make any difference, private boater, hire boater, single handed or crew of ten. You can be asked to move, but I see no reason why you should... In the situation you report, then the 50 foot boat could have moored in the gap and the 70 footer breast up. You did say they were together!

We were on two boats, with all the family, in August, one 66 foot the other 70 foot, and we struggled for moorings on a few occasions. But I would never have asked somebody to move. We breast up quite a lot, mainly for the convenience of others

PS short story. Years ago we moored up for a late lunch between two boats at a pub mooring. Whilst in the pub, they must have left. This bloke comes in, complete with cravat and captains hat, asking who the silly idiot was who had taken up all the space in the middle of the mooring. Response not suitable to be put in print, but I was a lot younger then!

Quite simply, the 'reserving a mooring for a couple of boats' fiasco is a non-issue, as it's not possible to reserve visitor moorings – end of.

