

Results of Nominations in the Council Elections 2019/20

Private Boating

4 posts available.

34 nominations received.

Voting to begin in January.

Nominations have been received from the following eligible candidates (in alphabetical order):

Private Boating Candidate 1: Tim Allen



I'm a Narrowboater, having owned (with my wife), our 55' semi trad since December 1997. We are marina moored for the winter months in Calcutt Boats, close to the junction of the GUC with the South Oxford canal. We spend a short part of every summer on the Thames at Marlow. We operate an RYA training centre from the boat and hold a Roving Traders Licence for this purpose. I'm an active member of Thrupp Canal Cruising Club, and also a member of the Royal Yachting Association Inland Navigation Panel, which helps to influence decisions made by all the navigation authorities. My previous experience as a senior manager in industry for 30 years, combined with my experience working in the volunteer driven, charitable status environment of the Scout Association for almost as many years, puts me in a good position to bring value to the Governing Council of the charity. I firmly believe that the future of our canal networks needs to be driven forward by boaters and this I would do through the broad experience that I would bring to the table as part of the C&RT Governing Council.

Private Boating Candidate 2: Barry Ashmore



A boat owner for fifteen years, I have shared locks & cruised the network of canals and rivers in England and Wales, building friendships with boaters moored in line, marinas and clubs. Currently Membership Secretary and Licensing Agent of a Boat Club, at Milton Keynes, with a hundred members and forty boats, narrow boats, GRP cruisers and canoes. I am familiar with the needs and concerns of boaters and actively encourage engagement with the local community and access to this fantastic amenity, to be enjoyed by a diverse range of interests. This has involved working in partnership with other clubs, local marinas and authorities. I have sought to widen my experience and enjoyment of boating, with a period as Company Secretary of a Trust for an historic working boat. A professional career as Operations Director of an educational charity built wide experience of business strategies and development. This involved operating in a regulated and non-regulated environment, including mergers and acquisitions, online business, customer care, risk management and volunteer management. Following early retirement I have the time and desire to bring a mix of personal boating experience/interest and business experience to benefit in this role.

Private Boating Candidate 3: Nicola Berry



Whilst working long hours in business management, my husband and I discovered boating holidays, learning to enjoy a slower pace of life. Hiring boats became a regular occurrence, enabling us to see, and enjoy, several parts of the river and canal network. Many trips followed from Cambridgeshire to Ireland, from the Caledonian Canal to the River Thames. We even tried our hand at the tiller with a narrowboat on the Worcester Canal. Finally, we bought our own cruiser and enjoy delightful moorings at Burton Waters Marina just outside Lincoln from where we've enjoyed many trips on the Fosdyke Canal, River Witham and River Trent. Membership as a Friend of the Canal and River Trust keeps me updated, as do the many publications.

Walking the towpaths up and down the country helps me appreciate the hard work being undertaken by colleagues and volunteers.

I am a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, a Non-Executive Company Director and act as Clerk to the Governors of a local Academy, and now have the time to represent other boaters as a Trustee. I would love to utilise my skills and experience for the benefit of the Trust and seek your support.

Private Boating Candidate 4: Brian Bird



I have worked in the photographic section of the press in London for thirty two years and then moved on to be a driving instructor for the last twelve years. I am on the committee of the Berkshire Driving Instructors group in Reading. Having been keen on hiring boats for holidays, six years ago we decided to have our own narrow boat, which was built up in Liverpool. We found that the boating community was very friendly and helpful even before our narrow boat hit the water. We spent the first two and half years at the Thames and Kennet Marina. Then a mooring came up on the Kennet and Avon canal between Aldermaston and Reading. The boating community is really helpful if you have any problems and you learn new things every day. By being on the committee of the Canal River Trust I believe that I can put a lot of help and time into the boating community. From trying to sort out problems on the canal, locks, services and facilities. Looking after the wildlife and nature that is abundant along the canals and waterway's of Britain

Private Boating Candidate 5: John Booker



I have been into canals ever since reading "Narrowboat" as a boy. Today I own a replica Dutch barge and co-own a trailable Sea Otter narrowboat. I have enjoyed belonging to boat clubs for the opportunity they present to meet fellow boaters and to gain from sharing experiences. I served a term as a Director of The Barge Association and have recently taken up the running of the Sea Otter Owners Club. Most importantly though I am a leisure boater, and I want to do what I can to keep our Rivers and Canals attractive to leisure boaters. In this I feel our voice is sometimes drowned out by a more strident residential boating lobby. Navigation is what keeps our waterways network fit and healthy, so I make no apologies for wanting to preserve what we have, and to encourage those volunteers in canal restoration groups around the world to follow our example and keep adding to the navigable network. In standing for Council I seek to assist the Trust's efforts and to promote maintenance of the navigation as the primary purpose of the Trust.

Private Boating Candidate 6: Dean Boswell-Hyde



My boating experience revolves around estuaries, rivers and canals, I now live permanently on a barge. I also have a knowledge of councils, working parties, committees etc having served as local councillor culminating in becoming Mayor of Newark on Trent in 2015. I also have a good commercial grounding having owned my own business for 16 years and I served as Chairman of our local 1,000 strong business club. If elected, whilst I am happy to champion and lobby for any improvements to the river and canal network on behalf of any member and look forward to receiving direction, I personally feel that whilst the Canal & River Trust have carried out some sterling work in restoring the networks and maintenance there is a distinct lack of facilities for leisure and permanent boaters. Given the remote technology available today and the increase year on year of boating becoming a lifestyle choice for many people, we need to be more innovative and provide improved and better facilities which could be commercially viable. I am a hardworking, diligent and motivated professional and passionate about boating and so I look forward to serving the membership to the best of my ability.

Private Boating Candidate 7: Leslie Brantingham



I am a strong supporter of the dedicated, energetic users of the CRT waterways whose commitment to their restoration and active use ensures the present thriving, vibrant and diverse community of boat users, dwellers, and boatclubs. It would be an honour to serve on Council on your behalf; be your voice about concerns, developments, facilities, pricing and the myriad other aspects that can affect and impinge on your use and enjoyment of these wonderful rivers and canals. Commercial pressures can have negative effect on users and part of my task would be to ensure that you are not thus disadvantaged, whilst ensuring CRT continues to be a viable and stable organisation and able therefore to support you in your use of the waterways. I am a Trustee of the Islington Boat Club in North London - dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of boating skills [narrow boats and kayak] for all ages. A chartered Civil Engineer, I have a professional and conservation interest in CRT's heritage and infrastructure. I am a non-practicing barrister, a lifelong boater and kayaker who has used the waterways to explore the delights of this country, and Trustee and Conservation Officer of the Fovant Badges Society.

Private Boating Candidate 8: Malcolm Bridge



A retired Research Scientist, my interest in canals arose from a school-time one in industrial history, sustained by occasional hire-boat holidays from the late 50's. That interest also led to involvement in canal restoration with the Peak Forest Canal Society in the 60's, continuing as it morphed into WRG North West (of which I remain Chairman) in the 70's, and serving as a director of WRG nationally for 20-odd years until retiring in 2010. Canal boaters come in two basic forms, those for whom canals are somewhere to float a boat and those (like me) for whom a boat is a means of exploring canals. My boat ownership dates from 1975, when I bought a 30' steel shell, first recognising the possibilities of electric propulsion while fitting it out. An aluminium trail-boat, also self-fitted, followed in 2003 before my wife and I were able to commission electric narrowboat Ampère in 2012. Since taking delivery in 2015 we have covered about 3,500 miles, almost certainly making us the most experienced electric boaters on the system. As boating's future will inevitably be electric I should like an opportunity to use this experience for the wider good.

Private Boating Candidate 9: Dave Burns



Hi I'm Dave Burns. My wife and I have had a narrow boat for over twenty five happy years and have loved our time on the canal. Until we both took early retirement five years ago, we could only spend our holidays cruising. However, since retirement, we spend as much time as we can on our boat, usually April through September, then find a winter mooring for her. I passionately believe that our waterways are a fantastic leisure, historic and cultural resource, that need to be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment of us all. As well as being a great asset for people (and our dogs) to enjoy, there is a huge amount of wildlife and nature that depends on our rivers and canals. This is also an aspect that I strongly believe needs continued support and encouragement. Before retirement, I spent many years in engineering and business management, having to tackle many financial, technical and environmental challenges. I believe the experience and skills I acquired during that time, plus the passion I feel for the great canal heritage that we are looking after, makes me an ideal candidate for this position. Thank you for your support.

Private Boating Candidate 10: Tracey Clarke



Tracey Clarke, otherwise known as “The Blind Boater” is a liveaboard Continuous Cruiser. Oakley, her Guide Dog, was a very well-known character on the Waterways, but sadly had to retire in early 2019. She grew up in Sussex, where she met and married husband Tim. Over the years she has been very active in community work, including being a School Governor, Parish councillor for many years and running the local village festival. Losing most of her eyesight in 2011 was a blow, but not one that shattered her dream of living on the canals. Since moving aboard in 2014, Tracey has discovered the benefits of life being “Better by Water”. More recently, she has actively been working with CRT creating a disability forum with a view to “Making Life Better by Water” for those who are less able. This has seen a number of meetings around the country. She is working to develop this further through Facebook groups, more regular meetings and setting up easier communication channels. The aim is to work with CRT to make the canal environs as safe and suitable as possible (given the constraints of heritage) for those who are less able bodied.

Private Boating Candidate 11: Caroline Derbyshire



I am 67 married gran of 7. At 21 a civil servant in Westminster I bought my 1st boat a big clinker converted lifeboat. Previously had often hired canoes and rowing boats on rivers Medway and Thames and cruisers on Norfolk Broads. Currently and past 6yrs own a 23ft Dawncraft, Aquarius moored at Govilon Boat Club. Interests include: Painting, Photography, Organic Gardening, Industrial Architecture and Machinery. Memberships include: Royal Society for Protection of Birds, National Trust, Royal Horticultural Society, Greenpeace. Past committee experience. Over 35 yrs governor of 2 Primary Schools. Including over 10 yrs Chair of both including over 25 yrs Additional Learning Needs governor for both. 2yrs Secretary West and Midlands Iris Group. 4yrs Chair South Wales Alpine Group. 3 yrs 1 of 3 judges for Cardiff in Bloom Wildlife Gardens. Past 2 yrs and currently committee member at Govilon Boat Club. We use Aquarius regularly every year travelling the navigable length of the canal using pubs and waterways facilities and often take grandchildren for trips. This shows my experience and relevance for the post representing others. If chosen I will actively seek views of owners so we can get the best experience from our canals.

Private Boating Candidate 12: Hetti Dysch



I love the history and way of life of the canal and have been lucky enough to make 2 big boat trips around the system. Highlights included mooring opposite the Wiltshire White Horse, boating single-handed up the Tardebigge flight and leaving Limehouse on the Tidal Thames, passing the Houses of Parliament and other London sights. I started out in Saul Junction Marina and have continually cruised for the past 4 years. I hold a trader's license for my weekend hobby of antiques and furniture making and was previously known as 'the floating forager', selling jellies made from fruit harvested along the canalside. I am keen to be a private boat representative, and am well integrated in the boater community, particularly the western end of the Kennet and Avon. I work in HR for an environmental not-for-profit, and most value the opportunity for everyone to have their voice. The canal is enjoyed by hire boaters, live-aboards, walkers, cyclists, children, families and wildlife and all need their say. I also feel passionate about the towpath being well-kept, litter free and beautiful and ensuring that the waterways remain unpolluted. Let me carry the boaters voice into the boardroom!

Private Boating Candidate 13: Charles Foster



I am currently the Chairman of the Residential Boat Owners' Association, member of Stafford Boat Club, Member of the Electric Boat Association and owner of the n.b. Kirby Mist moored at Mercia Marina. My involvement in the RBOA is a fully hands on role providing both assistance, information and knowledge to those whom wish to live afloat be it for a short or long period. My function also being to liaise between official bodies and other waterway associations in a bid to get a fair and sensible approach to the maintenance, provision of moorings, use of and the ability not only to enjoy the waterways but ensure that those whom live afloat can look forward to a long and happy future for their chosen life style. From my position within the RBOA I have the good fortune to have access to a wide variety of boaters on most of the waterways so being able to impart first hand up to the minute knowledge and views on the problems faced nationally. To this end it is my quest to ensure that the waterways, it's history, the varied businesses, lifestyles and the future will be available for boaters into the future.

Private Boating Candidate 14: Grace Giadom



My name is Grace. I've been living, working and involved with boats for the past 10 years. From crossing the Atlantic Ocean to most recently living on the London Canals in the last 3 years. Becoming a mother has encouraged me to take an active role and become a Private Boating Representative. I believe for the canal to thrive; community, safety and licenses working for the individual are key. I am an artist, vegan, new mother, corporate young working professional who enjoys exploring and traveling nationally and internationally. I intend to ensure these issues and people are taken into consideration by operating in an assertive and organic way through brainstorming, listening, trialling, acting and responding. I am on Maternity Leave so can devote my first year of term to establishing and experimenting with ways to communicate with Private Boaters through social media or physical events. By joining, attending and creating spaces to facilitate conversation we can bridge the information gap between the CRT policy makers and we the Canal Dwellers. This will encourage effective contributions to Council Meetings and ensure our Trustees truly work for us in the subsequent years.

Private Boating Candidate 15: Clare Hammond



As a lifelong canal enthusiast I am eager to give something back to both the narrowboat and “tow path community. I first became familiar with the canals as a child growing up in the canal heartland of the midlands, when my dad and I regularly walked the tow path. My husband and I now own our own narrowboat and I would love to use my experience of both narrowboats and walking to improve the waterways experience for all users. Having enjoyed and endured all the canals have to offer I feel uniquely qualified to listen, discuss, understand and advise on the joys and frustrations our wonderful waterways have to offer. The inland waterways are something unique and are available for anyone and everyone to enjoy and as such we need to be encouraging people to get out there for fun but also to acknowledge the need for all waterway lovers to help promote and preserve these wonderful spaces for future generations. My priorities would be educating people on how to enjoy our waterways SAFELY, encouraging local communities to take pride in their particular patch of canal and ensuring regular maintenance of cruising routes.

Private Boating Candidate 16: David Hartley



I have been an active boater for a number of years and I would like to put something back in to the CRT in the best way I feel I can as a member of the CRT Council. I have operated at executive level and been a main board director reporting into city private equity investors. I am a Chartered Environmental Surveyor but in the latter years have run a utilities engineering company along with the associated civil engineering works. This has included the repair and maintenance of infrastructure assets and the land around them in the utilities sector while minimising disruption to services to the public. As such I have an appreciation of the challenges the CRT has in running and maintaining its assets and estate and the competing challenges it brings. I have become proficient at picking and forming high performing teams and maintaining a balanced approach to the wider aspects of running a business. I feel my technical and corporate background and experience, along with my understanding of environmental issues, and my passion for the engineering wonders of the canal and river system would be of benefit to the Council.

Private Boating Candidate 17: Judy Head



I have owned my narrow boat, By Appointment, for over 28 years and I am based in London. My specialist skills are graphic design and marketing, working with small creative enterprises to develop their businesses. Over the last two decades, canal boat ownership in the south-east changed from leisure use to floating homes as both houses and commuting become unaffordable. This has put the huge pressure on the canal system. The ecology of the area has suffered - too many boats and too few facilities, lack of resources and more recently some exceptionally low water levels. We are in danger of losing the unique beauty and tranquillity of our inner city waterways and the way of life that we all love. This is the reason I am putting myself forward for election. I believe that we need to manage the waterways to protect the fragile ecology for us all to enjoy. We need find a balance that enables all of us - business users, private boating, kayaks and paddle boards, cyclists and walkers - to continue to benefit from the vision of those that built our canals centuries ago. The diverse band of enthusiasts who keep the canals running must be encouraged.

Private Boating Candidate 18: Malcolm Hearn



I am a retired MD of a medium sized IT company with previous experience of project management in defence electronics and sonar. My wife and I have been boaters for the previous 25 years, both on the canals and the River Thames. We currently have a boat moored at Ventnor Marina which I maintain myself, in fact have helped refitting and re-wire 4 other boats in my spare time. My career has provided me with unique opportunities to provide detailed analysis of problems and issues from which detailed project plans can be assimilated. I would describe myself as fairly gregarious and really enjoy meeting people from all walks of life. We moved to Braunston earlier this year and have made a number of new friends, many of whom are narrowboat owners so spend a fair amount of time on the canals. I am very hands-on and known for my organisational skills. Being semi-retired, I am flexible regarding travelling to meetings and having time to carry out any tasks assigned to me. I hope that my experience in industry and leisure would be of benefit to the council.

Private Boating Candidate 19: Charles Hooghkirk



If elected, I undertake to promote the needs and requirements of boaters, walkers and other users of the waterways network. Further, I would be proactive in CRT's ventures to enhance the waterways, and hopefully advise on the validity of any proposed maintenance with priority and funds allocated to boaters needs, and less on third party, non core business interests. I bought my first narrowboat in the late 70's and have been active on rivers and canals ever since. I'm under no illusions that my membership of the committee will drastically change anything in the short term, but by offering experience and common sense perhaps in the longer term, my appointment will be seen as a positive step.

Private Boating Candidate 20: Helen Hutt



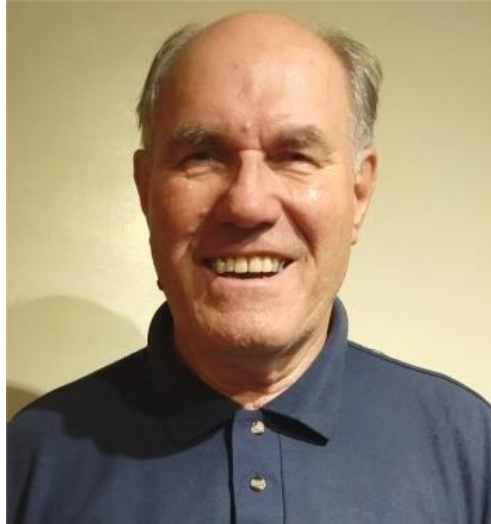
I have been cruising, single-handed, for the last 14 years with my narrowboat Pipistrelle. I've covered almost all the navigable waterways in England and Wales (including the Wash, the Severn and the Ribble Link) and, on hire boats, some in Scotland and Ireland. I hope to do the River Medway in 2020 and the Rochdale Canal (sometime!). Last year I acquired a mooring at Evesham, on the River Avon, but I plan to continue cruising CRT waterways for many years to come. If elected I will campaign, as a liveaboard boater, for those things which I consider essential for an enjoyable life afloat. That includes, for example, sufficient and well-maintained facilities, well-maintained and dedicated visitor moorings, trouble-free lock gear, good water supplies and so on – whilst accepting that CRT faces immense challenges to keep the network in good condition, and that boaters themselves can help in many ways. CRT emphasises its commitment to boaters and I strongly believe that we boaters have much to offer CRT, in terms of on-the-water experience. I have been Honorary Treasurer/Council Member of NABO for five years and am a member of the RBOA, IWA, GOBA and ANT.

Private Boating Candidate 21: Simon James



My name is Simon James and the canal is both my home and my heritage. I am descended from two proud narrow-boating families who carried commercial cargoes for generations and who played a key part in protecting and popularizing the waterways. My grandfather helped set up the canal museum at Stoke Bruerne to preserve the liveaboard legacy, while my father pioneered leisure boating by launching the Jason's Trip canal business in London's Little Venice. A lifelong residential boater myself, I have been witness to many changes and challenges under British Waterways and the Canal & River Trust. I would bring five decades of liveaboard experience to the council role, along with a commitment to champion the interests of those who make their homes on the water and who, through their rising fees, directly contribute to the upkeep of the canal network. An artist and educator by profession, I know first-hand how the canal can inspire the imagination and serve as a precious resource for its many users. In making decisions that will determine the future of the canals, I believe the CRT council would benefit from the perspective of a boater whose whole life is on the water.

Private Boating Candidate 22: Eric McDowall



My first involvement with canals and boats was in 1962, when as a teenager I became interested in the carrying narrow boats which plied in those days and the traditional working methods. I was a founder of Dacorum Narrow Boat Project for young people of that part of Hertfordshire. In my teens and twenties I was active with London based WRG and took part in voluntary restoration on the Warwickshire Avon and especially on the Montgomery Canal at Welshpool, leading a team of local volunteers making 'Town Lock' workable. I'm a Traditionalist: I believe our network should be maintained in a way that preserves as many of the original buildings as we can possibly keep, to ensure we maintain the heritage of our locks and bridges and allow our individual waterways to keep their 'old world' atmosphere, creating the best environment for leisure and tourism. I do not like 'standardisation' and believe that CRT should be able to give individual waterways back some of their individual character. I am not against change, but it has to be managed in a way that does not damage heritage. I'm a member of HNBC and Coombeswood Canal Trust, with a mooring at Alvecote.

Private Boating Candidate 23: Dave Mendes da Costa



I have been living on my narrowboat Stellar for six years and have had the pleasure of exploring many of the UK's canals. Our waterways offer a unique opportunity to travel and live in a different way and I want to protect this way of life for everyone. I believe this means keeping the navigation open and in good condition, and challenging the reduction of CRT staff with the knowledge and experience needed to maintain the waterways. It means taking steps to reduce crime on the towpath (taking inspiration from London's Canal Watch initiative) and increasing the quantity and quality of boaters' facilities. It means cherishing our heritage by keeping the canals a living environment. I'm an active member of the community, chairing the NBTA London branch in 2017 and volunteering as a caseworker. As chair, I helped set up the Lea Boaters Collective, a coalition of local organisations who came together to hold the EA and CRT to account following their slow response to a large oil spill on the River Lea. If I am elected to the Council I will bring this experience of successful cooperation, representing all boaters and working to improve, renew and restore our waterways.

Private Boating Candidate 24: Daniel Milnes



My aim is to support the redevelopment of commercial freight interest on the Aire and Calder Canal. These commercial connections would help maintain the infrastructure and historic significance of all Yorkshire waterways, simultaneously adding interest for the public. The Aire & Calder is the largest, most significant non-tidal commercial waterway in the UK and I feel it can remain significant through this proposal. This would appeal to businesses wanting to reduce their carbon footprint, whilst re-establishing the canal as the major waterway it once was. Having the commercial interest back in the waterways will encourage the public to spend more time in such a diverse and historic landscape.

Private Boating Candidate 25: Stephen Morris



As a continuous cruiser for the last seven years, my aim on the Council would be to represent the needs of other continuous cruisers and liveaboard boaters. As a technical author, my boat is both my home and my workplace, so I am well aware of the needs of those who live and work on the canals. I have travelled on the majority of UK waterways and my experiences on these many canals and rivers have shown that, while the Trust does an excellent job in maintaining the network, there are wide variations in the facilities available. Toilets, showers, Elsan disposal and refuse/recycling points are all essential for boaters, particularly continuous cruisers, and I would like to see a greater priority given to maintaining and enhancing these services. More can also be done to improve the practical information provided on the Trust website for those on the move. Continuous cruisers, in particular, often feel isolated and better opportunities are needed to help them become part of a connected community. As a former district councillor and member of an internal drainage board, I would like to use my experience to enhance the work of the Trust for all users.

Private Boating Candidate 26: Kris Nadin



Hello my name is Kris Nadin, I live aboard an eighty six year old ex working boat that I am patiently restoring. I've lived on and worked on the water in various ways over the years, including being a tug skipper on maintenance contracts, a commercial fisherman and crewing on yachts. I have also worked for canal and river trust before now. These different roles have given me an excellent perspective of the commercial and recreational demands placed on the waterways by a broad spectrum of users. In my opinion boaters interests are not being adequately represented at the moment. The issues that concern me the most are the on going removal of the facilities, the continued lack of routine maintenance of essential infrastructure and the progressive sale of public assets to the private sector. I am particularly concerned that the needs of elderly, disadvantaged and vulnerable boaters are not being dealt with appropriately. I would like to see the continuation of the waterways as a navigable network open to all and would work to make sure that our generation is not the one that witnesses the demise of a publicly owned and valuable asset. Regards Kris

Private Boating Candidate 27: Patrick O'Sullivan



I have been around the waterways and narrowboats since the 1970s. My wife and I honeymooned on a borrowed narrowboat in 1983. We bought our own narrowboat in 2007. I am a Life Member of the East Lancashire and West Yorkshire Boat Club, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society, the Huddersfield Canal Society and the Inland Waterways Association. My home is in Yorkshire. I am a working writer and researcher. In my academic life I am Professor of Irish Diaspora Studies at London Metropolitan University. The Canal & River Trust has responsibility for a linked waterway system. In over 40 years on the waterways I have seen changes, difficulties and catastrophes – and I have seen wonderful things, like a heron flying before my boat on a misty morning. Let us appreciate how hard it is to care for this fragile system. Let us accept that it can be a wildlife corridor and a wildlife refuge, a walkway or a cycle track, a country resource or an urban destination. But let us also make sure that boats can travel our linked network, and that the facilities that boats and boaters need are in place throughout the network.

Private Boating Candidate 28: Phil Prettyman



I have owned an ex-Willow Wren camping boat since 1972 and have cruised extensively around the waterways system. I have been involved in negotiations first with British Waterways and now with the Trust over navigation issues such as dredging, vegetation, pinch points and historic structures and currently on issues of red diesel and engine emissions. I have served one term on the Trust's Council as a Boater's Rep and am a member of the CRT Appointment Committee where I see my role as probing applicants for their genuine enthusiasm for the waterways. During my present term I have encouraged CRT officers and trustees to get out onto boats and witness the boater's view of the waterways. This allows us to demonstrate the working of the waterways in a practical manner and to show the importance of lock furniture, adequate depth and clear sight-lines. I have also written a series of very detailed reports on the maintenance of individual canals and forwarded them to Regional Managers. I am a firm believer in the importance of boaters' involvement in monitoring our waterways and for us to offer critical advice, help and support to CRT whenever this is realistic.

Private Boating Candidate 29: Jon Skinner



As the Chairman of The Boating Association I will bring the ability to promote co-operation and comradeship between all river users and all associated waterways, to ensure the extension, development and improvement of these waterways and of their facilities and amenities so as to make the waterways safer and more pleasant. I will represent the collective individual interests of all boaters in all matters relating to boating and the use of the waterways.

Private Boating Candidate 30: Andy Tidy



I've been sitting on CRT's National Council for the last four years as an elected Business Boating representative and, with your support, I would like to continue to help safeguard and develop our inland waterways for a further four years, this time within the expanded Private Boaters' constituency. I cruise the network extensively, trading as The Jam Butty, and this travel provides a broad appreciation of the problems facing all boaters, insights which I can feed back into CRT. If used well, the role of an elected Council Member extends beyond the governance dimension, and I would like to continue to make my contribution within the various formal and informal CRT communication channels. I am passionate about our waterway heritage and seek to share my enthusiasm within my writing and my canal history videos. A fuller video explaining my desire to stand for re-election can be found on my YouTube channel "Life at 2.3 miles an hour". With your support it would be a privilege to represent boating interests on CRT's National Council for a further term. Please vote for me!

Private Boating Candidate 31: Stuart Tyler



I have been continuous cruising for the past eleven years, I have my day skipper, International Competency Certificate ICC, helmsman and radio certificates. I care passionately about our waterways. I have seen a decline in the services operated by C&RT. I am actively involved in getting waste disposal and facilities restored.

I have been instrumental in enabling C&RT policies to be challenged if they are wrong. The effect this has had in protecting boaters rights is significant. I am well known by the Trust and they know that I will pursue any policies which I believe are unfair.

I recently carried out a review of the available C&RT policies on their website and sent a report to management; discussions have been held with a senior manager.

As a disabled boater I am actively involved in getting C&RT to provide proper facilities and support for all disabled boaters.

As a founder member of the Wide Boat Action Group we are trying to ensure the heritage of all craft is protected.

I believe in honesty and being fair, if elected I will be actively seeking to improve the operation of C&RT and protection of peoples rights.

Private Boating Candidate 32: Ian Wilson



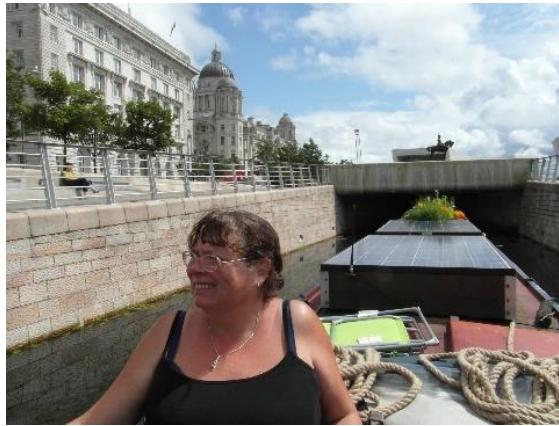
Initial boating experience: I became involved with canal boating 20 years ago, helping with scouts on community boats. I caught the bug and “persuaded” my family to partake in several hire boat holidays, subsequently owning a cruiser on the River Thames. Since retirement 7 years ago: I became one of the first CRT volunteer lock-keepers and helmsmen which I continued for 4 years, learning CRT working methods. I also commercially skippered wide-beams on GUC and River Thames obtaining my Boatmaster licence. I now also skipper wide-beams for a boating charity looking after people of all ages with mental and physical difficulties. Four years ago: I purchased my own narrowboat and am a full-time live-aboard boater. Most of each year I cruise the English/Welsh network and have recently completed every canal and most rivers, including tidal rivers. Regularly I give constructive feedback to CRT managers, which has resulted in many positive changes. So why vote for me? • 20 years experience on various boats • Knowledge of whole network • Live-aboard continuous cruiser • Excellent relationship with senior CRT managers • Understand views of all types of users • Proven success in making positive changes.

Private Boating Candidate 33: Bonnie Wood



I have lived on the Kennet and Avon for 2.5 years now, not as long as some, however we have the most wonderful community on here and I feel, sometimes, we are misunderstood and misjudged. I would therefore like to support my community to the best of my abilities in anyway I can. It would appear, at times, despite people having lived on the canal system for over 200 years we often seem to be unwelcome and the target of prejudice, attracting unwanted attention. I understand that, of course, on occasions there are issues however believe these issues can and should be solved in a positive and structured manner that would benefit my community and other communities that choose to live alongside us on this beautiful canal. Some of us are lucky enough to have chosen this lifestyle and contribute to the upkeep of the K&A through the licence fees we pay. Others struggle with finances who, without their boats, would have no roof over their heads, which is clearly unacceptable. We are incredibly lucky, as boaters, to be safe in the knowledge that the majority of folk we live alongside can and will give help if needed.

Private Boating Candidate 34: Helen Wright (Bilbie)



Hi my name is Helen Wright (or to those on facebook Helen Bilbie). I have been a boater for around 10yrs. I started with hiring, progressing to leisure boater for a year before becoming a full time liveaboard in 2014. With my partner Pete, we CC in the summer and spend the winter in a small wharf in Coventry. I want the liveaboard community to be well represented on the council, so that our issues and concerns can be presented to CRT at the highest level. During our travels around the network I became concerned that boater facilities are being allowed to deteriorate and become fewer. This is one of the major concerns that I feel strongly about. I want boaters concerns around towpath improvements, and other canal-side developments, to be considered when decisions are taken, and better communication between CRT and boating groups in these matters. I do understand that new funding streams will be required in the future, but strongly believe that boaters and boating groups should be engaged in developing these. We need strong representation on the council, and I truly believe I am up to the challenge, and the challenges to boating in the future.