

SECTION 1: Introduction

We are sometimes told that much of the information within this publication can be 'easily' found elsewhere. This may be true, but is it fact-checked? The strengths of this publication are its currency, its breadth and its availability 24/7; *The Green Book* can be 'to-hand' where there is no mobile phone signal or wi-fi, anywhere on the Broads.

This book represents a tremendous effort by a small cohort of individuals on our Management Committee. The effort to put the book together takes place between November and February, with publication in March. Content is checked, with the aim to have all the facts and information concerning the Broads in one place.

The Association is now fully Incorporated and listed at Companies House as the Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association Ltd. Achieving this change of status has taken about two years, with two key dates at September 2024 (establishing the new limited liability company), and at 26th February 2025 (mandate from members at the Extraordinary General Meeting held at Horning). Most of the linked processes have been completed, including privacy policy, web-based submissions and additional Directors. Obtaining explicitly from members the requirements of company law and GDPR regulations is on-going.

The work of the Association continues and covers a wide variety of issues from dredging, water depths, the network of public moorings maintained by the Broads Authority at toll payer expense, quay-heading construction and flood defences, scrutiny of planning applications, the Local Plan, unreliable road and rail bridges and their opening regimes, MCA's Port and Marine Safety Code, engaging positively with, and also frequently challenging the Authority, particularly on issues relating to the safety of boaters.

Our roots are in our Affiliates. At our inception in 1894, the Norfolk & Suffolk Yachting Association was an association of clubs who wished to have one voice in coordination of regatta fixtures and keeping the waterways open and maintained to adequate standards. In the period since 1975 the NSYA has metamorphosed from an association of 25 clubs and 16 personal members, into today's NSBA of 46 affiliated organisations and nearly 800 members as a coming together of like-minded people and organisations to protect what we value most, namely boating on the Broads.

Regrettably, in the coming year we face a number of retirements within our committee. We seek to recruit new, younger faces to the Management Committee and we aspire to increase significantly our individual membership overall to a majority of the 10,000 toll paying community. So please, talk about the NSBA and point out the benefits of membership to your friends and colleagues.



Ben Falat
Chairman, Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association Ltd

