

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AWCC



The Association of Waterway Cruising Clubs (AWCC) is a grouping of boat, yacht and cruising clubs on the inland waterways of the United Kingdom. Membership of the AWCC is open to all properly constituted UK clubs. Clubs pay a modest annual fee for membership of the AWCC that then entitles **all** their members to take advantage of the facilities that the AWCC offers.

Due to its long history the AWCC is one of only three major groups recognised by Government and the Navigation authorities. This means that the AWCC can raise concerns, provide input to Policies and Regulations and Lobby Parliament on issues like Funding cuts and other matters of concern to its members.

What are the benefits of AWCC membership?

National Representation In particular, the AWCC has experienced officers who can represent the interests of member clubs, either individually or collectively, with other organisations and government departments, including the Canal & Rivers Trust, and the Environment Agency. The AWCC have officers who sit on a number of national waterways advisory bodies and can thus represent the interests of member clubs in those forums.

Reciprocity For individual club members, the AWCC offers **reciprocal arrangements** with other member clubs, including emergency help whilst out cruising, access to temporary moorings for overnight or longer stays, as well as use of other **facilities** and **clubhouse access**. Clearly these facilities will depend on what each club is able to offer, and each club is free to determine their own rules and charges for use of the facilities. Contact details for each club for making arrangements prior to visiting a club are included in the AWCC Handbook which is available in the Clubhouse and in the members area of the AWCC website. Membership to the AWCC is free for Club members.

AWCC Management Structure

The operation of the AWCC is divided into 5 regions. Each club should have an appointed representative (AWCC Rep) to attend the regional meetings, to represent their club's interests and to channel information between the AWCC and their club.

This structure allows clubs to raise issues at a regional level which can then be escalated to the NEC for further national action where relevant. If you have any issues with the management of the waterways or other boating matters that require action and which fall outside individual club responsibilities, pass these to your club's AWCC Rep for them to take to the regional meetings from where further escalation can be managed where appropriate.

AWCC Website

The AWCC maintains a website at <http://awcc.org.uk>. This comprises a public area, which gives general information about the organisation and summary information about its member clubs, as well as a password protected members area where more detailed information about the member clubs and their contacts, access to the AWCC forums and other information such as regional and national meeting minutes is available.

All current members of a Club that is a member of the AWCC are entitled to a login to the Members' Area of the AWCC web site.

To create a login, the only information that is required is your forename, surname, private email address and the club of which you are a member.

The AWCC Rep for Stafford Boatr Club is Sam Leese email StaffordBoatClub@hotmail.co.uk or call 07564 966660

