

## **THE BROADS' GREEN BOAT SHOW - 2006**

### **"A Silent Sensation"**

A sunny early autumn day was a fitting welcome to the first Broads Green Boat Show on 30 September on Salhouse Broad in Norfolk. This show evolved from "Silent Sensations" organised for many years by Pat and John Atkins and drew a large crowd.

It was organised by Peter Howe, Tony Fogarty, Pema Marriott and Charlie Middleton, representing The Broads Society, The Electric Boat Association, Salhouse Broad and The Broads Authority. Financial support, to allow the show to be free to both visitors and exhibitors, came from the Sustainable Development Fund of the Broads Society and the RYA/BMF Green Blue Initiative.

Salhouse Broad is a beautiful and secluded site, with moorings and a sandy beach which the owner, Henry Cator, had kindly offered for the show. To add to the green credentials a free boat service (on an electric launch) was provided from Hoveton, the closest village up-river, and this proved very popular.

Traditional jazz from the Lumiere Rouge Jazz Band with Albert Lambert, owner of the electric Freeman, Patience, on trombone, added a sparkle to the pleasure of the day.

Exhibitors included the EBA, where John and Barbara dealt with intelligent enquiries with the help of David Millin of Pb Batteries. In the marquee, the twenty exhibitors included Colin Facey who was showing a fuel cell, 12v 5.5A, powered by methanol for c£2,000, and Gordon Hall who had come down from the Lakes to exhibit the Solomon Technologies motors. Rupert Latham reported good interest in conversions, and recycled plastic pontoons and walkways were on display from Filcris. Robert Paul from Ludham had a good range of Minn Kota outboards.

At the water's edge electric boats on display included David Williams' Terrapin, Peter Howe's yacht George Thetford, Tony Fogarty's Moonglow, Albert Lambert's Patience (being demonstrated by John and Sandy Williams), Tom Moore's elegant Brooke's launch Merlin, Les Hoare's Electroboat (a new venture by three local entrepreneurs who are importing a 4-person day launch with an elegant canopy for just under £3,500 inclusive), the yacht Mock Turtle, the electric passenger boat Helen of Ranworth, Rod Birk's small launch Winsome, the Broads Authority's diesel and electric patrol launch George Collier and the hire boats Electric Mystic and King Line (the latter with wheelchair lift).

Muscle-powered boats included a new range of lightweight pedal kayaks (which can also be paddled) from Hobie Kayak whose drive is described as being from flippers working like penguins' fins, with sizes ranging from 2.92m to 4.88m at prices between £1,116 and £1,939. A different version of pedal power was used by Winsome from Swallowboats of Wales, a propeller driven by two people facing each other with a bicycle action (based on David Williams' design) priced at c£5,000.

Paul Wagstaffe had brought Cellcraft, the fuel-cell powered skiff on loan to the EBA which attracted a lot of interest, and Brian Ellis demonstrated his solar powered generator for remote charging by charging Merlin's batteries. The 40' Fair Countess was a good example of a Faircraft Loynes hire boat fuelled by bio-diesel (recycled cooking oil), which has been running successfully for two years.

Many of the visitors took the opportunity to try out the boats, with the pedal boats being particularly popular, with people of all ages being delighted by the ease and

speed attainable. Demonstration runs on electric boats by EBA members convinced any doubters of the pleasure of electric boating.

The highlight of the event was a sail-past of all the boats, for the benefit of the photographers.

This was a very successful day and Peter and Tony are already planning next year's Green Boat Show, provisionally to be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September on Salhouse Broad. Make a note in your diary now as they plan to make it even bigger and better than this year.

Tony Fogarty.  
November 2006.