

Fore and Aft

M A G A Z I N E



T H E Y A C H T H A R B O U R A S S O C I A T I O N

COP Launch
at ICOMIA
Conference

TYHA
MOTY
Awards



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Goes
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SIBS 2025
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In FOCUS

The Yacht Harbour Association is 60 years old!

While preparing for the ICOMIA World Marina Conference, I revisited a paper written in 2010 by TYHA's late Honorary President, Robin Walters. In *The Way Ahead*, Robin outlined key milestones in marina history, including the very first meeting of The Yacht Harbour Association, then known as the National Yacht Harbour Association, held on 27 July 1965 at 15 Chapel Street, Belgravia, London. To mark this 60-year milestone, the TYHA Council recently celebrated with a customary cake, a photograph of which appears in this edition of *Fore & Aft*.

The 4th quarter of 2025 has been exceptionally busy for TYHA, with our participation in the Southampton International Boat Show, the ICOMIA World Marina Conference, where we launched the 8th Edition of the TYHA Code of Practice



Jon White
TYHA General Manager

(with sincere thanks to Marina Projects for their excellent contribution) and the Marine Equipment Trade Show.

Indeed, 2025 as a whole has been both busy and highly productive for TYHA. Our expanded assessor team has increased our assessment capacity while bringing new skills and experience that have delivered excellent outcomes. Member engagement in the Code of Practice revision has been outstanding and our

UK Marina Conference was the best attended to date. Supporting the delivery of several IMM/AMM courses has also been extremely rewarding and it is encouraging to see a new generation of marina professionals entering and advancing within our remarkable industry.

With 2026 just around the corner, our plans for TYHA's 61st year are well underway. These will include visits and tours focused on updating members on changes to the Code of Practice, sharing best practices, strengthening relationships with existing members and welcoming new members into our association. Above all, we look forward to helping our members achieve continued success - while putting smiles on their customers' faces.

Seasons best wishes to you all.




HEAD OFFICE:
Tagus House
9 Ocean Way
Ocean Village
Southampton
SO14 3TJ
www.tyha.co.uk

FORE & AFT
ADVERTISING:
Please contact Hayley Cloke
hcloke@britishmarine.co.uk
T: +44 (0)7923 227693

EXECUTIVE TEAM:
General Manager:
Jon White
TYHA Gold Anchor Executive:
Hayley Cloke



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Front Cover: Portonovi Marina, Milos, Montenegro

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MARINA PROJECTS LTD SECURES LICENSING FOR NEWHAVEN MARINAS REDEVELOPMENT



Lewes District Council's planning committee has approved a proposal for the regeneration of Newhaven Marina including 400 riverside homes, a 50-bedroom apartment hotel with a gym, along with a range of restaurants and cafés. The existing 300-berth marina will be fully reconfigured, with significantly improved facilities for berth holders and marina users. This phase will complete the transformation of Newhaven's western waterfront.

On behalf of Newhaven Marina Holding Company Ltd. Marina Projects have been instructed to secure necessary marina licenses for the following scope of works:

- Dredging
- Pontoon and pile removal
- Installation of new pontoons
- Installation of new piles
- New full tidal access configuration

Additionally, Marina Projects responsibilities include obtaining a Harbour Works Consent through Newhaven Port and Properties, securing a Marine License through The Marine Management Organisation and assistance with the Planning Application to secure Planning Consent for the Marina through Lewes District Council.

Russ Levett, Newhaven Marina Manager & Project Manager at Marina Projects

commented, "After many years of works to secure the consents for a landside Masterplan for the redevelopment of Newhaven Marina, we were delighted to be appointed by Newhaven Marina Holding Company Ltd to deal with the licenses and consents required to deliver the waterside elements of the scheme.

Through our experience and expertise in handling such marine licenses, we were able to undertake the works and secure all of the necessary consents in order that Phase 1 of the scheme could commence in October 2024. With Phase 1 now complete, we look ahead to the second and third phases during 2025 and 2026, that will see the remainder of the marina completely removed, dredging undertaken and a new Walcon walkashore pontoon system installed. These works will provide customers of Newhaven Marina with a modern full tidal access facility with direct access to the South Coast cruising grounds as well as cross channel connections."

To find out more about the regeneration project visit www.marinaprojects.com

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A BRILLIANT TEN DAYS... TYHA AT THE 2025 SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

This year's Southampton International Boat Show once again delivered an unforgettable ten days for TYHA bringing a vibrant blend of networking, member engagement, industry insight and celebration. With bustling footfall, dynamic stand events and our much-loved annual programme of activities, TYHA's presence at the 2025 show proved to be one of our strongest yet.

Across the ten days, the TYHA stand became a lively hub for members, guests and curious visitors. We were delighted to welcome new exhibitors Western Marinas, alongside many familiar faces, each bringing their unique flavour, quite literally, to the stand.

Daily exhibitor-hosted events from Marinedi Group, Porto Delle Grazie, Western Marinas, and Jersey & Guernsey Marinas showcased not only their world-class facilities but also the culinary delights of their home regions. Their hospitality helped create a warm, engaging atmosphere and sparked countless new conversations and connections.

Throughout the show, Inland & Coastal generously sponsored our daily stand drinks, making the TYHA stand an inviting destination to unwind and chat. Our well-received Hub Talks series proved a highlight once again, offering attendees the chance to hear from industry experts on a range of important topics.

Wednesday, always a stand-out day at SIBS for TYHA, began with freshly ground coffee and Danish pastries for exhibitors and members, an energising



start to a packed schedule.

First up was our CMM networking and sharing event, where the group explored the ongoing topic of ensuring the marina industry is an attractive employment option for the younger generation; presentations from Catie Robertson (17) and Dan White (23) provided thought-provoking insights into this vital issue.

This seamlessly led into one of the most anticipated events of the entire show: The TYHA Marina of the Year Awards. Anchored once again by Haven Knox-Johnston, the awards packed the Boating Academy with TYHA members. A true celebration of excellence within our industry, the awards recognised outstanding achievements and continued

dedication to quality among our marinas. The atmosphere was electric as the very worthy winners were announced and took to the stage to receive their awards from TYHA Chair Jonathan Dyke and Paul Knox-Johnston. The awards were followed by our annual TYHA stand party, kindly sponsored by IGY Marinas. The turnout was superb, with members reconnecting, sharing stories and strengthening the bonds that keep our community thriving.

Thank you to all those who exhibited with us, your continued support, enthusiasm and expertise are truly appreciated; we look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 for another unforgettable show.

Portimao Super Yacht Ready

It is with great satisfaction that we have received the international status of Superyacht Ready Marina from The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), becoming the first marina in Portugal to obtain this important international certification.

This prestigious certification reinforces our position as a reference in the international nautical sector and places us on the map of top marinas for superyachts.

This international award recognizes marinas that offer exceptional conditions for

hosting superyachts, evaluating criteria such as:

- High-level technical and operational infrastructure
- Safety and accessibility for large vessels
- Specialized services and excellence in customer care
- Integration with the Global Gold Anchor program, which assesses the overall quality of the marina.

According to Ricardo José operational director of Marina de Portimão, "This achievement is the direct result of the effort, dedication and professionalism of our team, committed to

providing the best service and delivering the best experience to our guests and all who visit us."

However, this success brings new challenges and responsibilities – the challenge of continuing to elevate our concierge service every day. We are confident that, with the same passion and commitment, we will rise to this new stage of our Marina de Portimão, which, after 25 years of existence, continues to reinvent itself, innovate and raise industry standards.

Our mission is to create unforgettable moments, focusing on sustainability and environmental quality, modernizing our infrastructure and actively contributing to the most personalized and comprehensive service.

**To find out more about
SYR visit www.TYHA.co.uk**



STATE-OF-THE-ART NEW WORKSHOP FOR COX'S BOATYARD



Cox's Boatyard is proud to announce the opening of its new workshop. This impressive new building represents a key part of the business's on-going commitment to modernise the boatyard and marina and demonstrates a significant investment in the future of its boat maintenance and restoration capabilities. The total investment for this project is in the region of £900k, reflecting the substantial commitment the business is making to support the marine industry and traditional boat-building facilities and skills.

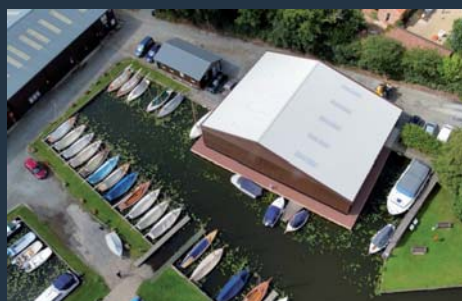
The newly opened workshop was completed in July and has space for twelve boats, greatly increasing the yard's previous working capacity. It will soon be equipped with a specialist paint bay for boats up to 50 feet (15.2 m) long and will also support a new engineering area that has substantially more capability than the previous engineering area in the old workshop. In fact, the new workshop has replaced two old buildings, which had come to the end of their lives.

Managing Director Eric Bishop commented: "We are very proud of the new workshop. It has taken several years of planning to get to this stage, and we have put a lot of consideration into its design and build. We are delighted with the end

result and once the building work was finished, we moved into it the very next day as we had boats waiting for work to be completed. Our ever-growing business had certainly already outgrown the main workshop which was built ten years ago."

Construction of the workshop took 28 weeks and it is now a fully insulated steel portal building, with a polished concrete floor. The total workshop floor area is 502 m² and there is also a mezzanine floor for the storage of materials and equipment. The building has a ground foundation of 102 ground piles, all installed to a depth of 16.5 metres. The main contractors PJ Spilling oversaw the build, which was completed on time and on budget thanks to a project team comprising PJ Spilling, Eric Bishop, Bill Glover and Dominic Blake.

Cox's Boatyard is based in Barton Turf, Norfolk and offers a wide range of skills including traditional boat restoration, as well as repairs and painting of wood and GRP boats of all sizes and ages. The engineering department's expertise covers servicing, repairs and the installation of inboard engines, outboards and electric motors. Cox's Boatyard also has a boat travel hoist which can lift any craft up to 35 tons. The marina has 180 floating moorings and about 100 spaces on the bank for dinghies and out of water storage.



For further information and photos, please contact : Cox's Boatyard Staithe Road, Barton Turf, Norwich, NR12 8AZ Tel: 01692 536206 Email: ebishop@coxboatyard.co.uk Website: www.coxboatyard.co.uk



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“ The Yacht Harbour Association Marina Awards 2025

Sponsored by Haven Knox-Johnston

The 2025 Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA) Marina Awards in association with Haven Knox-Johnston were presented during the Southampton International Boat Show for the 11th year running. The awards celebrate the very best marinas from the UK and around the world. Recognising excellence in customer service, facilities, environmental responsibility and the people who make marinas the welcoming hubs they are for boaters everywhere, a TYHA Marina Award is always a highly prized accolade.

Earning such a highly valued Marina Award is no small feat and reflects countless hours of dedication, passion and teamwork. For marina operators, they provide recognition of their

hard work and commitment to excellence, while also encouraging continuous improvement in safety, sustainability and service standards. For boat owners, they offer reassurance and a guide to marinas that deliver an outstanding experience. As the marina industry develops and adapts to boating needs, the awards serve as a benchmark of best practice and a goal for marinas to work towards.

This year's ceremony, held on the Boating Academy Stage, was standing room only, with representatives from many of the 200-plus Gold Anchor-accredited marinas eager to see who would take home the distinctive fused-glass trophies handcrafted by Jo Munford of Seaview Studio.



Categories in the awards included:

UK Coastal Marina of the Year, UK Inland Marina of the Year, International Marina of the Year, Superyacht Marina of the Year, Marina Employee of the Year and Best Marina for Environmental Sustainability, in partnership with The GreenBlue.

For the third consecutive year, the awards were proudly sponsored by Haven K-J one of the UK's leading boat insurance providers. By partnering with TYHA for their Marina Awards, Haven K-J highlights the essential connection and strong relationship between marinas, boat owners, and insurance providers, while reinforcing the importance of appropriate cover in safeguarding marinas, boats and marine businesses alike.

Paul Knox-Johnston, Sales & Marketing Manager at Haven K-J, commented: "At Haven K-J, we understand the pivotal role marinas play at the heart of the boating community. These awards shine a spotlight on excellence within the marine industry, reflecting values of safety, reliability and customer service – principles that are central to our own ethos as an insurer. By setting high standards for service, safety and environmental care, the awards give marinas a benchmark to aspire to and reassure boat owners that they are in safe hands."

The company's marine insurance offering is structured across three focused brands: Haven Knox-Johnston, Haven Knox-Johnston Specialist, and Haven Knox-Johnston Commercial. With more than 70 insurance specialists across six UK offices and a highly experienced team that includes some of the industry's most respected professionals, Haven K-J is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of boat owners and marine businesses alike. From paddleboards and yachts to small business owners and groups of marinas, they offer tailored solutions that help owners and businesses feel secure and supported.

The hosts for the ceremony this year were Jonathon Dyke, TYHA Chairman; Paul Knox-Johnston, Sales & Marketing Manager at Haven K-J; and TYHA General Manager, Jon White, all supported by Hayley Cloke, TYHA Executive to ensure smooth running.

THE 2025 WINNERS WERE:

TYHA Sustainability Award

Winner – Boatfolk Haslar Marina
Highly Commended – Parkstone Bay Marina
Highly Commended – Dubai Harbour Marina

TYHA Coastal Marina of the Year Under 250 Berths

Winner – Poole Quay Boat Haven
Runner up – Emsworth Yacht Harbour

TYHA Coastal Marina of the Year Over 250 Berths

Winner – Boatfolk - Royal Quays
Runner up – Jersey Marina

TYHA Inland Marina of the Year

Winner – Shepperton Marina
Runner up – Overwater Marina

TYHA International Marina of the Year

Winner – Setur Antalya Marina
Runner up – Portonovi Marina

TYHA Superyacht Marina of the Year

Winner – Marina Di Villamoura
Runner up – Yalikavak Marina

TYHA Marina Team of the Year

Winner – Jersey Marina

TYHA Employee of the Year

Winner – Ian Shakespeare - Cowes Yacht Haven

Congratulations to the winners and runners up. A special mention must also be made to those marinas nominated by and voted for by the boating public, but unfortunately not taking home an award this year. The competition for a marina award is incredibly strong with so many highly respected and much-loved marinas around the world. Everyone involved should be proud of the fantastic work done to make the boating world the welcoming community it is. Your time will come!

The voting for the 2026 TYHA Awards is now open!

MICROVENT IN-LINE CARBON VENT FILTER HAS SOME BIG BROTHERS!

LeeSan announce five new (larger) additions of in-line Carbon Vent Filters to their highly successful and well proven Microvent Range.

For many years now the MicroVent 11/2-inch filter has been the go-to option for odour eliminating tank venting. However, over the past few years, there has been an increasing demand for a similar product in larger sizes. In response to this, Leesans have introduced new 2-inch, 3-inch and 4-inch versions.

These in-line filters utilise activated charcoal to ensure that unpleasant odours from sewage tanks are swiftly neutralised. The carbon is made of high standard Taixia anthracite, processed through grinding, mixture, extrusion, carbonisation and steam activation etc.

Due to the high mechanical hardness, highly developed porous structure and huge specific surface area, it can be widely used in both gas-phase and fluid-phase purification and absorption, catalyst carriers.

The carbon granules are easily replaced. Frequency for this will depend on several factors. The main two being the amount of use that a toilet/tank has and the ambient temperature. Typically, this needs to be done yearly.

Details of the "Air Throughput" are:

- ODOR2 - 2" In-line Charcoal Filter 9m3/hr
- ODOR3 - 3" In-line Charcoal Filter 15m3/hr
- ODOR3SV - 3" In-line Stack Vent Charcoal Filter 15m3/hr

- ODOR4 - 4" In-line Charcoal Filter 25m3/hr
- ODOR4SV - 4" In-line Stack Vent Charcoal Filter 25m3/hr

These units must be installed in-line vertically.

LeeSan's Technical Director Karl Sutcliffe comments "These products offer a simple and effective solution to fix odours from sewage tanks. Providing they are fitted correctly and the carbon replaced when appropriate they are the perfect answer to this (otherwise rather nasty) problem. The new range can now cope with much larger airflows and will certainly fill a hole in the marketplace".



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“ACCESS FOR ALL

How Inland and Coastal is making the water truly inclusive

From family swim spots to working harbours, access to the water should be open to everyone – and thanks to innovative design and some common sense, it increasingly can be. Inland and Coastal has been leading the charge in ensuring pontoons aren't just safe and functional, but inclusive too.

As a design-led company, Inland and Coastal takes a bespoke approach to each one of its projects, delivering practical, long-lasting solutions that make access to the water possible for all. The team also brings a genuine understanding of accessibility needs, ensuring every design truly meets the requirements of all users.

“There's a misconception that the DDA [Disability Discrimination Act] rules governing landside construction can simply be carried over to pontoons,” explains Vincent Carey, Senior Commercial Manager at Inland and Coastal, “but in tidal and space-restricted environments, a ramp with a [shallow slope] gradient of 1:12 is often impossible.

“While the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code doesn't

detail accessibility requirements for disabled users in its text, a ‘best practice’ approach combined with detailed risk assessment is encouraged to achieve accessibility that's realistic and safe.”

Inclusive design in action

Recent projects in Dartmouth, Banagher and Killaloe highlight how this philosophy translates into real-world accessibility.

At Dartmouth in Devon, Inland and Coastal has worked extensively with Dart Harbour on numerous projects over the years, building relationships that have proved invaluable.

The latest project extends the Town Jetty with a new pontoon section and features handrails and a dedicated hoist for disabled users.

Harbour Master Paul Britton says collaboration was key: “We knew what we wanted – a straightforward and safe way for everyone, including disabled users, to access boats – but the engineering challenge was the one metre freeboard difference between the old and new pontoons. The team at Inland and Coastal were brilliant to work with. Their technical expertise and flexibility ensured everything fitted perfectly.”

In Banagher, Ireland the pontoon manufacturer designed and installed a new outdoor pool at Shannon Bank Park, featuring wide pontoons, enhanced seating and full wheelchair access. Supported by Fáilte Ireland and the EU Just Transition Fund, the project ensures everyone, regardless of ability, can enjoy the water safely.

Meanwhile, Killaloe, a community-driven project at Twomilegate on Lough Derg, has delivered a truly accessible swimming and boating platform. Featuring a DDA-compliant ramp, a marine-grade disability hoist (built by Caley Marine in Inverness) and a kayak launch pontoon, the facility was born out of local advocacy by a mum with a daughter with cerebral palsy. “This is a great example of a project designed with accessibility at its heart from day one,” says Carey.

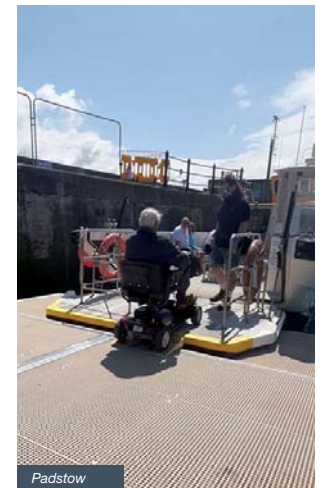


Practical innovation, guided by experience

Record-breaking yachtsman and disability inclusion advocate Geoff Holt has been working alongside Inland and Coastal in an advisory capacity on another of Inland and Coastal's accessibility projects at Padstow Ferry.

“Tidal environments will always present challenges,” says Geoff, “but there's a place for common sense. Having a good accessibility plan, thorough risk assessments and detailed procedures ensures that safety and inclusion go hand in hand. Removing barriers to participation, especially those that prevent access to blue spaces like the sea, is something I'm passionate about.”

From retrofitting hoists on busy working jetties to integrating accessible features into leisure pontoons, Inland and Coastal is proving that with innovation and a bit of common sense inclusivity needn't stop at the water's edge. “Access for all isn't just a castle in the air,” concludes Carey. “It's eminently achievable – and should be an essential part of the planning process.”





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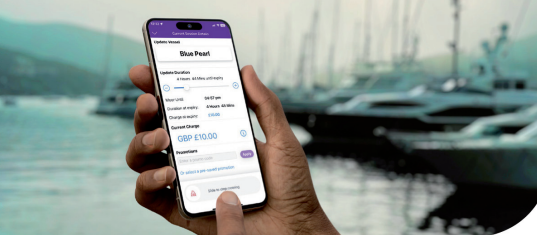
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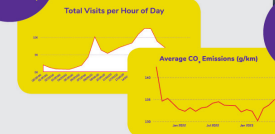
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KIP MARINA



BOATFOLK RHU MARINA



DUBAI OFFSHORE SAILING



D-MARIN MARASI MARINA



CONWY MARINA



MARINA DE PORTIMAO



LIMASSOL MARINA



MARINAS CHOOSE METPOW WIRELESS METERING

Bristol Harbour and Ipswich Beacon Marina have each taken a major step forward this season by choosing to install the Metpow wireless metering system across their sites, enabled through Rolec's trusted marina hardware. It marks a shift toward smarter, fairer and more efficient utility management for berth holders and a welcome sign of marinas investing in technology that genuinely improves the

experience on the water.

The new system gives operators complete oversight of electricity use in real time, helping reduce waste, streamline operations and strengthen sustainability efforts without complicating the day job. Berth holders benefit too, with the ability to view and manage their usage through the Metpow app, paying only for what they use with full transparency throughout their stay.

Both Bristol Harbour and Ipswich Beacon have chosen this upgrade to modernise their services ahead of the busy season, ensuring they stay ahead of visitor expectations and rising demand for digital, self-service facility management. Their adoption of Metpow reflects a growing movement across UK marinas embracing smarter infrastructure that is simple to use, reliable in all conditions and built for the long term.

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“ NEYLAND YACHT HAVEN

Unveils New Facilities and Expanded Restaurant Following Major Investment

Significant improvements have been completed at Neyland Yacht Haven, one of Wales' most popular marinas, following a substantial investment in the site's infrastructure and amenities.

Over £1million has been invested to redesign and extend the main marina building, resulting in the addition of exclusive brand new, luxury washroom facilities for berth holders and visiting boaters. The upgrade includes modern roomy showers and toilets, a dedicated family room and a new, fully equipped laundry cabin.

The first-floor Bar Restaurant has also undergone a major transformation. The dining area has been expanded to include a new snug lounge area with Sky TV, while the kitchen has been upgraded and enlarged to meet the higher demand. Guests can now enjoy a revamped interior, an extended outdoor terrace with panoramic

views over the marina and estuary and a new food and drinks menu. The cellar has not been forgotten and boasts the latest smart cellar technology to ensure the best pint is served.

Located within the stunning Pembrokeshire Coast National Park on the Milford Haven Waterway, Neyland Yacht Haven is home to over 400 berth holders and welcomes hundreds of visitors each year. The marina also features the ever-popular Manillas Café, alongside The Bar Restaurant, an RYA training school and an office for Boatshed Wales.

“This has been a significant investment and upgrade of our facilities,” said James Cotton, Marina Director. “We are thrilled with the positive feedback from berth holders and visitors, who are already enjoying the modern amenities, thoughtful features such as the family washroom, and the enhanced dining experience upstairs.”

He added, “The team at The Bar Restaurant have worked

incredibly hard to reopen in time for the summer season with a fresh new look and a delicious new menu. We're excited for everyone to come and experience it.”

The project also involved using a wide range of local Pembrokeshire firms, ranging from WB Griffiths from Haverfordwest as the main contractor, Acanthus Holden architects from Pembroke and Terry's Tiles in Neyland. Interiors by Steph Cotton from Neyland, Penfro Consultancy surveyors from Pembroke Dock and ITH Construction from Narberth were just some of the other local firms involved in the project.

Neyland Yacht Haven - part of the Yacht Havens Group which owns and operates nine marinas across the UK - has been nominated three times for the prestigious British Yachting Awards, further cementing its reputation as a premier boating destination in Wales.



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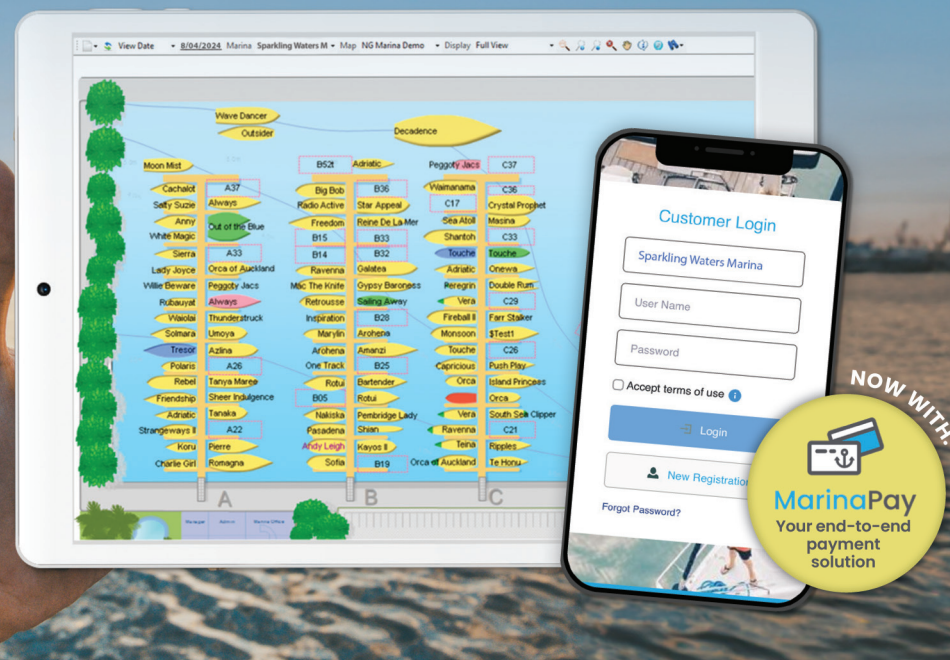
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“CRAOBH MARINA

The Norton family – Brian, Sheila and their 3 grown-up children Charlie, Frederick and Annabelle – are delighted to take the helm at Craobh Marina. Together with a brilliant team, they are committed to revitalising Craobh as a ‘Gateway to Adventure’ on the breathtaking West Coast of Scotland.

Craobh Marina comprises 225 berths with deep-water mooring, wide manoeuvring spaces and 360° shelter. Facilities include a Service Department with a 30-ton hoist and a waterfront bar and restaurant which will be re-opening in Spring 2026. With spectacular views towards Mull, Jura and Scaba, and proximity to the famous Corrywreckan Whirlpool, the Marina promises access to world-class sailing in the Scottish Isles.

“As experienced sailors, we know what sea-folk want and need from a marina. However, we realised that running one ourselves would bring new challenges! Thankfully, Jon and Hayley from TYHA have gone above and beyond to support us in this new venture, even visiting our family home to introduce us to British Marine and the TYHA Code of Practice.” – Sheila Norton

To date, berth-holders have expressed a high level of satisfaction with the customer service provided by James Lindop (Marina Master) and the team, so updates to infrastructure promise to elevate Craobh Marina to an exceptional standard. Since the acquisition in August, the Nortons have invested in early improvements according to customer surveys and TYHA guidance, including staff training, updated health and safety measures and expansion of boat storage capacity.

Throughout developments, sustainability is of chief importance. With guidance from

TYHA, Craobh Marina will comply with Clean Marina guidelines and will participate in The Green Blue initiative by raising awareness of local ecosystems and encouraging good boating practice – change has already begun with the installation of EV chargers in the Marina car park.

Focus is also placed on community involvement and to preserve the rich cultural heritage of this beautiful area of Scotland, the Craobh Marina team are working in collaboration with Argyll & Bute Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The newly acquired Craobh Marina on Scotland’s west coast is committing to a major upgrade of its facilities, anchoring the effort with investment in modern floating pontoon infrastructure supplied by Walcon Marine. The move will significantly enhance berthing quality and capacity – key to their strategy of catering to larger vessels and rising demand in the region.



The pontoon works sit centrally in the marina’s broader regeneration plan which also spans boatyard improvements, amenity upgrades and sustainability features.

“TYHA’s commitment to marina excellence is inspiring and continues to motivate us to develop Craobh Marina into an unforgettable destination for people travelling by land and sea.” – Charlie Norton

For more information, please visit www.craobhmarina.co.uk



“ Waterfront offices and workshops now open at Buckler’s Hard Yacht Harbour

A £2 million redevelopment has transformed the boatshed at Buckler’s Hard Yacht Harbour into a stunning collection of new waterfront offices and workshops now available for those seeking a base in this award-winning south coast location.

The new facilities combine high-quality design with practical amenities, offering a perfect setting for both marine and non-marine businesses. Each letting includes parking, a communal kitchen, electricity Wi-Fi, and air-conditioning, with meeting rooms available to hire by the day or half-day. Businesses can also access a secure leased line share for guaranteed internet speeds.

Need workshop space by the water?

Only one fully insulated workshop unit remains available, complete with roller shutter doors ideal for boatyard operations, plus a dedicated office space. Priority will be given to tenants providing value-added services for marina residents and the 10,000+ visitors welcomed to Buckler’s Hard each year.

“
Perfect for creative professionals
in search of a peaceful base

A workspace with a view

Set within the heart of the New Forest, overlooking the Beaulieu River, the development offers a rare opportunity to work in a scenic setting. Perfect for teams looking to relocate, a hub for remote-working, creative professionals in search of a peaceful base, or businesses seeking a premium coastal location.

Drop in for a look around

Those interested in relocating are invited to visit the marina for a coffee and a personal tour of the new facilities.



To arrange a viewing, contact the Harbour Master on
01590 616200 or email harbour.office@beaulieu.co.uk

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“THE SHELLS

Sustainable stays in the heart of St Helier Marina, Jersey

Opened in January this year, The Shells are a striking new addition to Jersey's hospitality scene, eco-friendly floating holiday pods offering a fresh perspective on waterside living. Moored in the award-winning St Helier Marina, the two one-bedroom pods combine sustainable design with serene luxury, inviting guests to experience the island from a truly unique vantage point.

Each pod is crafted with environmental responsibility in mind, featuring energy-efficient systems, low-impact materials, and thoughtful touches that reflect Jersey's natural beauty. Whether you're waking up to the gentle sway of the tide or enjoying a sunset from your private deck, The Shells deliver a tranquil escape that doesn't compromise on comfort or conscience.

While The Shells are new, their location is steeped in excellence. St Helier Marina has held the prestigious 5 Gold Anchor accreditation for 20 years, a testament to its world-class facilities, safety standards, and commitment to customer service. This long-standing recognition sets the stage for the exceptional experience guests can expect.

Behind the scenes, it's the Jersey Marinas team who ensure every stay at The Shells is seamless. Their dedication, professionalism and passion for delivering excellence was recently recognised on the international stage, with the team being named International Team of the Year at the Southampton Boat Show. From warm welcomes to expert local knowledge, guests can look forward to great customer service.

Conveniently located just moments from the centre of St Helier, guests at The Shells can easily explore the town's vibrant mix of restaurants, boutique shopping, and rich heritage attractions. Whether it's a stroll to the local markets or a visit to the historic Elizabeth Castle, everything is within easy reach. Whether you're seeking a romantic retreat, a solo recharge, or a base for exploring Jersey's coastline, The Shells offer a stay that's as memorable as it is mindful. With sustainability at the forefront and a team committed to delivering best-in-class service, this is more than just a holiday – it's a new way to experience the sea.

Discover the magic of floating accommodation in one of the UK's most celebrated marinas, where luxury meets sustainability.

Book your stay at www.theshells.je and enjoy 10% off stays up to 28 March 2026, using discount code FORE (excluding stays between 19th December and 3rd January 2026).



TINGDENE GROUP

Expands into Scotland with Acquisition of Holy Loch Marina

Tingdene Group is proud to announce the acquisition of Holy Loch Marina, situated in Sandbank, near Dunoon on Scotland's Cowal Peninsula. This marks the company's second marina acquisition of 2025 and its first expansion into Scottish waters, significantly broadening the group's national footprint.

The marina is a key boating destination on the Firth of Clyde, offering more than 200 fully serviced berths, visitor berths,

a well-equipped boatyard with hoist and slipway, on-site fuel and a range of shoreside services including marine engineering, chandlery and hospitality businesses.

"Holy Loch Marina is a natural and welcome addition to our growing marina portfolio," comments Ian Collier, Managing Director of Tingdene Group. "Its stunning location, established reputation and strong berth holder community make it an ideal fit for the group. We're

excited to continue the great work already happening here." Ethan Zone, Strategy Director at Tingdene Group added "This is a significant acquisition and distinctive milestone for the business as it is our first investment outside of England bringing us into one of the UK's most iconic boating regions. Broadening our operation to Scotland and specifically Holy Loch Marina provides us with a new base for learning and growth creating exciting opportunities and challenges ahead."

Holy Loch Marina has been family-run by the Downs family for over 25 years, originally developed by the late Matthew Downs. His children, Alison Allan and Stuart Downs, have played a key role in running the marina in recent years and will continue to be actively involved under Tingdene's ownership.

"This marina has been a huge part of our lives," said Alison. "It's more than just a place—it's a community that reflects our father's vision. While it's time for us to hand

over ownership, we're proud to continue working here and excited about what the future holds under Tingdene."

Stuart added: "There's a real comfort in knowing the marina is moving forward with people who value what's been built here. We look forward to being part of this next chapter."

Tingdene Marinas recognises the potential for further development at the site and is already exploring ways to enhance and expand the facilities in line with customer needs and the unique character of the location.

At the heart of every successful marina is a strong sense of community and Holy Loch Marina is a shining example of that," said Steve Arber, Operations Director at Tingdene Marinas. "We're incredibly proud to become part of this well-established boating family and deeply respectful of the legacy built here over the past 25 years. Our focus will be on listening to berth holders, supporting the existing team and ensuring that the marina continues to be

a welcoming, vibrant hub for both locals and visitors. We believe in growing with communities, not just operating within them."

Easily accessible via the Gourock ferry, the marina offers a balance of tranquillity, scenery and convenience. With deep-water berths and direct access to some of the finest cruising grounds on the west coast of Scotland, Holy Loch Marina is a favourite among local and visiting boaters alike.

The acquisition brings Tingdene's second marina acquisition in as many months,

seeing the marina network grow to 12 locations across the UK, spanning inland and coastal waters and reflects the group's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality berthing and services for boaters nationwide.

Tingdene Group's acquisition was supported by Shoosmiths LLP, who led the legal due diligence. Holy Loch was supported by McKee Campbell Morrison Solicitors, with the sale and marketing process being overseen by Christie & Co.



TYHA LAUNCHES REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE AT THE ICOMIA WORLD MARINAS CONFERENCE



The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), in collaboration with Marina Projects Ltd, was delighted to unveil the revised TYHA Code of Practice during the ICOMIA World Marinas Conference 2025 in Venice.

This major update is the result of extensive consultation with TYHA members across the UK and internationally, combined with insights

drawn from a wide range of established global codes and regulatory frameworks. The outcome is a modern, robust, and internationally relevant resource designed to support operational excellence and strategic growth across the marina sector.

The new Code is presented in four dedicated volumes, each focusing on a key aspect of marina operations and infrastructure. The first two volumes Planning and

Development and Marina Operations will be released in early 2026, replacing the existing 7th edition of the Code of Practice. The Superyacht and Boatyard volumes will follow later in 2026.

Representing the 8th edition, this four-volume suite marks a significant milestone for the industry. It has been carefully shaped to reflect evolving operational standards, environmental priorities and the expectations of today's marina customers.

We extend our sincere thanks to Marina Projects for their invaluable support, and to the many members who contributed their expertise throughout the revision process. Your collaboration has been essential to bringing this new edition to life.

We are grateful to all who played a role in developing this vital industry resource and look forward to supporting marinas worldwide as the revised Code is adopted and implemented.

“

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The AI Wake-Up Call for Marinas

Early adopters are already gaining an edge. Here's what every operator needs to know.

For years, AI sounded like science fiction. Today, it is answering berth enquiries in Italian, turning financial spreadsheets into dashboards, and helping small teams create big-agency marketing campaigns. The tide is turning, and marinas are beginning to set a new course.



"Help me..."

The hidden hours in the back office

Peak season means phones ringing, emails piling up, and managers juggling screens of fuel sales, occupancy, and reports. Much of this work — invoicing, reconciliations, contracts — is necessary but adds little value to the customer experience. AI lightens that load, freeing staff to focus on sales, service, and relationships.

Efficiency with responsibility

AI consumes energy, but its benefits can outweigh the cost. Paperless processes reduce waste, smarter scheduling saves fuel, and planning tools prevent unnecessary travel. Tech giants like Microsoft are also investing billions in renewable-powered data centres, making AI's footprint greener by the year.

Copilot: AI inside daily work

Microsoft Copilot sits within Outlook, Word, Excel, and Teams — no new system to learn. Data stays secure inside Microsoft's enterprise-grade environment. With EliteMarinas and EliteBrokers, Copilot is embedded directly into berth management, finance, sales, and service, giving operators time back without extra admin.

Turning numbers into insight

Instead of poring over a Profit & Loss sheet, operators can ask Copilot to build charts comparing revenue, costs, and profit in seconds. Inside platforms like EliteMarinas, this insight flows seamlessly into decision-making, helping leaders act faster on pricing, services, or seasonal planning.

From impossible to everyday

Every leap in technology — mobiles, cloud storage, digital bookings — once felt daunting. AI will follow the same path, moving from unfamiliar to indispensable. Already, 75% of employees use AI at work, often through unsanctioned tools. Copilot keeps marina data secure, context-aware, and accessible, with added benefits like multilingual replies, inclusive features, and automated reporting.

The real story of AI in marinas

AI is often described in dramatic terms, yet its role in marinas is far simpler. It is a practical tool that takes on routine work. The surface has only just been scratched, yet the direction is clear. AI is not a passing trend. It is here, it is advancing quickly, and it is already embedded within the systems marinas use every day. With platforms such as EliteMarinas and EliteBrokers, built on Microsoft Dynamics 365 and enhanced with Copilot AI, operators now have the chance to bring these benefits directly into their management software. The result is time saved, teams supported, and customers better served. For those ready to explore what this means in practice, Elite Dynamics is here to help chart the course.

www.elite-marinas.com



The Complete Solution for Modern Marinas

EliteMarinas is the all-in-one management platform built specifically for marinas.

From berth allocation and boatyard services to finance, invoicing, and customer engagement, it brings every aspect of marina operations into a single, intelligent system.

Built on Microsoft Dynamics 365 and already trusted by forward-thinking operators, EliteMarinas gives you complete visibility, smarter decision-making, and the tools to deliver exceptional service today while preparing for tomorrow.

"It will save us an estimated \$140,000 to \$180,000 a year"

Mark Brown, Finance Director, Port of Newport

Read the case study



“ INLAND CONFERENCE

A Sell-Out Success

The Inland Conference 2025 brought together industry professionals, enthusiasts and stakeholders for two days of collaboration, learning, and celebration in the heart of the Black Country. This year's event was a sell-out, with over 120 delegates in attendance, reflecting the growing interest and commitment within the inland waterways sector.

Day One: Committee Meetings and Networking

On Wednesday, 12th November, the event began with two productive committee meetings, followed by a networking lunch that allowed attendees to connect and share ideas. The day concluded with a memorable evening supper at the iconic Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory in Dudley, where lively conversations and hearty food set the tone for the days ahead.

Day Two: A Black Country-Themed Conference

Thursday, 13th November, marked the official start of the conference, embracing a Black Country theme that celebrated the region's rich industrial heritage. The morning sessions explored the history of the local museum and surrounding

waterways, offering a fascinating glimpse into the past. This was followed by updates from key navigation authorities, the Environment Agency (EA), Canal & River Trust (CRT) and the Broads Authority – providing essential insights into current projects and future plans.

Safety and Innovation

After a short break, attendees heard from a fire investigator on the critical topic of boat fires, including the growing concern around Lithium-Ion battery incidents. The afternoon featured breakout sessions led by British Marine's training, technical, and public affairs teams, equipping delegates with actionable strategies to take back to their organisations.

Networking and Evening Entertainment

After the conference sessions, we enjoyed networking drinks, giving everyone the chance to reflect on the day's discussions and explore ideas further. In the evening, we returned to the museum for a traditional Black Country fish and chip supper, accompanied by live music from the Garrison Band.

A huge thank you to all who attended and to our generous sponsors: Haven Knox-Johnston, Hoseasons, and EP Barrus Ltd.

Celebrating Excellence: Sectorial Awards

One of the highlights of the day was the announcement of the winners of our inaugural Sectorial Awards, recognizing outstanding contributions across the inland waterways sector. Winners will now advance to the national finals at the Southampton Boat Show 2026.

Sustainability Award: Cafwin Cruises

Business of the Year: ABNB

Product or Service of the Year: Grand Union Narrowboats

Lockkeeper of the Year: Adrian Honeybill

We were proud to honour Adrian Honeybill of Braunston Locks as Lockkeeper of the Year. Since 2019, Adrian has been a cornerstone of the community – keeping boaters informed, coordinating CRT volunteers and always offering a warm welcome.

The Inland Conference 2025 was more than an event – it was a testament to the strength, resilience, and passion of our waterways community. With over 120 delegates, sell-out sessions, and inspiring discussions, we look forward to building on these successes and celebrating further achievements at next year's national stage.



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“ Marina Teams Dive In

In a show of teamwork and commitment to safety, the teams at James Watt Dock and Whitehaven Marinas recently took part in Cold Water Immersion Training Sessions, designed to prepare staff for real-life emergencies on and around the water.

Led by Dan Hughes, Co-Founder of Vitae Vi, the session took place at the marinas where the teams regularly work, assist customers, and ensure smooth daily operations. The aim was simple but vital: to experience firsthand how the body reacts to sudden cold-water exposure and to

learn proven techniques for survival, rescue, and recovery.

The morning began in the classroom with a safety briefing, covering the effects of cold on the body and ability to think clearly under shock, the stages of cold water shock and the importance of calm controlled breathing.

For the practical element of the training, teams then suited up in their standard uniforms and PPE and entered the chilly marina waters under careful supervision.

“Despite knowing we were going to be entering the water the initial shock is real,” said Sean McCartney of James Watt Dock Marina, describing the sudden rush of cold that takes your breath away. “But once you learn to control your breathing and stay calm, you realise how much difference the training makes.”

Following the training in the marina, the teams were given the option of experiencing the effect of extreme cold by getting into an ice bath. Surprisingly, everyone stepped up to the challenge and took the plunge. “This is a unique part of the training offered and reinforces the message that life quickly gets difficult if you fall in the marina, layer over very cold water and your survival takes on a new level of difficulty” explained James Watt Dock Marina Manager Graeme Galbraith.

Despite the cold conditions, spirits were high. Laughter, teamwork and encouragement echoed across the marinas as colleagues supported one another through the experience, a reminder of the importance of teamwork.

“This kind of hands-on training helps our teams respond faster and more confidently if anyone ends up in the water, including themselves” said Graeme, “We take pride in ensuring that every member of our teams knows exactly what to do, not just for their own safety, but for the safety of all our customers and visitors. I would urge everyone involved in our industry to be made aware of this excellent training and take part, it’s one of the best courses I have participated in”

Working by the water brings incredible rewards and unique

risks. The James Watt Dock and Whitehaven Marina teams handle everything from assisting visiting boaters to maintenance of pontoons and infrastructure, often in all weather conditions. Being well-prepared for emergencies is a key part of the safety culture.

“Indeed, less than 24 hours after the training was completed, one of our team was involved in the recovery of an elderly berthholder who had fallen into the marina at night. Knowing what to do without doubt, saved this gentleman’s life” said Graeme.

By participating in this

training, the teams not only reinforced vital safety skills but also strengthened their bond as colleagues who look out for one another.

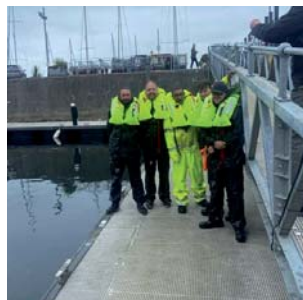
Following the success of these sessions both marinas plan to make cold water immersion training an annual event, even for customers. The marinas will also explore offering similar sessions for local boaters, yacht club members, and community partners interested in improving their cold-water preparedness.

“Training like this reminds us why we do what we do,” said Whitehaven Marina Manager Charlotte Dawson. “It’s about being ready for anything and taking care of each other out on and near the water.”

Operations Director for Marina Projects, Dan McKiernan, said “I feel this is the most positive advancement in training within our sector in decades. The course should be a compulsory element of training/onboarding for every single member of marina operations staff throughout our sector.

What was an absolute delight this week was seeing the teams go through the training, breaking through apprehensions, absorbing the advice and diving into the training wholeheartedly. The before and after photo’s say it all. Smiles all round upon completion!

The feedback from customers has also been nothing short of the highest praise. This course is already directly responsible for saving lives”



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Supports ESG and net-zero goals
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Designed with sustainability in mind, our patented d² GRP grating series is engineered to meet the needs of marine environments, providing superior resilience and strength to traditional materials like timber, concrete and steel and using up to 33% less raw material than competitor GRP products. This results in lower embodied carbon, reduced transport emissions and easier installation.

UPTON MARINA - 50 YEARS ON THE RIVER SEVERN

Nestled on a tranquil stretch of the River Severn, Tingdene's Upton Marina is marking a remarkable milestone - 50 years of boating heritage, community spirit and life on the water. Since first opening its gates in 1975, Upton Marina has grown from a modest local venture into one of the best-loved marinas in the UK, a true jewel of the Severn.

From Brickholes to Boating Haven

Long before the sound of adventure echoed across the pontoons, the site was known locally as "The Brickholes" clay pits and were worked by the Walker family throughout the 19th century. Their red bricks still shape much of Upton's historic townscape today.

In 1973, local entrepreneur Keith J. Webb had the vision to transform this patchwork of ponds into a marina. Within two



years, the basin was excavated, linked to the river and ready to welcome its first boats. When Upton Marina officially opened in 1975, it provided a new kind of destination for boaters - one defined by scenery, hospitality, and a sense of belonging.

Decades of Growth and Community

From that moment, Upton Marina set a course for steady expansion and innovation. The 1980s brought ownership changes and the construction of its famous timber footbridge, once reputed to be the longest-span of its kind in the country.

The 1990s saw major upgrades: new facilities,



additional moorings and the opening of the Upton Yacht Club and café (later 'The Wheelhouse'), which soon became a social anchor for locals and visitors alike.

Since joining Tingdene Marinas in 2005, Upton has flourished as both a boating hub and community centre, hosting rallies, festivals and local celebrations that have made it a cornerstone of boating life on the Severn.

Looking Ahead: A Future Afloat

Today, with modern pontoons, improved electric supply and even the formation of neighbouring floating home development Upton Lake, Upton Marina continues to evolve, embracing innovation while staying true to its welcoming spirit.

As it celebrates 50 years afloat, Upton Marina remains a symbol of adventure, friendship and the enduring charm of river life. Here's to the next half-century of memories on the mighty River Severn.

Ready to experience 50 years of river life for yourself?

Come see why generations of boaters have made Upton Marina their home on the water. Drop by, say hello, and be part of our next 50 years.

MARINA PROJECTS

Successfully Delivers Another Year of MDL Capital Works Programme

Between autumn 2024 and spring 2025, Marina Projects Limited successfully delivered a series of capital works projects for Marina Developments Ltd (MDL), with a total value of £4.8 million.

The support work continues the ongoing term agreement between Marina Projects and MDL, which also includes marine licensing and the management of their winter maintenance dredging campaign. By working closely with the MDL operations team, delivering the capital works and maintenance dredging in parallel provides the opportunity to maximise efficiency in time and cost.

The projects undertaken are a continuation of MDL's long-term capital investment programme across the group's 18 marinas. Marina Projects were responsible for various infrastructure improvements,

including pile and pontoon replacements, service upgrades, and quay wall construction. The most recent work being completed at MDL's Ocean Village, Mercury Yacht Harbour, Hamble Point, Brixham, Cobb's Quay, Northney, Shamrock Quay, Saxon Wharf and Sparkes marinas, together with Bray and Penton Hook on the River Thames.

Marina Projects' scope of work included:

- Programme Management and Budgeting
- Project Management
- Marine Licensing & Consents
- Design & Specification
- Procurement
- Contract Administration

Steve Russell, Head of Property Infrastructure at MDL Marinas commented: "Marina Projects have done an excellent job

smoothly project managing a series of significant capital works for various MDL Marinas over the past year including Bray and Northney, further enhancing the facilities and infrastructure for our berth holders and visitors. These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to providing first-class marina experiences across our network."

Phil Dunn, Associate Director at Marina Projects added: "Our ongoing partnership

with MDL continues to support a wide range of capital projects across their portfolio. Under a term agreement, we are committed to managing MDL's marine assets with a long-term, strategic approach. This collaborative relationship relies on close cooperation with marina teams and contractors, which proves both effective and rewarding. During the winter of 2024/25, two standout projects were delivered.

At Sparkes Marina, a new quay wall was constructed along the eastern side, connecting to the dry stack launch bay. Nearly all boats were either moved ashore or temporarily relocated to Northney Marina, to allow for the replacement of Pier G and essential maintenance dredging which was an operational challenge successfully managed by both the marina and project teams. Meanwhile, at Bray Marina, Piers A, C, and D were

replaced, significantly enhancing the facilities for berth holders. Pier D, becoming a quiet & desirable quarter of the marina. Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for the 2025/26 winter season."

For more information about Marina Projects Limited visit www.marinaprojects.com



MDL's Ocean Village Marina

Savvy Navvy

Becomes TransEurope Marinas' Official Navigation Partner

Marine technology company Savvy Navvy has officially teamed up with TransEurope Marinas helping berth-holders in their marina network to get the most out of their boats.

Innovating the marine industry and adjusting to boaters' needs – both in marinas and on the water – is a key driver for the collaboration.

Savvy Navvy, often referred to as 'Google maps for boats', is rapidly becoming one of the most talked about navigation solutions in the marine industry. With over three million downloads globally and unlike any other boating navigation solution, Savvy Navvy provides smart routing. This gives users the optimal route and dynamic ETAs based on real-time data: departure time, chart information, weather conditions, tide, boat specifications and local regulations.

TransEurope Marinas is Europe's most expansive marina network, spanning eleven countries and close to 45,000 berths. As digitalisation has shifted to become the norm for boaters, TransEurope Marinas work with partners to improve the user experience. As an expanding group of select marinas offering reciprocal berthing arrangements for their berth-holders across Europe they continue to seek to enhance benefits for marina members.

Savvy Navvy partnership With Savvy Navvy as TransEurope Marinas' official navigation partner, it's all about enabling berth-holders to get the most out of their boats.

"With Savvy Navvy's smart routes facilitating journey planning between member marinas, this collaboration aims to encourage boaters to extend their routing plans, and enjoy their boats more often. We have secured discounts for our member marinas and the integrated Savvy Navvy

chartlets are also set to be featured on every TransEurope marina web profile to provide a helpful visual overview of the approach to each marina. We want to ensure we continue to drive innovation in the marine industry through the digital aids that boaters are expecting from marinas," says Melanie Symes, Manager at TransEurope Marinas.

According to Canal River Trust's recent survey, around 45.7% of UK marina berth holders do not use their boats regularly.

"We want to help boaters to confidently plan routes between TransEurope marinas, share journeys with friends and family, and enjoy safer, smarter navigation. We have also developed smart marina-to-marina routes between TransEurope's marina members to simplify trip planning and inspire new journeys.

"The future of boating is smarter, more connected, and more customer-centric thanks

to innovators both among marinas and developers such as Savvy Navvy," says David Cusworth, Head of Partnership and Innovation at Savvy Navvy.

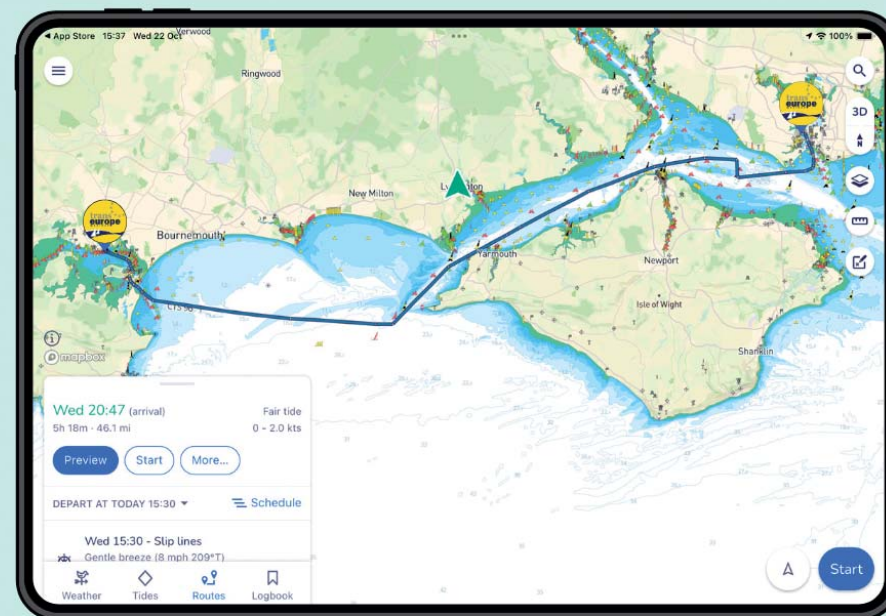
What could be next

Marina data has long been readily available in the Savvy Navvy app. Working with marinas, partners and associations Savvy Navvy is continuing to build bespoke solutions to make the boater experience more seamless.

"This could be integration of detailed marina schematics where you can zoom in for more information on facilities available. As well as booking maintenance, a meal in the onsite restaurant, or extend your stay - all within our app. It's all about giving marinas more opportunities to showcase their offering and streamline their services, while surfacing more detailed data to boaters," says David Cusworth, Head of Partnership and Innovation at Savvy Navvy.

To discuss what digital features you would like to see at your home marina contact david@savvy-navvy.com or visit www.savvy-navvy.com

To find out about the Savvy Navvy and TransEurope Marinas partnership visit www.transeuropemarinas.com



Savvy Navvy, often referred to as 'Google maps for boats'

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“ ABANDONED BOATS

Problems & Solutions

By Kim Hollamby

The Yacht Harbour Association's 2025 Marina Conference, held in Cookham, UK in May, had a sharply focused agenda on the big issues for marinas and harbours now and in the foreseeable future. The first of the day's case studies focused on the growing problem of abandoned boats, from causes through to solutions.

Jon Eads CMM, general manager of UK marina group Boatfolk, set the scene by highlighting how the issue of abandoned boats had moved in scale over the years from an occasional dilapidated wooden hull, to increasing numbers of

small GRP vessels of little intrinsic value, then through to larger motor and sailing boats. Eads even recounted an incident of a non-resident boat being dumped on a marina's pontoon with a note asking the operator to find the craft a new home.

Growing concerns Typical reasons for

abandonment include the ageing demographic of owners – some are simply becoming too infirm to manage boats that they remain emotionally connected to. Or they are no longer able to manage the bills on retirement income. The risks to marinas include boats sinking at moorings or drowning from rainwater while ashore. The problem is not just what happens on the water but also the loss of valuable hardstanding areas due to growing numbers of stagnant craft.

Looking at coastal marinas in the UK alone, Eads outlined estimates suggesting likely cost of disposals in 334 marinas and havens around the UK was £2m in 2025 but would double to £4m by 2029, based on 1.8% of the fleet being disposed of annually in any given year. In case studies covering four separate boat disposals net costs after recovery of any scrap value ranged between £4875 to £8500.

Complications of clearing away derelict boats include establishing rightful ownership before you can act. Then there is the difficulty or impossibility of breaking them up on site once economics and environmental controls are considered.

Eads suggested that an important way to stop an accumulation of end-of-life boats on pontoons and in boat yards is to pay closer attention to the profile of owners and their boats before accepting a reservation. Typically, the younger the boat and its owner and the better maintained and more mainstream it is in terms of its manufacturer, the lower the risk. Another danger signal, even if bills are being paid, is complete inactivity. But it is also readily recognised that moving a boat on or rejecting its application to take a berth just push the issues onto the next marina, harbour, or bywater.

Proactively tackling abandoned boats

Not all is lost, as some UK organisations are already demonstrating. Rob Dunford is the deputy harbour master at Langstone Harbour, a natural eight square mile haven on the UK's south coast. Dunford focused on the increasing number of boats abandoned on the foreshore of this Site of Special Scientific Interest in recent years. There were a few false starts involving attempts to sell off derelict craft cheaply that largely backfired as the new owners proved no more serious about restoring the boats to operation than their predecessors. Finding scrappage solutions has been the route to significantly reduce the number of hulks.

The Eastney Peninsula, forming the western shore of Langstone Harbour's entrance, was littered with more than 120 abandoned vessels in 2022. By May 2025 that number had been reduced to nine. Working in conjunction with the local council, Dunford and his team have removed 81 vessels in three years at an estimated cost of £60,000 (now reportedly more than 100 boats since the conference was held).

Success has been driven by several factors, including understanding national laws, the harbour authority's legislative rights and what is allowable under the UK Environment Agency's guidance. While laws place responsibilities on the

harbour authority, they also grant it licence to act and using those powers has been the key to success.

Discovering efficient solutions to disposal has been another facet of Langstone Harbour's clean-up operation. Employing the use of experienced licenced waste carriers with truck mounted cranes that can carry multiple boats on one load has eased cost and legislative issues. Dunford explained that removing wrecks to licensed disposal sites considerably eases the complications and costs.

Breaking up on site is typically much more expensive and difficult to arrange. If the abandoned boat is too large to move by road, a temporary Mobile Plant Permit must be sought, which immediately accelerates costs even before disposal work can commence.

The waste resulting from the initial 81 vessels recovered in Langstone was estimated at 120 tonnes of GRP, 20 tonnes of wood and 14 tonnes of metal. But with the admission that there has been a very low percentage of materials recovered for second use – mostly just the metals. The majority went to landfill.

Zero landfill objective

One company seeking to eliminate waste disposal as the inevitable fate of end-of-life vessels is Devon, UK-based Marine and Boat Recycling. Founding director Will Higgs was working in a small boat yard and wanted to find a way of re-using scrap GRP. Research led him to

waste management company, Agecko UK, which was already utilising cast-off composite materials. It had the capability of being able to deal with clean GRP but not to break down a boat into its constituent parts, which was why Marine and Boat Recycling was created.

Once a boat is completely disassembled by the company, the GRP is shredded with the waste typically sent for energy recovery. In the case study presented a Sunfast 39 yielded 55% by weight of materials that were recycled including aluminium, bronze, copper, ferrous metal, stainless steel and timber. The remaining 45% was shredded GRP sent into a waste to energy programme.

However, a new partner, Gen2Plank, is starting to take some of that GRP waste in ground form and combining it with recycled polymer mix to create planks of material that can be used for an increasing variety of purposes. Other materials taken from de-commissioned boats are recycled, or where they can serve a useful second life they are sold through Marine and Boat Recycling's chandlery in Plymouth. Higgs stated that his company's eventual objective is to achieve 100% recycle/re-use when disposing of boats.

Further information
www.gen2plank.com
www.marineandboatrecycling.co.uk



“ROLEC Goes Greener”

As part of its pledge to sustainability, Rolec embarks on a local clean-up alongside the much-loved Wombles. Inspired by the spirit of the eco-conscious 1970s TV characters, volunteers from The Wombles Community Charity, including local groups such as the Wyberton Wombles of Boston Common, are dedicated to their mission ‘to mobilise the collective power of community groups as a national movement

for positive environmental action.’ Their work includes tree planting, local clean-ups, recycling projects and a range of hands-on campaigns that bring people together to make a difference.

Activities like this not only allow us to take tangible steps toward our sustainability goals but also strengthen local connections through collaboration and shared pride. They’re a chance to put our values into action, complementing the

international standards we follow, including ISO and EcoVadis certification.

ISO 14001 provides us with a framework for developing forward-thinking environmental management systems, ensuring we go beyond maintaining sustainable processes and take proactive measures to reduce our carbon footprint and drive continual improvement.

Taking a 360-degree approach, we’ve built a tailored strategy that looks at every aspect of our operations. By reducing packaging, diverting 70% of our manufacturing waste to recycling, and switching to renewable energy on site – saving 76,410kg of CO₂ each year – we’re demonstrating a genuine commitment to doing business

responsibly. These principles were quietly embedded into the company’s operations long before they became part of ESG checklists.

Alongside caring for the local area, we’re equally focused on serving our customers through robust quality management systems across the business. Guided by ISO 9001, we continually refine our processes to enhance efficiency, uphold consistency and deliver the highest standards of quality.

This includes developing better internal systems, investing in team training and resolving customer queries quickly and effectively. We also review existing workflows to find new efficiencies, helping us streamline production, cut costs and pass

those savings on to our partners.

While we continue to track and improve our sustainability performance, our ethos runs deeper than ticking boxes. It’s about aligning our operations, supply chain and workforce with the long-term wellbeing of both the planet and the communities we serve.

As Rolec’s Commercial Director, Holly Brown, put it, ‘For us, sustainability isn’t a campaign, it’s a continuation of how we’ve

always operated. It’s about responsibility in every decision and improvement we make, from material sourcing and energy use to design and packaging. Every step aims to reduce impact, improve efficiency and help our customers do the same. True progress comes from partnership. Over time, this mindset has taken root and continues to guide Rolec as we grow a business where sustainable practice and long-term success go hand in hand.’



**Setting Standards
for a Greener Future**

IN BLOOM AWARDS CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY & CREATIVITY

Aquavista's inland and coastal marina teams and customers were honoured this week at the third annual Aquavista in Bloom Awards Ceremony, recognising outstanding efforts in sustainable gardening and community engagement.

Launched in April, the initiative encouraged marinas to embrace the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Regrow, transforming their spaces with vibrant floral displays and eco-friendly projects. The results have been nothing short of spectacular; marinas across the country now burst with colour and life, offering inviting environments for residents and visitors alike.

Thanks to sponsor Towergate Insurance, each marina received a 'Let's Grow Wild' starter kit, including bug hotels and wildflower seeds, helping teams create pollinator-friendly zones and thriving habitats for wildlife.

The three Outstanding Overall Site winners for each region - Kings Waterside & Marina (North), Kings Bromley Waterside & Marina (Midlands), and Poplar Waterside & Marina (South)

Other category winners celebrated included a Special Recognition Customer Award presented to one moorer from each region to recognise their exceptional contributions. Steve de Polo shared his pride in the initiative: "Once again, we've seen overwhelming support for Aquavista in Bloom. It's inspiring to witness our teams and customers come together to transform our marinas into vibrant, welcoming spaces. Their upcycling ideas and gardening efforts show incredible care and creativity; this is what makes our marinas truly special."

Elisa Hadland added: "2025 has been another fantastic year for Aquavista in Bloom. Each display reflects the unique

personality of its marina and local community. It's wonderful to see so many berth holders enjoying the space and getting involved."

REGIONAL WINNERS

North Region

- Outstanding Overall Site: Kings Waterside & Marina
- Tubs & Hanging Baskets / Creative Display: White Bear Waterside & Marina
- Upcycle Project (in association with Enva): Sawley Waterside & Marina
- Customer Recognition: Karon, Lemonroyd Waterside & Marina

South Region

- Outstanding Overall Site: Poplar Waterside & Marina
- Tubs & Hanging Baskets / Creative Display: Limehouse Waterside & Marina
- Upcycle Project (in association with Enva): Priory Waterside & Marina
- Customer Recognition: The Portavon Moorers

Midlands Region

- Outstanding Overall Site: Kings Bromley Waterside & Marina
- Tubs & Hanging Baskets / Creative Display: Diglis Waterside & Marina
- Upcycle Project (in association with Enva): Ventnor Waterside & Marina
- Customer Recognition: Tony, Brinklow Waterside & Marina



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“ Watchet Marina’s Rehabilitation by Western Marinas

Over the past year, Watchet Marina in Somerset has undergone a huge rehabilitation. Western Marinas took over the marina just over a year ago and have since transformed it. Watchet Marina had been struggling with years of neglect and heavy silt build-up, but the marina has now been brought back to life through a comprehensive programme of restoration and investment.

When Western Marinas took over in September 2024, the marina faced severe challenges – the marina gate was inoperable and buried in mud, the marina was completely silted, essential utilities like gas and internet had been cut off and members of staff had left. The small number of

berth holders who remained and the local community where initially sceptical about Western Marinas and questioned whether they could turn the fortune of their beloved marina around.

Western Marinas welcomed back staff members, reinstated essential utilities, completed an urgent H&S audit and started a full water injection dredging campaign through their in-house subsidiary, WM Dredging. Customer and community engagement meetings were held and regular updates sent out on progress. A local social media manager was engaged to manage Watchet Marina’s social channels and update the community with progress.

The dredging campaign succeeded and the dredging team

became local heroes. The marina gate was uncovered and repaired, and Watchet Marina once again became a functional, welcoming marina. Other improvements to date have included a new fuel tank to reinstate diesel sales, a clear out of the abandoned boatyard area, a new car park and pedestrian paths.

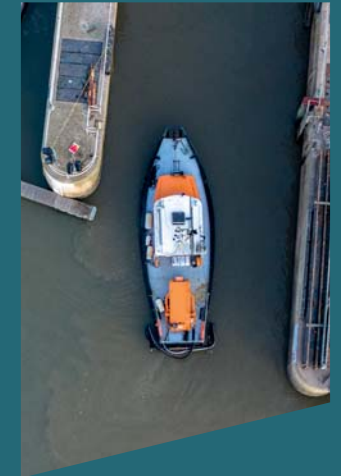
The rejuvenation has had a profound effect on the town. Local engagement has surged, both in person and online, with social media updates about the marina’s progress reaching audiences with over 800,000 views. Watchet’s revitalised marina is now attracting visiting boats again, permanent berth holders, and tourism back to this historic harbour town.

Following successful events over their first summer, with one attracting over 70 visiting boats in one weekend, the future is looking bright. Western Marinas is committed to maintaining the site through regular dredging, completing further upgrades to the gate and pontoons, and fostering the growth of marine-related businesses.



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www.walconmarinebenelux.com

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