

# **The Historic Boat Licence Discount Scheme.**

02 March 2007 Report by David Daines, Historic Narrow Boat Owners Club

I was asked some time ago to assist BW in creating an objective system for assessing the suitability of individual boats for the granting of the 'Historic Boat Licence Discount'.

I was a member of the original 'Historic Boat Working Group', which was initially involved in this task and I have largely based my recent work on the grounding achieved by that Group.

I have designed a Lotus Approach database with the following characteristics:

- The data may be recorded by anyone capable of basic data entry work.
- A 'Final Score' should be obtainable for each entry and once a 'Pass' mark is calculated, the decision to grant the discount or not should be easily made.
- No specialised knowledge of boats, historic or otherwise, would be needed for the day-to-day operation of the scheme.
- Data entry staff have no need for knowledge of advanced database operations.
- If the basis of any calculation is re-assessed in the light of experience, a single change to the parameters, made by the 'Owner' of the scheme, would instantly be reflected throughout the database.
- The person responsible for overseeing the system would need to have some expertise in such database work.

Some 60 members of the HNBOC have been kind enough to fill in and return a sample enquiry form and I have processed these within the 'System'. As might be expected at this experimental stage, some intuition and specialised knowledge of the historic boat collection has greatly helped in the interpretation of these returned forms and It maybe has to be admitted that it is likely that no system could entirely and completely remove the need for this. Experience gained during use should steadily lessen the frequency and significance of any such intervention.

On the basis of information so far processed, I am suggesting a simple 'Pass Mark' of 100 points".. Practically all the boats whose particulars have been put through the mill score in excess of this mark, many significantly so. I have also assessed a few boats that my intuition suggests should not have the discount granted and, reassuringly, these do indeed fail to reach this benchmark.

Full details of the scoring system are available on request from David -

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Example A – “Cyprus”

<b>Historic Boat Licence Discount</b>				<u>Total</u>
				<b>170</b>
Serial No.	Boat Name	Present Licence Discount		
1	Cyprus	Yes		
Builder's Name	For Whom Built	Year Built	Age Bonus	
W. J. Yarwood & Sons	Erewash Canal Carrying Co.	1935	17	
<b>Originality</b>		<b>Present Visual Condition</b>		
Present Overall Length (Ft)	70.5	Hull	Points	
Length of <b>Original</b> Boat Present (Ft)	70.5	Excellent	10	
Original Length (Ft)	70.5	Cabin Exterior	Points	
% Hull Length	% Hull	Excellent	10	
100	12	Cabin Interior	Points	
% External Cabin	% Ext	Excellent	10	
100	12	Engine Room	Points	
% Internal Cabin	% Int	Good	7	
100	12	External Equip.	Points	
% External Equip	% Ext E	Excellent	10	
100	12	<b>Engine</b>	Eng.	
<b>Bonus Factors</b>		Other Vintage	7	
Originally Built For	Points			
Cargo Carrying	8			
Present Propulsion	Points			
Internal Combustion	8			
Present Construction	Constr			
Iron or Steel	8			
Present Circumstances	Circums			
Paired with Original Partner	20			
Name of Pair, if Applicable	Cedar			
		<b>Present Cabin Appearance</b>		
		Undercloth Conversion		
		Cabin Lengthened by... <input type="text"/> Ft.		
		Cabin Length Calc.		
		<input type="text"/> 7		
		Unsigned Bonus Points		
		<input type="text"/>		
		Notes		

Example B – “Aston”

<b>Historic Boat Licence Discount</b>				<u>Total</u>
				<b>85</b>
Serial No.	Boat Name	Present Licence Discount		
41	Aston	No		
Builder's Name	For Whom Built	Year Built	Age Bonus	
H & W	GUCC Co	1936	17	
<b>Originality</b>		<b>Present Visual Condition</b>		
Present Overall Length (Ft)	71.5	Hull	Points	
Length of <b>Original</b> Boat Present (Ft)	71.5	Good	8	
Original Length (Ft)	71.5	Cabin Exterior	Points	
% Hull Length	100	Good	8	
% Hull	12	Cabin Interior	t Points	
% External Cabin	80		0	
% Ext	10	Engine Room	Points	
% Internal Cabin	10		0	
% Int	1	External Equip.	Points	
% External Equip	10	Fair	3	
% Ext E	1	<b>Engine</b>	Eng.	
<b>Bonus Factors</b>		Non-vintage	1	
Originally Built For	Points	<b>Present Cabin Appearance</b>		
Cargo Carrying	8	Full Length Cabin		
Present Propulsion	Points	Cabin Lengthened by...	Ft.	
Internal Combustion	8		Cabin Length Calc.	
Present Construction	Constr		0	
Iron or Steel	8	Unassigned Bonus Points		
Present Circumstances	Circums	Notes		
As Is	0	Hydraulic drive to prop in elum.		
Name of Pair, if Applicable				