

Members standing for Election as Directors - Biographies

Mike Gibbons (Director retiring by rotation – no nomination needed)

I've been a member of DBA for 22 years since my wife Ann & I bought into our barge, "Decize", a shared replica barge based in Burgundy. We are part of a syndicate so all our holidays for many years were on-board then, with more time recently, longer cruising. It's been and continues to be a wonderful life choice as members will know.

I spent 20 years in radio & TV broadcast production followed by over 25 years in large scale event management which continues to this day. I'm also in charge of music for two churches in Devon where we now live.

I've been Chair of DBA for the past six years and have tried to use my experience of communications, marketing and media to help us run more effectively for the benefit of members. Coming through lockdown was a big achievement but into a more uncertain and expensive future which I hope your Board has done its best to navigate. I hope that if re-elected I can help continue to take the association forward as a broader, more diverse and more representative body in the coming years.

Tim Haines (Nominated by Caroline Soper)

I have always been a water lover. Growing up in Cape Town, I owned a sailing dingy, a paddle ski and windsurfer. When Glynis and I decided to emigrate, we discussed buying a boat on the Thames, which we did. Our first boat was a Nauticus 22 foot cruiser. This was replaced with a 45 foot narrowboat which we had for 17 years. During this time, we had a 10 foot stretch, which gave me my first experience of fitting out a boat. We sold this before commissioning our replica Dutch barge which we fitted out over 4 years, launching it in 2022, and moving on board permanently from July. Glynis and I have been members of the DBA since 2015 and have attended every rally since then. We organised the last UK rally and are busy planning the next one too. We have always tried to help out at the rallies but, due to the huge amount of work fitting out our boat, I have not been in a position to take on any DBA roles. Now that we are settled on our boat, I would like to join the board so I can be of more help.

Deborah Keir (Nominated by Tim Haines)

My husband and I bought our first ever boat, a 1925 21m Dutch Barge (SteilSteven), in 2015. The barge was partially refit in 2016 and in 2017 we started our regular cruising in Europe. Usually we cruise 6 months in Europe and then spend 6 months of Summer in our home in Melbourne, Australia. In our 5 years of cruising (having spent 2 seasons in Australia during COVID) we have cruised extensively in the Netherlands and Belgium and have spent 2 seasons in France and are spending this winter living aboard in the Port de l'Arsenal in Paris. I joined the DBA in 2012, and have met many DBA members on various waterways, in Melbourne at our regular catchups, at DBA zoom calls, and at 4 different DBA Rallies that we have attended. At the Auxerre Rally in 2023 our barge was the admin boat and I coordinated the volunteers and planned the progressive dinner to help attendees feel involved and get to know people they hadn't met before.

I have been involved on boards of a few different clubs in Australia and have an MBA from Stanford (USA) and have worked in various executive positions.

Scott Pereira (Director retiring by rotation – no nomination required)

I and my family have lived on/restored several old boats (none actually barges or Dutch) on the Thames since 1969, starting with a canal narrow boat (Alcor, 1935), then a steam launch (Sabrina, 1870) and for the last 35 years on a sea-going motor yacht (Lilian, 1916) with a home mooring on the semi-tidal Thames in Richmond. We have taken Lilian to sea most years since 1988, including trips on the Dutch and French waterways, and hope to keep travelling on European canals in future, including attending DBA rallies.

I have been Chair of the Residential Boat Owners Association and Vice President of Maritime Heritage Trust, and have recently become the Secretary of European Maritime Heritage (which has reinvigorated its Inland Waterways Council and has been pushing for Heritage Harbours). These are campaigning organisations for keeping historic boats afloat and active, and helping to prevent inappropriate regulation.

I am a semi-retired hospital doctor, have a long experience of fighting unfair legislation and nurturing old boats and hope to be able to continue to find time to help the DBA as a Director.