



GUIDE TO

NARROW BOATING

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USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST TIME BUYER AND EVERY BOAT OWNER....

TYPES OF STERN

There are 3 basic types of stern:

Traditional Stern

Ideal for a live aboard, typified by a short back deck of 2-3 feet in length, giving more inside room for living.



Cruiser Stern

An ideal holiday boat, with a back deck of between 4-8 feet in length, providing ample space on the back for several people to socialise.

Semi Traditional Stern

A good compromise between the two. The look of a Trad with the space of a Cruiser.



LENGTH OF BOAT

The length of the boat you require obviously depends on the number of people who will be using the boat and the length of time you intend spending on the boat. License and moorings are also length dependant.

Generally speaking 30-40 feet is ample for a holiday boat, whilst 50ft plus is ideal for extended cruising or live aboard.

A further point to bear in mind with regards to length is lock dimension. There are a number of locks around the Country that restrict access to certain waterways:

Leeds and Liverpool 60ft (62ft can just fit through)

Calder and Hebble 57ft 6inc

STEEL PLATE

With regards to the steel thickness, the figures that you will see will be for example, 10/6/4mm, these figures relate to 10mm bottom plate, 6mm hull sides, 4mm cabin sides.

Todays standard spec is 10/6/4mm but steel thickness of 8/6/4mm and 6/5/3mm, if well looked after, will provide many years of service, so don't rule them out.

Also used on boats are wood and GRP (glass reinforced plastic) mainly for the cabin. These are more commonly seen on older boats and are not as desirable as steel, but provide a cheaper option for those wishing to get onto the waterways.

ENGINE

An obvious consideration is the choice of engine, here you have 3 categories:

- Air Cooled (eg. Lister ST2)
- Water Cooled (eg. BMC 1.5)
- Vintage Engine (eg. Russell Newbury)

The type of engine you choose depends on a number of factors. including mechanical knowledge, spare time and size of the boat. If you are after simplicity then consider one of the modern water-cooled diesel engines or the older and slightly louder air-cooled engines. Both of these offer ease of use and reliability. The vintage engine will suit the enthusiast who likes to tinker with the engine, it is also only suitable for larger boats (40ft+) due to the size.





HEATING

Once again you have 3 main choices:

- Solid fuel stove (eg. Squirrel)
- Gas central heating (eg. Alde)
- Diesel central heating (eg. Eberspacher)

The type of heating you have is down to personal preference, many people prefer the solid fuel stoves authenticity and dry heat, but on the negative side time needs to be spent preparing the fire, where as gas and diesel provide almost instant heat.

The question of hot water can be answered in one of two ways, through a heating unit, eg. Paloma, or from your central heating system. The second route being from a calorifier using the excess hot water from the engine cooling system or from a central heating boiler.

ELECTRICS

Nearly all boats will have a 12v system installed. To have a 240v system you have a number of options; inverter, landline or generator.

- Landline—a connection to a plug in a marina where electricity is provided.
- Inverter—this is a device that converts your 12v battery supply to a 240v supply for domestic use, an average price will be in the region of £300 to £1500, but is dependant on size.
- Generator—either a petrol, gas or diesel generator will give you a 240v supply. The prices vary considerably with a petrol generator costing in the region of £500 to £900, whilst a diesel one will cost you around £2500 to £12,000.

TOILETS

The two types of toilets fitted are pump out or cassette. Pump out toilets are considered more hygienic but a cost is involved or around £12 to £15 per pump out. Whilst the chemical or porta pottie is mostly free to empty.

SURVEYS

With such an important purchase as a narrow boat it is essential to get an independent qualified surveyor to inspect your potential vessel. The cost varies according to surveyors, but on average ranges between £400 to £650 and £250 plus vat for the haul out. Please see the surveyors link on our website for a list of independent surveyors.



COST OF OWNING A NARROW BOAT...

LICENSE:

For a yearly license on the canals, sample costs are:

30ft - £624.41

40ft - £723.41

50ft - £825.46

60ft - £925.97

70ft - £1028.00

INSURANCE:

Premiums vary greatly according to insurance companies but, on average, the cost are as follows:

Value of the vessel - £25,000 - £150 per year

£40,000 - £200 per year

£60,000 - £250 per year

MOORINGS:

Again, this varies greatly on location and facilities provided at the marina, but as a guide, budget between £35-£45 per foot plus VAT per year.



MAINTENANCE:

Very hard to judge, but budget for a figure in the region of £550 per year, to include £150 for a engine service, £290-£450 for bi-annual blacking, and £200-£300 for general repairs.

MOORING FEES AT GREAT HAYWOOD MARINA



The costs below are a guide for 12 months rent based on the length of the finger jetties and includes VAT (nonresidential)

	Annually	Quarterly
Max 40ft boat	£1,617.82	£444.25
Max 50ft boat	£2,039.18	£558.17
Max 60ft boat	£2,444.94	£668.46
Max 70ft boat	£2,861.10	£782.38

BUYING PROCCESS

1) VIEWING A BOAT:

When you see a boat you like either on our website or in one of our magazine adverts then call us to arrange an accompanied viewing of the vessel at a date and time that is convenient for you. We will also answer any questions that you may have regarding the vessel. Unlike with a car you buy a boat based on the condition and quality of the hull and the interior rather than the age of the boat.



2) YOU WANT TO BUY THE BOAT:

We take a minimum of a £1000.00 deposit and we then take the boat off sale. If you require a survey to be carried out then this can be done at one of the marinas or the nearest location to where the boat is lying. We can supply you with a list of independent surveyors or you can source a surveyor of your choice. We always recommend that you have a boat surveyed regardless of how new or old it is. You are making sure that you are making the right choice in the boat you want to buy. Would you buy a house without having it surveyed?

3) SALES CONTRACT:

Once the survey has been carried out and any issues addressed, we will draw up the sales contract for you and the current owner to sign. This specifies the conditions of the sale and how, where and when the balance of the purchase price has to be paid (final payment is normally required within 4 weeks from giving the deposit). Similar in process to the exchange of contracts in a property sale.



4) FINAL PAYMENT:

Final payments can be paid by cheque or electronic transfer preferably CHAPS which ensures cleared funds on the same day or Internet Banking if enough time is allowed for the transfer to take place before completion day. When the funds have cleared into our client trust account we will arrange a date and time to hand over your new boat.



5) MOORINGS:

We can offer you a permanent mooring at one of the marinas subject to availability, if you are going to move the boat to another location you can moor on a temporary basis. Costs start from £64.00 per week. (This only applies after the boat has been handed over to you and it is legally yours)

Congratulations the boat is now yours and you can enjoy many hours cruising the inland waterways.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Should we have the boat surveyed?

It is your choice if you have a survey, but we would always recommend that you have a survey regardless of how new or old the boat is to ensure that you have made the right choice and to protect your investment. Would you buy a house without a survey?

What if the boat needs blacking?

If you are happy with the survey and the surveyor says that the hull needs blacking we can block the boat and black the hull. We do this because it will save you £100s. If we put the boat back in the water before it is blacked you would have to pay to get it out of the water again. We have modern docking facilities which enable us to do this and saves you lots of money.

How long is the sales process?

Completion is expected within fours weeks from deposit, however as soon as we have cleared funds into the companies Clients Trust Account we can arrange for the vessel to be handed over to you.

When do I need to insure the boat?

The boat will need to be insured from the day we hand it over to you.

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY

Well would you believe it! Just 20 days from offer acceptance and deposit payment to sailing away. Pretty good with the owner in Bermuda, survey and a week of minor repairs at another marina. Well done and thank you.

Chris Stoker (Fiddlesticks Free)

The service we received from Great Haywood Boat Sales in general and yourself in particular was extremely efficient and business-like, whilst at the same time friendly and helpful. I would definitely purchase through your company again, and if we weren't currently tied in to a contract with another boatyard I would happily ask you to sell our old boat.

Chris Balmforth (Enterprise)

Again I wish to extend my thanks to you for your assistance in my acquisition of "Dun Werkin". I was impressed that you listened to my description of what I was looking for and led me straight to my new home on the water. Throughout the process you made the whole journey of the purchase easy and your explanation of this gave me added confidence in being able to complete the contract. I have no doubt that should I need to upgrade I will be contacting you in the first instance. Thank you again for looking after this greeny so well.

Martyn Murray (Dun Werkin)

ABOUT US

Finding a narrow boat to meet your requirements can prove frustrating and very time consuming. Apart from a house, this will probably be one of the biggest financial commitments you will ever make. Therefore, it is important to make the right decision when buying a boat. We can spend quality time with you to discuss your requirements and then show you the vessels that suit your needs and budget.

We ask you to call us on 01889 881960 before setting out to find out if the vessel is still available along with its location as we operate from 5 Marinas. We also sell boats from their own moorings. We are open 7 days a week so can arrange a viewing at a time and day to suit you.

We are also happy to make an appointment to talk to one of our team face to face to discuss your requirements and view any vessels that may be of interest to you. We will also let you know of any new stock boats that are due in.

We sell many boats that have not even been loaded on our web site due to the lists of genuine buyers that we have waiting to buy a boat. Great Haywood Boat Sales is owned and run by narrow boat owners who have been on the canal network for many years and have a combined experience of over 70 years.

If this has answered some of your questions but you would like more information about buying a boat please contact the sales team on 01889 881960 or email us on enquiries@greathaywoodboatsales.co.uk

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