

'Their greatest need is for tolerance'

BARRY TEUTENBERG

Home Brew Boat



The Home Brew Boat trading at Hebden Bridge

20 Questions



Just one canal boat holiday and Barry was hooked. But how could he and his wife make a living as continuous cruisers?

1 What first attracted you to the waterways?

As a New Zealander, I did my big overseas experience for six months in 1976 and travelled around the UK with two friends. At some point, we were alongside a canal and saw locks and a narrowboat and I recall thinking: "Wow! That's neat. I wouldn't mind doing something like that one day."

2 Which is your favourite waterway?

That's a very difficult question – and one with no absolute answer. Having navigated almost the whole system since 2009, I love everything about the UK inland waterways.

3 What do the waterways have to offer this country?

An opportunity for the average person to escape the busyness of general life; to wander serenely among the natural world. The chance to holiday in what is predominantly a living museum, or live in a floating, parallel universe.

4 What do the waterways need?

In my humble opinion, their greatest need is for tolerance – from everyone who uses them. Let's respect each other and our differing passions.

5 What gave you the idea of starting up a Home Brew Boat?

I came over in 2007 with my second wife, Sandra, to meet her family and we had a short boating holiday – and I was hooked. We took two six-month trips in 2009 (when we bought a 45-footer called *Northern Pride*) and in 2010. We loved it so much, we sold up in NZ and moved over in 2013 and I'm in a five-year process of getting my UK visa. Next we brainstormed possibilities of making a sustainable living while continuous cruising.

I'd noticed the lack of home brew shops in the UK. I'd been an avid home brewer for some years, and continued on *Northern Pride*. Having built my own website and accounting programs as a professional photographer for 35 years, I did the same for The Home Brew Boat.

6 Do you have a regular route on the canals?

No, it mainly depends on family and business priorities. During the spring, summer and into autumn, our route is planned around canal-related festivals.

7 What is your favourite tippie?

A pint of good English real ale, of course! It's very hard to find anything quite so tasty in my native country. I brew my own beer, wine and cider on the boat we have now *AreandAre*, and probably drink more home/boat-made red wine than anything else.

8 What's the best thing about your job?

Making a sale of a starter kit to someone, knowing that I've converted another person to the pleasures of brewing their own. Oh, and the 'research' that is essential to the job!

9 What's the worst thing about your job?

Finding inventive ways to store as much stock as possible, without infringing too much on our personal space.

10 Tell us about your boating experience ...?

I began boating at an early age, when I hand-built a tin boat out of things I'd found in dad's shed. I shared ownership of a wooden clinker-hull-boat called 'The Final Cut', with one of my best mates in NZ. Hiring a narrowboat in 2007, I took to it like a proverbial duck to water, and fell in love, hook line and sinker.

11 Have you ever fallen in?

Sadly and rather embarrassingly, yes – at July's Kings Norton Canal Festival.

12 What are you reading?

I'm re-reading my favourite book of the last few years, *I Never Knew that about England* by Christopher Winn.

13 Who would be your ideal cruising companion?

The right answer, of course, is Sandra! Apart from Sandra, probably my three best mates from New Zealand – John, Keith and Lee.

14 What did you want to be aged 12?

A photographer.

15 What is your proudest achievement?

Finding the perfect narrowboat for a floating business, me, Sandra and a succession of visitors.

16 What do you think of the folk on the waterways?

They're mostly down to earth, friendly, amenable, companionable, with all kinds of people from different countries and walks of life. Infinitely fascinating.

17 Where do you hope to be when you're 70?

I hope to be still narrowboating on the inland waterways of UK.

18 Tell us about your spare time interests?

Brewing is still an interest, there's always more to learn, visiting British pubs, photography of the canals and rivers, learning more about England and its history, visiting friends or having them on board, and playing badminton whenever there's an opportunity.

19 Where would you go on your dream cruise?

Across the English Channel by narrowboat. I may have a chance next year with a fellow narrowboater ...

20 What super power would you like to have?

Considering my recent experience, walking on water would have to be the answer here!

* Visit thehomebrewboat.co.uk to find out more.