

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT OWNERS CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**in the Library Room, Braunston Memorial Hall, Braunston**  
**starting at 10.00 am**

PRESENT WERE: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Matt Beamish, Richard Booth, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Mike Harrison, Martin Jiggins, David Lowe, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Viv Scragg, Rupert Smedley and Alison Smedley.

Margaret Booth and Simon Bamford were in attendance.

**1. Apologies and Welcome**

Apologies had been received from Phil Bittner and Dave Prior.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Chairman's Report**

- 3.1 Phil had attended a BWAf meeting at Hatton on 22 January. This was a special meeting convened to discuss two documents: "Waterways for Everyone", the Government Strategy for the Inland Waterways of England and Wales; and "Setting a New Course", BW's strategy to move itself into the Third Sector. The first of these was heavily criticised, largely because points that had been agreed at the workshops at Reading had been ignored and the final document appears to have been watered down considerably by Defra. On the other hand, the BW Third Sector strategy gained widespread support following discussion. The major criticism here was that BW had to move very quickly to establish itself in this new direction if the strategy was to be successful. The meeting also had a brief discussion about plans to meet the Shadow waterways minister, Anne McIntosh - Phil was unable to attend this but John Dodwell and others will have argued our case well.
- 3.2 Phil also attended a meeting of NINF at St Pancras Cruising Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This meeting discussed a range of issues including Moorings, the Conservatives' waterways policy and the meeting with Anne McIntosh, Marsworth, BW's future plans, Wharves at Leeds, and the K&A local pilot. Interestingly, several people at this meeting (eg David Pearce) seemed to have changed their tune on Marsworth and commented that we had supplied them with additional information of which they had been unaware! Most of the NINF people were very positive about the potential of BW's Third Sector plans and welcomed initiatives such as the K&A pilot as a way of generating local support and management. However, the Thames rep was clearly unhappy with any suggestion that the Thames should be included within a new waterways organisation (as suggested by IWA) as they felt that they would lose out.
- 3.3 Phil had attended a BW Third Sector workshop at Watford on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This meeting was run by Mike Hudson from Compass, BW's consultants and attended by Simon Salem, Caroline Killeavy and about half of the BWAf group. It gave an opportunity to look at the BW plan and make important suggestions **before** the plans go to the BW Board later this month. Phil had emailed some documents including the basic proposed structure and more detail about how the new structure would be run and governed. A charitable trust would become the main organisation to run the waterways with a skeleton BW to act as regulator and thus avoid having to have primary legislation. At the meeting, it was proposed that the powerful Members' Council should consist of 50% stakeholder groups (eg groups like us) and 50% representing a public membership - very similar to the way the National Trust is organised.

**4. AGM arrangements**

Phil had emailed his report that he will give to the AGM this afternoon. At only a few days notice, BW Chairman Tony Hales had advised that he would be available after all, and Alison had persuaded Vince Moran to still attend too, so we should have both of them. It should be a useful opportunity to hear what they have to say. Topics for questions were discussed and agreed who was going to ask what. (See separate document of questions and answers.)

After the AGM there will be several new committee members. Alison will write to relevant BW offices to introduce them, and include them in email with info for the next meeting and write to the BW offices to introduce them. Ros continues on the committee as she was elected as West Midlands (north) rep until 2012. We can look at the constitution in the future. Resigning/retiring committee members to be thanked (Alison to write to Dave Prior; Phil will email Andy Greenwell and Phil Bittner.

## 5. Easter Gathering – Coventry Basin

The “to do” list was discussed and further actions added and assigned to committee members:

Who	Event	Action completed
RP, SC, PP	Visit basin & Taylor John’s House as possible venue for Socials	2 visits
RP, AS	Complete City Council booking form	On-line form
RP, AS	Complete Risk assessment and send to CC	On-line attachment
RP, AS	Send copy of insurance cert to CC	On-line attachment
AS	Inform insurance company	Included in renewal information
RP	Inform police, fire, ambulance	Via their websites
RP	Inform BW area manager (email Darren Green)	Email confirmation rec’d
RP	Book Taylor John’s House	Booked & deposit paid
PP	Newsletter article	2009/4 Chair’s Notes
VR, RP	Booking form	2010/1 insert
PP, RP	Programme of events	2010/1 insert
RP	Contact Tony Mann to arrange speaker from Coventry Canal Soc	Arranged by phone, name of speaker to be confirmed
PP	Cowburn & Cowpar boats – invite participation	Letters sent to non-committee members, email to BW volunteer
Committee	Harbourmasters to be appointed	MH, SC
	Arrange quiz – ask the Stanton team	Peter & Laura confirmed
RP	Secure parking for campervans Key for bridge across basin	Michelle T confirmed OK by email
PP	Organ recital – ask DL	DL has arranged venue
RP	Transport Museum – ask about party booking	Not available over Easter weekend. Leaflets in hand.
MH	Collect names of boats attending	Request details on booking form
PP/RP	Boater’s welcome pack – prepare	
AMS	Prize for quiz	
RP	Contact Tony Mann to confirm name of speaker	
SC	Arrange pick-up of keys by MH or SC	
RP	Confirm beer ordered (Taylor John’s House)	
MJ	Tat auctioneer	
RP	Food in evening – Saturday evening, buffet from pub, £3/3.50/head.	
	Rota – security patrol – work out on site	
IM & CB	HNBOC banners –	
	Shop location – inside building	
All	Rota - Clear-up after event	
	Plaques – AMS to do form, design	
	C&C boats – <i>Swallow, Skylark</i> (loaded with wood for NB <i>Lucy</i> , to be transferred to <i>Betelgeuse</i> ), <i>Swan, Starling</i> all Confirmed <i>Stork</i> – Rupert to chase by email <i>Seagull</i> – not coming Not heard back from <i>Swift</i> or <i>Snipe</i>	
	List of boats – currently 22 boats coming	
	Reserving moorings – signs ought to be put up in advance	

	warning boats, signs to go at Sutton Stop, etc. Some boats might need to be prepared to move to allow for shuffling, etc.	
--	---	--

## 6. Secretary's Report

- 6.1 Waterways World had sent the subscription leaflets – any members signing up for a subscription using this leaflet and quoting HNBOC will mean that WW will send £5 – handed to Val for including in a future issue of newsletter.
- 6.2 IWA National Waterways Conference – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Sandwell MBC Council House B69 3DE. Phil Prettyman might be able to attend on behalf of the Club. Alison will be attending wearing another hat.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

- 7.1 Matt had circulated a report by email on 4<sup>th</sup> March. The cash book balances are as follows:

Current A/c statement balance (Nat West) as at 26/02/10	£1987.04
<i>Uncleared cheques (overpaid subscription refund)</i>	-£12.00
Savings A/c (Alliance & Leicester) (0.1% interest) as at 01/02/10	£12,393.89
<b>Total funds at bank</b>	<b>£14,368.93</b>

- 7.2 Letter sent to NatWest requesting that the account be marked no Direct Debit. Several further direct debits passed through the account in January and early February, so it is too early to know if our requests have been acted on, or put into effect. All errors to date have been repaid.
- 7.3 In response to our request for the Club's account name to be updated, NatWest Aylesbury requested copies of the minutes at which the name change was agreed – these have now been sent.

## 8. Membership Secretary's Report

- 8.1 David Daines reported on current membership figures. Totals 432 current, including 4 Exchange & 2 Honorary. At time of last meeting 430 inclusive. Of paying members 271 are non SO and 155 are paid by SO (plus 6 as above). So far, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 23 have yet to renew for 2010 (out of 153 January renewals).
- 8.2 David confirmed that he had added Rebekah Fuller as an 'Exchange' member, on the same basis as Brenda Ward, Editor of Boundary Post.
- 8.3 The following new members were approved:
- |                |                         |      |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|
| Chris Burton   | N/A                     | 1590 |
| Kevin Pettifer | Associated with Marquis | 1591 |
| Rebekah Fuller | 1998                    |      |

- 8.4 Two members whose membership was suspended because their Standing Order did not pay the Club in early 2009, and who did not respond to *repeated* letters, have been re-instated as the bank statements confirm that they have paid for 2010 by SO. There are two more members whose SO did not happen this January. Both of these have now responded positively with cheques for 2010.
- 8.5 There was some discussion about how to identify members who are eligible to vote due to their ex-working boater status. David will follow this up.

## 9. Newsletter Editor's Report

- 9.1 Val reported that the press date for the next issue is 28<sup>th</sup> June, which is the larger gap agreed at last meeting. She has paid in £50.00 payment for the back cover advert by Braunston Marina and has purchased 2,000 second class stamps as agreed.

- 9.2 Val has increased the print run from 500 to 600 as agreed after discussion with Chairman. She noted that we enrolled 48 new members last year, so if we had only increased printing to 550 we could be short again by end of year. This led to £68.00 increase in costs. The cost for 600 copies is now £509.00.
- 9.3 Val had calculated that each newsletter costs approx £1.50 per current member including postage and envelopes, taking into account also the number of free issues sent out, which is around £6 out of each membership sub of £12.00. The committee agreed that there was therefore no requirement to increase the subscription at the current time.
- 9.4 Regarding printing the inserts to go out with the magazines, Val had been doing these for 3p per A4 side. Their new printer is more expensive to run so Val investigated prices for photo copying. The best price she found locally was 5p per A4 side. Val has calculated that she can print them for 4p per side and in view of this she printed the inserts for the last newsletter. Everyone agreed that they were happy with this arrangement.
- 9.5 Val had arranged for 6,000 Christmas cards to be printed as discussed at last meeting; 2,000 each of the 3 designs chosen. She has also bought envelopes to suit and will bring both to AGM to pass on to Clair

#### **10. Archivist's Report**

Richard and Viv had nothing to report.

#### **11. Boating Issues**

Nothing to report.

#### **12. Area Representative Reports**

- 12.1 Work is due to start on repairing the breach on the Leek Arm of the Caldon on Monday.
- 12.2 The Braunston cutting stoppage is extended to 11<sup>th</sup> March.
- 12.3 A proposal for cargo carrying on the Bridgewater Canal recently met with a negative reaction from Peel Holdings, which raises the question of our representation on the Bridgewater Canal. It was agreed that should be included in the Manchester & Pennines area. Ironically recent traffic on the Ship Canal was arranged very easily with Peel Holdings, but the proposal on the Bridgewater was for retail coal which is already being sold by boatyards.

#### **13. Dates and Venues of Next Meetings**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010** at Braunston Library, Braunston Village Hall. 11am to 5pm – Matt to book room.  
Apologies from Mike and Val.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 – revised date - venue to be confirmed

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010 – provisional, date and venue to be confirmed

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – provisional, date and venue to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 12.25.

Alison Smedley  
Secretary