

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT OWNERS CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 18th September 2010
at London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London, N1 9RT
starting at 11.00 am

Committee members present were: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, George Boyle, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Richard Frost, Sandra Green, Mike Harrison, Martin Jiggins, David Lowe (from item 7.9), Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley.

Margaret Booth was in attendance.

1. Apologies

Matt Beamish, Clair Butler, Rebekah Fuller, Steve Harmer, Iain MacTavish and Rupert Smedley.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5.6 last word should read “planks” not “plaques”. 7.3 should read 20th November not 13th November. With these two corrections the minutes of the committee meeting held on 3rd July 2010 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising - 6.5 – David Daines confirmed that this is included in the letter to new members and the issue is fully covered.

3. Chairman’s Report

- 3.1 Phil reported that the Club had been well represented at the IWA National Waterways Festival at Beale Park over the August bank holiday weekend with the Club stand in attendance over the three days and 18 historic boats moored in the lake at a mock up wharf complete with crane. He, Mike and Rupert had judged the Alfred Ritchie Cockerel. The standard of boats was very good and included 3 extremely well turned out loaded pairs. The scoring system took into account any carrying done over the preceding 12 months and the IWA rule that recipients are not eligible to win 3 years in a row. The winner was Lawrence Williams with *Kangaroo* and *Australia*.
- 3.2 Phil proposed that the Club should consider a trophy/award that took into account carrying over a 12 month period (with turnout being a secondary consideration). This could be a third HNBOC award and could be launched at the AGM in 2011 with a view to being awarded first at the AGM in 2012. Applicants would have to submit a log with distances, tonnages, etc. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.
- 3.3 The committee was sorry to hear that Lawrence Williams had been taken ill with Weil’s Disease shortly after the National Waterways Festival. He was now on the mend and out of hospital, but in the meantime *Kangaroo* had sunk at Malcolm Burge’s mooring. It has since been raised and put on dock. Alison was asked to write to Lawrence to express the committee’s concern that he had been unwell and that we were pleased to hear he was on the mend. This led to a discussion about Weil’s Disease and it was agreed that the Club should produce a card for members (and non-members via the website and the club stand) giving advice. Alison volunteered to draft it, along the lines of what she uses for IWA events and the similar card produced a few years ago by BMS. It will then be circulated to the committee for comment.
- 3.4 Phil has been in discussions with the organisers of the Liverpool Boat Show who are very keen to have historic boats at the event. It is a 10 day event starting on Thursday 28th April. There will be space for 9 or 10 full length boats, and the proposal is for two separate convoys leaving Ellesmere Port, the first on Tues 26th or Wed 27th April and the second on Saturday 30th April, with the boats swapping places with those already there. The cost of the pilot, certification, etc, will work out at approx £150 per boat and there is a possibility that this will be paid for by the organisers of the event. There will also be a certain amount of preparation required before the tidal passage, eg cleaning out header tanks. Places will be available on a “first come, first served” basis and Phil will announce the plan at the November members meeting.

3.5 Phil attended a recent BWAf meeting. DEFRA is keen for BW to become a charity and for EA navigations to be included too. It was made clear that the new organisation will not be BW. Further announcements pending the Government's spending review due in October.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1 A letter had been received from IWA confirming that our membership has been transferred to Birmingham, Black Country & Worcester Branch, along with a welcome letter from the new branch. IWA *Waterways* magazine had also been received.

4.2 Easter Plaque proceeds amounted to £19.98 after cost of postage and jiffy bags. Alison will post a cheque to Matt.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Matt had circulated a report by email on 16th September. The cash book balances are as follows:

Current A/c statement balance (Nat West) as at 27/08/2010	£2,566.85
<i>Errors not yet reimbursed</i>	£30.14
<i>Uncleared cheques</i>	£156.74
Savings A/c (Alliance & Leicester) (0.1% interest) as at 01/09/2010	£12,401.08
Total funds at bank	£14,841.33

5.2 The Club's Financial Year runs to the end of October and Matt asked committee members to complete and submit expense claims promptly.

5.3 Concern was expressed at the ongoing errors on the Natwest Account and it was suggested that Matt should take this through the formal Natwest complaints procedure. Concern was also expressed at the low interest rates being received, and it was wondered whether, combined with the ongoing problems with Natwest, it might be worth considering changing bank accounts. David Daines suggested that at some time in the future the Club should consider increasing the annual subscription and a change of bank accounts would be a good time to consider that. It was agreed that Phil would talk to Matt about these issues and that "Club Finances" should be put on the agenda for the January meeting.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

6.1 David Daines had emailed a report. As at 17th September:- Totals 448 current, including 5 Exchange & 2 Honorary. At time of last meeting 440 inclusive. There are 10 non-SO renewals still pending, plus 3 SOs that have failed. Morgan-Cettler has e-mailed that he is away 'till October and will renew then, he is included in above figure until he has paid. Of paying members 283 are non SO and 158 are paid by SO (plus 7 as above). Mike Nicoll has not renewed his membership and his boats have gone to Jem Bates.

6.2 David had a discussion with Tony Mann of the Coventry Canal Society at the National. He pays the subscription number 1402, but rarely sees much of the magazine as it is 'claimed' by the society. He offers us an exchange copy of the society's magazine if we could change 1402 to be his own personal membership, with an additional 'Exchange' membership for the society. This was agreed.

6.3 The following new members were approved:

John Monk	N/A	1604 WB
Christopher Rosser	N/A	1605
Ian Harrison	[Jake]	1606
Mike & Krystyna Wooding	[Draco]	1204
Reg Jelfs	N/A	1607
Mike Carter	[Black Pearl]	1608
Peter & Christine Ballinger	Lyra	1609
Darren & Hazel Brench	Bicester	1610
Mark & Vicky Williams	Tench	1453
**Coventry Canal Society	Panther	1611 or 1997 Exchange member

6.4 David has added a field to the Db called, for want of a 'snappier' title 'Expertise'. Now all he needs is the responses to come flooding in from the membership!

7. Newsletter Editor's Report

7.1 Val Roberts had emailed a report. Issue 2010/3 has gone out with an extra 4 pages which the committee were more than happy about. Press date for 2010/4 is November 24th. Val noted that when printing the inserts 4p per A4 side does not cover the costs any longer and the committee agreed that she should charge the Club 5p per side.

7.2 Val asked for a profile from each of the new committee members, for the Know Your Committee series (life story along with a quirky pic).

7.3 "On the Cut" – 4 CD sets. Steve Jackson has been liaising with the BBC about this. The cost will be £400.00 for initial order for 100 sets and the Club can set the selling price. This was discussed and agreed that we should go ahead. Selling price of £8 per set + postage was agreed. Matt to be included in email discussion in order to facilitate payment. A cover design for the CD case was discussed. They will have basic printed inserts. Steve suggests doing our own instead to personalise them for the Club. It was suggested that Steve Wood should be asked to get involved in this project, as his father, Arthur, was involved in the recording of the interviews. Alison was asked to contact Steve Wood about this.

7.4 Val has finished scanning the Weaver photographs. There are 3,900 of them which she has copied on to the 2 Club storage discs, together with an Excel spreadsheet and a Filemaker Pro data base. Richard Booth took one for the archive. There was discussion about storage of the original material and whilst it was agreed that this should be in an appropriate place with correct controlled conditions, no decision was made. A loan to Ellesmere Port Boat Museum was suggested, with the Club retaining ownership and copyright. Richard B had recently made contact with the Head of Collections at EPBM and he will raise this with them. It was agreed that Matt needed to be involved in any decisions and that this would be discussed again at the November meeting.

7.5 There was one undeveloped film in with the Weaver Collection (Kodachrome, process paid), which Val had been unable to get processed. Richard Booth has contacts at Kodak and he undertook to find out whether it could be developed. The proposal for publishing some of the Weaver Collection photographs in a book format was discussed. Phil, Mike, Val and Sue will progress this idea (format, printing costs, which pics to use, etc.)

7.6 Val noted that each year she commits 12 months ahead with the printer to get the covers printed at the beginning of the year (the cost then being split over the next 4 issues). Val raised a concern that she is due for election at the AGM in March and she felt it wasn't a good time of year to have a change of editor, due to the arrangements with the printer. The committee thanked Val for bringing it to their attention, but it was generally felt that when a new editor is elected, they would probably be more than happy to have part of their job done for them for the next 3 issues and that having to work with a printer in Derbyshire is not a problem these days with email. The new editor can then search round for a printer for the following year. It was, however, very much hoped that Val would be standing again in March and would be duly re-elected!

7.7 Advertising rates for members and non-members in the magazine was discussed. It was agreed to increase it to £10 per year for members' trade ads, £10 per insertion for non-members trade ads, and £25 for half a page per insertion for anyone.

8. Website

8.1 Ros had emailed a report on the latest statistics on viewing figures which show that the website had 1,932 visitors (who between them made 2,669 visits) in the eleven weeks from 1 July to 15 September. This is more than double the numbers shown in previous reports, but we have to remember that those reports covered four week periods rather than eleven. All in all, visitor numbers are comparable. Visitors continue to spend on average three-and-a-quarter minutes on site and view six/seven pages. Ros had produced a flyer about the website to go on the club stand. Ros requested digital photos for going on the website.

9. Archivist's Report

- 9.1 Richard's article in the last newsletter on shortened GU boats had contained an error (*Corvus* was missing) for which he apologised and a correction will go in the next newsletter. The next article will be on wooden boats and Richard will circulate it to the committee for comment first. There was some discussion about a few wooden boats that may or may not have been lost or broken up in recent months. (*Usk, Lichfield, Glossor and Marfak*)
- 9.2 Richard had recently circulated to the committee a list of all extant historic boats and it is intended that this will go on the website in due course.
- 9.3 BW auction of working boats – *Pinner* has been added recently to those already known to be on the list (*Aynho, Carnaby, Effingham and Heron*).

10. Club Shop

- 10.1 Clair had sent a report by email. She is still waiting for date of publication of FMC book and hoping it will be in time for Nov meeting. New books in stock are Davies - Canal Crimes and Tales from the West Midlands, Geoffrey Lewis - Jess Carter and the oil boat, and the Tom Foxon books. Waterway Journals nos 1 to 12 with the exception of no 4 as it is now out of stock. Clair will send details of the books to Ros to put on the website.
- 10.2 The Club stand attended the IWA National Festival at Beale Park which Clair felt had not been very satisfactory. Instructions for placement of the stand were vague which resulted in the tent having to be taken down after its initial erection. We were then invited to occupy part of a temporary wooden building in a mock wharf close to the historic boats. After the Saturday with few visitors and low sales we negotiated to put up our tent near the original area which proved better on the Sunday despite wind and rain. The best sales were done in the last two hours on the Monday, when one of the sales tables was placed outside in better weather. Sales: £670.07 banked - 123 packs cards (23 *Thea*, 13 *Grimsby*, 28 *Grindley*, 15 *Lamprey*, 44 mixed), 1 plaque £8; book sales £246.74; 2 new members £24; donations £22.33. Two new members joined and details taken by several people. Many thanks to *Skylark* for transportation of tent, etc, David & Sue, Alison & Rupert, Ros and Phil & especially Val and Mike for all the help.
- 10.3 Weekend of 4th & 5th September attended Maesbury Canal Festival on the Montgomery. A new venue for us and much interest was shown. Sales : £376.86 banked - 67 packs cards (11 *Thea*, 4 *Grimsby*, 17 *Grindley*, 35 mixed) 1 plaque £8; book sales £145.82; donations £22.04 (PS donations includes money for selling back copies of magazines, 1/3 of money taken for selling non HNBOC greeting cards, donated magazines & books to sell, plus donations). This weekend 18th & 19th September the stand will be at Whitchurch Boat Rally.
- 10.4 Regarding new display boards the lightweight folding ones do not come with legs. As the boards are often erected on damp ground Iain and Clair feel feet are essential. They have now found two suppliers who do stands with feet and are awaiting info from them.
- 10.5 IWA National Festival 2011 will be held in Burton on Trent on a different weekend to usual, 29th to 31st July. Iain and Clair are committed to going to the Audlem event the same weekend. Mike, Val and Alison will all be committed to local canal society stands and it was therefore agreed that the Club stand would not attend.

11. Area Representative Reports

11.1 Kennet & Avon

No report in the absence of a K&A rep.

11.2 London

Sandra Green reported that she has been chasing Jon Guest for details of the towpath improvements. There is a user group meeting coming up soon.

11.3 Manchester & Pennine

George had nothing to report. There was a user group meeting coming up soon.

11.4 North East

David Lowe had nothing to report.

11.5 North Wales & Border

- 11.5.1 Iain MacTavish had emailed a report. On Tuesday 3 August they took Wendy Capelle, BW Waterway Manager for North Wales and Borders on an invited trip on FMC Plover. Wendy joined them at Market Drayton and they boated to the long pound above the Shroppie Fly at Audlem. The purpose of the trip was to let this newly appointed manager experience boating with a deep drafted historic boat on waters in her area and to begin to establish a relationship with her. Iain and Clair felt that the trip was very worthwhile for HNBOC and BW and received an email from Wendy expressing much appreciation. During the trip a wide range of boating and canal matters were covered particularly the Hurleston width issue and the missing gate paddles on Adderley and Audlem.
- 11.5.2 Regarding Hurleston, Wendy was under the impression that all historic boats would have a problem at these locks. Iain corrected this and explained that HNBOC were seeking to compile data on whether particular boats could or could not pass through and this approach was welcomed. They mentioned plans to encourage historic boats to try the Hurleston locks particularly around the time of the Easter Gathering at Ellesmere Port and Wendy said that if BW knew timing / dates they would aim to have assistance available.
- 11.5.3 Regarding gate paddles it was interesting that Wendy noted for herself how their absence at some locks slowed up transit and created 'traffic jams'. Plover got aground a couple of times during the trip (not deliberate) and Wendy was surprised at how easily this can happen. She also became aware of the importance of offside tree / vegetation cutting for good sight lines, etc, when she steered Plover which she did most of the way from Market Drayton to top of Adderley.
- 11.5.4 At last meeting Iain reported that water flow in the Llangollen was restricted. Flow is now back to normal.

11.6 North West

No report in the absence of Rebekah Fuller. David Lowe mentioned that the Leeds & Liverpool Canal has reopened recently having been closed due to water shortages for most of the summer.

11.7 South East

- 11.7.1 Martin Jiggins reported that he had attended a useful meeting about Brentford with the developers and canoe club. Mike Pinnock is buying the wharf at Ponders End from British Waterways. The FMC building at Aylesbury was demolished last week.
- 11.7.2 Marsworth – Richard Booth reported that a new planning application is going to the full committee on 14th October. The industrial use of the site turns out to have lapsed, hence making traffic arguments invalid (the use of the wharf by Fencrete, concrete pile manufacturers, pre-dated planning regulations. BW evicted Fencrete 2 years ago and the site has since been empty).
- 11.7.3 David Daines raised the poor state of the southern Oxford Canal noted during his recent journey both ways along it. He had made a list of things to report to BW. Alison & Rupert had also noted many maintenance issues on the southern Oxford, including a broken wooden balance beam held together with piling. Val requested photos. Phil suggested that as a way of saving money (and therefore finding money to spend on maintenance) that BW should reduce their mowing regime to once a year.

11.8 South Wales & Severn

Richard Frost reported that the opening of the Droitwich Barge Canal had taken place recently. The current date for the expected opening of the Droitwich Junction Canal is May 2011.

11.9 West Midlands

No report in the absence of Steve Harmer. It was noted that water levels seem to be holding out despite Chasewater being out of action and the recent breach.

11.10 Central Shires

- 11.10.1 The Leek Arm reopened to navigation in early July. Rupert will attend a user group meeting coming up at Rugeley on 12th October. Mike Harrison will attend the other Central Shires user group meeting on the River Soar.
- 11.10.2 There was discussion about Bridge 13 on the Coventry Canal and whether BW would let us hold a work party to clear the obstruction in the bridgehole.

11.11 East Midlands

- 11.11.1 Mike Harrison reported that both pubs at Trent Lock are being sold off by BW along with 18 other waterside pubs around the country.
- 11.11.2 Chesterfield Canal – a helpful meeting was held with Sean McGinley, reported in the latest newsletter. There is due to be a stoppage in March when they will drain down the locks to inspect the problem. The historic boat gathering in Retford will now take place on 10/11 September 2011.

11.12 Fens Rep

Alison had emailed Jim Cook to see if he would be interested in being Fens Rep and was awaiting a response.

12. Boating/Navigation Issues

- 12.1 IWA Warwickshire Branch's request for support in the form of a boat that will get stuck in Bridge 58 was discussed. It was concluded that the only boat known to have got stuck there is *Kew* and that all other boats pass through with no problem and if they are going to get stuck it will be at Lock 44 (or 47 or 45). Alison will let Ian Fletcher of IWA Warwickshire Branch know that we have not been able to identify a boat to attend his proposed event.
- 12.2 Sue had received the following info on pinch points/shalowness: *Comet* and *Roach* recently went up the Shropshire Union Canal loaded and had to tirdor through a shallow bit near Wolverhampton Boat Club. One of the duplicated locks at Lock 63 at Malkins Bank has just closed again. There was discussion about the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and it was noted that Upper Mill is where the tight lock is.

13. Any Other Business

- 13.1 David Lowe reported that CBOA and APCO have been discussing BW's proposed operator agreements. Hire boats will end up paying slightly less as APCO have taken over some of the paperwork. Every operator will have to have an agreement with BW and each of their boats will have to have a licence. An extra disk will indicate commercial use. BW are taking a hard line on this – everyone who operates a boat other than for private pleasure will have to have an operator agreement individually agreed with their local waterway manager at a cost of £150. If owners of working boats are carrying an ad hoc cargo but are not being paid to do it then it shouldn't be a problem. It is likely that a boatmaster licence will be required as part of the operator agreement.
- 13.2 Sue Cawson attended a BW stoppage meeting held by video conference between Northwich, Watford and Leeds. Not many changes to the programme resulted.

14. Dates and Venues of Next Meetings

- Saturday 20th November 2010 (not 13th as originally arranged) – Braunston Memorial Hall 10.00 committee meeting with members meeting in the afternoon at 2.30 pm, an illustrated talk by Bob May.
- Saturday 8th January 2011 at Tamworth
- Saturday 5th March 2011 AGM, Braunston.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Alison Smedley, Secretary