

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT OWNERS CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 17th September 2011
at Beggarlee Wharf, Horsley Woodhouse, Derbyshire
starting at 11.00 am

PRESENT WERE: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, David Daines, Mike Harrison, Martin Jiggins, David Lowe, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley and Laura Sturrock.

Margaret Booth and David Williams were in attendance.

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies had been received from George Boyle, Sue Cawson, Jim Cook, Sandra Green, Sarah Hale, Steve Harmer, Norman Mitchell, Viv Scragg, Iain MacTavish and Clair Butler.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 16th July 2011 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 meeting of BWAf and the transitional trustees of the new waterways charity, chaired by Clive Henderson. John Dodwell had been very active during the meeting, as were some of the other trustees. Phil thought it was a very encouraging session. David Lowe had also attended on behalf of CBOA and he also thought it a very positive meeting. There was a useful discussion regarding the 1968 Transport Act and remainder/cruising/commercial waterways.

3.2 DEFRA published on 12 September 2011 a report on the response to its consultation on the new waterway charity. It has acknowledged that "navigation" should be emphasised more. The Board is to consist of 35 members, with 4 from the boating community. Phil suggested that the Club should argue for having a place on the board representing heritage. The committee agreed that Phil should pursue this. Richard suggested that with this in mind more emphasis on heritage should be included in the Club's constitution when revisions are discussed in November. Alison had circulated a link to the report, along with a link to a new supplementary consultation about the proposed Transfer Order. This sets out the legal framework for transfer of the waterways and associated powers and responsibilities from BW to the new charity. HNBOC are listed as having been "invited to respond" although an actual invitation doesn't seem to have been received. It is important that we do respond and all committee members were asked to look at the consultation document and forward comments to Alison to put together the Club's response.

3.3 Phil reported that Peter Boyce had been contacted by BW who had arranged for *Umbriel* to be craned out of the water. It is not in such poor condition as *Lucy*. The Young Boaters Society are keen to take it on and have applied for a grant to restore it.

3.4 BW's Annual Meeting is due to take place on Thursday 13th October. Phil will attend.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1 IWA National Waterways Festival – the new awards officer took up our offer of supplying judges for the Alfred Ritchie Cockerel Trophy and Alison thanked Mike Harrison, Jim McDonald and Nick Hill for doing this. The trophy was awarded to *Emu* (Michael Pinnock). Alison and Phil both attended the IWA Chairman's reception on the Friday morning. There was a good turnout of working boats, all moored between the main site and Dallow Lane Lock. It was noted that there will not be an IWA National in 2012 and Newbury has been suggested for 2013. Mike noted that the last time there wasn't an IWA National was in 1958.

4.2 IWA Membership subscription due – passed to Laura for payment. IWA “Waterways” magazine received.

5. Treasurer’s Report

5.1 Laura reported that Club funds currently stand at £16,571.72 and she circulated a copy of the cash book showing all entries for the current financial year. Laura has dealt with a couple of further fraudulent transactions on the Nat West Account. Laura has spoken to her local branch of Nat West who suggest that a new account is opened alongside the existing account (although Nat West seem happy to continue with the current arrangement of refunding errors where they occur). It was agreed that it did seem to be a good idea to open a second account. Laura would then transfer the funds each month into the new account, so that there is no money sitting in the old account. At some point in the future, when convenient, perhaps if an increase to the subs is approved, members can be asked to start using the new bank account and the old account can be closed.

5.2 David Daines asked whether statements could be received from the bank fortnightly instead of monthly, and if so whether David could then receive a copy of them fortnightly too, as that would help him with his membership records. Laura will look into this.

5.3 Laura asked for any expense claims to be brought to the next meeting. The Club’s financial year now runs from 1st December to 30th November. Laura reminded committee members that the mileage rate is now 25p.

5.4 Laura has had a look at the shop accounts which are now being kept separately. Judging by sales to date it looks as if the Club will be under the threshold for corporation tax this year.

5.5 The committee thanked Laura for getting a firm grip of the accounts since she took over as Treasurer.

6. Easter Gatherings and other events

6.1 Easter 2012 at Droitwich – Phil had obtained some contact details for Droitwich Canals Trust and local BW from Gwilym Jones, *Manchuria*, and will follow these up. Easter Sunday is 8th April 2012. Val said it all needs to be sorted before the next newsletter (copy date November 20th). Peter Oates will be asked to do a quiz.

6.2 New Waterway Charity launch – Phil asked Simon Salem if there is anything planned. 1st April is the launch date of the new charity, but no details known yet.

6.3 Easter 2013 at Stoke Bruerne and Ellesmere Port – Laura confirmed that Lorna Yorke had confirmed that they are unlikely to want too many historic working boats at the Stoke Bruerne event so therefore the Club’s main event will be Ellesmere Port. Laura will find out what specific boats they would like at Stoke Bruerne. Everyone else will be encouraged to go to Ellesmere Port.

6.4 Foxton event in 2014 – Val had not received a reply yet to her email.

6.5 2011 Events – the Chesterfield event in September went very well. Pete Ramshall asked for advice about what time of year the Club would recommend for an event in 2013. Response was that it would depend much on what time of year the IWA National Festival will take place. The Audlem Transport event in July had been very good with good turnout of historic boats, as had Shackerstone in September.

7. Weaver Collection

7.1 Val had spoken to Ray Shill (BCNS and RCHS) about the two collections. Val has sent him a list of what the Club has got, and he has sent a 40 page list of what he has. Not clear whether they overlap or not from that exercise. Ray Shill has only just started his scanning exercise. Once he has completed it the two organisations could then agree to swap thumbnail images in order to follow this up. Ros suggested that ultimately all the images could be available on the website as thumbnails, with each one annotated as to whether the Club or BCNS hold the copyright.

8. AGM Date and Venue

8.1 The November 2011 members meeting will be at Braunston but it was agreed that a new venue should be tried for the 2012 AGM. It was agreed that Napton Village Hall would be booked for this. 3rd March is the preferred date

and it will be booked through member David Gunby to get the local discount. Small room for committee meeting needed from 10am til 7pm with the main hall to be booked from 1pm til 7pm. Richard will contact David Gunby to get it booked and will ask him to recommend a pub for lunch.

- 8.2 Regarding a speaker for the AGM, it was felt that that it would be ideal if we could get one of the transitional trustees of the new waterway charity to speak. Alison will contact John Dodwell and ask if he and/or one or more of the other transitional trustees would be willing to speak after the AGM.

9. Archivist's Report

- 9.1 Richard reported that he followed up the IWA's suggestion about producing a book about historic narrow boats. They want to produce a leaflet aimed at children, a sort of very basic boat spotter's guide. It was agreed to support this by providing information and possibly with financial support. It was suggested that perhaps it should be aimed at 10-11 year olds so slightly more detail than the wildlife one already produced by IWA. It was queried as to whether it is to be narrow boats only, or include other historic inland craft. Richard to follow up with Gillian Bolt.
- 9.2 Richard introduced David Williams who has been helping him with the archive and taking photos of boats. He was keen to progress the idea of a book listing all extant boats. David had brought some sample books which were looked at for ideas. David suggested landscape format as that is the shape of the boats. Richard confirmed that his current list of extant boats stands at 818 boats. Richard was thinking along the lines of a photographic record, with colour photos of all the boats known to exist, including photos of conversions, etc, as they are now. Richard and David will continue to work on this.
- 9.3 Alison had brought along examples of QR codes (Quick Response bar codes) produced by Steve Wood for *Skylark* and *Bream* which would enable people with the right type of mobile phone to scan the bar code and access the relevant page on the club website. People thought this was a good idea to bear in mind, and initially a QR code for the club's main website could be incorporated into the newsletter.
- 9.4 Alison had seen an email announcing that the Waterways Archive based at Gloucester will be relocating to join the Waterways Archive at Ellesmere Port, and both archives will be closed to all but "urgent" enquiries until March 2012. The intention is for access to the collection to be greatly improved after they have been merged.

10. Newsletter Editor's Report

- 10.1 Val had circulated a report. Press date for 2011/4 is 20th November. It was agreed that Val should do a bumper issue for this Christmas one. 4 extra pages cost around £67.00. Val thinks she can increase it to 40 pages (last one was 36) and if there aren't too many inserts could still keep under 100gram. It would exceed the 5mm width so would have to go as a Large Letter 25mm at 58p whereas over 100gram would be 92P.
- 10.2 Val requested a write up of Shackerstone and some more 'Know Your Committee' articles from Laura Sturrock, Steve Harmer, Norman Mitchell, Sandra Green, Jim Cook, Sarah Hale. Laura volunteered to write one for the next issue and the others asked (by copy of these minutes) to write their life stories from a boating angle, with a quirky photo, for subsequent issues.
- 10.3 Val has sent Keith Lodge the current issue by email again, assuming that it was alright having had no response to the previous one.
- 10.4 Val noted that postage for the 6 foreign members is now £1.12 per copy each time.
- 10.5 Sue Cawson will send Val a write up of the Chesterfield event. There was some discussion regarding the lack of information available regarding the Tidal Trent. It was suggested that info should be put on website about where members can find guidance on the Trent (eg leaflet and charts), as well as investigating whether the Club Shop could stock some of the charts, and bringing both these initiatives to the members attention via the newsletter.

11. Membership Secretary's Report

- 11.1 David Daines had emailed a report. As at 15th September there were 467 members, including 5 Exchange & 2 Honorary. At time of last meeting this was 463 inclusive.

11.2 The following new and re-joined members were approved:

Louise Bush & David Jones	<i>Battersea</i>	1495
Richard Cooper	<i>Auriga & [Ogarugu]</i>	1645
Kevin & Sue Browett	<i>Erebus</i>	1646
David and Christine Wall	N/A	1647
James Howard	<i>Enceladus</i>	1648

11.3 David was informed on 8th of August by his son, Ivan, that David Case (Lately *Grange* and previously *Cleopatra*) has died. An obituary will be written for the newsletter and David will send a copy of the newsletter to his son in Australia.

11.4 A list of 15 members who have yet to renew for 2011/12 was circulated. If they have not renewed by 1st October they will lapse. It is known that Pete Harrison does not wish to renew. R Wood with *Snipe* had mentioned to David that he was going to set up a SO so hopefully he will renew. They will get a letter after 1st October saying that they have now lapsed, which might prompt a few more. [Post meeting note: several of these have since renewed].

11.5 David has received an invitation to a National Historic Ships event in connection with its photographic competition.

12. Area Representative Reports

12.1 **Central Shires** – Rupert Smedley reported that there is a user group meeting coming up which he will attend. BW have recently been locking Atherstone locks up but it was queried as to why BW think this might save water when actually it might waste it. The bottle neck of boats at each end that this creates enables less cross over of boats until they meet in the middle.

12.2 **East Midlands** – Mike Harrison reported that there were 10 historic boats at the Retford event, including *Python* which is based on the canal. Of the nine visiting historic boats that attended, 1 turned round at Retford (*Victoria*), 1 failed to get into Worksop Town lock (*Elizabeth*), 3 (*Chertsey*, *Cassiopeia* and *Marquis*) could not get into Morse and 2 (*Thea* and *Aquarius*) could not get into Stret. 2 passed through Stret (*Bath* and *Petrel*). Both of these had been through before, although one of them had more difficulty this time than previously. This was thought to be due to the water level being a bit low at the time. One of the boats (*Aquarius*) which had passed through Morse, but not Stret, had trouble getting out of Morse on the way back down.

Mike reported the latest on Longhorse Bridge. The new bridge has been lifted into place in its new location (up stream on the Derwent).

Traffic lights on power operated Trent locks was discussed. When not manned, there should be an amber light. When manned the light should show red or green. One boat arrived at one of the locks which was showing red or green but there was no-one there which was a concern and there was quite a long wait until the lock keeper arrived. Mike will write to Sean McGinley once he has found out which lock it was and when this occurred.

12.3 **Fens** – Jim Cook reported by email. The possibility of restoring the Ouse from Lynn to Ely for commercial traffic is still a live issue. The lock keeper at Salters Lode confirmed that there had been a further visit to examine the route from Lynn to Denver Sluice, which is where the biggest problems lie. There is a potential traffic carrying effluent with specially designed craft to be built, which Nick Hill is involved in.

12.4 **Kennet & Avon** – no report as no area rep at the current time. Richard Booth spoke to Pete Ivermee who was going to have a word with Julia who might be interested in covering this area. Mark Reynolds has just moved *Marquis* (which is the boat that he lives on) to the K&A so he might be another option. Martin Jiggins noted that was boating on the K&A recently and he observed that some of the locks are a bit narrow for two narrow boats.

12.5 **London** – Sandra Green had reported by email that there is a user group meeting on 5th October which she will attend. A statement has recently been issued by BW with regard to the mooring on the River Lea consultation which can be found at www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/news/3178/proposed-mooring-plan-for-lee-and-stort-navigations. This is considered by BW to be a successful mooring strategy which might be rolled out elsewhere in the country.

- 12.6 Manchester & Pennine** – George Boyle reported by email that he will attend the next BW user group meeting which will be in October. Following the earlier scare on the Macc and the Peak Forest when they were holding levels 6" down and threatening to do so for the whole summer, things seemed to have settled down with levels about 2" off. George went down Marple the other day and, whilst the paddles were still very stiff at least grease and oil was back in use (not known whether this had been applied by BW or boaters).
- 12.7 North East** – David Lowe had nothing to report. He will attend a user group meeting which is coming up.
- 12.8 North Wales & Border** – Iain MacTavish had circulated a link to notes issued by BW from the previous North Wales and Borders BW User Group meeting, and will attend the next meeting in October.
- 12.9 North West** – no report from Rebekah Fuller. It was noted that we need to find a new area rep as Rebekah is no longer based in the North West.
- 12.10 South East** – Martin Jiggins reported that he will attend a user group meeting which is coming up. Martin boated along the River Wey this year and found it very shallow. He had written to the National Trust concerning this but David Daines noted that dredging on the River Wey is the responsibility of the EA not NT.
- 12.11 South Wales & Severn** – Norman Mitchell reported by email that he had nothing to report other than than a shortage of water and the already notified stoppages at Diglis River Locks.
- 12.12 West Midlands** – It was noted that Steve Harmer had gone to Canada for six months. Ros will attend the forthcoming user group meeting in his absence.

13. Boating/Navigation Issues

- 13.1 David Lowe gave an update on the operating agreements, by way of confirmation. The intention is that in the future every boat on the BW system will have a craft licence, the only exceptions being work boats and large freight boats that pay tolls. If you want to operate a boat other than for private pleasure you need an operator's agreement with BW. For people with an historic working boat who want to do the occasional load, it has been agreed that if they want to carry up to six loads a year as a sub contractor to someone who has got an operators agreement then that is ok. The operating agreement charge of £130 a year allows you to carry coal, etc. For people with non hazardous cargoes of less than one tonne, they can pay half price. This is still out to consultation. It was thought that single loads that were being transported free of charge, eg token cargo being delivered for publicity purposes for a canal society, would be exempt from this so long as there is no charge for the transportation. David Lowe will re-look at where tugs fall into this.
- 13.2 Bridge 13 on the Coventry was clear recently when Phil went through with *Renfrew* and *Betelgeuse*.
- 13.3 Stoppage Plans have been announced in the last week. It was noted that the cutting at the Braunston end of Braunston Tunnel is slipping again.

14. Website

- 14.1 Ros had circulated PDFs showing useage for July and August, together with a spreadsheet for a quick analysis of the numbers. Numbers remain fairly constant, slightly down on the high we achieved in May but still better than July/August 2010.
- 14.2 The move to the new server has been completed, but it has revealed a problem with the coding in that Ros cannot now upload documents and images. She can create and edit pages and text with ease, and can upload boat photos. As an interim measure, Steve is uploading any documents for her (eg the latest boat and address lists) until he can fix the problem.
- 14.3 David Daines thanked Ros and Steve for getting the boat and members details lists on the website which it is hoped members will find useful. Richard felt that the Newsletter wasn't very prominent on the website and wondered whether something could be done to make it more obvious.

15. Club Shop

- 15.1 Clair had sent a report by email which included details of shop sales since last meeting. A total of £235.18 was taken at the Audlem Transport Festival, with thanks to Ros for helping on the stand.
- 15.2 Laura promoted the club at Shackerstone where she took £56 in sales (mostly Christmas cards). It was good to have a presence at Shackerstone and Clair thanked Laura for doing this.
- 15.3 Nick Grundy has given the Club a box of canal books to sell, duplicates from his late father's collection. Clair will price them and sell them at the November meeting.
- 15.4 Clair emailed the latest list of books available through Belmont Press for anyone to suggest books that the Club should stock.
- 15.5 Rupert confirmed that he has ordered 25 plaques at a cost of £5 each. He should be able to bring them to the November meeting.

16. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings not already covered

- 16.1 Val asked if there had been any progress with the "On the Cut" CD idea. This was not known in the absence of Iain and Clair.

17. Any Other Business

There was further discussion about getting one or more of the transitional trustees of the new waterway charity to speak at the AGM. It was proposed that the order of things should be swapped around, asking the transitional trustee(s) to speak at 2pm for 30 mins plus 30 minutes for questions. Then have an hour for tea and chatting (which the trustees would be welcome to stay for), then have the AGM which will include proposed changes to the Constitution (which it is intended the trustees would not stay for).

18. Dates and Venues of Next Meetings

- 12th November – 1 Vicarage Road, Marsworth, 11am - special meeting to discuss the Constitution
- 19th November – Braunston Memorial Hall (10am with members meeting 2.30pm)

Provisional dates of 2012 meetings:

- 7th January – Tamworth
- 3rd March – Napton Village Hall
- 12th May – tbc
- 14th July – tbc
- 15th September – tbc
- 17th November – Napton?

May/July/September meetings would be held at Horsley Woodhouse, Farnham and Denford (order to be agreed)

The meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Alison Smedley
Secretary