

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 11 January 2014
at 9 Chandlers Drive, Tamworth at 11.00 am

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, George Boyle, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sandra Green, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, Iain MacTavish, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Jim Cook, Rebekah Fuller, Sarah Hale, David Lowe, Amy-Alys Tillson.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2013 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 DATES & LOCATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2014

- 01 March 2014 10.00 am - prior to AGM (2.00 pm), Lapworth Village Hall
- 17 May 2014 11.00 am - Hazelhurst Cottage, Denford, Leek
- 16 August 2014 11.00 am - Beggarlee Wharf, Church Lane, Horsley Woodhouse
- 4 October 2014 11.00 am - David D to investigate meetings rooms in Midlands area
- 22 November 2014 11.00 am - prior to Social (2.00 pm), Lapworth Village Hall

The above dates were agreed. Laura would send the payment balance to Lapworth, enquire about key collection and inform Clair.

4 AGM

- **Committee posts** - Paul would re-email the list of posts that were due for election on 1 March 2014. No new nominations had been received and no motions had been submitted.
 - Sandra reported that now she had moved from London, she would stand down from her post as London Area Rep. Sue reported that Michael Pinnock was interested in taking over the role. Committee agreed to co-opt him until the AGM on 1 March 2014. Ros to add his name to mailing list.
- **Agenda** - Paul would also draft the Agenda with appropriate timings and circulate it for checking/approval ready for inclusion in the next Newsletter, 2014-1.
- **The running order** was agreed as: Introduction; Richard Parry's talk; Q&A; Presentation of the Keay and Hemelryk Awards; refreshment break; formal AGM.
- **Speaker** - Phil would email Richard Parry to confirm timings and enquire if he required any AV aids.
- **AV equipment** – Richard agreed to store the PA system and screen. He and David D would liaise regarding transporting it to Lapworth.
- **Refreshments** - Sue agreed to buy cakes, milk etc.

5 KEAY and HEMELRYK AWARDS – confidential item until presentation of the Awards at the AGM

5.1 Nominations for Keay & Hemelryk Awards 2013

For each award, the Committee listened to Bernard's description of the work that had been done to each boat, and then used a common scoring sheet against the criteria listed on the nomination forms:

- Keay Award - two nominations had been received (*Box Boat 337* and *Dart*). Both boats scored very highly, but it was agreed that the Award would go to the *Box Boat* because of its rarity value, the degree of improvement and because the committee felt it right to encourage and commend the work of the Modern Apprentices at the Museum.
- Hemelryk Award - two nominations had been received (*Holland* and *Pinner*). Both boats scored very highly, but it was agreed that the Award would go to the *Pinner* because of the degree of improvement, the sourcing of original materials and the riveting, and in order to encourage and commend the young owner who had carried out the work himself.
- Phil thanked Bernard for his time in inspecting and assessing the nominated boats.
- Paul would inform winners, in confidence, so that they would be present at the AGM to receive the awards.

5.2 **Return, refurbishment and presentation of the Awards**

- Daniel had obtained the Keay rose bowl, which was in need of some TLC. Bernard agreed to take it to see how/if it could be improved.
- Sue would contact Steve Harmer (*Admiral*) to arrange for the return of the Hemelryk award.
- Paul would prepare a short slide show outlining the work of Ken Keay and John Hemelryk, and Phil would present the Awards to the winners at the AGM.
- Bernard, Mike and Val would send suitable photos to Paul for use in the slide show.
- Bernard would ask Jim if he had a supply of the commemorative mini-plaques for past winners.

5.3 **Closing date for 2014 Awards**

- It was agreed that the closing date would be 30 November 2014 and that nomination forms should be sent directly to Bernard. Ros would update the information on the club's website.

6 **FOXTON GATHERING – 18-21 APRIL 2014**

Cash box and float for the bar – Laura had these in hand.

Foxton Inclined Plane Trust – Phil would send them a copy of our draft programme so that the museum could co-ordinate any events with ours.

Moorings – Ros had circulated the CRT booking form and risk assessment and it was agreed that it should be submitted immediately. She had already contacted the CRT Events Organiser informally to book the dates.

Food – Sue would contact the owner of the shop at the top of the locks to discuss BBQ for the Saturday night.

Glasses – Daniel would follow up with supplier in Bolton, from where he could collect the glasses and deliver to Clair or to Foxton. Sandra would send him the final version of the design (engraved with clear outline having been agreed by email between meetings) and it was agreed that 200 x pint glasses would be appropriate. Clair would get some plastic half-pints as well.

Plaque – the design (outline with blue infill) had been agreed by email between meetings, and Sandra would email it to Clair in time for the order in the second half of February after their return from holiday. The makers had confirmed that they could do a 4-week turnaround. The cost would be about £3-4, so resale possible at £5. There was no extra cost for colour infill. Mike commented that 31-32 boats were booked in so far, so it was agreed that 35-40 plaques would be a reasonable number to order.

Music, Saturday night – Sandra to organise music (eg Bruce Colmore) and liaise with Jim.

Speaker for Friday night – Laura to organise. Ros to email FIPT contact details.

Organ for Monday morning recital – David L had confirmed by email that he was in touch with the local vicar.

Local walks – Phil had made a start on these and would complete in time for them to be added to the boaters' packs.

Bell ringing – Richard to investigate.

Tat auction – some thought needed to be given to waterways' good causes to which proceeds would be donated.

Boaters' Pack – Ros to send final version of programme and walks to Val who would print ready for inserting in plastic poly-pockets. Other content suggested was local pub menu – items to be collected once we arrived on site.

Navigation – Sue reported that £1m had been set aside for summit dredging and it would be useful to know about sticky points encountered by historic boats. Request for information to go in the Newsletter and Phil to mention at the AGM.

7 **CLUB BRASS PLAQUES**

It was agreed that Clair would order Club plaques from the same supplier as used for the Foxton ones (Madeley of Telford). It was agreed to keep the traditional HNBC teardrop design but to have the plaques made thinner to keep the cost down.

8 PUBLICATIONS and AV MATERIAL

- 8.1 **Boat Spotters' Book (Audlem Mill)** Phil had circulated a proposal from Peter Silvester, requesting the club's endorsement of his and David Williams's proposed spotters' book. It was agreed that such an endorsement could only be given if we were given sufficient time to check the book for complete accuracy, and their quick timetable would seem to preclude this. Phil to reply to Peter to this effect.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

9 AV TRAINING MATERIAL

Sue reported that CRT was producing AV training material but that she thought it was different in purpose from ours. It was agreed that we should go ahead slowly.

- 10 **WRITTEN REPORTS** had been submitted from the following committee members, and are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes. These were taken as read; the topics covered are listed below, with any decisions or further discussion topics shown as bullet points.

- 10.1 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – club insurance; IWA e-newsletter; despatch of review copies of Ken Keay book; photographs of 1960s boating on the Ribble; discount on moorings at marinas; replica windlass; ideas for further HNBC publications.

- **Replica windlasses** – Paul would obtain a quote for production of a “Dunton double”, Don Clive's design, in steel or iron.

- 10.2 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – surplus for the year; bank balance; subscriptions; proceeds from sale of donated books.

- Although we have a surplus, this was down to the profit generated by the shop and to the fact that we have not made any donations, without this we would be in deficit.
- We had to bear in mind Corporation tax when HMRC next examined our accounts.
- Subscriptions were set at £12 in 2002, but with inflation £16 would be the equivalent in 2014. It was suggested that £15 individual, £18 joint membership and perhaps £9 young person's would be appropriate subscriptions but these changes would have to be agreed at an AGM (2015?), so advance notification to make members aware would be necessary.
- Funds raised from the sale of donated books should be given to specific strategic waterways projects. Laura would mention both the above in her report to the AGM on 1 March 2014.

- 10.3 **Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – membership numbers; approve 3 new memberships; preparation for handover of membership secretary's job.

- New members were approved: Sarah Malcolm, Anthony Gallagher, Michael Siddell & Miss E Robertson (joint membership)
- David would prepare name labels for the AGM.
- David suggested stick-on labels to update the Membership Form with the new Membership Sec's details.

- 10.4 **Archivist** (Richard Booth)

- **Archive of Newsletters** Richard reported that he was continuing to work copying these to disk, using OCR software. Bernard commented that he had a complete set of Newsletters if any were missing from the Archive.
- It was agreed that a boat name index would be very useful.

- 10.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date 3 February 2014; withdrawal of Newsletter advertisement; winding hole survey; Ray Butler’s proposed article; Know your Committee text requested from Sandra; Dave Turner’s comment re Thames; more Weaver photo scans bought; Mike Constable’s email.
- Phil would speak to Ray Butler at the AGM about his proposed survey of dimensions.
 - Val would speak to Dave Turner about putting his comments on Thames signage in the Newsletter, Bernard would follow up the issue through the River Users’ Group, and Sue through CRT Navigation Advisory Group.
 - Val would reply to [REDACTED] to try to ascertain what had upset him.
 - It was agreed that, due to the volume of material for the Newsletter, Val was authorised to produce a bumper edition as the norm rather than the exception.
 - Paul would write to Waterways World about an article that implied that historic boats suffered from “middle-aged spread”, giving the impression that pinch point problems were to do with the boats rather than the canal infrastructure.
 - As an amusing aside Val had discovered that when Keith Hodgson referred to a “Weaver Log” of photographs, it was in fact the one that she and Mike had compiled.

[Daniel, Alison and Rupert left the meeting at 4.30pm]

- 10.6 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – website refresh working party: software update, database construction, levels of access to the website, general or committee discussion forum, on-line payment, visual design, picture gallery.
- It was agreed to pay Steve an honorarium in recognition of his professional time to re-code the website.
- 10.7 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – photos of Dart sent to Waterways World; appeal for winding hole information.
- Sue commented that winding holes were now No 2 on CRT’s Safety Standards, with clear guidance on depth of pivot and clearance of vegetation.
 - Paul would contact Sarah and discuss how to ensure that the committee, and particularly Newsletter, were kept up-to-date with press releases issued by us.
- 10.8 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – takings at Napton; takings for 2013-14; Christmas Cards stock.
- **Christmas cards** – more designs needed for 2014. Val to ask in Newsletter for suitable photos.
 - **Ken Keay book** – offer of free postage for members to be continued. Ros to amend website.
 - **Shop holiday** – Ros to ask Steve to copy shop@ emails to Paul until mid-February.
 - **Malcolm Ranieri book** – Paul to produce errata list, compiled from David D’s list, and send to Clair for posting out with copies of the book bought from the shop.
 - **Storage of shop stock** – Sue suggested asking local CRT if they had dry, accessible storage we could use. Clair to investigate.
- 10.9 **Navigation Officer** (Sue Cawson)
- Sue had heard reports that the contact numbers on CRT information boards (0300 numbers) were returning “not in office over holidays” messages. Any problems, please let Sue know so she can take it up with CRT.
 - Navigation – Richard had heard that Land and Water had been told to dredge to a depth of 3ft maximum. Sue to check if this was true.
- 10.10 **External organisations:**
- **Ellesmere Port Liaison** (George Boyle) – next meeting 11 February 2014
 - **S E Boaters’ Group** (David Daines) – next meeting 20 January 2014.
 - **Historic Boat Discount working party** (Phil, David D, Bernard) – next meeting 21 January 2014.
- 10.11 **Area Reps**
- Central Shires** Phil reported that he had been to the open days at Atherstone Locks, which had been well attended, but he was disappointed that CRT had not contacted the Coventry Canal Society to join in and perhaps provide refreshments as a fundraiser.
- East** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – Nene and Ouse on strong stream advice; lock closures at Salters Lode, Denver Sluice, Stanground and the R Nene; Interchange agreement between EA and Cam Conservators under review; Willow’s adventures on the Backs.
- Phil congratulated Amy and James on their Backs expedition. Val to ask Amy for pics and an article.
- East Midlands** (Mike Harrison) – Trent in flood; Sandiacre lock stoppage and open day on Sunday 26 January.

London (Sandra Green) - good publicity from open day at Camden lock.

Manchester & Pennine (George Boyle) – Bugsworth Basin repairs to wash walls.

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – report from meeting with CRT about Hurleston Lock; open day at Grindley Brook on 12 January 2014.

- Sue will visit Hurleston to photograph the empty lock.
- Alison reported that she had contacted the local IWA branch to remind them that IWA's policy is to support the repair/widening of Hurleston lock, and had asked them to write to Wendy Capelle to clarify IWA's position.

North West (Daniel Mawdsley) – all quiet; sales of Christmas cards.

South East & Thames (Bernard Hales) - Boaters' Group meeting soon; R Thames floods may reveal different channels; R Wey, boats on gardens, cars floating;

11 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LISTS**

November 2013 Item 9.2 - Internet Banking – Laura reported that the bank now had all the required documents but that she was still waiting for the account to be set up.

October 2013 Item 7.2 - Scanning of LMS maps – defer for discussion at a later meeting.

January 2013 Item 9.1 - Droitwich plaques – Rupert to bring any remaining copies to Foxton in case anyone claimed one.

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 **Southern Grand Union locks** – David D reported that many still carried signs saying “leave empty” but Jeff Whyatt had produced a list of locks to be examined, except Cowroast, where the ruling appeared to be “only to be left empty at times of flood”. David was concerned that signs should be dated and removed when no longer current.

12.2 **Chris Clegg's proposed interactive map of canal lines and photographs** – Iain wondered if there had been any progress on this and whether it was a worthy cause for financial support.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm

Phil Prettyman
Chairman