

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.30 am on Saturday 19 November 2016**  
**at Lapworth Village Hall, Lapworth, Warwickshire**

**PRESENT:** Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth (10:50), Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Sarah Edgson (11:45), Nick Grundy, Mike Harrison, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley (11:15), Rupert Smedley (11:15), Laura Sturrock, James Tidy, Amy-Alys Tillson.  
**In attendance:** Liz Grundy, Peter Oates, Lorna York.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from David Daines, Bernard Hales, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Ian McCarthy, Daniel Mawdsley, Michael Pinnock.

**2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2016 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3 MEMBERS' SOCIAL AT 2:00 PM**

- **Shop** - Clair had not been able to set up in the main hall as it had been booked for the village's Christmas Fayre for the morning; she asked for "all-hands" at 1:00pm to help move the stock into the hall, as members usually arrived well before the published start time of 2:00pm. It was agreed to book the hall for morning and afternoon sessions for future meetings to avoid this rush.
- **Guest speaker** – Malcolm Braine would talk on the boats built by Worsey Bros Ltd and Steve Wood would play some of the recordings of interviews his father Arthur Wood had done with Joe Worsey. Mike Askin was bringing equipment to film Malcolm's talk for us to keep in the Archive. Phil had purchased extra leads for the PA system so the club should now have a full kit.
- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary refreshments** – James, Laura and Liz would help with the fizz, Marg Pottinger was bringing the cake she had made and Phil would ask her to cut it officially. He expected that Issie Turner and Liz Osborn would be on hand to help with cutting the cake into suitable portions.
- **Raffle** – it was agreed to postpone the raffle until the AGM; Nick would hold the prizes until then.

**4 MEETINGS/GATHERINGS 2017**

**4.1 Members' Meetings 2017**

- **AGM date** was 4 March 2017 and Sue reported that Julie Sharman, CRT's Head of Asset Management and Performance, had agreed to be guest speaker. Laura confirmed that the hall had been booked. Paul would prepare the Notice of Meeting, including a list of committee posts due for election, and send to Val for the 2016/4 newsletter.
- **Social November 2017** – Sue reported that Alan Jones had agreed to be guest speaker. The date had yet to be fixed and Laura was asked to check whether Lapworth hall was available on 18 or 25 November 2017.

**4.2 Gatherings at Easter 2017**

- **Ellesmere Port** - Phil commented on the past confusion about whether the gathering at The Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port was a significant one in 2017 or 2018. It now appeared that the significant date was 2017 but, however the confusion had arisen, the committee was now well on the way to arranging the club's own gathering on the BCN in April 2017. It was thought however, that there were sufficient more northerly-based boats to make a good showing at the Port, while midlands and southern based boats would be able to reach the BCN more easily. Sue had been invited to attend a planning meeting at the Port on 30 November 2016. Phil expected Mike Turpin of the Boat Museum Society to address the afternoon's meeting.
- **Club's BCN Gathering** – Phil ran through the various locations that had been suggested and the problems found by the working party (Pelsall, no facilities; Longford Boat Club, no hall available; Walsall Town Arm, no affordable evening venue; Titford Pumphouse, small and little campaigning element; Parkhead, already quite well used). It appeared however, that the Wyrley & Essington canal at Brownhills was a possibility, there being ample mooring space and a suitable and reasonably-price venue at the Brownhills Community Association (BCA) hall a short (200 yards) walk away. Sue suggested we should adopt a different pattern from previous years by organizing a cruise around the BCN.

Phil proposed having the event at Brownhills from Friday evening to Sunday evening, but arranging a convoy on the Monday to the Walsall Town Arm, with a possible overnight stay which would highlight the area and might

provide some press coverage. This was agreed and the Working Party was asked to investigate locally in more detail and start the paperwork with CRT.

An outline programme was suggested:

- Friday – gathering starts  
Alison suggested a photo opportunity at the Bradley Arm followed by a guided walk
- Friday evening BCA Hall – films (eg Sight Seen films on the BCN)
- Saturday evening BCA hall – talk about the BCN  
Nick commented that he had prepared a talk on the Grundy Family’s pleasure boating experiences but it was not focused on the BCN. It was agreed to ask BCNS (Brenda Ward or Martin O’Keefe) for recommendations for a speaker.
- Sunday evening BCA hall – BCN quiz.  
Peter Oates confirmed that he would be able to prepare one.
- Monday morning – convoy cruise to Walsall Town Arm

It was reported that Wendy Morton, MP for Aldridge-Brownhills was a waterway enthusiast and would probably welcome an invitation to visit.

## 5 AUCTION 2017

**Discussions with vendors** - Phil outlined the emails he had exchanged with [REDACTED] and his and Ros’s visit to discuss the auction [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] name was to be kept **confidential** to avoid the possibility of “pester” phone calls about items. Clair and Iain would contact other vendors ([REDACTED]) to ascertain the number of lots to be offered. Ros would email Clair with the outline terms and conditions that had been given to [REDACTED].

**Minimum Commission** - Laura was concerned that small-value lots should not clutter the auction, and proposed a minimum commission of £5 per item to encourage vendors to offer good quality lots. £5 or 15% commission, whichever was the larger, was agreed.

**Photographs of lots** - Ros expected that [REDACTED] would bring the lot photographs to the afternoon’s meeting. Ros would copy them to her computer ready for assembling into the on-line version, and would post the CDs to Sarah for the print version. Iain and Clair would assemble the photographs from the other vendors.

### Draft timetable:

2 <sup>nd</sup> week of December	lots to be agreed by the vendors and signed off
January 2017	prepare and produce catalogue
February 2017	advertise sale (press date 6 February) and make catalogue available in print and on-line
March 2017	promote auction at AGM

**Venue** - The hall at Weston, Staffs had been booked for the weekend of 24/26 March 2017, from 2pm on the Friday to allow time to assemble and display the lots. Phil commented that running the 2015 auction in one session had proved very tiring, Sue asked whether we needed a 2<sup>nd</sup> auctioneer, but Phil felt he would be able to cope if the day were divided into 3 sessions with breaks.

### Outline programme for the Auction weekend:

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2pm onwards	set up the hall, display and label the Lots
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9-11	viewing of lots
	11-1	session 1
	1-2	lunch break
	2-4	session 2
	4-4.30	refreshment break
	4.30-6.30	session3
	6.30-7.30	payment and collection of items
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9-midday	clear up

## 6 KEAY & HEMELRYK AWARDS 2016

- **No official nominations** had been received to date. Phil would promote the Awards at the afternoon meeting and would encourage members to submit a nomination; Ros would place a reminder about the closing date on the website.
- **Change to Area Reps** - Phil outlined a conversation he had had with Bernard, the current Awards officer, about the importance of having an Area Rep to monitor the possible future merger of CRT and the Environment Agency. Bernard, with wide experience of the River Thames, had agreed that he was willing to be co-opted as

Thames Rep. Rupert had confirmed that he was willing to be co-opted to the Awards Officer role. James proposed and Norman seconded these two co-options which were agreed nem con. These role changes would need to be included in the Notice of Meeting for the March 2017 AGM. Val would make the necessary changes on the committee listing for the newsletter, and Ros would contact Steve Wood to arrange the appropriate changes to the club's email addresses.

**7 WRITTEN REPORTS had been submitted from the following committee members, and are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.**

**Phil reminded the meeting that, as it was just 5 weeks since the committee's last full meeting and moreover a short meeting today, he would accept only items that needed a discussion or a decision.**

**7.1 Treasurer (Laura Sturrock)**

Laura reminded members that the club's year-end was 30 November and all expenses claims must be submitted by the end of the month.

**7.2 Membership Secretary (Sarah Edgson) – list of new members; non-renewals since June 2016.**

**New members**, who had joined since the previous meeting, were noted:

NAME	BOAT	MEMBERSHIP NO
Graham Donohue	Minnow	1863
Mr P Boylan & Ms A Dally	Selinova*	1864
Mr & Mrs K Atkins		1865
Paul Smith		1867
Mr & Mrs D Roome	Mintaka	1868

Sarah hoped to see some of the non-renewers at the afternoon's meeting to chase their subscriptions.

**7.3 Newsletter Editor (Val Roberts) – draft membership leaflet; Towergate alternative; donation received; AGM Notice required; Cromford Canal address; membership number/print run and labels required; tunnel book.**

- Friends of Cromford – it was agreed that Sarah would use their Treasurer's address on the Db, but that Val would send the newsletter to the boat manager.

**7.4 Club Shop (Clair Butler) – on-line sales steady; shop stand at CRT North Wales & Borders Partnership meeting; sale of Christmas cards; extra Woking plaques available.**

**7.5 Area Reps**

**Kennet & Avon** (Nick Grundy) – update on dredging at Crofton, Beech Grove Lock to Br 97, Lock 62, silt into lagoons, volume of dredgings, Lock 60 to 59 and approaches to Bruce Tunnel.

**London** (Michael Pinnock) – stoppage at Tottenham lock; Kensal Green rubbish collection by NB Barnet; Tower Hamlets leaflet on smoke pollution; Hale Wharf; Bow Free Wharf safety.

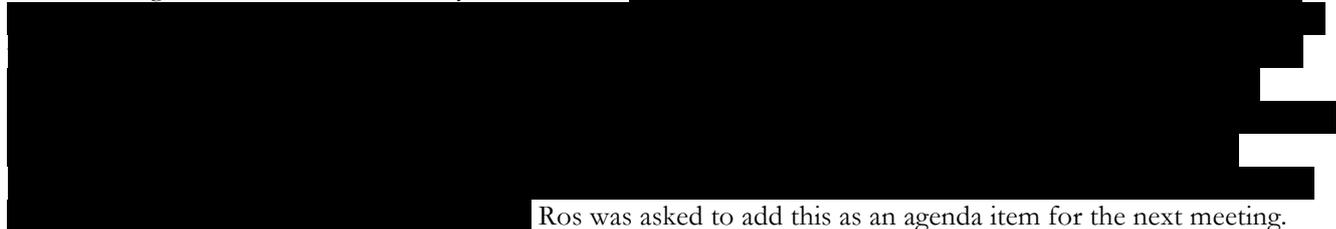
**North East** (David Lowe) – sand from Hull to Leeds; Port of Leeds at Stourton; Ferrybridge dredging on A&CN; need for replacement of extra set of gates at Leeds Lock; Ribble crossing L&L.

**North Wales & Borders** (Iain MacTavish) – NW&B Annual Showcase summary and good networking opportunity; NW&B Forum, winter stoppage work; Hurleston meeting pending.

**South East & Thames** (David Daines) – Cowroast Lock repair; Stoke Bruerne scheduled for New Year; veg cutback on N Oxford.

**8 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST**

**Oct 2016 7.6 Tunnel Book.** It was agreed to adopt Iain and Clair's proposal to include the tunnel listings within a book with general information/history on the tunnel



Ros was asked to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**Oct 2016 7.13 Archive Boxes** – Richard confirmed he had the supply of boxes and would bring them to the January meeting. Iain would find out the storage costs when the number of filled boxes had been established.

**Oct 2016 7.13 Legal status of Northgate cutting, Chester.** Sue reported that the matter had been raised at the Navigation Advisory Group meeting. In her opinion it was a complicated legal matter and best left to CRT and the local council.

**Oct 2016 7.13 Centre paddles on southern GU gates** Sue had received some “Weaver” photographs from Mike. She explained that, if there were no recesses cut into the brickwork, centre paddles could not be installed on the top gates. An additional problem was that local CRT supervisors asked for like-with-like replacement gates but sometimes were not aware that the gates to be replaced were not a good pattern. This matter was being discussed at CRT Navigation Advisory Group.

**Oct 2015 7.3 Donations Policy** – add as an agenda item for January meeting.

## 9 DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS

14 January 2017	11.00	Samuel Barlow, Alvecote
4 March 2017	10.00	Lapworth Village Hall, prior to AGM at 2.00pm

Dates for meetings in May, August and October 2017 to be decided at the 14 January 2017 meeting.

The meeting closed at 12:40 pm.

Phil Prettyman  
Chairman