

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00 am on Saturday 14 January 2017**  
**at The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote, Tamworth**

**PRESENT:** Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sarah Edgson, Nick Grundy, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Bernard Hales, Ian McCarthy, Daniel Mawdsley, James Tidy, Amy-Alys Tillson.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2016 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3 DATES & LOCATIONS OF 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- 4 March 2017                      10am    Lapworth, prior to AGM at 2pm (Laura has booked)
- 7 May 2017 (Sunday)            11am    Marsworth (Richard to arrange)
- 5 August 2017 (Saturday)      11am    Alvecote (Sue to arrange)
- 1 October 2017 (Sunday)       11am    Alvecote (Sue to arrange)
- 25 November 2017              11am    Lapworth, prior to Social at 2pm (Laura has booked, Sue to contact Alan Jones to confirm the date)

**4 AGM 4 MARCH 2017**

- Paul reported that he had received no motions for debate.
- Ian McCarthy's comment in his report was noted, that Manchester & Pennine area was now overly large. It was suggested that, bearing in mind his wide experience of the area, the committee should co-opt Rupert to resume his brief to cover what had been known as Central Shires. It was noted that James would be moving to the M&P area, and Paul was asked to find out if he would be willing to be co-opted to the Awards role. Ros would amend the Agenda for the AGM to reflect these co-options.
- Laura noted that the club would need to change Rule 7 (Dissolution) of the Constitution in order to be compliant with HMRC's rules about disposal of assets upon Dissolution. There was insufficient time before 2017 AGM to get the necessary notice (28 days) in writing to members via the newsletter, so Ros would add this to May 2017 agenda in preparation for AGM 2018 (see also item 11.3 below).
- Richard would bring the club's audio-visual equipment to the meeting and Sue would remind Julie Sharman of the date/time for her talk.

**5 AUCTION 25 MARCH 2017 WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

Actions agreed by the committee from the report circulated by Ros:

- Catalogue – printed version @ £5 to be available from Val. 20-30 printed copies needed at the auction itself, for use by the auctioneer's team and for sale on the door.
- Registration form, dates approved by Laura – Ros to send to Val for newsletter 2017/1
- Numbering the lots – Saturday 4 February at Glascote – Phil, Ros, Paul, Rupert, Alison, plus Sue, Clair, Iain if feasible
- Insurance – Paul reported that IWA contact saw no problems in covering items in the club's care.
- Timings – on Friday 24 March as many committee members as possible would meet at Glascote to transport boxes to Weston, ready to set up the lots that day in the hall. Viewing from 9am on the Saturday, with 3 x 2-hour bidding sessions thereafter with lunch and tea breaks between.
- Invitees – Sadie had asked for IWA, WRG, BCNS, BMS and Horse Boating Society to be invited as guests. In addition, possibly the National Horse Brass Society and the Waterways Craft Guild could be invited. It was suggested that Amy, as Press Officer, might be best placed to contact these organisations.

Further points raised and agreed at the meeting:

- Payment – could be made in break times or at the end of the final session, but not during bidding sessions.
- We would need to buy tea/coffee etc and ask for volunteers to run the counter.
- Laura had bidding number cards. Phil would repeat the winning bidder's number to avoid any confusion.

- Iain & Clair had visited Malcolm who was due to send a final list of about 30 items with photos this weekend. Clair and Iain to follow up. Malcolm himself would transport his items to Weston Village Hall.
- Newsletter 2017/1 would be posted out in the week beginning 20 February with some “taster” items, by which time the catalogue had to be ready. The auction was already advertised on the website on the members’ home page. Phil would write an article for the newsletter.
- Catalogue – nearly all photos had been received. Sarah would produce the cover but would send the print template from 2015 to Ros who would prepare print and on-line versions.
- Staging – Clair and Iain would check if we could hire it again from the local school.
- Provenance – Sadie and Malcolm had confirmed that their names could be used in promotional material.
- PayPal had messaged Clair with details of an update to PayPal. Paul would investigate and report back.

## 6 **EASTER GATHERING AT BROWNHILLS**

Actions agreed by the committee from the report circulated by Ros:

- To ask the Community Association to supply one of their workers to run the bar. Clair to action.
- Payment – Laura had paid the Community Association for the weekend’s hire of their hall.
- Speakers – it was agreed to ask Martin O’Keefe to talk for about 40 minutes on the Wyrley & Essington, and to ask Malcolm to talk, after the break, on moving the President to Norton Canes.
- Draft programme timings agreed:
  - Friday 14 April – Bar and shop from 6.30pm, Film shows and open mic from 7.30pm
  - Saturday 15 April – Boat parades/trips from 11am, bar and shop open from 7pm, guest speakers from 7.30pm
  - Sunday 16 April – Tat auction deposits from 10am, bar and viewing 1pm, tat auction 2pm, quiz 7.30pm
  - Monday 17 April – convoy cruise to Walsall Town Arm
- Suggestions for further activities – walk along the Slough Arm – contact David Pearson, local IWA

Further points raised and agreed at the meeting:

- Plaques – Clair reported that Sandra was willing to design a plaque. Agreed that it should feature the Brownhills Miner. Clair would contact Sandra.
- Mike had received bookings from about a dozen boats and would email an up-to-date list post meeting. Clair would cross-check Mike’s list against those who had ordered plaques for Woking in order to get an idea of numbers.
- Atlantis film – Paul would bring to the AGM ready for the Friday night at Brownhills.

## 7 **KEY & HEMELRYK AWARDS 2016**

Two nominations had been received for the Hemelryk Award, and two for the Keay Award. Each entry was scrutinised and scored against the standard scoring criteria to ensure consistency and transparency.

- **Hemelryk Award** was given jointly for 6 months each to the Effingham, owned by Devon Shepherd, nominated by Mike Harrison, and to Enterprise No 1 owned by Bernard Hales, nominated by John Churchman and Bridget Murray. Mike would inform Pete Newman who had owned the boat while the hull restoration work had been done, and Rupert would inform Dev so that both could be present for the presentation at the AGM in March.
- **Keay Award** was given to the Dane, owned by the Narrowboat Heritage Foundation and nominated by Sue Cawson. Rupert would inform them, stress confidentiality, and ask them to attend the AGM in March
- The Gazelle had been nominated, but after much discussion the committee regretfully decided that the boat was not eligible for the Keay Award as the wooden hull was a cabin cruiser, not a narrow boat. However, the heritage value of this unique boat was recognised and Rupert would write to the owners accordingly. It was suggested that there should be a series of articles in the newsletter on members’ boats to reflect the diversity of boats owned.
- **Trophies** - Rupert would contact BCLM to retrieve the Hemelryk Trophy and would have it engraved with the Effingham and the Enterprise’s details. Chas Hardern was arranging to give the Keay Trophy to Clair who would pass it on to Rupert for engraving with the Dane’s details.
- **Visuals at the AGM** - Rupert would prepare a PowerPoint show of the work that had been done so that members at the AGM could see the extent of the owners’ investments in the winning boats.
- **Publicity** – it was felt that, as soon as the awards were presented at the AGM, news would be shared on social media by those present. It was therefore agreed that Amy could mention the awards in the next NarrowBoat column, which would not be printed until mid-March. She would send the copy with a press embargo of 5 March 2017. Ros would update the website after the AGM, and Val would include details in newsletter 2017/2.

- **Mini plaque for past winners** – Sarah and Michael had arranged for more to be produced in 2016. Plaques were blank, ready for winners’ names to be engraved. It was thought that they might be in Bernard’s possession, Iain to find out and arrange engraving or more to be produced if necessary.
- **Certificate** – Chas Hardern has expressed a wish for a certificate. Ros would produce and print one for each of last year’s winners, to be signed on the club’s behalf by Phil.

8 **DONATIONS POLICY**

Laura reported that there was no clear policy on when and to whom donations could be made, nor on the amount. The club’s constitution gave no guidance on the disposal of club funds, probably because, when first written, the club’s finances had not been in their current healthy state due mostly to the Shop income. David D advised that a change to the constitution on this point would be unwise as it would bind future decisions to a specific policy. He suggested that a policy statement, clearly displayed in the Minutes and on the website, would be more flexible.

Phil proposed that any donations made to other organisations must be for projects or canal infrastructure that would be of potential benefit to all the club’s members. Nick suggested some might argue that the pleasure of seeing a restored boat would be a benefit to many members, but Laura pointed out that the potential admin work involved in applications and selection procedures would be a burden on the club’s committee. It was agreed that donations to individual boats would be divisive with the potential to be acrimonious. Laura suggested a one-third division of the club’s funds – 1/3 as a contingency fund, 1/3 to fund publishing, 1/3 for donations.

Phil was asked to write a policy statement reflecting the above points and to circulate it to the committee. When agreed, it would be incorporated in the minutes, added to the website, and published in the newsletter.

Alison reported that the WRG fund raiser for vans had been successful and had now closed, but the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust was initiating a new appeal. The club had pledged funding for the Wappenshall Wharf project of Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust which would not be called in until their target of £1.5m was reached (currently £350K still needed). Members were asked to bring other suggestions to the next meeting.

9 **NEW EXHIBITION BOARDS** – defer to later meeting [Post-meeting note – Iain wished to withdraw this item].

10 **PUBLICATIONS**



11 **WRITTEN REPORTS had been submitted from the following committee members, and are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes. These reports were taken as read.**

11.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – meeting of CRT historic boat group; meeting of CRT boaters’ reps with CRT Head of Boating, Mike Grimes.

- **Historic boat fleet** - Phil asked for advice on the destinations of some of the boats mentioned by CRT’s Mike Carrington, which he would feed back. Phil reported his advice to CRT that, where historic boats had been leased out for 5 years on the equivalent of a repairing lease, and had been maintained in good order, the lessees should have the opportunity to buy the boats outright at a reasonable sum when offered for disposal, rather than CRT placing such boats on the open market. This was agreed.
- **CRT publicity campaign** – Phil believed the message about the inappropriate and juvenile signage had been understood. There would be another phase of publicity, but this time of a more sensible nature and aimed at the general public. Phil had urged CRT to place only discreet notices at access points to the canals.

11.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter)

- Insurance renewal had been received, with similar terms to last year’s. Paul would forward certificate for the shop and the Brownhills gathering in due course.

11.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – commentary on the year’s accounts; corporation tax, trade with non-members, disposal of funds on dissolution.

- **The accounts for the year** had been approved by Dave Turner, the club’s Examiner of Accounts, and were ready for the AGM in March.
- **Tax and benefit of trading** Laura explained that no tax was paid on trading within the club, and that under HMRC rules, benefits arising from trading had to go to club members, not to an outside charity. The current Constitution as worded was in contravention of HMRC rules, but there was now insufficient time to give the required notice to members of a change to the Constitution. Ros was asked to note this item for discussion on 7 May 2017, together with any other small “tidying up” changes that needed to be made in time for the 2018 AGM (see also item 4 above).

11.4 **Membership Secretary** (Sarah Edgson) – verbal report at the meeting

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

NAME	BOAT	MEMBERSHIP NO
David & Diane Atkins	Craycome Companion	1869
Guido Monterzino & Solene Benoit	Liz	1870
Vanessa Ainscow	The Beech	1871
Michael Platten		1872
Tony Ferguson		1873
Chris Poole		1874
Oliver Taylor & Andrea Ingram		1875
Charlie King		1876
Joshua Knight		1877

Sarah reported that the majority of the non-payers noted at the last meeting, had now paid.

- **Membership card issue** – Sarah explained that it could take at least a month to check receipt of payment before membership cards could be sent out, and she had received complaints about the delay from a few members. The delay was caused by waiting for the monthly bank statement. Laura explained that many older Standing Orders were paid to the club’s NatWest account, which did not offer an on-line facility for two signatories (as required by the club’s constitution), resulting in a delay of about a month until the bank statements were received. This did not apply to subscriptions paid in cash or via PayPal. It was pointed out that, in the past, membership cards were sent out quarterly with the newsletter, not directly by the membership secretary, but members were now keener to receive their cards because of the discounts offered. It was agreed that Sarah should issue membership cards with the renewal reminder to all members with Standing Orders.
- **Membership queries.** Mike & Val had received some queries from members about their membership. Val had forwarded some queries to Sarah but had not heard if they had been resolved. Sarah would make sure to inform Val in future when queries had been dealt with. Phil emphasised that members must be asked to get in touch with Sarah, whose work telephone number, in the newsletter, automatically diverted to her mobile number. Phil would write a note for the newsletter to this effect.
- **On-line new membership facility** - Sarah asked for this to be withdrawn temporarily, as some existing members appeared to be joining anew instead of logging in and renewing. This had resulted in multiple emails apparently from new members but in fact from existing members. Ros deleted the relevant section from the Membership page on the website. New members could still download an application form and post or email it to Sarah. Sarah would talk to Steve Wood with a view to re-designing the process for new memberships and avoiding the current muddle.
- **Membership renewal reminders** – these had gone out before the New Year, some by post, some by email. “Red letter” reminders would go out by post.
- **Friends of Cromford Canal Society** – payment subscription was still not resolved, Laura would email them.
- **Membership leaflets** – Val had refreshed the leaflet with up-to-date information, but would delay ordering prints until the on-line joining issue had been resolved. Clair commented that she still had some in stock, and the new leaflets would not be needed until later in the year at festivals and gatherings. Val had obtained 3 quotations for printing, but it was agreed she would wait to have sight of the cheapest one, as used by the Friends of Cromford, in order to assess quality.

11.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – verbal report at meeting

- **Boats on website** – Richard reported that he was working his way through the lists of boats, updating details and supplying additional or new photos. He queried if full details should be provided on the website, or just a few details. It was agreed not to show all the information but to reserve this for members’ queries.

- **Complete list of boats** – Richard was working towards compiling a definitive list of all extant historic narrow boats. The list showed 800 to date, with still more to come, although some might be parts of ex-day boats.
  - **Website categories of boats** – Ros had grouped boats by their first company and in alphabetical order by launch name. This could be a problem where a boat’s launch name was not widely known but its later name was, although all names could be found through the Search box. It was agreed that boats should be listed by their launch or first-known name. Ros would ask Steve Wood to remove the “Search for Original Name” box from the Home page of the website as this caused confusion, and to request replacing it with a duplicate of the “ordinary” Search box as shown as the top of the page.
- 11.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – information required for the next edition, Cromford Canal SO, re-print of membership leaflets.
- **Photos belonging to Alison** had been retrieved by Nick Hill when helping to sort through some of David Blagrove’s collection- these would be returned to Alison. There were also some back issues of the newsletter – these were suitable for the Tat auction.
  - **AGM Agenda** Ros had sent the agenda for printing and inclusion with issue 2017/1.
- 11.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – takings at Lapworth, sales of Weaver books, sales of Christmas cards, Woking plaques, donation of second hand books.
- **Christmas cards** – Clair believed that new cards were needed to keep the stock fresh. Alison had some “icy” photos, Sue had mentioned this request to Brian McGuigan, Val would ask again in the newsletter and Ros would post a request on the club’s Facebook page.
  - **First Aid Kit** – the Shop had had one several years ago but Clair could not trace it. It was agreed that Richard, who had recently updated his first aid certificate, should purchase a new one for use by the shop and at club gatherings.
- 11.8 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – feedback on article in newsletter, next NAG meeting, breach at Hack Green.
- **Napton problems** – Sue commented that there had been reports of a problem at the second lock up at Napton since the recent stoppage. She would investigate further.
- 11.9 **Press Officer and Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – no report
- 11.10 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) - queries received via website contact form, uploading boat details supplied by Richard.
- 11.11 **External organisations:**
- **IWA** – Alison gave notice of 3 papers/campaigns to come from IWA: CRT’s licence structure; the renting out of boats; EA amalgamation/transfer to CRT.
  - **Wide boats** – Sue suggested another area for IWA to investigate would be navigations now used by wide boats, where the channel, intended for narrow boats, was being damaged by their passage.
  - **Seaworthiness of boats** – Phil had asked Tony Stammers (CRT H&S) why the standards of the Boat Safety Scheme did not cover the “seaworthiness” of boats. He had replied that this would be better dealt with through the licensing process. Richard commented that it might have been an old BW Bye-law offence, and David D added that in the past boats had had to have a Certificate of Compliance.
- 11.12 **Area Reps**
- West Midlands** (Sarah Edgson) – verbal report at meeting:
- **Edgbaston tunnel** - Sarah drew attention to the proposal/consultation from CRT West Midlands to widen the towpath through the tunnel as a commuter route for pedestrians and cyclists, by reducing the width of the navigation and making it one-way working. Paul was asked to send a strong objection to the proposal to Ian Lane, WM Waterways Manager, drawing material from the thread of committee emails before the meeting. Phil would send an objection as CRT Boaters’ Rep to Mike Grimes (CRT Head of Boating). Sue would send information to the Chairman of the CRT Navigation Advisory Group, Mike Carter, and to the Ramblers representative. Alison believed the local IWA branch would send an objection, and she would pass on the information to IWA Navigation Committee. Sarah would send an email to members, and Ros would post a message on the club’s Facebook page.
- East Midlands** (Mike Harrison) – verbal report at meeting:
- **IWA National Festival of Water** would be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Gallows Inn on the Erewash Canal.
- Kennet & Avon** (Nick Grundy) – dredging update from CRT.

**London** (Michael Pinnock) – Tottenham bridge, Hale Wharf developments, St Pancras stoppage and open weekend, Stort Brick Lock stoppage, CRT London mooring strategy.

**Manchester & Pennine** (Ian McCarthy) – size of M&P area, HNC new gates with pawl stops, CRT open day Marple, maintenance on Ashton canal, bridge strike on Rochdale, northern T&M open again.

- **Bridgewater Canal stoppage** - Nick drew attention to the fact that Peel Holdings, after announcing a long stoppage in the first 6 months of 2017 in order to re-build a bridge for lorries en route to a new housing estate, had that morning changed the dates again, now to February-June, effectively closing the Leigh Branch at very short notice with little regard for boaters and potentially trapping some boats. Local IWA had already objected, suggesting postponing the works until next winter, or condensing the work into a shorter period, or navigation “windows” when boats could get through. Paul would write to Peel Holdings with the club’s objections.

**North East** (David Lowe) – sea dredged sand delays, long stoppage Aire & Calder, voluntary lock-keepers on A&C and SYN

- **Routes to Growth** publication had been issued by CRT detailing the potential role of the waterway network in plans for a Northern Powerhouse.

**North Wales & Borders** (Iain MacTavish) – breach on Shroppie at Hack Green

**South East** (David Daines) – verbal report at the meeting

- **Cowroast lock** David showed a photo of a concrete shelf that had been added during the stoppage, still within the cill boundary measurement, but ideal for a boat to sit on when the lock was emptying. He was not sure of its purpose, nor whether a pair of boats would still be able to lock down together. He would send the photo to Sue for NAG. Sadly, the lock walls had not been sealed during the stoppage and a “Leave Lock Empty” sign remained.

**South Wales & Severn** (Norman Mitchell) – verbal report at the meeting

- **Boats afloat in Gloucester Docks** were due to be removed from the water in the next 14 days and put into storage. The Wye and the Oak were believed to be going into store, and the Northwich would be put on the bank. He believed the concrete narrow boat was also due to be lifted.

**Thames** (Bernard Hales) – newly appointed Thames Waterway Manager, enforcement action required to reduce overstay, short notice of closure at Old Windsor lock cut, RTS scheme for relief channels.

## 12 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST**

All but two on-going action points from the November meeting had been dealt with during the course of the meeting.

## 13 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### 13.1 **Waterways Craft Guild**

- Phil reported that, at the suggestion of Malcolm Braine, he had been approached by Jes Inglis, Chairman of WCG, whose organisation, although solvent, was having difficulty in attracting sufficient of its 100 members to stand as officers. Jes wondered if HNBC might be able to offer some kind of mutually beneficial arrangement.
- Laura explained how WCG worked to accredit members as “Journeymen” through to “Master” status.
- It was agreed that as HNBC had moved towards a more open membership, it was not appropriate for it to become involved with another organisation that tested/graded its members, nor did HNBC have sufficient slack in its administrative system to be able to absorb more work. We could, however, offer space in our newsletter for articles about WCG and its work. Phil would write to Jes Inglis and to Malcolm Braine to explain the committee’s decision.

### 13.2 **Spoon Dredger**

- Malcolm Braine’s spoon dredger had been at the Black Country Living Museum for many years, but he was now looking for a new home for it, and had wondered if the club would be in a position to take it on.
- It was agreed that, in terms of both manpower and location, and in line with the policy agreed for donations (see item 8 above), the club, though flattered, could not take responsibility for any particular boat. Phil would contact Malcolm accordingly.

### 13.3 **Hurleston Lock**

- Sue would try to arrange a meeting with Sally Body (CRT Engineering), Alison would try to attend.

13.4 **Members' photographic collections**

- Ros reported she had noticed a Facebook comment about safekeeping of members' photographs of boats. It was agreed that the club was ready to receive donations of photographs for its archive.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Phil Prettyman  
Chairman