

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.00 am on Saturday 4 March 2017
at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth B94 6LD

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Sue Cawson, David Daines, Nick Grundy, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock, James Tidy.
Committee members unavoidably delayed and joining late: Clair Butler (11.45am), Iain MacTavish (11.45am), Richard Booth (midday), Bernard Hales (12.15pm), David Lowe (12.15pm).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Sarah Edgson, Ian McCarthy, Daniel Mawdsley, Michael Pinnock, Alison Smedley, Amy-Alys Tillson.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2017 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Phil reported that pressure of work from Sarah's thriving boatyard had meant that she no longer had sufficient time to devote to this important club officer post, and she had therefore reluctantly decided to resign. Phil expressed his appreciation of the work she had done, taking over the role just as a new on-line membership database was rolled out, and his thanks was fully endorsed by the committee.

Phil had put an appeal in Newsletter 2017/1 for technical help with club business, and this had so far resulted in 3 offers. Phil read details to the meeting. It was agreed that this appeal for general help should be extended specifically to the Membership Secretary post and Phil would announce this at the AGM. It was agreed that a detailed job specification should be drafted by Phil, and David D would send him the MemSec document he had prepared a few years ago as a basis. The agreed job specification would be sent to any interested candidates to ensure they knew the full extent of, and commitment and skills needed for, the post. James raised 3 issues – clearing the backlog, identifying someone to take over, arranging training sessions with Steve Wood.

4 AGM 4 MARCH 2017 – presentations and arrangements

- **Running order** – as printed on the agenda circulated with Newsletter 2017/1
- **Welcome guest speaker** – Phil or Sue
- **Nominations** – Phil would explain to the meeting the rationale behind changes to South East, Thames, Manchester & Pennine South, Awards Officer and would announce vacancies for Membership Secretary and Fens/East Rep. James reported that he had a couple of names in mind for the latter (owners of Clypeus and fuel boat Bletchley) and would report back after further discussions.
- **Motions received** – none
- **Apologies received** – Paul had passed on list of names. Phil to read out at meeting.
- **Recording attendees** – Paul would ask members to sign in at the door.
- **Refreshments** – Phil would ask for volunteers at the start of the meeting.
- **Key & Hemelryk Awards** – Irene de Boo (BCLM) was bringing the Hemelryk trophy to the meeting but it would need to be engraved after presentation. Clair and Iain had collected the Key trophy and had had it engraved. Rupert had some photos of winning boats to share. Ros and Phil had designed certificates to present to retiring winners and had had sufficient printed to send to several years' worth of former winners. Phil to announce their availability and to post when requested.
- **Raffle** – Nick would organise the draw

5 EASTER 2017 GATHERING AT BROWNHILLS

Ros had circulated a report (see Reports appendix) prior to the meeting, outlining the tasks that had been done (CRT booking form, insurance documents, CRT approval, draft design for plaques approved, suggested speakers, other entertainment, draft programme).

- **Draft programme** discussed and agreed. Ros to send copy to working party and to committee for approval.
- **Stoppages** - Phil had heard that the stoppage at Platts Lane Aqueduct would be finished by the end of March.
- **Moorings** - Mike had received bookings from 29 boats, so there would be plenty of room for mooring, and he hoped to receive more at the afternoon's meeting [post-meeting note: 36 boats booked in].

- **Campaigning** - A report had been received about boat break-ins on the Wyrley and, as well as notifying the local police of our event as usual, Ros was requested to ask the local police for a presence (eg PCSO) during the gathering. James believed we should emphasise the campaigning aspect of going to Brownhills.
- **Walsall Town Wharf** - Ros was asked to email Brenda Ward about which pubs the BCNS used when in Walsall and it would be suggested to boaters that they should maintain a presence themselves when in Walsall rather than leaving boats unattended.
- **A vote of thanks** was proposed to the organising team, and agreed *nem con*.

6 **EASTER 2017 GATHERING AT ELLESMERE PORT**

Sue reported that there was a good programme planned for the gathering at the Boat Museum at Easter, and plenty of boats booked in. She recommended that the club should push for a really good attendance at the 2018 gathering, particularly focusing on the circular route.

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

Ros and Clair had circulated a report (see Reports appendix) prior to the meeting outlining the tasks that had been completed (Lot numbering, assembling the Lots, catalogue production, registration application form, lists/payment methods, publicity/invitees, venue booking) and reminders for immediately before the Auction.

- **Volunteers for jobs during the auction** – various members of the committee put their names forward as helpers. Ros would type up the list and circulate to the committee.
- **Mileage and expenses** – Laura requested that these be submitted no later than the date of the auction to enable her to calculate club expenses.
- **TENS (Temporary Event Notice) licence** – Laura would check if the club would need one, and to arrange it if necessary.

8 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 17 JANUARY 2017**

Many of the Action List items were concerned with the AGM in the afternoon, the Easter gathering at Brownhills and the Auction at Weston. The remaining items were rolled over to the next meeting in May 2017.

9 **PUBLICATIONS**

Alison had circulated a report (see Reports appendix) summarising her investigations into the research that had already been done on the history of [REDACTED].

- Alison would draw up a plan of what the book could include, for discussion at the next meeting.

10 **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.**

10.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – see Chairman's report for AGM 2017

- Phil had been pleased to receive a report that, following targeted complaints and specific reports, vegetation removal work had been done on the Oxford canal; Sue confirmed this.
- Phil was concerned that some parts of the boating community felt that the club was not doing enough to champion the cause of restoring dilapidated historic boats. He had addressed the point specifically in his report to the AGM. Sue commented on the Friendship in the museum at the Port being a prime example of how old boats could be used to educate and inform.

10.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – letter to West Mids manager objecting to Edgbaston Tunnel proposal; letter to Peel Holding objecting to extended stoppage on Bridgewater; 3 responses to club appeal for technical help.

10.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – closure of Santander Bank account; low interest rates; comments to be made when presenting accounts at AGM.

- Although interest rates were extremely low on current accounts, it was agreed not to place club funds in a higher paying account if this would mean tying funds up for a year.
- Iain had received information about a new Metro Bank community banking offer which appeared to offer a better deal. He would forward papers to Laura. Laura would action if she deemed it appropriate.

10.4 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – list of boats at 1967 IWA National, incomplete.

- 10.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – mailing newsletter, press date; auction catalogue printed; Friends Cromford Canal SO; Weaver pics at Gloucester Museum may replicate club's; print costs for membership leaflet.
- The printer had sent more copies than usual, Val would bring them for distribution at the auction.
 - Phil reported that Sir Neil Cossons (chair of CRT Heritage Advisory Group) had sent complimentary email praising the newsletter,
- 10.6 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – online orders; stock delivery for AGM and second hand books; help requested for Shop at AGM.
- 10.7 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – next NAG meeting; winter stoppages; dredging meeting re Coventry Canal; planned dredging meeting for W&B; open days still popular.
- 10.8 **External organisations** – (Alison Smedley, IWA rep) EA campaign on Anglian area waterways; Edgbaston Tunnel objection; IWA publicity for club auction.

10.9 **Area Reps**

East (James Tidy)

- EA waterways lock closures threatened but James believed only to rarely used locks. Phil reported reply from his local MP to which he would reply. Rupert commented 3 of the locks were on Rights of Navigation and that, if a structure failed, EA would not be able to repair it with current government funding; also that IWA had mounted a campaign (see 10.8) and he believed that the Head of DEFRA had referred the issue to the Waterways Minister. Phil mentioned that EA funding had dropped 50% in real terms and EA were not allowed to raise their charges in line with inflation.
- James had noticed a time lag in getting repairs done on EA waterways, and thought the locks were not as well maintained as they used to be.

East Midlands (Mike Harrison) – Storm Doris damage; flood warnings; Leicester IWA rally (see also Archivist report); changes to boundaries of CRT areas.

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – dredging update from CRT; Bradford on Avon lock open day.

London (Michael Pinnock) – railway stoppage below Tottenham Lock; pinch points on R Lee; removal of sunken cruiser; Regents Canal facilities worsening; royal opening of London Canal Museum new exhibit.

Manchester & Pennine (Ian McCarthy) – lack of north/south through routes during stoppages; Marple locks; Lower Peak in need of dredging; Huddersfield Narrow new lock gates with pawl restrictors; Ashton new gates problem; Rochdale - locks, anti-social behaviour; Manchester, Bolton & Bury closed until July; Trent & Mersey update; Bridgewater closed for 4 months; Macclesfield bridge holes; Caldon pinch point.

North East (David Lowe) – bed levelling on A&CN; shortened stoppage Doncaster Lock; reduced lock keeper hours on A&CN; dredging on Pocklington; 2-week stoppage Leeds Lock challenged; Leeds Waterfront Festival 2017; successful open day Doncaster Lock; no overruns on winter stoppages.

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – Grindley Brook works completed; work to railings at Pontcysyllte; hopeful of meeting re Hurleston lock.

South East (David Daines) – long stoppage at Cowroast failed to cure leaks problem.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – imminent dredging Gloucester Docks for Tall Ships; Saul Junction car park resurfaced; electronic indicator board for upstream from Gloucester; next Forum 25 April; Nb Northwich on bank at Gloucester Docks; restored barge Sabrina returning as meeting space.

Thames (Bernard Hales) – report from EA on successful clearing of “slum boats” at Teddington and failed appeal at Richmond moorings; riverbank almost completely clear of unauthorised mooring.

11 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1 **Residential or pleasure moorings** - David D reported that all CRT linear moorings were now managed centrally rather than locally and most costs may rise due to change of status (pleasure/residential). David found the letter from CRT intimidating in tone and had complained. Phil commented that CRT were trying to correct long standing anomalies and Sue emphasised the importance of getting involved in CRT consultations on moorings review.
- 11.2 **Basingstoke Canal** - David D reported that a planned amalgamation of CRT and Basingstoke Canal had fallen through because of funding issues.

11.3 **Archive items** - Mike reported that the Weaver and Slater photographic collections were now stored in purchased archive boxes, ready for long term storage

12 **DATES & LOCATIONS OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- 7 May 2017 (Sunday) 11am Marsworth Millennium Hall
- 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 (Sue to contact speaker: Alan Jones)
- 3 March 2018 10am Laura to book hall for meeting and AGM

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Phil Prettyman
Chairman