

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT OWNERS CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 9th January 2010
at 9 Chandlers Drive, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4NY

PRESENT WERE: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Matt Beamish, Richard Booth, Sue Cawson, Mike Harrison, Martin Jiggins, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Viv Scragg, Rupert Smedley and Alison Smedley.

Margaret Booth and Simon Banford were in attendance.

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies had been received from David Daines, David Lowe and Dave Prior

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

11.1.6 should read "culvert" not "bridge". With this amendment, the minutes of the committee meeting held on 21st November 2009 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 **Weaver Collection** - Mike gave an excellent talk to accompany the slideshow at the BCNS meeting in Titford Pumping Station. Ros and Val took down the comments of several knowledgeable experts in the audience.

3.2 **Marsworth Yard** - on 3rd Dec Richard and Phil attended a meeting with BW personnel to discuss the Marsworth Yard proposal. BW was represented by Nigel Crowe, Geoff Whyatt, Peter Chowns (now in Regeneration) and Aiden Johnson-Hugill (BW Property). Whilst it was a non-acrimonious meeting, the Club's objections to the planning proposal were very clearly put and Phil felt that there was more than a bit of embarrassment on BW's part. It became very clear from this (and a subsequent meeting) that Nigel Crowe had not been part of the BW process for this planning and had not seen the details of the application until Phil put it in front of him! Richard and Phil explained that the club objected to a number of things - the loss of the warehouse; the unsuitability of the new building style; and particularly the loss of any meaningful wharf space. They also pointed out that the lack of proper consultation was bound to result in the volume of objections made to AVDC - they clearly recognised this.

The outcome is that if the planning application looks as though it may be turned down, they would withdraw it and resubmit a revised plan. In this case they implied that they would engage in a proper consultation process. Phil hoped the club would be able to help them to develop a proposal that produces significant income for BW without the loss of key heritage aspects. Since the meeting there is further evidence of considerable opposition to these plans although there is not yet any sign of withdrawal. There have also been representations from Peter Hawker (*Bletchley* and *Argus*) over loss of wharf facilities and a good article in *Waterways World*. An objection has been posted from Aylesbury Vale District Council's own heritage officer, endorsing English Heritage's objection. Although BW state that the maintenance yard will be moved to Tringford the only plans for that site so far are for conversion of building for office staff. During the meeting, Aiden Johnson-Hugill said that AVDC obliged them to increase density but this is not true. He also said that there was no truth in the rumour that Fencrete's rent had been increased. However, at the public meeting he was forced to admit that the rent had been increased. Actions: 1. Richard to raise complaint using BW's complaints procedure. 2. Richard to monitor planning application situation. 3. Phil to raise issues with BW heritage.

3.3 **BWAF Heritage Group – Boat disposals** - Phil had attended a meeting which had been convened to offer advice over the disposal of ten historic boats. Attendees were Nigel Crowe – BW, Head of Heritage, Bernard Hales – Heritage Afloat, Phil Prettyman – HNBOC, Mike Turpin – BM Ellesmere Port, David Bass, BW, who has particular responsibility for BW's historic fleet. Thirty three bids had been received, including multiple bids from the same individuals for several boats. Names of bidders had been removed from the paperwork. The group agreed the criteria suggested by Nigel Crowe. All bids were considered, including those where the offered price was far below the valuation price, or where no price had been offered in the bid. Bids were rejected that did not have a detailed, clear and robust description of how the boat would have a sustainable future; did not convince the group that there was sufficient skill and expertise available to carry out the work described; and did not offer a realistic price for the boat.

Four boats (*Heron*, *Carnaby*, *Aynho*, *Sulby*) were withdrawn from the process as no reasonably valued bid had been received. In all these cases, the price offered was less than the scrap value of the boats – including those that had

good, working engines installed. Sensible, realistic and robust bids were received for six boats and the group was able to make unanimous recommendations for these. It is now up to BW to make the final decision on the disposal of these boats.

4. Secretary's Report

- 4.1 Despite chasing an answer, Alison had still not heard back from Tony Hales' secretary as to whether he (or Simon Salem if Tony Hales not available) would be able to speak after our AGM on 6th March. Alison will follow this up. The fall back position will be a further display of photos from the Weaver Collection but it is important to know one way or another by 3rd February so it can go in the newsletter. [Post meeting note: neither Tony Hales nor Simon Salem available but eventually Vince Moran, Operations Director, was confirmed as speaker]
- 4.2 BW and the Third Sector – the Club has been sent a consultation document concerning this.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 Matt had circulated a report by email on 8th January. The cash book balances are as follows:

Current A/c statement balance (Nat West) as at 30/12/2009	£2,267.55
Direct Debit errors Dec 2009	£527.05
Uncleared cheques (IWA insurance)	-£386.77
Savings A/c (Alliance & Leicester) (0.1% interest) as at 02/11/2009	£10,391.03
Current balance unknown as paperwork with Examiner	
Total funds at bank	£12,798.86

- 5.2 End of year prepared accounts have now been prepared by Matt and have been examined by Dave Turner. Accounts summaries will be available at the AGM.
- 5.3 Two further fraudulent direct debit claims were made on the Club Account in November and five in December (totalling £527.05). Those from November have been refunded, but those from December are now owing. Following another series of (exasperated) telephone calls between Matt and various NatWest offices, NatWest Aylesbury have finally recommended that the club account holders collectively sign a letter requesting that the Club's account be marked as not available for Direct Debit. Matt will take this letter to a Leicester Nat West branch, where it will be received and acted on. The only bona fide Direct Debit we use is a subscription payment to IWA; this has now been cancelled with IWA who will request a cheque payment or Standing Order arrangement when our subscription is next due in September 2010.
- 5.4 Following difficulties experienced by some officers attempting to pay in cheques made payable to HNBOC, (the account name of the club's account still being NBOC) this would also be a convenient time to request that the account name be updated. Therefore Matt has added a suitable clause to the above letter which was signed by the account's signatories.
- 5.5 Dave Turner has suggested that the Club writes off the value of the Disappearing Heritage stock in our accounts: this means that Matt would not have to keep accounting for something that we do not sell as such, and we do not keep account records for, and would ease accounts preparation. Matt calculated the value of the closing stock in October 2009 as £348.76. The committee agreed to write this off.

6. Keay and Hemelryk Awards

- 6.1 There were no nominations for the Keay Award. However, *Towy* was noted as the "runner up" last year and as such could be brought forward for this year. Subject to Richard checking the information sent in with the nomination last year, it was agreed to award the Keay award to *Towy*. Alison will write to the owner, Stewart Shuttleworth, to let him know and to invite him to come to the AGM for the award to be presented.
- 6.2 Hemelryk Award – two nominations had been received – *Whitby* and *Electra*. The awards criteria process was gone through, which resulted in scores of 86 for *Whitby* and 64 for *Electra*. Viv will let Paul Barber know.

7. Club Rally – Easter 2010

- 7.1 Ros has filled out an event form for Coventry City Council and has produced a risk assessment document, receipt of which has been acknowledged by CCC. Ros has informed the police, fire and ambulance services via the relevant websites, with an acknowledgement having been received from the police. BW has been informed and Darren Green, waterway manager, has agreed by email. The local CCC Ranger will contact local shops and businesses. Ros will contact Coventry Canal Society to confirm the arrangements. First Aiders are Sue, Ros and Phil. Point of contact for lost children will be Phil. Viv offered to supply a First Aid Kit. A nominated first aid boat will be one moored close to Taylor John House. £100 deposit has been paid for the booking of Taylor John House (total cost of £600 for three days). The premises are licensed for entertainments and sale of alcohol, and the price includes bar staff. A rota will be drawn up for committee members to patrol the area outside, particularly during times when everyone is inside the building as the boats will not be visible from inside.
- 7.2 David Lowe is progressing the idea of getting all (or as many as possible) of the Cowburn & Cowpar boats there, to recognise the traffic from Courtaulds at Coventry to Manchester. Cowburn & Cowpar boats are to be moored in the arm nearest Taylor John House.
- 7.3 An article will be written by Phil/Ros to go in newsletter to give members more information, along with a separate entry form to include date of arrival, length of boat, unconverted or not, point of main access. Almost all the boats should fit, but only if someone is organizing them in a sensible order. Harbourmaster to bear in mind a natural fire break to be created by holds of unconverted boat. Mike Harrison and Sue Cawson to be harbourmasters.
- 7.4 The proposed programme of events was discussed:
 Friday evening - Music session with bar open
 Saturday afternoon - Film Show - The Bargee, Painted Boats, etc. DVDs and VHS can be shown.
 Saturday evening - Talk about Coventry Basin/Coventry Canal – Coventry Canal Society?
 Sunday afternoon - Auction – people to be asked to bring suitable items. Proceeds to go to Coventry Canal Society.
 Sunday evening - Quiz – Peter Oates and Laura Sturrock to be asked. Ros will sort out a prize.
- 7.5 These events can be swapped around according to people’s availability. The following additional events were discussed: David Lowe to be asked about an organ recital. Coventry Transport Museum is nearby – a group booking could be made for the Monday morning. Guided walk around Coventry – City Council to be asked about walk leaflets. Phil will put the programme together and finalise details to go in the newsletter.
- 7.6 Rally Plaque – a design similar to club rally plaques of the past in the outline of the rear view of a back cabin was suggested by Sue. Richard will scan one and email it to Rupert, who will create a design for this year’s event and liaise with local supplier.

8. Membership Secretary’s Report

- 8.1 David Daines had sent his apologies and had emailed a report. David will post to Alison the customary safety back up disc of all Club files. Totals 430 current, including 3 Exchange & 2 Honorary. At time of last meeting 423 inclusive. Of paying members 270 are non SO and 155 are paid by SO (plus 5 as above). So far 48 have yet to renew for 2010 (out of 153 January renewals).
- 8.2 The following new members were approved:
- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------|
| Dave & Norma Warden | Dodona | 1584 |
| Brian Jarrett | [Kyle] | 1585 |
| Peter Frost | | 1586 |
| Colin & Ann Jenner | [Eli] | 1587 |
| Mr J F Hambridge | [Lazy Days] | 1588 |
| Mike Constable | | 1589 |
| Don & Beryl Gray | [Pensax] | 721 |
- 8.3 David suggested a mark to signify ex-working boater status, following the issue being raised by Beryl McDowall [Wasp] who is annoyed at being included with other non qualifying boat details in Boat and Address Lists. The meeting discussed this and felt that if it was possible then David should identify those members who are ex-working boaters.

- 8.4 Boat and Address Lists - David has reduced this back down to 4 pages. Val noted that 5 pages would take it very close to the next postage rate.
- 8.5 David wondered about sending out blue forms to members who pay by standing order, to check the veracity of info on the database and wondered when would be a good newsletter for them to be inserted in, weight-wise. David will send out reminders separately (currently 48 but renewals coming in by almost every post).

9. Newsletter Editor's Report

- 9.1 Val had circulated a report by email. The press date for next newsletter is 3rd February. Val circulated cover designs for this year. Mike and Val are hoping to do the projected trip that didn't come off last year, which means they won't be around in April, May or June. In view of that the committee agreed that the press date for 10/02 would be early July.
- 9.2 Val had received a letter from Richard Gray. It was felt that if he wanted it included in the newsletter he should pay for it as an advert in the same way as any other member advertising their services.
- 9.3 It was agreed that Val should again purchase one year's supply of stamps to pre-empt the impending rise in postage rates.
- 9.4 IWA National Festival – Clair is doing the entry form and had some queries which were hopefully answered. Alison will create a risk assessment based on one she has used previously and send to her.
- 9.5 Christmas cards – it was agreed that we would have 3 designs this year (as Friends of Cromford Canal only want one). 2 plain and one with Christmas Greetings overlay.

10. Archivist's Report

- 10.1 Martin Jiggins has spoken to Tony Walker's widow and she has agreed that we could go and look through his photos, papers, etc. Richard and Martin to follow this up. Audio memories as well about the yard.

11. Boating Issues

Canals all frozen! Sue had boated down to Watford recently, despite the ice. Sue raised the issue of boats over-staying on visitor moorings. Phil noted an article recently in Spout (Ashby Canal Society) which he will circulate. It was agreed that the problem is that BW do not enforce it.

Gate paddles – Sue noted that there was no consistency in whether gate paddles are being fitted or not on the lower GU. Needs raising with Vince Moran and putting on the agenda for the WUSIG meeting. Sue will put some ideas together and discuss with Phil. Sue to make a note for each lock of: date of gate, whether its got gate paddles, where gates were built. Richard will do ones north of the Tring summit. Sue will do Watford to Tring summit. WUSIG meeting is in April. Sue will co-ordinate and get it on the agenda.

12. Area Representative Reports

- 12.1 **Fens Rep** - Dave Prior reported by email that the people currently running the Bedford to Milton Keynes Link Trust are looking to form a partnership to assist with the whole thing.
- 12.2 **West Midlands (South & North)** -nothing to report.
- 12.3 **Wales & Border Counties** - Rupert reported that a 500 tonne crane had been brought from Glasgow to crane out the boat stranded at the end of the Leek Arm after the breach. Darren Green (BW Manager) says that they still haven't found the cause of the breach (ruled out culvert failure) and so engineering still not finalised but still hoping to get it opened for Easter.
- 12.4 **South West** - no report.

- 12.5 London & South East** - Martin Jiggins reported that the PWG meeting was cancelled. Aylesbury Canal Society are about to put in p/a for their new location. BW have agreed to sell properties at Ponders End and Denham Deep to Martin's clients. Martin has been appointed by IWA as their South East Planning adviser.
- 12.6 East Midlands** - Mike reported on the ongoing saga of Longhorse Bridge. Following the public enquiry, the result is that the compulsory purchase order has been granted. This means that the bridge will be put in the new location upstream, not in the original location, which is bad news for the waterway. Mike also reported that the Butterley Company, who are located on top of Butterley Tunnel on the Cromford Canal, has gone into liquidation. The site will be developed for housing. There are a number of listed buildings on site, and there is particular concern that access may be lost to the unique underground wharf.
- 12.7 North West** - no report.
- 12.8 Yorkshire** - David Lowe had emailed a report which was discussed. He had attended a 'Senior Waterway Users' meeting in Leeds on 15th December representing HNBOC and CBOA. Other three reps were from TBA, IWA and NABO. NE Waterway Manager Laurence Morgan asked for views as to how he could best spend the maintenance budget in the coming year. The meeting was unanimous in that dredging was a priority especially on the Commercial Waterways (with particular reference to the South Yorkshire Navigation). Other top issues: repair of Linton Lock, and the old favourites: sanitary stations, and overhanging vegetation. David raised his concern over a remark made by NABO Rep (Howard Anguish) relating to 'so called working boats' (he meant historic boats) who 'expect everyone to get out of their way' etc. He said that his remark was aimed at a minority who think they 'are better than everyone else'. This issue was discussed. Phil said this is a problem which occurs from time to time and it is a concern. Club members should aspire to the courtesy shown by the working boaters. Perhaps an article or series of articles would help. Phil will put something in his chairman's report for this next newsletter. It was also suggested that an article could be written for Waterways World explaining some of the issues about working boats, eg, how to pass mid channel. Rupert offered to sound out WW about whether they would publish such a document and if so to write a first draft to circulate to the committee.

13. Future reorganisation of Area Representatives

Phil outlined 3 options that he considers are available to the committee following BW's reorganisation:

A – continue as we are based on new BW areas. This would mean 12 area reps as opposed to the current 9.

B – grouped areas mirroring the maintenance and heritage groupings. 2 reps for each area = 6

C – carry on as we are with only some of the BW areas covered.

After much discussion it was agreed that Alison would write up the changes for the newsletter to encourage members to put themselves forward for the various vacancies. Article to stress that there is no obligation to attend committee meetings, so long as reports are sent by email. Main requirement would be to attend the user group meetings and report back.

Ros noted that she was happy to do Central Shires, or West Midlands, or webmaster. Rupert was happy to do Central Shires or Manchester & Pennines. George Boyle – Phil to let him know that we don't need a web person, but see if he might be interested in Manchester & Pennines rep. Alison to ensure blank forms are available at the AGM for nominations on the day.

14. AGM arrangements

Matt has re-confirmed the booking of the library 10 til 1 and hall 2 til 7. Matt to ask if there are any other chairs we can use as there weren't enough. Agreed sales table will go in side room, with doors open before meeting starts. Retrieval of awards – Matt Parrott to be asked to bring the Hemelryk Award and Martin Jiggins will retrieve the Keay award from Alec Gunner.

15. Club Shop continued

Clair had sent a report. There are only about 100 packs of cards left in stock so Clair couldn't see a problem with having three different cards printed this year. She had received an enquiry from Cotswold Canals Trust Heritage Centre at Saul who were interested in selling our cards. The committee agreed that this was a good idea and they should be offered the cards at a wholesale price for bulk (20 packs or more) of £2.50 per pack.

Clair asked for any suggestions for other books to be ordered from the supplier and suggestions were: any others in the “George & Mary” series and “Walkers of Ricky”.

16. Club Website

Ros gave a demonstration of the new website as designed by Steve Wood. Whilst it is not quite finished it is almost there and everyone was suitably impressed with it. Various queries and comments were made which Ros will feed back to Steve. Ros asked for further feedback and asked all committee members to look at the website which is currently available to look at on www.hnboc.bream.org.uk. Everyone to feed comments back to Ros.

17. Matters arising and action points

The following updates to actions were noted. Outstanding actions (and new ones from these minutes) appear on the new list (separate document).

Date/Min No	Action By	What Action Required
Jan 08/6.5	Phil	New display boards to be purchased – more research required over the summer. In hand by Clair and Iain. It was agreed to stick with the old ones, having not identified anything better.
Sept 08/15.2	David D	Borrow some of the documents retrieved from a skip by Rex Wain (for scanning). Richard will ask Rex Wain about it as he sees him regularly.
May 09/3.1	Phil P	Carbon Monoxide detectors fitted as part of BSS. Check if anyone at BW is dealing with this. Phil has talked to BW about this at a meeting. Nothing further to be done at this stage.
May 09/4.2	Richard	Query from Stewart Shuttleworth about wooden boats. Done.
July 09/3.3	Phil P	Response to IWAC report on Climate Change re historic engines. Done.
July 09/4.1	Phil P	Response to BW’s letter re volunteering. Now forms part of wider consultation on third sector. Phil will prepare draft response.
July 09/7.4	Dave P, Viv	Text and photos for “Get to know your Committee” article. Val has articles, but needs photos
Sept 09/3.2	Phil, Matt	YWBS. Send letter of support. Add link to their website. Done.
Sept 09/4.2	Matt	Renew IWA membership. Done.
Sept 09/5.2	Matt, David D	Remove club’s SO form from website to minimize risk of fraudulent direct debits. Done
Sept 09/6.1	Matt	Check start and end times of bookings for club’s meetings at Braunston village hall. Done
Sept 09/7.2	Matt	Morris Oils discount – put information about discount on club website. Done.
Sept 09/7.4	Matt	Replica GU Hadar, offer link from club website but refuse photo for gallery. Done.
Sept 09/8.3	David D	Comps list. Send newsletters to “The Regional Manager” pending BW’s re-organisation. Done.
Sept 09/8.4	David D	Waterways World. Complete questionnaire but only take option to have leaflets for meetings. Questionnaire passed to Alison at November meeting for her to send. Done.
Sept 09/10.5	Phil, Sue, Viv	Discuss compilation of list of all existing historic boats. Discussed and ongoing.
Sept 09/12.1	Ros	Radford Road bridge, raise at next WM user group Nov 09. Raised, might have been dealt with
Sept 09/14.1	Matt	Donation of £200 to Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Trust. Done.
Sept 09/14.4	Phil	Ask Roger Fuller to attend meeting in January to talk about proposal for book. Roger Fuller to attend a later meeting
Sept 09/14.5	Val	Investigate expanding newsletter articles on Three Fellows Carrying into a booklet. To be done later
Sept 09/14.6	Sue	Enquire if Clive Guthrie’s family would welcome help to produce his book on Yarwoods. Sue has approached them and will continue to pursue.
Nov 09/3.4	Phil	Marsworth Yard – Phil to follow up with BW again and to submit official objection to Aylesbury Vale District Council. Done/being followed up.
Nov 09/4.2	Val	Put something in newsletter re IWA National Festival. Done, will be in next issue.
Nov 09/4.3	Alison/Matt	Renew IWA Insurance. Done.
Nov 09/6	Ros	Liaise with Steve Wood over new website. Done.

18. Dates and Venues of Next Meetings

Saturday 6 March 2010 – Committee at 10am, followed by AGM, Braunston Village Hall

Sunday 23rd May 2010 at Braunston

Saturday 17th July 2010 – provisional, date and venue to be confirmed

Saturday 18th September 2010 – provisional, date and venue to be confirmed

Saturday 13th November 2010 – provisional, date and venue to be confirmed

Alison Smedley, Secretary