

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012**  
**at Hazelhurst Cottage, Denford, Leek, Staffordshire starting at 11.00 am**

**PRESENT WERE:** Phil Prettyman (Chairman), George Boyle, Sue Cawson, David Daines (from item 4), Sandra Green, Mike Harrison, David Lowe, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley (from item 3.3), Laura Sturrock and Amy-Alys Tilson.

**1. Apologies and welcome**

Apologies had been received from Sarah Hale, Norman Mitchell, Richard Booth, Rebekah Fuller, Clair Butler, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Bernard Hales and from Jim Cook who was standing down as Fens Rep. Amy-Alys Tilson was co-opted as Fens Rep and welcomed to the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (with the following correction - Adrian Polglase instead of Polglaze).

**3. Chairman's Report**

- 3.1 Phil said that there seemed to be a general feeling of disappointment amongst boaters about the funding settlement for the Canal and River Trust. Phil said it was important to appreciate that it was as good a deal as the Trust was going to get, with the extra concessions that were made (pensions, 15 year contract). This had been discussed at various user group meetings. Sue Cawson said that at the Wales & Border Counties user group meeting there had been complaints about the level of funding. George mentioned that at the Manchester and Pennine meeting they were told that the funding is subject to certain conditions, percentage of towpaths, percentage of principle assets to be maintained, critical flood management assets. The concern is that navigation (eg dredging) isn't covered by these, so won't take priority.
- 3.2 The launch of CRT is to be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June in Birmingham. Phil has received an application from for a representative boat from HNBC to attend the event. David Lowe is taking Swallow (representing CBOA). George Boyle can take Badger to represent HNBC. Alison noted that the local IWA branches aren't all able to take up the places they have been offered and she will ask if any of them would like to be represented by an historic boat. George Boyle will co-ordinate to try to get as many historic boats there as possible. Phil will forward the forms to George. [Post meeting note: the event on 28<sup>th</sup> June has since been cancelled.]
- 3.3 The original BWAf Heritage Group is being scrapped and replaced by a Heritage Committee, chaired by Sir Neil Cossons. John Yates is on this committee with his built heritage background, not as a boater. Numerous people who were on the original group are making complaints. They may set up an independent group. Phil has written to Neil Cossons and has invited him to a meeting. It will be June before this happens and the plan is for a group of others from the former group to have a pre-meeting before Phil goes to see Neil Cossons.
- 3.4 Complaints had been received about awarding Hemelryk award to *Emu*, relating to the fact that an historic (though not original) riveted bottom had been replaced (which the committee was not aware of). Sandra suggested that boat restorers should be asked for independent advice on nominated boats. It was agreed to change the deadline for nominations to mid November (after the November social meeting) so that there is time to then seek advice from particular professional boat restorers. A redesign of the Key and Hemelryk nomination form is required. Sandra, Ros and others will get together to do this.
- 3.5 Droitwich Easter Boat Gathering. The event went very well and everyone enjoyed themselves. Orders and money had been taken for 19 plaques. Phil has written letters of thanks to the various organisations. Complimentary plaques are to be sent to Droitwich Working Mens Club and Gardeners Arms, Droitwich Town Council. The landlord of the Gardeners Arms was very supportive during the event, put photos of the boats on the pub's website, and has joined the club. Rupert had drawn up a design for a plaque. He will now get them made. Only one person paid extra for postage, rest all to be delivered by hand as and when.

**4. Secretary's Report**

- 4.1 Alison announced that she would need to stand down as Secretary in the near future, due to the commitments of her new full time job for IWA. Everyone was asked to think about any members who might be interested in

taking over as Secretary.

4.2 IWA Waterways magazine received.

4.3 Certificate received following donation to the Inglesham Lock Appeal. Alison to scan and email to Val and Clair.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Laura reported that the account balances stood as follows:

£12,560.22	Santander
£ 3,083.01	Natwest Current account
£ 4.06	Cash
<b>£15,677.29</b>	<b>Balance at the two banks</b>

5.2 Laura has now received an invoice from Pete Boyce for the top planks for *Sculptor* in memory of Dave Prior, for £660 including fitting. A plaque is to be made reading "In Memory of Dave Prior (year of birth) – 2010, HNBOC 2010". This could possibly be inset in the back of the front top plank. Rupert to arrange plaque from John Sutton once year of birth and size of plaque required has been ascertained. Laura will liaise with the Friends of Stoke Bruerne.

5.3 Laura has received a letter from the Inland Revenue. They are reviewing the Club's tax situation and have sent a standard form. Laura will reply with the information that they have asked for.

5.4 Following the change of name at the AGM, Laura will now change the name on bank account. Relevant signatures were obtained and she will submit the form along with a copy of minutes from AGM and the new constitution.

5.5 There was a discussion about claiming expenses claims for travelling to meetings. In fairness to members, it was suggested that perhaps committee members shouldn't claim for travel to members meetings and AGM. But after discussion it was agreed that committee members may claim for travel to meetings even if on the same day as well as other meetings.

## 6. Membership Secretary's Report

6.1 David Daines had emailed a report. As at 11<sup>th</sup> May, there are 489 members, including 5 Exchange & 2 Honorary. There are currently 22 Joint members (ie 11 'pairs'). At time of last meeting this was 474 inclusive. Of paying members 313 are non-SO and 169 are paid by SO. The following members lapsed on 1 April.

1337	I	Mr & Mrs P Bittner.	N/A	
1538	I	Mr L Hewlett.	Ariel	
1341	I	Mr M Mayo.	Adder	
1510	I	Mr R J Mitchell.	Lichfield	ex SO
1442	I	Mr S Pearce.	N/A	
1625	I	Mr B Selfe	Lyra [Knot Krazy]	ex SO

6.2 The following new members were approved: (I = Individual, A = Association or Business, J = Joint)

Adie Polglase	Walton	1662 – Keay Award
*Colin & Jennis Askin	N/A	1663 - I
*Tracy Cornish & Rod Tye	Olive & [Biddie]	1664 - I
*Peter Hamblett	N/A	1143 - I
*Ian Holmes & Liz Lane	N/A	1665 - I
(This should have been a Joint membership, but the old form from the web was used)		
*The Gardeners Arms	N/A	1666 - A
*Keyth Vassmusson	N/A	1667 - I
*Derek Jervis & Allyson Proudfoot	[Taurus]	1668 - J
*Paul Tickle & Miss K Sims	N/A	1669 - J
*Peter & Jenny Copeland	Tebay	1670 - J

- 6.3 Resulting from decisions made at the AGM in March, David made a number of radical and significant changes to the Club database. He has eliminated the 'statuses' of 'full' and 'associate' and created the 'membership types' of 'Individual', 'Joint - A', 'Joint - B', 'Association', 'Complementary' and 'Honorary'. The initial letters from these form a suffix to the membership number. The plan for 'Joint' memberships is to duplicate the record of the first 'named' person, then change the actual person's name on the duplicate record and use type 'Joint - A' for the first named and 'Joint - B' for the second. David has altered the macro that produces the NL posting labels, and the renewal letters, to exclude the 'Joint - B' ones so that only the one NL or renewal letter is sent out. The number of 'records' then reflects the increased number of members and each one of the 'Joint' members will receive their own 'Card' and share a single membership number. David has added the 'suffix' of the Membership Type initial letter (I, J, A or H) to the membership number on the membership card, and in other places such as letters.
- 6.4 David has re-written the 'Membership Application Form' to reflect the changes. This replaces the old one on the web site. The paragraph on the web explaining 'How to Join' also needed re-writing to update the membership fee to pay. It did say just £12, but for 'Joint' membership this will now be £15. David will now record just one name, or just a 'Mr' or a 'Mrs', as 'Member' unless joint membership is sought.
- 6.5 David has also made significant changes to the welcome letter sent to new members and to the renewal invitations and letters sent out to members. There were a large number of anomalies in these consequent on the creation of the Joint membership. There are all sorts of minor anomalies needing decisions, such as how to present names on the membership cards now that each part of a 'Joint' membership have their own card, but two people in an 'Individual' membership do not.
- 6.6 David outlined a recent problem where Val noticed some new members were missing newsletter posting labels. It turned out that records for members 1600 to 1664 had disappeared but David has now re-created these missing members, and is very grateful to Val for spotting it.
- 6.7 In the future, from next renewal letters 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 it was agreed that David will advise people that he will need to take the second name off membership record unless they pay the extra £3.
- 6.8 The committee recorded its thanks to David for the hours of work he has put in on this following the changes at the AGM.
- 6.9 David noted that each meeting he hands a CD to the Secretary with a complete copy of the database and also his notes of how he does it. He felt it would be useful if he could talk someone through the database.
7. **Newsletter Editor's Report**
- 7.1 Val reported that the press date for 2012/3 is to be 6 Aug 2012. It was agreed that the freebie list needs updating before the next issue is despatched (currently 76 on the list). Agreed it should go to Trustees, Chairs of Waterways Partnerships, BW Waterway Managers, BW Heritage Advisors.
- 7.2 Increase in postage foreign members has increased from 99P to £1.84 and £2.20. David said that the 6 foreign members all voluntarily pay more (eg £20) so it was agreed that this is not a problem.
- 7.3 Val asked whether we need to send a copy of the new constitution to each member – or just supply it to new members. It was agreed that as they had it circulated in January they do not need to receive it again.
- 7.4 Val has no "Know Your Committee" articles in stock and needs articles from: Norman Mitchell, Sandra Green, Sarah Hale, Sue Cawson, Bernard Hales, Rebekah Fuller and Amy-Alys Tillson
- 7.5 Val suggested that we need to decide and book a speaker for the November meeting. Tony Gregory, Alan Faulkner, Sheila Stewart and Wendy Freer were all suggested. Mike and Val can get contact details Wendy Freer and will make contact with her.
- 7.6 Malc Slater Collection – Malc Slater has offered to sell his collection of canal negatives and albums for £250, or £500 if the **Immingham and Grimsby negs were to be included**. **The quantity of images in the canal collection is still unknown**. David Lowe was waiting to hear back from Malc Slater with an estimate of the number of negatives, but it was agreed that the Club should buy them. Laura wrote a cheque and David L will liaise with Malc.

7.7 Val had produced a mock up of the “Who’s Who” leaflet. It was agreed that it should be a separate insert. It was agreed it should be printed in house for 7p per side. Val will print it to go in next newsletter. It can then be updated each year following committee changes at the AGM. Everyone to send their 75 words to Val.

## 8. Archivist's Report

There was no report in the absence of Richard Booth.

## 9. Press Officer's Report

9.1 Sarah Hale had submitted a report by email. Since being officially appointed as Press Officer at the AGM she has issued five press releases and we have gained coverage with a number of stories, including:

- Launch of *Walton/Keay Award* (this was used by all the main magazines mainly because there was an attention-grabbing photograph; Hugh Potter was also doing a more historically orientated piece for *NarrowBoat*.)
- Club name change
- Trustees' boat trip/AGM
- *Emu* restoration/Hemelryk Award
- Droitwich gathering (Covered by Rupert for *Waterways World* and Harry Arnold for *Towpath Talk*)

9.2 Most of these were sent to/featured in *Waterways World*, *Canal Boat* and local press. Over the next month Sarah wants to expand our coverage to include *Canals and Rivers* and *Towpath Talk*. During the coming month potential stories include Lock tail bridges, and HNBC as a successful (?) campaigning organisation (would also have included *Renfrew* collecting timber for *Lucy's kelson*, had this not been scuppered by flooding Trent). Sarah asked for people to let me know of any other ideas.

9.3 Sarah raised an issue about co-ordinating our contact with the press – with reference to Rupert writing for *Waterways World* and Harry Arnold writing for *Towpath Talk*. This was discussed, and it was agreed that what Rupert and Harry do shouldn't affect what Sarah does. They will only pick up specific topics for specific magazines and are not writing for the club but as private contributors. Sarah should continue to send out a press release to all waterway magazines (it is then up to the magazine what they use).

9.4 Sarah is still in the process of setting up a press monitoring 'grid' and should be in a better position at the next meeting to report on the success rate of our press efforts.

9.5 It was agreed that Sarah's recent piece on health and safety was extremely good and well balanced. With a bit of modification it could be adopted as the Club's statement on H&S. Phil will talk to Sarah about this in principle, and together talk about re-wording it to make it into a general position statement on health and safety.

## 10. Website

Ros had circulated a report which included recent statistics on viewing figures.

## 11. Club Shop

11.1 Clair Butler had emailed a report. Shop sales at Droitwich totaled £273.54 : £137.84 for new books and cards, £135.70 from second hand books. Since last report, postal sales are £85.93 (includes £49 for a clothing order). There have been three orders which have come via the website, all non members of the club.

11.2 Clair has recently purchased £493.14 stock from Belmont Press, we mark up the books by a third. This stock includes 45 copies of a new book: *A Horse, A Boat and You* by Alice Lapworth. Val will be running the shop at Braunston, with stock being delivered by *Chertsey*. Iain and Clair will be at Northwich River Festival with the shop, the same weekend. Iain and Clair will then be taking it to Audlem for the Transport Festival.

11.3 Clair has had an offer of a Christmas card design from Bridget Carter (*George*). The meeting agreed that this was a very good idea. Sue will talk to Clair about taking up Bridget's generous offer.

## 12. Boating Issues

12.1 Staffs & Worcester Canal - lock tail bridge handrails - Ros had summed up the recent correspondence regarding this and had circulated it by email. It was agreed that this was very good and useful. Ros still hasn't received a reply from Tony Stammers. Alison had received a re-design for Falling Sands Lock (which addresses the

headroom issue) which she will reply to. Alison will be the point of contact for the club on this issue in Ros and Phil's absence over the next few weeks. It was agreed that we still need to object to anything being done at Kidderminster and Alison will follow this up. On the Trent and Mersey there are still temporary handrails at Fradley. Darren Green told Rupert at Central Shires user group meeting that they haven't come up the design yet but it will be simple rounded handrails. Need to make sure we see designs when available. Phil will raise this with Neil Cossons at their meeting. We need to keep John Yates informed. Sue will talk to him.

- 12.2 Sue noted that it is important that members are encouraged to report problems to BW as they do log all this information.
- 12.3 There was concern that the BCN is very much under threat, problems with gates getting fully opened. More needs to be done to get the BCN used more.
- 12.4 Sue mentioned an incident on Thursday at Hillmorton. One set of locks closed, with only the offside ones open. A boater's hand was jammed between their boat and the BW service boat which was moored in the way of getting a full length boat into the lock. The volunteer lock keepers on duty didn't help at all, and they had no first aid equipment and no way of calling emergency services. It was also noted that the top walkways often under water but the volunteers weren't clearing them.
- 12.5 CRT Navigation Group – official nominations are now being sought. It was agreed that Sue Cawson should be nominated.
- 12.6 David Lowe was interviewed for the North East Partnership last week. Phil Prettyman has applied for Central Shires and will hopefully be interviewed. David Daines had applied for South East but not heard anything.

### **13. Area Representative Reports**

#### **13.1 East Midlands**

Mike reported that he had emailed Sean McGinley about Stret Lock. There is going to be a stoppage in Nov/Dec – they will anchor back one wall and cut the brickwork away. They will then do the same to Shireoak Middle in March. Mike has emailed to say thanks very much, very good news but once the stoppage is confirmed then we should formally thank him.

#### **13.2 North Wales & Border**

Iain attended the User Forum at Whitchurch 26 April 2012 and had circulated a report by email.

David Lowe asked why there wasn't a lock keeper at Northgate Staircase, as there is at staircases on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which would enable both paddles to be used. Sue said that BW do want to encourage more boats to go down into the basin in Chester and on to EP.

#### **13.3 Fens**

Amy mentioned the Cam Conservancy new licence fees which will affect anyone visiting the River. Anyone with an EA licence used to be able to use the Cam, but now they will need to pay extra 10% to visit the Cam. A full length boat will have to pay £134 to visit 7 miles of waterway. Amy noted that the Fens are a bit cut off at the moment with restrictions on Northampton Arm. Northampton event was cancelled due to flooding on the River which has been in flood for about 3 weeks.

#### **13.4 London**

Sandra Green reported that a lot of maintenance and spot dredging was reported on at the user group meeting. On the Hanwell flight BW have fixed a landslide and reinstated the sideponds. Sally Ash was there to give an update on the continuous moorers on River Lee. BW have recruited an agency to speak with affected people and try to come up with a solution. Hanwell Flight – Keith Mahony works for Wood Hall & Heward. Problems with leakage, filling the pounds. Towpath widening scheme, Islington – Sandra spoke to a guy running the consultation. A fender is to be installed on the towpath about 30cm deep, so it will reduce navigation by that amount. Below City Road lock floating pontoons are being installed for having market stands on.

Parliamentary Waterways Group – this has been re-established. The Club was not represented at the first meeting as Phil couldn't get there but we need someone to go. Sandra might be able to attend, or Amy or Bernard. It was agreed that Sandra should be the main point of contact.

### **13.5 Kennet & Avon**

The Club has now had two offers from potential K&A reps - Tom Judd and Alan Rose. Alan Rose is no longer living or keeping a boat in the K&A area but was happy to do it if no-one else could. Alison will invite Tom Judd to the next meeting.

### **13.6 Central Shires**

Rupert Smedley reported that BW have de-silted the side ponds at Atherstone and the case has been put forward for utilising them. For it to make any sense they would need to do Glascote as well. Mike said they were brought back in to use in 1976 but not every lock. Yard Lock in Stone is a very deep lock, and with the hire base above it probably gets more use than the rest of the locks on that flight. Canal Cruising Co Ltd have asked BW if the side pond there could be put back into use, but BW initially unkeen. BW have reassessed how they are using heavy works so more use of cranes, which will put the costs up. Central Shires are taking on two apprentices.

Alison mentioned that a project that she is following up in her new role for IWA is to get the strapping post at Etruria Junction replaced. Those present offered suggestions for where to research the design of the original, and other sites where replacement strapping posts might be useful. Spon Lane, Stourport – especially if river was running (but Sue thinks might not be anywhere to put it), Barbridge and Hardingswood Junction. Another idea suggested was for vertical rollers on sharp corners.

### **13.7 Manchester and Pennine**

George Boyle had circulated by email a report on the BW customer forum held on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### **13.8 North East**

David Lowe raised the issue of Thorne Lock on the Stainforth & Keadby Canal – on “narrowboatworld.com” someone said it was possible to get a full length boat through Thorne Lock. Mike and Val confirmed that it is definitely not physically possible.

### **13.9 North West**

No report in absence of Rebekah. Given Rebekah's relocation to Staffordshire, the Club needs to find a new North West Rep.

### **13.10 South East**

Bernard needs to make sure he gets invited to user group meetings. Tring Summit is open but is being kept a good foot or so down. Jim and Sue have taken Owl across the summit and it was bumpy but possible. Cowroast locks should be open between 10am and 3pm. Marsworth reservoirs are now full but the ground water is still very low.

### **13.11 South Wales & Severn**

Norman had reported by email that he had nothing to report.

### **13.12 West Midlands**

Steve Harmer has stepped down as West Midlands rep. Ros will cover the area until a new rep can be found. Ros had attended a user group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April and had circulated a report by email.

## **14. Issues arising from changes to Name and Constitution adopted at the AGM**

### **14.1 New Logo**

Sandra had put together a presentation on the new logo and showed three different options for laying out the

name of the Club. Subject to Sandra reducing length of the lines, a design was agreed on. It was agreed that we need to stick with a consistent font to use. Editor to have discretion over layout of the front cover, so long as it is in the right font and the right case, without “the” in front of the name.

## **14.2 New membership leaflet**

It was agreed that a small group should get together to re-design the membership leaflet to allow for the changes to membership classes. Val, Sandra and David D will liaise by email with a view to a mock up of new layout to be brought to the next committee meeting. Sandra will draw up a draft, David will supply wording for membership categories. Agreed that it should be in a similar format to present. Any one with a photograph that might be suitable was asked to email it to Val, Sandra and David.

## **14.3 Committee Structure**

Further to Alison’s decision to stand down as Secretary, Ros will draft an appeal for a new secretary to go in the next magazine. It was agreed that the post could be split into two roles - minutes secretary and secretary. Ros will take the minutes from the next meeting onwards. Alison will continue as Secretary in name until she can hand over properly to someone. In the meantime, Alison will act as the conduit for anything coming in and will pass everything on to Ros for Ros and Phil to pick up.

Regarding the structure of the committee, Phil suggested that there should be three groups:

- Officers – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary, Archivist.
- Regional representatives – agreed important to have an area rep for each waterway area, particularly with the strengthening of the waterway areas with the new waterway partnership. Each area rep needs to develop a relationship with someone on the waterways partnership. In Fens area the rep to develop relationship with EA.
- Specific tasks – could have: Navigation, Press Officer, Minutes Secretary, Website, Club Shop, IWA Liaison, Events Organiser to organise club rallies + speakers for November and March social meetings. Awards Officer (could be combined)

There would be an expectation for Officers to attend all committee meetings but others can attend as they wish. Area reps should submit a written report prior to every committee meeting and then attend committee meeting if they wish to but there will be no expectation to attend every one (although it might make sense for them to attend the November and March meetings). This will enable us to cover a wider base.

## **15. Any Other Business**

15.1 BW’s proposed Historic Boat discount form was discussed. There isn’t a form currently. There are lots of typos. There was discussion about the date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1948. 1968? Is it going to be retrospective? The Club went to a lot of trouble to advise them about a point scoring system that would have helped them with this process but they have completely ignored it. Phil will go back to them.

15.2 An early start on planning for an Easter gathering in 2014 was proposed. Foxton had been suggested but there has been no response from them regarding the suggestion that we might go there at Easter. Another idea that came up over Easter this year is Three Mills, Bow Back Rivers in London for 2014. It was noted that the BCN needs to be campaigning about to get increased use. George suggested having a Club gathering at another time of year and having it annually, and supporting Ellesmere Port event at Easter.

[Those travelling by train (Sandra Green, Amy-Alys Tilson and Laura Sturrock) and Sue Cawson who was driving them to the station, left the meeting at this point.]

15.3 Booking Naption Village Hall for the AGM was discussed. David Daines will contact David Gunby to ask him to book it for ideally 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday March or as soon thereafter.

## **16. Date and Venue of Next Committee Meetings**

- 14<sup>th</sup> July – 11am – Farnham
- 15<sup>th</sup> September – 11am – Horsley Woodhouse
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 – Napton followed by members meeting

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.

Phil Prettyman

Chairman