

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 14 July 2012**  
**at 9 Chandlers Drive, Tamworth at 11.00 am**

**PRESENT WERE:** Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, George Boyle, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sarah Hale, Mike Harrison, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock. Chris Clegg was in attendance.

**1. Apologies and welcome**

Apologies had been received from Bernard Hales, Rebekah Fuller, Sandra Green, Alison Smedley and Amy-Alys Tilson

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

With three amendments (re-numbering of items 12.5, changing David Lowe's interview to North East instead of North West, and the finishing time as 5.30 pm instead of 12.15 pm), the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2012 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Chairman**

3.1 Phil expressed the committee's condolences to Richard on his recent sad loss of Margaret.

3.2 **CRT launch events** on 12 July had been quite jolly events, with Trustees and local partnership chairmen in attendance. Phil (Fradley), Sue (Birmingham), Mike (Newark) and David L (Leeds) all noted that the DVD by HRH Prince of Wales expressed support for freight and heritage, although local partnerships seemed to be emphasising other interest groups (fishing, cycling, rambling) rather than boats and boating.

3.3 **HNBC committee representation on CRT groups.** Sue Cawson had been appointed to the Navigation Advisory Group, David Lowe to the North East Partnership Board and Phil to Central Shires Partnership Board. HNBC members were also serving on other groups – Mike Carter (Surveyor) on Navigation, John Yates on Heritage and Beryl McDowell on Moorings and Licence.

3.4 **Parliamentary Waterways Group** appeared to be operating again. Amy had been invited to the next meeting early in 2013 as Cam Rep. Phil would check with Sandra if she could attend as HNBC Rep, then would write to nominate her. Sarah expressed her willingness to stand in if Sandra was unable to make the meetings. David L would check if CBOA was represented

3.5 **Historic boat discount scheme.** David D explained that in the mid-1990s he had been a member of the Heritage Boat Working Group, chaired by Bruce Harding of BW, charged with developing an assessment scheme to identify boats eligible for the discount. The Group had delivered a sliding scale scheme to BW but BW (Sally Ash) had instigated a flat rate 10%. David Viner, CRT, was now seeking to set up a new assessment scheme, but appeared to have no knowledge of the work done by the Heritage Boat Working Group. Phil would write to Nigel Crowe, David Viner, copy John Yates, expressing the club's robust defence of its members' interests and suggesting that discount eligibility should be based on listing in HNBC records and/or on registration with National Historic Ships UK, or should be on a sliding scale based on criteria established by the Heritage Boat Working Group. In the meantime, we should encourage all our members to register with the NHS.

3.6 **BWAF Heritage Group and CRT Heritage Advisory Panel.** Phil had been invited to meet Sir Neil Cossons (Chair of CRT Heritage Advisory Panel) but holiday+accident had delayed this. In the meantime, Phil had met Ivor Caplin, Vaughan Welch (with email contribution from Paul le Blique AWACC) to discuss strategy and had produced a joint paper. This had been sent to Sir Neil but now awaiting his reply. BWAF will continue under another name for the time being.

3.7 **Health & Safety** positioning paper. It was agreed that Sarah's blog should form the basis of an article for the newsletter. Sarah would re-draft in less personal style, send to Phil who would circulate to the Committee for approval prior to newsletter 2012/3 deadline of 6 August 2012.

#### 4. Secretary

- 4.1 Alison had sent a report via Rupert:
- No correspondence had been received since the last meeting.
  - Alison had emailed Ian Lane about Kidderminster lock tail gate, suggesting its complete replacement with a taller replica, but had had no reply.
  - Alison had forwarded an email from Ian Lane about amendments to Netherton Tunnel to the committee for comments and would reply .
  - Alison was happy to remain as Secretary in the newsletter until her successor could be appointed.
- 4.2 **Committee posts** It was agreed that Ros would stay as temporary Minutes Secretary, and that Alison would be co-opted as IWA Liaison. Ros would draft advertisements for 2012/3 newsletter for Secretary, West Mids Rep, and Awards & Events Officer. It was thought that Paul Hunter might be interested in a role on the committee, and Val was asked to approach him.
- 4.3 **Keay & Hemelryk awards application form.** The new design was approved with some amendments to the wording, and it was agreed that Ros would send it to Val, in A4 layout, for the 2012/3 newsletter. Closing date was agreed as 16 November 2012 to give the committee time to visit nominated boats. Phil would write to this year's Award winners to ask for the return of the two trophies by the end of January 2013 to give time for engraving to be done.

#### 5. Treasurer

- 5.1 Laura had circulated a summary of the cash book showing detailed receipts and payments since 1 December 2011 and reported that the account balances stood as follows:

£12,621.55	Santander
£ 2,721.46	Natwest Current account
£ 4.06	Cash
<b>£15,347.07</b>	<b>Total</b>

- 5.2 The club's change of name at the banks had been confirmed and one paying-in book issued. David D took this, and Laura would request further copies for Val and Clair.
- 5.3 Laura had been in touch with HMRC and was hoping to persuade them that submitting a return was not necessary. Awaiting an answer.
- 5.4 Subs to Maritime Heritage Trust had been paid.

#### 6. Membership Secretary

- 6.1 As at 11th July, the club had 514 members, including 5 Exchange & 2 Honorary. There were currently 24 Joint members (ie 12 'pairs'). At time of last meeting 489 inclusive. Of paying members 326 are non-SO and 173 are paid by SO.

The following new members were approved (I = Individual, A = Association or Business, J = Joint). Welcome packs had been sent out.

Graham Wellsted	[Caniche]	1671 – I
Peter Wills	N/A	1672 - I
Lynnette Crossley	Saltaire	1673 – I
Michael & Linda Bassett	N/A	1674 – J
Malcolm Slater	N/A	1675 – I
Ray & Gwynneth Buss	N/A	1676 – J
Belinda Davenport	N/A	1677 – I

The following new members were also approved and welcome packs would be sent out following receipt of completed forms at the committee meeting. All new members had been included in the membership figures.

D Goode	Ling	1678 – I
Ryan Dimmock	Southern X	1679 – I
Coultas	Mecca	1680 – J
Downer	Oxford No 1	1681 – J
Freddie Cooke	N/A	1682 – I
Barrie White	N/A	1683 - I

- 6.2 **Overseas members** generally voluntarily paid more than the regular subscription amount, but in view of increased postage costs it was agreed to include this as a requirement on the re-designed membership form.
- 6.3 **Membership form.** It was agreed that David, Val and Sandra would work on a re-design. In the meantime, David would investigate whether sticky labels were an option as an interim measure. Members were asked to send Val suitable photos for the front cover.
- 6.4 **Partners.** David will inform the membership via the newsletter that the naming of partners on the membership list will cease as from January 2013 unless Joint membership is taken out.
- 6.5 **Membership list.** Val reported that some members had queried lack of a printed membership list. David will note in his newsletter report that he is always happy to send members the lists on receipt of a sae.
- 6.6 **Database.** It was agreed to purchase a licensed copy of MS Access for the club's membership database.
7. **Newsletter Editor**
- 7.1 **Press date** for 2012/3 would be 6 Aug 2012.
- 7.2 **Postage costs** Val reported that she had a large amount of time-sensitive copy for 2012/3. It was agreed that she should produce a 'bumper issue' to attempt to clear any backlog, at a postage cost of £1.10 each. This would also allow the Keay & Hemelryk form to be produced in A4 rather than A5 format within the postage cost.
- 7.3 **Mailing list** It was agreed to increase the print run to 700 to give sufficient copies of the bumper issue to send to critical new CRT personnel. Phil agreed to work on the 'freebie' list with David D in time for 2012/3.
- 7.4 **Know Your Committee.** Val had no articles in stock for the newsletter. Left over were: Norman Mitchell, Sandra Green, Sarah Hale, Sue Cawson, Bernard Hales and Amy Tillson. Sue Cawson was volunteered for the next edition. Other members were asked to get their articles prepared.
- 7.5 **75 word Who's Who.** It was agreed that all committee members would prepare a short statement, written in the third person, and send to Val by the end of the next week – ie by Saturday 21 July 2012.
- 7.6 **Braunston gathering** – Sarah agreed to write a report for the newsletter.

## 8. **Archivist**

- 8.1 **Chris Clegg** had given a short presentation at the beginning of the meeting, outlining a problem he had identified about the conservation and retention of historic photographic evidence of the canal system, which tended to be diversely held, not catalogued and might deteriorate. He would expand the presentation to include more BCN New Main Line photos. He sought the club's help in setting up a project to address these issues and digitise the collections and make them more readily available and searchable. It was agreed that members of the committee would sound out various waterways organisations and individuals with a view to collaborative applications for funding (eg to Heritage Lottery Fund, National Historic Ships UK):

Norman – Kim Chester at Gloucester  
Sue – Ellesmere Port

Richard – Railway & Canal History Society  
Mike – Hugh Potter

- 8.2 Richard reported that he was continuing to work on the historic boat list and associated photos. He sought information about a river class boat at Warwickshire Fly Boat Co, in addition to the ex-restaurant boat Alt. Sue will investigate, it was believed the work was done at Brinklow by Rex Wain. Phil mentioned that he believed Andy Rothen had a large collection of photos, he would ask about them. Norman reported that the Lyra was being renovated, also the LMS butty Clyde.
- 8.3 **Malc Slater collection** had been received, a mix of prints, slides and negatives. Val and Mike took custody of the collection in order to scan/digitise it, as they had done with the Weaver collection. It was noted that the Weaver collection remained in their care, but that Richard had a back-up copy of the digital version.

## 9. Club Events

- 9.1 **November social 2012** – Napton Village Hall had been booked for 3 November 2012. Suggested speakers were: Tony Gregory (Mike to contact), Roger Wickson (Sue to contact) or Vic Smallshire
- 9.2 **AGM 2013** – Napton Village Hall had been booked for 2 March 2013. It was agreed that Phil would invite Tony Stammers, CRT Head of Health & Safety.
- 9.3 **Easter 2013** (29 March) Laura reported that at Stoke Bruerne it now appeared there would be space for up to 40 historic boats, as well as the planned special exhibition. It was agreed that the club would support the usual gathering at Ellesmere Port in 2013, but would encourage southern-based boats to support Stoke Bruerne.
- 9.4 **November social 2013** – Laura agreed to investigate bookings at Napton, the preference being for 23 or 16 November 2013.
- 9.5 **Easter 2014** (18 April) – Three Mills on the River Lea had been suggested. Norman and David L reported that the RN gathering in 2013 would be held there. Clair agreed to ask Steve Burt for further information and it was thought that Sandra might have information as well about a venue for the social events.
- 9.6 **Summer 2016** - It was suggested that the club might think of Lincoln or the Rochdale canal to mark the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

## 10. Navigation Officer

- 10.1 **Liverpool link** Sue reported potential problems with breasted or towed pairs not being allowed on the Link, and hoped this was a misunderstanding rather than a hard and fast rule. Gifford had had special permission for the Liverpool 2011 event. Sue is following up with the local waterway manager.
- 10.2 **Christelton overhanging tree** Sue had been pleased by the prompt response by the local supervisor to clearing the obstruction quickly when she reported it.
- 10.3 **Boarding on lock gates.** Sue was following this up and was hopeful of a similarly positive response.
- 10.4 **CRT Navigation Advisory Group** was scheduled to meet soon.
- 10.5 **Latest pinchpoints listing.** Sue reported it was full of dimension errors and she was following up.
- 10.6 **Kidderminster lock tail bridge** Rupert reported that Alison had had no response as yet from Ian Lane to the club's suggestion of a complete removal of the old, rotting bridge and its replacement with a taller replica.
- 10.7 **Whittington.** Phil reported that Kangaroo had experienced severe difficulties there. It was thought that the run off from the polytunnels at the strawberry farm might be contributing to the problem. Sue emphasised the importance of reporting problems directly to the local waterway manager.
- 10.8 **Northern Stratford.** Sue had heard that a spot dredging programme was to be carried out and had appealed on the Yahoo Groups listing for specific locations to be identified.

## 11. Club Shop

- 11.1 **Sales** Clair reported that **Braunston** Shop sales were £752.17 for general sales, £69 from second hand books. Six new members and two renewals. Many thanks to Val and Mike for this. **Northwich** Shop sales £479.10: £370.17 for new books and cards, £45 from second hand books. Two new members signed up. Postal order for 3 polo shirts from Jenny Roberts from Godalming Packetboat Society who was happy to have the old style logo. Clair also reported that the shop had sold 43 of the 45 copies of the Alice Lapworth book: Horse, A Boat and You. More will be ordered.
- 11.2 **Banners.** It was agreed to purchase banners showing the club's new name and logo. Iain will obtain prices.
- 11.3 **Ken Keay Book.** Clair had obtained a digital version on a memory stick, Sue confirmed that we had permission to publish it. It was currently printed single sided on A4 landscape. Sue thought it could be done back-to-back and wire stitched. Clair would forward the digital version to the committee for perusal but it was not to be shared with anyone else as we needed to get the copyright sorted out before we could decide whether to publish it. Rupert and David D agreed to bring their printed copies to the next meeting before a decision was taken.
- 11.4 **Logo for clothing.** It was agreed to have the logo on the left hand side in a 'chunky' style, with the teardrop and the words Historic (line 1) Narrow Boat (line 2) and Club (line 3). Boat name could be placed underneath. Clair would contact Sandra for the design.

## 12. Press Officer

- 12.1 **Falling Sands Lock** – Sarah reported that she had written an article for Canal Boat emphasising the crucial role of HNBC in getting the changes made to the low tail bridge and presenting the club as an effective campaigning body.
- 12.2 **Digest of press articles about canals/historic boats** had turned out to be more difficult than imagined and Sarah was not now pursuing it.
- 12.3 **Duplication of effort.** Sarah asked members of the committee to let her know if they were writing articles for the waterways press, to avoid duplication of effort.
- 12.4 **Fradley CRT launch.** Ros was asked to forward Beryl McDowell's photos of the event to Sarah, and to Val.

## 13. Website

Ros reported that the web stats had remained steady for April (1,392 unique visitors), May (1,253) and June (1,340), with a spike of visitors on 21 May mainly referred from [www.canalworld.net](http://www.canalworld.net). She had checked on their fora and the most likely reason was a discussion on that day about the Elisabeth, with a link to our site. She had circulated the full analyses for each month to the committee prior to the meeting. She had a number of photos of boats to add to the site and hoped to be able to get this done soon.

## 14 Area Representatives

- 14.1 **East Midlands** Mike reported that while he was attending the Newark CRT launch, he had been told by Stuart Gadsby, the maintenance supervisor on the Chesterfield canal, that they planned to cut back two bricks' worth on the width of Stret lock, insert anchors, and build back up to one brick's worth. Mike would emphasise to CRT that this remedial work needed to be continued below the waterline. Acknowledged that Morse and Shire Oaks middle locks needed attention too. HNBC would be invited to open day at Stret during the stoppage.
- 14.2 **Fens** Amy had sent a report saying that aside from the ongoing flooding on the Nene and Ouse and the chemical spillage on the Middle Level (now resolved), the only interesting piece of information was that she had been informed of the rough date for the All Party Parliamentary Group discussion concerning incorporating the Environment Agency (and potentially other waterways such as the River Cam) into the C&RT and had been invited to attend that meeting as a River Cam representative when it is held early next year. (see also Minute 3.4 above.)

- 14.3 **Kennet & Avon** Tom Judd had confirmed that he was still interested in becoming the K&A rep but was not able to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement on the date. Ros would email him about the next meeting.
- 14.4 **London** No report
- 14.5 **Manchester and Pennine** George reported an increase in the number of volunteers on locks in the area and was pleased to note that they were oiling Bosley flight.
- 14.6 **North East** David L reported a similar increase in volunteers, but was worried that they appeared to be being trained by trainers who were not themselves expert. He had noticed some working in pairs and some separately and commented that there appeared to be no consistency nationally.
- 14.7 **North Wales & Border** Iain reported that at the end of May there had been the well publicized carrying of the Olympic torch by Saturn on the Pontcysyllte. Some great pics by Harry Arnold in the national press. The big thing in June had been the Northwich River Weaver Festival held on the weekend, 23-24 June. This event was led by the Chester and District Branch of the IWA. There were some 120 boats gathered around the former boat slip and moorings in the centre of Northwich. He counted 34 historic boats attending for all or part of the weekend, a good number considering the clash with Braunston. It was tremendous to see so many boats on a river that is sadly under used. The event was very well attended on both days by the public who seemed enthusiastic despite some mixed weather.

Narrowboats: Buckden, Cactus, Canis Major, Cassiopea, Clover, Dheli, Delphenius, Dove, Elizabeth, Empress, Fazeley, Gerald\*, Kangaroo, Lindsay, Marquis, Pavo, Plover, Python, Rudd, Saturn, Shad, Southam, Stork, Swallow, Sweden, Tench, Thea, Verbena, Victoria, Victory, Widgeon, Worcester, (Gerald was tied up a short distance downstream). Wide boats: Iris Abbot, Parfield. Also tied up below Town Bridge was the James Jackson Grundy with a part load of wheat.

The next event in the area is the gathering of historic boats at Audlem during the Transport Festival. Note that there is limited space for this event and at present it is fully booked.

Planned meeting with Wendy Capelle, local waterways manager, to be arranged to discuss Hurleston locks.

- 14.8 **North West** No report
- 14.9 **South East** Bernard had emailed a report regretting that he had been unable to attend the CRT launch event.

However, he had been able to attend Ellesmere Port on Wed for the NHS sponsored workshop on the Heritage Dockyard and Apprenticeship Scheme set-up. This was a very worthwhile day, the discussion panel were all very well versed in the universal problems of finding skills, facilities and materials to restore and maintain old boats, both inland and marine. Funding the additional time and expense of employing the newly 'qualified' but in-experienced apprentices was the key to the final discussions. Martyn Heighton (Dir. NHS) was really supportive and Bernard thought we should 'watch this space'!

Rex W, Adrian P, Mike T were there too, we all said our bit in front of Roger Hanbury who assured us that there is a wind of change as a result of all the 'heritage interest' being shown, particularly by us, but also the general canal fraternity and that our prime route for contact should be through Nigel Crowe which I think we would agree with.

- 14.10 **South Wales & Severn** Norman reported that Nick Worthington, local waterways manager, had called User Group meeting for June when few could attend. Trying to get all bridges on Sharpness on VHF. Severn in and out of flood recently. Little information shared locally about CRT launch in the region. Norman also commented on the poor state of the boats at Gloucester and hoped that some Heritage Lottery Funding might be forthcoming to restore boats and warehouses.

Norman will try to attend both Worcester and Gloucester user group meetings in future as they appeared to have separate agendas.

- 14.11 **West Midlands** No report
- 14.12 **Central Shires** Rupert reported an increased use of volunteers on the Caldon canal, engaged in clearing invasive weeds.

**15. Matters arising**

**Droitwich plaque** Rupert circulated a drawing for the proposed plaque, which was approved. Committee asked that the finished plaque should have two pre-drilled holes. Additional complimentary copies needed to be ordered for the club Archive, Shop, Droitwich Working Men's Club, Droitwich Gardener's Arms and Droitwich Town Council

**16. Any Other Business**

- 16.1 A suggestion that the club launch a campaign to persuade CRT to use miles, yards and feet on canal signage, as well as metric measurements.
- 16.2 Norman mentioned as an aside that on some lock flights, the volunteers were on duty all day by themselves, but had to wait for CRT staff each morning and evening to unfasten and fasten the padlocks.

**17. Date and Venue of Next Committee Meetings**

- 15<sup>th</sup> September – 11.00 am – Horsley Woodhouse
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 – 10.00 am - Napton followed by members' meeting at 2.30 pm
- 12 January 2013 – 11.00 am - Tamworth

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting

Phil Prettyman  
Chairman

Date