

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 30 November 2013
at Napton Village Hall, Napton, Warwicks at 11.00 am

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, George Boyle, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Jim Cook, David Daines, Sandra Green, Sarah Hale, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Laura Sturrock, Amy-Alys Tillson.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 MEMBERS' SOCIAL

Phil thanked committee members who had arrived early to help set up the shop and the chairs for the afternoon's meeting, also David D who had printed name badges for members. It was agreed that the latter would be made available for members to help themselves, rather than being issued.

Phil had prepared a list of announcements for the start of the Social meeting - welcome, Keay & Hemelryk Awards closing date, Foxton 2014 entries (Mike to lead), Basingstoke 2016 feedback, AGM 2014 location Lapworth - to which was added winding hole monitoring and reporting problems to CRT (Sue to lead), IWA Chester campaign rally June 2014, and the shop.

Sue and John Yates were bringing speakers Roger Wickson and Tony Lewery to Napton.

4 DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dates were already fixed for 3 meetings in 2014 - 11 January, 1 March (AGM) and 22 November (Social) – but Phil asked members to give some thought to possible dates and locations in May, August and October, to be discussed at the next meeting in January 2014. Mike added that he and Val were willing to host the August meeting.

5 FOXTON GATHERING – 18-21 APRIL 2014

The booking form had gone out with newsletter 2013/4 and Mike reported that he already had some boats booked in. He expected to collect more forms during the afternoon. Phil reported that he, Val, Mike, Sue and Ros had visited Foxton on 20 November 2013 to look at the Village Hall and the moorings site.

Village Hall – according to its website the main hall measured 23'6" x 44'6" and there were 12 rectangular tables, 84+ soft chairs, 36 plastic chairs, cleaning equipment. The kitchen, fitted out in stainless steel, contained microwave, dishwasher, refrigerators, kettles, cookers and about 90 cups. We would be expected to leave the Hall clean, "as found". There were blinds fitted to the (high) windows but no AV equipment, so we would have to bring the Club's screen, projector etc.

Moorings – there was ample room between Bridge No 3 (for access to the Village Hall, about 250 yards) and the pedestrian swing bridge at the Junction. Ros would complete the CRT paper work and produce boater packs.

Beer – Phil confirmed his earlier email that Tony Matts had offered to supply 2 barrels of real ale at near wholesale prices, enabling us to run the bar ourselves and keep the cost low @£2.50/pint.

Glasses – Alison had found some quotes to produce either engraved or printed pint glasses. Each engraved one cost only 24p more than the printed version. On a show of hands, it was agreed to obtain engraved pint glasses for sale at the gathering and some plastic pint glasses for those not wishing to purchase one (members being free to bring their own glasses). This would free the bar rota volunteers from washing up. There was some discussion about the design to be used – Phil asked Sandra to produce some alternatives so a decision could be taken at the January 2014 meeting, after which Clair would order the glasses. George might be able to collect them if the order was placed with the supplier in the Blackburn area (Barritts) who had a minimum order of 200 glasses – any not sold at the gathering could be sold through the Shop, although Iain pointed out that he and Clair would have storage problems with bulky cardboard boxes of glass.

Plaque – Mike had produced a sketch for the plaque. Phil asked Sandra to co-ordinate the designs for the glasses and the plaque, again for a decision at the January 2014 meeting. See item 7 below for possible sources of plaque production; Bernard suggested counter-sunk holes suitable for a No 6 screw.

Music, Saturday night – Phil had been given the details of performers at Shackerstone, but had been unable to make contact. Sandra had the telephone number and would forward to Phil.

Items still to be arranged – speaker for Friday night (Phil), BBQ or other food from local caterer, organ for Monday morning (David L), local walk (Phil).

6 ELLESMERE PORT MUSEUM – LIAISON

Following Jim’s resignation as Events & Awards Officer (effective AGM 2014), he would not be able to attend liaison meetings at Ellesmere Port to discuss gatherings at the Museum. Sue only attended with her Saturn “hat” on and was not based locally. George offered to attend EP Gathering meetings on behalf of the club. Phil thanked him, and Sue would inform EP of the change.

7 CLUB BRASS PLAQUES

Bernard (Cubra), Clair (Madeley) and Paul (Low Brass) had obtained quotes, listed below. Mike had been given the name of a producer through a contact on the Erewash, but thought it might be the same one Clair had contacted in Telford.

| | Pattern | Cost ex VAT | Delivery |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------|
| Cubra Casting Co, West Bromwich | HNBC to supply, likely cost £150? | 30 - £17.50 ea 50 - £16 ea 100 - £15.20 ea | |
| Madeley Brass Castings, Telford | £30 – one-off cost | £3.50 each, any quantity | |
| Low Brass, Walsall | £55 | £2.90 | 8 weeks |

Clair recommended an initial order of 30 plaques, whichever supplier was chosen.

Paul suggested that it might be an opportune time to amend the design to incorporate the Club’s name. Phil asked Sandra to produce one or two mock-ups for the committee to see so that they could take a decision at the January 2014 meeting.

8 PROPOSED NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Ray Butler had submitted an idea for an article in the Newsletter, highlighting the 1968 Transport Act, and listing the then and current dimensions of local waterways (draught, air draught and width). Val thought this might be too long for print publication and might be better suited to the website. Richard warned against over-reliance on the 1968 Act, as Ministers could, and had done in the past for BW, issue a Ministerial Order to over-set any particular section of the Act. David L had also pointed out that the 1968 Act was no longer entirely appropriate in some respects and it might be unwise to use this as a standard. David D was cautiously optimistic that there were encouraging signs of a positive change of tone from CRT (evidenced by the new edition of *Waterfront*, the magazine for Friends of CRT) as against the old BW approach, and that it was not politically astute for the Club to be seen to be carping – “the way forward is to look forward”. Val and Phil would reply to Ray.

9 MATTERS ARISING FROM ACTION LIST

The Action List from 5 August 2013 was updated, most completed actions being mentioned in new Minutes or in Reports (Item 10 below).

- 9.1 **Committee posts** (Item 3, October 2013) – Phil reported that, now that Sandra had moved to the midlands it was difficult for her to attend London User Group meetings. The vacancy could be filled by the committee and ratified at the AGM.
- 9.2 **Bank Internet account** (Item 7.3 October 2013) – as the previous set of documents had not arrived at the bank, requiring fresh originals to be produced, Laura would send them “to be signed for”.
- 9.3 **Non-historic boats at Club gatherings** (Item 7.4 October 2013) – it was agreed to leave it to the good sense of the harbourmasters to group boats appropriately according to their access requirements and size, although it was also emphasized that Club gatherings for were all members, not just those with historic boats, and that as far as possible the mooring allocations should reflect this.
- 9.4 **CRT Reporting contact nos** (Item 7.4 October 2013) – rather than produce a list of numbers, it was agreed instead to promote the CRT contact number printed on the reverse of every CRT licence and to urge members to use this. Sue would mention at the afternoon meeting (see Item 3 above), and Val would add a note to the newsletter.
- 9.5 **Winding holes** (Items 3.2, 6.13 May ‘13) – need to discuss a clearer strategy at a future meeting.

- 9.6 **Keay Award** (Item 7.10 October 2013) – Alison had been unable to collect the rose bowl, which was in need of some TLC before it could be presented at the AGM in March 2014. George would contact the present holders and bring it to the January 2014 meeting.
- 10 **WRITTEN REPORTS had been submitted from the following committee members, and are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes. These were taken as read; the topics covered are listed below, with any decisions or further discussion topics shown as bullet points.**
- 10.1 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – Ken Keay Sketchbook re-published and available at the meeting; IWA Insurance renewal date will be January 2014; Darrell Dunning’s photographs for safekeeping by the club; cost of scanning Historic maps; further investigation on discounted moorings; brass plaques; letter sent to MP about integrating EA navigations into CRT; IWA magazine received.
- Thanks were extended to Paul for successfully steering the swift and timely re-publication of the Ken Keay book
- 10.2 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; year-end accounts.
- 10.3 **Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – membership numbers; approve 5 new memberships.
- New members were approved: John Armstrong, the Spey Owners’ Group, William & Carole Swygart, Simon Black, Jon Handley.
- 10.4 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date 3 February 2014; apologies; Know your Committee text requested from Sandra, Bernard, Tom, Daniel; cheque received for use of Weaver high-resolution photos.
- 10.5 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – very few sales since last meeting; large stock of books; shop will be at IWA campaign rally June 2014.
- 10.6 **Navigation Officer** (Sue Cawson) – report in 10.9 below, Navigation Advisory Group.
- 10.7 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – latest column for Narrow Boat; contribution to Ken Keay sketchbook; short piece in CRT magazine; no information received about disappearing winding holes.
- Phil thanked Sarah for writing and editing the new introduction, which added immeasurably to the original Ken Keay Sketchbook.
 - Narrow Boat - ideas for columns were: the cost of restoring a boat and the personal impact of getting involved, winding holes.
 - Winding holes – see item 9.5 above.
- 10.8 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – first meeting of working party to be on 14 December 2014.
- 10.9 **External organisations:**
- Navigation Advisory Group** (Sue Cawson) – winter stoppage programme proceeding well; publicity needed for consultation on stoppages programme; NAG Sub Group formed on dredging and pinch points.
- 10.10 **Area Reps**
- Central Shires** (Alison Smedley) – report from User Group meeting 10 October 2013 (business update, Partnership Strategic Plan, Atherstone Project, Rudyard Reservoir, water control Alrewas/Wychnor, dredging budget, vegetation, stoppage system, works for 2013/14, proposed works 2014/15)
- East** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – no major closures on Fens waterways; gold licence survey by EA; Amy and James had written a guide to navigating Cambridge Backs; fuel boat on R Nene.
- Manchester & Pennine** (George Boyle) – report from Customer Forum 15 October 2013 (shallow spots at bridges, rare water plant Huddersfield Narrow, dredging budget, Macclesfield Canal working party).
- North Wales & Borders** (Iain MacTavish) – report from User Forum 10 October 2013 (locations to spend extra funds, Partnership annual report, open days Beeston and Grindley Brook locks, Sutton Weaver swing bridge update, overhanging vegetation, change of location of Forum meetings); overstaying boats.
- Meeting at Northwich to discuss Hurleston locks on 10 December 2013.
- South Wales & Severn** (Norman Mitchell) – proposed survey of visitor moorings on Severn; possible meeting with riparian owners to discuss bank condition.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 **Historic Boat Discount** – Phil reported that he, David D and other Club members had attended a CRT-hosted meeting at Hatton on 4 November 2013. The meeting agreed that in future the criterion for allowing a discount ought to be a boat's acceptance onto the Historic Ships Register (NHS-UK). He felt this was a successful outcome, as it removed any suspicion that the Club was the arbiter of CRT's decisions on specific boats, and as it produced a transparently clear process suitable for any inland craft, not just narrow boats. There was to be a meeting with the NHS-UK to discuss the details in January 2014.
- 11.2 **The wooden boat Dart** was due to be launched at Puttenham at noon on 8 December 2013. Richard hoped to be able to attend and would take photographs.
- 11.3 **South East Region Boaters' Sub Group** – Jim reported that he and David D were members of this new group and were looking forward to playing a full and active role in determining its character and effectiveness as it evolved. It was possible that this type of group might be extended to other regions if boaters were under-represented on Partnership Boards or at User Groups.
- 11.4 **Letter from Tim Collier about Foxton Inclined Plane** – Phil had received copies of two similar letters from Tim on this topic. Val had received the one addressed to the Editor and would publish it in the newsletter as a member's letter/talking point.
- 11.5 **Business Licence Consultation** – David L reported that the distinction between Low Risk Traders and Regulated Traders had been removed and the licence, (now termed 'roving trader') cost was as for the former Low Risk category. CBOA had argued that while risks were different the overall level of risk was the same low level (with proper safeguards in place). As an unintended consequence the MCA Exemption for Low Risk traders would disappear unless CRT requested MCA to change the Exemption to read 'Roving Traders'. If all the stuff about not less than one tonne etc disappeared that would have the effect of taking all the roving traders out of the MCA requirement for a licence.

The Low Risk Roving Trader and Regulated Trader sectors have been combined into one sector, called 'Roving Trader'. In addition, removing unlicensed boats from Reforming Business Boat Licensing 2013, Consultation Report (Nov 13) Page 2:

The water under contract to CRT, or its main contractor, has been moved from this sector into the definition for Maintenance Workboat. The definition for the Roving Trader sector is as follows:

A boat used for trading in multiple locations. Includes boats used for retail, services, refreshments, fuel, cargo carrying, RYA accredited boat handling courses, marine mechanics and engineers. Customers may board the vessel in order to inspect or purchase goods (subject to insurance cover and holding a non-private BSS certificate) when moored up, but the boat must never navigate with customers on board. Advertising any kind of trading or business activity on the boat is deemed to be trading. If the boat is used for a business use that is not advertised anywhere on the vessel and does not involve any deliveries to the vessel or any customers visiting the vessel (e.g. proof reading copy sent via email, writing wills) then no trading licence is required. If the boat is used as a workshop to produce goods to be sold on the Internet or at land based markets, then a trading licence is required (See MCA General Exemption no 3 issued March 2013).

David L commented that there was a further anomaly in the above in that a boat used for RYA Training would, by definition, have customers on board when travelling!

- 11.6 **Funding** – Jim outlined his worries that there were too many projects chasing a diminishing pool of funding pots and wondered whether the Club should have a discussion forum to pull together a joint strategy. Sue mentioned that the Saturn Project had good help from CRT to do their funding paperwork. Phil asked Jim to prepare a briefing paper.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Phil Prettyman
Chairman