

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 1 March 2014
at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth B94 6LD at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), George Boyle, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Jim Cook, David Daines, Sarah Hale, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock, Amy-Alys Tillson

1 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, Rebekah Fuller, Sandra Green and David Lowe.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2014 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **AGM and afternoon meeting arrangements**

3.1 **Nominations** – Paul had collected the nomination forms for all the committee posts, apart from the Kennet and Avon Rep and no one was sure if Tom Judd wished to stand again. All posts were uncontested.

3.2 **Motions** – Paul reported that no Motions had been received.

3.3 **Meet-and-greet** – Phil would meet CRT chief executive Richard Parry, David D and Paul would staff the badges/signing-in table at the entrance, together with Alison and George. The rest of the committee would circulate to ensure no members were left unattended or without badges.

3.4 **Awards** – Bernard had refurbished the Keay rose bowl (it looked splendid) and had had the base engraved with the winner's name. Sue had retrieved the Hemelryk award, but had not had time to get the engraving done. Joe Fuller would be asked to organise this and to claim the cost from the club.

3.5 **Refreshments** – Phil would ask for volunteers to help with teas etc.

4 **HNBC Gathering Easter 2014**

Cash box – Laura had got this.

Glasses – Daniel had found out that etched glasses would cost £5-6 each which was too expensive, but he could obtain them printed but in etched-style and it was agreed that this was a good compromise. Sandra had sent him the design and Daniel was able to show the meeting the artwork for the glasses. It was agreed that Daniel would order 200 x 1pint glasses and liaise with Clair about delivery. Clair would purchase half-pint plastic glasses.

Plaques – Mike reported that 26 plaques had been pre-ordered and it was agreed that an order of 40 would be appropriate to cover the pre-ordered, latecomers and freebies to be given to people at Foxton.

Music – Jim reported that he had been in touch with Julie Bubbles via the FIPT Museum. She belonged to a local Ceilidh band that played for a fixed fee of £150 as did other local bands. It was agreed that we would pay this fee. Jim also reported that an informal group, known informally as The Herbies, would like to play on Saturday evening, as well as busking around the event, and that the Ceilidh band were happy for others to join them. [Post meeting note – Pete Boyce would also do a turn (storytelling and singing) at the half time break.]

Speakers – Laura reported that she had been in touch with Mike Beech, the FIPT Museum Keeper who would do a short introduction to Foxton (20 mins) and with Beryl McDowall who would give a longer talk (60 mins) about her life on working boats.

Walks – Phil reported that he had made a start on preparing some local walks, based on those provided on-line by FIPT. He would prefer not to commit himself to leading a walk but to leave it to boaters to follow a walk should they wish.

Organ – David L had reported by email that he had been in touch with the local vicar and that his recital would take place from 11am-12noon, with doors opening at 10.30am for tea and coffee. As in previous years, members would pay individually for these refreshments, and there would be a retiring collection towards church funds.

Bell ringing – Richard had reported by email that he had arranged for other ringers to join him, Alison and Rupert. They would do a 15-minute demonstration ring, followed by a quarter peal. Ringing to start at 12 noon.

Timings – it was agreed to open the bar at 6.30pm on Friday, 1.00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Friday speakers 7.30pm, Saturday films 2.30pm, Saturday musicians 7.30pm, Sunday parade of boats 11am-1pm, Sunday tat auction deposits 10am, viewing 1pm, auction 2pm, Sunday quiz 7.30pm, Monday church open 10.30am, recital 11am, bells 12noon.

No of boats – Mike reported that he had received 45 entries to date, but then 2 cancellations leaving 43 boats to attend.

Boaters' pack – Ros reported that the programme leaflet was almost complete and that she would circulate it to members after the meeting for comment. Val would print it when approved. It was suggested that other items to include would be a map with salient local points marked, and Ros had already arranged to obtain leaflets from the Foxton village shop. It was suggested that a feedback form be included, asking for information on winding holes and comments on pinch points on the Leicester line. Ros would bring poly-pockets for the boaters' packs.

Bar – Phil would contact Tony Matts to confirm beer order. Sarah would draw up a rota of helpers from the volunteers listed in Mike's booking summary. Laura would order/buy non-beer drinks (cider, wine, lemonade and snacks), which she would store on the Stanton.

Shop – it was agreed that the setting up, positioning and striking of the shop would be left to the discretion of the shop team, although it was noted that the Tat auction would probably occupy a considerable space.

Contact details – it was suggested that the committee should save one another's mobile phone numbers to their own mobiles for ease/speed of communication throughout the weekend. These were already listed on the inside front cover of the newsletter.

Quiz – [post meeting note – Laura would buy some chocolates as a prize for the winners of the quiz.]

Phil thanked all members of the committee who had stepped forward to help in organising what he was sure would be a very successful event.

5 Matters Arising from the Action List from January 2014

5.1 **Items completed:**

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| January 2014 | 3.1 | Payment had been sent to Lapworth and keys arranged. |
| | 4 | All listed items for arranging the AGM had been completed. |
| | 5 | Awards – all items apart from mini-plaques had been completed. |
| | 6 | Foxton – see Minute 4 above. |
| | 7 | Club plaques – Clair and Sandra had this in hand. |
| | 10.2 | Laura would mention publishing projects in her report to the AGM that afternoon. |
| | 10.3 | David D had produced the labels for the AGM that afternoon. |
| | 10.5 | Navigations issues – all completed. |
| | 10.6 | Ros had sent the cheque to Steve. |
| | 10.8 | Val had received snow photographs for Christmas cards.
Ros had amended the website re free p&p for Ken Keay book.
Shop@ emails had been re-directed to Paul during Clair's absence. |
| | 10.14 | Article on Willow's adventure up the Cambridge Backs published in the newsletter.
Photographs of drained Hurleston had been taken. |

- 5.2 **Droitwich Plaques (January 2014, Minute 11)** – Rupert would bring the remaining undelivered plaques to Foxton.

Other items on the Action list were still ongoing.

6 Reports (see Appendix 2)

Written reports had been submitted before the meeting 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/discussions shown as bullet points:

6.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman)

Phil reported that he had attended the National Users' Forum, the replacement for BWAf, where the two main issues were moorings (visitor, continuous cruisers) and joint use of towpaths (speed of cyclists). CRT were aware that continuous cruisers might be unaware of the terms of their licence and intended to take steps to ensure that this was remedied. David D commented that the Continuous Cruiser representative had resigned from the SE Boater's Forum. It was suggested that some pressure on CRT to take action on moorings might be coming from hire bases that wished to use visitor moorings for their customers, and the committee felt that, if that were the case, hire companies should be urged to set up their own landings and maintain them. Sarah queried why the club in particular should be concerned about visitor moorings and the committee agreed that it was because historic deep draughted boats needed to use dredged visitor moorings, as un-dredged banksides were not feasible.

6.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – reply from MP; under-insurance remedied; members' discounts Alvecote Marina; quotes for printing Weaver book; no progress on windlasses.

6.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – funds in bank accounts; new Internet account up and running.

(a) Using the club's surplus funds. A long and vigorous discussion took place, during which the following points were made:

- we had received two recent requests for financial help in restoring boats, could we consider setting up a restoration fund on a first-come-first-served basis (Phil).
- it had taken years to build up a surplus to the point where we were comfortable and we should not dissipate our funds and then have to increase subscriptions (Val).
- subscriptions did not cover running costs, the surplus was being used to subsidise subscriptions (Paul).
- handing out funds would prove to be divisive and would lead to back-biting and accusations of favouritism; the current subscription was cheap and running costs quite low because committee members gave their time freely; changing the subs paid by Standing Order would be problematic (David D).
- we should not rush into a decision today, it was too complex a question; we should keep running costs separate in order to see if subscriptions covered them (Sarah).
- we could consider supporting restoration of boats at Ellesmere Port (Paul).
- spending money on publishing unusual and interesting books was a valuable exercise; we could consider keeping one-third of the surplus for a rainy day, spend one-third on publishing and donate one-third to waterways good causes (Laura).
- BW to CRT transition was still ongoing, there might be good causes arising in the future (Iain).
- the cost of sending out 100 complimentary copies of the newsletter should be set against the Shop funds rather than being charged against subscriptions (Laura).
- donated books had raised £800 for club funds (Laura).
- the club had built up a surplus over the last 12 years, we were now in a position to decide what to do with it and it would be good for the club to be seen to be forward looking and proactive (Phil).

It was agreed that we should neither support individual boat restoration nor set up a grant-giving restoration fund, but that we should use the surplus as a cushion to enable us to publish appropriate books. Laura would mention in her report to the AGM that subscriptions did not cover the running costs and would have to be kept under review.

It was also suggested that the proceeds of the Tat Auction at our Easter gathering could be given to another CRT Appeal for restoration of its Heritage Fleet

(b) Donation to CRT's Flood Appeal. Phil reported that NABO had donated £250 towards the flood appeal, reckoning it to be good publicity for them. He wondered if we should do the same. There had been an email discussion of this prior to the meeting, where some members felt it wrong to give money to a navigation authority when we had no control over what it was spent on, that now the floods had cleared the damage appeared to be less extensive than feared and should be covered from CRT's contingency funds. Sarah commented that donating and handing over a cheque to Richard Parry at the afternoon's meeting would raise the club's profile and would be a politically astute move. Alison suggested that we make a donation to the Flood Appeal in recognition of

the excellent work that CRT was doing at Hurleston – this was agreed (proposer Sarah, seconder Clair) and the sum agreed at £500.

- 6.4 **Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – Numbers of members, in various categories, were provided. There were a number of unpaid subscriptions. HNBOC was one of NINF founders.

New memberships were approved:

Richard Jukes & Miss Abigail Pratt	Rufford	1725 - J
Colin Robottom	Actis	1726 - I
Carol MacIntyre & Dan Jones	Naples	1527 - J
Judy Spencer	N/A	1727 - I
Callum and Sue Wardle	N/A	1728 - J
David Wilkinson	Venus*	1728 - I
Robert & Maria Frost	N/A	1730 - J
John Blackburn	N/A	1731 - I

David had brought a supply of application forms for the National Historic Ships Register that would be available to members at the AGM.

- 6.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – Press date 18 May 2014 for 2014/2; Know Your Committee articles needed; newsletter correspondence; revised Who's Who leaflet; K&H Award information needed; early preparation of 2014/2; Weil's cards reprint?; Slater photographs all scanned; all-colour printing for newsletter; Christmas cards; Weaver book.

Who's Who leaflet – would need to be updated following committee elections at the afternoon's meeting, for inclusion with the Minutes and Accounts in the next Newsletter.

Weil's Disease cards – Alison had brought the remaining stock, from which David D took a supply to send to new members. She reminded the meeting that we supply WRG for their work parties and that we might need more later in the year.

Colour printing for Newsletter – it was agreed to defer a decision on whether to have all-colour printing at a new printer, and thus lose our franking facility at the current printer, until after the Friends of Cromford Canal's latest magazine had been printed when Mike and Val would be able to assess its quality.

Christmas cards – prior to the meeting, Val had circulated several photographs she had received from members. It was agreed that committee members would look through the printed versions and vote for their two preferred options during the lunch break. Sarah requested that a holly sprig should not be added to the new cards. However, the final choice of images would be left to the Shop team.

- 6.6 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – Ken Keay Sketchbook circulated/sold; Christmas cards; children's picture book 'Snowy'.

- 6.7 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – good reviews of Ken Keay Sketchbook; winding hole survey launched; NarrowBoat column; photo of launch on Walton in National Historic Ships' calendar.

- 6.10 **Area Reps**

East (Amy-Alys Tillson) – effects of winter rain on Rivers Ouse and Nene; licence fees for River Cam.

Manchester & Pennine (George Boyle) – planning meeting for Easter gathering at Ellesmere Port; next CRT customer forum 18 March 2014.

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – Hurleston lock, listed structure consent.

- Iain also commented on the very helpful and friendly CRT team at Hurleston, who as well as making Clair and him most welcome, had found and returned to them a 16Gb data card containing their holiday photos.

North West (Daniel Mawdsley) – very good winter compared to rest of country; artwork for beer glasses.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – Severn levels dropping but infrastructure affected; Richard Parry to address boaters' meeting 22 March 2014.

- 7 **Any other business**

Thanks to David Daines

Phil thanked David for all the many hours of his time that he had spent managing the membership database, and for his sound advice as a member of the committee, bringing invaluable continuity from his time first as Secretary and then as Chairman. He was delighted that David had agreed to stand as South East & Thames area rep so that the committee was not in danger of losing his knowledge and insights. Mike added that, although members of the committee had teased David over the years about the intricacies and foibles of the database, we were truly grateful to him for having kept it under control with such good humour. David added that he would be working with Paul on a phased handover at an appropriate time when the current round of renewals was completed.

8 Date and place of next meeting

Saturday 17 May 2014 11.00am Hazelhurst Cottage, Denford, Leek ST13 7JT

The meeting closed at 12.10pm

Phil Prettyman
Chairman