

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00am on Saturday 16 August 2014
at Beggarlee Wharf, Horsley Woodhouse, DE7 6BB

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), George Boyle, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Mike Harrison, Sarah Hale, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Laura Sturrock

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, Sarah Edgson, Nick Grundy, Bernard Hales, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Amy-Alys Tillson.

2 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2014 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS**

3.1 **November 2014 Social at Lapworth**

Paul had contacted Tony Condor who would deliver two talks on Canals from the Air in the 20s and 30s, and the History of Gloucester Docks. His charge would be £60 but he would not charge travelling expenses as he would be en route anyway. (See report 5.4a in Appendix) It had been advertised in the most recent Newsletter, 2014/3.

Mic – it was agreed that Phil should purchase a microphone stand or a lapel mic set for speakers at meetings. David D would research options and discuss with Phil.

3.2 **AGM 2015 at Lapworth**

Sarah reported that Clive Henderson had acquired a copy the 1974 BBC one-hour documentary “A Week in the Life of David Hutchings” and would be willing to show it at one of our events. It was agreed that this would be an interesting film to see, but perhaps not as a main feature, rather as an extra for the November 2015 social.

It was agreed to ask Bob May to show his BCN photos at 2.00pm. Paul would contact him and Clair would ask John & Sue Yates if they could collect him en route to Lapworth. Nick Hill was suggested as another speaker.

Elections to the committee were due at the AGM and it was agreed to firm up on posts and nominations at the next committee meeting in October. Nomination slips and notice of meeting would go out with the 2014/4 Newsletter.

The Keay & Hemelryk awards would be presented at the AGM, and Paul asked committee members to give some thought to possible contenders. Val commented that the nomination forms would be posted with the 2014/3 Newsletter shortly.

4 **PUBLICATIONS**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5 **REPORTS** 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:

- 5.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – Warbler spectacularly stuck Hurleston; new regional reps; wide boats on S GU; Basingstoke decision in November.
- Basingstoke, 13/14 August 2016 – worried that very few boats were committed to date. Sarah to organise a poll at the door of the November Social to gauge interest. It was agreed to investigate Pelsall as an alternative venue as it was understood that BCNS would not be organising an event there in 2015 (and possibly 2016?).
 - Celtic – There was a discussion about the identity of a boat called ‘Celtic’.
- 5.2 **Secretary** (Sarah Hale) – informed CRT regional offices of committee changes; authorised signatory on bank accounts; archive filing.
- 5.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) - funds in accounts; query on use of donation to IWA Chester; interest rate falling on Santander account; on-line banking account at Lloyds now working; Lapworth booked for 22 November Social, and reserved for AGM On 7 March 2015.
- Donation to IWA Chester – agreed that it should be put towards River Dee tidal gauge as requested by IWA branch.
 - Santander interest rate – agreed to leave the account in place as the interest paid on other business accounts were also being reduced.
 - Val had received a personal cheque for £100 following Braunston gathering. It was not known why this had been done, but she would pay it in to her account and write a replacement one to the club.
 - Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – Alison (see report 5.11 in Appendix) had asked whether the club should consider changing its status to a CIO. Laura recommended we should remain as a members’ organisation as CIO would quadruple the Treasurer’s workload. Agreed.
- 5.4a **Membership Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – on-line membership still awaited; PayPal; speaker for November Social; Weaver book; Willow Wren book; Windlasses.
- PayPal costs would be reduced if we could prove the club was a not-for-profit organisation. This might entail a change in the constitution being proposed and agreed at AGM 2015.
 - Windlasses – target selling price around £7.00 agreed. If High Line Yachting could not find the old patterns, David L knew a pattern maker who might be approached and he would make further enquiries.
- 5.4b **Retiring Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – increase in membership numbers; new members; volume of printing; renewals slow.
- 22 new memberships were approved and would be listed, and welcomed, in the newsletter as usual.
 - Several members had yet to renew and David would send separate reminder letters. Paul was worried that a number of the non-renewals were from owners of historic boats. Phil recalled a suggestion that we match our membership list against that of the National Historic Ships register to identify potential members. Also that we must encourage all our members to register with NHS.
- 5.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – no report

- 5.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – bumper issue 2014/3; lower cost at new printer; request for life stories; more Weils cards printed; £200 cheque expected from Braunston; rise in postage rates; query cost of Ken Keay book.
- It was agreed that the all-colour version of the newsletter was a success, and noted that the cost was less than the last b&w edition with the previous printer.
 - George’s email (see 5.13) on the loss of mooring on the Peak Forest canal would be reproduced in the next edition as a “letter to the editor”.
 - Franking machine – Iain reported on the various options of buying/leasing and indicated that the club’s use was on the cusp of being worthwhile (based on our annual usage in terms of initial cost, maintenance, postage cost upgrades and the problem that, being used mainly only 4 times a year, the ink would tend to dry up and block the print head leading to discarded cartridges). The possibility of using another organisation’s franking machine was fraught with licensing problems. It was agreed not to purchase or lease our own franking machine but to use stamps instead, the extra cost being offset by the cheaper colour print deal.
- 5.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – good sales figures from Chester, Braunston, Scarisbrick, Audlem and postal; second hand stock acquired; Christmas card sales via Boat Museum; beer glasses sale price; fire hose.
- In response to the request from the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port, it was agreed to let them have Christmas cards @ £2 per pack.
 - It was agreed to reduce the price of the remaining Foxton beer glasses to £0.50 each.
 - Lost Canals of the Black Country – Sue would examine it and report back on whether it was worth stocking.
 - Map of lost sections of the Northern Oxford Canal – Sue would ask whether CRT could digitise it, Phil would contact Nigel Crowe to check on the state of the wall map in Simon Ainley’s old office at Braunston.
 - Fire hose – Mike had obtained 60+ ft of hose for the shop which would replenish stocks for the moment. It was noted that Dorset Steam Fair might be a good source for further supplies.
- 5.8 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – verbal report at meeting.
- Boats were still not always reporting navigation problems to CRT. Unless CRT were aware of pinch points from their database of problem areas, these areas would not receive the priority attention they required.
 - Winding hole survey with IWA (see 5.9 and 5.11 reports below) – Sue would liaise with Ian Fletcher to monitor progress and to discuss setting up a working party as suggested by Alison.
 - Dimension data – sometimes there were errors due to misleading terminology when depth was confused with draught.
 - Next NAG meeting in September at Gloucester.
- 5.9 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – few responses to winding hole survey; Narrow Boat column topics; interview by freelance TV docu-maker; enquiry from publisher about live-aboard photographs.
- Winding hole survey appeared to have produced few responses from owners of historic boats (see 5.8 above for action). David D commented on boats being moored in winding holes and about signs being obscured by un-cleared vegetation.
 - Narrow Boat column – suggested future topics: craft dimensions, to dispel the myth that all old boats are wide and that the 6’10” gauge is in any way traditional; what happens when a deep-draughted boat passes a moored boat and the use of rope springs.
- 5.10 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – re-development of website; membership database; copyright infringement; queries via website.
- **A firm date** was needed for the website re-launch – Ros to ask Steve.
 - **Middlewich Narrowboats offer of dry dock and moorings** - Ros to add a note to the website item to the effect that members would need to show their membership card to gain the offered discount.
 - **Fuel Guard promotion of diesel filter system** – David L confirmed that it complies with BSS. It was agreed to suggest he could advertise it through the newsletter, but without implying any endorsement by the club as we had no experience of its efficacy in vintage engines.
- 5.11 **IWA Liaison** (Alison Smedley) – winding hole survey; historic narrow boat blog on IWA website; Charitable Incorporated Organisation status for the club; River Dee tidal gauge.

5.12 Area Reps

Central Shires (Rupert Smedley) – spot dredging on Caldon; towpath enhancement part of Peak Pedal project.

East (Amy-Alys Tillson) – new river manager at Cam Conservancy; localised flooding and landslide at March; Northampton flight slow but passable.

East Midlands (Mike Harrison) – verbal report at meeting.

- **Sawley flood lock** Sean McGinley (CRT area manager) had stated that the lock was monitored 24/7 and its status was changed at any point when needed. Mike was doubtful of this claim but was aware that further proof would be required if it were to be challenged successfully.
- **Dredging on the Erewash** £0.5m to be spent
- **Holme Lock, River Trent** hydro-electric system to be installed
- **Shelford** David L commented that there were plans to open a quarry to extract 140,000 tonnes annually.

London (Michael Pinnock) – continuous moorer problems; inaugural cruise of Olympic park waterways; CRT consulting on visitor moorings; Islington Council's Best Practice Guidelines for boaters and residents; Friends of Regents Canal meeting to discuss anti-social towpath behaviour; London Region clean up; Angel Canal Festival; new local enforcement officers.

Manchester & Pennine (George Boyle) – loss of moorings on Peak Forest; cost of moving visitor moorings to appease residents of new build housing.

- **Macclesfield moorings** George explained that the water point had been moved following a complaint from a new-build resident about the noise of engines running while there, and hire boats had been told not to run engines at any time. David D commented that no power tools were now permitted at the dry dock at Basingstoke. It was agreed that we should urge CRT to deploy a more robust defence of the interests of its customers: Phil would ask Beryl McDowall to raise this at NAG (Mooring & Licence sub group), Sue would confirm the name of the chair of this group; Phil to raise this with local Partnerships, Head of Property Services (Stuart Mills) and Head of Planning (Heather Clerk).
- **Undercroft, Manchester** being sealed off.

North East (David Lowe) – additional visitor moorings in Leeds; improvement to moorings between River Lock and Office Lock; improvements to working of Fall Ings Lock; Priority Freight Waterway project developments.

- **IWA West Riding** David had been asked to give a talk to this branch, and would do so using Alison's presentation notes.

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – analysis of attempts to use Hurleston locks; campaigning rally at Chester; successful Audlem event.

- **Hurleston bottom lock** CRT's plan to do more scrabbling on the brickwork at problem spots.
- **Hurleston schematic grid** should be available on public part of website as well as members' area.
- **Shropshire Union top gates** cast strapping posts to be re-instated.

North West (Daniel Mawdsley) – Scarisbrick festival, thanks; Liverpool link proving popular; turning point debris and CRT response; day boat trip for CRT and local MP.

- **Ambush**, mentioned in the report, is a Leeds and Liverpool **long** boat, not a short boat.
- **Historic boats at marina** A visit from them would be much appreciated. Events to be advertised in newsletter and website calendar.

South East & Thames (David Daines) – problems on Aylesbury arm; "Leave Lock Empty" notices on S GU locks; request for date of issue on signs; rapidly growing number of wide boats on S GU.

- **Overstaying on visitor moorings** David feared that this practice was spreading northwards from London area.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – continuing with commentary at Braunston parade; Gloucester docks dredging dates and Tall Ships gathering.

West Midlands (Sarah Edgson) – BCN 24hr challenge 2014; no BCNS rally at Pelsall in 2015; historic boats at Stratford River Festival; Rushall flight closure; Walsall flight concerns; Conservative Party conference location.

6 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 **The Lion** – Michael had been to look at it and had reported that it was in a very poor state.

6.2 **Painted panels** – Iain had been entrusted with three painted panels (two rectangular and one round), allegedly done by Jess Owen. He had shown them to Tony Lewery who thought they were more likely to be by an apprentice. Iain would pass this information back and find out what the donor wished us to do with them – maybe to auction them at the November Social or at our next gathering.

6.3 **Foxton plaques** – Clair reported that the shop had three spares.

6.4 **CRT's 14 day mooring limits** – Sandra Green had forwarded a copy of the consultation guidelines from CRT outlining the concept of “place” concerning time periods and the distances necessary for moorers to comply with the “no-return-within-**-number-of-days” ruling. Noted.

7 **DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

4 October 2014 11 am 30A Toyse Lane, Burwell, Cambridge

22 November 2014 11 am Lapworth Village Hall prior to the Members' Social

January 2015 11 am 10 or 17 January 2015 were suggested, with Stoke Bruerne as a venue. Laura to check availability of School Room or Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm

Phil Prettyman
Chairman