

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.00 am on Saturday 7 March 2015
at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), George Boyle, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Sarah Edgson, Nick Grundy, Sarah Hale, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock, Amy-Alys Tillson.

In attendance: Peter Oates, James Tidy

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, David Daines, Daniel Mawdsley and Alison Smedley.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2015 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 AGM – arrangements for the afternoon meeting

- **Nominations for Committee Posts** No further nominations had been received since the previous meeting, so the nominees listed in Minute 4.1 of 10 January 2015 would stand uncontested.
- **Motions** No motions for debate had been received.
- **Apologies** Phil had received some apologies, names were added to the list at the meeting and would be recorded in the AGM Minutes.
- **Examiner of Accounts** – Laura had confirmed with Dave Turner that he was willing to continue as examiner.
- **AGM 2016** – Laura had booked Lapworth Village Hall for Saturday 5 March 2016.
- **Refreshments** – Phil would ask for helpers at the start of the AGM.
- **Name badges** – Paul had signing-in sheets, and name badges for members to wear.
- **Raffle** – Nick and Norman volunteered to run the raffle (donated Measham teapot, painted panels, painted roundel, painted watering can, chocolates, wine).
- **Key & Hemelryk Awards** – Ros had had the trophies engraved with winners' names, and Paul had prepared a power Point presentation to show the work that had been done on the boats.

4 AUCTION OF CANAL ANTIQUES AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL, 21 MARCH 2015

Phil went through the Action List from 10 January 2015 and identified those that had already been completed (circulate list of jobs, finish catalogue, cross referenced list of items, check internet signal strength, order printed bidder numbers, amend Friday start time at hall, bar, staging from local school, publicity, loan of flat bed truck, cloakroom tickets). Further discussion took place on:

- **Internet connection at Weston** – Sarah E had picked up a good 3G signal and a few bars on 4G at the village hall car park. Paul would post the *PayPal Here* card reader to Clair to check if it would work at the Hall. If it did not, Clair would ask Amy to arrange additional kit but this would require a separate PAYG SIM card pre-loaded with an appropriate data allowance.
- **Registrations, Bidding and Bidder's Card** – Laura reported that she had received 51 registrations to date and expected more to arrive. She would annotate each numbered Bidder's card with the relevant bidder's name. Phil expected to receive some written bids. Committee members were at liberty to register and make bids in advance or at the auction, or to arrange for another member to bid on their behalf if they were on duty. At the afternoon AGM, Phil would appeal for early registration to avoid a rush on the day, as Laura needed some lead time in order to enter bidders on the computer – this information would be used to generate receipts. Facebook and website would also be updated to urge members to register early. Laura would have a supply of registration forms available on the door. Laura had produced a draft Record Form for Phil to use to note prices bid. Ros would update this to show 8 lots per sheet and would copy/paste the Lot numbers/descriptions onto it. These sheets would be passed to Laura at the auction, ready for bidders to make payment.
- **Publicity** – emails had been sent to all the organisations suggested at the last meeting and notes about the event had appeared on various websites. Additional contacts were suggested: Russell Newbery Register (Sue

to contact them), Gardner Engine Forum (Clair & Iain to contact). Phil would promote the Auction at the afternoon's AGM with a special offer price on the printed catalogue for the day only.

- **Bar** – a licence was needed to sell alcohol. Ros apologised for not passing on the information from Clair to Laura in good time. Although it was now tight, Laura thought she could make the application within the 10 days required. Iain and Phil would arrange to purchase beer, soft drinks and crisps locally nearer the time. Sue had bought stocks of tea coffee and sugar, only milk being needed. Clair had received an offer of help from Judy Spencer and it was thought that Bob Jervis and Bill Walker would also help. Clair to check.
- **Transport** – Norman would bring the flat-bed truck to [REDACTED] to arrive between 9.30 and 10.00am. Clair, Iain, Ros, Phil, Laura, Peter would meet him there. Rupert would be at Weston at 3pm to help with unloading. Norman would bring a sack truck.
- **Setting up the auction in the Hall** – Ros had bought a book of cloakroom tickets to act as Lot numbers, Iain had supplies of masking tape with which to affix them to the Lots. Many of the Lots already had luggage labels tied on which could be used to attach the Lot numbers.
- **Staging** – Iain and Clair had made arrangements to collect it from the local school on the Friday.
- **Floor covering** – Iain had organised some, but committee members were asked to bring additional cardboard or dustsheets to protect the newly varnished floor and the table tops, especially important if it was raining.
- **Jobs list** – was updated.

Phil thanked the team for their enthusiasm and offers of help.

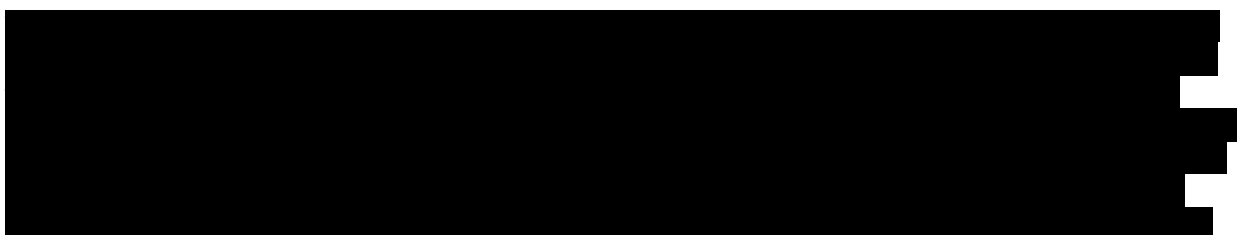
5 ANNIVERSARY GATHERING AUGUST 2016 – BASINGSTOKE

- Mike had received 15 notifications about boats likely to attend, and a further 10 were added at the meeting. The total of 25 was thought sufficient to make the event viable so it was agreed that Basingstoke would be our venue and could now be advertised as such. [Post meeting note: as at 24 March, the number of boats had risen to 33.]
- Phil would start to contact local navigation authorities with a view to negotiating favourable licence deals. Possibilities mentioned were: a Gold licence (January-December, non-refundable), a tug licence for working boats, a £10 transit licence from Teddington to R Wey, corporate membership of National Trust (longer cruising).
- Copies of cuttings from the local press following our Droitwich gathering might be useful to show to Basingstoke local authorities.

6 MATTERS ARISING – ACTION LIST FROM 10 JANUARY 2015

- 3 **Committee meetings** - Stafford Boat Club's venue was rather expensive, so instead a room had been booked at Alvecote for 9 May. Norman had booked a meeting room at Gloucester docks for 3 October.
- 4 **Subscriptions** – Laura would mention the possibility of a future increase in her report to the AGM
Donations – Val suggested a donation to the Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust for their Wappenshall Wharf matched-funding appeal. It was agreed to make a pledge of £1,000 towards this, which Laura would mention in her AGM report. It was suggested that John Yates might be asked to arrange a visit. It was agreed to discuss further what to do with surplus club funds at the next committee meeting. Laura suggested that a reasonable allocation of club funds should be 1/3 running costs, 1/3 publishing, 1/3 donations to waterway good causes.
- 5 **Awards** – Sarah H had brought the two remaining mini-plaques to the meeting. Michael and Sarah E would arrange to have more produced to give to winners of the Keay & Hemelryk awards when they relinquished the trophies.

6.1



Ken Keay book – agreed to reduce the selling price to £12.

10.3 **Archive at National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port** – Phil was due to meet Mike Turpin and Margaret Harrison, Collections Manager, at Stone the following Wednesday.

5.4

7 **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.

7.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – meetings attended NNUF, NINF, CRT NUF; photographs for [redacted] re-print; letter explaining no donation for boat restoration; Cuckoo replica.

- Phil commented that if the navigation authority had remained as BW instead of becoming a Trust, the waterways would likely have been much worse off due to **Defra cuts** as experienced by EA.
- The current term for overstaying moorers and licence dodgers was “**Non Compliant Boaters**”.
- The issue of **irresponsible cyclists** had been raised at several meetings – Richard Parry was aware of the problems and CRT had launched an initiative called *Share the Space, Drop your Pace*. Rupert commented that unofficial time trials had been taking place on towpaths. Sue said that every time that towpath improvement was funded by outside bodies, CRT still had to approve its type and construction methods. Nick commented that tarmac placed right up to the edge of the towpath meant that mooring pins could not be driven in, and Sue thought that the specification for towpath construction was on the CRT website.
- **Heritage Advisory Group** – in correspondence, Nigel Crowe had asked for suggestions for further members of HAG. Bernard said he was willing to be nominated and that it would fall in well with his role in the Maritime Heritage Trust.
- **Cuckoo boat replica** – a discussion on whether an accurate replica of a vanished boat could be considered as “historic” was deferred to the next meeting.

7.2 **Secretary** - (Sarah Hale)

- As she was resigning with effect from the afternoon’s AGM, Sarah had brought the files to hand over. She wondered whether a more appropriate custodian of the Minutes books might be the Minutes Secretary.
- Bernard raised the issue of security of records, archives and Weaver originals and commented that keeping them in committee members’ houses was not particularly safe. It was suggested that we investigate a self-storage facility such as the ones being offered in disused salt shafts at Middlewich.

7.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; costs of newsletter + postage; latest list of bidders for auction.

7.3 **Membership Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – membership numbers; approve 4 new memberships; subscriptions outstanding.

- **New members** were approved:

Neil Snowdin	Reiver*	1775
Robert Welfare	N/A	1776
Philip Winward	N/A	1777
Friends of the President	President & Kildare	1778

- **Old style windlasses** – although approval had been given for purchase at the last meeting, Paul had given it further thought and now recommended abandoning the proposal in light of worried about product liability should the windlass snap in use. Clair commented that they would have been very heavy to move as shop stock. Agreed.

7.4 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) no report

7.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – delay in sending out latest issue; cost of postage for bundled IWA copies; complimentary list needs reviewing; increased cost of postage and bulk purchase of stamps; Who’s Who; Christmas Card photos.

- **Complimentary copies** – Ros would circulate the list as at 1 February 2015 for amendment and comment in time for the next issue 2015/2, press date 23 April.
- **Stamps** – it was agreed that Val should buy a year's supply before the price increase took effect.
- **Who's Who** – it was agreed that this should be issued every year after the AGM, updated as necessary.
- **Christmas cards** – photographs were circulated at the meeting, the most popular was a little dark but Val would send it to Iain who would try to lighten it.

7.6 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – sales since last report; new stock.

- Clair had received a request for club vinyl print stickers. Val commented that the quantity required by printers made this uneconomic and it was decided not to go ahead with this.

7.7 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – next NAG meeting; 3 club members on NW Partnership Board; unprotected concrete cills on GU locks; pawl restrictors (see also 8.1 below).

- Phil commented that he had resigned from the Central Shires Partnership Board and that he had heard from Beryl McDowall that they were short of members. It was suggested that Lawrence Williams might be nominated.

7.8 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – redevelopment of the website; membership database; contacts via the website.

- It was agreed to give an honorarium [REDACTED] to Steve Wood for the hours of work he had done in preparing the membership data for uploading to the on-line database.
- Data Protection Act – our practice of circulating members' details to other members would have to be looked at in light of the DPA. Paul commented that the use of the Paypal Here gadget for the auction was covered by Paypal's terms and conditions.

7.9 **Area Reps**

Central Shires (Rupert Smedley) – see 8.1 Pawls, and 8.2 Off-side vegetation, below.

East (Amy-Alys Tillson) – ongoing closures on Nene and Middle Level locks; Non Compliant Boaters in Ely; no improvement in mooring enforcement in Cambridge.

East Midlands (Mike Harrison) – user group meetings due in March; Sawley Flood Lock closures still unsatisfactory; hydro-electric scheme at Holme Lock; spams received on @hnbc addresses.

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – open day at Aldermaston Lock; towpaths used as cycle ways (see also 7.1 above).

London (Michael Pinnock) – changes in licence Terms and Conditions; success of enforcement teams; successful stoppage at Aqueduct Lock; problem at Ponder End lock; helpful CRT staff.

- Michael awaited with interest to see what effect CRT's new Terms & Conditions would have on London's over-staying problems.

Manchester & Pennine (George Boyle) – Marple Aqueduct; breach at Dutton to re-open 13/3/15; Bollington winding hole; damage to Wood End lift bridge by local user; volunteer working parties on Macc.

North East (David Lowe) – Leeds visitor/short stay moorings; improvement at Sheffield basin; dredging of Dewsbury Arm; no overnight mooring signs; new CRT visitor mooring policy, 14 days during winter months; John Sergeant's televised trip on the Humber.

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – Hurleston update, more scabbling; Mountbatten stuck then but got through backwards later.

- Hoping to liaise with Swallow and Warbler to try Hurleston bottom lock again.

South East & Thames (David Daines) – unofficial leave-lock-empty notices on southern GU; monitoring of visitor mooring; no centres on top gates on Winkwell bottom lock, but fitted at Hunton Bridge; possible developments at Bulbourne Yard.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – bankside vegetation; successful HLF bid by Gloucester Docks, closure for upgrade November-April; sale of derelict feed mill buildings; no user group meetings planned until June; Docks to be 'fan zone' for Rugby World Cup in the autumn; conversion of old offices into pub.

West Midlands (Sarah Edgson) – Sampson Road depot redevelopment; Fiddle & Bone pub re-opened; dewatered section near Worcester Bar; burnt out boat on Wyrley & Essington; Young People's Conference; Life on the Cut exhibition at Walsall.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 **Stops on ratchet pawls** – Rupert had emailed his concern that stops were being installed to restrict the movement of pawls so that they could not be flipped over, but had to be held with one hand while the windlass was operated with the other. It was agreed that this was potentially dangerous as it prevented two-handed operation of stiff paddles, or of any paddle if it had to be shut quickly against the flow of water. There was also a trap hazard for fingers. Alison reported that the issue was being discussed at an IWA meeting that morning. Sue commented that there had been instances of windlasses flying off spindles and causing injuries and emphasised the importance of training, but she would raise the issue at the next CRT NAG meeting. Mike wondered if there was a blueprint for design of the pawls or whether it was being done ad hoc area by area. Phil was asked to contact Tony Stammers to ask for sight of any risk assessment that had been done.
- 8.2 **Off-side vegetetion** – Rupert had seen the specifications to which sub-contractors were working on the Caldon and thought they were generally pretty good, but he had noticed that some problem areas had not been identified. This was probably because specifications for clearance were drawn up from a bankside viewpoint, not from sightlines as seen from a boat. Sue reiterated how important it was for boaters to report sight lines problems to CRT so that problem areas could be included in future specifications. It was thought that Fountains Group's contract had been renewed for a further 6 years, but that they were further sub-contracting the work to local tree surgeons.
- 8.3 **First Aid kit** – the club's box of supplies was currently on Chertsey. Sarah H would make arrangements to hand it over to Phil at the Auction.
- 8.4 **Wooden baulks on GU lock cills** – following her report at the January meeting about the lack of protection for the concrete cills, Sue would report further after the CRT NAG meeting later in the week.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

Phil Prettyman

Chairman