

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00 am on Saturday 9 May 2015
at The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote, Tamworth

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Nick Grundy, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, Iain MacTavish, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock. Sarah Edgson attended for a short while at midday.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from George Boyle, Bernard Hales, David Lowe, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, James Tidy, Amy-Alys Tillson.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2015 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 AGM 2015 – FEEDBACK

Phil thanked the team for their efforts to ensure the AGM ran smoothly. Several non-committee members had also helped with the refreshments which was much appreciated. The Raffle had raised over £200 and the winner of the “Measham” teapot had been delighted with her prize.

It was agreed that the only thing that needed to be changed for next year was the time allocated for Paul’s presentation and description of the entries/prize winners of the Keay & Hemelryk awards – about half-an-hour would be sufficient. Ros to annotate 2016 draft agenda as aide memoire.

4 AUCTION AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL, 21 MARCH 2015 – FEEDBACK

4.1 Summary

Paul thanked Phil for doing so well under pressure and thought that the event had been a great success. This was endorsed by the whole committee. David D reported that, although he had been unable to attend, from what he had heard the Committee had done a stupendous job and was to be thoroughly commended.

Phil reported that there had been 101 registered bidders, a gratifying turnout, and 201 Lots, all of which had sold or been retained by the vendors. At the last minute the vendors decided to retain 2 catalogued items by setting a high reserve price – this was unfortunate as at least one bidder had attended solely for one of these items.

On their way back from Easter at the Port, Phil, Ros, Iain and Clair had met the vendors at Wheaton Aston and had delivered the cheque. They had been hugely appreciative of our help and organisation, and had written to Phil to pass on their thanks for the outcome. (See Treasurer’s report for net income.)

4.2 Future pointers:

With hindsight, 201 Lots had been too many to get through in the afternoon. Probably 150 Lots would be a better target should the committee ever be persuaded to run a similar auction in the future.

To prevent items being withdrawn at the last minute after being publicised in the catalogue, vendors should be asked to sign off the catalogue as being complete and to undertake not to withdraw any items at a later date.

Setting out the Lots had proved very time consuming. Printed lists should be in both alphabetical and Lot order to aid cross referencing.

There had been one disputed item where the winning bidder had been standing in front of the “loser”, who had not seen the final bid and thought that his was the successful one. In future, it would be important to slow down the process and ensure that every bid was clearly called, with the winning bidder’s number announced before the bid was closed.

Rupert commented that when he had paid for one of his items, the bid price listed was the higher asking one on which there were no takers, rather than the lower final accepted price. Future auctioneer and spotters to note.

4.3 Other items

Clair and Iain had received further donated items for auction. These would amount to about 20 Lots and were probably more suited to a Tat auction at a club gathering when running costs would be sustainable. A full auction similar to the one at Weston would incur a basic running cost of about £500.

5 PUBLICATIONS

5.1

[REDACTED]

5.2

[REDACTED]

5.3

[REDACTED]

6 CUCKOO REPLICA BOAT

Phil reminded the meeting that he had been told about the building of an authentic replica of the now-disappeared Cuckoo boats that used to trade on the Chesterfield Canal. It had apparently been built from the original design drawings, using traditional materials and methods. It was agreed to follow the National Historic Ships UK's practice of establishing a category of "authentic replicas" and to include such boats in our archive and on our website. Some further thought would have to be given to defining a replica or a reproduction.

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) – verbal report at the meeting:

- **Basingstoke August 2016** – Phil had received the contact details for the Basingstoke Canal authority. 2016 was also the 50th anniversary of the Basingstoke Canal Society and he wondered whether the club should join forces with them for a joint event, thereby reducing costs and avoiding the club having to organise a marquee, toilets for the general public and public liability insurance. The committee agreed, in principle, that this was an acceptable idea provided that we were able to retain the feel of a club event with all historic boats moored together and with our own separate events (film show, tat auction etc).
- **Easter, 25-28 March 2016** – Sarah had mentioned the possibility of having two gatherings in 2016 – the usual one at Easter as well as the one-off 50th Anniversary event on the Basingstoke in the summer. Phil felt that he and Ros would not want to organise two events in one year, but that if Sarah was prepared to arrange something for Pelsall, he was sure club members would attend.
- **Historic boats at Ellesmere Port Museum** – Phil had met Margaret Harrison (Collections Manager) and Mike Turpin (Boat Museum Society) to find out about plans for the boats in the Museum's guardianship. They believed that some were no longer restorable, and some would last longer in inside storage. Their overall aim was to "tell the story" of the canals and with this in mind thought that the Ferret would be an ideal candidate to show how converted historic boats in the 1960s had done so much to retain and preserve the canals themselves. They believed that the Ferret returned to its original carrying state would be "yet another Josher", and not as remarkable as in its 1960s pioneering form when it was used extensively by the Clarke family.

Some other historic boats were in the process of being returned to their 1960s/1970s state (Corolla, Snipe) by their private owners, so the committee thought that there was merit in this approach. However Ferret might not be the best boat to choose and there were worries whether the 1960s conversion could be replicated well enough. The Merope was also in need of serious attention and had greater rarity value, being the last of the wooden Rickie boats. Perhaps Ferret could be sold to finance this, although there might be legal implications as it had been gifted by the Nottingham Canal Museum. Overall it was thought that there was an ad hoc approach and a lack of vision and long term planning. Laura commented that she had taken part in a tour of the Yard while at the Port at Easter and that a similar event for committee members (and perhaps Tony Hales if he had not recently visited) might be a good opportunity to offer advice and share ideas on their various narrow boats and help them move forward to create a strategy. Phil to discuss with Margaret and Mike.

7.2 **Secretary** - (Paul Hunter) – notifications of HNBC committee reps to other organisations; Willow Wren booklet.

7.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; income from auction.

- **Use of surplus club funds** – following previous requests for donations to help to restore individual historic boats, it had been suggested that we should have clearer guidelines about how the club's surplus funds might be used.

Laura suggested establishing a contingency reserve to meet emergencies, and recommended that generally we should earmark one-third of our funds for club running costs, one-third for publications, one-third for donations to waterway good causes. This was agreed as a general principle. It was also agreed to create an on-going list of restoration projects that would benefit club members as a whole, and to review this list at each December committee meeting with a view to making a recommendation to the membership at the following March's AGM. It was thought unwise to ask the membership for suggestions, as this might appear to be an application for funds and could lead to disappointment. It was re-confirmed that the committee would not support individual historic boat restoration in order to avoid being perceived as favouring one boat over another.

Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting of projects that could be added to a rolling list.

- Laura informed the committee that she intended to retain club accounts for 7 years before destroying them, the usual accountancy practice. Noted.

7.4 **Membership Secretary** (Sarah Edgson) – new database up and running; style of membership cards; new members; lapsed members;

- **New members** were approved:

Friends of the President	President & Kildare	1778
Paul Higson	Green Man	1799
Martin Catterall	Halsall	1780
Alex Bennett	Tench	1782
John Hibbs	N/A	1783

The question arose whether it was necessary to delay membership until approved at a committee meeting, but Richard pointed out that approval was required by the constitution. It was agreed to notify committee members by email when new members joined, although a summary would still be produced for each committee meeting so that it could be recorded in the minutes.

- **Lapsed members** – committee members would do what they could to persuade the lapsed members, as listed in Sarah's report, to re-join.
- **Membership cards** – Sarah had circulated details of a combined letter+peel-off membership card costing around £26 for 250 single cards and £42 for 250 joint cards. The committee agreed that she should go ahead and purchase this type of letter+card system as it would cut down on the work for both her and Val when sending out renewals and new member welcome letters.
- **Data Protection Act and Membership Lists**– Ros had circulated the following information prior to the meeting (with her comments) so that the committee could consider its obligations in relation to the dissemination of membership details. She had checked her comments with Steve who was in agreement.

The DPA requires organisations holding personal data to adhere to the following 8 principles about how the data is stored/used. It must be:

1. **Used fairly and lawfully.** (I think we are OK here, we do not sell it on or use it for any illegal purpose.)
2. **Used for limited, specifically stated purposes.** (As far as I know we are not registered with the Information Commissioner. I completed the on-line ICO self-assessment tool to find out whether we should register and it seems that if we are not-for-profit, then we do not have to register. Despite not having to register, we still have to abide by the provisions of the DPA and to be prepared to argue our case.)
3. **Used in a way that is adequate, relevant and not excessive.** (We should not collect more data than we need for membership purposes, just a member's contact information and boat name(s).)
4. **Accurate.** (This covers changes of name/address/telephone/email - we have to depend here on members keeping the MemSec informed of course, but I know that David would only make a change to the db if he was informed by the member, not from information given by a third party. I assume this "rule" was in the notes handed on to Paul and then to Sarah.)
5. **Kept for no longer than is absolutely necessary.** (Only current records are on the on-line db, BUT we have old records on the snapshots of David's and Paul's database. Now, this is of interest from a curiosity viewpoint and would allow us to re-allocate someone's old membership number if they were to re-join, but that is the only reason I can think of for keeping the old stuff. We could make an argument for keeping names, membership numbers and dates of joining, but that is about it - certainly not addresses and other contact information.)

6. **Handled according to people's data protection rights.** (These 6 rights are: a right of access to a copy of the information comprised in their personal data; a right to object to processing that is likely to cause or is causing damage or distress; a right to prevent processing for direct marketing; a right to object to decisions being taken by automated means; a right in certain circumstances to have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed; a right to claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the act.)

7. **Kept safe and secure.** (The on-line db is protected by secure password on the server, and the server is backed up regularly. The data is neither safe nor secure in the lists on the website or those sent around with the newsletter. Remember, we are publishing names, spouse/partner names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses.)

8. **Not transferred outside the UK without adequate protection.** (Well, we do not transfer it as such, but we do have overseas members who could download it from the website, and I am not sure that their username/password combination for the members-only section of the website would count as adequate protection.)

• **Recommendations:**

1. That we decide who within the club needs access to full membership details (name, address, phone no, email address, membership type).

Agreed - Full confidential list only for committee members showing Member Name, Membership No, Address, Phone and Boat name, to assist in the administration and running of the club.

2. That we cease to produce the current style of Boat List and Address List available on the website.

Agreed – to cease producing the current versions of the boat and address lists on the website.

3. That we produce instead two versions of a list showing only Member name and Boat name - one version ordered by boat name, the other ordered by member's name. In practice, this is the type of list that we all use to identify other members when we see their boats coming, and it is useful to have in the Shop to save the embarrassment of trying to recruit someone who is already a member! We should only list partner names if it is a Joint membership. We could not argue the case for having an Individual member's spouse/partner listed. It may be useful, but it does not fit with Principle 3 under which we should only collect data that is relevant to HNBC membership.

Agreed – to produce two lists for the general membership: one alphabetically by member, with Boat name, and one alphabetically by Boat name, with member. Neither list to show contact details.

4. That we erase membership information that is out of date (number of years to be decided) apart from limited information about previous members.

Agreed - contact and financial information for previous members to be held by the Membership Secretary for 7 years, in line with accountancy requirements, then erased. This would apply to the new on-line database as well as the previous database and its snapshots held by former Membership Secretaries. Member name, Membership number, Boat name, Joining/leaving dates to be kept indefinitely.

5. That we give some thought to the committee listing in the newsletter - is it necessary to disclose everyone's address and phone number? This can be done with an individual's permission of course. Steve has sent me some guidelines that IWA has just published. We already follow many of these, it may be something we should adopt officially for the use of future committees.

Agreed – that only 4 committee contact addresses be given in the Newsletter – Secretary, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Shop Organiser. Other committee members would have only their telephone numbers and email aliases listed.

Agreed – to follow the IWA guidelines for releasing committee contact details. These guidelines to be posted on the Committee section of the website for note by future committee members, after seeking IWA's permission for their use.

7.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – nothing to report.

- It had been suggested at the previous meeting that the club should address its storage of archive items such as minutes, Weaver photographs, newsletters etc. Although many had been digitised and could be kept by post-holders, for original copies it was fundamentally unsafe to rely on storage at individual members' houses in case of humidity problems, fire or flood. Phil had asked Margaret Harrison during their discussions (see 7.1 above) but it had become clear that the Museum had more than enough to cope with looking after their own documents and photographs, without taking on more. However, during a conversation at the Port at Easter, museum staff had indicated that they would welcome the addition of material to the archive. Iain and Clair agreed to investigate storage options, probably around 4sqm, in the old salt mine at Winsford which was being advertised as an ideal facility for documents as it had “consistent temperature and humidity and was naturally free from ultra-violet light, rodents and flooding”.

7.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – next press date 3 August 2015; updated Who’s Who, AGM minutes and Accounts distributed with newsletter; address label problems; bulk purchase of stamps and envelopes; printing prices for Christmas cards.

- **Christmas Cards** – Val had obtained prices for thicker card but this was more expensive. It was agreed that the sample provided was indeed too heavy and that silk finish 300g or even 275g would be adequate. It was also agreed to print 2,000 off 4 designs to benefit from bulk discounts, to issue 2 designs for 2015 and hold back the other 2 for 2016. Two photos had been identified from the selection submitted at the last committee meeting, and there was still one Bridget Carter design in hand. Clair would contact Malcolm Braine to find out if he had a suitable photograph, and Val was authorised to choose the next most popular photographs if she considered that the “top 2” were too dark.
- **Electronic version of the newsletter** - each new issue of the Newsletter, in full, was already uploaded to the member’s section of the website shortly after it was posted, together with previous issues. This appeared on screen in its full-colour .pdf version, as it had for several years even before the print version went full colour. In addition, taster snippets of each issue were uploaded to the public side of the site. If members decided to opt out of the printed/posted version, this needed to be noted via the membership database for the newsletter posting labels.
- **Address label problems** – Val reported that the labels produced by the new on-line database had been extremely difficult to use and had resulted in a long and tiresome checking process for her and for Mike. The newsletter had not yet been sent out because of these problems (labels missing, incomplete addresses, a mix of forms of address, confusing order). Phil commented that although some data matching errors were probably to be expected when changing systems, we had made a classic mistake by changing the database just as a new membership secretary took over. There were now three issues: as a priority, to help Val get this edition of the newsletter posted as quickly as possible to the correct addresses; in the slightly longer term, to ensure that the data was correct; thirdly that labels for the next edition were presented in the format with which Val found it most easy to work.:

1. This edition – Paul would email Phil a snapshot of the database as it was in early March 2015. Phil and Ros would check it manually against the on-line database, against the details of new members as per Sarah’s and Paul’s committee reports and against Val’s list of queries. Corrected information would be emailed to Val so that she could produce the right labels where there was an error and post the newsletters.
2. Correcting the database – Phil was anxious not to overload Steve with data entry work, when his expertise was in the structure of the Db, and would talk to him about the best way forward. Ros would produce a list of errors and amendments and send the list to Sarah and Steve.
3. Labels for the next edition – Sarah commented that members were listed in the on-line database by a unique ID number, and that the Db had produced the labels in this order. Steve was investigating how the labels could be produced in alphabetical order. Val’s preferred format for the labels was:
 - Grouped in batches according to Overseas, Requiring letters/cards, Complimentary, Ordinary.
 - Each batch to be in alphabetical order by surname.
 - Each label to contain name and full address including postcode, and country where applicable.
 - Each label to contain the membership number and the Boat name – this aided in cross checking.
 - A separate printed list of names/addresses for cross checking, in the same order as the labels.

It was agreed by the whole committee that the preferred form of address on all labels should be the formal style of Mr A N Other, rather than first-name/last-name.

It was also felt that the font size on the current labels and letters was too small.

When the current problems had been sorted and the newsletter posted, Phil would speak to Steve and to Sarah about points 2 and 3, to keep them both in the picture.

7.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – sales since last report; donated stock to second hand bookshop; website queries; future bookings for shop; enquiry from Lindy Foster/Weinreb.

- **Display boards** - Clair asked for help in collecting the Shop display boards from Braunston for return to Grindley Brook. She would email George to see if he could collect them on the Badger.
- **Lindy Foster’s request for photographs** – no committee members had photographs of the required vintage to illustrate the interview with Gladys Horn about her life on working boats in the 1950s-1960s. Lindy had

already approached CRT but there would be a charge for commercial use of their archive photographs. The committee was sympathetic to her request, feeling that the film would be fascinating, so Clair would contact her again to see which particular photographs she needed – perhaps to publicise her request in the newsletter, perhaps with a view to supporting her request for cost-free access to the CRT material.

- **PayPal** – Clair wondered when PayPal would be available for shop items on the website. Ros received a text from Steve during the meeting to confirm that this would be done when launching the on-line shop. [Post meeting note: the Shop module and PayPal were already set up, Ros would start transferring articles across in June after her return from holiday.]
- **Aylesbury Canal Soc** - Clair had been asked to pass on an invitation to committee members to bring their historic boats to the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Aylesbury Canal Society on 19/20 September 2015. She was unsure whether this was a private gathering, or if it was to be advertised via the website calendar. David D was fairly certain that it was a private event.

7.8 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – next NAG meeting 10 June; pawl restrictors; promote CRT's 03030 404040 number; winding hole project.

- **The Winding holes survey** had only produced comments about a few popular and well known canals. It would be helpful to have a complete list of winding holes from CRT and Sue would ask at the next NAG meeting. Alison reported that the data was to be shared with local IWA branches who would be asked for feedback.
- **Ecological concerns** and the subsequent restrictions on the use of some canals and blocking of winding holes - Sue reported that from a conversation with Dr Paul Chanin (club member and wild life expert), concerns over SSSI and wild life conservation probably had little to do with the impact of boats and much more to do with silt and run-off from neighbouring farmland.
- **Pawl restrictors** – Sue reported that this was an on-going problem that NAG was following up. Rupert reported that he had mentioned pawl restrictors at the recent User Group and that the waterways manager had appeared very defensive about their installation. Alison added that an initial report had come from a local IWA branch as the restrictors appeared to be fitted only in the West Midlands, but that now it appeared to be a nation-wide initiative. She would write to NAG to express concern. Sue reported that CRT was talking about changing the taper on spindles so that one size would fit all, thereby removing the possibility of a too-large windlass being fitted on a small spindle leading to slipping-off accidents.
- **CRT Historic Boating Techniques** – Alison had mentioned this in her report (see 7.11) and suggested that Sue become involved in a meeting with CRT. Also suggested that Michael be invited to attend to prove that historic boating was not restricted to the retired generation.

7.9 **Press Officer & Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – updated contact with waterways press; numbers of Facebook and Twitter followers; enquiries dealt with (Swan, BCN day boat).

- Thanks expressed by the committee for the excellent start Amy had made on the Press Officer role and the very positive HNBC pieces that had been published in Waterways World.

7.10 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – Interactive reporting canal map; enquiries received via the website.

- **Interactive Canal Maps for reporting issues to CRT** – Iain concurred with Ros's conclusion that the most important thing was to get boaters to report issues to CRT and that extra technology would not necessarily help. In common with other committee members, he found that, having sorted boating issues during the day, he did not stop to report them immediately and by the evening had often forgotten the exact location. Nick recommended keeping a small notebook in the ticket drawer and doing a composite report at the end of boating. Iain thought that a map of CRT regions would be very useful on our website – Ros to ask CRT's Damien Kemp if one was available and to ask Amy to publicise our campaign on Social Media. [Post meeting note: Amy responded that we should add EA and other waterway authority emails and phone numbers.]
- **Spam** - Mike remarked that he and Val were still receiving a volume of spam emails addressed to their HNBC alias emails. Ros to ask Steve to amend the format of emrep@ and editor@ to see if it cut down on the amount received.

7.11 **IWA Liaison** (Alison Smedley) – boating techniques film; winding hole campaign; IWA general election manifesto campaign; informal boats-only gathering at Etruria.

7.12 **Area Reps**

Central Shires (Rupert Smedley) – User Group (UG) meeting; number of CRT friends; annual lockage map; Fradley welcome station open; £1m on dredging; 400 volunteer days; excess paddle grease removed; WRG camp on Ashby; fishing; ratchet pawl stops.

- The stoppage at Hazelhurst had been called in order to fix leaks, unfortunately the lock was still leaking.
- Change in structure at CRT meant that engineering work was undertaken by centrally appointed sub-contractors, so opportunities for meaningful long-term dialogue was no longer possible.

East (James Tidy) – Salters Lode lock works; depth issues Cardington Lock to Castle Mills lock; visitor moorings at Wansford; Thrapston Bridge height; Denver River Festival; IWA Northampton festival; veg improvement and spot dredging on Northampton Arm.

East Midlands (Mike Harrison) – UG meeting: visitor moorings at Lincoln & on Chesterfield; dredging Erewash; bars being considered for Sandiacre lock; open day at Newark Town lock. Query from CRT re Nottingham gathering; Weaver progress.

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – new waterways manager appointed; growth in volunteering, 32k hours' contribution; new CRT management structure; new Towpath Code; list of winter works completed; visitor mooring review; new CC process & enforcement.

- Nick had received an email from someone organising Reading Water Festival next month – he had replied that this was too short notice and suggested that they let us know in plenty of time for next year.
- Nick had responded to an enquirer asking for interesting places to stop and explore, Clair suggested this would make an excellent article for the Newsletter.
- Rupert queried the use of walk-boards on the inside of lock gates, which could cause problems for both boats (hanging) and walkers (slipping in). Nick to investigate.

London (Michael Pinnock) – long term towpath moorings Olympic Park; Acton s Lock; mooring ring installations; numbers of new boats in region; possible falsification of home moorings information; low turnout of historic boats for Canalway Cavalcade.

- The committee was alarmed to learn from Michael's report that an extra 5 boats/week were entering London's waterways but acknowledged that this was a consequence of the cost of housing in London. Sue believed that it would be self limiting eventually due to overcrowding – already some towpath moorings were 3 abreast. Phil commented that from Richard Parry's remarks at the Boaters' Meeting he had attended in Birmingham, the CEO was well aware of the situation and steps were being taken to try and limit the nuisance.

Manchester & Pennine (George Boyle) – visit on nb Owl by CRT CEO to view low water levels and winding hole problems; disciplinary action for poor customer service.

- Good to know that the problem of Bollington winding hole was receiving support, and that the issue of poor water levels had been noted by the CEO on his visit.

North East (David Lowe) – UG meeting: budget for coming year (dredging, priority works, open days); long term strategy (efficiency, stewardship, partnerships, social enterprise). Partnership projects (Pocklington Canal, Rother Valley link, Barnsley/Dearne & Dove Canals).

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – Hurleston update (Warbler, Swallow, Stanton, Gosport stuck), Spring User Forum, plans to take new Partnership chair on boat trip; volunteer training should include boating experience.

- **Hurleston** - Iain had collected the information about historic boats becoming stuck in Hurleston and would arrange another meeting with CRT to give them this feedback. Mike commented that it was ironic that expensive work had been done on Strett (Chesterfield) which carried much less traffic, and yet similar investment in rectifying Hurleston, a much more heavily used lock, was not forthcoming. Rupert commented that in his role in the technical department at Waterways World, he often received queries about Hurleston from owners of modern boats. Nick suggested that CRT could demonstrate a more pro-active approach by affixing a notice at the locks with the telephone number to call to report problems.
- **Volunteer lock keepers** - Iain reported that the lock keeper at Bunbury Staircase had been very helpful, but that he was disturbed to learn that he had had no boating experience. Iain had offered a trip on Plover, and urged other committee members to make similar offers to other volunteers. (See also Alison's report 7.11.)

North West - Liverpool Link popular; 2 Queens in docks; docks fully booked; historic boats passing through on way from Port; CRT renewal of towpath Rufford branch; St Helen's canal.

South East & Thames (David Daines) – new waterways manager appointed; unofficial leave-lock-empty notices on southern GU; monitoring of visitor mooring; PLA/APCO agreement re hire boats on tidal Thames.

- **Notices** - David showed the meeting the type of unofficial 'leave lock empty' notices that continued to appear on the southern GU.

- **Towpath Warden** – David had met the new Towpath Warden who was looking for, and reporting, licence evaders.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – dredging for Tall Ships; advice issued by CRT for visitor moorings; plans for automating G&S bridges.

West Midlands (Sarah Edgson) – Worcester Bar railings; new Dudley Canal Trust visitor centre; new waterway manager confirmed; money from Midland Expressway for Lichfield & Hatherton aqueduct.

- Railings – Richard remembered seeing railings at Warwick Bar many years ago, but they did not extend as far as the stop lock. The committee thought that, if railings had to be installed, the present ones were an acceptable replica design with no snagging points and were very similar in appearance to the original ones that had been removed. There had been no consultation but that may well have led to unacceptable delays. It was resolved to send a message of congratulations to the waterway manager for ensuring that a good design had been used.

8 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST (not already covered in other items above)**

- 8.1 Clive Guthrie book – Clair had checked and Malcolm Braine did not have a copy. (August 2014, minute 4.4)
- 8.2 Lost Canals of the Black Country – acquired by the Shop. (August 2014, minute 5.7)
- 8.3 Digitised Map – David D would ask the new SE waterway manager about it at the next Boaters' meeting. It was believed there was also a large map on the wall of the Ocker Hill office and suggested that perhaps Sarah could find out? (August 2014, minute 5.7)
- 8.4 Newsletter backup – Richard and Val to exchange discs and information. (August 2013, minute 7.6)
- 8.5 Speaker on Manchester Ship Canal – Sue had not been able to find the name. (May 2014, minute 3.2)

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 PayPal – Paul confirmed that he had negotiated 1.4% + 20p per transaction for the club's on-line transactions. The cost was higher (2.5%) for the *PayPal Here* device we had used at the auction at Weston.
- 9.2 David D reported that he had brought the items acquired from the late Alan Brown's estate, to the meeting. Members were interested to see them but it was not resolved what to do with the collection as yet. David to retain.
- 9.3 Paul had brought the archive Minutes to the meeting to hand over to Ros (Minutes Secretary) for safe keeping pending the result of any research by Iain and Clair (see 7.5).
- 9.4 Clair showed a new book she had acquired on The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal. It was agreed that it should be stocked by the Shop.
- 9.5 9 January 2016 was fixed as the first meeting in the New Year and it was agreed that as the Samuel Barlow had been an excellent venue today, Sue would find out if it was available, with food, for that meeting.

10 **NEXT MEETINGS**

2 August 2015	11am	Aylesbury Canal Society (Sunday meeting)
3 October 2015	11am	Gloucester Docks Museum
28 November 2015	11am	Lapworth Village Hall, prior to Social
9 January 2016	11am	?Samuel Barlow?
05 March 2016	10am	Lapworth Village Hall, prior to AGM at 2.00pm

The meeting closed at 4.40pm.

Phil Prettyman

Chairman