

## HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB

### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00 am on Saturday 28 November 2015 at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth B94 6LD

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

**In attendance:** Sue Daines

#### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, George Boyle, Bernard Hales, Daniel Mawdsley,

#### 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

After correcting 3.1 **Organ recital** to read “David L stated that there was a Wurlitzer”, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2015 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### 3 MEMBERS’ SOCIAL

Phil had prepared a list of announcements for the start of the Social meeting:

- Launch of the Weaver Book.
- Keay & Hemelryk Awards – reminder about the closing date, 30 November 2015. No entries yet.
- Woking 2016 – explain about application forms, licences.
- Ellesmere Port – the club would be supporting the museum’s Easter Gathering 2016.
- AGM 2016 – nomination forms in the newsletter.
- Refreshments – volunteers asked to lend a hand at the break.

CRT Council elections – Sue to request support for Phil, Rupert would mention Ian MacCarthy.

Sarah had prepared name badges for all members. Paul and Alison would be on duty on the door to issue them.

Films - both Paul and Sue had brought interesting films on DVD, and these would be shown after the break.

#### 4 GATHERINGS/MEETINGS

##### 4.1 AGM, March 2016

- **Speaker** - Phil reported that as Mike Grimes was not available next March, he had approached Graham Boxer (CRT Head of Museums) who had agreed to be our guest speaker.
- **Elections** – Phil expressed his regret that George had decided not to seek re-election to the post of Area Rep for Manchester & Pennines. Phil expressed his personal and the committee’s thanks for George’s dogged pursuit of canal improvements in his patch, and his steady, measured, common sense approach to club business.
- **Vice Chairman** – Phil was willing to stand as Chairman in March 2016 and, if re-elected, would have served 12 years by the end of that term. He wondered if some thought should be given to co-opting a Vice-Chairman to attend CRT and EA meetings where dates clashed and who might be willing to stand as Chairman in 2019. It was agreed that Paul would chair committee meetings should Phil be absent.

##### 4.2 Woking, August 2016

**Background information** - Phil had submitted a written report before the meeting, covering site application, Festival Application Form, Thames 24hr transit licence, mooring depths, draft programme of events, draft layout of site, costs, overnight security, insurance documents, harbour-mastering, next meeting 28 January 2016.

He further emphasised that a completed application form (to be available online), together with copy of BSC, was essential to book passage as otherwise boats may not be able to get through in time; Fiona Shipp (BCS) would process application forms and forward HNBC ones to Mike; deadline for receipt of forms was 30 June 2016; BCA, BCS and Woking BC were keen as the event would raise profile of the canal in the community; hopefully public parking would be available in the car parks of private firms and elsewhere in the town; draft timetable included HNBC Tat Auction on Saturday afternoon, Mikron on Sunday afternoon, HNBC quiz on Sunday evening.

**Exhibition** - Phil asked for help in setting up an exhibition about narrow boats for the general public. James reported that the London Canal Museum had had some posters done in magnetic format and he thought they might be copyright-free if we wished to enlarge them. David D had some photographs, Alison’s blog had information, as

did the Friends of Cromford (Mike). Pull-up display panels were suggested. Michael preferred that HNBC produce its own exhibition rather than borrowing another organisation's. Sue's proposal to set up a Working Party for the exhibition was agreed (Alison, James, Phil, Ros, Sarah). Other suggestions were a booklet of the exhibition (Clair), a wheelbarrow full of stones for shovelling (Michael,) a children's treasure trail (James) with our I-Spy book (James & Phil), WOW activities (Alison).

**Rally Plaque** – Paul had asked Sandra Green if she would work on the design of a rally plaque, and she had agreed but would like to know what was an iconic image associated with the Basingstoke Canal or with Woking. David D mentioned that the Basingstoke opening plaque had been a replica of the John Pinkerton payment token. The design had to be agreed with BCS and Phil would mention this at the next meeting.

**Commentary at the parade of boats** – Norman would check diary dates to see if he were available, as would David D.

**Elsan disposal** – the club would have to pay for a disposal tank on site (similar to Droitwich) but Woking BC would organise this along with the public toilets.

**Moorings en route** – Byfleet Boat Club had offered transit moorings.

**Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)** – any electrical items that the club proposed to use on site would have to have a current PAT Certificate. Sarah believed that a crew member on the Star had PAT qualifications and would ask.

#### 4.3 **The Port, Easter 2016**

Sue reported that, after some doubt arising from management guidelines, the gathering at the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port would take place at Easter 2016 and would be combined, as before, with a Shanty Singers Festival, always popular with the general public. The next planning meeting was in January 2016.

### 5 **PROPOSED NEW AUCTION**

Phil explained that he had received a letter from Malcolm Braine asking if the committee would be prepared to organise an auction similar to the one held in March 2015. The committee had already agreed, by email, that in principle it was in favour of doing so. Clair had found out that there would be about 40 lots, although their location was scattered and it would need some work and time to collect them. Items from other vendors were included in the 40 lot estimate, and it was suggested that the committee invite club members to take advantage of the auction to include their own items for sale. Iain commented that some of the lots were quite large and would need to be viewed in situ, rather transported to a hall. A total of about 100 lots was manageable. A date in November 2016 would give enough time to organise the auction, and possible locations were Weston, as before, or perhaps Lapworth as a combined November Social and auction. To be considered at the next meeting.

### 6 **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.**

6.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – see item 4.2 on Woking gathering.

- Phil would be attending a meeting with CRT, NHS-UK and others in Birmingham on Thursday 17 December, to consider a definitive description of what constituted an historic boat.

6.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – IWA newsletter; congratulations on IWA award to David Lowe; club insurance renewal and volunteer hours; new FaceBook group appeared to be using club's name; Peacock update.

- Michael would have a word with the person who had set up the new FaceBook group and would ask him to amend it. The consensus was that this was an inadvertent error and would be corrected. [Post meeting note: the Fb page had been renamed quickly on request.]

6.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; year-end accounts; confirmation of Lapworth booking.

6.4 **Membership Secretary** (Sarah Edgson) – verbal report at meeting.

- New members, who had joined since the previous meeting, were noted:

Devon Shepherd	William's Wish	1809
Castel Quay Boats	Vienna	1810
Sarah Levick & Andrew Jury	Enceladus	1811
Roger Alsop	Comet	1812

- Sarah read out the list of late-payers and would give Paul the list, so that if they attended the Social in the afternoon they could be persuaded to renew. Phil would write/email a final reminder to the very-late-payers.
  - Sarah commented that she would only change data on the membership database if she were informed by the members themselves. She would not change it on hearsay. This continued the policy followed by David D as the previous Membership Secretary.
- 6.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – no report
- 6.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date; income from adverts; problems with mailing labels; comps list needs updating; defaulters; reciprocal copy to CRT Working Boat Group; Woking booking form.
- Phil commented that the problems with the mailing labels, outlined by Val in her report, needed more time for discussion than was available at this short meeting. He therefore proposed setting up a small Working Party to discuss the whole issue of producing labels and packing/posting the newsletters. Ros would email the nominees (Val, Paul, Sarah, David D, Steve Wood, Michael. Ros would attend to take minutes, and Phil was happy to chair the meeting) to find a common date. Laura proposed that the WP be authorised to propose extra postage costs if that were to be part of the solution.
  - It was agreed that CRT's Working Boat Group should receive a complimentary copy of our newsletter.
  - The booking form for Woking would be available online.
- 6.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – orders for Weaver books; sales of cards and books; new books in stock; padded envelopes; help at Social; scanner.
- Clair commented on the scanner (£125) which she thought would be a useful club acquisition for scanning covers of books for the Shop, newsletters, archive items, photos for the website, preparing material for the exhibition at Woking. It was agreed to ask Richard if he thought it would be useful.
  - Keay book – the book was sometimes mistaken for a child's colouring book. Clair wondered if it would be feasible to produce a slip cover to explain about the drawings.
- 6.8 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – next NAG meeting 2 December 2015; no further modifications to paddles and pawls, survey to be undertaken; dredging meeting in New Year; Hurlston continuing surveys; Market Drayton project.
- 6.9 **Press and Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – no press enquiries; column for NarrowBoat.
- It was agreed that the draft article for NarrowBoat on the southern GU was too controversial as a subject. Alternative topic of disappearing butty boats was suggested and approved. Material and comments needed to be sent to Amy immediately.
- 6.10 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – on-line shop imminent; spam emails via club addresses; queries via website.
- 6.11 **Area Reps**
- Central Shires** (Rupert Smedley)
- East** (James Tidy)
- East Midlands** (Mike Harrison) – Heritage Boat Gathering at Nottingham; user group meeting October 2015; open weekend Newark in November 2015.
- Kennet & Avon** (Nick Grundy) – partnership meeting; unplanned stoppages; partial breach at Devizes.
- London** (Michael Pinnock) – NBTA requests for extra facilities; boating sinking Old Ford lock; gate replacement Latton lock; Black Prince ceased operating in London; threat to Bangor Wharf; Bow Free Wharf; good work by Enforcement Team.
- The problem with loss of wharves in the London area was their lack of use, making them open to threat of closure/re-development. A lack of use made appeals for their retention more difficult. David L confirmed that CBOA were also concerned.
- Manchester & Pennine** (George Boyle)
- North East** (David Lowe) – Leeds & Liverpool bicentenary 2016; NE Focus group.
- North Wales & Borders** (Iain MacTavish) – User Forum; new Chair of NW&B Partnership's trip on the Plover; Partnership annual showcase; Hurlston data awaited.
- South East & Thames** (David Daines) – user group, CRT income; proposed new canal arm to Towcester; state of southern GU; CRT Boater's Bulletin, anglers between boats.

- With thanks to Michael, David had sent an edited copy of Michael's list of problems on the southern GU to the local waterways manager, Vicky Martin, who had replied that morning having annotated the list to show work planned for this winter.
- Prioritising of requested work was done by Asset Management Team, led by Julie Sharman. Sue would raise the problems at NAG.
- David commented that he had been refused permission to add the topic to the agenda for the next SE Boating Group meeting. Phil suggested that David challenge this by querying the Group's Terms of Reference. Phil to take up with chair of S E Partnership if David unsuccessful.

**West Midlands** (Sarah Edgson)

**7 UPDATE OF THE ACTION LIST FROM 3 OCTOBER 2015**

Many of the items on the Action List from 4 October had been completed and it was agreed to leave a further update until the January 2016 meeting.

**8 DATES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016**

9 January 2016	11.00 am – Alvecote, the Samuel Barlow
5 March 2016	10.00 am - prior to AGM (2.00 pm), Lapworth
19 November 2016	11.00 am prior to Social (2.00 pm), Lapworth

For consideration at January's meeting:

- ?? May 2016 – location?
- ?? August 2016 – location?
- ?? October 2016 – location?

The meeting closed at 13.05pm.

Phil Prettyman  
Chairman