

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00 am on Saturday 9 January 2016
at The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote, Tamworth B78 1AS

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth from 12.15pm, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sarah Edgson, Nick Grundy, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock, Amy-Alys Tillson.

In attendance: Liz Grundy, Peter Smedley

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Clair Butler, George Boyle, Iain MacTavish, Daniel Mawdsley, James Tidy.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2015 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 DATES AND LOCATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016

5 March 2016	10.00 am - prior to AGM (2.00 pm), Lapworth
7 May 2016	11.00am - The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote
2 or 3 July 2016	11.00am - Aylesbury Boat Club
8 October 2016	11.00am - The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote
19 November 2016	11.00 am prior to Social (2.00 pm), Lapworth

Sue would book The Samuel Barlow for the two dates listed. David D would contact Aylesbury Boat Club to see whether the venue would be available on Saturday 2 July or Sunday 3 July. Ros would update the website calendar and Val would notify members through the Newsletter. [Post meeting note: Sue had booked the Barlow rooms immediately after the meeting.]

4 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 5 MARCH 2016

4.1 **Nominations.** Paul had prepared the Notice of Meeting which had gone out with Newsletter 2015/4. The Notice contained a list of the posts due for re-election:

Chairman	Central Shires Rep	North Wales & Borders Rep
Membership Secretary	East Midlands Rep	North West Rep
Minutes Secretary	Manchester & Pennines Rep	IWA Liaison

Post-holders present at the meeting confirmed their willingness to be nominated for re-election. Paul would check with Daniel, and Ros would check with Iain. Phil reminded the committee that following George Boyle's resignation, a new Area Rep was needed for Manchester & Pennines. A couple of names of members who might be interested was suggested, and Sue undertook to contact them to explain the Area Rep's role.

4.2 **Motions** See item 5 below. Paul would draft a motion in consultation with Phil.

4.3 **Subscriptions** In her report, Laura had identified that subscriptions were not sufficient to cover the running costs of the club, the deficit being about £1,000. However, this was converted to a surplus thanks to the shop profit and the Weston Auction. It was agreed not to increase the subscriptions this year given the cash reserves that we hold, but to keep the situation under review in case the shop ceased to be profitable, in which case a rise in subscriptions would be necessary.

4.4 **Speaker** Phil had received an earlier confirmation that Graham Boxer, Head of Museums CRT, would be our speaker, and had contacted him in the past week to check on the subject of his talk and his preferred timings. Phil had not yet had a reply, but would follow up so that we had the information in time for the next Newsletter's press date of 1 February 2016 when the Agenda for the AGM would be sent out.

4.5 **General arrangements**

- **Preferred running order** Speaker>Awards>Refreshments>formal AGM>raffle winners.
- **Raffle** – Clair had a donated plate, Bernard would bring a couple of lace plates, but other boat-related items were needed. Nick confirmed he was happy to organise the ticket-selling during the afternoon and Ros would bring the book of tickets for the items.
- **Name Badges** Paul would produce new name badges for committee members. Sarah would bring pre-printed labels for members. It was agreed that at the November Social, pre-printed labels were not needed, just blank ones for members to write their own label. However, for the AGM pre-printed labels were an essential way of collecting member names for the minutes.

- **PA System** At the November Social, a lead had been missing from the set. Phil, with James, would draft a checklist of items for the PA system to be used when packing away and again before subsequent use. Phil would purchase any duplicate leads or other items required as stand-bys for the kit.
- **Rallies** – Paul had received a request from member Graham Scothern to canvass members about the arrangements for 2016 Braunston Rally. Phil would invite him to address the meeting during the item on Rallies.
- **Apologies** – David D gave his apologies for the AGM.

5 NEWSLETTER AND MEMBERSHIP MAILINGS

- 5.1 Rupert congratulated the Working Party on a thorough investigation of the issues and a well written report.
- 5.2 Ros highlighted two issues for amendment in the report – Clair had commented that she sent out earlier copies of the newsletter rather than membership leaflets with book orders, and Richard had commented that he believed 6 lines per address label would be necessary for some longer addresses. The report's recommendations were accepted by the committee:
- 5.3 Recommendations accepted:
- 5.3.1 **New memberships and renewal dates**
- a) that new members be offered rolling renewal dates rather than the twice yearly option
 - b) that the Constitution be amended to reflect this new practice
 - c) that existing members be urged to renew on-line
 - d) that a “Renew Now/Join Now” link be provided on the Home page of the website
 - e) that an article be written for the next Newsletter explaining ways to pay (on-line, Standing Order, cheque by post to the MemSec, cheque or cash at the Shop at an event)
 - f) that any committee member accepting membership renewal by cash or cheque, must inform the MemSec immediately, even if the cheque or cash was not passed on until the next committee meeting. This is not a preferred option, and should not be publicised
 - g) that an article be written for the next Newsletter explaining how to register on-line and how to check details
 - h) that membership cards be sent after receipt of payment
- 5.3.2 **Membership mailings**
- a) that the Membership Secretary assume responsibility for sending out membership renewal reminders, by post or email as preferred, and membership cards by post
 - b) that the committee authorise a budget for the cost of postage
- 5.3.3 **Newsletter mailings**
- a) that the Newsletter Editor send out copies of the newsletter, together with any general membership inserts that did not require sorting (AGM paperwork such as Notice of Meeting, Minutes, Accounts; Who's Who; Key & Hemelryk nomination forms; rally booking forms)
 - b) that labels for the newsletter be produced in the following groupings:
 - Non-UK addresses (because of different postage costs)
 - Members, including Honorary members (in alphabetical order, via a mail-merge)
 - Complimentaries including Exchange members (in any order, direct from the Db)
 - c) that the County line be omitted from members' address labels, this being unnecessary for Royal Mail deliveries. Labels would show:
 - Name
 - House name (where applicable)
 - House number + Street
 - Village/Area (where applicable)
 - Post Town
 - Post Code
 - d) that labels for complimentary copies be produced using the label-producing facility on the membership Db. The Db system would adjust the print size and layout to accommodate several lines of address
 - e) that the data for complimentary addresses be sanitised (job names instead of personal names, reduction in the number of address lines)
- 5.4 The general consensus was that a three-month grace period allowed the non-renewal of membership to go stale and that more urgency might be engendered with a one-month period for defaulters. Late payers would receive only one additional newsletter.

- 5.5 In conjunction with Phil, Paul would draft a motion for the 2016 AGM so that the Constitution could be changed to allow rolling membership renewals and a change in the 'grace' period from three to one month. This would go out with newsletter 2016/1, press date 1 February 2016.
- 5.6 Laura would write an article for the newsletter outlining ways to pay, and would send a draft to Sarah for checking.
- 5.7 It was believed that Steve had agreed to write an article for the newsletter on how to join online and how to amend membership contact details. Ros to check.
- 5.8 Both Val and Sarah would purchase a stock of 2nd class postage stamps against any future rise in the cost of postage.

6 WOKING GATHERING

- 6.1 **Next meeting** - Phil reported that the next meeting of the Woking group would be held at Mytchett Canal Centre at 12.30pm on 28 January 2016. He, Nick, Laura, David D and Sue or Mike would attend.
- 6.2 **Mikron Theatre** - Phil had received an email request from BCS for the Mikron Theatre to perform in the HNBC tent on the Sunday afternoon, as it would be quieter than the BCS tent which was closer to the public area. This was agreed in principle, but the HNBC reps at the next meeting were asked to check on the implications for the bar. Paul wondered if it would affect our insurance, but Alison felt the club's IWA insurance would cover this and there would not be a problem.
- 6.3 **Mooring** - Phil would liaise with Bernard and Tony Clarke to arrange a date to take his boat to the proposed mooring to check on bankside depth.
- 6.4 **Plaque** – Paul reported that Sandra Green (Lynx) was waiting for guidance on what form the plaque should take. It was agreed that it should be a circular plaque with wording “HNBC 50 years 1966-2016 Woking” around the edge and the club tear-drop logo in the centre. Paul would liaise with Sandra.
- 6.5 **Celebration party** - Laura asked how we proposed to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. It was agreed that:
- Phil would send an invitation to all past club chairmen and committee members, with an outline programme for the day.
 - Richard would send Phil a list of committee names, and other committee members would submit nominations.
 - Club banners would be needed but no decision was reached on other decoration (balloons, bunting)
 - Cake, nibbles and fizz to be bought. Perhaps glasses to be hired.
 - Cake – Val would ask Marg Pottinger, who had made the cake for the club's 40th anniversary, if she would make one for Woking. If not, Alison was prepared to step in. It was agreed that the rally plaque design would be a suitable decoration. If Marg would make the cake, Val and Mike would transport it to Woking and the liaison team would ask if someone from BCS could store it in the cool. [Post meeting note, Marg had agreed.]
 - Commentary on the parade of boats – Norman confirmed he was available
 - It was agreed our preferred timing for the Saturday was:
 - 10.00 am ish – parade of boats
 - 11.00am – cut off time for acceptance of Tat auction items
 - 12.00 noon – parade of boats carrying VIPs
 - 2.00 pm – HNBC 50th anniversary celebration
 - 3.00 pm – Tat auction, ending at 5.00pm
 - Exhibition team – Sarah offered the use of her offices at Glascote Basin. Ros would email to find a suitable date.
 - PAT – Sarah had been mistakenly “volunteered” at the last meeting to ask Graham Robinson (Star) if he could help with PAT testing. Paul would approach him.
 - Pontoon insurance – Paul would inform our insurers nearer the time, and after we knew whether pontoons would indeed be required.

7 PROPOSED NEW AUCTION

Ros reported a conversation that Clair had had with [REDACTED] to the effect that the lots were now at his house so that [REDACTED] could view them and retain any items that they did not wish to go for auction. He believed there would be about 40 lots remaining. There was some worry that the remaining items would not be sufficiently valuable or rare to attract enough buyers to make the event viable. It was felt that there needed to be a viewing of the remaining lots before a commitment was made to run the auction.

Laura suggested that, if we encouraged other members to add items as suggested by [REDACTED], we should recommend that they had a minimum value of about £5. Items below this value might be more suitable for the Tat Auction at the Woking rally.

Target issue for requesting additional lots would be newsletter 2016/2. For discussion again at the March committee meeting.

8 **KEYAY AND HEMELRYK AWARDS 2015** – Confidential item until the presentations at the AGM

Four nominations had been received for the Hemelryk Award, and two for the Keay Award. Each entry was scrutinised and scored against the standard scoring criteria to ensure consistency and transparency. A further boat had been nominated for both awards.

8.1 **Hemelryk Award** was given to the butty Kildare, owned by Black Country Living Museum, nominated by Irene de Boo. Bernard would inform Irene, stressing the need for confidentiality, and ask her to arrange for members of the team to be present for the presentation at the AGM in March.

8.2 **Keay Award** was given to the Dorset, owned and nominated by Chas Hardern. Sue would inform him, stress confidentiality, and ask him to attend the AGM in March. It was felt that the Dane was not yet sufficiently finished and its nomination should be held over for another year.

8.3 The Lady Hatherton had been nominated, but after much discussion the committee regretfully decided that the boat was not eligible for either Award as the wooden hull (Keay Award) had been replaced in steel (Hemelryk Award). However, the heritage value of this unique boat was recognised with the award of a Special Commendation.

8.4 **Trophies** - Bernard would contact BCLM to retrieve the Keay Trophy and would have it engraved with the Dorset's details. Michael had the Hemelryk trophy, would have it engraved for the Kildare and would bring it to the AGM. Ros would send Bernard and Michael a list showing the engraving layout of previous winners' details.

8.5 **Visuals at the AGM** - Paul would prepare a PowerPoint show of the work that had been done so that members at the AGM could see the extent of the owner's investment in the winning boats. Lady Hatherton would receive a Special Commendation. Ros would send high resolution copies of the photographs to Paul.

8.6 **Publicity** – it was felt that, as soon as the awards were presented at the AGM, news would be shared on social media by those present. It was therefore agreed that Amy could mention the awards in the next NarrowBoat column, which would not be printed until mid-March. She would send the copy with a press embargo of 5 March 2016. Ros would update the website after the AGM, and Val would include details in newsletter 2016/2.

8.7 **Mini plaque** for past winners – Sarah and Michael would arrange for more to be produced in the same size and shape as the 2 copies that Sarah had in her possession. Plaques were blank, ready for winners' names to be engraved.

9 **SAVE OUR BUTTIES CAMPAIGN**

Amy had already written an article for the most recent edition of NarrowBoat, and she would send Val an extended version for the newsletter, asking members for their opinions and suggestions of how we might further our campaign. With Richard's help, she would be able to mention the number of butties still in existence, and would also mention the problems and restrictions caused by the discounted fees only being available if a butty were paired with one named motor.

10 **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.**

10.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – CRT Council elections; NINF membership; CRT and NHS Register meeting; productive meeting on membership and newsletter mailings; CRT draft proposals on enforcement action.

- Bernard proposed official thanks to Phil for standing and congratulations on his election to CRT Council. Agreed nem con.
- **NINF** - Phil explained that the last NINF meeting had clashed with HNBC Social so he had been unable to attend. NINF was an opportunity for other waterways groups to share information and have a common approach on waterways issues before meetings with navigation authorities. Agreed to continue our subscription.
- **CRT and National Historic Ships Register** (NHS) meeting
 - NHS had produced taxonomy to show how vessels were grouped for its Register.
 - Also a Statement of Significance to be filled in for boats on the Register – this was overly complicated and wordy. Phil would send both the original version and his amended version to the committee for comment. There was the suggestion that boats might have to re-apply for NHS Registration every 3 or 4 years, and the committee thought this was not unreasonable as the condition of boats might well change.
 - CRT had produced an Enforcement flow chart showing the steps taken before a boat was subject to a Section 8 procedure. Phil was worried that early referral to CRT's Heritage Advisors, while worthy,

might be more effective if HAs were better informed about boating. He urged local Area Reps to contact their HAs to build a good relationship. He would ask CRT to amend the flowchart so that HNBC was contacted before seizure of any heritage boats. The committee wondered if the Poyle had received a Section 8 notice – Phil would check.

10.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – renewed club insurance with IWA; NINF minutes received.

10.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – annual accounts to November 2015; corporation tax.

- **Ken Keay** book – Laura had written down the value. Costs had been covered already, but 376 remained in stock. Clair had suggested a price drop to £10. Paul mentioned that the historic value of the book justified keeping it in stock for many years, and thought it should not be given away. Ros to amend on-line shop price to £10 after Clair's return from holiday. Paul would investigate the printing and production of a dust jacket.
- **Subscriptions** – it was agreed to review the level of subscriptions each year and take into account the subsidy provided by the shop.
- **Tax** – the committee accepted Laura's comment that we cannot ignore the corporation tax question as we now have an online shop which could well be picked up by HMRC. At present the profit on sales of the Weaver book were offset by the write off of Keay book stock. If the Weaver book continued to sell well or we published another successful book this may change and we may have to pay corporation tax. The tax would be 20% on the profit on sales to the general public after expenses of running the sales stand. It would involve Clair in more work identifying whether buyers are members or not.

10.4 **Membership Secretary** (Sarah Edgson) – new members; list of non-renewals since July 2015

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

Mr Timothy van Nardoff	Victory	1813
Mr John Regan		1814
Mr Adrian Wood		1815
Ms Jane Charlesworth Clypeus		1816
Mr & Mrs R Chamberlain	Eclipse & Echoes	1817
Mr Martin Fuller	Clematis	1818
Mr Laurence Hogg		1819
Mr Malcolm Bates		1820
Mrs E Braine & Mr T Angell		1821
Mr Roger Carey		TBA
Mr Roger Page	Royden	1822
Mr & Mrs R Craven		1823
Mr Robert Turner		1824

- It was agreed that Phil would send a personal letter to most of the 25 members who had still not renewed from July 2015. It was thought unlikely that 2 of them would renew. Laura would send an invoice to National Historic Ships Register as they required one before payment.
- Sarah reported that the first trial run of the on-line membership process had been completed mostly successfully. Some tweaking was needed because it was a joint membership and this data had had to be added separately.

10.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – list current status of iron/composite boats; brief history of each boat; responses to queries received via website.

10.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date 1 February; labels by 8 February; membership renewal system; errata in Weaver book; reviews of Weaver book; Historic Working Boat Group.

- Weaver book – an errata slip to go in future postings, plus a mention in the newsletter for those already purchased.

10.7 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – verbal report at meeting

- The on-line shop had taken a lot of time to prepare but was now up and running, and successful.
- Steve was issuing Amy with website admin rights as backup, and Ros would arrange a meeting with her to go through procedures.

10.8 **Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – verbal report at meeting

- 769 people “liked” our Facebook page.
- Sue and Ros had been allocated admin rights as backup for Amy.

10.9 **Press** (Amy-Alys Tillson)

- Column printed in Narrow Boat on butties, press date for next issue is end February, print date March, Amy would prepare information on Keay & Hemelryk awards with press embargo date of 5 March 2016. (See 8.6)

10.10 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – sales of Weaver books; takings since last report; on-line shop success.

- **Ken Keay book** – dust jacket to be investigated, price drop to £10 (see 10.3 above)
- **Discount** – as the club had arranged discounts for members as various waterway-related businesses, it was suggested we might also offer a discount on books to members. Clair to be consulted, and Ros would ask Steve if this were technically possible via the on-line shop.
- **Shop during holiday period** - Steve had arranged for Ros to be sent copies of on-line orders, and Clair's neighbour would forward postal enquiries. Val and Mike had a stock of Weaver books, and some Trent & Mersey books were to be delivered to them. Ros would liaise with them and reply to all orders. Some refunds might have to be made if buyers were not willing to wait, Ros to liaise with Laura.
- **Envelopes** - Mike had sourced some thick card envelopes suitable for posting books. Cost £0.22 each for minimum order of 175, postage would be for large letter size, depending upon the weight. In comparison, similarly sized padded envelopes were £0.16 each, but it was thought that the card envelopes looked better than either new or re-cycled padded ones, and Mike was asked to order some for his and Val's use while Clair was away. Clair would be able to decide on her return whether or not she wished to use them.

10.11 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – recent NAG meeting in Leeds; freight update; incidents with first time boaters on rivers; CRT improvement to customer complaints recordings; review of facilities underway; paddle & pawl group ongoing talks; winding hole survey continues; dredging progress; dimension listing on website to be reviewed.

- Sue would prepare an amended version of her report for the newsletter.

10.12 **IWA Liaison** (Alison Smedley) – verbal report at meeting

- **Pelsall rally**, August Bank holiday weekend – Alfred Ritchie trophy would be awarded again in 2016, but there needed to be a minimum of 6 entries from boats attending the rally. Alison would write an article for the newsletter.
- **EA transfer of powers to CRT** – Alison urged people who lived in an area where waterways were managed by EA, to write to their MP. Alison would circulate a template letter. David L welcomed the fact that regional Partnerships were taking an interest in all local waterways whether managed by CRT or EA.

10.13 **Area Reps**

Central Shires (Rupert Smedley) – verbal report at meeting

- Harecastle Tunnel will have mobile phone repeaters installed, followed coroner's recommendations at inquest into death in tunnel last year. Michael commented that, if successful, he hoped there would be a roll-out to other tunnels. Sue thought a similar system would be installed at Standedge tunnel. David L added that mobile phone repeaters had been rolled out nationally on rail and underground tunnels.

East (James Tidy) – Middle Level through-route blocked at Marmount Priory lock; rolling stoppage programme on Nene until March; rivers on strong stream but not yet major problem.

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

- The boom at Cromwell Weir was missing, so CRT had closed the river. CRT had sent out an emailed notice about a boat being adrift in the river but Mike was not sure how effective this had been.

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – Caen Hill flight reopened, ongoing repairs; West Mills Swing Bridge failure and repairs; long stoppage for Seend Wharf Bridge repairs.

London (Michael Pinnock) – verbal report at meeting:

- Winter stoppages had finished and the work completed successfully. One more new stoppage at Camden.
- The warning on social media about part of the river bed being sold off to developers was exaggerated, the land being heavily polluted and the strip of land along the east bank was not wide, leaving plenty of room for navigation and removing the burden from CRT of future cleansing of the river bank.
- More worrying was Bow Free Wharf, opposite the new development. It was locked at present but access could be gained on application. Michael would maintain a watching brief on it.

- There was talk of installing traffic lights on Maida Vale tunnel for one-way working. The problem was not the width of the tunnel but its shallow profile so that handrails would catch on the arch. Islington tunnel was also a problem for wide beam boats.
- About five extra boats a week were still being introduced to London's waterways. More and more GRP boats were present, but many of them were subject to Section 8 notices and were being monitored by the CRT Enforcement team.
- Service stations had been vandalised, in addition they were over-used and over-flowing after Christmas. Michael hoped that CRT would refurbish existing stations and extend the provision in the London area to cope with the number of boats, but would be at a huge cost to CRT.

North East (David Lowe) – storm damage and flooding affecting many parts of the north east; damage to new Leeds visitor moorings; Leeds flooded; planned Ouse safety meeting deferred.

- The recent flooding in the north east had been very serious and very frightening, 2 boats had been sunk and others swept away at speed. Millions of pounds worth of damage had been caused and although CRT had a contingency fund, David thought that the cost of the damage would far exceed this. He had been impressed that there had been no whingeing from users, and had nothing but praise for the volunteers and staff who had worked co-operatively and in good spirit. The Aire & Calder was closed due to high water and there had been some damage to locks.

North West (Daniel Mawdsley) – although no report had been received, the committee would welcome news from Daniel about local flooding, and hoped his marina had not been affected. Paul to contact him to ask.

South East & Thames (David Daines) – nothing to report

South West & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – verbal report at meeting:

- £8-9 million had been allocated for restoration after last year's floods, so funds for boat restoration were severely depleted.
- There was restricted access to the service space in Gloucester Docks because of thefts and damage in the area.
- The docks warehouse (on fire at the time of the committee meeting in October) had been demolished to 2 storeys high, whereas its original height had been 7 storeys.
- Gloucester Museum was closed for refurbishment until July 2016. There was now more awareness of potential fire damage so extra protection was being added.

West Midlands (Sarah Edgson) – nothing to report

11 UPDATE OF THE ACTION LIST

6.7 November 2015 – Scanner - Richard had looked at the scanners on the market. The more expensive one at around £450 worked on A3 size, but the cheaper version at £160 did not do so, and he was sceptical about the quality of its software. Richard had emailed his comments to Iain but in general thought that neither was worth buying.

6.11 November 2015 - Southern GU discussions were ongoing but there was nothing to do as yet. Richard commented that two Marsworth pounds had been empty on Boxing Day, and he was convinced that the problems were not caused by a water shortage but by leakages. There were also empty pounds on the nearby Aylesbury Arm. David D would keep the committee updated.

7.2 October 2015 – Peacock – Phil and Paul would arrange a meeting to discuss how to set up a Friends of Peacock group to support restoration of the boat.

7.7 October 2015 – Grand Contour Map - Richard had discovered that it was still in copyright (until 50 years after its author's death in 1980). In his opinion that although fairly rare, he could not find other copies of it for sale, and he doubted that it was of much interest or had much resale value.

8.1 October 2015 - Deepstore - Mike had sent Iain his estimate of the volume of storage needed.

3.2 August 2015 – Easter Gathering Pelsall Now that IWA had announced its plans to hold a rally at Pelsall on August Bank Holiday 2016, the location was rejected as a location for HNBC gathering. Anglesey Basin was suggested as an alternative venue.

7.7 March 2015 Central Shires Partnership members - Alison reported that all vacant posts had been filled.

8.4 March 2015 – GU Wooden Baulks - Sue reported that the matter had been discussed at NAG, but she would keep it under review and take it forward.

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1 **Strong Stream Advice on rivers** – David L reported that there were discrepancies in the navigation advice given to boaters about to join rivers. He had contacted CRT's Tony Stammers for his comments.
- 12.2 **Total boat length with or without fenders** – it was agreed that for mooring purposes, it was understandable that a boat's length should include fenders, whether removable or not. However, for a cruising licence a boat's length should be measured without fenders where these were removable, as these could be lifted for short locks. The committee was undecided whether to ask Paul to raise the issue with CRT's new head of boating, Mike Grimes, or to let sleeping dogs lie and leave the situation as it was.
- 12.3 **Weaver book** – Mike asked for clarification whether it was the committee's wish that he start work on a second book of Weaver photographs. There were over 3,000 more photographs in the collection, and he wondered what geographical grouping would make more sense. The opinion of the committee was they would welcome two more books, perhaps one dealing with areas to the north of the BCN, and one for areas south of the BCN, but they would await Mike's advice on what was suitable. They also hoped that Peter Oates would be willing to contribute further maps.
- 12.4 **Report from the R Thames area** Bernard reported that:
- EA was starting to enforce the removal of overstaying boats, but there was a hard core of people who would not move. Local residents were reporting to EA that boats were tipping raw sewage into the river and there was some confusion about which department within EA was responsible for investigating this. Alison commented that their hire boat on the River Great Ouse had had a sea-toilet, and Amy added that residents near her mooring on the River Cam had made similar, totally unfounded, complaints.
 - In the Kingston-upon-Thames area, £30m had been received for providing a cycle way by means of extending boards over the river bank. Consultations had collected user numbers for pedestrians and cyclists, but none for how boaters would be affected. The boards might be supported on brackets, stilts or could be floating.
 - **Licence modifications suggestion** Bernard had proposed a new system to EA whereby every craft paid a minimum fee, plus a surcharge for the area of accommodation on the boat. He thought this would be helpful for day boats and working boats, and would ensure that residential wide boats paid not just for their length, but for their width as well. He wondered if CRT might adopt a similar scheme. David D wondered if the change for EA would require primary legislation, and whether CRT would accept it.
- 12.5 **Committee contact list** – as committee members' full contact details were no longer published in the newsletter, Ros suggested she should provide a confidential list for committee use only. Agreed.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

Phil Prettyman
Chairman