

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.00 am on Saturday 5 March 2016
at Lapworth Village Hall, Lapworth B94 6LD

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Sarah Edgson, Nick Grundy, Bernard Hales, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, Ros Prettyman, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, George Boyle, David Daines, Mike Harrison, Daniel Mawdsley, Val Roberts, James Tidy, Amy-Alys Tillson.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2016 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 PRESENTATIONS and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 **Speaker** – Graham Boxer, CRT Head of Museums – Phil to meet and greet. Laura/Phil would check afterwards whether he had any expenses, or whether he would prefer a donation [post-meeting note – £100 donation made to Boat Museum Society].

3.2 **Chairman's report to AGM** – Phil circulated a copy of his report and asked for comments.

3.3 **Elections of committee members** – Paul reported that all committee posts due for election had nominees, proposers and seconders. Paul would take the chair at the AGM for the election of Chairman. Paul also reported that Ian McCarthy was happy to stand for the Manchester & Pennines Rep post and would send regular reports, but might not be able to attend meetings. This was accepted. After the AGM, Ros would update the committee's Googlegroups mailing list, the committee contacts lists, the HNBC email alias for Manchester & Pennine Rep (via Steve Wood).

3.4 **Motion** – Paul's draft had been agreed by email between meetings, and had been added to the Agenda sheet for the AGM, circulated in Newsletter 2016/1. Phil would explain about the lack of 28 days' notice and ask the AGM's permission to accept the motion.

3.5 **Rallies** – Phil would explain about licence application forms for Woking, Nick would mention the Reading Water Fest, Mike or Cath Turpin would probably want to mention the Easter gathering at Ellesmere Port, and Graham Scothern wished to ask members' opinions about the parades at Braunston.

3.6 **General organisation** - Paul, Sarah and Michael would be on the door to collect members' names and to issue name labels. Phil would call for volunteers to staff the kitchen. Nick would run the raffle.

4 WOKING AUGUST 2016 – UPDATE – (Phil's report in Appendix)

4.1 **Application form and information sheet** – Phil explained that these were now available to download from the BCA website, and Ros had put in links from our website. He had a couple of printed forms available for members at the meeting but would explain in detail both the application form and the accompanying notes that had to be read. Nick expressed a worry about potential damage to the cills from the depth of any loaded boats but Sue commented that the Elizabeth had negotiated the Basingstoke successfully in the past without problems.

4.2 **Cake** – Val had confirmed by email that Marg Pottinger was willing to make a cake. It was thought that about 200 servings would be needed, but the committee was happy to leave the decoration up to Marg, as long as the logo was incorporated in some way. [Post-meeting note – during the afternoon meeting, Marg confirmed to Ros that she would produce 2 square fruit cakes, one for ceremonial cutting, the other for pre-cutting, charging the committee for the cost of ingredients but not for her time, and would decorate it in general boat-colours. Ros gave her a copy of the Woking logo.]

4.3 **Invitations** – Richard had sent Ros a table of past officers and committee members. Ros circulated a consolidated list around the meeting for annotation. Ros would check the membership Db for addresses, and would email the list to the committee, initially, for help with gaps in the information. Phil would send letters of invitation in due course.

4.4 **Band for Saturday evening entertainment** – Ros had forwarded an email from Peter Harman of BCS with details of a ceilidh band who could play an acoustic background set for £200. It was agreed as a reasonable price and Ros would confirm the booking with him. [Post meeting note – during the AGM Ros was approached by a couple of members wishing to perform during the Saturday evening, had explained about booking the band, but would suggest to the band that our members might be able to fill the interval slot.]

- 4.5 **Plaque** – Ros had emailed 4 versions of the design produced by Sandra Green, and the committee’s preference was for either of the two left-hand versions on the printout, but with “Woking” added. Ros would contact Sandra again and would forward the updated design to Iain who would contact the foundry to ascertain which design was the easier to produce. It was agreed that blue should be the infill colour, the size and placement of fixing holes to be the same as previous small plaques the foundry had produced for the club.
- 4.6 **Moorings** – since Phil’s trip on Tony Clarke’s boat to ascertain depth for mooring, Bernard had been to view the work during the stoppages programme. Some spot dredging had been carried out and vegetation cleared. Phil commented that, in order to fit all the boats in, a moorings plan would have to be drawn up and pegged out before boats arrived, it could not be done on a first-come-first served basis. David L pointed out that the harbourmaster would need to know which boats would be open to the public, so as to ensure that they were bankside. He also believed that there would need to be some staging boards (Youngman Boards) with handrails for such boats to help people on board.
- 4.7 **Parade** – Norman confirmed he would be available to do the commentary on the 2 parades of boats, but would need some up-to-date information on each one. Woking organisers had suggested a leaflet about the boats, similar to the one produced by Audlem Mill for their gathering, so he would provide the information a little earlier. Phil commented that the 2 winding holes were a little tight, but that local residents would be warned and asked to remove their benches and flower pots around the winding holes.
- 4.8 **Byfleet Boat Club** – Phil reminded members that Byfleet had offered to host a BBQ the weekend before the gathering, as well as offering moorings both before and after the gathering, but would need to know numbers.
- 4.9 **Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)** – It was agreed to pay for a professional PAT qualified tester for all the club’s electrical equipment. Initially it was suggested that all equipment be gathered together, but the logistics of this were too difficult and it was thought more efficient for each member holding club electrical kit (Richard, Phil, Clair) to arrange for the PAT testing to be done separately in advance of Woking.

5 AUCTION

- 5.1 **Lots** - Clair and Iain were of the opinion that there would be sufficient quality lots to make an interesting auction, and would make arrangements to go and have another look. More items could be added (the David Jones collection) so Phil would call for more interest at the meeting in the afternoon and in the next newsletter.
- 5.2 **Pricing and commission** - Laura suggested a minimum commission of £5 per item, to encourage only worthwhile items being entered for the auction. Cheaper items could go to the Tat auction at Woking. She also suggested a flat rate commission of 20% as the club would be bearing all expenses. This was agreed.
- 5.3 **Job roles** - The team from the previous auction indicated their willingness to take on the same roles (Iain and Clair, catalogue photos; Laura, money; Sarah, catalogue production; Ros, on-line catalogue; Steve Wood had also indicated that he would set up the on-line catalogue again).
- 5.4 **Date and venue** – it was agreed that 26 November 2016, one week after the club’s November Social, would be a good date, and the venue would be Weston Village Hall, as last time. It was believed that Ian Braine would make the booking – Clair and Iain would get in touch with him.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST

- 6.1 **January 2016, item 10.1 - National Historic Ships, Statement of Significance** – Norman believed that NHS and CRT were already working on a simplified version of the original complicated text. Before he did any more on the text, Phil asked Norman to confirm this.
- 6.2 **January 2016, item 10.1 - Nb Poyle**, still sunk from October 2015.
- 6.3 **January 2016, item 10.3 - Ken Keay book** – Clair reported over 200 still in stock, very slow selling. Paul would investigate a dust jacket, but commented that the re-print was of historic significance and the club should not be unduly worried about carrying a stock for a few years.
- 6.4 **January 2016, item 10.4 - National Historic Ships** – Laura had sent an invoice but they had replied that they did not wish to renew their membership.
- 6.5 **January 2016, item 10.10 - Discount for members buying from the shop** – Ros would ask Steve Wood how this could be accomplished technically for the on-line shop. Clair suggested perhaps members could buy with free postage. To discuss again at next meeting.
- 6.6 **January 2016, item 11 – Friends of Peacock** – it was believed Irene de Boo (BCLM) would be at the meeting in the afternoon.

- 6.7 **Secure Archive storage** – Iain would find out what volume the club needed. It would not be possible to store material that did not belong to the club, as there would be insurance issues should damage occur. However, the club could store donated items handed over to it.
- 6.8 **May 2015, item 7.1** – possibility of club visit to the **historic yard at Ellesmere Port Museum**. As Graham Boxer, Head of Museums, would be the speaker at the afternoon meeting, it was an ideal opportunity to ask him. Bernard was interested in asking him about the apprenticeship scheme that had been ended.
- 6.9 **January 2015, item 6.2** – [REDACTED]
- 6.10 **October 2014, item 5.4** – [REDACTED]

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) – NINF meeting 20 Feb 2016; CRT National User Forum 24 February 2016.

7.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – no report

7.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; shop sales; possible tax to pay.

7.4 **Membership Secretary** (Sarah Edgson) – 10 new members; 35 non-renewals from December 2015 and 18 remaining from July 2015, three of whom had replied that they were not renewing.

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

Mrs S Dutton & Mr P Matthews		1825
Mr & Mrs A Sharphouse	Ling	1826
Dave Davies		1827
Mr & Mrs R Carey		1828
Martin Fothergill		1829
Maggie Young		1831
Andrew Haysom		1832
Paul Michael Syms		1833
John Cracknell		1834
Liam Hewlett	Ariel	1835

7.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – no report

7.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date 2 May 2016; smooth packing and dispatch of newsletter; stock of postage stamps

7.7 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – website admin roles increased; checking membership details online; advertising boats on website; list of queries received via website.

7.8 **Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – no report

7.9 **Press** (Amy-Alys Tillson) - column submitted for Narrowboat; press release for Awards to be sent out.

7.10 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – sales numbers (298) and takings from Weaver books; raffle at AGM.

7.11 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – next NAG meeting; flood damage in north east region, resultant call on budgets and its effect on planned maintenance and dredging.

Phil commented that he had been told there was an £8m deficit in CRT's budget due to the amount needed for repairs following the floods in the north east.

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

There had been a meeting in September 2015 to discuss the production of a training video. Alison had recently received a telephone call from CRT's Volunteer to say that the remit had been changed and they now envisaged a simpler video, although it was possible an historic boat might feature in it.

Sue commented that NAG was arranging for a short video clip to be produced on how to wind paddles and how to deal with pawls. To be filmed at Shardlow. There might be further short stand-alone clips featuring other lock furniture to reflect different designs in various regions.

7.13 **Area Reps**

London (Michael Pinnock) – verbal report at meeting:

Home moorings - schemes were planned actively to produce more home moorings for boats in the region, so that those seeking a home/resident mooring would be able to obtain one. This would produce revenue for CRT and might reduce its expenditure on chasing towpath moorers.

Camden Lock – the work had been completed and the water levels restored.

Volunteers – a meet-and-greet session for prospective volunteer lock keepers had seen a low attendance of only 8 people. Sue commented that a similar session at Audlem had produced a better turn out.

North East (David Lowe) – damage to waterways from recent flooding; dredging in Leeds; Yorkshire ex-commercial barge group meeting; preparations for L&L bicentenary; freight update.

South East & Thames (David Daines) – mooring rings at new development at Marsworth; plans for former workshops at Bulbourne; condition of the southern GU.

Michael commented that he thought most of the leakages were from the pounds, not from the locks so it was unlikely that the pointing material used for the lock ladders was to blame for water losses.

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Winding Hole Survey – Sue reported that NAG had received no feedback from IWA. Alison would follow this up and would ask Ian Fletcher to forward the data to Mike Carter or to Sue.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

Phil Prettyman
Chairman