

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.30 am on Saturday 14 April 2018
at Whittington Village Hall, Whittington WS14 9LR

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chair), Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sarah Edgson, Mike Harrison, Nick Grundy, Sarah Levick, Iain MacTavish, Michael Pinnock, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Penny Ross, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock. Peter Oates in attendance.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, Bernard Hales, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Ian McCarthy, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Alison Smedley, Amy-Alys Tillson, James Tidy.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

After deleting the sentence "Iain would contact Tim to discuss" in 10.7, the minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 13 January 2018 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3 AGM ARRANGEMENTS and AWARDS PRESENTATION

- The **running order** shown on the AGM agenda would be followed.
- **Nominations for committee posts.** All the retiring post holders had indicated their willingness to stand again. Each was proposed and seconded and a list prepared for the AGM meeting. Phil reminded members of the decision to seek a Vice Chairman, and Clair commented that she intended to retire from running the Shop at the end of her current term. Ideally a new candidate would be found who could run the shop jointly with Clair for some time before taking over. Phil would present this information at the AGM and ask for volunteers to get in touch. Mike Harrison proposed a vote of thanks, approved wholeheartedly by committee members, to Clair and Iain for taking on the shop from Val and for all their hard work and dedication to making the shop such a profitable success
- **The two motions** to change the club's constitution had been circulated to the membership. Ros had prepared a brief slide show to remind the meeting of the changes. It was agreed that Phil would present the motion to change Rule 5 Finance, and Laura would introduce the motion to change Rule 7 Dissolution.
- **AGM apologies** – Ros had collated a list of apologies received and would read them to the meeting.
- **Attendance list** – sheets of name badges for members had been prepared. It was agreed that Penny, David D and Nick would be on hand to distribute badges as members arrived, and to collect the names of guests.
- **Welcome** for speaker Tony Lewery – Phil would greet Tony.
- **New members** – all committee members would wear badges and try to ensure that new members were identified and welcomed.
- **Refreshments** – Phil would ask for volunteers to help with tea, coffee and cake at the interval.
- **Hemelryk Award** – Sue had collected the trophy and Ros had put together a slide show from photographs forwarded by James. Phil would provide a commentary for the slides and would present the trophy to Steve Bingham and representatives from the Dudley Canals Trust for the tug BITTELL.
- **Keay Award** – Sue would investigate the whereabouts of the Keay trophy and retrieve it ready for next year.
- **Certificates for 2016 winners** – Sue would deliver the certificate to Dev Shepherd for EFFINGHAM, Ros would hand the certificate for ENTERPREISE NO 1 to Bernard at the afternoon's meeting and would post the remaining one for DANE to Kevin Rush.
- **Raffle or Tombola** – it was agreed that these would be confined to the November Social meetings, not the AGM, but that Phil would appeal for donated prizes at the afternoon's meeting. Val had already prepared a similar appeal for the newsletter.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST

13 JANUARY 2018:

- 3 **Committee meetings.** Ros had sent a poll to committee members for meetings in August and October 2018. The August result had been superseded by cancelled March meeting (see item 7 below). Most popular date for October had been Saturday 20th but few members had responded.
- 4.1 **AGM actions** had been completed, and Phil would ask at today's AGM for new volunteers for the shop.
- 4.2 **November Social** – Nick had sent Val the title for his talk. Val had prepared an appeal for the newsletter.
- 5.2 **Hebden Bridge** gathering, Phil had written to David Baldacchino and was awaiting a reply.

- 6 **Hemelryk award** actions had been completed. Ros would send information on judging criteria to Val for inclusion with the newsletter that contained the next award nomination forms. Clair raised again the issue of whether the club should make an award specifically to encourage owners who kept butties in good condition. No decision taken. Val would ask Richard for a newsletter article on the number and state of extant butties.
- 9.2 **Tunnel book** – it was clarified that there were 2 stages involved: [REDACTED]
- 9.2 **Weaver II** – Peter volunteered to help Mike with captions for the photos.
- 10.1 **Fishing** – David D would re-investigate the good practice fishing notice and would forward to Phil who could use it in discussions with Angling Rep, David Kent.
- 10.3 **Bank** – Laura reported problems in gaining permission for Penny to view statements online. Laura understood from the bank that Phil’s login access had been approved, but Phil would have to renew his password as soon as possible.
- 10.4 **Lapsed members** – Penny had had 8 renewals in response to Phil’s letter, plus 2 pending renewals.
- 10.7 **Shop** actions had been completed, but there was a mistake in allocating Iain to follow up on the Tim Leech collection. Sue would enquire if any books were available.
- 11 **Health & Safety documentation** had been badged to the club and circulated to the committee, together with the set-up/close-down procedure for AGM and Social events. The shop H&S checklist was still to be done.
- 12.1 **Saturn auction** details and photos had been sent and the auction completed.

ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- Nov 17 Pinch points. Sue intended to compile a definitive list of where particular boats had become stuck, and this would replace the current website list which was out of date. (5.8.8)
- Nov 17 Loss of “management memory” Phil had raised the topic at the CRT Boaters’ Rep’s meetings. (7.1)
- Oct 17 Hebden Bridge gathering. Phil was awaiting a response from David Baldacchino after which he would convene a working party and invite Paul Monahan. (5)
- May 17 Boat stay-overs at Ellesmere Port Museum. Phil reported that the museum was happy for historic boats to stay for a reasonable number of weeks, on the simple proviso of providing an information board for the public and completing a form for museum administration records. Sue intended to suggest that the museum might provide a common form of notice board, to which boat owners could add their information. (6.3)
- May 17 Member+boat lists were no further forward, Ros intended to look at the implications of the GDPR (DPA replacement regulations) to see what was permissible. (8.5)

5 **REPORTS** – only urgent matters were raised, reports being taken as read.

- 5.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) - NINF; Easter gathering at the Port; SightSeen Partnerships meeting; CRT forward strategy
- Phil pointed out that the NINF meetings, held on a Saturday morning at St Pancras Cruising Club in London, were a very useful forum for discussions with other waterways users, and he always tried to attend them. However, on occasion when this was not possible, he believed it was important that someone from the club attend in his stead.
 - Phil had prepared a Chairman’s annual report for the AGM covering the following topics: deaths of club members; success of Brownhills gathering; campaigns during the year; NAG success; club publications; awards and the scoring checklist; CRT licence changes consultation; wide boats on narrow canals; Easter gathering at the Port, general presentation and dry storage for lifted boats, a club visit to the storage facility.
 - Following thorough discussion it was agreed that the club’s stance on the dry storage facility at the Port’s off-site facility would remain neutral, but that the club should maintain pressure to have some of the boats back in the water as floating exhibits. We should, however, urge members to go and see what was being done and should

collect names of interested members for a group visit. Phil would announce this at the AGM and it could be publicised through the newsletter, website and club's Facebook page.

- Regarding wide boats on narrow canals, Sue report a discussion on the topic at CRT's recent NAG meeting and was more confident that the Trust might move towards imposing limits on the navigation areas for such boats.

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

5.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; auditor request for rail ticket evidence.

- Laura reported that a new management team was in place at Lapworth Village Hall, the club's recent venue for its member meetings, and she believed the hire cost might well rise to between £160-200 for the day. In comparison, Whittington Village Hall cost £100. David D commented that the Whittington car park was smaller and would need careful managing. Laura reminded the meeting that Lapworth was booked for the November Social but she would enquire about availability at Whittington for November and for March 2019 for the AGM. Phil would canvass attendees' opinions at the afternoon meeting.

5.4 **Membership Secretary** (Penny Ross) – new members; mailing labels problems; standard letters update; standing orders; membership renewals; lapsed members.

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

5.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date 21 May; late posting of 2018/1; difficulty with labels

5.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – no report

5.8 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – verbal report at meeting

- Sue reported on an extra 4-day stoppage at Minworth locks to remove the debris that had been left in the channel after recent works, a mere 90cm deep channel having been left. Phil would call Sue to report on this at the AGM.

5.9 **Press Officer** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – no report

5.10 **Website and Social Media** (Ros Prettyman) – no report

5.11 **IWA Liaison** (Alison Smedley) – EA funding; APPGW; Parliamentary debates; Caggy's Boatyard, Tipton; IWA Silver Propeller Challenge

5.12 **Area Reps**

East (Sarah Levick) – DEFRA rejection of CRT merger; riverside moorings in Ely success; Middle Level Bill

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – winter stoppages completed; rivers in flood

London (Michael Pinnock) – Enfield Lock; Aqueduct Lock; Broxbourne towpath; boat break-ins; lack of maintenance on paddles; Bow Free Wharf; R Lee oil spill disaster

North East (David Lowe) – stoppages on time; Port of Leeds wharf quotation; Exol Pride; L&L short boat owners; Leeds flood defence scheme; NE Waterways Forum 13 March.

South East (David Daines) – uncertainty from reorganisation of areas into regions; locks off Tring summit; wide boats through Blisworth tunnel; Cowroast moorings; Startops Lock taped up unofficially and unofficial signs; licensing disappointment.

- David was concerned how the user groups would be set up in the new CRT regions. His recent experience of the SE Area's Boating issues group had been of freelance reporting on social media of the discussions within the meetings which had left members unwilling to voice opinions. He was also concerned by the on-line abuse received by a volunteer which had led to her withdrawal from volunteering to supervise wide beam craft through a tunnel. Sue thought it very unlikely that the new regions would adopt the Boating Sub Group model, which was only used in the SE area, and that the user groups model was much more likely to be used.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – Strong Stream warnings in use; Gloucester & Sharpness sediment removal; Museum not opening until end April; river in flood.

Thames (Bernard Hales) – Thames RUG meeting 19 April; EA failure to remove wrecks

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1 Rupert reported that a boat insurance company had included a new clause to the effect that the company would not be liable for loss if the vessel was fitted with a log burner. However, it was not certain that this would apply to canal boats.
- 6.2 Clair showed a design produced by Bridget Carter for the club's Christmas cards. It was agreed to use it for one set and to choose another snowy scene. Both sets would be portrait rather than landscape orientation.
- 6.3 An enquiry had been forwarded by Amy as Press Officer, and later to Phil and Sue from the Museum at the Port, regarding extant Victorian-era narrow boats and buildings. Sue would refer the enquirer, a Mr D Keys, to John Yates.

7 DATES OF MEETINGS

7.1 Committee meetings:

It was agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 13 May, which was now too close to today's meeting. The following dates were suggested and Ros would email the committee to see if members could attend on these dates:

30 June or 21 July 2018
20 October 2018

7.2 Members' meetings:

24 November 2018 at Lapworth was booked for the Social meeting.

Laura would find out if Whittington Village Hall was available instead.

2 March 2019, being the first Saturday in March, was suggested for the 2019 AGM. Laura would check hall options.

[**Post-meeting note** – dates and locations arranged, website events calendar updated and notice posted on club's Facebook page:

17 November 2018 – Social at Whittington Village Hall
2 March 2019 – AGM at Whittington Village Hall]

The meeting closed at 12.15pm

P Prettyman
Chairman