

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.30 am on Saturday 17 November 2018**  
**at Whittington Village Hall, Whittington WS14 9LR**

**PRESENT:** Phil Prettyman (Chair), Richard Booth, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Kathryn Dodington, Sarah Edgson, Mike Harrison, Nick Grundy, Sarah Levick, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Penny Ross, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from David Daines, Bernard Hales, Paul Hunter, Ian McCarthy, Michael Pinnock, Alison Smedley, Amy-Alys Tillson, James Tidy.

**2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 20 October 2018 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

**3 AGM 2019**

- **Speaker** – Eric McDowall had confirmed to Phil that he would present a talk. Ros had produced a draft list showing speakers and their topics at AGMs and Socials since 2010 and would circulate it to the committee.
- **Motion** – Laura’s draft motion to amend constitution section 5a) had been approved by the committee and had been included in the Notice of Meeting distributed with Newsletter 2018/4.
- **Nominations for committee posts** – a list of posts for election had been included in the Notice of Meeting and distributed with Newsletter 2018/4. Posts were: Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Awards Officer, IWA Liaison, Minutes Secretary, Press Officer. Ros would send Kathryn the blank pro-forma used to record the nominees, proposers and seconders. Phil would remind members at the afternoon’s Social event that the committee was seeking volunteers to be vice chairman and shop organiser.

**4 BOAT INSURANCE**

In the past, the club had tried to seek discounts for members, but it was now becoming apparent that simply obtaining insurance for historic craft could be a problem, especially for those of wooden or composite construction. There was little consistency in offers, with differing rules for new or existing customers and requirements for surveys.

- It was agreed to set up a small working party (Kathryn to co-ordinate, Laura, Nick, Rupert) to research various offers available, with the aim of producing a summary for the Newsletter of firms that understood and were sympathetic to the insurance needs of historic narrow boats. Issues to be clarified were: the precise meaning of a “full” survey, intervals between surveys, occasional towing, regular towing, occasional carrying of small loads.
- Sarah E was happy to advise, but declared a conflict of interest as she was already an “introducer” for one firm.
- It was agreed that the club would not align itself with any particular insurer.

**5 HEBDEN BRIDGE GATHERING**

The working party (Phil, Ros, Clair, Iain, Sue, Laura, Peter, Diana & Paul Monahan) had visited the site on 23 October 2018 and had met the local CRT Supervisor, Richard Shaw. The report of the meeting (see appendix 2) had been circulated to the committee. The booking form, approved by the working party and Richard Shaw, had been circulated to members with Newsletter 2018/4, with a closing date of 2 March 2019 (the AGM).

- **Liaison between CRT Regions** - Phil would set up a meeting with NW Region (Sue suggested contacting Steve Ballard) but would discuss protocol with the Yorkshire & NE Region.
- **Social venue** - Machpelah Works was canal-side by Station Bridge, but access from street level was via a broad metal outside staircase. It might be possible to arrange a boat “ferry” for those with mobility problems from the towpath to a loading doorway on the ground floor of the venue.
- **Souvenirs** – it was agreed not to pursue the idea of producing mugs, but to investigate the production of plaques. Diana had a design produced for the gathering for the Tour de France 2014 that could be adapted. [Post meeting note: at the Social, Ros spoke to Diana and to Sandra Green who had produced our plaque designs for previous gatherings. It was agreed that Diana would contact the designer of the 2014 logo for permission to adapt it, and Ros would pass the information to Sandra who would either tweak it or produce an original design.]
- **Quiz** – [post meeting at the Social, Nick, Paul M and Peter O agreed that Nick would present the evening quiz and Paul would produce a Hebden Bridge History trail/quiz for inclusion in the boaters’ packs.]

- **First aiders** – it was agreed that the club would fund first aid training for club volunteers attending the gathering. Laura would draft a notice for the Newsletter.
- **“I-spy” leaflet** – it was agreed that Ros would send a copy of the club’s Parts of a Narrow Boat leaflet to Tom Wright which he could offer to the Hebden Bridge tourist information centre. The leaflet could also be offered to the local primary school. Clair reported that she had acquired redundant WOW! Material that could be used.

## 6 KEAY & HEMELRYK AWARDS

There was preliminary discussion about boats that might be nominated for the awards, but formal entries would be discussed at the January 2019 meeting.

## 7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST

Committee members approved the new format of the action list, now sorted by name instead of by date/item.

### 20 OCTOBER 2018:

- 5.5 **CRT Regions** – the boundaries between Regions were slowly being announced. Area Reps were asked to bring as many details as possible to the January meeting. Ros to add as an agenda item.
- 6.3 **Audlem event** – Sue reported that Peter Silvester had confirmed he was happy to complete the paperwork but would seek the committee’s approval before submitting it to CRT. He had also confirmed that he would undertake all the organisation and that it would be an HNBC members-only event in order to comply with the club’s insurance.
- 7.4 **i-Cloud storage for digital back-up** – Richard had estimated 70Gb for the Archive folder, plus 132Gb for scanned material, and Val had estimated 50Gb for the Weaver and Slater photos plus the Newsletters, giving a total of 250Gb, say a minimum requirement of 500Gb to allow for future expansion. Ros had discussed with Steve who had suggested using Dropbox. Cost implications were: Dropbox Basic (6.25Gb) free; Dropbox Plus (1Tb) £6.58/month; Dropbox Professional (1Tb) £16.98/month. It was agreed that, as the club intended to use the space as storage, rather than an interactive workspace, Dropbox Plus would be sufficient in the first instance as we did not need the extra functionality offered by Dropbox Professional.
- 9.3 **Subscriptions** – Laura had analysed the costs of running the club and, having discounted income from Shop profits and from auctions, had come to the conclusion that, if the Shop were to cease operations if no-one came forward to take it on, subscriptions would eventually have to rise to, say, £18 Individual and £25 Joint to cover costs. It would involve substantial work getting Standing Orders amended. Direct Debit was not used, being too costly and time-consuming to manage. Laura would include the information in her report to the AGM to alert the membership to the current imbalance and the threat to the club’s finances if the Shop were to close due to lack of volunteers. The options were perceived as being:
- a) to recruit volunteers to continue running the Shop as at present
  - b) to raise the membership fees if no volunteers came forward
  - c) to subsidise running costs for a few years until funds were depleted, leaving no reserves for publishing, running events, donations.

Iain commented that the Shop trade fluctuated according to whether new stock was in store. Nick emphasised that the Shop was an excellent service for new members. Clair would prepare a breakdown of income from new vs second hand books for the January meeting.

- 9.6 **Newsletter obituaries** – Val had inserted a short notice in Newsletter 2018/4 about Harry Arnold’s death but would obtain a fuller obituary for 2019/1. Sue would send her the one used in the Saturn Newsletter, and Sarah E suggested that Steve Wood might be a good source. An obituary for Alan Faulkner had been printed in 2018/4 but Val had been unable to find anyone to write one for Robert Wilson.
- 10 **Southerly venue for AGM/Social** – Phil had analysed the post code locations of members in relation to the 2 recent venues used:

Whittington	223 members lived to the north, 375 members lived to the south
Lapworth	313 members lived to the north, 285 members lived to the south

The optimum location for most members would be central Birmingham, but venues there were expensive and although rail travel was easy, parking and driving into the city might not suit members. Richard commented that past meetings in central Birmingham had been poorly attended. Sue added that Aylesbury offered good facilities but road access was less easy. Nick believed it was best to go for continuity of location and not to keep changing venues. It was agreed to tally the attendance at the Social [post meeting note: just over 100] and to bear in mind that complaints had only been received from a couple of members about a southerly

venue. Phil would circulate the map showing membership distribution, which might be suitable for the Newsletter.

#### 10 **Oral Histories**

- Martin Fuller had asked Nick's permission to record his talk at the Social, Nick had agreed.
- Wains' boatbuilding skills – Rupert reminded the meeting of Roger Fuller's original idea to compile a book of historic skills. Penny thought that the Wains would probably agree in principle although it would be time consuming.
- Iain had seen information on a BBC programme about skills of capturing oral histories. He would send information to Kathryn and Laura.

10 **Mini-plaques** – Iain had the contact details of the mould makers that had produced the last batch.

#### **OLDER ACTION POINTS**

May 2017 (8.9) **Strong Stream Warnings on the River Severn** – Sue reported that these were now working.

Nov 2017 (5.8.8) **Pinchpoints** – Sue commented that the list on the website was now in need of comprehensive revision and should probably be removed, but she would prefer to check through it first.

Nov 2017 (7.2) **Water Management & Shortages** – Sue report that this had been discussed at NAG meeting.

Jan 2018 (12.2) **Dredging article for Newsletter** – Sue had been in touch with Peter Birch for information.

8 **REPORTS** – reports were taken as read (see appendix).

#### 9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 **Ellesmere Port Museum Easter 2019** – Sue asked for any ideas for events as she would be attending the planning meeting the following week. Iain commented that boaters intending to leave their boat(s) at the Museum following the Easter Gathering would be asked to complete a form with details. Sue reported that display boards would be provided by the Museum, in a common format, from information supplied by boaters.

9.2 **Newsletter 2018/4** – Mike commented that he and Val had brought supplies of Newsletters and hoped to be able to distribute many at the afternoon Social, thereby saving postage. There was some worry that a few pages of some Newsletters were not of the usual print quality - Val would monitor and take up the issue with the printers if it were necessary to get extra supplies printed.

9.3 **Correspondence** – Penny had received a request from a prisoner for back copies of the Newsletter as reading material. Val would reply and send some copies.

#### 10 **DATES OF MEETINGS**

12 January 2019 - 11.00 am - Alvecote, The Samuel Barlow (pencilled in, Kathryn to double check)

02 March 2019 - 10.00 am - prior to AGM, Whittington

For consideration at January's meeting:

?? May 2019 – location?

?? August 2019 – meeting required? If so, location?

?? October 2019 – location?

23 or 16 November 2019 – 11.00 am prior to Social (Laura to check availability)

The meeting closed at 12.35pm

Nick Grundy

Interim Chairman for January 2019 meeting