

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 3 August 2013**  
**at Hazell Road, Farnham, Surrey at 11.00 am**

**PRESENT:** Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Clair Butler, David Daines, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Laura Sturrock, Amy-Alys Tillson. James Tidy in attendance.

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, George Boyle, Sue Cawson, Jim Cook, Rebekah Fuller, Sandra Green, Sarah Hale, Bernard Hales, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2013 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **EVENTS**

3.1 **Meetings**

- a) **November Social 2013, Napton** – Phil would find out the timings for Roger Wickson’s presentation.
- b) **AGM 2014** – after research by Clair, Ros, Iain and Phil, there had been email consultation with the committee and it had been agreed that Laura should book the village hall at Lapworth for 1 March 2014. She had since paid the deposit. The committee approved these actions formally. The regular time slots for the hall were 1pm-6pm, although the booking manager had indicated that, provided there was no evening booking on the day, clearing-up time could be extended past 6pm. However, the committee thought it prudent to start the AGM at 2pm instead of the usual 2.30pm, with a running order of 2pm start, 2.10pm guest speaker, 3pm refreshments, 4pm formal AGM, 6pm close, and to notify members of the 6pm finish. Val would advertise 2-6pm in the next newsletter. Phil had invited the new CRT CEO, Richard Parry, to be the guest speaker and he had confirmed this verbally at the IWA National. Phil would write to him again to confirm the date, location and time. [Post-meeting note: the charge for booking the evening as well would be an additional £80.]
- c) **November Social 2014** – Laura had booked the village hall at Lapworth for 22 November 2014 and had paid the deposit.

3.2 **Gatherings**

- a) **Easter 2014 at Foxton** – The committee thanked Jim for his extensive research and liaison with CRT staff, and formally agreed that Foxton should be the venue for the club gathering in 2014. Laura confirmed that she had paid the deposit to hire the village hall for the weekend of 18-21 April 2014, the total hire cost being approximately £860 for 4 days. It was felt unlikely that the hall would be needed for the Monday (other than clearing up time) as many boats often left early, and that an outside event might be offered instead. Jim would be asked to find out if the hire for 3 days only (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) might be extended slightly to cover setting up the beer on Thursday evening, and clearing up on Monday morning.

Suggestions for weekend activities were the popular quiz (Laura would ask Peter Oates if he were willing to organise this again), tat auction and organ recital from previous club gatherings, together with a talk about the local area, guided tour of Inclined Plane, small local parade of boats, visit to local brewery, BBQ. David L would find out about the availability of a church organ for a Monday recital, and it was decided to decline the offer of a private house, accommodating only 12-15 people, as the invitation could not be extended to all participants in the gathering.

Val would send Jim the contact details of the person who had initially approached the club to invite our participation in Foxton Inclined Plane Trust’s 2014 celebrations and Phil would brief Jim on the day’s discussions. The sub-committee that had visited/organised Coventry and Droitwich gatherings (Phil, Ros, Val, Mike, Sue) would be available to help, as would Clair and Iain. Phil suggested that he and Jim might visit FIPT together to discuss public events that the Museum might put on and to clarify the public insurance issue.

- b) **Club’s 50th Anniversary 2016** - after a fortuitous meeting at the IWA National with club member Mike Adams, who lives beside the canal there (chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Boating Club and therefore on the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee), Clair, Iain, Phil and Ros called in on their way to the committee meeting in Farnham and walked some sections of the canal with him. He suggested Bridge Barn or Brookwood Park as suitable locations for a gathering, both being below the Deepcut locks, which impose restrictions on boating times and access to the upper levels. The committee agreed that Brookwood Park on the Basingstoke would be a good location for our gathering, and asked Phil to liaise with Jim after the meeting to discuss the next steps. Mike Adams had offered to be a point of contact as there were many interested parties

locally – the Basingstoke Navigation Authority, the Basingstoke Canal Society (formerly the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society), the Joint Management Committee of Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council – and it was important to get a feel for local canal politics and not make the same error as at Droitwich. Local campaigner and ex-commodore Kathryn Dodington's name was also suggested as a source of information and had already been contacted by Jim. However, she had now left the area and moved to Stoke Bruerne. Bernard's expertise would also be invaluable. An early August weekend was favoured to commemorate the club's founding at the then August bank holiday in 1966. Phil would canvass the preliminary support of members via his Notes in the newsletter and at the November Social meeting, but it was appreciated that Jim's focus would be Foxton 2014 and further arrangements would be left until after that had been completed.

- c) **Crick 2014** – Clair felt that the club's stand at the recent IWA National had been effective in raising our profile within the boating community, but there was a worry that IWA might not continue to fund such events, although it was believed that there would still be an event at Stratford in 2014. It was therefore suggested that Crick (4 weeks after our gathering at Foxton) might be a preferable venue to target a wider audience, although doubt was raised about its capacity to place numbers of historic craft in a favourable mooring position. Phil would talk to Paul Leblique (AWCC) and Beryl McDowall to gather more information.
- d) **Chesterfield Canal** – after the club had taken part in the successful campaign to widen Stret Lock, it was felt that we should encourage more historic boats to visit the Chesterfield, which could become a destination after Foxton and Crick. Mike would contact local Chesterfield people to find out if there were events in the pipeline.

#### 4 **KEN KEAY SKETCHBOOK**

- Bernard had reported by email that the original sketches were held in the Walsall Archive, and that Judith Ann Cooper (nee Keay) held the full copyright. He had also forwarded her contact details.
- Clair had obtained from Tony Lewery the A3 artwork showing sketches and additional text, which had been scanned for the previous limited edition book, and passed them to Paul at the meeting.
- Paul agreed to lead on the production of the proposed new edition and would draft a proposal for circulation and approval by the committee – this would include obtaining written permission from Judith Anne Cooper, printing costs, ISBN costs, sourcing additional information and liaison with Sarah regarding content. See also Action list from meeting on 11 May 2013. By email, Bernard had advised contacting Tony Lewery on the background to its production and Rex Wain or Ade Polglase on the importance and context of the content.
- It was agreed that a print run of 500 would be cost effective and Clair thought this was a viable number for selling direct to members and via other intermediaries, with a break-even point of about 250 copies. Clair and Iain and/or Val and Mike would hold stock.
- It was agreed to aim for launch at the November Social 2013, and Iain would ask Tony Lewery to introduce it. Phil would find out whether Roger Wickson needed the whole session for his talk (see item 3.1a) above).

#### 5 **HNBC SPEAKERS & AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL**

- 5.1 **Speakers** - Val had received a request from IWA Leicester for a talk by HNBC in March/April 2014. Email correspondence had confirmed that Alison had presented several such talks and had illustrations. David D and David L confirmed that they were both willing to give talks, and Laura mentioned that Peter Oates had also given them. It was agreed to try to set up a bank of illustrations/text that members could use. Val would confirm to IWA Leicester that we would provide a speaker, and would ask for date and requested topic(s). Val would also draft an appeal for the newsletter asking for expertise/willingness in the wider membership.
- 5.2 **Audio-visual material** - It was agreed that David L would speak to Mike Askin to see if he would be willing to produce pieces of film about historic working practices, eg thumblining, strapping in, breasting up, singling out, and about the uses of canal furniture. This material could be used by club speakers for external organisations and for briefings with CRT full-time staff and volunteers. A budget of up to £500 was agreed to cover materials and travelling costs.

#### 6 **SHOP STOCK**

- 6.1 Phil congratulated and thanked Clair and her team of helpers for the excellent work they did publicising the club, recruiting new members and raising funds at various waterways events.
- 6.2 **Books** - Although book sales had declined in 2012, perhaps because the shop stock had gone a little stale, Clair felt that the situation had improved this year with the publication of the Historic Boats picture book and the donation of

over 100 books at Braunston. She had also bought some second hand books, and urged committee members to be on the lookout for similar stock. David L would bring copies of the Humber Barges book to the November Social.

- 6.3 **Supplies** – Iain reported that Fertan rust converter might be of particular interest to members. It was being sold at the National. Paul would investigate whether the suppliers would offer a discount to members or would sell direct to the shop. It was also suggested that a supply of Shiny Sinks and old-style Brasso would be appreciated by the membership.
- 6.4 **Club** plaques – the shop still has a stock of the old style plaques (NBOC) that will be sold as collectors' pieces. The new style plaques without the cross hairs were to be scrapped (minute 5.2 March 2013) but it appeared that BCLM had been unable to help. It was agreed that Clair and Iain would liaise with Bernard to retrieve the incorrect ones, and would investigate the production of new ones (HNBC).
- 6.5 **Posters** – Ros would produce a poster outlining the benefits of membership (discounts, specialist suppliers).

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) – venues for meetings; CRT annual meeting; planning meeting prior to meeting Sir Neil Cossons; Historic Boat Discount scheme; contact details for Ray Shill.
- It was agreed that Phil and David D, when invited to discuss Historic Boat Discount scheme, would seek to maintain the status quo as this favoured the majority of our members. It was thought that a new scheme might be targeted at a few strictly defined working boats.
- 7.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – IWA Waterways mag; members' discount scheme; Ken Keay printing; Jim Payler photographic exhibition.
- It was agreed to ask the Archive Dept at Ellesmere Port to continue to keep copies of the club's newsletter.
  - Paul reported that, after it received many protests, CRT had now withdrawn from sale most of the items it had offered on eBay. It was hoped that a better procedure would be adopted for surplus items in the future. David D mentioned especially a large, framed, wall sized map of Northern Oxford canal, as built, showing all the original line, together with the 'cut-offs' drawn in, that he had seen on the wall of Simon Ainley's office at Braunston Stop House. Phil to contact Nigel Crowe to seek assurances that it was catalogued for preservation.
  - Jim Payler photographs – Paul remarked that the club would have to provide display boards if it were to host the exhibition. Beryl Payler had still to decide whether to release the photos to other organisations.
- 7.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; deposits paid on venues; new Internet bank account.
- 7.4 **Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – rise in discrete membership numbers; 15 new memberships to approve; form and style of membership lists.
- David thanked the Shop team for signing up new members.
  - It was agreed to continue using the *Mr & Mrs X Surname* format for address labels, but David pointed out that he could easily change this to *Mr X & Ms Y Surname* upon request by the member concerned.
  - It was agreed to continue to list 'partners' of individual memberships, as members found this useful for social purposes.
  - It was agreed to continue to produce the alphabetical list of historic and non-historic boats, as members found this useful for boat and member spotting.
  - It was disturbing to note the number of members who had still to renew this year's membership, but it was hoped that the July bank statement, still to be received, might show that many of them had indeed renewed.
  - It was agreed that a useful exercise would be to go through the Historic Boats picture book to identify owners who were not yet club members. David D to consider this.
  - Many new members asked to pay initially by Standing Order, but the bank's requirement of a 3 week delay meant that SOs could only be set up for the second year of membership. Laura reported that a Direct Debit facility would be too costly to the club. David D agreed to draft a new form that might meet the needs of new members and would seek the bank's approval.

- 7.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – no report
- Clair had received a number of cuttings from Malcolm Braine. These were passed to Val for scanning and forwarding to Richard for the Archives. Phil to write to thank Malcolm.
- 7.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – donation from Tim Coughlan; press date 13 August; envelopes bought; Tony Gregory for November Social '14; Alan Faulkner request for Weaver pic; Keith Hodgkins request for many Weaver pics; Weaver book to be published by club; speaker for IWA Leicester meeting; e-petition about red diesel; queries from David Williams about possible future publishing ventures.
- Tim Coughlan donation – Laura had received a phone call from Tim asking for our bank account details. She would inform Val when the donation was received.
  - Keith Hodgkins' request for Weaver pics – Val would contact him to find out if they were wanted for personal use (£5 to non-members) or for publication (£20) – if the latter, she was authorised to negotiate a bulk deal as Paul thought the print run might be small and we wanted to facilitate wider appreciation of the Weaver pics.
  - The possibility of the club publishing its own book of Weaver pics would be considered again once the Ken Keay book was published (see also the note about David Williams' ideas, below.) Paul raised the question of copyright and it was agreed that we needed to pull together the various strands concerning this before proceeding.
  - It was agreed that Val should publish the link to the red diesel petition in the next edition of the newsletter.
  - David Williams' proposals for future publications – it was agreed that these interesting ideas would be looked at again once the Ken Keay book had been published. His idea for an HNBC numbering system of day boats/hulls was felt to be beyond the club's remit, but an I-Spy type book was certainly a possibility. James found out during the meeting that Teresa Fuller had had articles on boat types published in *Waterways World* in 1991. Phil to write to David W accordingly.
  - Val requested a copy of the current Keay & Hemelryk Award form for the next newsletter. Ros would send it.
  - It was agreed that the newsletter performed a different function from the club's website, Facebook and Twitter presence and was a valuable publicity tool as well as an important way of staying in touch with the membership.
  - Val would check that the back-up system for storing the digital versions of the newsletter was up-to-date and would liaise with Richard to ensure he had a complete copy off-site from Val's address.
  - There was some discussion about the desirability of having an easily searchable and indexed archive of newsletter articles, as well as the minutes of committee meetings, for quick and easy reference. Laura would ask Peter Oates if he knew of appropriate software to do this, although it was possible that Richard had already done this work. Laura to check.
- 7.7 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – website visitor numbers; website re-design; Keay & Hemelryk closing date; calendar.
- Clair, Val and Iain reported problems logging into the members' area. Ros to pass requests to Steve.
- 7.8 **Social media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – number of followers on Twitter and FaceBook; positive reaction to launch of HNBC presence on sites; demographic of Facebook HNBC group.
- Amy reported that more people had joined since the report was compiled, now 110 on Facebook and 106 Twitter. It was noted that CRT was using these social media to communicate with waterways users.
  - Phil thanked her for setting up the accounts and urged members to pass information/publicity/appeals to Amy.
  - Ros would send her details similar to the 'Benefits of HNBC' poster (see 6 above).
  - Amy would write a short account for the newsletter.
- 7.9 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – enquiries received via website; column in *Narrow Boat*; Ken Keay book; local stories; winding hole survey; art and heritage paper.
- Phil would liaise with Sarah about the forthcoming piece for *Narrow Boat* about the Keay & Hemelryk awards.
  - Paul would liaise with Sarah about the additional text for the Ken Keay book.
- 7.10 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – takings at Braunston, IWA National and Audlem, and thanks to helpers.
- see item 6 above for decisions about shop stock
- 7.11 **Navigation Officer** (Sue Cawson) – importance of reporting problems to CRT, eg Pisces, Serpens, Unicorn; request to check Dimensions Data on CRT website.

- It was believed that the Hazel had also got stuck at Napton.
- Amy would publicise plea on Facebook and Twitter for members to inform CRT of navigation problems, and Phil would add it to his Chairman's Notes in the next newsletter.

## 7.12 External organisations:

### Partnership Boards

- Central Shires - Phil had joined a school Activities Day walk along the Coventry, which made him aware how little the children knew about their local canal. A local leaflet about the canal in Atherstone had been produced and distributed.
- North East - After a slow start, partnership board members had been asked to take on specific roles. David L had been assigned to Freight, Heritage and Commercial aspects.

### Freight Advisory Group

- David L reported that the Group was working on a policy statement, which was out for public consultation and hopefully would be launched in the New Year.

### Young Waterways and Boating Society (James Tidy)

- James reported that YWBS intended to have a presence at Shackerstone 2013 and at Crick and Braunston in 2014, and was looking at resources and activities that did not overlap with IWA's WOW scheme.
- Publicity - YWBS website had been set up, but had recently had some problems, and the intention to produce a leaflet had stalled due to financial constraints and work commitments of its committee. It was agreed that the club would offer to fund a commercially produced YWBS membership/recruiting leaflet similar to its own, but would wish to see a draft.
- YWBS had had help from Malcolm Edge (Darley), a professional H&S trainer, and intended to produce boiler-plate documents on child protection policy, risk assessment, CRB check etc, that would be made available to other waterways societies.
- David L reported that Steph Lorenz intended to set up a Foundation/Trust in memory of Roger Lorenz, which would have a boat to get youngsters involved in boat handling.

## 7.13 Area Reps

**East** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – water levels relatively stable; Middle Level Commissioners' plan for Parliamentary lock toll Bill; Cam Conservancy permitting GOBA to use Cam; ongoing Gold Licence problems.

### East Midlands (Mike Harrison)

- The proposed High Speed 2 railway would cross the Chesterfield in 3 places. Its announcement and corresponding uncertainty had caused funding to dry up and restoration personnel were seeking other posts.
- The Birdswood trip boat had been successfully craned into position at Cromford Wharf, and the electric motor installed to replace the previous diesel one. Mike would try to get hold of copies of DVDs that had been taken of the boat's journey from Langley Mill to Cromford, with a view to showing them at a members' meeting.

### North East (David Lowe)

- David reported that, sadly, the last remaining commercial traffic had ceased at the end of July. Tonnage had been dropping steadily due to the recession and the Ready Mix plant had closed down. Barges and crews had been left with no work. He hoped that some container traffic might be possible to Leeds.

### North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish)

- Audlem Festival had been successful with 38 boats attending. The CRT Area Manager had visited on both days.
- The Shroppie and Llangollen canals were usually very busy but had been quite quiet this year, with hire boats still at their bases. David L reported that from Stourbridge to Birmingham on the Swallow, he had passed only one other boat.
- Many trees had come down along the Shroppie, causing problems.

**North West** (Daniel Mawdsley) – positive reports from users of Liverpool link and Ribble link; overnight restrictions on summit pounds; visit from CRT CEO and new Area Manager; festival and charity weekend at Scarisbrick Marina.

**South Wales & Severn** (Norman Mitchell) – fluctuating levels on the Severn; good news about Upton-on-Severn moorings; worries about Gloucester Museum and appeal for ideas.

**West Midlands** (Rebekah Fuller) – repairs to Lock 20, Wolverhampton flight.

## 8 **MATTERS ARISING**

8.1 The Action List from 11 May 2013 was updated.

8.2 **CRT Volunteers, January 2013, item 6** - David L confirmed that CRT had acknowledged that volunteers were present at locks to assist if required, not to instruct crews how to work their boats through. He also reported that volunteers received only 2 days' training (refer to item 5 above re providing audio-visual training material).

8.3 **Droitwich plaques, March 2013, item 9.1** – Val would put a note in the newsletter asking members who had not yet received their attendance plaques to contact Rupert direct.

## 9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 **Welcoming new members** – Clair expressed a worry that in the hustle and bustle of organising the Social and the AGM, here was a danger that new members attending for the first time might feel a little lost and not welcomed. This would be a shame after all the effort put into recruiting them.

- It was agreed that all committee members must wear name badges and that David D would produce labels for all members, with a mark to indicate new ones for easy identification.
- It was also agreed that committee members without specific duties (eg shop, refreshments, welcoming speaker) would be on duty near the door to collect and welcome new members.
- Phil would write to the owners of the Olive to thank them for raising this issue.

9.2 **Tall ship Astrid** – committee members were appalled to hear that the Astrid, which many had visited at the Liverpool Spring on the Waterfront festival in 2011, had been lost off the Cork coast on 25 July 2013, but luckily without loss of life, and that the ship had been looted afterwards.

- Phil would write to Captain Pieter de Kam on behalf of the club.

## 10 **DATES AND PLACES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Saturday 5 October 2013	11.00am	Hazelhurst Cottage, Denford, Leek
Saturday 30 November 2013	11.00am	short meeting at Napton, prior to Social

The meeting closed at 6.00pm with thanks to Sue and David Daines for hosting the meeting, and especial thanks to Sue for the catering!

Phil Prettyman  
Chairman