

## HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB

### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00 am on Saturday 22 November 2014 at Lapworth Village Hall, Old Warwick Road, Lapworth B94 6LD

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

**In attendance:** Sue Daines, Peter Oates, James Tidy, Maria and Robert Frost

#### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from George Boyle, Sarah Hale, Bernard Hales, Daniel Mawdsley,

#### 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

After correcting 9.5 (the misspelling of Clair Butler's name) and 9.6 (Sue had not attended the Keeping History Afloat meeting but had received feedback), the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2014 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### 3 MEMBERS' SOCIAL

Phil had prepared a list of announcements for the start of the Social meeting:

- Keay & Hemelryk Awards – reminder about the closing date, 30 November 2014
- Basingstoke 2016 – Mike had received only a couple of names of intending participants, Phil would ask for a show of hands at the meeting (one per boat). Alison remarked that the local IWA branch was very keen, and Nick reported that he had given a talk to the local canal society who were also very keen. Decision deferred until January 2015 meeting. Norman remarked that RNR would be holding their next rally at the BCNS headquarters at Tipton.
- Auction – announcement of the date and location, 21 March 2015 at Weston, but no mention of the source of the items.
- Ellesmere Port – the club would be supporting the museum's Easter Gathering 2015.
- AGM 2015 – most incumbents willing to stand again, but following Sarah H's resignation, nominations sought for Secretary and Press Officer. See 5.1 below.
- Refreshments – volunteers asked to lend a hand at the break.

Paul had prepared name badges for all members. Alison and David D would help him on the door.

#### 4 DATES AND TIMES OF 2015 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dates were already fixed for 3 meetings in 2015 - 10 January at Stoke Bruerne, 7 March (AGM) and 28 November (Social) both at Lapworth – but Phil asked members to give some thought to possible dates and locations in May, August and October. Stoke Bruerne might be a venue for further meetings if it proved suitable, although summer-time parking would be a problem. It was felt that the committee was becoming too numerous to be accommodated in members' homes, so other possible venues were: Gloucester museum (Norman), CRT offices at Hatton (Sue), Aylesbury Canal Society's new HQ (David D). Norman, Sue and David were asked to investigate room size, availability, costs and parking ready for discussion at the next meeting in January 2015.

#### 5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 4 OCTOBER 2014

5.1 **AGM Committee Elections, Minute 3.1** – Following discussions at the last meeting, Phil had written in Newsletter 2014/4 to remind club members of posts that were due for election. However, in the interim Sarah Hale had resigned from the posts of Secretary and Press Officer, so these were also included in his article and on the Notice that had gone out with the Newsletter. Phil wondered, now that the onerous duties of compiling the minutes had been removed from the Secretary's rôle, whether the two posts might be combined, but it was felt better to wait to see what nominations were forthcoming before taking a decision on this.

#### 5.2 Auction, Minute 9.5

Clair reported that [REDACTED] anxious not to have [REDACTED] associated with the 200 items in order to avoid any possible "pestering". It was therefore extremely important that [REDACTED] confidentiality be strictly observed.

Phil had circulated an *update* before the meeting and the points raised were discussed by the committee:

**Items to be sold** - on Monday 3 December at [REDACTED], Iain, Clair and Sue started sorting through the container that was full of boat-building and engineering tools, grouping similar items together then photographing and labelling them. Sarah, Michael, Ros and I joined them in the afternoon, but were unable to complete the task so Iain, Clair, Ros and I went back all day on the Tuesday to complete sorting through the container and the painted ware. By the end of Tuesday, we had a complete photographic record of all the items, all suitably labelled and logged. I have a copy of all the photographs, as do Sarah and Iain & Clair.

The committee wondered who would be responsible for left-over items, but it was pointed out that as none of them belonged to the committee it would not be feasible to keep them until our next regular "Tat" auction at a gathering.

**Catalogue/brochure** - Sarah is working her way through the photographs, arranging them into a suitable layout and as soon as we have a draft we will send it to [REDACTED]. It would be sensible to let [REDACTED] read it over for a few days and then a couple of us go and see [REDACTED] to check that all the items are correct for the sale and get [REDACTED] to sign them off. The final catalogue will be available as a .pdf download from the website, and we can provide a printed copy on request @ 10p/page plus postage.

Clair commented that there would be a Reserve Price placed on some of the more valuable pieces. Phil thanked Sarah who had catalogued about a third of the items already and had brought a draft to the meeting. When complete, it would be cleared with [REDACTED] and the final version would be available as a download from the website. In order to reduce costs and administrative work, it was agreed only to offer printed copies as one-offs by request at a cost to be determined, but broadly 10p per sheet + packing + postage of approximately £1.70.

**Hall** - Weston Village Hall has been booked for us by Malcolm Braine for Saturday 21 March 2015, with access on the Friday evening so we can begin laying out the items. Noted.

Iain would visit the hall again, having previously attended a social function there, to measure up more accurately and to check facilities such as internet signal. Sue would go with him.

**Auction Licence** - Laura has been in touch with Staffordshire County Council and has ascertained that they do not require us to obtain an auction licence from them. Noted.

**Insurance** - Laura has been in touch with IWA and has been assured that our insurance with them will cover us for public liability and for any recompense claims from [REDACTED] should items be damaged while in our care.

Laura explained that any claim against the club could only be for loss caused by our negligence. However, as the club did not own the items, they would not be covered by straightforward loss/theft. Norman wondered if IWA could extend the coverage offered and Laura would check again.

**Transport** - [REDACTED] have a large van in which [REDACTED] will move the painted ware. Laura and Peter have volunteered the use of Stanton as well, and this will probably best be used for the items from the container. Stanton will need to be loaded a couple of days beforehand to allow time to get from [REDACTED] to Weston, but the van should be OK to load on the Friday - we shall need some helping hands at both locations. Noted.

**Funds for the club** - [REDACTED] agreed to give 15% of the proceeds to the club, plus expenses which we have agreed to keep to a minimum - we no longer need to hire a van, the hall has been booked at resident's rates by Malcolm, the brochure will not be printed but will be available for download from the website. Noted.

**Staffing** - we think we shall need at least 12 people to staff the auction itself: Laura + 2 to manage the money, Phil + 2 to control the bidding, 2 to show the items, 4 on the door to check/register viewers and to check them out again with their purchases, plus some to organise tea/coffee.

It was agreed to draw up a rota at the January meeting, and members were asked to consider which jobs they could do themselves, as well as which club members might also be pressed into service.

**Advertising the event** - Phil would announce it at the afternoon's Social. Newsletter 2015/1 would be due out mid-February 2015 and it was agreed to have a tempting extract from the catalogue as a centre spread (press date 3 Feb 15). It would also be announced in the New Year on the front page of the website, with a link to the catalogue, as well as via the club's Yahoo group. Possibly an article in NarrowBoat but not in Waterways World.

**Invitees** - the balance between maximising income by advertising widely and restricting the audience to club members was discussed, bearing in mind [REDACTED] wish to see the items go to a good home rather than be snapped up by dealers. It was agreed to limit the audience to club members and their sponsored guests, each to be registered against a club membership number.

**Registration** – a Registration Form would be available to download from the website, and Laura was happy that people could either register beforehand or on the day of the auction. Ros would draft a form for Laura to approve.

**Payment** – Laura was happy to accept cash but pointed out the security aspects of this. Cheques were not acceptable as banks no longer offered cheque guarantee cards. Paul was in negotiation with PayPal and hoped to have it arranged soon, this would also allow non-PayPal customers to pay by card, and Clair suggested trialling it for Shop sales at the AGM. Michael wondered whether it would be more cost effective to buy the kit or to hire it and Clair mentioned that Daniel had experience of hiring. In any event, Laura planned to take a printer so that receipts could be printed in order for successful bidders to claim their goods. It was not known how good the internet signal was at the village hall.

**Sealed Bids, Telephone Bids, Bids from Committee members** – it was agreed to accept written bids in advance from registered bidders, but not to accept telephone bids unless the bidder's representative was in the hall and was able to pay for the goods. Club members working on the auction could nominate a friend to bid on their behalf, or submit a written advance bid.

**Refreshments** – Clair wondered whether we should have a bar and it was agreed that she would ask Malcolm about the person who had run one when he had hired the hall. This might affect the hire cost of the hall. It was agreed that we would provide tea & coffee in any case.

**Timings** – it was agreed that Viewing would be in the morning, then close for lunch and start the Auction at 1.00pm

## 6 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

6.1 **Small windlasses, Minute 8.2 October 2014** – Paul had obtained prices to produce a windlass similar to ones sold by the Boatman's Cabin Co in 1980s – [REDACTED]. See Reports 8.2. After a query whether such a windlass would now fit the spindles on paddle gear, Michael pointed out that there was a general duty of care to sell only usable items that were fit for purpose. Sue would obtain the current dimensions of paddle spindles and inform Paul. All being well, it was agreed that Paul should go ahead.

6.2 [REDACTED]

## 7 UPDATE OF THE ACTION LIST FROM 4 OCTOBER 2014

Many of the items on the Action List from 4 October had been completed and it was agreed to leave a further update until the January 2015 meeting.

8 **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.**

8.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – see item 5.2 above.

8.2 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; year-end accounts.

8.3 **Membership Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – membership numbers; approve 5 new memberships; new membership database still awaited; old style windlasses (see 6.1 above); [REDACTED].

New members were approved: Paul and Irene Shepherd, David Payne, Mary Matts, Margaret Cooke

8.4 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – boat list progress; photos of working boat people; successful research on behalf of new member.

8.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date 3 February 2015; supplies to be brought to meeting; Know your Committee text urgently required; cost of postage for overseas members.

- By email, Paul commented that the club's one member in Australia paid extra, enough to cover the cost of postage. Ros commented that the full Newsletter was available as a .pdf download from the website. Val pointed out that the cost of postage to mainland Europe was £2.80 more than each subscription.

8.6 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – books ordered by post; bulk Christmas cards sold to Museum, Whilton Marina and generally increased sales 2014; list of new books in stock

8.7 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – next NAG meeting; Leicester summit and Wightwick scour being dredged; paddles and pawls.

## 8.8 **Area Reps**

**Central Shires** (Rupert Smedley) – report from User Group meeting 16 October 2014 (Caldon vegetation to be cleared; new HS2 route will reduce impact on canal; Hawkesbury toll house “Welcome Station”; Fradley swing bridge locked; SSSI on canals)next meeting 23 April 2015.

**East** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – IWA Festival of Water at Becket's Park; possible pinch point Lock 7 Northampton arm; Friends of R Nene group, new moorings; visitor licences now 3% of yearly EA rate.

**East Midlands** (Mike Harrison) – Erewash out of order paddles; Holm Lock hydro-electricity scheme; Cranfleet Flood Gates update; West Stockwith open day 2 November; Leicester summit, large dredging programme.

**Kennet & Avon** (Nick Grundy) – not yet invited to User Group meeting; mooring difficulties between Wootton Rivers & Devizes; Bath flight lock 10 hire boat sunk; CRT open day at Aldermaston Lock.

**London** (Michael Pinnock) – winter works season update; continuous cruisers' legal handbook; young live-aboards; student membership rate; redevelopment sites; new tug master at London Canal Museum.

**Manchester & Pennine** (George Boyle) – report from Waterway User Forum 12 November 2014; work by Ray Butler to organise regular working parties on the Macclesfield Canal.

**North East** (David Lowe) – Leeds Visitor mooring initiative; dredging at Leeds lock; L&L plans for pump-out facility; Open Day at Thornes Lock, Wakefield; aggregate wharf at Stourton.

**North Wales & Borders** (Iain MacTavish) – User Forum meeting 9 October; Wendy Capelle's return to NW&B; digital archive at Museum; storage space for club stock at Norbury CRT; new chair of local Partnership Board; training pack prepared by local CRT volunteer organiser; Hurleston work during winter stoppages.

**South East & Thames** (David Daines) – Milton Keynes moorings and continuous cruisers; growing number of wide boats; Aylesbury Canal Society's new HQ; SE Waterways Forum meeting; sub-contractors on Lock 69 Hemel Hempstead; leave locks empty update.

**West Midlands** (Sarah Edgson) – catalogue progress; Young People's Conference; Fiddle & Bone pub restoration; talks on future use of Roundhouse, Grade II listed; CanalScapeBCN to close.

## 9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Former BW Tyseley Depot** – Rupert asked whether a wharf would be incorporated in CRT's development at this site. David L believed that there would be one, but would seek clarification that boats other than CRT's would be able to use it.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Phil Prettyman  
Chairman