

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11.00 am on Sunday 3 July 2016
at Marsworth Millennium Hall, Marsworth HP23 4LR

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sarah Edgson, Nick Grundy, David Lowe, Iain MacTavish, Michael Pinnock, Ros Prettyman, Laura Sturrock, James Tidy, Amy-Alys Tillson.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, Ian McCarthy, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Val Roberts, Alison Smedley, Rupert Smedley.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Item 4.2 named Robert Jones as having items for auction. This should have been David Jones. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2016 were then accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 WOKING AUGUST 2016

3.1 **Next meeting** at Mytchett was booked for 12 July. Neither Mike nor Sue would be able to attend, but Phil, Laura, Richard and David D would attend. There would be a preliminary meeting bankside at the site to pace out the moorings. Iain had bought 3 cans of temporary spray marker for the ground.

3.2 **Plaques** – Iain had ordered 30 and they were ready for collection.

3.3 **Youngman Boards and Handrails** – as Paul had been taken ill suddenly, it was not known if he had been able to order them. David D would investigate and order a short set of boards and rails (3m?).

3.4 **Social events curfew** – Phil was pleased to report that the previously proposed early curfew on generators had been amended to 10pm, allowing social events to be wound up at about 10.30pm.

3.5 **Display boards** – Phil asked if anyone had copies of photos showing early canal carriers, eg Pickfords. James would investigate at London Canal Museum, Ros would check CRT archives, David D would print any that he possessed, Richard would search back copies of Waterways World. Phil recommended that each historic boat should have a history board for display to the public.

3.6 **Celebration - cake and fizz** – email replies from invitees had been circulated to the committee, and Ros read out the written replies. Unfortunately John Humphries' nominee had been unable to find copies of the early films he had taken.

Phil emphasised how important it would be for current committee members to wear name badges and to make sure that guests were made welcome to the marquee. Sarah would produce a new set of committee name badges as a fall-back in case any were forgotten/not found.

Marg Pottinger had already made the cake and had enquired about colours; any rich blue together with yellow to represent brass would be suitable, and Ros would contact her to suggest the incorporation of one of the plaques. Val and Mike would transport the cake but David L mentioned that it might be possible for him to do so if they encountered problems. Iain would send Marg a plaque when he had collected them. Michael would investigate procuring sturdy but disposable Champaign flutes. James would enquire about prosecco or cava (6 cases of 6 bottles possibly on sale/return). Orange juice and sparkling water would also be needed, as would supplies of ice for cooling the drinks and paper napkins for the individual portions of cake. These could be purchased locally in Woking. Laura had 2 large Gorilla Tubs on Stanton that could be used for the ice.

3.7 **Widening participation in the anniversary** – Ros suggested extending the celebrations to the November Social for the wider membership. This was agreed. Ros to ask Marg if she would produce another cake. [Post-meeting note: Marg confirmed she would be happy to make another cake. She would submit materials costs to Laura.]

3.8 **Boaters' packs** – it was intended to post the packs when the closing date had passed, but Phil pointed out that many members were already boating so might not pick them up at their home address. Instead, they would be available at the first lock on the Basingstoke. Phil would email boaters with information about their allocated lock booking times and remind them about the need for Tat for the auction. It was agreed that a volunteer-request form be included in the pack.

3.9 **Tat auction** – Phil would add a note to the lock booking email to remind boaters to bring items for the auction. It was agreed that proceeds should go to the Basingstoke Canal Authority and Ros would put a note to that effect on the website.

- 3.10 **Photographs and Press Release** – Amy would prepare a press release and add a reminder every week about the event on the club’s Facebook page in the run-up to the gathering. Good photographs would be needed and Sue would ask Bob Jervis if he would provide some.
- 3.11 **I-spy leaflet** – to be trialled at Woking. Phil and James would re-work the first draft and try to have it ready. It was agreed that Clair would order 200 pencils to hand out with the I-spy forms, which would contain a feedback form. A prize to be awarded each day, drawn from the returned feedback forms. Clair also showed an inland waterways pencil and pencil case kit and it was agreed she should buy some for the Shop.
- 3.12 Richard was waiting for the final list of boats booked in for Woking, and would then be able to provide information for programme notes and for Norman’s commentary.

4 AUCTION

- 4.1 **Lots** – ██████████ had finished cataloguing his items, now numbering about 32, including engines and engine parts. ██████████ had items of Measham ware that they wished to add to the auction. Iain had not been successful in contacting ██████████ to find out if he still wished to add items. ██████████ had a leather belt to add.
- 4.2 **Date and location** – Clair suggested that the club organise an Easter gathering in 2017 (14-17 April), and have the auction as part of the event. Pelsall was suggested and Alison would be asked for her opinion following the IWA Festival there in August 2016. Phil reminded the committee that we would definitely need a hall for the auction and our usual social events and Sarah would investigate. It was believed that the Port would be holding a special anniversary gathering in 2018, so organising our own in 2017 would not clash. Ros to add as agenda item.

5 PUBLICATIONS

- 5.1 **I-Spy** – see 3.11 above.
- 5.2 **Weaver book** – Laura reported a very positive review in the journal of The Railway & Canal Historical Society and would contact their Book Review Editor for further information on how to enter the Weaver book for one of their awards.
- 5.3 **Interviews** – unfortunately due to ill health Paul had not been able to attend a planned interview with David Blagrove who was very seriously ill. Laura would contact Paul, who had already bought a recording device, to offer him a lift to Stoke Breurne to meet David if another date could be set. Clair commented that she had heard that someone was sorting David B’s extensive collection of documents, and that perhaps they would be housed in Stoke Breurne museum.

6 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.

- 6.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – verbal report at meeting
- Phil would write up and circulate his notes about his recent trip on the southern GU to the committee, and then to the local waterway manager. He would include Michael’s comments about the pound levels dropping by the afternoon of each day.
 - Phil reported that he, Ros, Clair and Iain would not be able to attend the next committee meeting on 8 October 2016.
- 6.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – no report due to illness
- 6.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – bank balances; July subscriptions; Woking costs estimate; expenses direct to bank account.
- Website - Laura reported on the amounts paid since 2009 (£600 and £400) for its initial re-design and later refreshed layout. She also reported that the annual cost of printing the newsletter was approximately £2,000 (£500 per issue on a print run of 700 copies). It was agreed that the club should budget for an annual development cost for the website, in the region of £500, and Ros was asked to discuss this with the club’s webmaster.
 - Subscription income did not cover the costs of running the club, and as more members were recruited, the cost of producing and posting the newsletter would increase. In effect, subscriptions were subsidised by income from the Shop, but Laura pointed out that it was not feasible to ask for an increase in subscriptions when the club had £20,000 in its bank accounts.
 - Use of funds – Laura suggested that, reserving 1/3 as a contingency fund, 1/3 to cover publishing, and 1/3 for good causes, would mean about £8,000 could be used for good causes. It was suggested that the club use some of its funds to start a publicity and fund-raising campaign for improvements at Hurleston bottom lock, as this

would benefit many members whose boats could no longer access the Welsh Canal. Phil would approach the chair of North Wales & Borders Partnership Board to sound out the feasibility of attracting matched funding, and the possibility of attending a Partnership meeting. Sue suggested a campaign to improve Marsh Lock on the River Weaver, but it was not felt that this would attract as much support from the membership.

6.4 **Membership Secretary** (Sarah Edgson) – verbal report at meeting.

- Membership leaflet was now out-of-date. Laura commented that club funds could meet the expense of having a new form. Sarah was asked to re-design it and send a draft around the committee as soon as possible, so that it might be available in time for Woking. A new photo would be needed for the front cover, and it was suggested that Sarah approach Bob Jarvis for one of his photographs.
- Sarah needed 10-12 copies of each new newsletter as soon as possible after publication to send out with membership packs, and it was agreed that the club would meet the additional postage costs rather than waiting for hand delivery at meetings or gatherings.
- Sarah reported that there remained 15 members who had not renewed in December 2015.
- **New members**, who had joined since the previous meeting, were noted:

NAME	BOAT	MEMBERSHIP NO
Jeff Holman	Finch	1583 (re-activated membership)
Peter Young	Petronella	1846
John Onions		1847
Nick Scarcliffe	Dylan	1848
James Margrave	Tow	1849
Jon & Karen Becker	Progress	1850
Roland Hornsey and Suzanne Baverstock	Ian	1852
Reg Thompson		1853

6.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth) – verbal report at meeting

- Richard had completed the project, started 15 years ago, to digitise all the club newsletters and this now formed a record of the first 50 years of the club. He had also compiled a complete set of AGM minutes, accounts and committee minutes for as far back as records existed. He was warmly congratulated by the committee.
- It was still to be decided where to store the data and how and to whom to give access. Phil commented that the Archive was not a public library for browsing, but should be available to the membership. He suggested that basic information on boats should be available to the general public, but detailed information on boats and the now digitized newsletters and minutes would be supplied to members on application to the Archivist. Sue suggested that an article by Richard in the newsletter would be helpful, explaining the Archive and the problems with identifying boats, many of which had had their names changed by BW upon disposal.

6.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – press date; special edition; lapsed members; contact from Tony Ford.

- The latest Golden Anniversary edition of the newsletter was a great success. A vote of thanks to Val was proposed (Nick) and seconded (James) and agreed by all.

6.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – increased payments through Paypal; sales of Weaver books; new books in stock; Braunston success and thanks to team of helpers; second hand books.

- Clair reported that a further two PayPal orders had been received this week via the website.
- £200 had been received from Braunston Marina following the historic gathering. Iain commented that there were several other book stalls present, but that the Shop continued to be busy. Clair thanked the club volunteers who had helped to staff the Shop during the weekend.
- Phil expressed the committee’s thanks to Clair and Iain for their work and efforts in getting the Shop set up at boating events, as well as the on-going work generated by the on-line Shop.

6.8 **Navigation** (Sue Cawson) – paddles & pawls video success; strength-to-strength of NAG; lock ladder upgrades planned; vegetation management and creation of sub group; dredging group input; winter stoppages.

- Sue explained the potential problem of new gates being fitted on Grand Union locks as part of the winter stoppages programme. There was a possibility that, instead of new gates being fitted with centre/gate paddles as promised by several undertakings from BW, the new gates would be replicas of the ones being removed which did not have centre paddles. Sue and David D to follow up.

6.9 **Press and Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – verbal report at meeting

- It was agreed that Amy would ask CRT to include information about the Woking gathering in one of their Boaters' Bulletins.
- It was also agreed that she should invite members of the waterways press to attend the cake cutting.
- It was suggested that "50 years 1966-2016" be added to HNBC's banners.
- Amy wondered if there was a national award for club newsletters.
- The club's Facebook page had had 898 "likes".

6.10 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – verbal report at meeting

- Ros explained the work behind getting the Shop on-line, and now amending all the book entries to offer 10% discount to members before attaching postage costs.

6.11 **Area Reps**

Central Shires (Rupert Smedley) –

East Midlands (Mike Harrison) – no news of Belmont; canal festival at Trent Lock; CRT's Nottingham canal festival; numbers of boats for Woking.

Fens/East (James Tidy) –

- The turning point on the Backs in Cambridge was now an approved 70' winding hole.
- EA now had a scheme for bankside volunteers, and possibly a volunteer crew for a boat sometime in the future.
- Planning to take the Willow to Bedford to test navigation depths and air draught.
- Middle Level Commissioners might be asking for a change through parliament so that they would be able to levy licences for travel on the Middle Levels.

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – drop-in session at Devizes about planned dredging; plans to boat to Bristol

London (Michael Pinnock) – Hale Wharf; weed on lower Lee and London; boat congestion; unhelpful lock keeper at Cowley.

- Planning for Hale Wharf had been submitted.
- Non-towpath side development for more moorings between Tottenham and Stonebridge (regeneration area).
- Weed was a yearly problem, was it due to excess nitrates because of dumping of elsans due to lack of Sanitary Stations? Sue commented that CRT regularly tested water quality and had found no evidence.

Manchester & Pennine (Ian McCarthy)

North East (David Lowe) – re-opening of Calder & Hebble; Yorkshire ex-barge club; damage to Leeds lock; test of navigation depth by "Fusedale H"; plans for ballast in 'Ribble' on Leeds & Liverpool; hopes for aggregate traffic to Woodlesford.

- An initial ruling for the river Ribble that any boat carrying more than 5 tons of ballast should be treated as "trade" had been referred to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. MCA had stated that if a boat carrying such ballast was not being paid for carrying, or was not carrying passengers, it should not be treated as "trade". It was probable that receipt of expenses for such a trip would not invalidate this ruling.
- The Leeds and Liverpool canal was currently short of water, due to lack of rainfall.

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) –

North West (Daniel Mawdsley) – no report

South East & Thames (David Daines) – SE Group compiling listing of region's facilities; deplorable state of vegetation control; top gate lifted on Buckby no 8; success of Braunston gathering

- A listing of all boater facilities, complementary to other surveys, was being completed for the region and would include winding holes. David believed a distinction was made by CRT between winding holes (cut-outs in the canal bank which had to be kept dredged) and winding/turning points (junctions and marina entrances which did not have to be dredged). There were disparities between CRT listed winding holes and those listed elsewhere, eg Nicholsons.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – little to report

West Midlands (Sarah Edgson) – no report

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST

7.1 **Checklist for PA kit** – would be completed after today’s meeting.

7.2 **Speakers for meetings:**

- November 2016 - Malcolm Braine had agreed to be our guest speaker.
- Mike Askin had confirmed that he was willing to set up and manage recording equipment, but that the club would be responsible for its archiving.

7.3 **Storage boxes for Archive material** – Iain brought a supply to the meeting and they were taken by committee members with archive material, to be returned in due course.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 **Wide boats** - David D reported a note in Nicholsons stating that wide boats could not go further than Berkhamsted. He suggested that CRT should amend the licence renewal form to include beam as well as length to reflect the area occupied by wide boats.

8.2 **Mooring terms and conditions:**

- David D reported that the terms of CRT’s standing mooring agreement had been changed on the on-line version, to the effect that moorings could not be passed on to a deceased mooring-holder’s spouse. Unlike cruising licences, which could be held in two names, mooring licences were in one name only.
- David also reported that, if staying away from a home CRT mooring for more than 28 days, CRT had to be informed. Phil suggested that he contact Beryl McDowall (CRT Navigation Advisory Group, Moorings and Licences) to ask if the issues had been discussed.

9 DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS

8 October 2016 11.00 Samuel Barlow, Alvecote
[post-meeting note: date changed by email agreement to Sunday 16 October 2016]

19 November 2016 10.30 Lapworth Village Hall, prior to Social (earlier start than normal)
 14.00 Social starts
 15.30 Cake and fizz celebration to mark club’s 50th anniversary

14 January 2017 11.00 Samuel Barlow, Alvecote

4 March 2017 10.00 Lapworth Village Hall, prior to AGM at 2.00pm

The meeting closed at 5.20pm.

Phil Prettyman
Chairman