

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10.30 am on Saturday 13 January 2018
at The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote B78 1AS

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, Richard Booth, David Daines, Nick Grundy, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Ian McCarthy, Iain MacTavish, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Penny Ross, Rupert Smedley (from 1.30pm), Laura Sturrock, Amy-Alys Tillson, James Tidy.

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Sarah Edgson, Paul Hunter, Sarah Levick, David Lowe, Daniel Mawdsley, Norman Mitchell, Michael Pinnock, Alison Smedley.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2017 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **DATES, TIMES & LOCATIONS OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- 3 March 2018 10am Lapworth Village Hall, prior to AGM at 2pm
- 13 May 2018 11am The Samuel Barlow, Alvecote
- 24 November 2018 10.30am Lapworth Village Hall prior to Social
- Dates free for meetings in August and October proved difficult to identify. Ros would circulate a poll to committee members to ascertain the most suitable dates.

4 **MEETINGS**

4.1 **AGM 3 MARCH 2018**

- **Motion to change the Constitution, Rule 5 Finance and Rule 7 Dissolution** – the agreed wording had been sent out with the Notice Of Meeting with Newsletter 2017/4 and would also be included in the AGM Agenda to be sent out with Newsletter 2018/1. No other motions had been received.
- **Voting** – no comments had been received on the Motion, and although only members were allowed to vote, a simple show of hands would probably suffice.
- **Committee elections** – the list of committee posts due for re-election at the AGM had appeared in the Notice of Meeting in Newsletter 2017/4. All current post holders had confirmed that they were prepared to stand this time. Phil commented that, as CRT was in the process of changing its area structure to 6 larger Regions, the club would probably have to consider changing its Area Reps allocations. At the AGM, he would ask members to consider standing in 2019 when details were known. He would also appeal for help with the Shop. David D commented that, unlike some other boating organisations, the club's committee meetings were well attended, and Iain pointed to the good turnout at the AGM.
- **Subscriptions** - Clair commented that the on-line Shop in December had been particularly busy and she and Iain had found it burdensome. David D thanked them for their hard work in subsidising the club finances from the Shop and commented that it was not sustainable to have this subsidy continue. However, as the AGM would be asked to change the Constitution, it was not thought to be an appropriate time to ask members to agree to increase subscription costs too.
- **Name Labels** – Penny reported that Steve Wood was setting up the template to extract the appropriate data from the database. Val and Mike confirmed that they would print the label sheets if Steve would send them as a .PDF. It was agreed that we would need at least 2 and probably 3 committee members in the hall lobby to make sure people signed in; this was essential for voting and for the AGM minutes.
- **AGM speaker** - Tony Lewery would give a talk on narrow boat painting. Sue would check if he needed a slide projector or a laptop. Iain and Richard both had slide projectors if required.
- **Hall set-up and close-down.** Iain informed the meeting that he and Clair might not be able attend the AGM. He would send Ros a set of notes on the procedures he usually followed. Ros would circulate this to the committee and incorporate them into the club's Health & Safety set of documents as required by IWA insurance terms (see 6.2 November 2017).
- **H&S Tripping Hazard.** Iain had purchased 3 large mats to place over trailing cables (projector etc).

4.2 SOCIAL IN NOVEMBER

- Nick confirmed that he would present a talk on pleasure boating in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, and would send the full title to Val for the Newsletter.

5 GATHERINGS

5.1 ELLESMERE PORT, EASTER 2018

- Sue reported that she was continuing to attend the Port planning meetings: more space would be available in the top basin and there would be visits to the boat store. Booking forms were available and needed to be completed soon. It was expected that there would be an arranged convoy of boats from Tower Wharf to the Port on Good Friday.

5.2 HEBDEN BRIDGE 2019

- The date was confirmed for Spring bank holiday in May 2019 but no further plans had been put in place. Phil would initiate talks with local waterways manager.

6 KEAY & HEMELRYK AWARDS

No nominations had been received for the Keay Award, but four strong entries for the Hemelryk Award all to a high standard. Each entry was scrutinised and scored against the standard scoring criteria to ensure consistency and transparency.

- **Hemelryk Award** was awarded to the tug Bittel, owned by Dudley Canal Trust and nominated by Bernard Hales. James would inform Steve in confidence so that he could be present for the presentation at the AGM in March.
- The Corolla was highly commended and it was suggested that it could be re-entered next year.
- **Trophies** – Sue would arrange to collect the Hemelryk trophy from Dev Shepherd.
- **Visuals at the AGM** - James would prepare a PowerPoint show of the work that had been done so that members at the AGM could see the extent of the owners' investments in the winning boat.
- **Publicity** – As in previous years, Ros would update the website after the AGM, and Val would include details in newsletter 2018/2.
- **Future developments** – Clair suggested that, in view of their rarity, we might have a separate award for restored butties. James suggested an award for ongoing maintenance of wooden boats. Bernard suggested we publish our current criteria in the Newsletter and ask for members' views on their appropriateness.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN

- Sue nominated a current committee member, seconded by Val, but the nominee declined to stand citing time and travel constraints. It was agreed to continue searching.

8 NEW DISPLAY BOARDS

- Iain reported that his research had yielded no significant products to recommend and asked for members' help in identifying suitable items. Clair suggested taking photos of stands at exhibitions.

9 PUBLICATIONS & EQUIPMENT

9.1 SCANNER

- Iain reported that Mike Turpin had been informative about types of scanner and had offered further help, but added that the initial need had been for use with the [REDACTED] Tunnel records. Iain now believed that a better outcome would be achieved by transcribing the records for ease of reading and including sample scans of the originals, already done by Val, to give a flavour of the record book itself. [REDACTED] had offered to bring the book to Iain & Clair's house if more photographs were needed.
- Val volunteered to begin work on the transcription process. Ian remarked that we should ask for volunteer transcribers if the work became too burdensome.
- Iain reported that the Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port was considering buying new kit, in the region of £2k, but thought it would be overly sophisticated for our needs. He recommended that the club should not purchase a new scanner unless Richard, as Archivist, saw a need for one, but he already owned his own A3 scanner so this was unlikely.

9.2 BOOKS

- **Weaver Book II** - Mike explained that he had re-commenced work on the draft. It would not be ready for the AGM but hopefully could be printed in time for the November Social. Bearing in mind the success of the first book, Phil felt sure that this one would also cover its costs. Rupert wondered if some of the Weaver photos held at Gloucester would flesh out our stock if necessary.
- **Yarwoods book** – Sue reported that the yard book had been rediscovered. It was believed that Colin Edmondson had it. We would have to contact Clive Guthrie’s family for permission to use it.

10 WRITTEN REPORTS had been submitted from the following committee members, and are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes. These reports were taken as read.

10.1 Chairman (Phil Prettyman) – see report in Appendix

- Telephone interview - Phil had received an invitation to take part in a telephone interview about the set up and function of CRT Council. Ian had received a similar invitation.
- CRT restructuring - Phil commented that it was clear that CRT intended to re-structure into 6 larger Regions but it would be important to ensure that there was operational consistency between them.
- Fishing and moored boats – Phil asked David D to send him a copy of the “good practice” notice from Luton Fishing Club as this would help in conversations with David Kent, Angling Trust, on ways to reduce conflict and establish a “mooring etiquette”. James reported anecdotal stories of fishing clubs preventing boaters mooring on visitor moorings during fishing matches.
- Wide beam boats on narrow canals – David D was pleased to hear that the issue had been raised at the CRT Boaters’ Rep meeting. Sue commented that dredging and vegetation clearance was done to allow 2 narrow boats to pass singled out, not for wide beam boats on the move. Mooring of wide beams vs breasted narrow boats was a separate issue. Phil commented that the club should continue to pursue the issue and ask for its inclusion in CRT licence review.

10.2 Secretary (Paul Hunter) – no report

10.3 Treasurer (Laura Sturrock) – see report in Appendix

- Subscriptions - Laura recommended that with changes to the constitution to be considered at the AGM, it was not an appropriate time to recommend a rise in subscriptions as the Shop continued to subsidise running costs. It should be reconsidered next year.
- Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust – Laura had received a letter of thanks for the donation to their Tunnel fund from monies raised at the club’s November Social. Nick commented that members seemed to like the tombola at the Social more than the previous raffles and suggested another one for November 2018. Val was asked to put an appeal for prizes in the Newsletter preceding the Social.
- Bank accounts – Laura outlined difficulties in having too few signatories for cheques and for on-line banking. The club had opened an account with Lloyds as this bank allowed dual on-line access which was needed to conform with the constitution rules. Richard pointed out that the constitution identified only the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor as signatories. Penny commented on difficulties she experienced queuing to pay in cheques at lunchtime at banks. Laura would investigate the possibilities of a bank card to pay in at ATMs. James wondered if the club could offer a discount on membership fees paid by standing order or on/online rather than by cheque, but Laura pointed out that discriminatory charges for using credit rather than debit cards was now illegal.

10.4 Membership Secretary – see report in Appendix

New members

John Boswell	1899	
Robert Davies	1900	Merwede*
Tony Phillips	1901	Trent 5, 1946 70 foot Northwich
Mr Penfold & Mrs Thursby	1902	
Geoffrey Cox	1903	
Kevin Rush	1904	Complimentary
Julie Lyons	1905	No boat currently however previously owned Toby, Pearl & Capella

- Overall numbers – 370 Individual, 410 Joint, 15 Association, 3 Honorary, 6 Exchange
- Lapsed members – it was noted from the list Penny had circulated that some were known late payers and would often re-join if seen in person but did not respond to letters/emails. It was agreed that Phil would draft a last appeal, to be sent by Penny on his behalf, offering a year’s amnesty if they re-joined.

- Complimentary copies (90) of the Newsletter (address list held on the Membership database for mailing purposes) – Val noted that Kevin Rush, who received a copy as the Dane had won the Keay award last year, would need to have an end-date of March 2018. Iain noted that the London Canal Museum was not on the list of complimentary copies. Iain suggested that retiring CRT Trustees be invited to join the club in their own right, but there was a difficulty in contacting them as CRT head office circulated newsletters to them and simply returned copies to Val when Trustees had retired. Phil commented that Ros had done a lot of work to update the complimentary copies list, with input from various committee members, and that the list would need to be updated again when CRT's reorganisation was completed. Penny asked committee members to let her know of any changes required (see Thames Area report).
- Membership leaflets – Penny suggested placing small supplies at hire bases.
- Thanks – Mike proposed formal thanks to Penny for taking on and sorting out the membership database. Agreed *nem con*.

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

- Nothing to report.

10.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – see report in Appendix

- Press date 9 February 2018-02-21 and the address labels would be required for a week later.

10.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – see report in Appendix

- Laura was holding stocks of new books in order to meet on-line orders while Clair was abroad, and would take them to Lapworth for the AGM. Laura confirmed she and Peter Oates would be happy to run the stall at the AGM.
- Sue would collect the stock of second hand books and take them to the AGM.
- It was agreed to offer all current second hand books at half price in order to clear stock and create space for new ones donated via Val. Iain suggested passing any remaining second hand books to John Foley who sold them for WRG, this was agreed.
- Ian commented that Tim Leech's collection was in need of a home.

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

- Dredging - Sue had attended a productive meeting about dredging. She emphasised the importance of reporting problems to CRT.
- Huddersfield Narrow Canal – James had put in a Freedom of Information request about the numbers of problems reported and was concerned to read that there had not been many. Sue re-emphasised how important it was to follow up telephoned reports with an email to CRT, with a copy to her. Ian commented that some faults were cleared by local engineers and were not logged as important, leaving no audit trail of the number of complaints.

10.9 **Press & Social Media** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – verbal report at meeting

- Amy had written an article for the latest issue of NarrowBoat
- She would write about the awards presented at the AGM, with an embargo until after the meeting.

10.10 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – see report in Appendix

- Kennet & Avon photograph enquiry – Ros reported on an additional query received via the website, asking for photos of working boats on the K&A for a published article. She was asked to reply querying which boats were identified and asking for the club to have sight of any article using our photographs before publication.

10.11 **External organisations** (Rupert Smedley on behalf of Alison Smedley, IWA rep) – verbal report at meeting

- Ely moorings – had now been settled and, although the outcome was not ideal, it was better than first proposed.
- EA merger – strong hints that CRT merger with EA would not go ahead. James commented that we should wait and see.

10.12 **Awards** (James Tidy) – see item 6 above.

10.13 **Area Reps**

East (Sarah Levick) – see report in Appendix

East Midlands (Mike Harrison) – verbal report at meeting

- Leicester Section had re-opened at last. Sue commented that the marina at North Kilworth was offering wide beam moorings on what was a narrow canal. Bernard added that moorings were not a problem as long as the wide beam boats stayed in the marina and did not try to navigate the narrow canal.

Kennet & Avon (Nick Grundy) – see report in Appendix

London (Michael Pinnock) – see report in Appendix

Manchester, Pennine & Potteries (north) (Ian McCarthy) – see report in Appendix

- Huddersfield NC, Ian was alarmed to receive a different set of answers to those given to other canal users. Phil to raise the issue with Richard Parry at next CRT Council meeting.
- Winding hole below Roaches Lock – CRT deny it is a winding hole, but boats are using it to turn. Is it just a convenient wide width of canal or a winding hole? Difficult to trace IWA survey of winding holes because of CRT staff changes.
- Phil commented that Ian’s report highlighted the need for a campaign cruise on these waters.

Manchester, Pennine & Potteries (south) (Rupert Smedley) – verbal report at meeting

- Leek Arm - there was currently a leak on the Arm just past the railway aqueduct at Hazlehurst.
- Consall Forge – a pinch point had been created when the bridge had been re-built.

North East (David Lowe) – see report in Appendix

North Wales & Borders (Iain MacTavish) – see report in Appendix

- Hurleston bottom lock – some progress in that its problems have been acknowledged in a CRT report. Sue added that it was on the agenda for the next CRT NAG meeting. Nick commented that it was not just HNBC warning about width problems.

North West (Daniel Mawdsley) – no report

South East (David Daines) – see report in Appendix

- Tring summit water levels were improving and padlocking of gates had been reduced. He believed that water levels were being kept low as the leaks occurred at the top water level.
- Cowroast pub had closed.
- Oxford map – David had heard from the Archivist at Ellesmere Port that a professional conservator was being asked to assess the wall map for proper preservation, with a good copy eventually going back in situ.

South Wales & Severn (Norman Mitchell) – see report in Appendix

Thames (Bernard Hales) – verbal report at meeting

- EA and Thames contacts – Bernard confirmed that he would identify the local personnel to whom to send complimentary copies of the club Newsletter (see 10.4 above).

West Midlands (Sarah Edgson) – no report

- Chasewater Reservoir – Nick reported that the main valve had been out of use for some time and now the standby valve had been found to be unusable. It was regrettable that this double failure had not been sorted out during the de-watering of the reservoir. Bernard added that reservoir owners were under a statutory requirement to be able to open valves in case a main dam failed. It was possible that the owners, Staffordshire County Council, might have outlets other than the canals with a different drawn-down policy.
- Blowers Green pump house – Val reported that CRT were planning to sell the property. Sue had already informed John Yates who was following it up [post meeting note: the pump house had been withdrawn from sale].
- Lock cottages – Val was alarmed that CRT was still selling off canalside property. Phil understood that CRT had decided that they could not afford to maintain them all so had identified the “best 70” to keep and to sell the rest and use income for other maintenance projects. Sue would ask John Yates if the list of properties was correct and up-to-date. It was noted that CRT is the third largest owner/custodian of heritage properties.
- Edgbaston tunnel – Sue reported that the proposed width restriction to navigation was going ahead in order to widen the towpath through the tunnel, but she understood it could be uninstalled in the future if necessary.

11 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTION LIST**

- November ‘17 5.8.6 Mike Askin’s recording of Malcolm Braine’s talk - Ros to re-send link to Richard.
- November ‘17 6.2 Health & Safety policy – Ros would adapt IWA documents and circulate.
- October ‘17 8.11 Mini plaques – Clair had traced supplies.
- January ‘17 11.7 First Aid kit. Richard would update it in time for Hebden Bridge gathering in Spring 2019.
- May ‘16 4.8 Insurance for Shop stock. Laura had paid invoice.
- May ‘16 8.5 Maps at CRT Rochdale offices, Ian to make enquiries.

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 **Saturn Auction at Ellesmere Port** – Sue to send photos to Val.

12.2 **Dredging Meeting** – Sue would send an article to Val outlining what progress was being made.

12.3 **Dayboat for sale** – James believed it to be the Albert Cecil, a Yarwoods built day boat.

12.4 **Sight Seen Partnership** – Bernard reported that the next meeting was in February. He was not sure whether the partnership would continue or be wound up as its purpose might overlap with CRT's own video production.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm

Phil Prettyman
Chairman