

**HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 12 January 2013**  
**at 9 Chandlers Drive, Tamworth at 11.00 am**

**PRESENT:** Phil Prettyman (Chairman), Richard Booth, Clair Butler, Sue Cawson, David Daines, Sandra Green, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, Iain MacTavish, Norman Mitchell, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock

1 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from George Boyle, Jim Cook, Rebekah Fuller, Sarah Hale, Bernard Hales, Tom Judd, David Lowe, Alison Smedley, Amy-Alys Tillson.

2 **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2012 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Phil outlined the new trial agenda, with discussion items first followed by reports. Emailed Reports (marked \* and attached as an appendix to these Minutes) would be taken as read and only items requiring discussion/decision would be raised at the meeting.**

3 **Events**

3.1 **Speakers**

Social 2013 – Roger Wickson had been approached informally and had agreed. Phil to send formal invitation.  
AGM 2014 – Tony Hales was continuing in post as Chairman of CRT until the new CEO was in place. Possibly reconsider him as a speaker for AGM 2015. Tony Gregory suggested for AGM 2014 – Mike to sound him out.

3.2 **Committee minutes** - it was agreed that:

- committee members would send emailed reports that would be added as an appendix to the minutes.
- the minutes would record decisions taken, and discussions on matters of importance to the club.
- email discussions/decisions occurring between meetings would be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

**Committee meeting dates** – it was agreed that as from March 2013 AGM there would be:

- 4 full meetings, as required by the constitution, in January, May, August and October – Paul to identify dates.
- 1 short meeting at 11.00am before the November Social at 2.00pm to set up the shop and organise the room
- 1 short meeting at 10.00am before the AGM to finalise AGM arrangements and discuss any urgent business

3.3 **Easter Gathering 2014\***

Jim had begun investigating the feasibility of Limehouse. It was agreed to authorise him to investigate further, with a budget of up to £1,000 for the hire of meeting rooms and moorings and a target date of March 2013 for report back. Any travelling expenses would be in addition to this budget. It was thought that 40 boats and 100 people would be a sensible estimate of numbers. Possibly River Lee as an alternative venue. Michael Pinnock had offered before and after moorings to club members – thanks extended for this kind offer.

3.4 **IWA National, Watford, 19-21 July 2013** – it was agreed that:

- Clair would send a booking form for the shop. Reconsider nearer the time if it could be staffed.
- Rupert would find out where historic boats would be moored and if grouped together.
- Phil would ask members at the AGM if they planned to attend.

3.5 **Other Gatherings 2013**

- Ellesmere Port, Easter - Jim had not yet been invited to attend any planning meetings although Sue had reminded EP to ask him to attend.
- Stoke Bruerne, Easter – no details had been forthcoming at the time of the meeting and it was assumed that any gathering of boats would be by private invitation from the Friends. [**Post meeting note:** it was later discovered that David Blagrove had assumed that the club would be organising a gathering, while the club had had the impression that boats were welcome by invitation only. It was decided by email correspondence that it was too late for the club to organise such a gathering, but that we would publicise the event to members - Val newsletter, Ros website.]
- Pelsall 15-16 June 2013 – on the same weekend as Middlewich FAB, so not feasible to have the shop there.

### 3.6 **AGM 2013**

Meeting to start at 2.30pm. Phil to write to Tony Stammers to confirm arrangements. Ros to email local pubs in Naption with warning of meeting. Ros & Paul to collaborate on minute taking. Paul to collate nomination slips for committee members due for re-election.

## 4 **Awards**

### 4.1 **Nominations for Keay & Hemelryk Awards 2012**

- Key: only one nomination had been received and it was therefore agreed that it would be awarded to *Hazel*, (a 6-plank Runcorn boat) subject to a visual inspection by Rupert
- Hemelryk: 2 nominations had been received and *Admiral* and *Northolt* were considered against the scoring criteria. Both boats scored very highly, but it was agreed that the Award would go to *Admiral* because of the extent of the improvement to the boat from its previous condition, with a Highly Commended citation to *Northolt*. Paul to inform winners, in confidence, so that they are present at the AGM to receive awards.

### 4.2 **Assessment criteria for 2013 Awards**

It was agreed that criterion No 7 "Period of time over which the work has been done" be replaced with "Degree of improvement from start of restoration". Ros to update form on website and scoring sheets for next year's awards.

### 4.3 **Return and refurbishment of Awards**

Jim reported by email that he would contact Adrian Polglase for the return of the Keay Award, and that he had arranged for Michael Pinnock to return the Hemelryk Award via Sue Cawson. Richard reported that he had found the top part of the Keay rose bowl, and Jim was authorised to organise its refurbishment. It was suggested that a new trophy be sourced to replace the rose bowl for 2013 if refurbishment was not possible.

## 5 **Membership benefits**

### 5.1 **Web-based discussion forum and other enhancement to website\***

Ros explained that the proposed refreshment of the website could include features such as a discussion forum, improved uploading facilities and historic boat database; for the latter Steve would be consulting Richard. It was agreed that Ros should publicise this through the Yahoo email list and the newsletter, asking for feedback from members and asking for volunteers to join a small working party. Sandra and Paul volunteered.

### 5.2 **Incentives**

Paul explained that in his wish to give members as many reasons as possible to join and stay with the club, he would like to explore obtaining a series of members discounts and privileges (such as boatyards where members could leave boats) - which if taken up would more than justify the subscription fee. It was agreed that he should investigate further.

## 6 **Volunteering**

Concern had been expressed about the quality of training offered to CRT volunteers, and about their competency to direct boaters on how to work locks. Sue reported that CRT itself was worried about safety for boaters. Courses of action considered were: to offer our own training; to offer trips on historic boats to volunteers and their CRT trainers; to approach members of the soon-to-be-established CRT Volunteer Advisory Group; to ask Alison if IWA had been approached about VAG; Phil to raise the topic with Tony Stammers (Head of H&S, CRT) at our AGM and Sue to approach Caroline Killeavy (Head of Community Engagement, CRT).

## 7 **C&RT's Consultation Process**

There was a general feeling that national issues were being decided by consultation with single user groups, or at local management level (eg winding holes), or by departments within CRT (eg angling guidelines), but without proper consultation at a national level.

Angling Guidelines - Phil had written to Tony Hales (Chair, CRT Trustees), copy to David Kent (CRT Council member and Chair of Angling Trust) about changes to the guidelines. He had received no reply from Tony Hales. It was thought that the guidelines may have been amended under BW rather than CRT, but in any case there was the potential for conflict between anglers, walkers and boaters if the new rules were not disseminated widely enough through all interested user groups.

Phil reported that a twice-yearly CRT National User Group was being established as the successor to British Waterways Advisory Forum (BWAFF) and with essentially the same membership. He hoped it would be a forum where such issues could be raised, although he feared that the first meeting was likely to be filled with terms of reference and appointments. In the meantime, he would write to the new IWA chair, Les Etheridge, to sound his opinion and to discuss which members of local Partnership boards might be sympathetic to boaters' needs.

8 **Reports** - summaries and actions recorded below, see appendix for detailed reports.

8.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman)

8.1.1 Phil reported that a second meeting with Sir Neil Cossons had been cancelled.

8.1.2 Parliamentary Waterways Group meeting was to be held in London on 29 January 2013. He could not attend but Sandra would go in his place. Noted that Amy had been invited as a Cam Conservator.

8.1.3 A successor group to BWAFF was being set up by CRT (see item 7 above).

8.1.4 Phil shared his worries about his time commitment in 2013. The committee agreed to help him deal with issues as they arose between meetings.

8.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – report\* on IWA magazine and club insurance

8.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock)

8.3.1 Account balances

Santander - £12,674.40 NatWest £2,588.74

8.3.2 Annual Accounts 2011-12 – report\* and explanation of anomalies

8.3.3 Internet banking\*

In her written report, Laura had explained the difficulties encountered by David in managing membership subscriptions. It was agreed that she should investigate other options such as internet banking so he could access the club's bank account more easily. Although most of the committee and Dave Turner (examiner of accounts) were happy to change from two to any one of the signatories on the mandate, the constitution required two signatories. It was agreed that the club's savings account should hold the bulk of the funds but that it might be a solution to retain the existing Nat West account for Standing Orders and to set up a new internet account with another provider for BACS payments.

The committee thanked Laura for her work in putting the annual accounts together

8.4 **Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – report\* on membership numbers and non-renewals

8.4.1 The following 4 new members were **APPROVED** (I = Individual, A = Association or Business, J = Joint)

Ian Kemp	Comet & Polaris	1694 - I
Martin Bryan	N/A	1695 - I
Peter Stone	N/A	1696 - I
David Owen	Bristol	1967 - I

8.4.2 The number of newsletters required for members was 472 (ie the number of 'discrete' members).

8.4.3 It was agreed to send the 'red' membership renewal reminders individually rather than with the newsletter.

8.5 **Archivist** (Richard Booth)

Phil reported that Harry Arnold had mentioned a very interesting collection of photographs in the Warrington Library. Richard thought that was probably the case with many local and regional libraries. Phil to add a comment in his newsletter Notes to ask members to look locally.

Sandra reported that she had been asked if the club could put its boat archives on-line. Richard explained that the archives were mainly written records rather than photographs. Sandra also wondered if the Weaver collection of photographs could go on-line, in low resolution to make their unauthorised copying less desirable. No decision taken.

8.6 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Roberts) – report\* on bulk postings, Know Your Committee, Slater photographs.

8.6.1 Press date – 4 February 2013.

8.6.2 Bulk postings – as Val felt that the bulk posting systems had produced only minimal savings, it was agreed to use these only for larger issues of the newsletter, at her discretion.

8.6.3 It was thought unlikely that YWBS (see 8.12 below) would require space in the newsletter.

8.6.4 Franking machine – Mike presented some findings on the comparative costs of stamps and franking:

	Stamp	Franked	Saving	Saving per mailing	Annual saving
Std 2nd class	50p	31p	19p	600 x 19p = £114.00	£114 x 4 = £456.00
Large Letter	(£)1.10	76p	34P	600 x 34P = £204.00	£204 x 4 = £816.00

The choices are also whether to rent or buy:

All amounts include vat	Purchase	Rental pa	Service agreement (first year free)	6 year contract	Ink @ 1p/letter
Renting	-	£330.48	£214.80	£3,056.68	£6.00 per issue
Purchase	£954.00	-	£214.80	£2,028.00	

Overall savings possibilities:

Type of postings per year	Rental – annual saving	Purchase – annual saving
3 standard newsletters and one large	£12.50	£184
All large newsletters	£116	£454

Mike added that he and Val presently struggled to get the NL down to standard postage, for thickness as well as weight. This could be an opportunity to grasp the nettle and go for all-large. Franking gives a better gain on large letters than standard and would make a regular large letter more viable.

We spent about £1,560 on postage last year, including one large. If they were all large and we bought the machine and franked them, it would be about £2,180.

It was possible the Friends of the Cromford Canal would be interested in sharing. Ditto the Nottingham branch of IWA.

Sufficient stamps were in stock for the next newsletter and about ¾ of the following one. It was agreed that Mike and Val would investigate further, including the feasibility of using the printer's machine.

8.7 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – report\* on stock levels and takings

8.7.1 AGM Clair not able to attend, Jim would deliver stock, Val had agreed to run shop, Laura would also help.

8.7.2 Christmas cards – it was agreed not to have any more printed this year as there was sufficient in stock, but maybe to have a new one next year. Blank cards were available for use throughout the year and might prove popular.

8.7.3 Ken Keay Book – Bernard had reported that he had 2 spare copies belonging to the club. It was generally agreed that the A4 print quality was poor and that we would need to obtain the original artwork before considering re-printing. It was agreed that Sue would: (a) contact Tony Lewery who had A3 originals, to look at quality of them and of some additional pages; (b) investigate copyright should the club decide to go ahead – Sue added that she was fairly sure that we had permission. Sue was given authorisation for expenditure to scan A3 sheets if necessary.

- 8.8 **Navigation Officer** (Sue Cawson) – report\* on stoppages, Hurleston lock, Stret lock, Debdale slip
- Ashton Canal Locks** – it appeared that the handrails added to the locks had been put there to protect members of the public using the lock tail bridge for access to a new housing development some 4 years ago. Sue would prepare a note for the next newsletter urging members to report such alterations promptly.
- 8.9 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – report \*on little press activity and issues to pursue
- It was suggested that issues to pursue might be volunteering, and anniversaries - for example, the Big Freeze in 1963 and the end of carrying. It was also suggested that generic ready-written articles about items of interest in their area might be well received by local newspapers. This would help to raise the profile of canals and their historic context. In addition, the club's support for Etruria dry dock (see 10.3 below).
- 8.10 **Events** (Jim Cook) – see item 3.3 and 3.5 above
- 8.11 **Website** (Ros Prettyman) – report\* on website statistics and hosting cost.
- 8.12 **Reports from External organisations**
- 8.12.1 **Central Shires Partnership Board** – Phil Prettyman  
Concerned at low profile of canals in the local area. Still worried it might be a talking shop with little action.
- 8.12.2 **Navigation Advisory Group** – Sue Cawson – report\* on renewal of vegetation contract and dimensions document
- 8.12.3 **Young Waterways & Boating Society YWBS** (formerly Young Working Boaters Society)  
Sue had attended 2 meetings as HNBC representative. YWBS were trying to appeal to a wider audience than 'friends with boats', and were hoping to attract under 16s by offering training and activities at boat gatherings (eg Braunston), and by linking with Waterways Action Squad and youngsters boating to Crick.
- New Society will be launched in Spring 2013, with a new logo and a sliding scale of membership according to age. Chair: Dawn Tigwell, Secretary: Sarah Edgson.
- YWBS would appreciate a slot at the AGM to promote and explain – agreed. Also a short piece in the newsletter and on our website – also agreed.
- 8.12.4 **IWA Liaison** – Alison Smedley – report\* on canal clean up on Shroppie and on BCN, talks.
- 8.12.5 **Friends of Museum at Gloucester** – Norman reported that CRT was pressing the Friends to recruit people to Friends of CRT but at the same time, the Friends themselves were trying to recruit for Gloucester (resulting in a conflict of interest?) Phil wondered if Friends of the Museum could become corporate members of the Trust, leading to an automatic increase of membership of CRT.
- 8.13 **Area Representatives**
- 8.13.1 **Central Shires** (Rupert Smedley) nil
- 8.13.2 **East Midlands** (Mike Harrison) successful widening of Stret Lock and passage of Python, Shireoaks and Middle planned for 2 years' time; perhaps the club should hold its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary rally on the Chesterfield.
- 8.13.3 **Fens** (Amy-Alys Tillson) report\* on silting on Gt Ouse, flooding on R Nene, Cam Conservator
- 8.13.4 **Kennet & Avon** (Tom Judd) report\* on high water levels, siltation, sunken boat
- 8.13.5 **London** (Sandra Green) nil
- 8.13.6 **Manchester and Pennine** (George Boyle) nil
- 8.13.7 **North East** (David Lowe) report\* on stoppage at Bulholme and Sprotborough
- 8.13.8 **North Wales & Border** (Iain MacTavish) meeting at end of January with Wendy Capelle re Hurleston; Shebdon embankment still has leaks/weak areas and will be examined. Landslip at Debdale.
- 8.13.9 **North West** (vacancy)
- 8.13.10 **South East & Thames** (Bernard Hales) report\* on flooding on Thames. Also note of resistance of Thames users to incorporation of EA into CRT and their political influence.

- 8.13.11 **South Wales & Severn** (Norman Mitchell) report\* on lack of User Group meetings, dredging at Gloucester docks
- 8.13.12 **West Midlands** (Rebekah Fuller) report\* on CCTV at Caunsall Bridge, new moorings at Tipton, and updates from last User Group

9. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

- 9.1 Action List – most items had been covered or were still ongoing, apart from:
  - Sept 12, 3.4 – Health & Safety positioning paper – Ros to re-circulate and committee to decide on action
  - Sept 12, 17 – Commemorative plaques on Sculptor. Rupert and Laura to liaise.
  - Nov 12, 17.1 – Ros to send Droitwich addresses to Rupert for commemorative plaques.
- 9.2 Gloucester Museum (minute 16.5)– Norman reported that the equipment had been moved from the café and put into storage, and that the deal with Wetherspoons looked less likely now. A member of the local Partnership Board was keen for Friends of the museum to run the café on site.

10. **Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Jim had queried whether the committee needed to create an ‘executive’ charged with day-to-day decision making so that full committee meetings were less caught up in minutiae. It was thought that the changes agreed under 3.2 above, would streamline meetings, and that the use of email for between-meeting consultations was effective.
- 10.2 Fund raising idea for the Trent & Mersey Breach – a proposal had been received from Duncan Davis asking for the club’s support for a fund raising concert. Although a good idea, it was agreed that it was now too late to be effective in supporting the T&M breach, but perhaps something similar could be organised by Duncan in support of Hurleston?
- 10.3 Etruria Dry Dock gates – Harry Arnold had asked for the club’s support in pressing for the dry dock to be brought back into use. Rupert added that there was a plan by the Friends of the Museum to raise the walls to address the subsidence that made the dock inoperable. It was agreed that Phil would write to Darren Green (copy to Charlotte Atkins).

18. **Dates and Venues of Next Committee Meetings**

Saturday 2 March 2013                    10.00am Napton Village Hall, before the AGM at 2.30pm

Post meeting note - dates identified for future meetings:

Saturday 11 May 2013	11.00am	Beggarlee Wharf, Horsley Woodhouse
Saturday 3 August 2013	11.00am	Hazell Road, Farnham
Saturday 5 October 2013	11.00am	Hazelhurst Cottage, Leek
Saturday 30 November 2013	11.00am	Napton Village Hall, prior to the Social
January 2014	TBA	

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Signed ..... 2 March 2013  
 Phil Prettyman  
 Chairman