

HISTORIC NARROW BOAT CLUB
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 2 March 2013
at Napton Village Hall, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwicks at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Phil Prettyman (Chairman), George Boyle, Sue Cawson, Bernard Hales, Mike Harrison, Paul Hunter, David Lowe, Ros Prettyman, Val Roberts, Rupert Smedley, Laura Sturrock, Amy Tillson. Jim Cook, Sarah Hale and Norman Mitchell joined the meeting at 10.30am

1 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Richard Booth, Clair Butler, David Daines, Rebekah Fuller, Sandra Green, Tom Judd, Iain MacTavish, Alison Smedley.

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

Having corrected item 8.13.2 to read 50th instead of 60th anniversary, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2013 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 **Afternoon meeting and AGM arrangements**

3.1 **Speakers prior to meeting** - Phil would welcome and introduce members of the Young Waterways and Boating Society (YWBS) who had asked to give a short presentation, followed by the main guest speaker, Tony Stammers, Head of Health & Safety at C&RT. Phil had received some questions in advance for Tony Stammers - a consolidated list was drawn up and Phil would invite members to put those questions first before asking for further comments from the floor. Phil would write to thank Tony Stammers after the meeting. Ros would compile notes of his talk, and pass them to Sarah with a view to it becoming an article in the Newsletter, subject to his approval.

3.2 **Refreshments** – Phil would ask for volunteers to help with teas etc.

3.3 **Shop** – Jim and Sarah had brought the stock, Val would run the shop with help from Laura.

3.4 **AGM**

- **Elections** - Paul had collected the nomination forms for all the committee posts. All posts were uncontested and the only vacancy was for North West Rep – an expression of interest had been received from Daniel Mawdsley and it was hoped he might be present at the AGM. For the re-election of the chairman, Phil would pass the chair to Paul. Paul explained that the Secretary's election was for 1 year only so that it could revert to the usual 3-year rolling pattern. Paul confirmed to Jim that he had been formally co-opted to the Committee as Events & Awards co-ordinator at its meeting on 15 September 2012, Minute 3.1.
- **Examiner of Accounts** – Dave Turner had expressed his willingness to continue in this role.
- **Rallies** – Phil would mention: Ellesmere Port and Stoke Bruerne for Easter 2013; the need for booking at Audlem; the consideration and rejection of London as a venue for Easter 2014; and would remind members of the lists of rally dates to be found in the Newsletter and on the website.

3.5 **Hemelryk Award** – Graeme Pearce would collect the award on behalf of Steve Harmer for the Admiral. Phil would mention that Martin O'Callaghan's work on the Northolt had been highly commended. Ros and Phil had the trophy, ready for the presentation.

3.6 **Keay Award** – Chris Leah would collect the award for the Wooden Boat Society's Hazel. The trophy itself was still with Adrian Polglase. If he did not bring it to the afternoon's meeting, it was agreed to present it at the Hazel's launch on 3 May 2013 instead. [Post meeting note, he brought the trophy to the meeting.]

4 **HNBC Gathering Easter 2014** (see report in Appendix 1)

Phil thanked Jim for his detailed report on the possibilities of holding the gathering in the London region. It was agreed, nem con, that the expense of holding a gathering in London would not be a justifiable use of club funds for the few boats that might attend. Phil had the impression that C&RT was defensive about rally opportunities in the south as they had quoted the success of Cavalcade – the committee thought there might still be problems there with continuous moorers and agreed to re-visit the topic later, perhaps with a view to mounting a campaign. Nevertheless, the principle of a biennial club gathering held towards the south of the network was re-affirmed.

Alternative venues (and their associated challenges/benefits) to investigate were: Stratford (pinchpoint narrow locks, anniversary of its re-opening 1964-2014), Rickmansworth (continuous moorers), Aylesbury (boat club moving out of basin which might be free before developers moved in), Slough Arm (depth), Milton Keynes (useful promotion for Bedford & MK Link Trust), Basingstoke (help from West Byfleet Boat Club, river flow unpredictable).

5 **Matters Arising from the consolidated Action List from January 2013**

5.1 **Items completed:**

- November 2012 11.2 Banners had been ordered
January 2013 3.1 Roger Wickson had confirmed he would give a talk at November social
3.6 Phil had confirmed details with Tony Stammers re AGM talk
3.6 Pubs in Napton informed of today's meeting
3.2 Dates for committee meetings - confirmed
3.5 Easter at the Port and Stoke Bruerne – advertised in Newsletter
4.1 Winners of Hemelryk and Keay awards – notified (see 3.5 & 3.6 above)
4.3 Trophies retrieved (see 3.5 & 3.6 above)
8.3.3 Internet banking (see 6.3 for report of committee's email discussions)
8.8 Ashton Canal locks – article produced in Newsletter 2013/1
8.12 YWBS talk confirmed (see 3.1 above)
9.1 H&S position paper recirculated to committee and printed on back of Agenda for AGM
9.1 Commemorative plaques for the Sculptor had been made
9.1 Droitwich plaque addresses - passed to Rupert
10.2 T&M fundraising idea. Duncan Davis thanked.
10.3 Letter of support sent re Etruria dry dock.

5.2 **Club Plaque (September 2012, Minute 11.8)** – Rupert reported that his usual source had produced a pattern (£20) with the club's new initials and had cast 30 brass plaques (£140). Unfortunately, the logo had been incorrectly reproduced. It was agreed to scrap the plaques and to write off the amount spent. Bernard would help Rupert with contacts at BCLM, where he felt a new pattern could be produced, the scrap plaques melted down and the brass re-used.

5.3 **Ellesmere Port Easter Gathering (November 2012, Minute 9.3)** – Jim reported that despite several attempts to get in touch with organisers at EP, he had had no feedback. Sue would email another contact name to Jim.

5.4 **Lack of consultation (January 2013, Minute 7)** – Phil had contacted Les Etheridge whose reply had arrived just before a holiday. Nor had it been possible to raise this issue at the first meeting of the new National Users Forum. Phil would follow up.

5.5 **Franking machine (November 2013, Minute 8.6.4)** – Mike reported that probably the most viable solution would be to use the Newsletter's printer's machine. He would report fully at the May meeting.

Other items on the Action list were still ongoing.

6 **Reports** (see Appendix 2)

Written reports had been submitted before the meeting 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/discussions shown as bullet points:

6.1 **Chairman** (Phil Prettyman) – Hurlston lock; meeting with Sir Neil Cosson; new National Users Forum.

6.2 **Secretary** (Paul Hunter) – IWA quarterly publication to become annual; lack of consultation; winners of Keay & Hemelryk Awards.

- Paul had been checking through Secretary's files and felt that there had been a tailing off in consultation over the years from BWB and now C&RT. The move to push issues out for discussion at local Partnerships meant there was a lack of over-view at national level, and local Partnerships had not necessarily recruited people with heritage interests. Phil reported that other waterways groups had expressed similar concerns at the new National Users Forum. Club's communications strategy to be discussed at May committee meeting.

6.3 **Treasurer** (Laura Sturrock) – funds in bank accounts.

- Internet banking – email committee discussions, between meetings, had established that it was possible to open an on-line account for subscriptions, allowing David Daines to view up-to-date BACS membership subscription payments. This would not affect the club's ordinary current account, which would continue to require 2 authorised signatures on withdrawals.

6.4 **Membership Secretary** (David Daines) – number of members in various categories.

- 6.5 **Newsletter Editor** (Val Robert) – Press date 8 May 2013 for 2013/2; Slater photographs being scanned.
- Val requested a website contact address (...@hnbc.org.uk) for Alison as IWA Liaison. Ros to arrange with Steve Wood
 - Val asked for clarification on whether to publish an article from Tom Montagu about his sailing trip to the West Indies. The committee felt it was not appropriate for the newsletter, unless the voyage had been in a narrow boat.
- 6.6 **Club Shop** (Clair Butler) – orders received; stock.
- Clair asked for contact details for having the shop at Ellesmere Port. Sue to email details.
 - Clair asked Phil to mention Audlem booking procedures under ‘Rallies’ at the AGM
- 6.7 **Navigation Officer** (Sue Cawson) – open day at Dutton.
- 6.8 **Press Officer** (Sarah Hale) – web site enquiries received; press releases planned.
- 6.9 **External organisations**
- Navigation Advisory Group** (Sue Cawson) – next meeting date; chairman elected.
- NINF** (David Lowe) – Locklines; consultation; Boater’s Handbook; Slough Arm depth.
- IWA Liaison** (Alison Smedley) – apparent lack of support from IWA rep at Hurleston meeting
- Sue to inform Alison of IWA person present
- 6.10 **Area Reps**
- East** (Amy-Alys Tillson) – flooding; stoppages postponed; gold licences invalid on the Cam; Whittlesea bend.
- East Midlands** (Mike Harrison) – User Group meetings in March; Stret lock.
- North Wales & Borders** (Iain MacTavish) – Hurleston lock
- Positive meeting, next meeting 10 December 2013 to review engineers’ new data and to review costed options
 - Disquiet expressed that the club was not represented formally at C&RT Heritage Advisory Group, that role being taken by Canal & Railway Society whose member at the Hurleston meeting appeared not to appreciate the urgency of removing this pinch point.
- South Wales & Severn** (Norman Mitchell) – no user group meetings and none scheduled.
- 7 **Any other business**
- 7.1 **Locklines**
- Bernard again raised the issue of carvings of ‘poetry’ on the balance beams of new lock gates at Hillmorton. This was believed to have been funded from an Arts grant, with a contribution of £40,000 from C&RT. It was felt that this constituted defacement of an historic structure and was little better than graffiti, as well as allowing water ingress and, eventually, earlier rotting of the balance beams. The committee had no objection to Art per se, and commended canal side sculptures at Nantwich and Anderton but objected to invasive art on historic canal structures and artifacts. Phil to raise this with Sir Neil Cosson at the meeting the following week and also to write formally to the chair of Trustees. Sarah to check general heritage discussion groups to see if there had been any similar disquiet.
- 7.2 **Jim Payler photographs**
- Ros had received notification of an exhibition of Jim Payler’s photographs to be held at Blisworth village hall on 22-23 June 2013. The organiser had expressed a willingness to bring a selection of these photographs to the November social. Ros & Phil would visit Blisworth to see the size of the exhibition and to estimate how large a space would be needed for it. **[Post meeting note: Ros & Phil unable to attend, but Paul and Jim & Sarah hoped to be able to go.]**
- 7.3 Bernard reported that Howard Worth, a partner in the Enterprise, had been appointed as consultant civil engineer to IWA.
- 8 **Date and place of next meeting**
- Saturday 11 May 2013 11.00am Beggarlee Wharf, Horsley Woodhouse

The meeting closed at 12.20pm

Phil Prettyman
Chairman