

ASSOCIATION OF WATERWAYS CRUISING CLUBS MIDLANDS REGION

Minutes of Regional Meeting held Saturday 14 January 2017
at Tamworth Cruising Club

PRESENT

Howard Smith
Ian Wood
Graham Myatt
Graham Churton
Erica Martin
Des and Gill Barnard
Terence Balchin
Jon Jones
Alan and Pat Heeley
Pete and Aud Hardy
Monica Bett
Mick Griffin
Ian Palmer
Doug and Edna Leighton
Lynne Cater
John and Gill Wilkinson
Paul Bryan
Jane Lees
Patsy and Kevin Tandy

REPRESENTING

President, Erewash CPDA
Black Buoy CC
Chairman, QM, Stoke on Trent BC
Treasurer
Secretary, Stoke on Trent BC
Lichfield CC
Derby MBC
Vice Chairman, Coombeswood CT
Ash Tree BC
Stafford BC
Longwood BC
Hinckley BC
Ashby Canal Association
Coventry CC
WRG BC
Soar BC
Wolverhampton BC
Tamworth CC
Sea Otter BOC

APOLOGIES

Randal and Janine Heard	Norbury CC
John Reeve	Goldsbrough BOC
Bob Nash	Coventry CS
Paul Grigg	Mid Warwick YC

NOT PRESENT

Friendship CC
Nottingham YC
Swarkestone BC

WELCOME FROM LCC

For Tamworth Cruising Club, Jane Lees welcomed delegates to the club and gave health and safety info.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies received as above.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2016, at Lichfield CC, having been circulated, were taken as read, proposed by Howard Smith, seconded by Des Barnard, and unanimously approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Item 4, it was pointed out that although a motor and butty are separately licensed, they receive a discount, and therefore do not pay exactly double.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope you've all got your maintenance done ready for spring.

NEC 26th Nov

Still working without a secretary. Volunteer most welcome. We do need a secretary.

Vegetation – being followed up nationally. As there seems to be great variation across the regions, we are asking for a view of what is contracted.

Unpowered craft in tunnels – discussions still going ahead.

Signage is to be updated. AWCC has asked to see font and size as some signs cannot be read until you are on top of them. Where they are situated is also important as they get covered by vegetation.

Renting is now a major concern, especially in urban areas. CRT is aware and looking at ways of controlling it.

CRT is reviewing the licensing situation which is very complex due to the many variations. This includes looking at wide-beam craft.

Enforcement – boats now only need to display the registration number for enforcement purposes.

Bridgewater [see also note below]

The proposed Castlefield marina is not likely to happen due to land ownership problems. Many boats have been driven off the canal by Peel Holdings' actions such as closing services and making some visitor moorings permanent.

RYA Legal Support and AWCC NW Region are holding a symposium about visitor access and reciprocal agreement.

The canal will be closed up towards Leigh from 13th Feb to 16th June (perhaps later) due to maintenance. This was originally a winter job then should have finished by April. It would appear to be another hurdle for boats visiting Liverpool or Lancaster canal to get over. So much for booking 2 years in advance.

Cloning

A member of S-on-T BC was contacted by CRT who asked if he had sold his boat as it had been reported unlicensed in the London area. He had not sold it. It was moored at the boat club. The boat in London had the same name and registration number.

PS to above - The Bridgewater canal stoppage is now expected to finish before the end of May. This follows talks between senior CRT and Peel Holdings representatives. Please see the AWCC forum.

5 SECRETARY'S REPORT

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season, with or without boating, and that the coming year will be good for you and your club.

It is always good to welcome a new Rep, and I am delighted to introduce Patsy Tandy who is here today, along with her husband Kevin, representing Sea Otter BOC. Please welcome them. Her predecessor, Roni Solomons was Rep for Sea Otter from before I came on board. Roni was a conscientious Rep, who maintained good contact even when the health of her husband Norman, restricted her attendance. I would like to thank Roni for her support over the years. I understand she is enjoying her 'retirement'. Patsy, would you please thank Roni on our behalf.

At the last meeting, I mentioned that I would shortly be asking for database updates. I am delighted to report that over half of Midlands clubs had provided the required information within forty eight hours of receiving my request, and that only a handful of clubs needed chasing. An excellent record, for which I thank you all most sincerely. There is still time for any last-minute changes, provided I am notified by next Tuesday.

A reminder to tell Graham Myatt, our QM, how many hard copies of the handbook you need for your club. Graham has to order for our Region before the end of January, so please don't be late.

On Boxing Day, AWCC lost a stalwart in the shape of Ralph Sullivan, who was President of South East Region, his wife Jenny being my counterpart. Ralph had been poorly for a long time. We have sent condolences from Midlands.

I am delighted to see so many of you here today, with a good many of you staying for lunch. Our thanks to Carol Bannister and her team here at TCC for looking after us so well. Thanks also to our raffle queen, Pat, and for the prizes donated.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Sheet Year ending 31 December 2016

<u>Income</u>	National Subs	£1,150.00	
	QM Stock Sales	£511.35	
	Raffle	£115.00	
	Donations	£0.00	
			<u>£1,776.35</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>	Expenses	£92.00	
	Subs to National	£1,305.00	
	Handbooks	£214.00	
	Membership Cards	£0.00	
	Refund of overpayment	£10.00	
			<u>£1,621.00</u>
Net Income for year			£155.35
<u>Balance Sheet</u>	NatWest Account	£3,185.21	
Assets			
	Treasurer's Cash in Hand	£0.00	
	Secretary's Cash Float	£0.00	
			<u>£3,185.21</u>
Represented by			
General funds brought forward			£3,029.86
Net Income for year			<u>£155.35</u>
			<u>£3,185.21</u>

Graham Churton thanked all clubs who have paid their subscriptions, including those paying by BACS. Please remember, if using this method, not to pay until after 1st January. Graham said that no emails to treasurers had bounced, so he believes this information is now totally up to date.

7 **QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT**

Graham Myatt needs handbook orders now please, as our regional order has to be placed very soon. All clubs will receive one complimentary copy, as in previous years. It is hoped that Midlands handbooks can be available at our AGM in March.

8 **WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

A reminder of logins. All officers have automatic logins provided, which are ongoing. Any login issued for a non-officer club member automatically expires at the end of the year, and so any of these will need to be renewed. Go to the club area to display list of logins. Any needing it can be revalidated by one of your club officers, this is to ensure that the said person is still a member of your club.

9 **REPORTS FROM REPS**

Pat Heeley, Ash Tree BC, reported that a boater had coal and other fuel taken from the roof of his boat in the Fradley area, whilst he was not in attendance. Thefts of this nature are becoming more frequent, and it does suggest boaters are responsible.

Ian Palmer, Ashby CA, reported that they had succeeded in getting more land for opening more of the Ashby canal. HS2 are needing to have a rethink as they did not realise that the Ashby CA had rights over some of the land (by Act of Parliament) which was going to be used by them.

10 **CRT**

Boating buddies has not taken off, except in a few instances. Ann Banks has decided she will not pursue this, as there seems little interest from CRT.

They have started a series of safety talks, the next being at Sawley, with the Fire and Rescue Service. Gill Wilkinson felt this is a vital topic and should be pursued. They have had an incident at Soar BC, which John will put forward as a possible recipient of the Harry Sykes award. Jane Lees mentioned the Royal Life Saving Society, who may be able to assist; she will find out.

Jane offered Tamworth CC as a venue for future NEC meetings, also Soar BC and possibly Coventry CC. All clubs have asked that they be given the maximum notice of when the NEC would like to visit.

11 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Saturday 4 March	Soar BC - lunch included
Saturday 6 May	Coombeswood, buffet lunch included
Saturday 7 October	Stafford BC
Saturday 18 March	Dunstable - national AGM

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Graham Myatt reported on a request from South East Region to support an appeal to rebuild a bridge on the River Nene as he wanted the representatives view. This bridge is the responsibility of the local authority. It is structurally sound, but is considered dangerous due to low air draught and awkward positioning. The EA, the local authority and others have made donations to this project, and AWCC has been asked to contribute also. A lively discussion took place. Following a vote, it was

recorded that the Midlands Region was unanimously against making a donation. Although the chairman stated it was unanimous and no-one objected, after the meeting it was thought that one club (out of 17) abstained.

The caravan park have taken over at Fradley junction, with charges for mooring and overnight mooring being refunded if the cafe is used. Boaters passing through the junction will experience no changes.

Graham Myatt thanked Jane, Carol and her team for making us so welcome, and looking after us so well. Thanks also to all the ladies in the galley for a most excellent beef stew and dumplings and apple pie to round off the meeting. Also thanks to Pat Heeley for doing the raffle which raised some £40. And thanks to you all for bringing such a good selection of raffle prizes.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm.