

AWCC North West Region

Minutes of General Meeting 12th November 2009

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming all.

1. Apologies from: Harry Davies, Sheila Eastham (ACE), Sandra Henstock (Lancaster), Eric Roberts (NCCC), Tom & Lee Flint (PBBOA), Frank Rose (Sale) & Jack & Marion Carr (Wheulton).

2. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as circulated

Matter Arising

1. Liverpool Link. There is still disquiet regarding the limitation on numbers visiting in any one day and hopefully BW will review this for 2010.
2. Butts Basin Sanitary Station. Boaters have access but the saga continues.
3. Visitor Moorings – Lion Salt Works – T&M. BW have said the new arrangements will go ahead.
4. Middlewich Rally went well with 40+ boats attending
5. Wincham Wharf. BW has said that there should not be more than 2 abreast moored up.

3. Secretary's Report

- 1 **Stoppages** Up to date information can be found on the BW web site <http://www.waterscape.com/boating>. There was a breach on the Leek branch of the Caldon at the top end. On the L&L more lock ladders are being fitted this winter. There is to be dredging at Rodley outside Leeds.
- 2 **IWA Head Office Bulletin.** Particular items of news included –
 - ❖ The SOS 2010 Campaign (Save our System) is running with AWCC, NABO, RBOA, RHA & SOW support. There is great concern that the Grant in Aid could be cut and BW's property portfolio which produces substantial funds for BW could be removed and sold off.
3. **North Cheshire CC** have a new book charting the club's history from the start in 1943 and their part in the campaigns to save their local canals. Cost £5 + £1 postage – contact Noel Christopher on 01625 875990.
4. **The Stockport Canal Society** continues the campaign to see the canal restored.
5. **BW Management Restructuring.** This took place on 2 November.
6. **BW Funding.** There is widespread concern about that any cuts in grant in aid will lead to a reduction in standards on BW's waterways and any breaches could be left un-repaired thus undoing all the work of recent years.
7. **SUCC.** The society is seeking sponsorship to continue the restoration of the Montgomery Canal. £5 will buy a barrow full of concrete blocks and boulders for the top of the new pilling.
8. **Litchfield Canal.** David Suchet as Vice President of the Restoration Trust is promoting fund raising of £1m for the next stage of the restoration project.

4. Treasurer's Report –

Stephen Fahey reported

current account	£1321.54
deposit account	£2872.87
cash in hand	£ 2.29
	£4196.70

5. Quartermaster's Report

As Harry is away in America, there was no report

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke about

1. BW Mooring Consultation has started with closure on 31 January 2010. Full information on BW web site. Overstaying boats on prime Visitor Moorings will be charged. The number of marinas is to be increased with a reduction in on-line moorings. There will be more residential moorings
2. The Port of London Authority Harbour Master is encouraging boaters wishing to travel the tideway to study the relevant advice and instructions.
3. Watch House CC, like a few other clubs, is in litigation with two of its members. Clubs are strongly advised to check their insurance cover for trustees, committee members and any financial loss from involvement in litigation
4. In recognition of WHCC support for AWCC for over 35 years and in memory of Bill Bleasdale, a donation of £350 from AWCC NW was approved. The WHCC Chairman expressed his thanks

7. National Communications Officer. Unfortunately he was unable to attend this evening and sent his apologies.

8. AWCC Handbook Updates

Members were asked to advise the Secretary of any changes to the listings in the AWCC Handbook. The likelihood is that AWCC will revert to a loose-leaf booklet in future with changes listed on the AWCC web site. The Alert publication should go to the club Secretary who in turn can copy and distribute it to members. It should soon be available on the ACCC web site as well. Jack Carr has stepped down as Rep for Wheelton CC after many years service to the club.

9. BW Customer Forums.

- 1 **NW – Wigan.** Lynton reported that BW were willing to be more flexible as to regards the limit on the number of boats which can access the Link on any one day. There will be direct passage from the edge of Liverpool to the docks with alternate days in either direction. The 'Veg Pledge' remains with at least one cut per year to the water's edge and a strip of at least .5m width.
- 2 **West Pennine.** Peter reported that the new fence alongside the Rochdale Canal in Manchester will have a gate access with no lock so that boaters can access that lock safely. BW wish to move to more e'bay style on line auctioning for mooring sites.
- 3 **Border Counties.** There were a significant number of questions from the Region. Vale Royal Barge Lock restoration is almost complete but BW announced that as the swing bridge over the lock is unsafe for opening, boat access to that lock will be restricted until such time as the bridge is repaired. BW is sympathetic to the long term restoration and rebuilding of the missing locks on the Cheshire flight of the T&M. The invited representatives were asked to comment as to why in a recent survey of a major boating organisation, 57% of the respondents said that 'they would not recommend BW to a friend'. The response was that whilst boaters were the biggest individual payers, they felt that they were way down the order of BW's interest. BW were asked to consider modifying the weekday lock opening hours on the Weaver to make them more boater friendly.

10 Any Other Business.

1. Concern was expressed that key fobs were bought to access the facilities on the Lancaster yet during the summer the toilets etc were left unlocked (apart from the standard BW key). The Secretary will write to BW questioning the need for such cards and why BW licence holders are discouraged from using facilities at BW marinas.
2. The Runcorn Locks Restoration Society Chairman Graeme Bridge reported that the Society is working away to prepare for the day when the new Mersey Crossing in Runcorn gets the go ahead and the access road to the present bridge is re-aligned which in turn would facilitate the re-opening off the flight of locks to the Ship Canal.
3. There is to be a Boat Show in Liverpool in 2011.

4. Marple Service Station. There appears to be no intention of providing an alternate facility when the present site is redeveloped. Secretary to seek an update from BW.
5. Spring 2010 AWCC Dance. Graeme Bridge will approach his club BMBC to see if they will host the dance next March. Graeme offered the services of his dance band.
6. Volunteer labour. BW is keen to use volunteers for such work as lock gate painting and tidying up waterside areas.
7. Recycling at Service Stations. A question was raised as to weather or not BW has any policy regarding rubbish deposited at its Service Stations? The Secretary to enquire.

There being no further matters for discussion, the Chairman closed the Meeting.

30 Years Ago

November 1979

The Reps from the newly formed Broken Cross Boat Club were welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman reported on the national Autumn Conference. £700 was donated to the H.A.N.T. project. Farmers wishing to open linear moorings on their land had to apply to BW for a licence. Lock side water points were to be moved away to more suitable locations and index plates were to be introduced in 1980. In lieu of a NW rally, a cruise on the land locked Lancaster was to be organised by 'hiring a boat for approximately 100 people'.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 14th January 2010
At 8pm at Watch House Cruising Club, Stretford, Manchester
(& Thursday 11th March 2010)