

AWCC North West Region

Minutes of General Meeting 10th September 2009

The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming all and hoping that everyone had a good summer cruising.

1. Apologies from: Sheila Eastham (ACE), Stephen Fahey, John Paxton (Latham), Sandra Henstock (Lancaster), Derek Harrison (Furness)

2. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as circulated

Matter Arising

1. BW Late Payment Fee. The chairman has consulted with various clubs and the general consensus was that it was fair.
2. Liverpool Link. Tudor Club recently visited the Liverpool Link with 8 boats. The 8 were escorted to Eldon Village with one non club boat. Two Tudor boats were taken down that day and 4 the next with the non club boat. The final two had to wait to the third day. Crooke wanted to book for Easter 2010 but BW would not accept the booking. Worsley cancelled their trip with 15 boats rather than split the cruise into three.
3. Rochdale 9. Many objections have been lodge to the fence in that it prevents pedestrian access to the lock. BW are providing new lock landings but the concern which has not been answered is how boaters could reach the lock when say the pound is dry and water needs to be let down.
4. Visitor Mooring at the Lion Salt works, T&M. Following the departure of the BW employee dealing with the project, the matter is on hold.
5. Crooke Boats, Folk & Beer Event. Went very well.
6. BW boaters being denied access to BW marina facilities. Matter to be referred to AWCC NEC.
7. Sanitary Station near Butts Basin. Wigan Metropolitan Council is now involved in the matter. Boaters can access the Sanitary Station.
8. BW directors meet the people meetings. The Chairman at the meeting he attended was told, when asking how more BW units would be cheaper than before, they will be "more efficient". The Vice Chairman at the meeting he attended was surprised that BW had no agenda for the meeting and nothing much to say. The directors were quite embarrassed when having promised to send the dredger to the Lancaster canal within 6 weeks, were told that there was no one now trained to operate it!

3. Secretary's Report

1. **Stoppages** Up to date information can be found on the BW website <http://www.waterscape.com/boating>. There was a restriction on one gate on the Wigan flight as someone had been hurt using the winch on one side but the winch the other side was still in use!
2. **IWA Head Office Bulletin.** Particular items of news included –
 - Rochdale Canal. The local MP is backing a campaign to stop United Utilities restricting water going into the summit pound which in turn means only 4 boats per day can cross the summit.
 - Peel Holdings has received approval from Salford Council for Port Salford, a £400m multi-modal freight exchange for Greater Manchester.
 - Environment Agency. New general enquiry line 08708 506 506 or 01709 389 201
 - Wincham Wharf Group is hoping to develop a new marina at Lydiate on the L&L
3. Cheshire Locks. The T&M Society with the Stoke Branch of IWA have launched a campaign to see the filled in and currently out of order locks re-instated on the flight up to Harecastle from Wheelock.
4. Cuts to BW Grant in Aid 2010/11. Extreme concern has been raised as to the likely cut in Grant in Aid next year which will wipe out any BW efficiency saving. The campaign is under the name SOS – **Save Our System**. As part of the cuts, The National waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks is likely to close.
5. Boat Checker. The web site to check if boats are licensed or not is <http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/license-it/license-it-or-lose-it/online-boat-checker>

4. Treasurer's Report –

Stephen Fahey reported

current account	£1321.54
deposit account	£2872.58
cash in hand	<u>£ 0.00</u>
	£4194.12

5. Quartermaster's Report

The new AWCC 2010 calendars are available at £4. Club pictures for the 2011 one to Harry Davies please.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke about

- BW's Third Way for 2020. He was doubtful if it could or would come to fruition.
- Attending FBCC Rally – a very impressive and enjoyable weekend.
- Sale CC 50th Anniversary event – made very welcome
- Attending the NEC meetings and manning the AWCC stall at the National Boat Festival in Nottingham.
- Attending the official event to open the new Liverpool Link and was the only boating association official present.
- Planning to attend the Mersey Basin Campaign Conference in Liverpool along with 300 other delegates from various local government, business and interested parties.
- BSS - Solid Stove Installation. AWCC has been closely involved in framing the new regulations to ensure that they are as boater friendly as possible.

7. 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.

8. BW Customer Forums.

Lynton will attend the Leeds & Liverpool forum, Peter the South Pennine Ring West and Brian, Bryan and Nick the Wales & Border Counties one.

Clubs are asked to submit advance questions for future Forums partly to get a written answer from BW and partly to show club members that their club and AWCC are active on their behalf.

9 Any Other Business.

- Alert – The latest edition is available. Due to the cost, only one edition is currently issued per club. It is then up to the clubs to distribute. The intention in the future is to have it distributed by email and this is being progressed nationally.
 - The Middlewich Boat Rally is being held over the weekend of 23 to 25 October.
 - Bunbury Locks. Concern was expressed that again the hire boats were blocking access at the top and bottom of the locks.
 - Similarly, passing through Wincham Wharf was difficult at times due to the number of boats moored 2 or 3 abreast.
 - Single boater passing through Appley swing bridge was proving difficult as the bridge landing was too high and brambles across the steps. The matter has been raised with BW
 - Castlefields Basin. Despite what the trip boat captain may say, berthing in the basin is strictly first come first served.
 - Trafford Centre extension. Boaters are welcome to use a special access gate off the Bridgewater at Barton
 - The Bridgewater Co. is hoping that boaters will move off line to the various new marinas planned along the canal.
 - There was concern about the sub standard state of many of the locks on the L&L with people getting hurt trying to open gates when leaking gates make it difficult to get a level.
 - A new waterside development at Burscough on the L&L is planned to include a cinema and new shops etc.
- There being no further matters for discussion, the Chairman closed the Meeting.

30 Years Ago

September 1979

BW reported that they had 18 patrol staff and 5 craft and had issued 585 oral warnings, 265 formal warnings and 99 prosecutions. Giving private boats registration number plates was raised. Hydraulic paddle gear was here to stay but BW was looking into the possibility of a quick release in emergencies. At the forthcoming NEC meeting on 6 October the final draft of the new AWCC Constitution was to be drawn up prior to being presented at the National AGM. There was to be a national Autumn Conference with BW to which every AWCC club was invited to attend. A regional rally was to be held in 1980. The first NW Social and dance had proved a great success.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 12th November 2009
At 8pm at Watch House Cruising Club, Stretford, Manchester
(& Thursday 14th January 2010)