



North Cheshire Cruising Club

Minutes of the Board meeting

held on Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 7.30 pm

Meeting held via Zoom

Present

John Fenton – Chairman

Ruth Smith – Finance Director

Nigel Stanley – Acting Premises Director

Pam Russell – Membership Services Director

Eric Roberts – Land & Water Space Director

Heather Stanley – Acting Company Secretary

Apologies

Lyndsay Hillman – Bar Director

1. Approval of September 2023 Minutes - All approved ER/PR

2. Matters Arising - None

3. Chairmans Report

The only thing I have to report is that I have written to both Brian and Hazel Bowker regarding his trespass and her being complicit in the act. Therefore Hazel's membership will be terminated at the end of October. (I will forward the letters to you all) I'm still in the throws of writing to Denis Beardmore regarding moving his boat and Mike Hodgkinson regarding Dave's complaint.

4. Company Secretary's Report

Well there is nothing like being thrown in the deep end.

- First set of minutes done and awaiting approval by JF (5 Oct)
- Read through the last 12 months of minutes and made some notes of items that seem to still be waiting confirmation of where they are upto. These are in the AOB section
- AGM sent out – this has been done blind to some extent, as JF still has not received all the documentation back from the previous secretary. I will be requesting everyones reports in advance of the AGM on 5 November, to ensure that the draft minutes of the AGM can be done in advance, and I can add to them as the meeting progresses.
- The key for the postbox has been passed to me from Pam Russell, I have collected the post. Post has been allocated to the relevant persons.
- New poster for the Brass Band night has been done with Heather Rowley and Pam Russell, as Brian Bowker used to do it and we need to ensure that the bookings come to us, not through Brian. Heather Rowley has offered to put them up in the village and on various sites on facebook.
- From the Postmaster/ Website side, if you wish me to send out anything to the members, please email over the information to postmaster@nccc.org.uk or m6hns@btinternet.com. The website is upto date. There is a couple of pages being worked on in the background for the 80th Anniversary, Wharf Maintenance page and a media page. There is a separate document about the website being circulated which was done in May and updated for this meeting.
- Suggestion Book – Nothing to Report

5. Finance Director's Report

- VAT completed for the last quarter (July-Sept) and passed to the accountants for checking

- I have received the first draft of the year end accounts from the accountants and am speaking to them to answer their questions and get the reports finalised, signed off and distributed to the Board ahead of the AGM
- As I mentioned in my last report, our electricity contract with British Gas comes to an end in November and Bill Jewsbury looked into the options for a new fixed contract. We have signed up to a 2 year deal with EDF through Utility Bidder. Standing charges are similar to present but the unit charges are nearly double so we will have to change the tariff on the electricity stands. Another option, suggested by Mike, is that we just double the cost of the electricity cards (eg charge £2 for a £1 cards) and leave the tariff on the stands unchanged

Accounts June to May / Commodores Fund October to September.

6. Land & Water Space Directors Report

- This week we emptied the slipway to repair the rail and take a lot of mud from the slipway
- We need to sort out the Dredger control it can't be used to do the Piling it is too dangerous we can just about use it to dredger
- The weather has stopped cutting grass and other jobs round the yard
- There is a work party this coming Saturday weather permitting we will be putting slabs down to finish the walkway over the reclaimed land on the Cricket side

The following Saturday's working party will be completing the far end of the arm with paving.

7. Membership Services Director's Report

I have 2 people to present for membership.

- Maggie Smith, N/B Presita Roso, 33ft mooring at Lyme View,
- James Mattimore, N/B Cromittam No 17, 45ft Mooring at Savile Town Wharf.

8. Premises Director's Report

Not much to add from the previous meeting.

- Ladies toilets – the toilet needs to be affixed back to the floor as it has moved This needs to be redrilled and bolted. This will be done over the next couple of weeks.
- Spoke with Bill Jewsbury – Quartermaster and we will be arranging another sale on a Friday night before Christmas. Bill will confirm the date to me.
- The stage for the laying up supper is done, just needs to have the curtains / pole put up before Saturday 21 October.
- Requested information from Martin on what needs doing and when so it can be diarised

Suggestions for work in the Clubhouse – maybe some done on work days during winter

- Painting of Foyer
- Painting of club room
- Lights to be changed to LEDs
- Cleaning of display cabinet and items inside
- Childrens Room – complete clear out – get postmaster to email
- Filing Cabinets and book shelves from corridor to be moved into Childrens room once emptied, and corridor kept clear except the freezer
- Painting of the corridor
- Affixing of pictures in the corridor and foyer as a gallery display instead of being left in a draw
- Commodores board – need a new one and the commodores missing to be added and sign written
- Tidy and paint Workshop
- Label up lockers in the workshop so we know who owns them – get postmaster to send email
- Locked glass cupboard in Foyer – put all important certificates in the glass cupboard near stairs

9. Bar Director's Report

- I have sufficient volunteer cover for the upcoming laying up supper but not any for the Christmas do and brass band as yet but there's still time for people to come forward.
- There's been a review of bar prices and most products have a slight increase, nothing mega and will probably actually go unnoticed but we've done so to make sure we're covering costs.
- Had some wonderful volunteers the last few Fridays and I do appreciate it, just long may it continue :-)

10. Director without Portfolio - No-one in position at the moment

11. Commodore's Report -

Sunday lunches have started again and Laying Up Supper list is on the board in club room. JF confirmed that acts have been booked for both events in October and December. JF needs to put up the list for the Brass Band night in the clubhouse

12. Any other Business

- **Eric Roberts asked Ruth Smith if the club was still profitable from the accounts – Ruth Smith confirmed that the club is in profit, and the finalised accounts will be ready soon.**
- **Ruth Smith asked John Fenton about the Commodores fund – John Fenton confirmed that there is approximately £1600. Some of this money will be used to buy sundry items and also pay for the two singers that are coming to the event. Balance to be paid into the bank The NCCC accounts and Commodores fund do not run together – NCCC Accounts June to May / Commodores Fund October to September. This has now been sent and also sent to the accountants.**
- **Maggie Smith, N/B Presita Roso Approval – Lyndsay Hillman asked Pam Ruseell some questions the result of these questions was to refuse membership to Maggie.**
- **Look at the Disciplinary Report and return back to Ruth Smith / Board - This has to be sent back to Ruth Smith with amends and then distributed to the board.**
- **80th Debrief – John Fenton to call Heather Rowley to discuss and sort a date. Board only to be present at the meeting – this is from the last meeting and needs doing urgently**
- **Complaints – John Fenton to call Heather Rowley and discuss whether she wants to take this further now that Pam Suggitt has resigned and does not attend any meetings. If Heather Rowley wishes to pursue the complaint further then a board member not at the meeting could investigate – suggestions were Lyndsay Hillman or Mike Robison (as he is standing in for Eric) – Heather Rowley still wants the complaint to progress against both Pam and John Suggitt – the board agreed a written warning be sent out. John Fenton to write a letter and send to Board/HR to read prior to sending to Pam and John Suggitt**
- **Dave Hood against Mike Hodgkinson –JF to write to Mike Hodgkinson and advise Dave what he is doing. John Fenton is still to write the letter to Mike Hodgkinson. Mike has been in contact with Dave Hood again about a mooring**
- **H & B Bowker - JF to write to Brian and Hazel Bowker about trespassing on NCCC's grounds after he had been removed from the club. Letter to be hand delivered before their return from their holiday. John Fenton to include the above in the letter to Brian and Hazel Bowker – the telephone number for the gate will be removed and Hazel will only be allowed on NCCC property by prior appointment**
- **Eric Roberts re Bowkers - advised the meeting that he had received a call from Keith Wright re Brians boat being put on the trailer, Brain wants to come into the arm and do with Keith. The board agreed that Brian is not allowed on NCCC land, but we will arrange for people to be available to**

assist with the boat move. He is also not allowed to drive his motor home out of the car park – This will have to be a member to drive it to the outside of the gates. Hazel will have to come in to the arm under supervision to remove the two mowers and strimmers, and also empty the three boxes in the work shop. Eric to call Brian and let him know. NS advised that Brian has also rung him before the meeting and asked similar to Eric. Nigel advised Brian that he was not allowed on the premises, but help would be available. There is a crane coming in from Braidbar Boats on 17th, Brian might be able to see if they would move his boat once they have offloaded the boat they are bringing into the water. This would be at Brian's cost. What are the consequences if Cleopatra is not moved by the end of October – Boat to be towed out of the arm or moved with Hazel present to the outside of the arm on the Macclesfield Canal – or they arrange for outside contractors to move it. It was also noted that the new year has started for the moorings – if they have paid, this will be returned

- **Members Boat on Hardstanding – John Fenton** to write to him advising that the boat is dangerous, that it has been sat there for over 5 years and no work has been undertaken and that he has 6 months to get the boat sorted. The boat needs to be moved from the slipway to hard standing at his expense. He will also be asked if he wants the boat, and if not the club will sell for scrap. John Fenton advised this has not been done yet, and needs to speak to Mike Robison to get more details
- **Paperwork and codes from previous secretary** – John Fenton advised to check the office at the front – Heather Stanley was unaware of this office. Nigel Stanley to go with Heather Stanley on Friday and have a look to see if the paperwork is in there. JF to call Pam to retrieve the Companies House codes to access the site.
- **Point brought up by Member – Susie Torkington** - I chatted to Mike Robison about when I was there with Tony (Tony's boat came out this week for blacking) I mentioned that the rickety steps that are provided for people to get on and off the boats when they are out of the water are, in my opinion, an accident waiting to happen. I should have brought it to someone's attention last year when I had my boat out at the club and felt quite unsafe on the said wooden steps ! In the conversation with Mike I mentioned that steps with a platform at the top (like painters use) could be a good idea. I also said I was aware that this would be a cost to the club and if it couldn't be covered money wise maybe a fundraising event would be appropriate Eric Roberts advised that they had fixed the ladder that is used and made it substantially more safer. NS sent Mike Robison some pics of stairs that they could purchase – pics to be sent to the board.
- **Letters written on behalf of the board – Ruth Smith suggested that in future any letters sent on behalf of the Board are circulated to the Board for approval before being issued** - Ruth advised that the letters that had been written were not professional, and that they should have been sent to the board prior to being sent to the Bowkers. Agreement was the once the new board was in place that Heather Stanley would write these and send to the Board for approval. Ruth offer her assistance if needed. Heather Stanley thanked Ruth Smith for this
- **Future of the Ditchcrawler** - John Fenton has spoken to a number of members who were not pleased that John Suggitt has completely ignored the VIPs/Dignitaries and the opening of the tram rail at the 80th Anniversary. This was also noted that he had done this previously with another issue when he had cropped the Bowkers out of pictures when they were still members. All agreed that John Fenton include this in his letter to the Suggitts, and advise that John will be removed as Editor of the Ditchcrawler. Tim Smith has offered to do the Ditchcrawler going forward time scale of the magazine to be confirmed – monthly or bimonthly.
- **CRT Rent Review Have we heard anything from CRT regarding the rent review?** We need to plan our strategy for this. Also, as I believe CRT are considering the future of Willie's cottage, we need to decide whether we wish to approach them about the possibility of buying the cottage/Clubhouse. But time is of the essence or we could miss the window of opportunity. Nothing heard about the rent

review. John Fenton advised that he is looking at sorting out a mortgage for the cottage, car park and clubhouse – Ian Tonge estate agents valued at £160K. JF advised the meeting that he has a list of questions to answer concerning the building which he is in process of sorting through. Insurance was also mentioned – Do we need to have C&RT on our insurance policy – John Fenton to speak to Mike Robison and go through as it will be due in the next couple of months Rent from C&RT current £43K per annum, Mortgage could be in the region of £8k per year with a deposit of 25% (approximately £50k). Request to be asked if they will sell us everything and give us Willie's cottage as there is a lot of work and expense to get it back into a liveable condition. Ruth Smith offered to assist John Fenton with the finance documents.

- **Style and Format of Board Meetings** – Ruth Smith commented at the beginning of the meeting about the style and format of the meetings and how well presented it was, and also that the task list/AOB list sent out with the Agenda was a great idea and thanked Heather Stanley for doing this.
- **Bar Problems – Cans Exploding** - Just wanted to let you know that again, Cans have exploded in the double fridge and leaked all over the floor and as you know this isn't the first time. I appreciate the board discussed this at the last meeting and decided to wait till it had completely broken but I think we're almost at that point. Please can we revisit the decision to wait for a full breakdown before replacing? Also, maybe one for Nigel Stanley all the fridges had masses of condensation on the outside of the doors today, do you have any idea why this would be? - Nigel Stanley to have a look at the fridge on the next social evening. It could be that the thermostat is not set correctly and that the doors may be left open – NS will speak with LH and advise the board accordingly.

Update on tasks from previous 12 months of minutes

- **Rule Book – Sent to Angela Leary PR to chase (28 November) / Update (12 April / 15 May)** - Rule Book – to be sent to the Board in its current format for everyone to have a look, and give their views on what needs doing or adding. Once approved It can go onto the website.
- **Lighting is needed in area where dredger is moored (28 November, 9 January, 15 February, 13 March, 15 May, 19/21 June)** - solar powered lights to be put in the place where the dredger is moored
- **Check insurance rules for moorings (28 November, 9 January, 15 February, 13 March, 15 May, 19/21 June)** - Should it say Comprehensive or full risk? This needs to be checked out.
- **Members Meeting** – last one 12 March – should these be quarterly (9 January) - last one 12 March – do one a year.
- **Defibrillator Training (15 May)** - this training will be done with the first aid course, that on our of new members has offered to do for the club - James Mattimore, N/B Cromittam No 17

To be discussed at a future Meeting

- **Membership prices** – further discussion to take place at a future meeting.

13.Date of next meeting

Monday 13 October – 7.30pm Start

Topic: Board meeting / Time: Nov 13, 2023 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5160114474?pwd=VVlOdWszY3JNOTdkSkFJMSs0OWFSUT09>

Meeting ID: 516 011 4474 / Passcode: if5ZQw

Meeting ended at 9.33pm

Chairman
