

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Waterside Room, the Bond, 180-182 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5SE

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 13.32

CBOA President David Quarmby welcomed everyone present and introduced Chairman David Lowe.

1. Present: David Quarmby, Bernard Hales, David Lowe, John Liley, Peter Boyce, Tom Foxon, Pat Taylor, John Dodwell, Mike Constable, Jim Walker, Andy Lomas, Graham Wigley (guest), Graham Dixon, Richard Traves, Tony Phillips, Gerry Heward, Maik Brown, Richard Horne, Tim West, Chris Evans (guest).

Apologies for absence: Nick Hill, Paul Ayres, Laird Cremer-Evans, Julius Dean, Bengt Sandinge, Noel Tomlinson, Peter Hugman, Keith Mahoney, Brian McGuigan, Les Reid, Mike Carter, Norman Mitchell, Elliot Lancaster, Barbara Panvil, Keith Astley, Jill Astley, David Hilling.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM 26th April 2018 were approved and signed off by Chairman. Agreed by all.

3. Matters Arising: None.

4. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman David Lowe welcomed the President, member and guests to the AGM of the Association. We have continued with our work of promoting the carriage of freight by inland waterway and generally representing the best interests of our varied membership.

We continue to respond to enquiries which come our way either directly or (often) via the Canal & River Trust. Currently these include the carriage of scrap on the South Yorkshire Navigation, waste (for energy) for Yorkshire Water on the Leeds & Liverpool and northern waterways, movement of power station waste and grain on the Aire & Calder, aggregates on the Calder & Hebble Navigation, and salt on the River Weaver. On the smaller waterways we have been working with the Trust and others to encourage more movement of materials in connection with waterside re-development and waterway engineering work. I commented last year on the challenges facing those who wish to see greater use narrow boats and small craft for freight so it was good to see Richard Horne on television recently moving landscaping materials from near Derby to Icknield Port. Richard has also moved items in connection with waterway engineering projects in Birmingham, and is leading a project to make greater use of the waterways for the movement of lock gates – initially from Bradley Workshops. Wood, Hall & Heward have been engaged in trial movements of waste on the Regents Canal and Grand Union Paddington Arm and we have a presentation on this later. On the larger waterways the Thames continues to host very substantial tonnages, mostly using CBOA members' craft and we were delighted to congratulate John Spencer of GPS Marine Contractors on receiving the FTA Sea Freight Operator of the Year Award recently. Thompson River Transport continues to move up to a half a million tonnes of aggregate annually on the River Severn – utilising a new, simple and innovative wharf for loading at the new Cemex quarry site. Mainmast remain busy with the barge *Exol Pride* moving base oil between Hull and Rotherham each week while the company's other tankers move vegetable oils on to the River Hull. In the North West the container barge service has expanded and the ship now links Ireland with Manchester. Our new member Jason Nicholls has acquired the coastal barge 'Loach' and hopes to re-start the carriage of grain between Liverpool and Runcorn very shortly. Our NW representative Mike Carter has been very busy behind the scenes in encouraging and facilitating the Trust to carry out significant dredging works on the Weaver Navigation and this will benefit not only the *Daniel*

Adamson heritage passenger vessel, now based on that river, but enable fully loaded barges or small ships to reach Winsford once more.

On the leisure waterways our narrow boat operator members continue to provide an excellent service offering coal, fuel and other items to waterside dwellers and boat owners. All these boat movements – on large or small waterways – add colour, interest and spectacle all the year round as well as contributing to combating congestion, noise and pollution on the roads.

On planning matters Richard Horne keeps an eye on relevant planning applications and responds robustly and efficiently whether that is in support or to challenge!

We continue to work with and support the Trust and its partners in the development of the Inland Port at Leeds (to be known probably as Port Leeds) and we anticipate planning permission being granted in the near future. Chris Evans will tell us more in his presentation!

The refurbished wharf at Fleet Lane (Woodlesford) was due to open this May for handling aggregates but is on hold pending planning permission.

We are again grateful to the Canal & River Trust for partnering us this year, at the waste and recycling Exhibition at the NEC on 11th and 12th September – and we hope some of you will be able to attend this event which is well publicised in the News and on our website.

As I reported last year with the assistance of the Canal & River Trust we commissioned a study from Hull University to see whether a case could be made for retaining the Humber Partially Smooth Water Limit at the summer line all year – thus making it much easier to operate barges with minimal restriction below Hull, to Immingham in particular, during the winter months. We thought the study showed a case could be made. The Maritime & Coastguard Agency have, not surprisingly, challenged the study findings and asked for considerable further research and information. This could be very expensive indeed and we may need to put this project on hold for the time being.

On CBOA matters I commented last year on potential changes to the Constitution – we have not progressed this though it is still in mind.

We have been very pleased to welcome a number of new members, both trade and associates, to the association this year, but we have seen (and are seeing) some changes in personnel. Our Vice-President Nick Hill has decided to step down from his role at this AGM. Nick has been involved with the CBOA (formerly CNOA) since its inception and was one of the leading players in keeping traffic on the narrow canals in the 1960s and 70s leading to the innovation of loading coal for retail sale from the boats. This was initially to keep the Ashby Canal open and promote long distance carrying but in recent years this has changed somewhat as the coal is now bagged and delivered to the boats by lorry rather than loading in bulk ex pit. Nick's interest is wider than just narrow boats and we are grateful to Nick for all that he has done for the Association including keeping us on our toes at committee!

My Vice-Chairman John Jackson has also stepped down following his retirement from the industry. I am most grateful to John, especially for his work in connection with stoppages and maintenance, and am very pleased that the well known coal and fuel boat operator Brian McGuigan has agreed to step into that role and to Tim West for taking on the Vice-Chairmanship. Our south west representative Patrick Moss is stepping down due to increasing work load and we shall be seeking a replacement. He has, however, provided the basis for a dialogue with other parties regarding the proposed inland port at Worcester.

Another significant loss will be that of Peter Hugman, who is stepping down having served the Association for many years both as Chairman and Treasurer – thank you Pete for your help and advice. If there is anyone who could take on this role, please let us know.

I conclude, as last year, by thanking my colleagues on committee, and our officers in the regions, membership etc for their hard work, and to you ladies and gentlemen for your support and interest.

5. Treasurer's Report: Presented by John Dodwell. 'Other' as shown is a donation from Greening of the North and CRT for exhibition costs. Changing the exhibition date to September from May alters the presentation of its expenses.

Proposed: John Dodwell. Seconded: Bernard Hales. Agreed by all.

6. Other Officer Reports: None.

7. Election of committee members

David Lowe, Richard Horne, Paul Ayres. Proposed: Peter Boyce. Seconded: Tom Foxon. Agreed by all.

8. Election of President and Vice-President

David Quarmby re-elected last year, but no successor this year, as those possible have business commitments still. David has agreed to continue for one to two years until the successor can be appointed. Proposed: David Lowe. Seconded Andy Lomas.

Dr. David Hilling was proposed as a Vice President. Proposed: David Lowe. Seconded: Richard Horne.

9. Appointment of Life Members

The committee would like to recognise our two retiring Vice Presidents and in recognition a certificate award was given to Nicholas Hill and Tom Foxon. Tom was awarded this in person at the AGM.

10. AOB:

Richard Traves said that wharves are disappearing making it difficult for coal operators to load their boats, and of course for any boat loading use that may arise. Apsley CRT wharf – not capable of handling a large HGV. Richard Horne mentioned that as far as CRT wharf and planning is concerned the proposed construction and planning application for Marple wharf was commented upon, against.

Gerry Heward from his company's perspective agreed and it is a serious problem; CRT leave it to the contractor and see it as his problem. On the Thames, the West India Lock dock is used (in the context of lack of suitable alternative wharves) and the cost for using the lock is immense. CBOA should identify wharves that are usable, and follow up with some action to remedy the situation. The point was taken on by the committee to follow up.

There being no other business the formal meeting closed at 14.06.

For the transcript of the following presentations, please see the CBOA web site

<http://www.cboa.org.uk/minutes.html>

The Chairman then introduced Gerry Heward, of Wood Hall and Heward Ltd. (WHH)

Gerry gave Elliot Lancaster's (iRecycle) slide presentation. He described iRecycle's operation moving waste on the Grand Union Canal in London. Please see the CBOA web site for the full text.

The Chairman then introduced Chris Evans (CBE Consultants/CRT) – Update on Port of Leeds

Chris described the promotion and construction of the Port of Leeds at Stourton, and its likely future success. Please see the CBOA web site for the full text.

The Chairman then introduced Bernard Hales (CBOA) – towards greener propulsion

Bernard discussed the present situation with internal combustion engines, the emissions problem and present developments for more efficient engines. Please see the CBOA web site for the full text.

The Chairman then introduced John Liley – water freight carriage in France

John had been in the hotel boat business for 41 years, and described the freight barge industry in France as he perceived it; its advantages, problems, navigational and trading issues. Please see the CBOA web site for the full text.

President David Quarmby thanked all the presenters and closed the informal part of the meeting.

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