

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 1930 hours on Saturday 14 January 2017 held at Royal Ulster Yacht Club, Bangor, Co Down.

PRESENT

Alan Cousins, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods

PROCEEDINGS

Our past chairman, John Weir, opened the meeting with a welcome to our new chairman, Ross Millar.

It was noted that a past committee member, Padhraic Conneally, was not re-elected at the 2016 AGM.

Ross Millar opened a discussion regarding events, noting that compliance with IWAI insurance cover is required, and wondered why Lough Erne Branch did not attend the Derg and Erne Rallies. An explanation was forthcoming.

He proceeded to state his aim of bringing branch members together with events, and thought an event at Carrybridge Hotel in March would be a good start. Alan Cousins thought this to be too early, and would prefer Easter time. A further suggestion was for a Quiz Night after bringing boats together at a suitable location. The proposed Castle Archdale event for 2016 can be revived for 2017, including a talk on the area by a suitable guest speaker. A C-in-C to visit the premises of Boatyard Gin near Tully Castle could possibly raise the profile of both interests.

Further suggestions were to visit Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast, HMS Caroline, and Boyne Valley Hotel. Perhaps one event per month, but remembering not in the months of June, July, August as many members plan longer trips then, perhaps down the Shannon.

Reference was made to a Defibrillator Course as Ross Millar had contacted St John's Ambulance in regard of this, which it is noted is cost related. CPR is also

considered in conjunction with RNLI life saving. Contact with Erne area officers of the RNLI is proposed - Damien Broomhead maybe the contact.

Other event suggestions were boat handling competitions, taking people from other branches who do not have boats on trips or who are non-members. John Weir's view was that although worthwhile, there was no return of cost to those supplying the boats, and previous trips had not recruited any new members.

Frank Woods stated that we should consider trips to areas outside Ireland, as in the past the branch has been to Scotland - Falkirk Wheel and Lough Ness ; England - Reading area and Norfolk Broads; and twice to France - Loire Valley and Midi- Canal.

So the provisional LEB programme for 2017 is basically;

1. Trip in area of Scrabo Tower - Newtownards/Comber area. Mervyn Rolls has agreed to organise such - members to assemble in Comber Square to board coach for Scrabo, perhaps Castle Espie for tea/coffee break, and walk if required. Back to coach for Nendrum, and a pre-booked lunch at Daft Eddy's. Other sites if time, but cost is an important factor. Late April, early or late May in the hope of good weather.
2. Carrybridge Hotel - Friday 21 April 2017 - gather at 2000 hours.
3. Boatyard Gin Trip - 12 May 2017
4. Erne Rally - dates to be advised.
5. June July August - perhaps no events but open to ideas.
6. Dinner/Dance at Mahon's, Irvinestown - 20 October 2017

AOB

Our treasurer Alan Cousins listed LEB membership as 100, and reminded members of increase of to £36.00.

Ross Millar is keen to introduce a FaceBook Page for the Branch.

John Weir alerted the committee to the way Southern Branches can organise all family events, which does not happen in Northern Ireland.

The meeting concluded at 2030 hours. Next meeting scheduled for end of March.