

# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

## LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 2000 hours on 20 July 2017 held at Strangford Arms Hotel, Newtownards, Co Down.

### PRESENT

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

Our chairman, Ross Miller, opened the meeting, and Frank Woods distributed copies of the minutes for the previous meeting on 23 February 2017, which were accepted as read. To promote the branch in the Erne System discussion took place on a banner, perhaps a permanent one on constant display in the Carrybridge area, subject to costs.

Water levels in Lough Erne are a constant topic, which are governed by law, but it seems that approaches to the authorities are dismissed and clear answers are not available. The good news is that the Kesh River is to be dredged this year.

Frank Woods expressed how successful was the visit to Boatyard Gin, and that the owner, Joe McGirr, was delighted at our turn out, particularly those who arrived by boat which rarely happens. Ross is to send a letter of thanks to Boatyard Gin.

The next event for members to assemble is on 05 August 2017 at National Trust, Crom - Music by the Lake. Tickets from NT are required.

Then on 15 September 2017 a visit to Castle Archdale is planned. Last year the cost was £35.00 per head, and this year £10.00 cover charge for lunch. Members should make their own arrangements for the evening.

After discussion this arrangement was changed, and it has been decided to visit Castle Archdale on Saturday 28 October 2017, with soup and sandwiches for lunch. This to be followed by the Annual Dinner Dance at Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown. Travel by coach to be arranged for those who wish, or berthing of boats at Castle Archdale, with coach travel from there. Berthing to be sorted with marina owners for 6-8 boats. John Weir to contact Mahon's Hotel re the booking. Ross is unable to be at the evening event due to other commitments.

It is proposed to hold the LEB Annual General Meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick on 09 December 2017.

Recruitment of new members - application forms need to be available for committee members. John Weir stated he can provide a template, and he also proposed that a banner be erected at Carrybridge. Ross Millar proposed LEB business type cards, detailing IWAI benefits, such as purchase discounts, and this was accepted.

Ross backed by Frank Woods would like to see a guest evening with a view to recruiting new members.

Mervyn Rolls noted that we had not changed our connection with Quinn's Corner and the proprietor, Pauge Quinn. There is an LEB plaque on a wall, and other data on the IWAI, and the inference is should we let this continue, or advise Mr Quinn of our changes.

Frank Woods suggested using the new navigation charts to attract members for use with cruising. Produced by IWAI advice on their purchase can be obtained from Robert Navan and Les Saunders.

A discussion took place as to the value of Facebook and Twitter to the branch, and it was agreed that these are modern means of communication and are acceptable. For instance attention could be drawn to the recent gas explosion on a boat at Lisbellaw to make boaters aware of the need to adopt safer procedures.

The signatories for the LEB bank account are to be Alan Cousins, Mike Kingston, and Ross Millar.

Mike Kingston proposed that contact be made with Michael and Patricia Donnelly of Comber as potential member/members of the LEB committee.

Mervyn Rolls is to consider running the previously proposed event based on Scrabo Tower and the North East area of Strangford Lough, during the month of September. He will liaise with Ross Millar about this and matters relating to the Branch Officers Handbook and Guide.

John Weir proposed Mike Kingston who represents the branch at IWAI Mullingar meetings is re-imbursed for travelling expenses, which was agreed.

The meeting closed at 21-10 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 01 Sept 2017 at 1930 hours, to be held at RUYC, Bangor. Committee members with wives are to invite them to join the gathering.