

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 1900 hours on Tuesday
25 September 2018 held at Strangford Arms Hotel, Newtownards, Co Down.

PRESENT

Patricia Donnelly, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir

APOLOGIES

Alan Cousins - wife Rita unwell. Frank Woods - wife Marilyn unwell. Michael

Donnelly - family member unwell.

PROCEEDINGS

Before the meeting proper got underway Mervyn Rolls, having been requested by Connie Weir to do so, sought approval from the committee to purchase flowers to be forwarded to Rita Cousins and Marilyn Woods. This was approved.

Chairman Ross Millar then opened the meeting, with a discussion about the forthcoming Dinner Dance to be held at the Moorings, Bellanaleck, on Saturday 13 October 2018. Mike Kingston had been in touch with the Moorings regarding bookings and menu. An invitation and menu list is being sent out by post to all members. Charges at the Dinner are to be by head count at £20.00 per person. Noel suggested that guest invitations go to other branch members, such as Belturbet. It was decided that the cost rules that out, so we will have no guests, with a reminder that all IWAI members can attend any branch event.

At the suggestion of Ross it was decided to have a Prosecco reception, but not to have drinks from the bar for those who would want an alternative. Charlie at The Moorings will arrange music by DJ, which Ross can support having all the required equipment. The Dining Room will be for exclusive use of LEB. If there are surplus funds it was agreed they would go to help with the purchase of a defibrillator required for The Moorings.

We then discussed the visit to HMS Caroline in Belfast being organised by Patricia. The attendance figures were rising well for attendance at 1315 hours on Sunday 30 Sept 2018.

Our AGM this year is to be held at the Cultra Museum premises, near Holywood, Co Down on a Saturday to be decided at 1500 hours.

Christmas Walk - as there has been no IWAI Calendar of Events printed this year Ross stated he will find out which, if any, Northern Branch is arranging this. It may be that LEB will have to organise the walk.

PROPOSED EVENTS FOR 2018/2019

1. AGM at Cultra Co Down - 08 December 2018
2. Christmas Walk - actual venue and date to be arranged by committee.
3. Tour of Scrabo Area, Newtownards, and North West Area of Strangford Lough. Mervyn Rolls is planning this. Date proposal of March to be considered for choice of weather conditions. Possible meet in Comber, join coach, use Castle Espie WWT for break, and Scrabo Golf Club for lunch. Visit places of interest with water connections.
4. Visit to National Maritime Museum, Dublin. 06 April 2019. Proposed and to be organised by Noel Maitland.
5. Defibrillator and Lifejacket Training, at the Moorings, Bellanaleck. April 2019. RM.
*Lifejackets - it was decided LEB would continue encouragement for their use, but not support compulsory use.
6. Boatyard Gin Tour, Lough Erne. May 2019. RM
7. Ram's Island Lough Neagh. May 2019. Boat trip from Oxford Island. RM/Drew Nelson/Michael Savage.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Ross proposed use of Yacht Clubs in North Down for hospitality if required. RUYC, Ballyholme YC, North of Ireland at Holywood, Ards YC, and East Down YC. For transport Seniors could use their Smart Passes.

AOB

Ross would like to see an updated list of LEB members - where can it be sourced?

Patricia proposed a meeting of all NI Branches for discussion regarding events and ideas. Also a meeting with Dawn Livingstone, CEO of Waterways Ireland, which Mike Kingston is to set up. Ross, Patricia, and Mike to represent LEB.

Litter Dumping. The committee have several observations, and perhaps Ross, Patricia and Mike could meet with Fermanagh and Omagh D.C. in October/November 2018. Also if it can be arranged, a meeting with David Wilson, Senior WI Warden.

IWAI Webmaster Colman Byrne has agreed to present format for changes to LEB website, mainly for access instructions.

John Weir discussed the Mailing List progress.

Mervyn and Noel stated that they both thought Derrykerrib access channel would be opening this week.

Mervyn agreed to continue with IWN Submission, taking, printing up, and distribution of committee minutes, and updating web site material, all subject to conditions.

Next Meeting is set for Tuesday 30 October 2018 at 1900 Hours. Expected venue is Strangford Arms, but John Weir is to consider Wetherspoons in Newtownards.

