

# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Report from Mervyn Rolls - December 2016

Minutes of the thirteenth Annual General Meeting held at Lagan Navigation Trust, 148 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn BT27 5QY on Saturday 10 December 2016 at 1500 hours.

## PRESENT

Ken Bell, Jane Bell, John Miller, Mike Kingston, Robert Navan, John Weir, Tom Robinson, Freda Robinson, Alan Cousins, Noel Maitland, Frank Woods, Jim Henning, Terry Needham, Ross Millar, Tony Forsyth, Des Hogg, Peter Maxwell, Mervyn Rolls.

## APOLOGIES

Richard Scott

## PROCEEDINGS

Chairman John Weir opened the meeting, and the minutes of the last AGM held on 14 November 2015 were accepted as read, and with a proposer and seconder approved. No correspondence was received at the Meeting.

In the absence of a Branch Secretary a general discussion of relevant matters from the officer's ensued. The Annual Dinner/Dance numbers were down, and a loss of £60 incurred, with costs spread over the last two years. No guests were invited this year, but it was generally agreed that it was possibly the best ever.

The importance of paying branch membership fees correctly was stressed. Mike Kingston raised the matter of single member membership, which still exists.

A Branch possession is the Tent, which currently is stored at the Home of John McKee, as advised by Robert Navan.

Alan Cousins, Treasurer reported that HQ received an extra 25% capitation fee over the last two years, and he has been advised this is to be increased. Jim Henning advised that membership fees and related matters can only be discussed at a Council Meeting, so that it is important that branch representatives attend, and

Page 2

state the case for no increases. This suggestion was proposed and seconded, and approved.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We were grateful to Maire of the Navigation Trust for her assistance in this matter, and also to Peter Maxwell, who stated he was pleased to be at our AGM, and thanked the LEB members who have worked on the Lough Erne charting surveys. Our chairman is standing down but agreed to act in a temporary capacity as Secretary. Ross Millar was then proposed and seconded as chairman, which he accepted, and took the chair.

There were nominations for secretary, but as nobody was prepared to take up the post, it was left open for later appointment.

Alan Cousins was proposed to continue as treasurer and he accepted.

The committee remains as it has been for 2016, with the addition of Noel Maitland, who was proposed, seconded, and accepted. Tony Forsyth was proposed and seconded, but he chose not to accept.

Peter Maxwell stated there needed to be two branch members to attend Council Meetings, as only two votes are available. John Weir expressed his willingness to attend.

The Lough Erne Branch Committee is therefore;

Chairman - Ross Millar

Secretary - to be appointed.

Treasurer - Alan Cousins

Minutes Secretary and IWN Contributor - Mervyn Rolls

Safety Officer - Robert Navan

Child Protection Officer - tba

Webmaster - [joannemagee@castlewebsolutions.com](mailto:joannemagee@castlewebsolutions.com)

LEB Committee - Alan Cousins, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Mervyn Rolls, Frank Woods, John Weir

Representatives to IWAI Council - John Weir and Mike Kingston.

Erne Rally Committee - as before.

Northern Ireland Catchment Group - representation no longer required.

Page 3

AOB

John Weir welcomes suggestions for LEB events in 2017.

Committee Meetings can be held as required.

Ross Millar with others discussed that we make use of Facebook for making contact with members, as high viewing figures can be achieved.

John Weir proposed offering our webmaster a monetary thank you for the work she has put in our behalf without charge. This was agreed to be £100.00 cash.

Freda Robinson and Mike Kingston would like to have talks from invited speakers, but John Weir stated that when organised it can be that very few people turn up, which is an embarrassment. Mike would like a talk from an executive of Waterways Ireland, and Frank Woods would like a meeting with IWAI officials.

Jim Henning advised that to be covered by IWAI insurance it is necessary to have events listed in the calendar or advised accordingly.

Mike Kingston would like to see an Association in Enniskillen of clubs and groups using the Erne waters. Mervyn Rolls would like to see contact with representatives of Fermanagh District Council for discussion and understanding, which seems to be a missing element in the area.

Ross Millar feels that a programme to encourage a younger element into LEB is required.

Peter Maxwell stated that all branch members are welcome to assist with their work parties on the Newry Canal, and Terry Needham on behalf of Lagan Branch stated they have no boats nor open waters, but welcome support for their activities.

The meeting then concluded, but it has to be written that prior to the meeting it looked pretty bleak that we could carry on, following the AGM of 2015. But perhaps people are best when in adversity, because at the end of the meeting there was an air of optimism and encouragement all round.