

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of the fourteenth Annual General Meeting at 1030 hours on 02 December 2017 held at The Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick, Co Antrim

PRESENT

Alan Cousins, Ann Johnston, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar, Tom Robinson, Freda Robinson, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods

APOLOGIES

Tony Forsyth, Terry Needham, Robert Navan, Trevor Whittaker

PROCEEDINGS

The meeting was opened by our chairman, Ross Millar, who thanked all for their attendance. He then asked for the minutes of the last AGM on 10 December 2016 to be read out by Mervyn Rolls, upon completion of which acceptance was proposed by John Weir, seconded by Alan Cousins, and approved.

Our branch webmaster, Joanne Magee, having been offered a cash gift, refused acceptance. It is noted that she has given notice to end the service she has freely given, as her web business is closing. A new national IWAI web site is due, with access to place notices, and other information from members.

Alan Cousins reported that our current membership is 90 persons, as relayed from Dublin HQ. He then reported as the outgoing treasurer on the branch accounts. He proposes sending a cheque to HQ Dublin for capitation, and stated of the difficulty of getting members to update subscriptions. Mervyn Rolls stated that the problem then is if a member is approached to increase the subscription, they may just cancel it altogether. On a question from the floor, Alan stated that our bank is Danske Bank, with a branch in Enniskillen, and backing from the main office in Belfast.

An update for clarification:

Alan Cousins pointed out that for some years the branch has been paying capitation fees a year in arrears with the current liability for 2017 £1959.20, as per the annual accounts. He

proposed, seconded by Mike Kingston that the branch should pay the arrears now and in future pay our capitation fees in the year they are due. This was approved by the meeting.

EVENTS REVIEW

Ross Millar advised that the branch organised 6 events in the year, with Carrybridge, Boatyard Distillery, Castle Archdale, and attendance at two National Trust events - Music by the Lake - at Crom. At a cost of £10 per head the Castle Archdale talk and visit remembering the epic actions of the RAF and USAF flying boats in WW2 included non-members. This provided an opportunity for IWAI branch awareness, a view supported by Noel Maitland, with there being no assumed difference by the public between the IWAI and Waterways Ireland.

Unfortunately the Dinner/Dance booked at Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. Mahon's were good enough not to make a charge on the the Branch.

As to our Facebook Page, it attracts 98 visitors, and it will be more used to bring about an awareness that the IWAI and Waterways Ireland are separate bodies.

Mike Kingston drew attention to the Waterways Ireland Open Day to be held on 15 December 2017 at their headquarters in Enniskillen.

Following the event held at Carrybridge, Ross has continued contact with the RLNI, including testing of lifejackets. A repeat meeting in 2018 is proposed, open to all boaters, with CPR instruction being added. Contact with Charlie of the Moorings Restaurant is also ongoing, perhaps with special events for the branch, and maybe special rates for LEB members, all to raise interest and awareness.

Ross further spoke about branch promotion, working with a disability charity for a joint 'Day Out Event'. Freda Robinson suggested combined events with LEYC, to which John Weir and others commented on the increased fees at LEYC, and their general attitude towards power boats, making it difficult to get a favourable response. Business type cards referencing the LEB will be available for issue. Mention was made of the forthcoming Carrybridge Boat Jumble at Easter 2018, giving an opportunity for LEB members to participate, and publicise LEB.

Mike Kingston assumed that the National Trust will repeat their events on the Lake in 2018, and Freda Robinson would like to see specific details about branch participation. Mike also suggested we should include trips outside the waterways, such has been held on Rathlin Island. Include in all this was a discussion regarding means of communication within an All Ireland Organisation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ross Millar remains as chairman. There were no proposals for Secretary, and as Alan Cousins is standing down as Treasurer, it was proposed by John Weir, supported by Frank

Woods, that the branch use a commercial organisation paid to jointly carry out both functions. Mike Kingston stated that LEYC have a lady carrying out such work, who may also take on that of the LEB.

The committee remains as for 2017. Next Committee Meeting is to be on 27 January 2018 at RUYC Bangor at 1900 hours. The AGM concluded at 1045 hours.