

# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



## Minutes

Branch Committee Meeting

18.30 hours Monday 22 April 2019

The Mooring Restaurant, Bellanaleck

### Present:

Alan Cousins, Patricia Donnelly, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar (Chair), Dr Catherine Boucher (co-opted)

### Apologies:

Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods.

### 1. Minutes

- a. From last meeting approved
- b. Matters arising – Dr Catherine Boucher, as the nominated **Branch Child Protection Officer** has successfully completed the on-line training requirements and has been registered with IWAI as such. She is now co-opted onto the committee until the appointment can be ratified at the AGM later in the year
- c. **Venues for Branch committee meetings.** Members present agreed unanimously that Branch meetings would be held on the Lough during the season and elsewhere over the winter. It was noted that favourable comment had been made about the presence of the Branch committee in the Moorings today with the restaurant posting on their website that they had hosted the Branch. It was also acknowledged that the proposal to hold the meetings in Fermanagh was not supported by John or Mervyn. It was agreed that absent members should be able to vote by proxy and that consideration would also be given to committee members ringing or skyping in when they cannot attend. It was proposed that if the meetings in season were tied to events it would make it easier for members to attend.

- d. **Branch website** was now active, hosted on the main IWAI site, with Ross and Mervyn having the administrator rights to post information; others were invited to be approved for access if needed.

## 2. Events in April 2019

- a. Ross Millar acknowledged the success of the trip to the **National Maritime Museum of Ireland in Dun Laoghaire** on the 06 April 2019. Over 20 members travelled to the museum where fellow IWAI member Padraic O'Brolchain provided an informative guided tour. Thanks were offered to Noel Maitland for organising the event and the Chair proposed writing to Padraic to thank him for his time and expertise. Photographs had been taken on the day which will be posted on the website and on the Branch Facebook page  
Action: Ross to write to Padraic O'Brolchain

## 3. Other Events in 2019

- a. **Haughton's Shore cruise-in-company** on 25-28 April has been organised by Mike Kingston who reported that 10 boats had signed up with 4 other possible. First gathering at Carrybridge on Thursday (25<sup>th</sup>) but the main rally point at Crom or Trial Bay (depending on business) on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to travel in company on Saturday. Mike has informed WI and driven down to Haughton's Shore where he spoke to the local patroller Paddy who will facilitate transfers through the locks on the Saturday and Sunday. The tent will be brought by boat (Mike and Robert Navan). Although members expected to bring own food for the barbeque Mike proposed providing wine from the Branch, Seconded by Alan Cousins. It was agreed to buy 9 red and 9 white with any excess bought by members.  
Action: Mike to source wine and finalise arrangements for rally point on Friday night
- b. **Boatyard Gin visit**, Tully Bay on 27 July – Ross has organised this with the Boatyard and will provide final prices, which will include a bottle of gin. Members aware of a high level of interest in the event  
Action: Ross to follow up on arrangements.
- c. **Erne Boat Rally** is being held on the last weekend in May where Ross will represent the Branch and raise the issues discussed by members at previous meetings.
- d. **Music at Crom** events in July and August – information will be circulated nearer the time
- e. **Lower Lough Erne** cruise-in-company in September – Patricia had visited Castlecaldwell in the last few days and found the site well controlled and litter free. It was agreed to consider the venue and planning at a future meeting

- f. **Visit to Crom Castle** – there has been interest by members for the Branch to organise a visit to the Castle  
Action: Ross to liaise with Lord Erne about possible dates

#### 4. **Membership update**

The Branch now has 103 members with other expressing an interest in joining. However 10 members are being followed up

#### 5. **Publicity**

- a. **Leaflets** – committee members unanimously approved the draft leaflet which will be printed at a cost of £130 for 1k leaflets. Proposed by Patricia Donnelly, seconded by Mike Kingston  
Action: Ross to give the printer the go ahead
  
- b. **Banners** have been drafted and it was unanimously approved to print 10 more durable banners for use at marinas at £40 a banner. Proposed by Alan Cousins, seconded by Noel Maitland  
Action: Ross to give the printer the go ahead and liaise with John Weir on the distribution. Committee members agreed to discuss with their home marinas
  
- c. **Articles for the media** – Ross reported that the Impartial Reporter were interested in printing a story and photos on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Shannon-erne canal which the Branch is celebrating in the cruise-in-company to Haughton's Shore.  
Action: Mike Kingston agreed to write the article and Noel Maitland to provide photos

#### 6. **Any other business**

Mike Kingston reported on a confirmed find of a sunken Catalina in the Lower Lough following a visit by Ronnie Snijder from Marine & Fisheries, Rory McNeary (Marine Archaeologist from Historic Environment Division, Dept of Communities) and Tom Machie from DAERA Marine fisheries Division. The information and photos are embargoed until after 1 June but it was recognised that there would be significant Branch interest in the story which we should report after the embargo

- 7. **Date of next meeting:** Proposed 18 May 2019 – time and venue to be confirmed