

Region Chairman's Report (Jan 2014)

Since the last Region Meeting there is not a lot to report, as I have had to cry off a number of meetings.

I did make the Trustees Meeting on Dec 7th, the report of which has been circulated via Internal Bulletin. There will be a notice about a postal ballot in the next Waterways. The proposal is to restrict the continuous term that any Trustee can serve to twelve years. This replaces the existing guideline as regards Regional chairmen of 6 years, and I personally support the proposal, as I think we need a rotation of fresh faces and ideas on the Trustee committee. Ideally this should apply to branches etc, but this is probably a little impractical given the difficulty of getting recruits for committees.

The purpose of me mentioning it is not to promote a particular opinion, but to urge you to participate in this ballot. The IWA has a poor record of its members engaging in National elections for trustees etc, and I would ask you to pass this down through your branches so that there is a good response.

I have submitted a fairly robust comment to the All Wales Partnership on their strategy paper on behalf of the Region, and will be happy to forward a copy to anyone interested. This obviously makes sense only in the context of the original paper.

Finally my apologies for non attendance, and thanks to Mike for standing in.

Alan Platt.

Report Shrewsbury District & North Wales Branch for January 2014 Region Meeting

Since the last Region Meeting in October the Branch has held one business meeting in December.

Events:

11th November - Autumn Talk by Richard Vobes on 'Making a TV Film about an abandoned canal'
16th November - Presentation of the Christopher Power Prize to Bernie Jones
23rd November - Stall at S&NCT table top sale at Wappenshall
4th January - Winter walk from Nantwich to Barbridge

Planning Issues:

- Wrenbury Heath Marina: The Branch endorsed the comments made regarding congestion and access.
- Marina behind Cotton Arms, Wrenbury: The Branch agreed to the draft criticisms and comments outlined by Peter Brown.
- Mid Wales Connection Project: The Branch endorsed Peter Brown's comments the conclusion of which stated that the line should be underground in the Carreghofa–Pentreheylin section, a very sensitive area.

Meetings attended:

Staffordshire Waterways Group (the branch now has a new representative, Campbell Boyle)
Review Meeting for Hurleston Bottom lock
Committee for Wales
Maesbury Canal Festival 2014
Welshpool 2015 event planning

Fund Raising:

The Branch made a good profit from the Shrewsbury Christmas Card Shop selling the branch 2014 Calendar

and IWA Christmas cards.

Branch Magazine:

The autumn edition can be seen on waterways.org.uk/shrewsbury. Hard copies are still available if required.

Branch Committee changes:

It is with regret that Carolyn Theobold has now resigned from the committee and from her post as Navigation Officer.

Branch Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/IWA-Shrewsbury-Branch/388651831206061>
Branch web-page: waterways.org.uk/shrewsbury

Dawn Aylwin
Secretary
January 2014

Lancashire & Cumbria

Report to Region Meeting

The Lancashire and Cumbria branch met at lunchtime today.

The main thing of interest to the Region was an application from the Lancaster Canal Trust to hold the 2015 Trailboat Festival on the Northern Reaches of the Lancaster Canal at Crooklands. The proposal is to run alongside the Westmoreland County Agricultural Society's Countryfest.

LCT & WRG have been working on stretch of the derelict canal and their aim is have trail boats on the newly restored section alongside the show ground to promote further interest among the local authorities and general public.

We understand that an application will also need approval from the Region.

Madeline Dean, who has been on the branch committee for 33 years , has announced her intention to stand down at The AGM in February.

From a navigation point of view Lancashire County Council have just finished a consultation on East Lancashire transport plan. One of the plans involves a new road to bypass Colne and Foulridge. There will be a new junction on the M65 before the road passes at the bottom of the embankment of Barrowford Reservoir. It then follows the line of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (within 30/40 yards) until it crosses Foulridge Tunnel just after the south portal. It then crosses the canal again on new bridge at Foulridge Wharf to rejoin the main road to Skipton.

It seems that CR&T have not been consulted at this early stage.

Alan Davies

IWA North West Region

IWA Chester & Merseyside Branch

Chairman's Report

8th January 2014

Runcorn Locks

Rescom asked for comments following the December meeting and I forwarded the committees concerns regarding the excavation of one of the Runcorn Locks. While the idea has merit in practice it could be difficult from maintaining the structure of the lock to ensuring the safety of the site and preventing vandalism.

Bulletin

I responded to the consultation on changes to the Bulletin, it is to remain fortnightly. Does everyone receive the Internal Bulletin?

Manchester Gates

I responded to the consultation, while it is a sad reflection on society that it has to be closed off it is important that the emergency services still have access. Also questioned the need for the smaller gate as it would be easy to climb over.

C&RT Communication

The culvert collapse at Stoke on the SU has been repaired and the waterway reopened with the information shown on the C&RT website but I had no replies from Michelle Kozamara or David Baldacchino to my emails.

Branch & Rally Chairman

Now it is 2014 the Branch needs to discuss candidates for Branch & Rally Chairman as I stand down at March AGM.

C&RT Partnerships

Have the results of the consultation been published on the website?

Brian Phillips
