



The Inland
Waterways
Association

Great Ouse Branch

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Thursday, 26th March 2015

*This will be followed by an update
from the River Managers of the
Environment Agency.*

*Please forward any questions to be directed to
the Environment Agency to our Secretary
john.hodgson@waterways.org.uk*

Ouse News - Appendix 1

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association will be held on Thursday, 26th March 2015 at the Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6BL at 8.00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 27th March 2014 - printed in Appendix 2
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes, not included on this agenda
4. Chairman's Report - printed in Appendix 3
5. Secretary's Report - printed in Appendix 4
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts - printed in Appendix 5
7. Election of Branch Committee
8. Close of Meeting

Notes: (following the amendment of Byelaws dated 14/3/09)

1. Accounts are audited by IWA Head Office. There is no need to adopt the accounts or appoint an auditor.
2. There is no longer any limit to Committee numbers. Members serve for 3 years after which they retire but may seek re-election.
3. There is 1 committee member due to retire by rotation : David Anderson and 1 co-opted member for substantive election: Gail Mead.
4. New Committee Members are most welcome. Those who would like to stand must sign the consent form below and send to the Branch Secretary, John Hodgson (Address on page 3) ***before the AGM.***



INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION CONSENT FORM

I agree to stand for election at the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch. I am a member of the Great Ouse Branch.

(Sign) Print Name

Date

Ouse News - Appendix 2

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Great Ouse Branch of the Inland Waterways Association on Thursday 27th March 2014. Held at the Community Centre, Milton, Cambridge at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Keith Alderton (Chairman) plus 17 Branch members.

1. Apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Regional Chairman, Richard Collet-Fenson. Apologies for absence were received from Gail and Jonathan Mead and Peter Webb.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th March 2013

The minutes of the 2013 AGM, having been previously circulated as Appendix 3 of the Spring issue of Ouse News, were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Derek Bradley and seconded by Stephen Foote. This was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the AGM on 28th March 2013

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was similarly included in Ouse News in Appendix 4. The Chairman further re-iterated concerns over the continuing reduction of the per-capita allowance from Head Office. There were no questions for the Chairman.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was also printed in Ouse News as Appendix 5. There was nothing to add to these notes. There were no questions for the Secretary.

Ouse News - Appendix 2 cont'd.

6. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's report and accounts were available in Appendix 6 of Ouse News. There was nothing to add to these, although it was noted that the advertising in Ouse News is a useful addition to revenue; but we must be careful not to overload the newsletter with advertisements. There were no questions for the Treasurer.

7. Election of Committee Members.

Carole Alderton, Enid Hodgson, Keith Alderton and John Hodgson were due to retire by rotation after their 3 year term of office. All are eligible for re-election and are willing to continue. A consent form having been received by the Secretary from each of them, it was proposed by Derek Bradley and seconded by Jean Webb that they be re-elected to the Committee. This was agreed unanimously.

8. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.07 pm.

Ouse News - Appendix 3: Chairman's Report 2014-2015

I am pleased to report that the branch committee provided yet another varied programme of meetings and activities throughout the year, although we were not able to attract our usual numbers at some meetings. However, the meetings were of high quality and were much enjoyed by those present.

We kicked-off the year in February with a Fish and Chip Supper and Waterways Themed Quiz, followed in March by the AGM and presentation by the Environment Agency.

In April, we joined the National Chairman and Peterborough Branch for a visit to Horseway Lock and Welches Dam on the Middle Level. This was followed by a presentation outlining the difficulties being experienced getting the through-route re-established for navigation.

Ouse News - Appendix 3 cont'd.

We were much encouraged by the more constructive approach now being taken towards the re-opening of Welches Dam and offered Peterborough Branch our full support. Subsequent to our visit, interested parties have been exploring ways of obtaining capital grants and gaining support of land owners etc. Good progress has been made, but it is still a long term project.

May saw us, once again, at the Reach Fair with the traditional gathering of boats, dinner at the Dykes End pub, branch quiz and barbeque. Branch members manned our stand as usual and involved children in WOW (Wild Over Waterways) activities. We also flew the flag at Ely Aquafest in July and were able to welcome visitors to our stand and inform them about our rivers and the role played by the IWA.

In October we were treated to another illustrated talk by Mike Petty on the History of the Rivers Cam and Great Ouse between Cambridge and Ely. Mike as always provided a multitude of interesting facts and anecdotes relating to our rivers. We look forward to the second part of his talk covering the Great Ouse from Ely to King's Lynn at some time in the future.

The planned talk by River Canal Rescue in November had to be cancelled due to their premises being burnt out as a result of the fire and explosion at the adjoining fireworks warehouse. Fortunately, the RNLi were able to step into the breach and provide a fascinating talk about their organisation's history and present activities.

Our final talk of the season by the Welney Wetland Centre describes 'Welney through the Seasons'. We hope to be able to follow this up with a branch visit next winter to see the arrival of the mass flocks of Whooper and Bewick swans at dusk.

All of these activities make a lot of work for committee members and their spouses and I would like to thank them for their efforts on your behalf. I am pleased to welcome Gail Mead as a new committee member and thank her for 'volunteering'.

Ouse News - Appendix 3 cont'd.

As always, I would like to thank those members who for whatever reason do not attend our meetings, but continue to pay their subscriptions in support of the aims and objectives of the IWA. *Keith Alderton*

Ouse News - Appendix 4: Secretary's Report 2014-15

The branch has had a slightly better year than last year in terms of membership level. We finished the year slightly up with 304 memberships (plus 3) consisting 323 members (plus 8). We must not, however, be complacent as this is still not up to the previous year.

The printing and distribution of the newsletter by Head Office has proved to be successful and gaining the branch some welcome savings in cost. I have received no comments at all from members receiving the e-mail versions of all correspondence and so can assume that it has been well received.

The overall costs of operating the branch has, once again, been off-set by the continuing success of the advertising in "Ouse News." The branch newsletter continues to go from strength to strength. Our editor, Carole Alderton, would, as always, be grateful to receive articles, long or short, from members for inclusion. This spreads the load and introduces more variety.

Talking of our hard working (she tells us!) editor, I will congratulate Carole on behalf of all the branch on recently being awarded the Head Office "Volunteer of the Month" accolade.

The Interchange Arrangements for navigating the River Cam above Bottisham lock between the EA and Cam Conservators has continued with the same level of disappointment amongst boaters. The two navigation authorities are no nearer reaching an agreement than before this new arrangement started. The only good thing is that the surcharge will be reduced to 3% for the licensing year starting on 1st April 2015.

Ouse News - Appendix 4 cont'd.

As before, the IWA, GOBA and others are continuing to try to persuade the two authorities to come to a sensible arrangement that will benefit all parties.

The EA, at one stage, intended to continue to apply the inflation rate plus 2% to their navigation charge. The current year was stated to be the last year that formula would be used when it was introduced. With pressure from the user groups and others this has been abandoned and the increase in the licence for next year will be the September inflation rate i.e. 1.6%.

The transfer of the management of the navigation from the EA to the CRT is no nearer, although it remains Government policy for that to happen. The uncertainty is not good for anyone, but Government moves exceedingly slowly! The performance of the EA remains, alas, poor. As examples, the dredging at Castle Mills lock was eventually completed after many months of lobbying, but as I write it's largely reformed and needs doing again! Other areas further downstream are still required! The replacement of the lock landing stage upstream of Upware lock has been promised (notices issued) and the job abandoned a number of times.

We welcomed Gail Mead onto the committee during the year and she will be elected substantively at the AGM. David Anderson is at the end of his three year term of office and is due for re-election. We have still not been able to recruit a social secretary. The job is not too onerous, after all, there are only four branch meetings a year and one of those is the AGM. If anyone is able and willing to take on this role they will be more than welcome as it will take the extra load from the shoulders of the existing members. Please form an orderly queue!

The branch section of the IWA website is active and I would commend a visit to it. The easiest way is to go to the IWA home page www.waterways.org.uk and follow the links from there to the branch starting with "IWA local" along the top.

I would like to wish everyone a sunny and happy boating season and hope to meet as many of you as possible on our lovely system. *John Hodgson*

Ouse News - Appendix 5

TREASURERS REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2014

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2014

	£		£
Balance at 1 Jan 2014	<u>2,558.46</u>	Current assets:	
		Debtors	0.00
Surplus/(deficit) for year	220.73	Current account	100.00
		Business Premium a/c	2,679.19
		Cash, Sales Officer	0.00
		Less liabilities	
		Creditors	<u>0.00</u>
Balance at 31 December 2014	<u>2,779.19</u>		<u>2,779.19</u>

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subs: Per capita re newsletter	365.53	Newsletter:	
Collections at meetings	131.20	Production	119.84
Branch sales	278.80	Distribution	53.75
Donations:		Guest speakers	90.00
Branch sales of donated goods	0.00	Purchase of Sales stock	116.20
Meeting refreshments	31.00	Rotary Club: Aquafest	0.00
Income from Advertising	300.00	Meeting costs	219.60
		Raffle costs	0.00
		Subscription: EAWA	10.00
Interest received	32.48	Officers expenses (Postage)	13.25
		Stationery	0.85
		HDMI cable for digital projector	9.99
		Branch flag + pole	184.80
		Storage of equipment	100.00
Raffle at Reach BBQ	0.00	IWA Sales reconciliation	0.00
		Excess of income expenditure	<u>220.73</u>
Total Income	<u>1,139.01</u>	Total Payments	<u>1,139.01</u>

Notes:

Enid Hodgson

Treasurer
