MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
LICHFIELD BRANCH
OF THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION
HELD AT MARTIN HEATH HALL, LICHFIELD
ON 20th MARCH 2013

Present:
Mike Moorse (Chairman), Kaye Harrison (Secretary), Barbara Hodgson (Treasurer), Neil Hodgson, Helen Whitehouse, Pete Gurney, Pat Barton, Phil Sharpe, Margaret Beardsmore, 21 other members of the branch and 3 non-members. Clive Henderson (Trustee) in attendance representing V. Welch.

Apologies:
Vaughan Welch Region Chairman, John Stockland.

Minutes of the 2012 AGM:
Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 21st March 2012 were circulated and approved without amendment.
Proposed by: Helen Whitehouse
Seconded by: Denise Bending
Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising:
None

Report of the Branch Chairman:
Please see the report attached to these minutes.

Matters Arising:
None

Treasurers Report for 2012:
Please see the report and the annual accounts attached to these minutes.

Matters Arising:
Question: Which bank pays interest?
Answer: We bank at Barclays and it is paid on the deposit account.

Election of Committee Members:
a) Members completing 3 years in post and eligible for re-election: Barbara Hodgson, Helen Whitehouse, Pat Barton, Philip Sharpe, Margaret Beardsmore all are willing to stand for re-election.
   All 5 were proposed by Heather Blackmore
   Seconded by Bob Williams
   Approved unanimously.

b) Members co-opted since the previous AGM: None

c) Other candidates: None

Items Requested by Members and Notified in Advance:
None
Any Questions:
No questions were asked.

A.O.B.
Pat Barton proposed a vote of thanks to Mike Moorse for his work on the committee and for his last two years as Chairman of the branch. He is resigning from the committee with effect from 3rd April as he is leaving the area.

The meeting closed at 20.05

Note:
After the meeting closed Clive Henderson, in his role as Trustee and representing V. Welch, answered several questions from the members.
Chairman’s report

Since my last Chairman’s report my personal circumstances have changed and I will be standing down as both your Chairman and as a committee member of Lichfield Branch IWA with effect from after this meeting. I will still be actively involved with the IWA and am already heavily committed with Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice and the National Waterways Festival at Cassiobury Park in July. I will however remain as a member of the Lichfield Branch and hope to see you all at some of the future Branch meetings.

Throughout the last year your branch has continued with its monthly programme of public meetings with a varied menu of canal related talks. We have also continued with our monthly walks programme although in the future these may have to be every two months instead of the current monthly event. Our programme of work parties in connection with the Rugeley Regeneration Project continues with various works, major and minor, being carried on in and around Rugeley. The Rugeley Project has been nominated for a Waterways Renaissance award and we have just received notification that the project has now moved to the next stage of the judging for the award. Thanks must go to MB for her commitment and the work she has put into this project. One of our main achievements over the last year was the provision of visitor mooring rings on Brindley Embankment. Currently, another major work party is being held this week to improve the footpath leading to the Bloody Steps. In the current situation where IWA and CRT are now both charities, these works are an excellent example how the two organizations can work together, whilst the IWA can still maintain its independence and pursue its aims.

A few days ago we held our annual jumble sale in conjunction with LHCRT at Penkridge. Once again, we consider that the event was a success as we made a profit of just over £500, not bad for a few hours work on a Saturday morning. The proceeds of the sale have remained pretty constant over the last few years, and, as usual, we shared the profits with LHCRT, and in view of the continued success of the jumble sale we anticipate repeating the event next year, providing LHCRT are willing partners.

Another achievement in the last year is the publication of our own newsletter, Lichfield Lines. After many years of debate over the future of the Region magazine, Navigation, all four branches that form the region, decided that the best course of action would be to have just one Navigation, printed at the beginning of each year, with quarterly newsletters being published by each individual branch for the rest of the year. Our next issue is due out shortly, we are just waiting for the outcome of the AGM so we can report on that and also publish an up to date list of committee members, as these could change at the AGM. We are intending to carry advertisements in the newsletter, to help offset costs and make more money for the branch, these adverts will be priced at £20 for a one page advert per issue. If any of you have anything you wish to advertise we will willingly take your advert and your money.

As for the future, we will be well represented at both the Pelsall Canal festival in June and the Huddlesford Gathering in September. As usual, we are always looking for helpers for these events, and need help to man these stalls, so, don’t be shy, step forward and help us, even if it is only for an hour or two.

Finally, I must thank the other committee members of Lichfield Branch who have supported me so well during my time as first a committee member and then as Chairman. Without their help and guidance I would not have been able to carry out my duties.

If you have any questions, now is the time to ask, I won’t promise I can answer them all but will make a good effort! Now, I’ll hand you over to our treasurer, BH, for her financial report.
Treasurer’s Report

2012 was a good year and we were able to donate £950 to canal restoration funds. The following donations were made

£450 to the Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Restoration
£100 to the Stafford Riverway Link
£250 to the Inglesham Lock Restoration Appeal
£100 to the Shropshire Union Canal Society
£50 to the Stratford/Warwick Waterways Trust

We made a loss on the year of £372.40. Our aim is to keep approximately £2000 in our bank accounts, to cover any unforeseen events, and then anything over is used to provide donations to Canal Trusts or restorations who have sought our help. At the end of the year we had £1969.40 in our bank accounts.

During the year the cost, to the branch, of running our monthly meetings was £279.98. This new venue for meetings has reduced our room hire costs by more than half freeing up more for donations.

I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the raffle, refreshments and your donations.

We received the following donations:-

Our thanks go to Helen Whitehouse, who raised £160 from talks she gave to different groups, Tim Burgin who donated his fee of £25 for a talk he gave, and to the walkers and our work parties who donated £84.78.

The overall proceeds for the year from fundraising events, after all expenses had been deducted, were £240.60, the main contributions being:

£290.00 from the Jumble Sale
£40 from Head Office for recruiting 2 new members
but against this we had entry expenses for Moira of £35 and for a stand at Rugeley Fair £28. We also purchased some magnetic display signs for £26.40

We received £23.72 interest from our bank accounts.

Rugeley Town Council funded the £210 for 2 first aid courses, which are a requirement for the work parties.

The expenses incurred during 2012 were

£105.00 for the printing of the programme cards
£92.22 in total for all officers’ expenses
£169.88 for the printing and posting of the Lichfield Branch Magazine in November. Against this we received £245.63 to cover our costs.

The outlay on the sales stand, run by Helen Whitehouse, was £589.37 but the receipts were £824.32 giving a profit of £234.95. An estimate of the stock held at the end of the year had a retail value of approximately £1124.29. Everyone wins from this. The profits increase our funds for donations to worthy causes, and we can all obtain IWA products without having to pay for postage and packaging.

So in all a successful year and hopefully 2013 will be even better.