

Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Inland Waterways Association, held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at Cookley Village Hall, Cookley, Kidderminster, DY10 3RH.

#### PRESENT

88 members were present, including three members of staff.

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Clive Henderson, national chairman, welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, held at Market Drayton were unanimously agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Helen Elliott-Adams, finance manager, introduced the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2010 and explained that there had been a deficit of income against expenditure during the year. The low level of profits from Inland Waterways Enterprises Ltd and stable position of Essex Waterways Ltd were noted. Trustees were conscious that the continuing deficit was not sustainable for the Association, so levels of expenditure for all areas were under review. The benefits of Gift Aid, legacies and other potential sources of income were highlighted, and members asked to take all opportunities to support the Association. Ian Jackson asked about the possibilities of apportioning VAT reclaims to branch accounts; Helen Elliott-Adams explained that this had been considered by Finance Committee, and a limit set where this would be worthwhile. There were no further questions. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and the Report of the Auditors thereon were unanimously agreed.

#### AUDITORS

The meeting unanimously approved a resolution to reappoint Saffery Champness as auditors to the Association and trustees were authorised to fix their remuneration.

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Clive Henderson introduced trustees present at the meeting. Neil Edwards then explained that two nationally elected trustees were due to retire on completion of their three-year terms of office. They were Doug Beard, who was not standing for re-election, and Ray Carter. Thus there were two vacancies for nationally elected trustees. There were just two nominations: Ray Carter and Gordon Harrower. No ballot had been required, and meeting agreed that Ray Carter and Gordon Harrower were elected as trustees each to serve a three-year term of office.

#### BALLOT FOR REGION CHAIRMEN

Neil Edwards reminded the meeting that nominations had been sought for two region chairmen posts where terms of office had been completed, and one where there was a vacancy. In each case there had been only one nomination,

Paul Roper, chairman of South East Region until the 2014 AGM

Alastair Chambers, chairman of Eastern Region until the 2014 AGM

Paul Strudwick, chairman of London Region until the 2014 AGM

Paul Strudwick's appointment had commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July, there being no existing chairman in office at the time nominations closed.

#### RESOLUTION CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

A special resolution from the board of trustees had been put forward recommending that as from 1<sup>st</sup> January

2012, the subscriptions be amended as follows:

	Annual	Monthly
Ordinary Member (UK)	£30.00	£3.00
Family or Joint Adult Membership (UK)	£37.50	£3.75
Overseas Membership (per single address outside UK)	£65.00	£6.50
Senior Citizen (UK)	£23.00	£2.30
Senior Citizen (UK – two members aged over 65)	£28.00	£2.80
Corporate – Non-profit making bodies	£52.00	£5.20
Corporate – Profit making bodies - up to 20 employees	£57.00	n/a
Corporate – Profit making bodies - more than 20 employees	£114.00	n/a
Single Life Membership (UK)	£600.00	n/a
Joint Life Membership (UK)	£750.00	n/a
Overseas Life Membership (per single address outside UK)	£1,300.00	n/a

Helen Whitehouse raised concern that the subscription rates were becoming too high for some pensioners who had supported the Association over many years. This was supported by Ian Jackson. There were suggestions that trustees might consider reduced life-membership rates for existing long serving members, and for a more radical review of the membership categories. Clive Henderson invited members to write to him with suggestions. Tony Dunning asked whether a junior membership category might be considered. David Stevenson asked for clarification on the initial periods of free membership offered on some recruitment arrangements, which was given.

Clive Henderson asked for a show of hands to approve the special resolution. There was one vote against the resolution, five abstentions and all other votes were in favour of the resolution. The special resolution was therefore approved.

#### CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Clive Henderson gave a presentation covering his third year as national chairman, and the many places and events that he had visited. There was particular mention of national work on political lobbying, especially in respect of the planned changes for British Waterways, the difficult economic climate and the debate on the importance of keeping existing waterways in good condition or keeping ambitious waterway restoration schemes alive. Clive Henderson then announced and presented the following awards:

#### AWARDS

The Cyril Styring Trophy, the Association's most prestigious award, was presented to John Baylis in recognition of his work as chairman of Navigation Committee and East Midlands Region, for his work with WRG, especially at Frankton and Langley Mill, his support for numerous restoration projects and negotiation with navigation authorities and government bodies on a wide range of issues important to the Association.

The John Heap Salver, for fund-raising work, was presented to Colin and Cynthia Greenall.

The Christopher Power Prize for restoration work was awarded John Nuttall, especially for his work on the Chesterfield Canal. A cash prize would be awarded to Chesterfield Canal Trust.

Richard Bird Medals were presented to Roger Hasdell (Northampton Branch), Ron and Mary Heritage (Oxfordshire Branch), Max Sinclair (Droitwich Canal restoration), Brian and Brenda Ward (Lichfield Branch) and Ray Carnell (Guildford & Reading Branch). An award was also made to John Moss (Stoke-on-Trent Branch) who was unable to be present as he was working for the Association elsewhere. Harry Arnold agreed to make the presentation later that weekend.

Clive Henderson then announced the winners of the 2010 branch achievement award as IWA's

Milton Keynes Branch, particular for the branch's many successful clean-ups and restoration work on the Wolverton Mural. There was no one present from the branch, so Clive Henderson said he would visit a branch meeting to make the presentation.

#### THANKS

Clive Henderson thanked members of Birmingham Black Country and Worcestershire Branch and others involved in arrangements for the day's activities, and then closed the meeting.