

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Inland Waterways Association, held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at The Grove School, Market Drayton, TF9 1HF.

#### PRESENT

90 members were present, including two members of staff.

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

David Aylwin, chairman of Shrewsbury District and North Wales Branch, which was hosting the meeting, gave house announcements relating to emergency procedures, etc, and welcomed the Mayor of Market Drayton, Roger Smith, who gave a short address welcoming members to the area, before departing, prior to the formal opening of the meeting. Clive Henderson, national chairman also welcomed those present to the meeting.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from about 40 members (see list at the end).

#### MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was proposed by Vaughan Welch and unanimously agreed.

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Neil Edwards introduced the Association's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009, and drew members' attention to the financial results for the Association and its two trading companies Essex Waterways Ltd and Inland Waterways Enterprises Ltd. The excess of expenditure over income for the charity's General Fund had been masked by gains on listed investments, and it was noted that there would need to be tighter controls on expenditure in the coming years as income was not keeping pace with expenditure. There were no questions from members.

Acceptance of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and the Report of the Auditors thereon was proposed by Gerallt Hughes, seconded by Ivor Caplan and unanimously agreed.

#### AUDITORS

Alan Platt proposed and John Reeve seconded the resolution to reappoint Saffery Champness as auditors to the Association and trustees were authorised to fix their remuneration. This was unanimously approved.

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Neil Edwards announced the result of the ballot for nationally-elected trustees. There being three vacancies during the year, and following two retirements, there were five vacant places for nationally elected trustees. Seven nominations had been received and a postal ballot had been held. 281 votes had been cast [180 by post, 19 by e-mail and 82 via the web site]. Votes were as follows:

Ivor Caplan	249
Gordon Harrower	64
Alasdair Lawrance	188
Jerry Sanders	199
Jim Shead	180

Paul Strudwick 157  
Ian West 212

Those elected were therefore Ivor Caplan, Alasdair Lawrance, Jerry Sanders, Jim Shead and Ian West.

#### BALLOT FOR REGION CHAIRMEN

Neil Edwards reminded the meeting that nominations had been sought for three region chairmen posts where terms of office had been completed. In each case there had been only one nomination, and appointments were therefore:

John Pomfret, chairman of East Midlands Region until the 2013 AGM

Peter Scott, chairman of North East & Yorkshire Region until the 2013 AGM

Chris Birks, chairman of South West Region until the 2012 AGM

Chris Birks appointment had commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, there being no existing chairman in office at the time nominations closed, and his appointment being for the remainder of a three-year term ending at the 2012 AGM.

#### RESOLUTION CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

A resolution from the board of trustees had been put forward recommending that as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, the subscriptions be amended as follows

Ordinary Member (UK)	£28.50
Family or Joint Adult Membership (UK)	£35.50
Overseas Membership (per single address outside UK)	£61.50
Senior Citizen (UK)	£20.50
Senior Citizen (UK – two members aged over 65)	£24.00
Corporate – Non-profit making bodies	£49.00
Corporate – Profit making bodies - up to 20 employees	£54.50
Corporate – Profit making bodies - more than 20 employees	£108.50
Single Life Membership (UK)	£570.00
Joint Life Membership (UK)	£710.00
Overseas Life Membership (per single address outside UK)	£1,230.00

One year's free membership is offered to participants that attend a full week on one of Waterway Recovery Groups' Canal Camps for the first year following attendance at a Camp

Monthly membership rates are set at one twelfth of the annual rate, rounded up to the nearest ten pence, and

The qualifying age for senior citizen membership had risen to 65 in 2007, but that those qualifying from age 60 would continue to do so.

The resolution was proposed by John Pomfret, seconded by Ian West and approved by a large majority, with one vote against and two abstentions.

Clive Henderson reported receipt of a letter from an overseas member, suggesting that a cheaper rate might be made available for overseas pensioners in future if they did not receive printed copies of newsletters, etc, and suggested that such an arrangement might be looked at further.

#### SPECIAL RESOLUTION CONCERNING INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

A special resolution, giving authority to trustees to grant an introductory period of free membership for such classes of person or organisation, not having previously been a member of the Association in the past five years, as trustees may see fit (in addition to those attending WRG's Canal Camps),

for a period not exceeding twelve months, as part of marketing arrangements to increase membership recruitment, had been put forward by trustees. Neil Edwards explained the background to the resolution, which was proposed by Stuart Thurston and seconded by Tim Lewis. The resolution was approved with no votes against and no abstentions.

#### CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Clive Henderson gave a brief resume of his second year as national chairman, and the many places and events that he had visited. He reported that it had been a very busy year, and noted progress on the new web site, a training day for branch and region officers at Stoke-on-Trent, a consultation being held by Brighton University, the prospective end of the regional development agencies, British Waterways' proposals to join the third sector, the invitation to Clive to join British Waterways' board as an observer, the Rolt centenary celebrations, the Inglesham appeal and parliamentary work, including a dinner and a reception for MPs, both held at the House of Commons.

Members were asked if they had any questions or comments for trustees.

Phil Sharpe asked about content on the new web site, particularly Restoration Handbooks. Some content was on the site, but more remained under review and was hoped to be added shortly.

Brian Phillips asked about the SOS 2010 Campaign in the light of Government funding reduction announcements. Clive Henderson explained that campaigning had to be targeted differently so as to maintain public support.

Stephen Broadhead asked why it had taken British Waterways so long to recognise the value of volunteer support. Clive Henderson explained current dialogue with British Waterways, and IWA's lobbying of politicians at the party political conferences as part of the Boating Alliance.

A number of members raised issues about membership recruitment, the importance of which was well understood and accepted. All members were asked to 'do their bit' with appropriate marketing and encouraging new members to join. Members suggested a lack of awareness of IWA and what was being achieved, especially at boatyards and on river navigations.

Clive Henderson explained that the Awards Panel now consisted of three vice presidents invited by trustees to make recommendations from the award nominations received. Audrey Smith and Harry Arnold joined Clive Henderson in announcing and presenting the following awards:

#### AWARDS

The Cyril Styring Trophy, the Association's most prestigious award, was presented to Tony Harrison in recognition of his work as an Honorary Consultant Engineer, as chairman of Restoration Committee, his 15-year term as a trustee and long membership of Finance Committee and the Investment Working Group.

The John Heap Salver, for fund-raising work, was presented to Clive and Jill Field for their enterprising support for the Cotswold Canals restoration over many years, including organising the Saul Junction Festival.

The Christopher Power Prize for restoration work was awarded to both Colin Turner of IWA's Ipswich Branch and the River Gipping Trust, and to Shropshire Union Canal Society. Colin Turner and Terry O'Brien, chairman of the Society, accepted the Prize.

Clive Henderson then announced the winners of the 2010 branch achievement award as IWA's Northampton Branch, particular for the branch's many successful rallies on the Nene, an excellent and well-attended series of public meetings, a first-class newsletter and good presence on the Association's web site. The award was presented to Liz Payne, a former chairman of Northampton Branch.

Harry Arnold presented Richard Bird medals to Denis and Janet Farmer (Shrewsbury District and North Wales Branch), Roy and Lois Parker (Warwickshire Branch) and Ruth Symonds (North Lancs & Cumbria Branch), who were all present to receive their awards. Richard Bird Medals were also announced to Graham Whorton (Birmingham Black Country & Worcestershire Branch), John Ashley (Middlesex Branch) and Michael Essex-Lopresti (North and East London Branch), who were unable to be present.

Clive Henderson thanked members of IWA Shrewsbury District and North Wales Branch for providing an excellent venue, and others for their work, and members for taking the trouble to attend.

### Appendix

Apologies for absence were received from:

Simon Angel	Spencer Greystromg	Chris Skelhorne
John Baylis	Margaret Gwalter	Alison Smedley
Doug and Molly Beard	Helen Henderson	Gillian Smith
John & Helen Bedingfield	Chris Jewell	Michael Snaith
Peter & Gillian Bolt	Peter Kelly	Roger Squires
Steve Burt	James Kennerley	Paul and Janine Strudwick
Ray Carter	David King	Martin Turner
Peter Caswell	Anthony and Anne Martin	Chard Wadley
Helen Elliott-Adams	Beryl McDowell	Graham Whorton
John Evans	Mike Moore	Steve Wood
John Fletcher	David and Angela Payne	Greta and Michael Wright
Jo Gilbertson	Adam and Jane Pilgrim	