



LIST OF ATTENDEES

NAME:

REPRESENTING:

Foxton

Rodney Hardwick
Mary Matts
Ralph & Jenny Sullivan
Clive Rowlands
Peter & Anne Bain
Deborah Sampson
Sarah-Jane Page
Mike Goode
Mark Burges
Brian
David Stevenson
Michael Hadley
Deborah & Steve Allen
Barry Watson
Sue and Dave Milne
Beryl McDowall

Northampton IWA
Foxton Boat Services
AWCC/OCC
AWCC
Rose Narrowboats
Union Wharf Narrowboats
Weltonfield Narrowboats
Debdale Wharf Marina
Lodge Farm and Theddingworth
Lodge Farm and Theddingworth
Foxton IPT and IWA
Foxton IPT and Foxton Locks Partnership
Allen Groundcare Ltd
Debdale Wharf Marina
RBOA
RBOA Chairman

Banbury

Deborah & Steve Allen
B Barnes
Brian & Jenny Saunders
Chris & Tony Crawford
Dick Pilkinton
Ron & Mary Heritage
Martin Jiggins
Dot Zasadzka
David Dare
Simon Angel
Peter Winter
Tim Langer
John Pugh
Keith Miles

Allen Groundcare Ltd
Aylesbury Canal Society
IWA Oxford
IWA
Tring Anglers
IWA Oxford
Historic Narrowboat Owners Club
DDBA/Apsley Marina
IWAC, Oxfordshire Narrowboats
IWA, Warwick
IWA, Chilterns
Crick Marina
TCCC
TCCC

Major Works

Our assets comprise of
Principal Assets 1554, Bridges 630, Locks 202, Reservoirs 14, Pumping Stations 30, Culvert 284,
Waterway Canals 428km

Our major works this financial year comprise

- 25 projects in various stages (07/08)
- Bridges (5) £540k
- Culverts (6) £780k
- Reservoirs (2) £85k
- Towpaths and bank protection (5) £915k
- Culvert Investigations £60k

The total cost is therefore £2.3m which is an average fund per year. As an approximation the £2m per year on our 2000 assets equates to £1000 per asset per year. With an average project price approximating at £100k this means each asset can only be worked on every 100 years.

4 Projects carried out during 2007/08

Rickmansworth	£415k 1.5km of dredging between lock 73 and 79 including lock approaches, 2,750m ³ of contaminated silt removed, duration = 7 weeks
Heyford	South Oxford £413k 5.5km of dredging between Allen's Lock and Northbrook Lock, 11,121m ³ of silt removed, duration = 13 weeks. Project starts beginning of October
Middle Oxford Canal	Spot Dredging £93k (Banbury, Bourton Lock, Cropredy Lock & Claydon lock)
Leighton Buzzard	(Lock and moorings) 52k
TOTAL =	£973k

Oxford Destinations Work

Customer and Safety improvements in Oxford from Jericho Foot Bridge to Hythe Bridge to start in January 2008 for 12 weeks comprise of

- 300m of improved visitor moorings
- New & improved towpath and bridge surfacing
- Improved Elsan disposal facility for Hythe Bridge Moorers
- Vegetation Management Plan
- New signage and interpretation
- Graffiti removal

Project costs = 360k

Engineering Works

These are substantially complete and consist of:

- Re-watering of the Upper Arm, installation of the viewing platform and walkway.
- Restoration of the stop lock.
- Refurbishment of the Lower Basin, installation of timber jetty and floating walkway.
- Installation of the replica swingbridge.
- Completion of 3km. Of access path improvements

Foxton

Foxton Interpretation Works are progressing well. The consultation process and designs are complete. Listed Building and Planning Consents have been submitted. Detailed design is continuing on the installations and narrative content.

Flood Management

July had record rainfall across not only the SE but SW and Midland BW regions. Damage was done to infrastructure and teams were stretched to the maximum.

National formal flood management response system being developed. Based on emergency authorities bronze, silver and gold action and control levels.

SCADA system on mobile phones now being rolled out to all staff involved with water control and alarm system to be updated. Areas that overtop or flood are being recorded onto the GIS system to identify areas at risk. Major works remain to be completed e.g. Braunston Cutting and Grants Lock.

Q. Has BW been given any extra funding to deal with the flood damage?

A. No, but we have put forward figures to government of the costs of the damage to the waterways which is in the region of £10m nationally.

Water Management

Heavy rain and flooding has significantly influenced water management this summer. Winter re-charge of reservoirs will happen quickly. SCADA system continues to be expanded and developed. Education of users in good water conservation practice is still important.

Blue Green Algae is a naturally occurring organism which is influenced by various factors. Tring reservoirs are all within SSSI and under English Nature overall control. The EA have overall say on water control, monitoring and compliance with legislation. BW have a close liaison with EA on occurrences and monitoring of Blue Green Algae. BW have had to put on navigational restrictions where necessary to protect available water supplies.

Q. What is the EA answer on pesticides washing into rivers and canals from the dosing of chemicals for Blue Green Algae control?

A. The EA are having to answer a lot of questions at the moment and this is one of them that has not been answered.

Stoppage Cancellations

A list of cancelled stoppages was distributed and it was felt by the meeting that Trade need to be informed of these cancellations as a matter of urgency in future. BW highlighted that on the Waterscape website there is a box under stoppages that when ticked will send you any changes/additions to the stoppage programme when they occur.

The cancelled stoppages are:

- Berkahmpsted (waterway wall repairs)
- Northampton Arm (replacement gate)
- Foxton GUL (gate repairs)
- Stoke Hammond GU (gate repairs)
- Seabrooks GU (gate repairs)
- Fisheries Lock GU (gate repairs)
- Watford dredging GU

Marina Update

30 Marina applications in. 21 on Grand Union and 9 on the Oxford. Amongst these are Crick and Hayford Fields which will give c180 extra berths and Cosgrove and Gayton with another c92 berths. The 30 applications equate to 5000 berths were they all to be successful.

Q. Do you have an update on the Yelvertoft application?

A. Yelvertoft is being submitted for planning now.

Mooring Tendering Trial

We have 9 berths for inclusion in the tendering process in the South East. The trial is about to start.

Q. The value of moorings depends on the need of the moorer i.e. weekenders versus liveaboards. You could use this opportunity to stop liveaboards by restricting the type of moorers i.e. liveaboards.

A. We will be very clear regarding the approval use of the berth, we will clearly flag what has residential consent and what does not.

Enforcement

New patrol officer started who will cover from Leighton Buzzard to Weedon. His name is George Dickinson.

We have removed 4 boats and 11 other forecast.

Overstaying. During the last 8 weeks 267 overstayers sighted, 86 of these had a ticket warning resulting in 83 moving.

Q. How long does it take to move a boat?

A. Could take up to a year if it's a liveaboard due to human rights issues.

Minimum Safety Standards

A BW audit against defined 'minimum' standards has been completed in the last few months and a programme of works has now been defined for delivery over the next 18 months. The BW safety 'bar' has now been raised. Examples of safety standards are:-

- Bridges numbered both sides. 46% of bridges not numbers on both sides (this includes bridges we do not own)
- Steps and slopes comply with 'Countryside Code'.
- Protrusions in locks dealt with
- Landings (minimum 70ft) at all locks.
- Lock ladders (1 or 2 as appropriate) in every lock

- Bollards at all lock sides/landings.

David Dare raised that a major point of concern for him on the Oxford Canal was the unnecessary replacement of lock bollards. These were removed a number of years ago for 'safety reasons' so why should they now be replaced. They are required in wide locks but not narrow locks. They also, ruin the local character of the canal, waste BW money and pose a trip hazard.

Also discussed was the 'unofficial accesses' to the towpath from, for example, road bridges near to mooring sites. BW replied that these would have been picked up by the audit.

Any other business

- Q. Over the last 2 years vegetation management is decreasing on the Oxford.
- A. We are in the process of gaining better control of veg management on the Oxford.