

East Midlands Regional Development Team

Meeting Minutes



Meeting held on 10th September 2018, 19:00 start

In attendance:-

Colin Broadway (CB), Daniel Lloyd (DL), Kirston Elton (KE), John Stoner (JS), Drew Cartwright (DC), Dean Mackon (DM), Anthony McGrath (AM).

Rosemary Gibson (RG) and Andy Jackson (AJ) from the Grantham Canal Society

Apologies:- Ian Scott, Dawn Scott

Apologies were received from those not in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the advisory of a typ-o by KE regarding John Stoner's name. KE informed the RDT that he had not re-issued the minutes as it was merely a spelling correction on John's name.

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence

CB informed the group that he had had correspondence on clarification on bursaries. As Andy Oughton wasn't present, CB said that little could be done at this meeting. This will be carried forward to the next meeting. There were no further correspondence.

Places to Paddle

There was a presentation from Rosemary Gibson and Andy Jackson of the Grantham Canal Society. CB gave some background that the group is supporting new places to paddle. This started with a brief history of the Grantham Canal.

AJ said that there was already paddling on the Grantham Canal and RG confirmed this stating there was once a group off special needs paddlers.

The Canal was built in the late 1790's and the surroundings of the canal were described. The canal was still working in the First World War but there was virtually no traffic. The main cargo for the canal had been coal going to Grantham. The canal was closed by Act of Parliament in 1936. Canal and River's Trust are only obliged to retain water in the canal for use as irrigation. Locks and weirs are in place currently to retain water in the canal. There are various stretches of the canal that are now in culvert. A further Act of Parliament in 1968 meant that water did not have to be maintained and there was an intention briefly to landfill the canal bed with household waste. The Grantham Canal Society was formed to prevent this.

In 2014, the J Mors Guide to canals included the Grantham Canal. The talk tonight will be about the restoration of the Canal. There is currently 4.5 miles that are navigable. Some bridges were flattened to allow traffic over them. Many of the original bridges were swingbridges. The A1 is high enough for a tunnel to be dug. CB asked if "navigable" means narrow boats or canoe/kayak. The 4.5 miles is for narrowboats.

There used to be a lot of canoeing on the Canal. The canal belongs to Canals and River's Trust. There may be additional stretches of the canal around Hickling that are able to be canoed. It was stated that 18 inches of water are generally needed to be able to paddle a stretch of water. Hickling area on the canal is fairly clear.

Some dredging has been done on the canal for a festival in 2012. The Society bought some C&RT equipment to dredge the canal. Some of the bridges on the canal have been raised for passage underneath already. At Harby, hydraulics have been installed and this may be the answer to the issue of previous swingbridges along the route.

A Lottery Funding application has gone ahead for the remaining 34 locks at the Woolsthorpe Flight. All of the work is currently volunteer-led.

The Nottingham end of the canal is not easy due to lower bridges and building on the route. There were 4 proposals for this end in 2000 including a new cut with 4 locks. The culvert of the Pulsar Brook under the A52 is of navigable height.

Questions were raised about the income likely to be generated from the navigation. Due to the classification of the canal, C&RT are not obliged to maintain it along its 33 mile length. The Society pays C&RT license fee but C&RT doesn't maintain the route.

KE suggested promoting the Pulsar Brook as a canoe trail and paddlers pay a few pounds to paddle it onto the Grantham Canal and Trent. CB asked if it would help if the canal were used more and whether they had contact with British Canoeing. The Society have not done this. The Canal used to have a canoe club on a stretch of the route. There are easy get-ins at Stathern and Harlaxton and a slipway & car park at Denton. There is a tea room and cottage at Stathern. DL asked the frequency of dredging requirements. The navigable section was last done in 2007.

BC said that BC were looking at a canoe trail. This will be looked at for the Grantham Canal.

Chairman's Report

The Chair gave figures for BC membership in the Region of 3113 associated members and 2755 on the water, with 86 young people. There are over 20 clubs. The Chair stated his disappointment at the lack of attendance and interest by clubs in the Region to the RDT meetings, not turning up to these. JS asked what had changed. CB said he didn't know and we have money to spend that clubs could use.

The Chair will write to all clubs asking them to attend the Annual Consultative Meeting. The date for this has not been set yet but it will be in November 2018. The Chair said we need to motivate things in the Region.

The Barrow races are now out and advertised. John Stoner to advise the new club e-mail address.

The Chair went to the BC Chair's meeting recently and BC are providing Terms of Reference for all Committees. These have been agreed for the Chair's with the exception of some minor details. The Chair has recently received the RDT Terms of Reference. JS asked if the formality of Discipline Reps

gone? It was answer not really. The minimum needed is Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary. Also, Waterways Advisor, Safety Officer, Communications Officer, Paddleability Rep.

The BC webpage is nearly ready for RDT. BC are also looking at RDT to do youth and schools, events, trails and tours etc.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected every 2 years with alternating 2 posts each year. There are going to be three meetings of RDT a year plus the Annual Consultative Meeting. The production of the Annual Report ensures the grant is available. The Annual Consultative Meeting cannot be before the 1st November 2018. KE asked about quorum, given current low attendance. CB said that is just an issue for the Annual Consultative Meeting.

Names were also requested for the Volunteer Awards. Some suggestions were made.

KE agreed to send the Barrow Poster out to all with the minutes of this meeting.

CB stated that he will not be standing for election as Chair at the Annual Consultative Meeting this year.

Treasurer

There has been no significant change to the finances. Derby Canal Society was given some money. We could give some to the Grantham Society as was suggestion. There is no guidelines on how to spend it.

KE asked about provision of Provider Bursaries. DC said it is traditionally providers are commercial. Promotions are available for clubs but no one has requested this/these yet. AM asked if some money could be used for their paddles. DL said it is funded on the basis of a third of the total. CB reminded all that the provision of bursaries are the club applies and the RDT pays the club after the paddler has completed the course. Paddleplus will make an application.

KE will e-mail the form to John Stoner for coach applications.

Participation and Membership

The new awards were discussed and it was also stated that BC membership is up 9% nationally and also in the East Midlands. This doesn't take account of 2 clubs putting all members to BC Associate Members. BC member retention is also up.

Touring/More Places to Paddle

The Grantham Canal and trail fits with the BC target for canoe trails. Could we ask for some work to do while they are doing the trail? DL looked at the River Wreake following the last talk by the restoration society. He reported on parking and will do a map and information on this. KE asked if anything had come from request for information on using the Wreake. CB said no. It was asked if we could get pubs to sponsor trails. DL asked if trails leaflets could state buy a drink when using facilities for launching etc.

Club Development

Nothing to report.

Events and Competitions

Hinckley Wharf held a Slalom competition in July with 60 entrants. It was stated as a great day.

There is a National Interclub Competition but there were no East Midlands Teams enter this. CB asked if BC banners were used at any events. The 100 mile test used these.

JS will use these next time. KE will mention these banners to the HPPCC Slalom heads.

The Soar Hasler coming up could use these too, as well as the Barrow Race.

The Nene is the next Slalom competition in the Region. JS said Midland Canoe Club has cancelled their event as low interest. CB will speak to Midland Canoe Club.

KE asked about the previously discussed Newark Lake event. Nothing yet.

There is the upcoming Resolution Race and Christmas and New Year events and Soar Hasler.

Paddleplus reps stated with winter approaching, numbers will be lower.

KE said that HPPCC are hosting the Prem Slalom competition in September. KE also said HPPCC will be doing a 50km test in 2019 on the Witham. It was asked if this could be opened up to the Region.

Regional Coaching Representative Report

The RCR was not present and so there was no report.

Improving Communications

A discussion had been had regarding the opening of a new website and Facebook page. More administrators are needed as communications are important.

Safeguarding

No issues to report

Access

Access was raised about charging on the Wye. There was a discussion on charging access and egress and KE will ask Chris Page can pass on information about Twyford Ferry to John Stoner.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Soar Boat Club and will be the Annual Consultative Meeting on 10th November 2018.

The meeting closed at 22:22.