



# The Horseboating Society

*Equus Tecum*

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2009

SUNDAY, 8 MARCH 2009, 2:00 PM at the National Waterways Museum,  
Ellesmere Port

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mike Baldey, Joseph Boughey, Sheena Bourn, Clare Braine, Martin Clark, Bill Furniss, Lesley Gorski, Glynis Henville, Stephen Rees-Jones, Sheena Keddie, Bryan Lawson, Richard Muir, Jenny Roberts, Chris Smyth, Mike Turpin

23 members were in attendance, as follows:

Derek Armstrong, Di Ascott, Barbara Catford, Ken Catford, Lynnette Crossley, Sue Day, Nigel Dix, Abigail Fletcher, John Fletcher, Kate Fletcher, Bob Jervis, Chloe Fox-Lambert, Barry McGuinness, Ed Mortimer, David R Bowes-Musgrave, Mary Parry, Ann Tomlin, Carolyn Theobold, Ira Theobold, Cath Turpin, Dave Walker, John Yates, Sue Yates

### 2. MINUTES OF THE 2008 AGM AND MATTERS ARISING

Kate Fletcher moved that the minutes be adopted as a true record, Nigel Dix seconded. Carried. There were no matters arising.

### 3. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

#### 3.1 Chairperson – Sue Day

See Appendix 1

There were no questions. The report was received.

#### 3.2 Secretary – Lynnette Crossley

See Appendix 2

Noted that Lynnette was retiring as Secretary but continuing as a Director of the Society. Kate Fletcher proposed a vote of thanks to Lynnette with unanimous support.

#### 3.3 Treasurer – Bob Jervis

See Appendix 3

There were no questions. Ira Theobold proposed that the accounts be formally accepted, seconded by Cath Turpin. Carried.

Sue Day reported that unlike some other Societies, the HBS did not currently have **indemnity insurance** for its Directors and outlined the necessity of taking this out. Ordinary society members cannot be sued, but directors can have their assets seized in the event of a claim. She proposed that the HBS take out indemnity insurance at the best available rate; seconded by Di Ascott. Unanimously agreed.

### **3.4 Membership Officer – Bob Jervis**

See Appendix 4

### **3.5 Jenny Roberts, Committee Member**

Read by Sue Day - See Appendix 5

### **3.6 Rick Muir, Committee Member, Southern Area Representative**

Read by Bob Jervis - See Appendix 6

### **3.7 Stephen Rees Jones, Horse Drawn Passenger Boat Operators**

Sue Day reported that Stephen had been co-opted during the year but had resigned due to pressure of business commitments. He had offered to continue in a non-committee role as liaison between the Society and the operators of horse-drawn passenger craft.

## **4. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Sue Day introduced Barry McGuinness, a new member of the Society who had agreed to stand as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

### **4.1 Directors**

Sue Day reported that of the two Directors, she was due to stand for re-election. Lynnette's term of office was continuing. Proposed by Di Ascott, seconded by Ira Theobold that Sue Day be re-elected as a Director. Carried.

### **4.2 Committee Members**

#### **Secretary**

No nominations had been received and there were none from the floor. Vacant.

#### **Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

Proposed by Sue Day, seconded by Kate Fletcher that Barry McGuinness be appointed. Carried.

#### **Southern Area Representative and Committee Member**

Proposed by Sue Day, seconded by Barbara Catford, that Rick Muir be re-elected. Carried with one abstention.

- 4.3** Sue Day proposed a vote of thanks to Bob Jervis who was retiring from the Committee. Unanimously carried. Sue thanked Bob for having given great service to the Society in his role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Bob thanked his employer Laurence Burt of Kay Chartered Accountants for allowing the Society free use of the office facilities including printing and photocopying.

## **5. EVENTS 2009**

An updated edition of Towlines was tabled. Sue Day noted that it was an ambitious programme and the horseboating journeys were dependent on funding and crew. She was pleased to announce that funding was now in place for some of the journeys and events.

Sue expressed concern that out of the HBS membership only some were active volunteers for boating. 42 members had returned the questionnaire sent out during the winter, indicating that a number were members because they supported the aims of the HBS but were not fit enough for boating, and lack of accommodation was a significant problem for many others. She had recently purchased the horse boat Elland. Like other boats used by the Society, this will not provide much accommodation but it does have a gas cooker and sink installed. She hoped as many members as possible would follow through their interest, and support the society by coming boating as often as possible.

Sue called in particular for crew for the next major trip at the end of April/early May - horseboating Maria from Guidebridge on the Ashton Canal to Huddersfield and return, including the Standedge Canal Tunnel Festival. Sue noted that British Waterways had kindly given permission for HBS members to leg Standedge Tunnel in both directions.

## **6. HORSE-DRAWN PASSENGER BOATS REPORT**

Sue Day reported that Stephen Rees-Jones had arranged for the next national meeting for operators of horsedrawn passenger craft to be held in November 2009 at Newbury. Bywater Hotelboat Cruises were hoping to run a few trials with a horsedrawn hotel boat in 2009. Sue expressed disappointment in the lack of interest shown by HBS members in the cost-price trial runs advertised in Towlines and recent emails. These runs had been cancelled due to lack of support. Some members indicated future interest by a show of hands. Sue urged interested members to contact Bywater Hotelboat Cruises as soon as possible.

## **7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

No items had been sent to the Secretary before the AGM.

## **8. DATE AND VENUE FOR AGM 2010**

A preference was expressed for central location such as Birmingham or Braunston in March 2010 avoiding Mother's Day and the clocks changing. The Committee to decide.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Size of Committee**

Bob Jervis expressed concern that the Committee was down to four members, one of whom could not attend meetings regularly. He and Sue Day urged members to step forward for election, co-option or to take on a non-Committee role to help the Society such as publicity.

There were no volunteers from the floor.

## **9.2 Sweatshirts**

Designs for HBS sweatshirts were presented, featuring the 2 logos used on the HBS letterhead, of a rudder and horseboating scene, at a cost of £20 – £25 each. There was great support for the idea and navy was agreed as the favoured colour for practicality. However there was much debate about the variety of ways of use of the two logos. Several different alternatives were suggested. Sue Day would research further.

## **9.3 HBS Display**

The HBS display featured generous contributions by members of the Society. The toy boat horses, especially Toy Bonny with miniature harness, were a great success at WOW events. Sue Day thanked all the contributors and urged everyone to look at the display and photographs of recent horseboating events.

## **9.4 Harness**

- A new set of boathorse harness had been purchased with the Heritage Lottery Funding. This was a display set for events and demonstrations on the theme of “The Boathorses and Bargehorses of Britain”. The bobbins had been donated from a National Trust craftsman following the Standedge exhibition 2006 then painted recently in red, white, and blue by Mary Parry. The rope work of the traces was by Dave Walker (who also makes the Society’s towlines in cable laid cotton). A spreader bar was being made and donated by David Rawnsley.
- Sue explained that although she had selected a harness maker experienced in canal boat harness, he had made the set too small, proceeding on the basis of an expressed intention to order without awaiting detailed measurements. Sue had asked for it to be remade but he had instead offered to alter it. Sue was concerned that undoing stitching might weaken the harness and spoil its appearance. Others present shared this concern. As the harness was Heritage Lottery funded and was to be used for displays, there was unanimous agreement that the maker should be required to make a new set of harness to the correct measurements. Unfortunately it would not be ready for the first display of “The Boathorses and Bargehorses of Britain” at Peterborough on March 14/15, 2009.

## **9.5 Film**

Derek Armstrong had shown his film of the horse drawn hostel boat Pamela in the 1970s that had been greatly enjoyed by all. A vote of thanks was given.

## **9.6 Sale table**

There were a number of items for sale, including copies of Heavy Horse World magazine with a full-page article on horseboating and the HBS advertisement, which has been running for over a year, inviting horsehandlers to get involved with HBS and horseboating.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm