



www.coraclesociety.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Fagans: National History Museum on Sunday 29th July 2012

PRESENT

Terry Kenny, Dylan Jones, Dave Purvis, Euan Raffel, Margaret Chapman, Brian Pearce, Andy Betteridge and 19 members of the Society

APOLOGIES

Bruce Watson, Martin Fowler and Peter Faulkner

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of last meeting accepted. Proposed by Andy Betteridge. Seconded by Dave Purvis.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

REPORTS

Chairman

As the outgoing Chairman, Terry thanked all the Committee members for their hard over the past year and in particular when he was taken ill. It was a privilege to be the Chairman during the Society's 20th anniversary and firmly believes the Society is growing in strength. Terry remembers the formation of the Society where they had only a collection of panels and hardly any photographs. Interest in coracles can be seen throughout the world and times have changed and curiosity has certainly made a comeback with the Society embracing new technology thanks to Euan. Communication has certainly improved due to modern technology and therefore aiding an ancient craft for the better.

The Shrewsbury Macmillan Challenge race is coming up and due to changing times we now see coracles competing in fibreglass.

Treasurer

£1,000 is in the bank and the Society is pretty healthy. Accounts accepted by Mary and seconded by Jane.

Secretary & Archive

Interest in the Society has come from all parts of the world via letters and emails and in particular from France this year.

2012 saw the passing of David Tew and the Society were indebted to the family in passing his newspaper clippings, photographs and copy of Nets & Coracles to the Society.

Various TV companies and researchers from the BBC have been in touch regarding the history of the coracle. The coracle is still making the news!

Photographs of previous regattas have been stored in the museum's archives.

Membership report

The Society consist of 107 members, 94 individuals and the rest are joint membership. We are still recruiting and should continue to do so. We have lost around 20 members within the last year. 11 new members have come through various coracle courses.

Netsmens' Representative

Raymond Rees remembers the formation of the Society and was more than happy to assist Peter Badge in his fight to protect the coracle from the allegations of the angling fraternity of catching too many fish. The fight is continuing.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: Peter Badge

Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Euan Raffel

Carried

Vice Presidents: John Davies, Irlwyn John, Terry Kenny, Raymond Rees MBE and Bernard Thomas

Proposed Dave Purvis; Seconded Euan Raffel

Carried

Chairman: Dave Purvis

Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Euan Raffel

Carried

Dave Purvis noted that he was only prepared to accept office of Chairman for an interim period due to other commitments. Peter Badge suggested the next Committee look to recruit a Vice Chairman, as a way to look for a suitable, longer term candidate for the office of Chairman. Seconded Terry Kenny and carried.

Treasurer: Euan Raffel

Proposed Dave Purvis; Seconded Dylan Jones

Carried

Secretary: Dylan Jones

Proposed Euan Raffel; Seconded Dave Purvis

Carried

Committee: Andrew Betteridge, Peter Faulkner, Martin Fowler, Brian Pearce, Bruce Watson, Mike Elias, Rod Bowen
Re-elected en bloc
Proposed Terry Kenny; Seconded Peter Badge
Carried

WEBSITE REPORT

Euan reported the email is up and running and we should embrace new technology. Information will be relayed to members through email and also the journal. The website is going from strength to strength and was keen to have Archive in the journal which has been done. This restricted to members only.

Number of visits are down (9,000) but the number of hits on the website is well over 21,000 most from UK but also attracting interest from America, Canada and Australia. Popular questions are how to build a coracle and coracle fishing.

Contact Euan for items of news, publications on journal

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It is 25 years since he met Geraint Jenkins and John Williams-Davies and established the Coracle Society. Glad to be back at St Fagans where it all began. He is pleased still to be involved and thanked Terry for restoring the fortunes of the Society when they were at a low ebb and guide them to a far healthier state. The Society is particularly fortunate in having an excellent website and the Journal in such capable hands. The future looks good.

No progress with Noah's Ark at the moment but it is good to note that Dr Phinkle from the British Museum can read Conuit Script which is 3,700 years old.

A few years ago the Tywi licenses were down to 8 – 12 and wrote a strong letter to the Welsh Assembly. Society will continue to look after the well being of the coracle and if any are under threat then the Society will help out.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Raymond Rees happy in the knowledge that coracles are used universally. Coracles are used as a pastime by many now and plenty of research has been undertaken into the importance of coracles. Pleased his son Malcolm is taking over from him and their family can trace their history back to 1710. Have a look at Facebook – 'Camarthen Coracle and Netsmen Association'.

Special thanks to Karl and Malcolm in clearing the ponds.

Malcolm noted that the relationship between the coracleman and the anglers is much better than it was but it is still a delicate problem!