

# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

## LOUGH ERNE BRANCH

Minutes of Committee Meeting at 1100 hours on Wednesday 04 February 2015 held at the home of Ken and Jane Bell 49 Annareagh Road Richhill Co Armagh

### PRESENT

Ken Bell, Jane Bell, Jim Henning, Mike Kingston, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods

### APOLOGIES

Alan Cousins, just back from overseas holiday; Robert Navan in South Africa

### PROCEEDINGS

Our chairman opened the meeting, and with reference to the minutes for our meeting of 03 December 2014 our secretary went on to confirm by way of direct contact the co-operation between LEYC and LEB. With support and involvement with the Erne Rally this year, it has been agreed with Belturbet Branch that they will match up to 2000 euros what LEB pay out to cover costs.

Jim Henning reminded us of a Lagan Branch event to be held on 11 February 2015. A talk by Paul Loudon-Brown on the Titanic and White Star Line. Frank Woods is to send out a reminder to all LEB members by e-mail.

Reference was made to a proposed LEB event to visit the new Causeway Walk near Whitehead, Co Antrim. It was noted that it is not fully open, and any visit would be best when the weather is good. Frank Woods is to carry out a recce.

Jim Henning recorded that the Lock 3 walk at Christmas was attended by over 70 people.

Another suggested visit is to The Argory and Blackwatertown.

Frank Woods wrote to Bernie re the passing of Austin Gunning, and also to Damien Broomhead regarding the Erne Rally.

Ken and Jane Bell had attended the Belturbet Branch AGM, and it is noted that Allard Beattie and John McElwaine are no longer on the Erne Rally Committee. Frank Woods stated that the IWAI Executive have a responsibility for events held by branches, and therefore plans should be submitted to them for insurance and legal cover.

The IWAI AGM is to be held on 17 April 2015 at Mullingar, and volunteers are required to represent the Branch.

A note has been received from Colin Becker. Waterways Ireland are launching a Heritage and Biodiversity Plan, and nominees are required to attend a meeting with WI. Brian Cassells and Mike Kingston are planning to attend - dates and location to be advised.

Training Sessions are to be organised in connection with the CSIG. Robert Navan is our liaison officer. A plan of action between Robert and Frank Woods is to be sorted. The central contact is Brian Wilson. Mike Kingston is to assist in Lough

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Derg. Operation kits are needed for volunteers. LEB bought one kit - another is needed.

Ken Bell has been advised by Phil Cargill of WI of an area in front of Enniskillen Castle, Broadmeadows, to be closed to navigation from June to September annually. To be a Water Activity Area. This will reduce the usable width of the river, and the Erne Rally Committee may seek to use all the river for a short period. Frank Woods is planning a WI/LEB meeting on 10 or 11 April 2015. (NB - THAT is Good Friday and Saturday ).

John Weir stated that members need to be advised of events and notices long before April. He also reminded that the event in 2014 to Lough Oughter was organised by Freddie Gibson on behalf of LEB.

Ken Bell advised that with the forthcoming Erne Rally it has been decided that each participating boat should receive a memento - a Belleek Pottery piece in the form of a sail. It is proposed that the Rally Committee buy 200 of these at £20 each, of which it would be hoped to sell some. A book of the Erne Rally history is to be produced - and a flyer is to be sent out seeking information of the past rallies. Entry fee for the Rally is to be £40 per boat. Additional charges for the Rally Dinners - two dinners for £35 per head. Sponsorship is being sought for these. Jane Bell proposed that LEB provide £1000 for the Erne Rally Committee, and this was agreed.

Ken and Jane Bell are very keen that LEB members attend the Erne Rally, as a good turn out would be good publicity for the IWAI, and increase interest in boating on Lough Erne.

John Weir stressed the importance of having a harbour master from LEB to assist if LEB boats raft together.

On a proposal from Mike Kingston, Colman Byrne, IWAI Webmaster is to be contacted to set up a web site for the 2015 Erne Rally for advice and information.

Jim Henning advised that he has the Bolinder Engine from Ardnacrusha in his garage, which with the help of Drew Nelson is being prepared for installation in the 'Industry'. Gerry Burke of HBA can assist with spares if required.

Frank Woods has liaised with LEYC and has listed our forthcoming events, which he will circulate.

A notice is forthcoming regarding volunteer manning of the lighter 'Industry'. In charge is Nicola Smith of Lagan Valley Recreational Park. She can be contacted re date and times of volunteer training and instruction.

Frank Woods suggested for the Family Fun Day in 2015 using the Share Centre run by Robert Livingstone. And for the CSIG Charting a meeting with Robert Navan is required on or before 02 March 2015.

Jane Bell stated the Cruise in Company needs organised, and the Derg Trip is proposed for 20 - 26 June 2015.

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John Weir produced the Highland Quaich - a pewter cup of welcome to be filled with appropriate liquid. This was presented to LEB by the Scottish IWA for use at LEB events. John is to get it suitably engraved.

The meeting concluded at 1300 hours.

Next meeting is at 1100 hours on Tuesday 31 March 2015 at 49 Annareagh Road  
Richhill Co Armagh