

## Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2017 in Navigation House, Lisburn.

Present: Ross Millar, Alan Cousins, Frank Woods

Apologies: John Weir, Mike Kingston, Mervyn Rolls

### Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting on 14 January were read and agreed.

### Facebook

Ross gave a presentation on the new Facebook page which he had developed for the Branch. This was warmly endorsed and Ross was congratulated on his work on an initiative which will substantially raise the Branch profile in a way which befits the modern era, and should be particularly attractive for younger people. While he still had some development to do, in the very short time the site had been up there had been 36 likes and almost 100 shared posts, with the interest steadily rising.

### Events

In a follow-up to discussion at the last meeting, Ross outlined progress on the welcome evening at the Carrybridge Hotel on 21 April, which will include a safety talk by RNLI, a lifejacket check for members, and a pub quiz. Non members will be encouraged to attend and perhaps join the Branch.

The visit to Boatyard Gin on 12 May has also been progressed and will involve a tour, gin tasting, some cocktails and a bottle of gin. The charge is still subject to negotiation. On the following day a boat handling competition is proposed, details to be finalised, possibly tapping into the experience of Robert Maitland if agreeable.

### Publicity materials

It was agreed that we should develop leaflets, posters and some further banners for publicity purposes at marinas and other places eg at the Welcome Evening, and

also commission suitable display stands. Other methods of recruitment will also be considered.

### Water Levels

This was discussed briefly, with everyone aware of the history of this perpetual problem. The Branch does lobby Waterways Ireland, but perhaps we could do more to lobby other bodies with a responsibility/interest? It was recognised that the farming lobby has an extremely strong voice which would be very difficult to oppose. It will be interesting to see how matters develop in the South where changes in water abstraction may have harmful effects in reducing water levels in the Shannon.

### Secretary

The still unfilled post of Branch Secretary was discussed, but without conclusion. It was agreed that, while far from ideal, we would continue to operate in an ad hoc fashion for this year while possible options are explored.

### Spring Update

Ross stated that he would do a Spring Update for members which would give him an opportunity to introduce himself as Chairman.

### Next meeting

Date to be arranged, but before the Welcome Evening in April.