

**BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS SOCIETY**

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE**

**2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

# Company limited by guarantee no. 04306537

# Registered Charity no. 1091760

With the continuing uncertainty over the ability to hold an open meeting of members given the restrictions on social meeting we have decided that the best course of action is to hold the meeting using online meeting software ‘Zoom’. We appreciate that this may preclude some taking part but delaying the meeting until we can hold it in the usual manner presents problems for filing returns with the regulatory bodies and in the circumstances we would rather not put off the meeting.

The charity commission have provided for these special arrangements but even so it is hoped that members will understand the exceptional times we are currently in.

The AGM will be held online on Saturday 7th November 2020 at 14.00. The Zoom software allows for a maximum of 50 attendees and restricts the length of the meeting to 30 minutes. We will therefore have to restrict the business of the meeting to that in the agenda. If members have any questions we would appreciate if these are sent in advance to the secretary and that they relate to the Society rather than general questions regarding the canal itself.

The Zoom meeting details are as follows (These will be published on the society website together with any updated information).

Time: Nov 7, 2020 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus04web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F77771458682%3Fpwd%3DYjlBVE92K1YrenM0OGFhN0ZVQ0U5Zz09&amp;data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc68de4dd1b3848fa5c5708d83b89717b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637324808776184753&amp;sdata=vjcQTpyuTpd0SJYB6JuYjg%2BCLb1WzYBdumstnJ3LLdw%3D&amp;reserved=0>

Meeting ID: 777 7145 8682
Passcode: 7aG1XA

**Agenda for the 52nd Annual General Meeting to be held via a Zoom Web Conference.**

**14.00 Saturday 7th November 2020**

### Chairman: Martin O’Keeffe

### Hon Secretary: Michael Smith-Keary

### Hon Treasurer Kath O'Keeffe

1. Apologies for absence.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM. (We will publish the minutes on the society website)

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 2019.

4. Chairman’s Report 2019-20

This has been an unprecedented time for us all, I am sure some of you have been at the frontline during this time and I would like to record both the thanks of the Society as well as my own personal appreciation of all that has been done to keep us safe.

Of course the past year started off with much optimism. We had held our 250th anniversary cruise in November into Birmingham and this and the evening entertainment proved a great success despite a few hiccups on the day. We had a new edition of BCN in Pictures published. Both of these received financial support from CRT for which we are appreciative. The annual BCNS clean up did take place as it came before the lock down and our workboat ‘Phoenix’ was in attendance supported by our work party regulars.

Work was well advanced for the rally at Bradley Workshops. Sadly with the lockdown in March it quickly became apparent that we would not be able to carry on with plans and indeed we had to curtail all activities and when I wrote this at the end of July we have only been able to have some very limited activities tidying up the area around the pumphouse where social distancing rules can be met. Not only was the rally not held but the Challenge was cancelled as were Explorer Cruises and I wish to thank all those who spent their own time in the organisation of these events..

Fortunately we gave been able to remain in contact with members through Boundary Post and social media both on Facebook and via Twitter.

Whilst this has had an adverse effect on Society finances our funds are sufficiently robust to see us through this. I’ll let the treasurer comment further on this.

Thus my report is more about what we haven’t done rather than what we have. The BCNS council is ready to get things re-started as soon as we can. Once lockdown was implemented rather than meet face to face we have held a number of Skype meetings so we could review the current situation and make plans for the future.

My time as Chairman will finish this year and I would like to express my thanks to all the support I’ve received from council and members in fulfilling my role. I wish my successor all the best too!

5. Treasurer’s Report.

The unaudited accounts are attached, we hope to get the accounts audited as soon as possible but these are published now so that members can see the likely financial position.

As has been explained we have had to curtail our activities so we have not benefited from the likely income such as from our May rally, however we have been able to keep our heads above water, we ended this year with an excess of expenditure over income of £30k, however £21k of that was expenditure from the CRT closed fund. Much of the remainder was relating to additional one off expenditure from our refresh of the pumphouse and the flat which had become vacant and needed attention to bring it up to standard before it was relet.

We have still to make the gift aid claim but this is in hand.

So despite the unprecedented times the society has sufficient funds in hand to weather the storm.

6. Acceptance of the Resignation of Council Members.

7. Election of Council Members.

8. The Bob Broomhall Volunteer Award.

9. The President’s Trophy.

10. Any other Business.

11. Close of Meeting.