



Below are the resumes that have been provided by each of the candidates who have applied to become Trustees at the AGM (October 2018).

Candidate: Ralph Barber

I worked for over 35 years in various roles for a major multinational computer company. The most pertinent roles for skills and experience to offer as a Trustee were: Global Directions Manager for Business Continuity Services for numerous projects around the world – all with tight time lines for completion bringing them all in on time and all on budget; running the development of future services involving and liaising with outside third parties; and resolving customer issues.

Outside of paid work I have been involved in several organisations, as a school governor for 12 years – being Chair of the governing body for 5 years. I am currently Vice Chairman of my local Parish Council. With my wife I own a narrow boat. I am also a volunteer skipper for the Pamela May Trust on the Droitwich canals and I am their Training Officer for the volunteer crews as I am a RYA Inland Waterways Instructor.

I was a Trustee for HGCT as well as the Chairman some years back but due to pressure of work and restricted time available I had to resign. Now having taken early retirement I am now free to help the trust.

I would be a good candidate because....

Having been involved as a trustee before I am very aware of the issues that the HGCT face. With this knowledge and due to my career path, I feel more than capable of helping to resolve these issues.

One area of major concern to me is the overall lack of a strategy. Looking forward, working with other trustees to define a documented strategy end to end and to support this with solid agreed projects, leading to the overall restoration of the canal, is something I can greatly assist in. My project management skills gained from running complex projects will be of benefit here.

I feel a strong communication strategy also needs addressing. I can help with this in several ways; support of the management of the website - I support other web sites already; social media - I run several Facebook pages and am a member of many others.

General communication and getting the message out to the various branches of an organization is something I did weekly in my career. We need to ensure that volunteers and members across all areas are listened to, engaged with and to made to feel that they are wanted, useful and they wish to continue to be of benefit to the trust – they want to see the canal become alive again.

As a site leader (Kymin) which I would continue with if I became a member of the Trustees. I have gained further knowledge of the challenges at the ground level. I have also helped on the Trusts sales stalls, attended various boat shows to support the stall or help with transport to the show, assisted at open days and even been on the front cover of the Wharfinger (108) when I supported the National Trail Boat event at Aylestone Park.

Candidate: John Kilpatrick

I have been a member of our canal trust for 10 years and an active volunteer at various restoration sites for 8 years. I have particularly enjoyed acquiring skills in digger and dumper driving and tasks such as repairing a collapsed culvert and excavating a lock. Working with fellow volunteers has been extremely enjoyable and rewarding.

I was co-opted onto the Council of Management in May 2016 and elected at the AGM in July 2016.

I also volunteer for the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust where I have acquired skills in tree, mammal and bird surveying and landscape archaeology.

I have a share in a narrowboat and I have enjoyed boating on the canal system for 25 years.

In my professional career I was a research and extension expert with 35 years' experience specialising in Arable cropping, Renewable energy and Non-food crops research, and the provision of policy advice to the European Parliament, European Commission, UK Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and Scottish Government.

I led many research projects (typically 3-5 year duration and £300K to £4 million value), forming extensive links and working contacts with organisations and institutions throughout the EU and North America. I have made many presentations at conferences, seminars and workshops throughout Europe.

I have extensive experience of providing advice to farmers and growers together with practical hands-on experience of commercial crop production and dairy husbandry on farms in Herefordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hampshire.

I also have various qualifications and proficiency in the operation of all agricultural machinery, welding, fork-lift operation and the use (NPTC) of and professional advice (BASIS) on the application of pesticides and fertilisers (FACTS).

I would be a good candidate because....

As I once said at a Council of Management (CoM) meeting, this should be fun. I became a Trustee in order to improve the interaction between the then CoM and volunteers on the various restoration sites and also to employ my many years' experience of working with landowners. I felt in both cases that my communication and negotiation skills would be useful.

My practical skills will help me understand and appreciate the challenges in delivering a restored section of canal.

My business development experience will enable me to engage successfully with a wide range of stakeholders.

My project management skills will prove useful in helping to develop a robust and realistic Business Plan together with a transparent strategy to achieve the restoration we all desire.

There is a pressing need for improved leadership, accountability, governance, financial reporting and transparency and my project management experience delivering on specification, to deadlines and within budget will be valuable.

Using my communication and negotiation skills I can develop working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. In this regard I work on the basis of mutual trust, respect and consideration. In my professional career I found this resulted in long-lasting, rewarding partnerships of equals. Quite simply and as our strap line says, "working together".

Candidate: Philip Marshall

Chartered Accountant of many years experience in small and medium sized business.
Some experience as a charity trustee.

I would be a good candidate because....

I have long experience of the Canal Trust and have the skills to bring on some much needed financial controls in the Trust