

Chance and Hunt Fleet List

Pete Harrison has produced as complete a fleet list of the Chance and Hunt craft as possible from BCN gauging registers.

Notes on the Chance & Hunt fleet list from Pete Harrison.

The B.C.N. gauge tables are not an entirely safe medium to use when constructing fleet lists, due to the differing ways in which B.C.N. Company toll clerks maintained / updated their gauge registers resulting in a table in one set of registers containing different information to that of another. This fleet list is collated from four individual sets of B.C.N. registers but due to their nature may not be complete.

The Chance and Hunt carrying fleet was made up of: 162 open wooden and 21 open iron boats, 9 open wooden tank boats, 53 wooden cabin boats and 39 wooden cabin tank boats not all of which were registered by the Health Authority. This makes a total of 284 craft.

Their narrow boats described on the B.C.N. registers were a combination of both day and family boats. Most of the long distance boats are named but so are some of the day boats.

From the B.C.N. registers it is usually possible to work out which were day boats and which were family boats by inspecting the section marked "Articles on Board when Weighed" and studying the stowage length. (Although the stowage length can be misleading as it depends upon whether the boat had a fore deck and we assume that a day boat cabin is shorter than a family type boat.)

Details for ELIZABETH (B.C.N. 22284) are 4 beams, rudder, mast, false floor with a stowage length of 55'6. JOLLY ROGER (B.C.N. 22222) details are also 4 beams, rudder, mast, false floor but a stowage length of 55'0. I am unable to confirm whether these two boats are day or family boats as these dimensions are about half way between the common day boat and common family boat. I think it most likely that they are day boats as I am unable to find a health registration for either, although both the Kidderminster and Brierley Hill Health Registers are lost and could have been used by Chance & Hunt Ltd.

I already added to my reconstruction all of the health registrations I have that are linked to Chance & Hunt Ltd. So, barring any boats registered at Kidderminster or Brierley Hill, the remainder must be day boats.

Whilst one of the two dredgers is called Dredger, the other is Mudlark. Private basin owners were responsible for the dredging of their own basin. Many used a contractor to do this work for them but in the case of a large firm such as C&H they used their own boats.

The I.C.I. narrow boats, most of which came from Chance and Hunt, that were acquired by Thomas Clayton (Oldbury) Ltd. are identified in Alan Faulkner's TC(O) fleet list in NarrowBoat, Spring 2006. The Birmingham Health Register which lists the details of the Chance & Hunt Ltd. boats does not record a transfer to Thomas

Clayton (Oldbury) Ltd. and I have been unable to find any re-registration for these boats. It is my opinion that the boats sold in 1949 by I.C.I. became Thomas Clayton (Oldbury) Ltd. "black boats" which were used on local traffic and did not require health registration.

At the end of the day all of the B.C.N. gauge table numbers are listed and those tables can be inspected and interpreted by anybody who has a further interest.

As far as survivors are concerned I am aware of only two. MYRTLE 53 (T.C.(O.) Ltd.'s MONNOW 77) is now paired with UMEA above Cowley Lock, Uxbridge. Another boat named at different times VALENTINE / MERSEY / HERITAGE / CHANCE 2 is claimed to be former Chance & Hunt Ltd. fleet number 2 (B.C.N. 22540 per L. Hogg).

Complete Chance and Hunt Fleet list.

Compiled by Pete Harrison

Gauge Date	Gauge No.	Name of Vessel	Previous Gauge No.	Health Registration Date	Health Registration No.	Boat Type
14/04/1874	BCN 7295					OW
24/11/1874	BCN 8249					OW
28/10/1884	BCN 11564					OI
12/04/1886	BCN 11891					OW - SEE BCN 21648
17/05/1886	BCN 11916					OW - SEE BCN 20460
15/11/1887	BCN 12122					OW - SEE BCN 20147
21/03/1888	BCN 12184					OW
07/05/1888	BCN 12210					OW
25/05/1888	BCN 12216					OW - SEE BCN 20853
20/01/1890	BCN 12637					OW
22/04/1891	BCN 12994					OW
02/10/1891	BCN 13132					OW
02/01/1893	BCN 13438					OW - SEE BCN 22124
10/03/1893	BCN 13479					OW
26/04/1895 *	BCN 14184	15				OW
18/06/1895 *	BCN 14355	VICTORIA 88	BCN 13703	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1083	CW TANK BOAT
20/06/1895 *	BCN 14364	14				OW
20/06/1895 *	BCN 14365	15				OW
21/06/1895 *	BCN 14368	12				OW TANK BOAT
27/06/1895 *	BCN 14388	HENRY 47	BCN 8097			CW TANK BOAT
02/07/1895 *	BCN 14400	JAMES 93	BCN 12726	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1090	CW TANK BOAT
02/07/1895 *	BCN 14401	ARTHUR 53	BCN 7324			CW TANK BOAT
09/07/1895 *	BCN 14416	ROBERT 48	BCN 8196			CW TANK BOAT
11/07/1895 *	BCN 14423	GEORGE 3	BCN 10596			CW TANK BOAT
11/07/1895 *	BCN 14424	FLORENCE 73	BCN 9246	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1087	CW
18/07/1895 *	BCN 14442	CHARLES 1	BCN 10565	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1085	CW TANK BOAT
22/07/1895 *	BCN 14445	13				OW
22/07/1895 *	BCN 14446	4				OW
30/07/1895 *	BCN 14469	JOHN 51	BCN 8621			CW TANK BOAT
13/08/1895 *	BCN 14507	JOSEPH 56	BCN 9908	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1088	CW TANK BOAT
30/10/1895	BCN 14624	66	BCN 8979			OW TANK BOAT
11/11/1895	BCN 14648	81	BCN 12431			OW
25/11/1895	BCN 14688	54				OW
29/11/1895	BCN 14700	62				OW
31/12/1895 *	BCN 14757	WILLIAM 71		04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1082	CW TANK BOAT
09/01/1896	BCN 14780	41				OI

Gauge Date	Gauge No.	Name of Vessel	Previous Gauge No.	Health Registration Date	Health Registration No.	Boat Type
21/01/1896	BCN 14800	64	BCN 7678			OW TANK BOAT
15/06/1896 *	BCN 15128	21				OW
27/07/1896 *	BCN 15224	60	BCN 2056			OW
16/09/1896 *	BCN 15298	KATHLEEN 2				CW - SEE BCN 1219
21/10/1896 *	BCN 15342	68	BCN 5120			OW TANK BOAT
04/11/1896 *	BCN 15371	MACOMB 91		04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1084	CW TANK BOAT
20/11/1896 *	BCN 15391	32				OW
05/01/1897 *	BCN 15439	23				OW TANK BOAT
17/03/1897 *	BCN 15546	82				OW
14/08/1897 *	BCN 15771	40	BCN 11376			OW TANK BOAT
19/08/1897 *	BCN 15776	VENABLES	BCN 11620	05/10/1898	BIRMINGHAM 448	CW
28/08/1897 *	BCN 15791	87	BCN 12683			CW
26/10/1897 *	BCN 15888	4	BCN 5477			OW TANK BOAT
22/12/1897 *	BCN 15984	85	BCN 12646			OW
07/01/1898 *	BCN 15999	VICTORIA 24				CW
04/02/1898 *	BCN 16043	34	BCN 12411			OW
23/08/1898	BCN 16337	SUSAN 6	BCN 9968			CW
07/09/1898	BCN 16363	63	BCN 5481			OW
10/09/1898	BCN 16369	70	BCN 13367			OW
12/09/1898	BCN 16372	83	BCN 13574			OW
26/09/1898	BCN 16396	13	BCN 13218			OW
28/09/1898	BCN 16399	76	BCN 11889			OW
30/09/1898	BCN 16401	44	BCN 11875			OW
30/09/1898	BCN 16402	9	BCN 12362			OW
07/10/1898	BCN 16407	20	BCN 13840			OW - SEE BCN 22098
10/10/1898	BCN 16409	80	BCN 13509			OW
17/10/1898	BCN 16419	78	BCN 13205			OW - SEE BCN 22204
16/11/1898	BCN 16461	67	BCN 4680			OW
12/12/1898	BCN 16500	55				OW
14/12/1898	BCN 16504	16				OW
27/01/1899	BCN 16556	22				OW
08/02/1899	BCN 16568	18	BCN 13835			OW
13/02/1899	BCN 16573	28				OW - SEE BCN 21404
24/03/1899	BCN 16634	29				OW - SEE BCN 22153
16/05/1899	BCN 16714	33				OI
26/06/1899	BCN 16771	27				OW
27/06/1899	BCN 16773	2	BCN 9751			CW
28/09/1899	BCN 16911	50				OI
		DESPATCH		05/01/1900	BIRMINGHAM 991	C? STEAMER
		ALEXANDER		02/03/1900	BIRMINGHAM 1049	C?
31/03/1900	BCN 17141	ALEXANDER 57		04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1086	CW TANK BOAT
23/04/1900	BCN 17176					OW
25/04/1900	BCN 17180	16				OW
04/05/1900	BCN 17198	EDWIN JAMES 23				CW
14/05/1900	BCN 17220	9				OW
11/06/1900	BCN 17248	14				OW
15/06/1900	BCN 17257	ALKALI				CW
15/06/1900	BCN 17258					CW
20/08/1900	BCN 17356	2				OW
20/08/1900	BCN 17358	23				OW
27/08/1900	BCN 17373	18				OW
28/08/1900	BCN 17376	17				OW
29/08/1900	BCN 17378	86	BCN 12433			OW
22/10/1900	BCN 17490	WILLIAM				CW
06/11/1900	BCN 17513	FREDA 69		05/10/1900	BIRMINGHAM 1061	CW TANK BOAT
30/11/1900	BCN 17541	19.0 W				CW
16/02/1901	BCN 17606	JOHN WILLIAM 74	BCN 11246	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1091	CW
26/02/1901	BCN 17621	EMILY 83				CW

Gauge Date	Gauge No.	Name of Vessel	Previous Gauge No.	Health Registration Date	Health Registration No.	Boat Type
05/04/1901	BCN 17674	33				CW
31/08/1901	BCN 17879	JUMBO 41		31/08/1901	BIRMINGHAM 1070	CW TANK BOAT
14/09/1901	BCN 17897		BCN 1707			OI
21/09/1901	BCN 17911	59	BCN 1805			OW
04/12/1901	BCN 18000	49	BCN 13399			OW TANK BOAT
04/12/1901	BCN 18004	61	BCN 1980			OW
23/01/1902	BCN 18033	42				CW
25/04/1902	BCN 18153	1 W				CW
26/05/1902	BCN 18182	38				OW
30/05/1902	BCN 18192	4				OW TANK BOAT
31/05/1902	BCN 18194	6				OW
02/06/1902	BCN 18198	43				OW
03/06/1902	BCN 18201	50				OW
14/06/1902 *	BCN 18223	157				CW
11/09/1902	BCN 18298	44				OW
17/11/1902	BCN 18378	MURIEL 52		24/10/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1100	CW TANK BOAT
31/01/1903	BCN 18457	MYRTLE 53		19/12/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1104	CW TANK BOAT
21/02/1903 *	BCN 18482	LITTLE KATIE 156				CW
30/07/1903	BCN 18708	KATHLEEN 2		26/06/1903	BIRMINGHAM 1112	CW TANK BOAT
09/09/1903	BCN 18752		BCN 13347			OI
25/11/1903	BCN 18862	11	BCN 13675			OW
15/12/1903	BCN 18911	LUCY 47		13/11/1903	BIRMINGHAM 1116	CW TANK BOAT
03/09/1904	BCN 19002	89	BCN 12689			OW
12/02/1904	BCN 19037	21	BCN 12900			OW
15/02/1904	BCN 19039	22				OW
17/02/1904	BCN 19050	10 W	BCN 13663			OW
22/02/1904	BCN 19064	20	BCN 12379			OW
25/05/1904	BCN 19271		BCN 11518			OI
10/08/1904	BCN 19362	10	BCN 12143			OW
11/08/1904	BCN 19364	KENNETH 5	BCN 10630	04/04/1902	BIRMINGHAM 1089	CW
17/08/1904	BCN 19373	25	BCN 13409			OW
29/08/1904	BCN 19396		BCN 10720			CW
08/10/1904	BCN 19474	E P I 12		30/09/1904	BIRMINGHAM 1141	CW TANK BOAT
07/12/1904	BCN 19543					CW
18/01/1905 *	BCN 19595	13	BCN 13289			OW
18/03/1905	BCN 19676	ROBERT 63		17/02/1905	BIRMINGHAM 1147	CW
20/03/1905	BCN 19677	GEORGE 64				CW
25/03/1905	BCN 19683	JOHN 65				CW
25/03/1905	BCN 19684	3				OW
07/04/1905	BCN 19703	46				OW
07/04/1905	BCN 19704	56				OW
17/04/1905	BCN 19714	48				OW - SEE BCN 1598
05/05/1905		FREDERICK		05/05/1905	BIRMINGHAM 1151	C?
19/06/1905	BCN 19780	51				OW
20/06/1905	BCN 19781	58				OW
14/11/1905 *	BCN 19891	LIZZIE 90				CW
27/11/1905	BCN 19900	CHARLES 1		10/11/1905	BIRMINGHAM 1161	CW TANK BOAT
02/01/1906	BCN 19932	60				OW
13/01/1906	BCN 19944	61				OW
29/01/1906	BCN 19959	VICTORIA 88		05/01/1906	BIRMINGHAM 1162	CW TANK BOAT
05/02/1906	BCN 19968	75				CW TANK BOAT
15/03/1906	BCN 20001	73				OW
03/04/1906	BCN 20011	72				OW
08/05/1906	BCN 20038	67				OW - SEE BCN 22216
21/05/1906	BCN 20047	94				OI
25/06/1906	BCN 13952	68				OW
14/07/1906	BCN 13967	KENNETH 5		22/06/1906	BIRMINGHAM 1175	CW
20/07/1906	BCN 13974	79				OW

Gauge Date	Gauge No.	Name of Vessel	Previous Gauge No.	Health Registration Date	Health Registration No.	Boat Type
03/09/1906	BCN 20065	FLORENCE 35				CW
27/10/1906	BCN 20095	6				OW
13/11/1906	BCN 20101	2				OW
28/11/1906	BCN 20109	SUSAN 74		28/09/1906	BIRMINGHAM 1182	CW TANK BOAT
14/01/1907	BCN 20132	HENRY 76		30/11/1906	BIRMINGHAM 1183	CW TANK BOAT
15/01/1907	BCN 20133	20				OW
16/01/1907	BCN 20134	95				OI
14/02/1907	BCN 20147	7	BCN 12122			OW
31/05/1907	BCN 20231	31				OW
01/06/1907	BCN 20232	DONOVAN 30		01/03/1907	BIRMINGHAM 1187	CW TANK BOAT
12/07/1907	BCN 20264		BCN 10521			CW TANK BOAT
23/07/1907	BCN 20274	36				OW
30/08/1907	BCN 20322	9				OW
17/12/1907	BCN 20451	39				OW
01/01/1908	BCN 20460	19	BCN 11916			OW
31/01/1908	BCN 20479	DOROTHY 57		17/01/1908	BIRMINGHAM 1194	CW TANK BOAT
11/02/1908	BCN 20501	BRITANIA 66		17/01/1908	BIRMINGHAM 1195	CW TANK BOAT
29/02/1908 *	BCN 20513	ELSIE 150				CW
03/04/1908	BCN 20562	JAMES 92		07/02/1908	BIRMINGHAM 1196	CW TANK BOAT
12/05/1908	BCN 20595	93				OW
19/04/1909	BCN 20853	11	BCN 12216			OW
01/05/1909	BCN 20868	37				OW
11/06/1909	BCN 20899	96				OW
11/08/1909	BCN 20939	163				OI
13/10/1909 *	BCN 20966	ALEXANDER 153		14/04/1927	BIRMINGHAM 1498	CW
01/06/1910	BCN 21076	23				OW
06/06/1910	BCN 21083	MAJOR 97		01/04/1910	BIRMINGHAM 1218	CW TANK BOAT
07/01/1911	BCN 21213					OI
23/08/1911 *	BCN 21359	MARY 151				CW
25/09/1911	BCN 21375	CWMBRAN 81		28/07/1911	BIRMINGHAM 1241	CW
05/10/1911	BCN 21382	26	BCN 15209			OW
13/11/1911	BCN 21404	28	BCN 16573			OW
25/11/1911 *	BCN 21410	GLADYS 148				CW
16/03/1912 *	BCN 21473	146				CW
21/03/1912 *	BCN 21479	ERNEST 149				CW
07/06/1912 *	BCN 21529	147				CW
01/07/1912	BCN 21549	PEGGY B J S 7				OW
17/08/1912 *	BCN 21600	GEORGE 145		05/10/1928	BIRMINGHAM 1513	OW
28/08/1912	BCN 21606	98				OW
18/10/1912	BCN 21647	84				OW
22/10/1912	BCN 21648	77	BCN 11891			OW
23/10/1912	BCN 21649	89				OW
10/01/1913	BCN 21693	113				OW
25/01/1913	BCN 21699	MONA 114				OW
25/02/1913	BCN 21717	MAXWELL 100		20/12/1912	BIRMINGHAM 1277	CW
19/07/1913	BCN 21833	99				OW
23/02/1914	BCN 22009	119				OW
24/02/1914	BCN 22010	115				OW
24/04/1914	BCN 22072	116				OW
27/04/1914	BCN 22074	117				OW
14/05/1914	BCN 22083	118				OW
27/05/1914	BCN 22098	20	BCN 16407			OW - SEE BCN 1590
05/06/1914	BCN 22101	16				OW
06/06/1914	BCN 22102	80				OW
13/06/1914	BCN 22111	120				OW
26/06/1914	BCN 22124	8	BCN 13438			OW
11/07/1914	BCN 22137	24				OW
30/07/1914	BCN 22153	29	BCN 16634			OW

Gauge Date	Gauge No.	Name of Vessel	Previous Gauge No.	Health Registration Date	Health Registration No.	Boat Type
05/10/1914	BCN 22195	25				OW - SEE BCN 1563
16/10/1914	BCN 22204	78	BCN 16419			OW
28/10/1914	BCN 22216	67	BCN 20038			OW
05/11/1914	BCN 22221	104				OI
06/11/1914	BCN 22222	JOLLY ROGER				CW
20/11/1914	BCN 22235	121				OW
23/11/1914	BCN 22237	55				OW
24/11/1914	BCN 22238	9				OW
30/11/1914	BCN 22242					OI
15/03/1915	BCN 22284	ELIZABETH				CW
16/04/1915	BCN 22301	122				OW
17/04/1915	BCN 22302	123				OW
19/04/1915	BCN 22304	126				OW
20/04/1915	BCN 22308	128				OW
30/04/1915	BCN 22311	131				OW
05/05/1915 *	BCN 22313	152				CW
10/05/1915	BCN 22317	LAWRENCE 130				OW
18/06/1915	BCN 22335	138				OW
26/07/1915	BCN 22352					OI
23/08/1915	BCN 22366	139				OW
01/09/1915	BCN 22374	144				OW
03/09/1915	BCN 22375	61				OW
06/09/1915	BCN 22377	129				OW
20/09/1915	BCN 22383	124				OW
20/09/1915	BCN 22386	127				OW
24/09/1915	BCN 22389	135				OW
08/10/1915	BCN 22400	136				OW
13/10/1915	BCN 22401	133				OW
05/01/1916	BCN 22429	142				OW
05/01/1916	BCN 22430	5				CW
14/01/1916	BCN 22432	AGNES 137				OW
31/01/1916	BCN 22441	134				OW
09/02/1916	BCN 22448	141				OW
23/02/1916	BCN 22456	132				OW - SEE BCN 1625
07/04/1916	BCN 22476	140				OW
26/04/1916	BCN 22487	IRUS 155				OW
08/05/1916	BCN 22494	143				OW
12/05/1916	BCN 22497	6				OW
29/05/1916	BCN 22506	163				OW
01/06/1916	BCN 22509	154				OW
06/06/1916	BCN 22513	GAMBIA 165				OW
07/06/1916	BCN 22516	160				OW
09/06/1916	BCN 22517	159				OW
09/06/1916	BCN 22518	162				OW
14/06/1916	BCN 22521	161				OW
27/06/1916	BCN 22527	164				OW
12/07/1916	BCN 22535	1				CW
22/07/1916	BCN 22540	2				CW
25/07/1916	BCN 22543	12				CW
27/07/1916	BCN 22545	7				CW
05/08/1916	BCN 22550	3				CW
08/08/1916	BCN 22551	6				CW
25/08/1916	BCN 22561	101				OI - SEE BCN 1640
15/03/1917	BCN 22629	7				OW
26/03/1917	BCN 22637	ELSIE 173		29/09/1916	BIRMINGHAM 1352	CW TANK BOAT
11/05/1917	BCN 22664	MACOMB 91		16/03/1917	BIRMINGHAM 1358	CW TANK BOAT
07/07/1917	BCN 22733	AILEEN 156		29/09/1916	BIRMINGHAM 1351	CW TANK BOAT
25/07/1917	BCN 22742	11				CW

Gauge Date	Gauge No.	Name of Vessel	Previous Gauge No.	Health Registration Date	Health Registration No.	Boat Type
25/07/1917	BCN 22743	8				CW
30/07/1917	BCN 22746	4				CW
10/12/1917	BCN 22795	34				OW
07/01/1918	BCN 22799	ODIN 45				OW
20/03/1918	BCN 22818	4				OW
10/04/1918	BCN 22826	DREDGER 1				CW DREDGER
08/05/1918	BCN 22854					OI
29/08/1918	BCN 22939	MUDLARK 1				CW DREDGER
11/10/1918	BCN 22957					OI
22/11/1918	BCN 22969					OW
09/12/1918	BCN 22974					OI
07/05/1919 *	BCN 23015	173				OW
10/11/1920	BCN 23299	27				OW
18/12/1922	BCN 528	LUCY 47	BCN 18911			CW TANK BOAT
01/10/1924	BCN 926	FORTRESS 4		04/07/1924	BIRMINGHAM 1467	CW TANK BOAT
01/12/1924	BCN 973					OI
29/12/1924	BCN 985	CRESCENT 8		17/10/1924	BIRMINGHAM 1468	CW TANK BOAT
22/06/1925	BCN 1060	HILDA 10		02/04/1925	BIRMINGHAM 1478	CW
		HECTOR		30/04/1926	BIRMINGHAM 1486	W TUG (built 1916)
		STENTOR		30/04/1926	BIRMINGHAM 1487	W TUG (built 1919)
16/11/1926	BCN 1219	KATHLEEN	BCN 15298			CW
25/03/1927	BCN 1274					OI
10/02/1928	BCN 1375	FRANK 13		16/12/1927	BIRMINGHAM 1499	CW TANK BOAT
10/05/1928	BCN 1395	RONALD 14		03/02/1928	BIRMINGHAM 1500	CW TANK BOAT
24/02/1930	BCN 1563	25	BCN 22195			OW
08/04/1930	BCN 1583	90	BCN 19891			CW
25/04/1930	BCN 1590	20	BCN 22098			OW
12/05/1930	BCN 1598	48	BCN 19714			OW
24/07/1930	BCN 1625	132	BCN 22456			OW
07/10/1930	BCN 1640		BCN 22561			OI
11/09/1931	BCN 1693	MYRTLE 53	BCN 18457			CW TANK BOAT

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Boat Types:-

OW = Open Wood day boat.

CW = Cabin Wood boat (family boat or day boat).

OI = Open Iron day Boat.

TANK BOAT = a boat fitted with a decked over hold creating an enclosed tank or a boat with removable tanks (when gauged).

DREDGER = a boat fitted with full dredging equipment.

C? = cabin boat of unknown construction material

Several boats had cabins as well as temporary tanks added and removed throughout their working life.

B.C.N. gauge table date anomalies:-

* after date = date refers to original owner / operator and the boat name and fleet number often remains unchanged

BCN 12122 sometimes incorrectly dated 05/11/1887

BCN 12216 usually incorrectly dated 25/08/1888

BCN 13438 sometimes incorrectly dated 21/01/1893

BCN 18911 sometimes incorrectly dated 13/12/1903

BCN 22401 sometimes incorrectly dated 03/10/1915