

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 6th November 2024

The meeting was attended by 18 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- Throttle.
There has been a complete throttle failure in the course of performing some manoeuvres, accompanied by a smell of burning from behind the control panel, rendering the boat inoperable. There is no apparent damage to the motor. Automarine have been called and are due in today to fix the problem. Concern was expressed that Saturday's trip to Hanbury might have to be cancelled.
Subsequently, Ortomarine attended and found that a cable had started to melt in the wiring beneath the control panel, causing a main fuse to blow. The fuse and cable have been replaced and the boat is now fully functioning, meaning the Hanbury trip on Saturday can go ahead.
This explains why we have been noticing a smell of burning and light smoke coming from the control panel. The loss of power we have been experiencing is also related to this issue. There is speculation as to how this occurred in the first place, but it would now appear to be a poor connection.
- Toilet.
Another incidence of the toilet mechanism sticking open, emptying the freshwater tank. This is generally caused by tissue sticking in the flap, preventing closure. Crew are reminded to regularly check for this possibility and ensure that passengers are suitably briefed.
- Gas Bottles.
There have been times when both bottles have been left open. The bottle not in use should always be closed off as a precaution against leakage. The regulator switch is not in itself a reliable means of shutting off the gas supply.

Membership

Member numbers are progressing but awaiting information on longstanding patrons. Non-participating supporters will be invited to join as members. Active non-crew volunteers have been contacted. There was a gentle reminder that subscriptions paid by standing order should be updated to the new rate of £15.

Training

Training has officially finished for this year but will restart in the spring. In-house training videos are progressing and several are now available through the Volunteers page on the website.

Bookings

Coastal Cruising, having been on a trip to Hawford with fish and chips, have enquired about a trip to Astwood locks with fish and chips at the marina, return by 6.00pm.
Carol trips are being booked, currently 2 or 3 spare days. Mince pies are in preparation.

Santa trip enquiries are steady but slow, most popular around lunch time slots. Steve has produced the manning list; all positions are covered but extra helpers on the day are always welcome. Volunteers will be needed on Friday 13th December @2.00pm to load the boat.

Crewing

Awaiting boat availability so there might be last-minute requests for crew. There are vacancies for some carol trips. Existing carol sheets and music will be used as the songs are in the correct order. Bluetooth speaker to be paired with the tablet.

Meeting Date

An email circulated about suggestions for alternative dates attracted only a small response with no significant preference for Saturdays. It was felt that the meeting should remain on Wednesdays, but noted that the yard was open on Sunday mornings for the maintenance team to which other volunteers are also welcome.

Environmental

- Reeds.
Reed cutting has finished for the season and the boats have been removed. There appears to be a variance between what the contractor deems necessary and what CRT are prepared to authorize. Paul has produced a report on the overgrown state of the reeds, illustrated with photos and actual comments from user groups. Margaret has been tasked with bringing the report to the attention of CRT's Chief Executive Officer urgently.
- PM reserve.
Action is needed to clear and tidy pathways on the reserve. It was felt that despite some hesitance from CRT we should go ahead with the maintenance. It might be possible to loan some cutting equipment.
- Our mowers and cutters are in need of servicing; a supplier will be contacted.

Metal Storage Container

The mechanism on the container has been lubricated and is now much easier to open. After this meeting, a work party will sort through and tidy the space, while locating items for use over the Christmas period. Lynda already has bunting and lights.

AOB

- A skip will be needed to properly clear out the container
- The yard lease has been signed for another 5 years at a nominal £1 pa.
- An invitation has been received to participate in the Rick Mayall Comedy Festival. This is likely to be a major, star-studded event for the town. Although enthusiastic, it was felt that it might be difficult to involve the Pamela May given the scope of events and timings.
- The report on the reeds is to be distributed to the whole group.
- Re-emphasising the need to better involve new volunteers with alternatives to the Wednesday meeting.
- Query about what system is in place for issuing PM 'uniform' to newly qualified crew. Margaret to contact Sarah for the procurement details.