

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 5th November 2025

The meeting was attended by 15 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- Power loss problems are still evident and if anything have got worse. The first sign is the 'hunting' effect and tends to occur with sustained running such as on trips to Salwarpe and Ladywood. Although there has never been a total failure, the control system goes into 'limp' mode with tickover power. Switching the inverter off does not appear to make any difference. The remedy is to turn off the deadman and ignition then re-start, ensuring that the throttle is in the neutral position. Paul or Keith can be contacted in case of emergency. Alternative routes were discussed, but locks and tunnels are not always an option for passengers and extra crew are needed.
Low water levels can sometimes cause reduced speed.
Andy and Keith are due to meet with Ortomarine this afternoon.
- Tablet instructions have been revamped and a copy is in the main folder. Carols are now in the same order as on the printed sheets. Personal phones and Ipads can also be used.
- Completed Accident Forms are now stored in the portacabin. Please send a photo of any new forms to Mike G.
- Reminder to skippers and crew to complete the shut-down procedure thoroughly. Items such as ignition key removal, locking front door, and securing cratch cover have been missed on occasion. Crew are recommended to watch Paul's 'Tying Up At The Yard' video. Skippers are encouraged to double-check that everything has been done before leaving the boat.
- Maintenance. The boat is due to come out of the water on Friday 13th March next year for blacking. There will also be opportunity to check anodes and refresh paintwork.

Container

The Planning application has been resubmitted in a format which is now acceptable to the planning committee. Timescale to process the application is unknown.

Training

New volunteers have joined the group. Training has re-started for CCBM accreditation. More trainers are needed.

Bookings

- Santa trips. Helpers should meet at 1.00pm on Monday 28th November to decorate the boat and at 2.30pm on Friday 5th December to erect the gazebo. Crews to be at the yard for 9.15am for the trips. Maps have been sent out showing the boarding point location and a temporary sign can be placed at the top of the path.

- Carol trips. Eleven trips have been booked out of seventeen, but reminders will not be sent out while power loss problems persist. Trips will be cancelled if the weather is icy. An alternative route could be a round trip keeping close to Vines Park; choice of route as always is at the skipper's discretion.

Environment

Margaret and James met with CRT. It was recognised that the Pamela May reserve needed attention and a work party was to be arranged. It was preferred to work in partnership with CRT rather than as volunteers. We have a general go-ahead to look after the site but mechanical devices are not to be used without the relevant training.

Rik Mayall Week

We have been contacted by the organisers about being involved in next year's event. The boat will be made available from 4.00pm to 8.00pm over two days, probably Tuesday and Thursday. The event will run from 29th May to 6th June.

Social

Millfield Social Club has been booked for a members' social evening on Friday 6th February, with a choice of hot or cold buffet. Members will be contacted to determine numbers.

AOB

- Membership. For those joining late in the year, subscriptions will carry over to the following year.
- We have received an update on the activities of the original Pamela May. This has been forwarded to Margaret.
- The reed situation is getting steadily worse and there is a big risk of losing the Barge canal. Apart from the lack of a view for passengers, it would be impossible to get the boat to the bank in an emergency. Margaret is to write urgently to CRT on behalf of the trust.
- A spare 3-draw filing cabinet has been offered to the trust.
- Reminder to skippers that triplog entries should be complete and unambiguous.
- At this time of year the boat should be plugged in after every trip. Turning the heater on before the trip while the boat is still charging will allow the boat to warm up using mains electricity.