Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 4th November 2026

The meeting was attended by 22 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- Solar panels and deadman are now due to be fitted in November.
- Security. Crews should be aware that some bolts are not aligning allowing the doors to come open.
- Reminder that for closing down, when charging the boat leave the inverter switched on.
- The defect book system is working well, but Keith and John should be contacted directly by email if urgent attention is needed.

Storage

The old shed contents have been transferred to the new container and the shed has been demolished. The base will be re-laid and a new shed ordered. Contents of the grey container will be moved into the new shed.

Fundraising

The Waitrose charity bin has generated a donation of £1500. The money will be used to fund an expected five or six free trips for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and should be ring fenced with records kept. The trustees will decide the qualifying criteria.

First Aid

A first aid course was run last week. It was felt that overall the course was useful, but that some of the time would better be spent on items relevant to our local situation. Risk assessments can be found on our website. Document creators are reminded that these should regularly be reviewed, and updated where necessary.

Membership

Several new members have recently joined the group. The membership application form on the website can now be completed online.

Training

Emphasis is on (1) Safety, (2) Working to CCBM standards and (3) CCBM 5 year accreditation, moving from a 2½ day course to compulsory pre-season refresher courses to set the standard and retain skills. The aim is to make re-certification as painless as possible. Assessment will be ongoing with crew activity logs to cover all trips. The expectation is for crew to complete at least 6 trips a year with a minimum of 2 through locks. The new programme starts in March and will count towards re-certification. Items such as the quiz will be replaced by boat handling. Currently in our group there is one qualified assessor, four trainers and three skipper/coaches.

Manoeuvre of the month is the Man Overboard procedure revisited. As there is no deadman, the ignition key should be turned off immediately then removed completely if the motor is not needed for manoeuvring or when deploying the rope step.

Bookings

The next trip is the last standard booking of the season.

Carol trips start from November 30th and so far are mainly repeat customers. No trips start after 12.00 so as to be back by 2.00pm.

Santa trips have 140 booked out of 210 places. More adults are booked than children. All enquiries have been made through the website. The 12.30 slots have been kept clear to give the crew a break.

Crewing

Trips are fully crewed up to the end of November. December trips needing crew are shown in yellow on Dropbox. Responses to Jim should always be emailed.

Santa Trips

The schedule was distributed. Starting at 10.00am on the 12th and 13th. Non-crew can go straight to bridge 17 but let Steve know if you are going to the yard. On Friday 11th at 2.00pm meet at the yard to load the boat and build the grotto. Remove the grotto on Sunday. Christmas decorations can stay until January. Helm and bridge duties will be rotated and the last trip is at 2.30pm. Extra help on the day is always welcome. Contingencies for extreme weather will be discussed before the event. Contact Steve with any issues on the day.

Rik Mayall

The boat will be made available again next year. Performers from this year's event donated £110 to DWT.

Environment

Coppicing needs to be done, requiring more than hand tools. Contact CRT about the use of power tools.

Social Event

To be organised, possibly in March at the same venue as last time.

AOB

- Interest was expressed in having an away day coach trip if a suitable venue could be found.
- Environmental health hygiene inspector to be contacted as an inspection is now due. Refer to the steering group.
- CRT to be contacted regarding the overhanging trees on the Salwarpe route.
- Emma is now replenishing stores.

- 2027 booking sheet is now live on Dropbox.
- Wychavon are pressing us to remove the grey container as per the new lease agreement. Also to remove the rubbish but they have been informed that this is not ours. The lease allows us to park cars on the remainder of the site for the purpose of meetings and boat trips.