

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 2nd April 2025

The meeting was attended by 14 of our volunteers.

Festivals

We are still considering loading at Waitrose Bridge during festivals. Our maintenance team are looking at the possibility of removing one of the drop-down ramps and using Ortomarine's original ramp to load wheelchairs.

Easter and St Richard's festivals manning lists are available.

Easter: two gazebo sites have been booked at Waitrose Bridge. Volunteers are requested to help load the boat on the 18th at 2.30pm. Gazebos will be erected on Saturday morning unless security is available in which case it will happen on Friday. Thanks to Tracey and Emma for organising the tombola.

St Richard's: meet at the yard on Friday 2nd May at 1.30pm to load the boat and erect the gazebos.

Rik Mayall festival: PM2 will be made available as a static venue at Bridge 17 from 4pm to 8pm on Wednesday 4th June for performers who would like a 'quirky venue'. Details have been loaded to the organisers' website and they will handle any bookings and ticket sales.

Reed Cutters

The reed cutters are back and will be using the Hampton Road mooring. They have been asked to moor near the slipway so as not to impede operation of PM2.

Boat Issues

- Throttle.
Ortomarine are hopeful they can fit the new throttle sometime in April.

Metal Storage Container

We have not yet heard from the surveyor regarding permission to site the new container on the concrete hardstanding. We will also need the trustees to give the final go-ahead. The intention is to install the new container and fit racking as soon as possible and at least before the trip season starts.

Training

Paul has sent an email with refresher training details and references to the online videos. All crew are encouraged to complete this programme; please send Paul an email to confirm this has been done. If anyone wants to do a hands-on practice session then contact Paul, Andy or James.

Bookings

Bookings are coming in steadily; two were taken this morning. The Salvation Army have requested a day of short trips for their pre-school children on 7th July running from 10.00am to 2.00pm approx.

Volunteers will be needed to man the bridges. As the children will be walked down to the boat it was suggested that boarding be done at the yard. Steve will organise crewing for the day.

Crewing

Responses have very encouraging to date; skippers and crews are in place up until May. Some gaps will deliberately be left in the calendar to reduce the burden on crews

AOB

- Festival flag is on order. Refusal to allow use of a groundspike was queried as It was thought that tent pegs must be in use elsewhere in the park.
- Uniforms are available in the cabin.
- The SumUp card reader needs to be located and training given before Easter. There are three or four authorised users/phones. Also the cash box needs to be located.
- Supplies of tea/coffee/biscuits should be checked before trips start. Skippers should notify Emma when supplies are running low.
- Fish and Chip trips; Anna's are willing to provide sausage and chips as an alternative
- Many of our purchases can raise funds through the Easy Fundraising scheme. Both the recipient (Droitwich Waterways) and individuals need to register. This is to be discussed at the next trustees meeting. Those trustees present were in agreement.
- Due to the Eagle and Sun being closed, the two trips booked to Hanbury Wharf might have to be re-routed to make use of the Gardener's Arms instead.