

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 3rd September 2025

The meeting was attended by 15 of our volunteers.

Boat Issues

- The new throttle lever is well-liked. However, the first notch forward gives more RPM than the corresponding notch in reverse.
- The lift batteries went through a period when they weren't holding their charge. In fact, they went on to lose all power. This could have been caused by the front bilge pumps working harder when the cratch cover was off or it could be the batteries are coming to the end of their working life. They have been recharged off the boat and they will continue to be monitored. Crew are asked to make sure the cratch cover is in place when inclement weather is expected.
- For some time now, we have suspected that the solar panels are not giving as much power as we would expect. When we first had the boat in 2019, we didn't need to connect to shore power all summer. In fact, the kWh readings for June and July of that year were in the 90s. The same months in 2022 and 2024 gave readings in the 60s and this year they are only in the 40s.
- On trips where the motor is running continuously (to Salwarpe and Ladywood), after one- or two-hours running crews have been experiencing a reduction in power. At the end of the trip, after the motor has rested for a while, it is back to normal.

All these issues have been reported to Ortomarine.

Tying Up

When tying the boat up at our mooring, crew are asked to follow the recommended procedure. Look at Paul's videos if you're unsure or just ask.

Container

A lot of stuff belonging to the Worcester and Birmingham canal group has been removed from the old container and we have disposed of the wood.

The planning saga continues with respect to us acquiring a new container. Wychavon District Council (WDC) are asking for some documents to be resubmitted. The general feeling from the meeting was that we should just go ahead and buy it now.

Easy Fundraising

Volunteers were reminded to sign up. See previous notes for details.

Training

Two current crew still need to become qualified. Most crew are at the halfway stage in their five-year qualification. Paul will be looking at refresher training. We still need additional trainers to help

Paul. Ian Williams is willing to take on this role, but we need someone else to get qualified alongside him if anyone is interested.

Crewing

There are still some trips this month and into October that need crew. Please let Jim know if you can assist.

Christmas carol trips are now on the bookings spreadsheet. Lynda and Jim are asking for crew to give an early commitment to crew these trips to avoid last minute panics. Paul suggested that we could probably manage with two crew on board for these trips, as long as they are experienced, as there are always carers on board.

Children's Santa trips will be on Saturday 6th December and possibly the Sunday. Steve Wyers will organise the manning.

Saltfest

The festival went well despite the weather. Interim figures suggest that boat trips made £262, the duck race £474 and the tombola £373. Thank you to Tracey for organising the cuddly toys, to Steve for organising the manning and to James for sorting out the CRT volunteers. A special thank you to Olivia and Alex for getting in the river with the ducks.

AOB

- Paul suggested we get a hook to help in clearing the prop as not everyone can reach far enough into the weed hatch.
- Margaret reported that CRT are interested in using some of our yard for community projects. They are in discussion with WDC to sort out permissions.