

# Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

The meeting was attended by 21 of our volunteers.

## Roger Tapping

We were saddened to hear that Roger's health has suffered a decline in recent weeks. He has now been moved to St Stephen's care home. Our best wishes go out to Sheila and the family.

## MOB at Festival

There was a man overboard incident at the Easter festival. Fortunately he was quickly pulled onto the bank by a bystander and suffered no ill effects (except perhaps to his phone!). Spare clothes recently placed on the boat for that purpose were made use of. Thanks to Paul for timely training in MOB procedure and spare clothes supply.

Consideration was given as to whether floatation devices ('life jackets') should be mandatory for crew on all trips, and whether they should be water sensitive, ie. Self-inflating on contact with water. Also to review location and sizes of existing gear. This will be passed to the Steering Committee & Trustees for evaluation. It was noted that following this occurrence there should be a review of the relevant Risk Assessment.

## Loss of power

We are still having instances of loss of power, most recently on Saturday and Sunday of the Easter festival. Reasons for this were thought to be:

- Propeller fouling. Items were found to be wrapped around the propeller and had to be cut free.
- 'Tired batteries'. Suspicion of reduced battery capacity causing power issues when below 50% charge. Charging regime and minimum levels to be reviewed.

## Solar Panels

Awaiting fitting date from Ortomarine.

## Gas Bottle Changeover

The recent boiler service showed variability in gas pressure. This was traced to a malfunction in the autochanging mechanism, possibly caused by user error. The mechanism will now be replaced by a simple switch, due to be done on April 11<sup>th</sup>. It was anticipated that most heating would come from the boat's electricity supply, although the gas boiler would still be needed to supply hot water for the washbasin in the toilet area, as required by our hygiene certificate. The heating system should still routinely be turned on during every trip.

## Coolbox.

The melted plug has been replaced. Overheating might have been caused by continuous running, although this should have been prevented by the thermostat and an inline fuse. The need for cooling was questioned, given the short duration of most trips. Ice packs are available in the portacabin fridge if the coolbox is to be used unpowered. Coolbox should be emptied at the end of each trip.

## Boarding at Yard

Although popular with passengers, this is to be regarded as the exception rather than the rule. Enquiries will be made seeking permission for general use, but it was felt there were likely to be public liability and insurance issues. One recent exception was for a large minibus where suitable alternative parking was unavailable. Passengers boarding at the yard must be able-bodied as the use of the lift is not possible.

## Canal Open to Navigation

Pontoons from the footbridges have been removed and the barge lock has been re-opened. Height clearance for the new bridges was queried. These are to be approached with caution until clearance has been verified.

## Blacking

Due to be done at the marina on April 15<sup>th</sup>, postponed from March. Opportunity will be taken to touch up the paintwork and some other routine work. Volunteers needed.

## Membership

We welcomed a new member who has joined us from the Easter festival. Some membership forms are still outstanding, contact Russell for a form or download from the website.

## Bookings

Coming in thick and fast, up on last year. Crew are urgently needed, especially for last-minute bookings. Looks like being a busy year!

## Crewing

- Expectation.  
Once fully trained, we normally expect crew to regularly volunteer for trips.
- Minimum crew levels.  
Discussed reducing to previous level, ie. 2 for Salwarpe, 3 for marina. Points against this were:
  - o New MOB procedure needs at least 3 to cover MOB, boat control and ancillary functions.
  - o Wheelchair procedure needs 3.Circumstances may vary depending on route, passenger mix and trainees. For those who wish to volunteer for trips with locks but who have difficulty operating the locks, it might be possible to remain on the boat at the skipper's discretion and with the agreement of the rest of the crew.
- Cream Teas to Ladywood.  
A new 3 hr Cream Tea trip to Ladywood is being considered. This might possibly only need 2 crew (+ host) rather than 3 when going to the marina.

## Easter Festival

A successful weekend. Tombola raised £488.50. Our thanks to Tracey. Trips raised £485, although with a quiet start on Sunday due to poor weather. Thanks to Steve for organising the roster despite several last-minute changes.

## St Richard's Festival

The next festival is fast approaching; plans are for loading at bridge 17, but if this is not possible volunteers will be re-assigned to assist where most needed. A List is being prepared from the estimated 22 available. Margaret is managing the stall which might need additional cover.

## Environment - Reeds

Reed cutting has started. CRT no longer use contractors but will keep the job in-house. No information is available as to where and when the cutting will take place but progress will be monitored.

## Wheelchair Loading

A demonstration of the wheelchair loading procedure took place immediately after the meeting.

## AOB

- We are responsible for keeping the yard neat and tidy on Wychavon's behalf and for this purpose they provided a petrol lawnmower. The mower is currently broken so we will be approaching Wychavon for a repair or preferably replacement.
- The training plan for this year has been disrupted due to inclement weather, but is due to restart in June/July after the boat has been blacked.
- The whereabouts of the SumUp contactless card readers was queried. Andy has two readers, Jim has the spare.  
There were some teething problems with them over the weekend but we were assured by a knowledgeable customer that they would be fully operational later in the day.  
It was suggested that more of our volunteers be given training in their use and access to the app.
- We will have a stall at the forthcoming Community Showcase. A batch of 750 leaflets have been printed. Suggestions were invited on how best to present ourselves to the community.