

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 5th June 2024

The meeting was attended by 13 of our volunteers, with James presiding. Most of the agenda was based on the recent Steering Committee minutes.

Inverter

The inverter should be switched on for plug-in charging. It was believed that solar panel charging worked independently of the inverter although this could not be verified from the panel display. It was felt that Ortomarine should come on site to do a proper handover of the inverter and its operation.

Membership

Following the last AGM, our Articles of Association were changed so that patrons would become members and be able to vote at the next AGM. This will be on 11th June at 7.30 in the Old Library. Voting items include:

- Re-election of directors of 3+ years standing.
- Approval of financial statements
- Approval of the Board's annual report

There will follow a talk by Paul Wilkinson (CRT Senior Ecologist) on re-wilding the Droitwich canals. There should be opportunity to ask Paul whether CRT will formally be renewing our adoption of the Pamela May Reserve area, which should be done annually.

Blacking

Blacking was completed in April. Additional touching-up of the superstructure is to be finished.

Trip Refreshments

Lidded paper cups have been made available, although china mugs are still preferred on Cream Tea trips. There was some debate with mixed reactions. It was felt that elderly passengers in particular would prefer something that had handles.

Life Jackets

The wearing of life jackets by crew is now mandatory for all trips except when inside the boat.

Bookings

Very busy for the June / July period. It is intended to limit bookings to five trips per week, leaving two days free. Conversely, the Fish & Chip trip on 14th June has been cancelled due to lack of bookings. The Friday evening slot does not seem to be so popular this year. More advertising was requested for the Saturday trips. However, fish and chips are still a popular addition with the regular boat hire groups. Supplier Anna's are getting repeat business from satisfied PM customers.

Please note that from now on fish and chips will only be provided for the crew if they inform Sarah 7 days before the trip date. Please also contact Sarah to renew supplies of tea, coffee etc.

Lynda will pass on to the skippers any additional customer information such as group activities, birthdays, reasons for trip etc.

Lift

When determining lift requirements, skippers should enquire whether walk-on passengers also need the lift and not just wheelchairs, and understand customers' assumptions on wheelchair and walking frame storage.

We were reminded that during lift operation there should always be a crew member inside the cabin to ensure the doors are closed. This related to a recent trip where the lift didn't work and was manually operated until it was realised that the doors were slightly ajar. This had prevented the electrical interlock system from working.

AOB

- Trips to Hanbury Wharf including an Eagle and Sun stopover. There have been some problems recalling passengers following lunches at the Eagle and Sun, delaying the return trip and in some cases causing unpleasantness for the crew. Various options were discussed:
 - o Have a picnic lunch
 - o Take the boat to the marina for a pumpout while passengers are in the pub
 - o Specify drinks only at the pub with a rigid departure time
 - o Make it a one-way trip to Hanbury with the return trip being a training session
 - o A hybrid of the above – leave in an hour and passengers have the option to return on the boat or make their own arrangements