

# Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026

The meeting was attended by 15 of our volunteers.

## Boat Issues

- The new motor is performing well and doesn't seem to use as much charge as the old one. Consequently, recharging from the mains can be left until the SOC drops below 50%. The new fitting also needs less routine maintenance. Cooling system noises have been eliminated by bleeding air from the system.
- New solar panels are still to be fitted; Automarine will contact John Gidman to arrange a date in September. Existing panels still generate some useful power.
- There have been instances when the recharging cable has been left exposed on the bankside. Crews are reminded that when disconnecting, please coil the cable tidily and store it in the portacabin.

## Other Issues

- Crew Briefing Sheet: skippers can use this at their own discretion, but as the information is available elsewhere or can be communicated in other ways, it is no longer considered necessary.
- Skippers should check passenger numbers for trips that include fish and chips, and liaise with Lynda to assist with the ordering process.
- Bridge 17 padlock: recent maintenance has made the bridge generally easier to move but it has a tendency to bounce when closing. This has caused the padlock to be damaged so that on occasion the key cannot be removed. Please do not try to fit the padlock until the bridge is at rest. During festivals, when the bridge is in constant use, a metal rod is available as a temporary replacement and is located with the keys hanging up on the boat.
- A pumpout will soon be needed. Andy will organise.

## Container

The first of the old containers has gone to a local scrap metal dealer for a negotiated payment of £100 which will go towards a new shed. The new container is in need of tidying ready for Saltfest and this will be done on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. It is intended to put all materials for each gazebo in a separate stackable box. New trestle tables have been ordered.

## Membership

We have gained some new members.

## Training

There are now four trainers who can take trainee crew out on the boat. It is intended that the trainers qualify to also issue certificates at some point in the future. Currently only Paul is able to qualify crew.

Today sees the start of a new regular feature: Manoeuvre of the Month. This month it is Springing On, which for Pamela May would be useful during festivals but crew also need to know how to do this as part of their certification. A video can be found in the usual place on the website.

## Bookings

- There is some demand for a series of 30 minute trips similar to that done for the Salvation Army youth.
- Suggested increase in festival trip prices. Recommendation for trustees.
- There will be a tombola at Saltfest.
- Jim & Lynda will be away for a week in September. Some cover will be needed.
- Woodland View care home have booked two trips.

## Crewing

This is a busy time of year and all crew are encouraged to give Jim their availability in good time for the trips. There has been excellent customer feedback from recent trips and we are hoping to publish some of these on the website in the near future.

## Festival

SaltFest: Steve has drawn up a provisional manning program, although extra helpers are always welcome to provide relief cover, especially on hot days. There is a vacancy for two lads who would be willing to wade in the river for the duck race, on 6<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00pm. Both days start at 8.45am at the yard. Last run is at 3.30pm. Meet at the yard on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm to load the boat. Unloading will be on the following Monday.

## Environment

- Strimming has been done on the PM reserve, but the trees are overgrown.
- There is a need to spruce up the yard, trim grass and bushes, refresh paintwork etc.
- The canal water level is looking lower than usual. Although there is plenty of water in the Tardebigge reservoir, skippers are encouraged, given a preference, to take the Salwarpe route, avoiding locks.

## AOB

- Carolyn has produced a leaflet for her Spotter Challenge on Pamela May children's quiz. It was well received and prompted the suggestion of an adults quiz night sometime in the winter.
- The boat's deadman is still out of action.
- Waitrose bridge became stiff to use in the heat but appears to be ok now.
- A filing cabinet has been installed in the new container.
- Lynda will let skippers know about Fish & Chip orders.
- There was good feedback from the Refugee and Challenger trips.