

Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 2nd October 2024

The meeting was attended by 14 of our volunteers.

James opened the meeting by letting us know that sadly Ronnie Demain has stepped down from crewing the boat. The meeting recognised his contribution over many years and wished him well for the future.

Close-Down Procedure

There was some debate about whether the gas bottles should both be left open and supply be controlled solely by the changeover mechanism. To be checked and clarified for next meeting.

Yellow switch to be used as normal,

Reminder to observe the close-down procedure. Instances of rocker switches left on and drive key not removed.

If the freshwater level is low and it is not possible to replenish it on the day, contact the next skipper to arrange a refill before the next trip.

Environment

Renewal of the Pamela May Reserve licence is still ongoing. CRT adoption policy generally appears to have changed and assurances as to how the sites are to be maintained are being sought. CRT to be approached for clarification. Our contact Gemma is leaving the area following a promotion. James has been trained on CRT trimmers. A work party is to be arranged.

Paintwork

The boat's paintwork is showing signs of wear with some rust spots visible. Joe Smith is taking the lead in touching up the paintwork.

Training

A number of new volunteers are coming through the training programme, some with the potential to become skippers. Training is now suspended for the remainder of this year and will start again in the New Year. The training area of the website has been restructured to separate CCBM and refresher materials.

Crewing

Reported shortage of crew for October trips. The most urgent dates are shown in yellow on the Dropbox file.

Bookings

There are 5 trips booked to the end of October. Carol trips starting in November already have 13 bookings. Volunteers will be needed to decorate the boat week commencing 18th November.

Santa trips are going ahead. There is a bookings form on the website. Steve will organise crewing. Tracey Russell and Margaret will sort out presents and Tracey will reprise the role of Santa's elf. Trips to be advertised on Facebook and to run on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December between 10.00am and 2.30pm. volunteers needed to load the boat on Friday 13th at 2.00pm.

Next year's booking sheet will shortly go on Dropbox.

A check list has been created to help organise festival days.

Saltfest

It was felt that the date chosen for the weekend was a week too soon, as many people were still away on holiday. Also 'trip fatigue' could be a factor for reduced numbers. Trips could start at 11.00am when there is more demand. Volunteers are always needed to unload the boat after festivals.

Discussion around the metal containers being in a poor condition and difficult to open and close.

AOB

- More festival feedback. The 'Boat Trips →' sign could usefully be re-sited close to bridge 17. Use of walkie-talkies worked well. The green gazebo is of limited use as it is too low and in a damaged condition.
- Suggestion to change the HiYa meeting day/time so that new members who work are able to attend.
- Similarly, a first-aid training day is to be arranged at a suitable time.
- A file of evidence on the detrimental effect of the current overgrown state of the reeds is to be presented to CRT, to include photos and quotations/complaints from the boating community.