

## NOTES OF IWA/CRT NAVIGATION LIAISON MEETING

Held at CRT Northwich at 2pm on Tuesday 17 May 2016

Present – CRT: David Baldacchino, Wendy Capelle  
IWA: Michael Haig (Shrewsbury & North Wales, facilitating), Steve Connolly (Manchester), Wendy Humphreys (Lancs & Cumbria), Jim Mole (Chester & Merseyside)

Apologies – CRT: Chantelle Seaborn

1. Matters arising not covered elsewhere
  - a. Recycling facilities – MH requested clarification as to whether all plastic bags or only black plastic bags were prohibited from the recycling bins. Consideration to be given whether waste compounds with recycling should be separately identified on CRT's online asset map. ACTION: WC
  - b. Bridgewater Canal reciprocal agreement changes – CRT had not agreed to any changes to the previous agreement. ACTION: DB & CS to resolve with BCC
  - c. Ringing the Ring
    - c.i. Noted that out of an initial total available of around 200 new mooring rings, 32 had been installed at Anderton and 82 have been requested for Middlewich. DB requested sight of IWA's overall installation plan amid concerns from all present that available new rings would be unevenly distributed around the Cheshire Ring. ACTION: SC
    - c.ii. Site visits should determine what should be done with 'heritage' rings to avoid having these and new rings too closely spaced.
    - c.iii. SC to arrange site visit to the Ashton Canal with Paul Bowerman. ACTION: SC
    - c.iv. Mooring rings at Chorley – L&C Branch are pursuing this with CS. ACTION: CS and L&C
  - d. Liverpool swing bridges – staffing over the Eldonian Festival had been resolved but uncertainty remained regarding ongoing staffing. ACTION: CS and C&M
  - e. Chester Tower Wharf slipway – WC reported that a proper slipway is in process of being installed with completion expected about September 2016.
  - f. Chester River Dee access – WC reported that the lock gates had been removed and flood defence work completed by EA. There was a discussion as to whether a metal 'cill' plate needed to be lowered. ACTION: WC and C&M
2. Winding hole audit – moved to a separate session after completion of the meeting's agenda items.
3. Service facilities
  - a. MH remarked that reinstallation of Elsan flush hoses was very patchy so far and requested an update of how the reinstallation was being processed by CRT. ACTION: WC, and IWA Branches to continue reporting reinstallation status.
  - b. CRT stated that provision of additional facilities needed to be part of an additional phase after ensuring that existing facilities were up to standard. IWA's aspirations for additional facilities at Wigan, Middlewich and Atherley had been noted, but the problem lay mainly in budgetary constraints. WC reported that a new facilities block at Llangollen had cost in excess of £200k.
4. Manchester
  - a. Undercroft – the PSPO had been signed and the gates put out to tender, though it was currently unclear exactly when the gating would arrive on site.

5. Stoppages
  - a. Noted that the winter 2016-17 stoppage consultation was under way. Marsh Lock would (hopefully) be included in this winter's programme.
  - b. A number of other temporary stoppages/restrictions were advised by DB/WC and noted by the branches concerned.
6. Events
  - a. Eldonian – plans were progressing well though it was noted that a temporary services facility would be required.
  - b. WH mentioned the bi-centenary events programme on the L&L and was requested to circulate the complete events listing to meeting attendees. ACTION: WH
7. Volunteering
  - a. Paperwork for Upper Peak Forest Br.6 adoption was still unresolved. DB congratulated IWA for a "good job" on Ashton Canal Br.4-11 adoption. ACTION: SC
  - b. All was quiet in NW Region regarding plans for IWA volunteers to help with CRT's work boat fleet.
8. User forums
  - a. WC reported positive feedback from Historic Narrow Boat Club and was content with the forum format for the time being but DB reported poor attendance for M&P forums, which needed to be addressed if they were to continue.
  - b. NWB – next forum 27 Oct in Nantwich. M&P – next forums 12 Oct & 19 Oct.
9. AOB – none
10. Date of next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27 September at 10am at CRT Wigan.

The main meeting closed at 3.45pm

**A separate meeting followed to consider CRT's official database of winding holes and its validity.**

Present: David Baldacchino, Wendy Capelle, Michael Haig, Steve Connolly.  
Wendy Humphreys and Jim Mole had to leave while the meeting was in progress.

- A. It was agreed that winding holes in the IWA Lancs & Cumbria Branch area would be covered in a separate discussion between the Branch and Chantelle Seaborn.
- B. CRT had received a number of comments on the condition of specific winding holes from IWA/HNBC members as part of an IWA/HNBC national winding hole survey. The group reviewed these, made comments and identified actions as per the file "20160517 Comments on winding hole information IWA\_Trust MP NWB.xlsx".
- C. It was agreed that a general review of the CRT database could best be achieved in three stages:
  - a. IWA branches would validate the CRT listing against the main canal guides (Nicholsons, Pearsons) and note any discrepancies for further discussion with the waterway managers.

- b. In Boaters' Update of 6<sup>th</sup> May CRT had requested comments from boaters on the condition of winding holes they experienced and these would augment the comments made in the IWA/HNBC winding holes survey.
  - c. The IWA/HNBC survey also recommended additional winding holes to fill gaps in the system and improve cruising conditions for boaters.
- D. It was felt that stages (a) agreeing a definitive list of designated CRT winding holes, and (b) improving the condition of those by dredging and vegetation clearance as necessary, should be prioritised.
- E. It was agreed that IWA Branches would do their utmost to feed the findings of their validation exercises back to the CRT waterway managers by 31<sup>st</sup> May and that a subsequent meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday 6 July early pm at CRT Red Bull to discuss the findings and agree further actions.

The meeting closed at 5pm.

**Thanks to all who attended both meetings and for their very constructive contributions.**

Michael Haig  
2 June 2016