



**British
Waterways**

Notes from the West Riding User Group Meeting

Date: 18th April 2005

Venue: British Waterways, Fearn's Wharf, Leeds

ATTENDEES	REPRESENTING	BW ATTENDEES	TITLE
Ian Moore (IM)	IWA (West Riding Branch)	Laurence Morgan (LM)	General Manager, Yorkshire
C Pinder (CP)	IWA (West Riding Branch)	Janet Baverstock (JB)	Service Manager, Yorkshire
David Lowe (DL)	Historic Narrow Boat Owners Club / Humber Barges	Fred Hartley (FH)	Asset Manager, Yorkshire
Ian Clarke (IC)	Pennine Cruises	Mark Illingworth (MI)	Maintenance Manager, Yorkshire
Keith Noble (KN)	Huddersfield Canal Society	Graham Shuttleworth (GS)	Maintenance Supervisor, C&H/HBC/HNC
K Sykes (KS)	Huddersfield Canal Society	Bob Gray (BG)	Maintenance Supervisor, L&L
Carole Sampson (CS) Stuart Sampson (SS)	NABO	Rob Taylor (RT)	Moorings Officer, Yorkshire
Terry Pound (TP)	AWCC NE	Peter Carter (PC)	Team Leader, HNC
Derek Pegg (DP)	South Pennine Boat Club	Jonathan Hart-Woods (JHW)	Environment & Heritage Manager, Yorkshire
Nigel Stevens (NS)	Shire Cruises	Andy Featherby (AF)	Asset Engineer
Rodney Allen (RA)	Brighouse Boat Club	David Carey (DC)	Patrol Officer, C&H/HBC/HNC/L&L
E Mann (EM)	Unity Angling Club	Ken Fowler (KF)	Asset Engineer
		Barry Farrar (BF)	Team Leader, L&L
		Apologies	
		Louise Bone (LB)	Customer Operations Manager, Yorkshire

Agenda Item	Raised By	Meeting Note	Action By
1		LM outlined progress on previous meeting note actions (see Progress Note attached).	
2	EM	<p>Issue raised: Repairs to surface of canal towpath from Field Lock to Esholt Swing Bridge No. 211B</p> <p>Action: BW confirmed holes have been filled in along the towpath but will take photographic evidence and add to list of maintenance items to be resolved.</p>	BG
3 - 5	EM	<p>Issues raised: Restocking on same length due to dewatering 5 times in last 7 years / Dredging channel (bucket wide) Field Lock to Esholt Swing Bridge</p> <p>Action: Meeting to be set up between Unity Angling Club and Savills to look at these issues.</p>	JB/LB
6	KS	<p>Issue raised: Provision of short term moorings at Linthwaite, Slaithwaite, Booth and above Lock 42E Marsden</p> <p>Action: Funding has been secured for additional moorings between locks 4 & 5. Long term mooring signs at Slaithwaite to be removed. Marsden can accommodate visitors during quiet periods only due to the fluctuation in water levels.</p>	GS
7	KS	<p>Issue raised: Low water levels in pond between Locks 27E, 28E, and 29E at West Slaithwaite</p> <p>Action: Water level monitoring equipment is to be installed at Lock 28E this year to enable loss to be quantified. Lock 27E work has been carried out. There is a major plan underway to carry out necessary works at Lock 28E over the next two years.</p>	GS
8	KS	<p>Issue raised: Colne Valley “Greenway” proposed use of towpath by cyclists initially between Milnsbridge and Linthwaite</p> <p>Action: Initial assessments of the towpath indicate that mixed use is likely to raise user conflict issues. BW currently formulating its response to Kirklees Council based on these assessments. It is understood that the council does have an alternative cycle path route in mind if the towpath is found to be too narrow.</p>	LM
9	TP	<p>Issue raised: Details of any towpath improvements to be made between Riddlesden and Skipton for all users in the next 2/3 years</p> <p>Action: This is an issue that will be looked at in the next 3 to 4 years. BW is not in a position to address this in the short term.</p>	

10	KN	<p>Issue raised: C&H Navigation Lock Lengths</p> <p>Action: BW to check the dimensions of the two smallest locks on C&H to see if 57' 6" is the correct and safe length for vessels. Published dimensions will be amended if appropriate. Suitable warnings will be given to boaters about the differences between actual sizes and useable sizes.</p>	GS
11	IM	<p>Issue raised: Aire Valley Towpath Scheme</p> <p>Action: The next stage of this scheme is in the very early planning stage and an update will be given at the next UGM in October. If necessary, BW will convene a separate consultation group prior to the next UGM.</p>	FH
12	IM	<p>Issue raised: Update on flooding incident at Gargrave 9th March 2005 - what happened and what steps are being taken to prevent recurrence</p> <p>BW reported that the incident occurred because the trainee Lock-keeper should not have been left alone unsupervised and he ran too much water through the lock. His mentor has been reprimanded. BW confirmed that trainee Lock-keepers should be supervised at all times until they are assessed as competent to operate our structures on their own. BW has reviewed its procedures relating to training so incidents such as these do not reoccur.</p>	
13	EM	<p>Issue raised: Towpath at Leeches Bridge</p> <p>Action: BW confirmed soil had been put there in the first instance due to safety concerns about cars using and turning on the towpath during the 'school run'. BW to review access issues in consultation with local school and Keadby Angling Club.</p>	BG
14	EM	<p>Issue raised: Anglers together</p> <p>Action: Issue to be taken back to Savills so they can look into the issue and report their findings.</p>	JB/LB
15	LM	<p>BW Resources</p> <p>See attached organisation chart, showing new structure in maintenance and customer service teams.</p>	
16	LM	<p>BW Business Plan</p> <p>See attached for key headlines on the GWP, major works, stoppages and E&H.</p>	

17	ISIS	<p>Presentation from ISIS on Leeds Canal Basin</p> <p>Alistair Dickens from ISIS and Marcus Chalenor from BW delivered a presentation on Leeds Canal Basin and invited users to comment on the proposals.</p> <p>AD requested that two representatives be nominated to represent the user groups during the public consultation on Leeds Canal Basin in May. CS, IW and KS were subsequently confirmed as the user group representatives and JB as BW's representative. Consultation meeting scheduled with ISIS for 03/05/05.</p>	
18	<p>KS</p> <p>SS</p> <p>DP</p> <p>KW</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Issue: Dredging on L&L</p> <p>Action: There is a dredging plan for Yorkshire in place with a dredging team working across the region. See attached for list of target sites and timescales.</p> <p>Issue: Strong stream, river levels and flood warnings</p> <p>FH informed the group that flood warning information is available on Environment Agency website. Measuring points are in operation and rainfall monitors are personalised in some areas.</p> <p>Issue: Standards of lock gates and paddles</p> <p>Action: MI confirmed that the asset inspection process would be used to check standards and compliance with heritage requirements so that we can maintain both our responsibilities for safety and heritage.</p> <p>Issue: Availability of moorings at the Royal Armouries, Leeds.</p> <p>Action: At the East Riding UGM held subsequent to this meeting, it was advised that BW is seeking to release some visitor moorings at Clarence Dock during the summer.</p>	
19		<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 11 October 2005. Venue to be determined.</p>	