



**YORKSHIRE WATERWAYS:**

**Notes from the Angling User Group Meeting**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Fearn's Wharf, Leeds

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Mr Sterland	Barnby Dun Angling Club	Mr Alan Taylor	Doncaster Angling Association
Mr Salter	Barnby Dun Angling Club		
Mr John Mitchell (JM)	National Federation Of Anglers		
Chris Pegden	Boothferry Aire and Calder Joint Canal Com		
Mr Colin Childs (CC)	Doncaster and District		
Mr David Speight (DS)	West Yorkshire Police		
Mr Edward Harrison	Listerhills Old Boys		
Mr Martyn Highe (MH)	Mirfield Angling Club	<b>BW ATTENDEES</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Mr Ricky Bonas (RBo)	Mirfield Angling Club	Janet Baverstock (JB)	Business Development Manager
Mr Stephen Makin (SM)	Slaithwaite and District Angling Club	Rob Broadbent (RB)	Fisheries and Land Management Advisor
Mr David Brazendale	Saltair Angling Club	Linzi O'neill	Business Support
Mr Eric Bootland (EB)	Walton AC & NFA		
Mr J Myers	Keighley Angling Club	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Mr WS Sutcliffe (WS)	Keighley Angling Club	Bob Hirst	Wakefield Angling Club
Mr Don Pearson	Thornhill Angling Association	Martin Read	Kilnhurst and District Angling club
Mr Hooson	Ryburn and Halifax	Mr D Freeman	Keighley Angling Club
Mr Mike Storey	Scunthorpe and District		
Mr Stephen Crabtree (SC)	Old Bank Angling Club		

Agenda Item	Raised By	Meeting Note	Action By
1.0	RB	<p><b>Format of the evening's meeting</b></p> <p>Items raised by customers in advance of the meeting have been answered on the Q&amp;A sheet distributed at the meeting (see Appendix A). In addition, a general update newsletter has been published (see Appendix B). There was general agreement that these communications were useful and should form part of future UGMs.</p>	
2.0	RB	<p><b>Apologies – Please see attendance list.</b></p>	
3.0	DS	<p><b>'Get Hooked on Angling' – Presentation by David Speight, West Yorkshire Police</b></p> <p>David Speight gave a talk on encouraging juniors to the sport, this included suggestions and ways that clubs can appeal to the younger angler and also keep them interested once they have taken up the sport.</p> <p>For further information, please visit <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/bradford/sport/angling/">www.bbc.co.uk/bradford/sport/angling/</a> or contact David at <a href="mailto:Silverbugle@aol.com">Silverbugle@aol.com</a></p>	
4.0	CC	<p><b>National Division One Championships – Report by Colin Childs</b></p> <p>CC gave a report to the group on the planning and preparation which had gone into making the Division One event a success and thanked Rob Broadbent for the work that he had put in. CC advised that BW had demonstrated its commitment and ability to work in partnership and gave examples of BW's help with the match including placing pegs along the towpath, grass cutting by contractors and how well organised car parking was on the match days.</p> <p>Other members of the group commented on these facts and advised that the partnership had worked well and a lot of effort had been made by all parties concerned.</p> <p><b>Issue Raised:</b> It was felt that when organising matches of this kind, it would be helpful to have a template risk assessment that that it is easier to fill in and use. It was suggested that it may be possible to have a generic risk assessment including a tick sheet to use to make it simpler.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> RB to review, using Division One risk assessments as a base model.</p>	RB

5.0	EB	<p><b>Ladies National Championships – Report by Eric Bootland</b></p> <p>EB advised the Ladies National Championships event had been very beneficial to the sport. With 11 teams from all over the country taking part including some England International players, The championships ran smoothly and EB recorded his thanks to BW for its assistance with the event preparations.</p>	
6.0	JM	<p><b>Outstanding points from Spring UGM</b></p> <p><b><u>Volunteers</u></b></p> <p><b>Issue Raised:</b> Has any progress been made in enabling volunteers from angling clubs to carry out work on BW land?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Rob Broadbent advised that a questionnaire has been devised to try to help with this matter, so that BW can work with clubs to identify work which can be safely carried out by volunteers and ensure that safe methods of working are in place. The approach has already been tested with some clubs. (Copies of the questionnaire were available to take away and a copy is attached as Appendix A). If clubs wish to carry out works, please complete and return the questionnaire to BW Yorkshire’s Health and Safety Adviser at Fearn’s Wharf, Leeds.</p>	
6.1		<p><b>6.2</b></p> <p>Thornhill Angling Club</p> <p><b><u>Litter On The Navigation</u></b></p> <p><b>Issue Raised:</b> Litter is worse than is has ever been around the Dewsbury Arm.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Rob Broadbent advised that he had spoke to Gavin Beat, British Waterways’ Waste officer regarding the issue of waste at Dewsbury Arm and Gavin advised that this has been highlighted with the Environment Agency and they are now dealing with a number of waste sources in this area.</p> <p><b>ACTION - Rob Broadbent to raise again with Gavin Beat to make sure this is happening</b></p>	
7.0	RB	<p><b>All Angling Signage</b></p> <p>RB reported that the installation of signage for angling clubs was delayed by the summer’s flood events. BW has now appointed a contractor to install the signs, starting at the summit of the Leeds &amp; Liverpool Canal. It is hoped that this work will take two weeks to complete. RB will ensure that those clubs awaiting the erection of signage are informed once all signage has been installed.</p>	RB
8.0	DF	<p><b>Leaches Bridge Car Park</b></p> <p>This project has been put out to tender. Once BW has received the quotes back from the contractors, it will be in a better position to put a timescale to the works needed. Keighley Angling Club will be kept up to date on progress by RB.</p>	RB

9.0		<p><b>Improvements to Angling Facilities</b></p>	
9.1	JM	<p><b><u>Grass Cutting</u></b></p>	
		<p>BW has introduced a new grass cutting contractor for the Aire and Calder navigation and this has worked very well, a lot of good feedback has been given regarding the contractors and the quality of the standards they deliver. It was noted that contractors in other locations, such as on the Calder and Hebble, are not delivering the same high standard as shown on the Aire and Calder this year.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> RB has noted the difference in standards between our contractors and is working with colleagues to progress consistency. Some contracts will be reviewed over the winter. RB asked that for any concerns regarding grass cutting to be highlighted to him as soon as they became apparent, so that BW can address these concerns promptly with contractors.</p>	RB
9.2		<p><b><u>New Junction Canal</u></b></p>	
		<p>This year, access and parking improvements were made along the New Junction Canal, in partnership with Doncaster and District Angling Association, to facilitate the National Division One angling match.</p>	
9.3		<p><b><u>Aire &amp; Calder Navigation</u></b></p>	
		<p>A substantial part of this year's budget is planned to go towards improvements along the Aire and Calder Mainline, working in partnership with Boothferry Joint Angling Committee.</p>	
9.4		<p><b><u>Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal</u></b></p>	
		<p>Looking forward to the next financial year, British Waterways is hoping to carry out a number of improvements along the Stainforth and Keadby Canal between Maud's Bridge and Keadby Basin, in partnership with Scunthorpe Angling Club.</p>	
10.0	BW	<p><b>Overhead Power Lines</b></p>	
		<p>RB reminded the meeting of the dangers associated with overhead power lines, drawing attention to a recent report of an incident involving a fishing rod connecting with an overhead line. RB requested that if clubs were aware of any places that have overhead power lines but have no signage, they should report this to BW so that the installation of appropriate signage can be arranged.</p> <p>Copies of the '<i>Guidance produced by the Energy Networks Association Angling &amp; Overhead Power Line Working Group</i>' were made available to the group (see Appendix D).</p>	

11.0	MH/RBo	<b>Agenda Items from Mirfield Angling Club Martin Highe and Ricky Bonas</b>	
11.1		<b><u>Duckweed</u></b>  <b>Issue Raised:</b> Duckweed is a problem at Aspley Basin. Please can BW look at what can be used to spray it? It is very bad on the Navigation and gets worse in the summer months. JM advised early treatment of duckweed, as it becomes difficult to deal with as it progresses in growth.  <b>Response:</b> JB requested that customers let BW know promptly if they spot such a problem. RB advised that he would raise the issue of treatment with the Heritage & Environment team and the Customer Operations team.	MH/RBO/RB
11.2		<b><u>Parking at Mirfield Angling Club</u></b>  <b>Issue Raised:</b> An update was requested on this matter.  <b>Response:</b> Before any action can be taken, ownership of the land needs to be established. BW has made enquiries with the EA and the local council and is awaiting letters back from them with this information.	RB
12.0		<b>Any Other Business</b>	
12.1	SC	<b>Issue Raised:</b> Permanent pegs at Battyeford  <b>ACTION:</b> RB to look into this issue and give Steve Crabtree a call	RB
12.2		<b>Issue Raised:</b> On a number of occasions it has been reported that cyclists have been abusive to anglers, can anything be done about this? In one instance the cyclists came en masse, as if in a race.  <b>Response:</b> JB advised that the towpath is open to anyone who uses it responsibly: walkers, anglers, boaters and cyclists alike. Everyone needs to have respect for one another. Where this is not happening, and customers have safety concerns, they are asked to make a Visitor Incident Report to BW via the BW web site (go to <a href="http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/responsibilities/safety/visitor_incident_reporting.html">http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/responsibilities/safety/visitor_incident_reporting.html</a> ). If customers are concerned about a threat of physical or verbal abuse, they should report the matter to the police.	
12.3	R&H Angling Club	<b>Issue Raised:</b> Leakage on the Calder and Hebble Navigation between Salterhebble Top Lock and Chain Bridge.  <b>Response:</b> RB advised that BW's engineers have been looking at this to see if can be plugged. It is anticipated that a short-term fix will be used to plug the leak, but major works may be required at a later date.	

12.4	WS	<p><b>Issue Raised:</b> In the last financial year it was advised that BW carried out a pike cull on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, has this happened?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> RB advised that such work had been carried out in the past. However, this is no longer an activity that is supported in BW Yorkshire's Fisheries Action Plan, as most ecological research into the removal pike from fisheries shows that this does more harm than good to the quality of the fishery.</p>	
12.5	WS	<p><b>Issue Raised:</b> Access and Car parking for fishing in Saltaire, there is an issue regarding the bollards for parking at the Saltaire site and customers can not gain access with their vehicles to the towpath. Can we have more keys so that club members can use this area more easily for fishing?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> RB has agreed with Richard East that additional keys will be made available by the club for when customers want to access the site. One key has been given to Richard for matches and emergencies and another two keys are available via Richard for day to day access.</p>	
13.0		<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at BW Offices, Fearn's Wharf, Leeds</p>	

Appendix A - Volunteer Working Questionnaire

Appendix B - Guidance produced by the Energy Networks Association Angling & Overhead Power Line Working Group