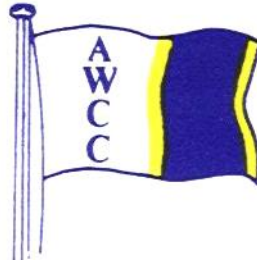


A.W.C.C.

(Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs)

NORTH WEST REGION



MINUTES

Of the Annual General Meeting held on
9th May 2024

WATCH HOUSE CRUISING CLUB

President – Bryan Pollard,

Tel - 07854 008387, bryan.pollard@ntlworld.com

<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>VICE CHAIR</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
Malcolm Holbrook 07836 527818 malcom.holbrook@btinternet.com	John Suggitt 07880 643173 johnsuggitt@ymail.com	Nick Culliford 07816 071117 nicholas.culliford@hotmail.com	Mike Williams 07872 179949 mike@williamsdevelopments.com

The AWCC North West Region acknowledges the continued support of the Officers and Members of the WATCH HOUSE CRUISING CLUB who accommodate the meetings.

**Date/Time of NEXT MEETING –Thurs. 12th Sept. 2024 at 7.30 pm
at Watch House Cruising Club, Stretford, Manchester M32 8WE**

A.W.C.C. NORTH WEST REGION

Attendance at meetings 2022 & 2023 & 2024

	2022/23	22	22	23	23	23	23	23	24	24	24	24
	Month	9	11	1	3	5	9	11	1	3	5	
Acton Bridge C.C.	Gary Collier											
	Dave & Chris Moors				A	A	A					
Bridgewater Motor Boat Club	Alf & Pat Brumby	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	A	
Broken Cross B.C.	Bryan & Linda Pollard	A	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Crooke Cruising Club	Malcolm Holbrook	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Dave Pickup				P							
Douglas Valley C.C.	Alan Trevarton											
	Alan Finch			P								
East Lancs West Yorks B.C.	Barry Clayton		P		P							
	Paddy and Jill Creaven							P	P	P	A	
Furness Vale Boat Club	John Suggitt	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Lancaster Canal Boat Club												
Lymm Cruising Club	Phyllis Greenough	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Barry Greenough	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Jack & Glenys Kershaw			P					P	P	P	
	D. Burke							P				
	Jenny Budworth		P	A	A	A	P		A	A		
Mersey Motor B.C.	Mike Williams	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	
Nantwich & Border Counties YC	Stuart Robinson	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	
North Cheshire C.C.	John Suggitt	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Sale Cruising Club	Robin Telkman & Carol Curran	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	
Watch House C.C.	Geoff. Hollies	A	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	
	Macar Rington							P	A			
Weaver Motor Boat Club	Eddie Revell	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	
	Nick Culliford	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
Wheelton Boat Club	John Hicks	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	A	A	
Worsley Cruising Club	Ken Ogg	P		A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	
	17 CLUBS	11	12	11	12	11	12	13	12	Average 8		

AWCC North West Region

Minutes of the Meeting 9TH May 2024

1. **Apologies from:** John Hicks in Canada, Paddy & Jill Creaven and Mike Williams are away.

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting** The minutes which were approved included the following: The toilet facility at Worsley is still locked. The Macclesfield Canal is now open. Paddle Boarders and people seeking to pass through tunnels on unpowered boats are continuing to use the tunnels. C&RT are looking to encourage ex-employees to judge a view of safety for people looking to pass through the tunnels. C&RT at last have acknowledged that there is a problem.

3. **Chairman's Report**

Water levels of reservoirs are at normal levels following the rain through Autumn, Winter and Spring. There has been spot dredging at Marple, Along the Bridgewater and C&RT waterways, there are facilities unavailable to boaters. The matter does require action from the waterway authorities. For the last ten years we have been campaigning to get canoes banned from two tunnels: Barnton and Saltersford, where there is no clear line of sight. We feel that this is a Health and Safety matter. CRT have, at long last, acknowledged this is a problem but despite this no action had been taken, though I have just been informed that canoes are going to be banned from these tunnels .

There have been a number of boat fires and generally the culprits are solid fuel stoves and electrical faults. Some insurance companies are now asking for an advanced electrical survey (i.e. more than boat safety certificate standard) before insuring a boat. Other insurance companies may follow suit.

Malcolm Holbrook, Chairman N-W AWCC

4. **Secretary's Report**

Montgomery Canal. £14.2m School House Bridge is now open to road traffic. The canal is still dry in places between the bridge and close to the border. A meeting of 'Friends of Montgomery Canal Organisation' was held in Welshpool on 22 April. The 'Friends' are looking to work in part with the Cambrian Heritage Railway.

The promised sluice booms are due to be installed between July and October this year with the approval of the EA.

NW Regional Director Jon Horsfall has respects for the people in charge of the Weaver. He is responsible for the future of Northwich Yard. No effective action yet.

The Weaver User Group – C&RT meeting held on May 3rd 2024 was a success.

There was confusion regarding different operating times for the 4 locks on the Weaver. Now all the 4 locks operate at the same time of day. Monday to Friday, all 4 locks are open 9am to 5pm with last lock at 4.30pm. On Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, the times will be 9am to 6pm with last lock at 5.30pm. C&RT are recruiting 3 new lock keepers.

Regarding the equipment for swinging the bridge over Vale Royal Lock, the important motor is also on its way to be installed by the weekend of 18/19 May this year.

Anderton Lift is to be closed to allow restoration next year. It may cost £12m in 2 phases.

However, the view is that money to pay for action will take some time and visitors may be put off coming to visit the Lift and site. The intention is to generate more visitors and boaters are encouraged to navigate up the Weaver to Winsford.

The Daniel Adamson is back on the Weaver where dredging has commenced.

The cost of small Calor Gas cylinders has increased.

Information on canal stoppages may be accessed via the waterscape Web Site.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices> then 'notices & stoppages'.

Individuals can sign up to automatically receive notification of stoppages etc on specific waterways (not just every waterway in the country).

For boat license checking <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boating/licensing/boat-check>

5. Treasurer's Report - Mike Williams, Treasurer, is away on his boat for a holiday.

6. C&RT Boat License Fee Consultation Fee Survey April 2024

This is now complete and we await C&RT's response.

7. Customer Forums

C&RT are believed to be in the throes of selecting persons to participate (Malcolm Holbrook). Further details are awaited.

8. Poor condition of North parapet of Bridge 87, Kent Green, Macclesfield Canal

This appears to have been struck by a road vehicle and has been awaiting repair for some time. A series of road closures is necessary to effect repairs which are proposed for July 2024. Canal usage should remain unaffected. Similar problems occur regularly to bridges on the Lancaster Canal where it is proposed to record vehicle usage by means of a camera.

9. Recent meetings with C&RT

Two meetings have taken place recently, both having been staged at Anderton as follows

On Friday 29th May, AWCC NW Officers met with Liam Cooper and Steve Ballard, who reviewed their responses to a number of problem sites throughout the region. Whilst full details are available upon request, the salient points were as follows:

- i) Volunteers are being trained in respect of tunnel risk. Some boaters are included among the volunteers.
- ii) In addition to the Reciprocal Agreement, C&RT are requesting that their License holders advise of their intent to cruise the Bridgewater Canal in advance (block bookings are possible). It is understood that this requirement applies to Bridgewater License holders also.
- iii) Anderton Lift awaits a major refurbishment which is dependent upon funding. An eighteen-month closure is anticipated.
- iv) The rebuilding of Lock 7 Marple has been extended to include works to combat settlement to the off side. Target completion is now mid-June.

Date of next meeting Friday October 18th 2024 12-00 noon – 2-30 pm

On Tuesday 7th May at the North West User Group Forum, a number of AWCC Officers met with representatives of all levels within the C&RT NW Team. Again, whilst full details are available upon request, the salient points were as follows:

- i) The meeting was run by NW Director Jon Horsfall who following his overview of what is occurring in the North West, invited other members of his staff to present what is occurring within their areas of responsibility. This approach was a very welcome departure from previous Forums which were dominated by senior C&RT staff presentations.
- ii) In addition to the Toddbrook Reservoir rebuild, a series of major projects are ongoing throughout the North West including Lock rebuilding, bridge repairs/upgrades, whose expenditures range from £380k to £2 million.
- iii) A major initiative is proposed at the Anderton Lift including a lower floor extension to the main building with the intention of increasing visitor numbers together with the accompanying 'on site spend'. The Lift its self which has undergone Cylinder and Gate seal replacement during the Winter of 2023-Spring 2024 is to undergo a major Mechanical/Electrical overhaul. An eighteen-month programme is proposed, balanced seasonally.
- iv) Whilst C&RT recognise the dangers posed by Barnton and Saltersford Tunnels, resulting in a canoe ban we understand that other ways in which they propose to respond are currently being determined.

Date of next Forum to be announced.

10. AOB

To date, a total of 150 boats have registered to attend the Federation of Bridgewater Cruising Clubs Rally which is to be held at Sale CC during 24th to 27th May 2024 (Late Spring Bank Holiday), a very commendable effort on the part of all concerned.

11. AWCC 60th Anniversary Boat Gathering 9th to 11 August 2024 at Lichfield Cruising Club

The AWCC 60th Anniversary boat gathering during the week end of 9th-12th August originally planned for Dunstable Boat Club is now to be held at Lichfield Cruising Club, Canal Side Cottages, **Huddlesford Lane, Huddlesford,** Whittington, Lichfield, WS13 8PX, where 75 moorings are available together with some Motor Home Pitches. Cars are welcome to visit on Saturday 10th August. Booking Forms are available on the AWCC Website <https://awcc.org.uk/members/events>.

Concerns were expressed regarding a 'colony' of unlicensed 'liveaboards' on the Bridgewater Canal towpath at Outrington. Some boats have originated from C&RT waters and there had been a fire on board one boat which led to a fatality. The 'burned out' boat has since been removed. Unlike C&RT, the BCC possesses the wherewithal to remove unlicensed boats expediently, though they don't appear to have sufficient staff or mooring pounds to execute this as and when required

12. Date of next meeting Thursday 12th September 2024 at WHCC Stretford

The Meeting was closed at 9pm

