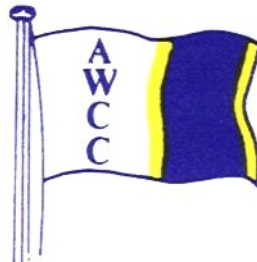


A.W.C.C.

(Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs)

NORTH WEST REGION



MINUTES of the General Meeting held on 14th November 2024 at 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	We seek a volunteer to assume this position which is currently vacant.	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. 9th Jan. 2025 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													
	2022/23/24	22	22	23	23	23	23	23	24	24	24	24	24
	Month	9	11	1	3	5	9	11	1	3	5	9	10
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	P	P
Broken Cross B.C.	Bryan & Linda Pollard	A	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
Crooke Cruising Club	Malcolm Holbrook	P	P	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	A	P
Furness Vale Boat Club	John Suggitt	P	P	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	P	A
	Barry Greenough	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
	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	P	P
Nantwich & Border Counties YC	Stuart Robinson	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	P	P
North Cheshire C.C.	John Suggitt	P	P	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	P/A	P/A
Watch House C.C.	Geoff. Hollies	A	P	A	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A
	Macar Rington							P	A			A	A
Weaver Motor Boat Club	Eddie Revell	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	A	A
	Nick Culliford	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A
Wheelton Boat Club	John Hicks	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	A
Worsley Cruising Club	Ken Ogg	P		A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
MONTH BY MONTH REPRESENTATION OF OUR SEVENTEEN CLUBS		11	12	11	12	11	12	13	12	15	10	12	10

AWCC North West Region

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14TH November 2024

1. **Apologies from:** John Hicks in Canada, Phyllis and Barry Greenough, Carol Curran, Nicholas Culliford, Eddie Revel.
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting** The Sept 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

3. **Chairman's Report**

Since our last Regional Meeting the N-W AWCC Executive has had a meeting with C&RT-NW at Anderton, who were represented by Jon Horsfall, Stephen Ballard and Liam Cooper .
Some 20 topics were discussed, each of these being reviewed during the meeting. Following each bullet point, elements of the resulting discussion is noted in italics.

- 1) Worries about the reliability, and the confidence of boaters in the system which has resulted in a drop in the number of passages made in our Region and one of the hire companies to scale down its operation.
The hire company concerned which is based on the Leeds-Liverpool canal is to continue offering day boat hire only. The craft offering longer term hire are to be sold.
- 2) There has been a trial involving canoe visibility in both the Barnton and Saltersford Tunnels.
After employing a short length work boat with a small bow cabin C&RT advised that it was difficult to observe oncoming canoes. We await their written feedback on this matter.
- 3) The lack of refuse facilities on the Leeds Liverpool Canal (for example Moss Bridge and Litherland) resulting in Council Park bins being filled up with boaters refuse.
C&RT advised the shortages and misuse of boaters refuse facilities is a problem nationwide. We commented that Anderton C&RT Facilities offer an extreme example of this.
- 4) Anderton Boat Lift. A grant application has been made to the National Heritage Fund in February 2025 and if accepted there are plans to start work in October 2025 to take 18 months, i.e two winters and one summer.
This proposal is dependent on the grant, after which a sustained closure is anticipated.
- 5) Reservoirs - Foulridge is down 1 metre, Toddbrook should start filling in spring 2025 and if all goes to plan be full for the boating season 2025-2026. Coombs reservoir canal feeder is an ongoing problem, but the reservoir is full at the moment.
Concern was expressed at C&RT's work (policy?) in paving around Foulridge Reservoir and whether this is likely to reduce its capacity?
- 6) The reliability of swing bridges seems to be improving.
The new component fitted to the powered Cocksedge Swing bridge doesn't appear to have worked. Another point is that C&RT need to consider the difficulties encountered by Solo boaters and locate control pedestals accordingly.
- 7) Dean Lock. Work has commenced to clear the brambles and undergrowth on the steps and to replace the handrail.
This work is now complete and deemed to be satisfactory by those who have used it.
- 8) Lock gates – there is now an external firm manufacturing lock gates for the region. The study of composite gates seems to be going well and is continuing. Difficulty is that many locks are listed structures.
C&RT have access to a CNC (programmable) machine which may help matters.
- 9) River Weaver – all Dutton sluices except one are working, the booms have not yet been installed.
There would appear to be a delay due to installation costs.

- 10) Sewer outfalls -There are four sewer outfalls in our region. These are being monitored by the Environmental Agency, but C&RT are monitoring as well.
Some evidence of outfall contamination at Lollies Bridge on the Leeds Liverpool Canal.
- 11) The final veg cut is being made now. The plan is to do 5 rather than 4 a year. We suggested that they should cut to the water's edge and ignore the offside of the towpath.
The specification and the contractor under performance were both considered to be factors in question.
- 12) Should any non-emergency problems occur, boaters should contact C&RT on the internet. This will be documented and a reference number will be given.
The scant knowledge of the canal system exhibited by those handling the problems doesn't inspire confidence.
- 13) Towpath Campers are a problem in some areas but our region doesn't seem so bad.
No sign of this problem recently, but it occurs on the Llangollen Canal near Ellesmere where the towpath borders one of the canal side Meres which attract fishermen.
- 14) Costs – maintaining the Huddersfield and Rochdale Canals is 3 times that of 5 years ago.
This could be attributed to the original restoration work being undertaken to a finite budget.
- 15) Pennywort – the trial of weevils has been a success on other weeds, and is now to be tried on Pennywort. In the meantime, Pennywort is to be sprayed.
Possible side effects dictate that C&RT must proceed with caution.
- 16) Reciprocal agreement – the book in system is to be reviewed.
Though the time span on the alternative waterway is adequate for Bridgewater boaters', the format needs to be more flexible regarding the outward and return day allocation.
- 17) The next meeting with C&RT is due to occur in April 2025.
C&RT to advise date
- 18) AWCC N-W is due to host the AWCC National AGM on 15th March 2025. We need a Club to host it and idea for a speaker.
This matter was discussed at length, whereupon it was agreed that BMBC, LCC, MMBC and NCCC be sounded out for availability on the day. The Last NW Club to host the National AGM which occurred pre pandemic was BMBC.
- 19) The next National Executive meeting is to occur on Saturday 23rd November 2024 at Stoke Boat Club.

Malcolm Holbrook, Chairman N-W AWCC

4. Secretary's Report

Due to illness, our outgoing Secretary was unable to attend. To date, our appeal for a replacement has not been successful.

5. Treasurer's Report Due to handover 'logistics', no report from our new Treasurer

10. AOB The need to agree the venue of the National AGM and speaker was emphasized

The Meeting was closed at 9-00pm

Date of next meeting Thursday 9th January 2025 at WHCC Stretford

Minutes taken by John Suggitt in the absence of a Secretary