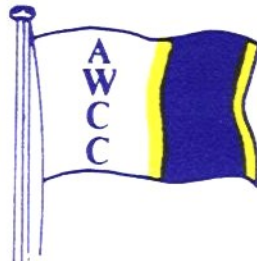


A.W.C.C.

(Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs)

NORTH WEST REGION



MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th March 2025 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 these meetings.

**Date/Time of NEXT MEETING –Thurs. 8th May 2025 at 7.30 pm
at Watch House Cruising Club, Stretford, Manchester M32 8WE**

A.W.C.C. NORTH WEST REGION												
Attendance at meetings 2024 & 2025												
	2024/2025	24	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	
	Month	1	3	5	9	11	1	3	5	9	11	
Acton Bridge C.C.	Gary Collier											
Bridgewater Motor Boat Club	Alf & Pat Brumby	P	P	A	P/A	P	P	P				
	Greg Walker							P				
Broken Cross B.C.	Bryan & Linda Pollard	P	P	P	A	P	P/A	P				
Crooke Cruising Club	Malcolm Holbrook	P	P	P	P	P	A	P				
	Nick Pope							P				
Douglas Valley C.C.	Alan Trevarton											
	Alan Finch											
East Lincs West Yorks B.C.	Paddy and Jill Creaven	P	P	A	A	P	P	A				
Furness Vale Boat Club	John Suggitt	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Lancaster Canal Boat Club												
Lymm Cruising Club	Phyllis Greenough	P	P	P	P	A	P	P				
	Barry Greenough	P	P	P	P	A	P	P				
	Jack & Glenys Kershaw	A	P									
	Jenny Budworth	A	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Mersey Motor B.C.	Mike Williams	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				
Nantwich & Border Counties YC	Stuart Robinson	A	A	A	P	P	P	P				
North Cheshire C.C.	John Suggitt	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Sale Cruising Club	Robin Telkman & Carol Curran	P	P	A	P/A	P/A	P	P				
Watch House C.C.	Geoff. Hollies	A	P	P	P	A	P	P				
	Macar Rington	A	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Weaver Motor Boat Club	Eddie Revell	A	P	P	A	A	A	A				
	Nick Culliford	A	P	P	P	A	A	A				
Wheelton Boat Club	John Hicks	P	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Worsley Cruising Club	Ken Ogg	A	P	P	P	P	A	P				
	Tomaz Wyderski						P	A				
MONTH BY MONTH REPRESENTATION OF OUR SEVENTEEN CLUBS		15	15	11	12	13	15	15				

AWCC North West Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13TH March 2025

1. **Apologies from** Paddy and Jill Creaven, Nicholas Culliford, Eddie Revel, John Hicks.
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting** Minutes of the January 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. **Chairman's Report (This is also to be presented at the AWCC National AGM)**

N-W AWCC: Over the last twelve months we have held 5 Regional meetings with an average attendance of eight or nine Clubs. This is down on the previous year. We may have lost one Club, Broken Cross Boat Club whose future is uncertain. It is a collection of boat owners who met in a local pub, and had no Club House or moorings. Because of decreasing boat ownership and increasing age of members they are finding it difficult to continue. The AWCC NW Senior Executive met with C&RT NW senior staff at the Anderton Lift on two occasions during the year. These were profitable meetings with good exchange of information. Since our November Regional meeting, we have endeavoured to get the necessary arrangements in place for the AWCC National AGM scheduled for Saturday March 15th 2025.

Network: A year ago, we were worried about the reliability of the system with failures on the Wigan, Marple and Bosley lock flights as well as many other closures. Swing Bridges were often breaking down. During the year, many repairs were undertaken and several of the local reservoirs began to fill.

By the end of 2024 we were optimistic that there would be better boating in 2025. This was dashed when in the early hours of New Years Day when a breach occurred on the Bridgewater Canal near Dunham Massey. This washed away several hundred yards of canal bank. Two of our local Clubs had boats grounded although there were no personal injuries or boats damaged. All have either been re-floated or lifted. The Bridgewater Canal is very important to boats traversing our regions canals. It is likely to be several years till the breach is to be repaired, so effectively our region will be divided in half for a long time. There are several possible routes to bypass the breach but they involve up to 79 locks or using the River Trent. After several years of Bryan Pollard arguing that two of our tunnels were dangerous for canoes and paddleboards, C&RT have agreed this is the case and new signs have been erected stopping passage through the tunnels.

Details of maintenance to the Anderton Boat Lift are to be finalised in June/July 2025 and if finances are satisfactory, work will start in October 2025 and will take two Winters. Only one boating season will be lost.

The work on Dean Lock (Gathurst – Leeds Liverpool Canal) has been completed with a new bridge constructed over the weir, the weir grouted, steps repaired, new handrails and the whole area cleared of brambles and rubbish. The lock is much easier and safer for boaters to use. Pennywort was a big problem last Summer. Unfortunately, rather than dying back completely during the Winter it has continued to grow. Pennywort is likely to be a bigger problem in 2025.

Problems: We need a new Secretary for AWCC NW. For health reasons Nick Culliford who has been our Secretary for 19 years decided to retire from the post. John Suggitt has kindly stood in as temporary Secretary while we look for a replacement Regional Secretary.

So, use the canals while we can and happy cruising for 2025.

Malcolm Holbrook Chairman N-W AWCC

4. **Secretary's Report**

We had two possible within our Region for this event, these being Lymm Cruising Club and Mersey Motor Boat Club. Mersey MBC have a major function occurring during the Saturday Evening which entails much preparation during the day, consequently it was agreed to stage the National AGM at Lymm (continued overleaf).

AWCC North West Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13TH March 2025 (continued)

Secretaries Report (continued)

The meeting is to assume a hybrid format, thus it has been necessary to confirm the suitability of the W-Fi provision within Lymm's headquarters. A Speed Test was undertaken on Sunday 26th January, which yielded favourable results, suggesting that adequate Zoom provision is possible on the day of the meeting.

Directions to the Club site for visitors have been provided which in order to ensure their safe arrival enable them to make a left turn off New Road/Lymm Cross into The Square upon arrival. Car parking is available within the Club Site, which should be sufficient on the day. Car share is encouraged among the guests, who are expected to arrive any time from 9-30 am. Upon arrival they will be offered complimentary Tea/Coffee/Biscuits.

The meeting is proposed to run from 11-00 am until approximately 1-00 pm with a Lunch-Break of one hour, where a meal (veggie option available) will be offered at cost of £6-00 per head. A meeting Agenda has been provided by the National Secretary.

At 2-00pm we have a Guest Speaker who will advise on the use of HVO fuel, followed by a Special General Meeting (Agenda provided) to review/update the AWCC Constitution. The meeting should conclude around 3-00pm.

Though an 'in house' PA system comprising microphones/amplifiers/speakers, together with a screen and a Projector is available, we propose to take our own equipment on the day to cover all eventualities.

John Suggitt, acting Secretary N-W AWCC

- 5. Treasurers Report** Whilst a report not been possible due to difficulties in registering the change of name at our bank, we hold £2275-20 (Current Acc.), £2982-99, (Savings Acc.). The former Treasurer agreed to liaise with the incoming Treasurer how the current handover difficulties may be resolved.

- 6. Election of Officers** The existing officers in total were re-elected unanimously.

7. Bridgewater Breach near Dunham Massey

BCC offered an update on the breach which is to be read out at the AWCC AGM.

BCC have arranged the means to bypass the breach via the M.S.C. at a cost of £270-00 for a group of ten boats. In order to be considered, each boat must hold a Certificate of Seaworthiness at a cost of £60-00 (continued overleaf).

There are in the region of 1000 pleasure craft based on the Bridgewater Canal whose cruising plans are directly affected by the breach. It was considered worthwhile asking for the Reciprocal Agreement constraints be lifted to enable these boat owners to enjoy an extended cruising range between now and when the breach is repaired.

8. Update on warning signs at Barnton and Saltersford Tunnels

Thanks to the use of icons, these signs are difficult to interpret and poorly sited, whilst the original indication/warning signs have not been removed. It was considered worthwhile raising this matter with C&RT at our future late Spring meeting.

9. A.O.B.

Due to dwindling support, it is proposed that Broken Cross Boat Club is to be either re-structured or wound up this coming September, future plans are pending.

Attempts have been made to remove outboard motors/tools from boats moored in the Grappenhall Area. The perpetrators tend to vandalise the boats if they are unsuccessful.

The Meeting was closed at 9-00pm

Date of next Meeting Thursday 8th May 2025 WHCC Stretford

Minutes taken by John Suggitt in the absence of a Secretary