

## **Notes taken at the AWCC National AGM held at Lymm Cruising Club**

The AWCC National AGM took place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025, whereupon thirty-five guests were accommodated together with twelve participants attending via a Zoom link.

The venue was ideal in that the Location, Accommodation, Catering, Car Parking and Wi-Fi provision, matched the needs of all concerned.

Those involved with arranging the meeting arrived early in order to prepare the Club Room, the Site and the Meals on offer.

The SGM (to update the Constitution) commenced at 11-00am, immediately followed by the AGM, with a break for lunch around 1-00pm. Minutes should be available shortly.

To offer an update on the Bridgewater Canal breach at Dunham Massey, BCC released the following statement which was read out during the AGM.

***'Although part of the Peel group, the Bridgewater Canal Company is a standalone business. As a commercial business, which does not receive any funding from government, the Bridgewater Canal company generates its own income and manages its own expenditure.***

***By way of update, the emergency action taken on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to install timber stop logs to prevent the loss of the entire canal resulted in approximately 2 miles of canal becoming unnavigable. We installed the stop logs at Agden Bridge, Lymm and Back Lane Bridge, Dunham. One mooring site, Ye Olde No. 3 was also de-watered affecting thirty boats including two visiting C&RT continuous cruisers. Once the water loss was stopped, the priority was then to refloat the mooring site and as much of the canal as possible to prevent potential back wall collapse. This was completed with the aid of Portadams and syphoning water over the stop logs and earth dam in a controlled manner. All craft are now floating.***

***The distance of unnavigable canal has reduced to just under half a mile. We have instructed the design of new timber stop logs at Woodhouse Lane in Dunham and an earth dam at Little Bollington which will replace the temporary Portadams as a medium-term solution on either side of the breach until the repair works are undertaken.***

***We have been having regular meetings with Cheshire East Council, the local elected Councillor & members of the Little Bollington Parish Council to keep them informed of our progress to date.***

***We can confirm that it is the intention of the Bridgewater Canal Company to have the breach repaired and the Canal and Cheshire Ring reopened to full navigation. Although it is too early to be certain, we anticipate the repair works will take around 18 to 24 months to complete. Initial consultation on design work and solutions have already taken place and we hope to have an engineering design consultancy instructed within the next few months.'***

Later, the guest speaker, Chartered Engineer Bowman Bradley gave an insight into environmentally friendly (HVO) fuel and how it could be adopted in the short to medium term by the majority of boaters all of whom employ diesel engines.

The meeting concluded at around 3-30pm and thanks to a willing team of volunteers, the Lymm CC Headquarters was re-arranged to suit future events at around 4-30pm.

**John Suggitt 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

BCC Statement March 2025