

Navigation Committee

12 January 2023

Agenda item number 12

Boat Safety Management Group update

Report by Head of Safety Management

Purpose

To provide an update on significant matters discussed at Boat Safety Management Group.

1. BSMG Update 10 October 2022

- 1.1. The Boat Safety Management Group met on 10 October 2022.
- 1.2. The Group was updated on the ongoing Bird Flu Epidemic and confirmed that a communication link had been set up with the RSPCA, where sick birds can be reported to them and that they would attend and deal with the situation.
- 1.3. The Group discussed the increase in paddle sports on Broads' waters and that it would be beneficial to the group to have a representative from the paddle sports sector on the Boat Safety Management Group. It was agreed that the Head of Safety Management would research a suitable contact available to invite to future meetings.
- 1.4. An update was given on the Incident and Accident data for 2021/2022. There were no notable incidents during this period but a high number of slips trips and falls were recorded. Highlighting this issue remains the priority of the Authority to visitors, in various ways, by means of notice boards and during handovers. It was noted that statistics also show the higher number of females involved in incidents involving slips, trips and falls and it was agreed they are often chosen to be the person disembarking the vessel whilst mooring. There is still a need for more education on disembarking a vessel despite addressing this issue through the Broads Authority on-line safety videos.
- 1.5. The Group commented on the reduced number of notable incidents, which is seen as encouraging and perhaps due to a positive impact of increased patrolling by Broads Authority Rangers, and improvements on handover instructions and safety drills by hire operators.
- 1.6. An update on the navigation warnings for speed and wash from April 2022 to 30 September 2022 was given and it was noted that they were slightly below the figures for the last two years, but still in line with the long-term average. There had been more occurrences of the lower offences this year and less of greater offences

which lead to prosecutions. This could be linked to a greater Ranger presence on the water with the introduction of the four new Assistant Rangers in the summer.

- 1.7. An Operations update was provided in regard to channel markers in Breydon. The Authority released a tender in 2022 to replace the channel markers. Unfortunately, the company that won the tender have subsequently gone out of business. Therefore, the Authority's in-house Construction Team are looking at how they could manage the installation and what implications it would have on the work programme.
- 1.8. A Notice to Mariners update was presented to the Group and confirmed all Notices to Mariners are put on the Broads Authority's website and published in newspapers. There are currently 3 Notices to Mariners.
 - Dredging at Malthouse Broad until March 2023.
 - Network Rail has started the swing bridge refurbishment programme which includes several dates until the end of October and work continues at the start of 2023.
 - Breydon Bridge on A47. Works are expected by Highways England between now and February 2023 to replace the hydraulic jacks.

Author: Linda Ibbitson-Elks

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