

## AGM 2019

### **The Chairman introduced Chris Evans (CBE Consultants/CRT) – Update on Port of Leeds**

In 2014, CRT decided that they wanted to promote the construction of the Port of Leeds at Stourton. One wharf was originally proposed, but this was extended to two. Planning is expected by June, ready for operation by 2021.

Potential cargoes: aggregate, sea dredged e.g. from Dogger Bank, about 12 hours from the Humber; timber, steel. £¼ million has been invested by ABP in Hull for containers, other bulk products also. Containerised goods are thought to be the increasing transport method.

New concrete batching plant envisaged at Stourton – 2 million tonnes p.a. demand in Leeds for readymix.

Clean air policy in Leeds will make water transport more attractive.

Well positioned for HS2.

Greater capacity Euro II size barges will make operations more efficient.

Container barges capable of 32 TEU (double stacked).

Aire & Calder Navigation (A&CN) is also popular with leisure industry.

A&CN used to carry 3m tonnes pa, but much of this was coal.

Dredging? This will be done in due course as it is needed.

It was pointed out Government needs to be behind this project. There are barges available, but an initiative is required to encourage younger people to be involved. David Lowe said there are enough barges for the ½ million tonnes potential that is envisaged in the first five years. Bulholme lock enlargement envisaged for Euro II sized barges. David Lowe said that he knows there are young people available for skippering and crewing barges.

Chris said that with the Port of Leeds the aim is to get traffic running and prove that barge transport can be commercially successful, eco-friendly and effective.