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PRESS RELEASE

Additional 'Preview' day for 2019 Crick Boat Show

Next year the Crick Boat Show celebrates its 20th anniversary, and the event is to get even bigger and better with the announcement of a brand new 'Trade & Preview Day'. Although the show will take place over the normal three days, from Saturday 25 to Monday 27 May, it will be preceded by the special one-day event on Friday 24, designed to enable exhibitors and visitors to get even more out of Britain's premier inland waterways event.

The Crick Boat Show 2019 Trade & Preview Day will be reserved for three groups. First, exhibitors and invited boating/waterway related businesses. Second, a maximum of 1,000 pre-booked visitors will ensure better access to view boats and talk with the specialist equipment and service suppliers that are taking part. Third, the boating/marine related press, who will benefit from an increased opportunity to meet with and discuss products and services with the companies.

Making the Trade & Preview Day announcement, Peter Johns said. "All successful Shows look to the future and do not rest on their laurels. It is time to move Crick Boat Show to the next level. We have listened to our visitors and exhibitors and two key messages emerge. First, the Show is the one event in the year when the majority of the inland boating trade come together, and exhibitors would like more opportunity to speak with one another. Second, for the serious boat-owner or aspiring boat-owner, the large visitor numbers that the Show attracts sometimes means that boats and stands can be so busy that they do not get the chance to talk in depth with all of the traders they wish to.

"We believe that adding a Trade & Preview Day on the Friday will allow exhibitors and invited members of the inland boating industry to meet with one another during part of the day reserved for this purpose. This will be followed by 4 to 5 hours of pre-booked access for the public, which will give these visitors an opportunity to explore the Show at a less pressured pace. The day will also help us to encourage the press to visit and spend more time talking to trade exhibitors.

"Adding the Trade & Preview Day will require considerable investment from the organising team but we are confident that we will be able to continue to offer the same high level of service to exhibitors as before. We have constrained any price increases to very modest levels – much of which simply reflects inflation.

"The Show site will be zoned to reserve some areas for the traditional 3 days for anyone who does not wish to take advantage of this extra day.

"For exhibitors, there will be a need to adjust set up times a little. But with an increasing number already choosing to set up on the Thursday, this can be managed smoothly and we

will be able to maintain access for Friday setup for those taking part in the regular three-day Show."

Exhibitor bookings for the Crick Boat Show 2019 and Trade & Preview Day open on Monday 1 October 2018. To discuss exhibiting at Crick Boat Show 2019, contact Ian Sharpe ian.sharpe@wwonline.co.uk or call 01283 742977

Crick Boat Show visitor tickets, camping and mooring will go on sale at the beginning of December 2018.

For more information on Crick Boat Show 2019 Trade & Preview Day, **contact Peter Johns** peter.johns@wwonline.co.uk, **01283 742960**.

Crick Boat Show key facts:

Crick Boat Show is the UK's biggest inland waterways festival. It takes place each year over the Late May Bank Holiday weekend at Crick Marina on the Grand Union Canal near Daventry in Northamptonshire.

The 20th Crick Boat Show will be held in 2019:

The Show hosts the largest display of new inland boats, both narrowboats and wide beams, and for three days it becomes Britain's largest chandlery when over 250 exhibitors bring together the complete range of equipment and materials for inland boating.

The first Crick Boat Show was in 2000, and it is now established as a destination for waterways enthusiasts looking to upgrade or improve their boat, for newcomers wanting to get afloat for the first time and for those seeking a day out by the waterways.

The Show is organised by *Waterways World* magazine in association with the Canal & River Trust and Crick Marina.

- Over 26,000 visitors expected to attend
- More than 270 exhibitors
- 32,000m² exhibition space
- Food stalls and Real Ale Marquee with live music
- 15 bands and entertainers
- More than 40 boats exhibited, including heritage working boats
- Trip boats offering free boat trips
- Over 300 camping pitches
- Moorings for up to 100 visitor boats on the Grand Union Canal

