
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS

News from the Committee Meeting ...
...held on 17th Oct. 1992 at Hockley Port on the BCN.

Membership is now 849. It was noted that there was a smaller increase in membership this month due to some members failing to renew. The matter would be kept under review although this was the first month affected by renewal figures.

The Treasurer reported a healthy bank balance, although it should be borne in mind that Parliamentary lobbying and attendance, in the House, (at the Committee stage of the British Waterways Bill) will seriously eat into any reserves that NABO has.

It was noted, with approval, that NABO had provided the first of its Bi-monthly articles for Canal and Riverboat. Thanks to Dave Green and Norman Alborough.

A supplier of Sweatshirts and Teeshirts has been found and the Committee received details of the services provided by this Company. We await samples and prices together with samples of a burgee/pennant.

CAN YOU HELP? Do you have a tent or awning which might be used for providing cover for the NABO display stand? Would you be able to carry out the signwriting needed for the headings needed on the display stand? Please contact the Publicity Officer, Pete Sterry, Tel: 0332, 671250.

DO YOU HAVE any of the following items of Office Equipment which are surplus to your requirements? Photocopier, Fax machine, computer or any other items which you feel may be useful. Please contact the BOATER Editor, Jon Darlington, 111 Maas Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2PP Tel: 021, 475, 6273.

A new set of draft Boat Standards (the 5th) is expected at any time. Amendments to the 4th draft have not been subject to user consultation. We will keep you informed of developments.

A large portion of the meeting was devoted to discussing the Moorings situation on BW Water and

producing a policy position for the meeting at Willow Grange on Saturday 24th October 1992. A report on the Willow Grange meeting is included below.

The NABO response to the BW Customers Charter was discussed and refined in the light of a report of our meeting with BW's Jim Kelly at Watford on Tuesday 6th October 1992. It was noted that the final date for submissions had been put back to the end of November.

Many thanks to those members who brought their boats, or attended by other means, at the Ridgeacre Branch on Saturday October 3rd 1992 to swell numbers at the IWA organised protest against the closure of much of this Arm of the BCN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? The following items are due for discussion at the next Committee meeting -
NABO Cruising Awards (to encourage use of the lesser used parts of the Waterways System.)
NABO Rallies or Gatherings (to highlight problems associated with the reasonable use of the Navigations.
NABO participation in the events of other Waterway User Groups.

Date of next Committee Meeting: 10.00am Saturday 5th December 1992 at Hockley Port on the BCN. Any member is welcome to attend Committee meetings.

Missing Member?

A Building Society cheque has been received for a subscription renewal. Unfortunately, we do not have a record of who sent it. If you renewed your subscription by this method in September, but have not received confirmation, could you please let Jane Green know.

Consultation on Moorings

User Groups were invited to the Mooring Consultation meeting held on 24th October. No policy decisions were arrived at, but you can't really expect them after just one meeting.

One glaring omission from the agenda was the issue of residential moorings. It seems that BW have created so many 24/48 hour visitor moorings in places where they are not necessary because they are afraid of residential boats. Visitor moorings were discussed in detail, and it was made clear that residential moorings should also be.

BW affirmed that they would like to charge 50% of class one moorings to private landowners' ("end of garden") moorings. The overwhelming conclusion of the users was that 50% was too high. Brian Dice (BW Chief Executive) agreed that they would look at the matter again.

Another area of discussion which was not resolved was the "14 day rule" which BW wants to leave open ended ie Boaters shall be allowed to moor for 14 days, with the time limit and definition of location being open to the Board. We do not believe this to be appropriate. Apart from rules needing to be clear to be kept, undefined rules could be used as a means of harassment.

Other areas of discussion included the provision of on-line and off-line moorings, and a proposed pricing structure for BW operated sites. The proposal is included below.

The BW Draft Moorings Classification Table.

Site Location	Site Specification					High ↑ ↓ Low
	A	B	C	D	E	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

High ←————→ Low

Site specification factors:

	High	Low
Security:	fenced, locked supervised	full public access
Car parking:	locked, next to boats	none
Position:	Private offside basin	busy tow path
Depth/Edge:	hard edge & top	gang plank
Access Path:	hard smooth surface	muddy & uneven
Facilities:	water, refuse, toilet shower, elsan, pumpout, power on site	nothing on site

Location factors

- Quality of local environment (high/low)
- Closeness/remoteness to variety of cruising.
- Easy/difficult to get to by road.
- high/low Demand/popularity of site.

Response

We will soon be submitting detailed written comments on mooring issues generally, and later, on BW's draft moorings classification.

If you have any comments on moorings, please contact Jon Darlington at 111 Maas Rd, Northfield Birmingham B31 2PP (021 475 6273)

BW Cycling on Towpaths: Policy Review and Proposals for Consultation.

This document issued in September seeks to find solutions to the increased use of towpaths. BW's overall objective is to allow SAFE cycling on SUITABLE towpaths, and as far as possible, the implementation programme should be self financing.

NABO will be preparing a response after the next Committee meeting, and more details will be given in the Boater. In the meantime, if you have any views on towpath cycling, please send them to Dave Green at the general correspondence address.

IWAAC Chairmen

On 30th October, David Wain, OBE, retired as Chairman of IWAAC. He has been a Council member since 1968 and was appointed Chairman in 1977. In 1974 he opened a canal museum at Llangollen, which received the British Tourist Authority's top trophy for outstanding development in Great Britain in the same year. Although NABO has been around for a comparatively short time, we acknowledge the work David has carried out for the waterways and wish him well for the future.

On 1st November Giles Herman Baker takes up his appointment as Chairman of IWAAC. In 1963 he founded Harborough Marine and Anglo Welsh Narrowboats where he was Managing Director till 1989. He is a past Chairman of the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators, and was appointed to the Council of IWAAC in 1986, becoming Vice Chairman in January of this year.

BW General Powers Bill 2nd Reading Debate

The date of the reading has not yet been set by the House of Commons. It could occur at any time, so please write to your MP as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. So far there is a very good positive response from members to the task of contacting their MPs. Remember that a personal letter from a constituent (ie. yourself) is the best way of getting the message across.

A seat on a coach will be supplied free of charge to any member of NABO who wishes to join Coombeswood Canal Trust for the second reading debate in the House of Commons. Will all interested members please contact: Mr & Mrs P.F. Peniket by telephone (0384 397204). Coaches will leave from Hawne Basin, Hereward Rise, Halesowen, West Mids. Regret no other pick-up points. We are very grateful to the Coombeswood Canal Trust for this very generous offer.