

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of the third Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Boat Owners held on Saturday 27th November, 1993 at Doctor Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham.

Apologies for absence were received from Janice Christiansen, Paul and Joan Eggington and Sandra Goldsborough.

## 1. MINUTES OF THE 1992 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1.1 Following a clarification of paragraph 8.3, the minutes of the 1992 AGM were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 1.2 Item 4.2 of the minutes recorded that the Council would consider the possibility of life membership. The Council had considered this and decided that it was not currently in the best interests of NABO to introduce a life membership category, but it could be reconsidered in the future.

## 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 2.1 NABO had been formed at a crucial time for boat owners, with the advent of the BW Bill and the Transport and Works Bill (now 1992 Act, amended). NABO had played an important part in getting both Bills amended.

NABO had been criticised for claiming victories not theirs, but had been careful never to do this. A close relationship had developed between NABO and RBOA, but it would make sense for NABO to work more closely with other organisations such as IWA and AWCC. This would be a matter for the new Council.

- 2.2 NABO can claim to have made others take notice, and close communication with members was important to ensure that NABO remained representative of boat owners. The Chairman had been impressed by the apparent care with which NABO had been listened to in his meetings with British Waterways, especially by Waterway Managers and senior officials; but noted that we should remain on guard, and not be seduced by appearances.

The Chairman asked that he be forgiven for concentrating on British Waterways matters, but these were the best known problems.

- 2.3 NABO had given a detailed response to the draft BW Customer Charter, a document not perfect, but containing useful information. This was eventually published as a small document with all the useful information in other documents, kept only in Waterway Managers' offices. Copies were not obtainable in case of complaint. This was blatantly against the spirit of the Citizens Charter. NABO had suggested a Boaters Charter, but BW had rejected this idea.

The new Council would take this forward, together with a proposed consultation procedure.

- 2.4 It had been suggested that there was no role for NABO, but there is no other organisation solely for individual boaters on the inland waterways. NABO can distribute news quickly, with flexible publications that can send and ask for information fast. The Chairman asked that everyone continued to support the organisation, and encourage new members.

- 2.5 On a personal note, the Chairman was unable to stand for Council again himself, but commended the strong list of nominees as a good mixture of old hands and new blood. He concluded by thanking the members of the retiring Council for their hard work over the year, and thanking everyone for attending the meeting and continuing to support NABO.

## 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 3.1 The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1993 were contained in the notice of the AGM (October Newsletter).
- 3.2 The Treasurer explained a few points concerning the financial statements. Income derived from membership fees and from donations for which NABO was particularly grateful. The largest item of expenditure was the production of Boaters and Newsletters. A portable computer and printer had been purchased for processing membership records. The financial position was healthy, even taking into account advance subscriptions (membership fees received but which had not yet been serviced).
- 3.3 Financial records were available for inspection at any mutually convenient time.
- 3.4 No questions or comments were raised, and the accounts were accepted.

#### 4. RESOLUTIONS

4.1. "That the Constitution and Rules of the Association be amended by the insertion of the following Clauses 4e and 4f:

4e. Any person supporting the objects of the Association as defined in Clause 2 and not owning a vessel capable of use on the inland waterways shall be eligible for associate membership subject to Clauses 4a-d. Associate members shall have no voting rights at general meetings, may not be officers of the Association or eligible for election to the Council at general meetings.

4f. Subject to 4e, reference to members in this Constitution shall be taken to be references to members and associate members."

4.1.1 Peter Lea proposed this resolution having met a number of people at rallies who would like to join NABO, but were not actually boat owners. Views were expressed concerning the possibility of admitting to membership enthusiastic boat hirers, those involved in shared ownership and those between boats, against the view that NABO was formed for boat owners only and that associate members could cause upset in spite of being denied voting rights. It was noted that the Council had the power to admit any individual to membership at their discretion.

4.1.2 An amendment was proposed to allow associate membership only for those proposing to buy a boat, and provided they indicate that it is their intention to own a boat within 2 years. If this is not the case, they will not be eligible any more."

4.1.3 The amendment was defeated with 9 votes in favour. The resolution was also defeated with 15 votes in favour.

4.2. That the Constitution and Rules of the Association be amended to allow 10% discount to any member who pays a subscription by standing order.

4.2.1 An amendment was proposed to the effect that the discount offered should not be fixed, but should be at the discretion of the Council.

4.2.2 The merits or otherwise of standing orders were discussed.

4.2.3 The amendment was carried with 16 votes in favour and 14 against, but the resolution was lost.

#### 5. SUBSCRIPTION RATES

5.1 Penny Barber proposed that in view of the healthy financial state of the Association, the annual subscription rate should remain at £8. This was seconded by Peter Lea, and carried unanimously.

#### 6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

6.1 David Horne had had to withdraw his nomination, due to pressure of work.

6.2 There were 14 nominees, and up to 15 can be elected. Dave Green therefore proposed that the Council was elected on block. There were three seconders, and the proposal was carried.

6.3 A discussion followed concerning the possibility of holding a full election, as the block election denied members the opportunity of voting against particular nominees, and those unable to attend the AGM could not have a say. Postal voting was suggested. Further discussion was postponed to the Open Forum at the end of the meeting.

#### 7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

7.1 The Council proposed that Anthony Bedell was re-elected as auditor. Stephen Peters seconded, carried unanimously.

#### 8. ANY OTHER OFFICIAL BUSINESS

8.1 On behalf of the Council and members, Peter Sterry expressed grateful thanks to Dave Green who was retiring as Chairman. NABO had achieved an enviable reputation, and much of this was due to Dave Green's time, effort and expertise.