

MINUTES OF THE 13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held on 13th NOVEMBER 2004 at LAPWORTH VILLAGE HALL, LAPWORTH

Present: Stuart Sampson, chairman, in the chair, Geoffrey Rogerson, vice chairman, Carole Sampson, general secretary, Gordon Reece, treasurer, three other Council members and 28 members.

Stuart Sampson thanked everyone present for attending..

Apologies for absence: received from Penny Barber, Gordon & Joan Jamieson, Richard Carpenter, Aileen Butler, Andrew & Margaret Sherrey, Mike Smith, and Christine Potter.

Minutes. The minutes of the 12th AGM held in 2003 were distributed. Proposed by Peter Foster, seconded by Stephen Peters, and with all that were present in favour, they were accepted as a true record.

Chairman's Report.

Stuart began by thanking various people who had contributed to the running of NABO over the last year. To his wife Carole for organising the AGM and Council meetings, for her work as Yorkshire secretary, and for providing support and taxi services to him; to all Council members for attending the meetings; to all members who had attended User Group meetings on NABO's behalf; to David Harle who had done the book-keeping for NABO under very difficult circumstances; to Melanie and John Darlington, Ruth Field and those at Berrington Print for their administrative support and the production/distribution of NABO News; and those attending today.

He went on to describe NABO members as dedicated to the welfare of the waterways, and made comparison with those belonging to AWCC and IWA. He mentioned past unrest within Council as being more concerned with procedures rather than policy. He pointed out that Council members reflect a wide range of boating lifestyles, and that now there are a number of members working on NABO's behalf without having to attend the Council meetings. He asked that anyone interested in serving on Council as a co-opted member should make themselves known to us.

Stuart outlined what NABO has been doing over the last year.

- Seven issues of NABO News had been produced.
- Thanks to Aileen Butler and Richard Allington for transport and manning of the stand at the Saul Rally, and to Tom Crossley and John Russell who had helped at the National Waterways Festival,
- Council had undertaken a review of policy, fleshing out the statements for the benefit of those attending meetings.
- BSS. This has been ticking over in the background. NABO is in debt to Trevor Rogers who has worked very hard on boaters behalf for a more simplified scheme. He commented that Sue Burchett has resigned from the BSS management committee: if anyone is interested in filling

the vacancy, could they make their interest known.

- Moorings code. NABO had taken legal advice, which had been presented to British Waterways. This had led to the introduction of the Continuous Cruising Guidelines. Geoff Rogerson has been dealing with this.
- BW Openness & Accountability. Stuart feels that the NABO petition for a Waterways Regulator has been instrumental in causing BW to adopt this approach. He asked members to report whether the new system is working.
- There has been a recent overhaul of local user group meetings, to which NABO had made some input. Stuart wondered if they are any better?
- The Ombudsman Committee. Two non-aligned members are being sought, who can belong to organisations but not hold office. If anyone present is interested, ask Stuart for more details. There will be three user group representatives, but nothing is known about this yet. BW is setting up a National Consultative Committee - NABO's chairman has been invited to join the select steering committee.
- Regarding BW customer service, Stuart had challenged Alun Michael MP at a Parliamentary Waterways group meeting about this: he feels that as a result, NABO is treated with respect.
- Comments had been made about licence indexing and it not being related to the retail price index.
- Waterway reporting. Regarding Adrian Stott's waterways dossiers initiative, insufficient people had volunteered as lengthsman. The spin-off is the Waterways Reports Board on the internet. Stuart thanked those who had helped as moderators.
- Red diesel. NABO had offered financial and moral support to the RYA in its campaign for retention of the current levels of duty. The offer was not taken up. It has been made again: we await a response. Stuart believes the cause is not yet lost.
- The survey about alcohol and boating was inconclusive.
- NABO has contributed to the DEFRA 5-year review of British Waterways performance: copies were available at the back for members to take away.

Stuart received a round of applause.

Financial statement.

The accounts had been distributed to the members present. Gordon Reece, treasurer, went through the accounts, explaining any obvious anomalies between last years and this years figures. He pointed out the difficulty in getting members to increase their fees to £15. He thought about £150 is outstanding due to this. He also thanked David Harle for his work on the books. Members were then invited to ask questions.

- Why has there been such an increase in insurance costs?

Answer - To attend rallies, the National in particular, we have to have £5million in third party cover. Not many companies have this, so NABO has had to change to Zurich Municipal.

- How many members does NABO have?

Answer - About 1700: members have resigned mainly due to selling boats, old age, and bereavement.

• Why is there no obvious increase in fee income?

Answers - a) fewer members

b) members still paying £10

c) last years figures already included some of the increased fees.

• A member thought that urgent attention should be given to the setting up of a deposit account. Carole S. explained why the previous one had been closed: Gordon said that this would be addressed in the near future.

• A member thought that we need to collect evidence as to why members are leaving. The figures might make BW do something for pensioners.

Gordon then thanked John Darlington for preparing the end-of-year accounts and getting them to the auditor.

Proposed Stephen Peters, seconded by Chris Boxall, and with everyone in favour, the accounts were accepted.

Annual subscription fees.

Proposed Stuart Sampson, seconded Sadie Dean that subscription fees should remain the same. Everyone present was in favour..

Appointment of the auditor.

Carole S explained that she had contacted the present auditor, and he was prepared to continue in 2004-2005. Proposed Carole Sampson, seconded Peter Foster that Alan Davies be NABO's auditor, all were in favour.

Stuart Sampson asked if members were in favour of continuing with the liquid honorarium for the auditor: all agreed.

Election of Council Members.

Nine people are standing for Council, namely, Aileen Butler, Peter Foster, Tony Haynes, Celia Kennedy, Stephen Peters, Gordon Reece, Geoff Rogerson, Carole Sampson, and Stuart Sampson.

There being no need for an election, Stuart asked the meeting if it wished to elect them en bloc or individually Proposed Sadie Dean, seconded Dick Chater that they be elected en bloc, all were in favour, so the nine were elected to Council for the year 2004-2005.

At this point, the new Council adjourned to elect its officers whilst members looked at the new policy document.

Introduction of new Officers. For the year 2004-2005,

Chairman	Stuart Sampson
Vice Chairman	Geoffrey Rogerson
General Secretary	Carole Sampson
Treasurer	Gordon Reece

Stuart Sampson welcomed Peter Foster who is returning to Council and Tony Haynes as a new Councillor.

Questions from the floor.

Policy document issues.

1) John Darlington thought that a clause should be inserted that cyclists should slow down when passing moored boats

This led to a discussion about the towpath, where chippings are being thrown up onto boat paintwork etc. The surface is supposed to be sealed, but generally, it isn't done due to expense.

Sadie Dean wondered if NABO should contact Sustrans direct?

Stuart S said that Council will look at this.

2) Tony Haynes thought that the policy document should contain a statement about crime on the cut.

Stuart S asked him to prepare one. Tony agreed.

3) Are overstaying charges (item 8) being applied consistently?

As far as Council is aware, they are.

Trevor Rogers asked if changes to mooring durations have the consent of user groups?

Simon Robbins commented that many are being reduced to 24-hours.

Carole informed members that the Statements of Intent which accompany the BW 1995 Act promise moorings of mixed duration wherever possible, and that our meeting representatives should remind BW of its obligation.

Trevor Rogers asked if members would like an update on the BSS.

The new document is out, and open to public consultation: the responses received to date were being considered. The Management Committee has already stated that it will abide by the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The previously stated time-scale had been met, and the new scheme is much simpler. It is appreciated that there will inevitably be comments from boaters who have spent considerable sums implementing previous mandatory items which have now been scrapped. Whilst there are a couple of items that Trevor feels should not be included in their present form, he feels that this new scheme is the best that we could hope for. The full scheme will be available on the web in March 2005.

The chairman thanked Trevor, and informed members how much work he has done on boaters behalf.

Chris Boxall raised various points.

a) How has the reduced size of Council worked?

Answer - better, but it needs to be up to full strength (12) as we had once had a problem (illness, travel problems) when we were only just quorate.

b) Have all the meetings taken place?

Answer - one was cancelled because there was nothing to discuss.

c) Have all user group meetings been attended?

Answer - generally yes. Gordon Reece pointed out that where there are several meetings in one area, the agendas tend to be identical, so that it isn't necessary to attend them all.

d) Are many people using the Waterway Reports Board?

Answer - yes, but not as many as we would like. It will be publicised again next spring.

Tony Haynes asked if the Reports Board should contain reports of crime and vandalism.

Answer - yes. Members to be urged to do this. He offered to collate the information after twelve months and prepare a case for the navigation authorities.

Trevor Rogers asked if a NABO representative is attending Thames user group meetings.

Answer - This is in hand, and someone will be turning up soon.

Peter Foster had noticed interesting correspondence to do with the campaign for the retention of current duty levels on red diesel. He thought NABO should make contact with the magazine.

Carole S said that Stuart is already in phone communication over various issues.

Trevor Rogers said that the BSS committees were in support of the red diesel campaign on safety grounds, as boats would switch to petrol.

Geoff Monk wondered if BW would receive a portion of the revenue if duty on red diesel was increased. A percentage of road fuel tax goes to roads, maybe a percentage of boat fuel should go to BW. Perhaps BW should campaign for this and pass it back to boaters in reduced fees.

It was thought that cheaper diesel would be available roadside than canalside: boaters would be carrying it along towpaths.

It was commented that engines can run on corn oil, and also that a system is being developed that converts human waste into diesel.

Trevor Rogers asked if NABO is involved with the new committee looking at the needs of people living on boats.

Stuart S said that Simon Robbins has attended the inaugural meeting.

Simon said that the committee is organised by AINA. It was a fruitful meeting, its first being to produce planning guidelines for all types of visitor moorings.

Going back to the Waterway Dossiers, Geoff Monk asked if the idea had died a death. Stuart said that Adrian hadn't sent in a report, he suspected due to extreme busyness. Simon Robbins thought it needs more time.

Stuart informed members that a sample dossier for the River Stort has been placed on the NABO website.

Finally, Carole S asked those present if they would like a BW guest at the next AGM in 2005. There seemed to be some enthusiasm for the idea, leading on to who should be invited.

Stuart S thought not Eugene Baston, a much bigger wig would be needed at our AGM. George Greener and Robin Evans were mentioned. Council to decide.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BOAT OWNERS**

**ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

31 MARCH 2004

111 Maas Rd. Northfield, Birmingham B31 2PP
Phone 0121 475 6273, Fax 0121 243 2991

I have examined the books and records of the Association and have verified that the Association's accounts are in accordance with them, and the information and explanations provided, and are free of material misstatement.

I have not carried out an audit as defined by the Auditing Practices Board of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies.

September 2004

Alan C Davis (Chartered Accountant)
9 Fryer's Walk
Tring
Herts. HP23 4AY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2004

		31.03.04		31.03.03	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Membership Fees	1		21,055		17,712
Donations			1,162		1,302
Profit on Merchandise Sales			246		92
Advertising Revenue			470		385
Deposit Interest	2		0		245
			<u>22,933</u>		<u>19,736</u>
LESS EXPENSES					
Printing & Distribution of Newsletter		6,661		7,413	
Rallies & Marketing Expenditure		822		5,505	
Printing, Postage & Stationery		2,100		2,496	
Telephone and Office Expenses		1,577		935	
Travelling & Conference Expenses		2,283		4,068	
Room Hire & Meeting Expenses		311		615	
Subscriptions & Donations		565		303	
Insurance		1,202		634	
Secretarial & Computer Support		1,656		649	
Accountancy costs		300		0	
Storage Costs		419		335	
Legal Costs		3,643		0	
Web Site Costs		97		182	
Sundry Expenses		290		612	
Depreciation of Fixed Assets		892		900	
Write off of Investment		0		1,000	
			<u>22,818</u>		<u>25,647</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>115</u>		<u>(5,911)</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2004

		31.03.04		31.03.03	
	Note	£	£	£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	4		1,223		2,060
CURRENT ASSETS	5	34,498		31,464	
AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR	6	(15,281)		(13,199)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			19,217		18,265
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>20,440</u>		<u>20,325</u>
RESERVES					
Reserves brought forward			20,325		26,236
Excess of Income over Expenditure			115		(5,911)
Reserves carried forward			<u>20,440</u>		<u>20,325</u>

1. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are shown net of a reserve for advance subscriptions. At any time the Association has a commitment to each member to provide a service for the length of time up to his or her renewal date. The reserve accounts for this commitment.

2. DEPOSIT INTEREST

Deposit interest is received gross. Provision for Corporation Tax has been made against this at 0% (2003: 10%) and included under current liabilities.

3. BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

All members are welcome to inspect the Association's financial records at any time mutually convenient to the member and the Treasurer. Please contact the Treasurer if you want to exercise this right.

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	TOTAL	Office Equipment	Other Fixtures
	£	£	£
Cost Brought Forward	7,918	7,150	768
Additions	55	55	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Cost Carried Forward	<u>7,973</u>	<u>7,205</u>	<u>768</u>
Depreciation Brought Forward	5,858	5,102	756
Charge for Period	892	886	6
Disposals	0	0	0
Depreciation Carried Forward	<u>6,750</u>	<u>5,988</u>	<u>762</u>
NET BOOK VALUE at end of year	<u>1,223</u>	<u>1,217</u>	<u>6</u>
Net Book Value Last Year	<u>2,060</u>	<u>2,048</u>	<u>12</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2004

	Notes	31.03.04	31.03.03
5. CURRENT ASSETS		£	£
Stock of Merchandise		657	692
Stock of Promotional goods & Stationery		500	650
Debtors & Prepayments		876	731
Bank Current Account		32,465	29,391
Bank Deposit Account		0	0
		<u>34,498</u>	<u>31,464</u>
6. AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR		£	£
Trade Creditors		1,265	1,798
Accruals		1,855	862
Advance Subscriptions		11,565	9,943
Corporation Tax	2	427	427
Capital Gains Tax		169	169
		<u>15,281</u>	<u>13,199</u>