

Minutes of the 19th Annual General meeting of the National Association of Boat Owners held on 20th November 2010 at Wolverhampton Boat Club

Present: David Fletcher, Chairman; Richard Carpenter, Gen Sec; Stephen Peters, Treasurer; Howard Anguish; Susan Burchett; Geoffrey Rogerson; John Slee and 30 members.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Aileen Butler; Andy Colyer; Louis Jankel; Simon Robbins; Peter and Jane Caswell, Andy and Caroline Soper (DBA), Peter Wood, Alan Holden

2. To agree the minutes of the 2009 AGM

The minutes were agreed

Proposed by Howard Anguish; seconded by John Slee

3. To receive the Chairman's Report

Attached to minutes

4. To receive the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2010

The financial report was explained by Stephen Peters.

The income had decreased due to a slight fall in membership due to members retiring and the loss in deposit interest. Advertising revenue should increase as it had been decided to accept some adverts to counter the increased costs of the magazine.

Stephen explained that the magazine costs had increased since April and needs to be addressed by Council.

Expenditure was up due mainly to the Legal expenses incurred, but we now have Legal Opinion. In the future storage costs would be nil and there would be no costs for the House of Commons bulletin.

The loss of £9526 needs council discussion.

The acceptance of the treasurer's report was proposed by Carole Sampson and seconded by John Slee.

5. To determine the annual subscription fees.

Stephen proposed keeping the fees at the same level but matching Council expenditure to income. It is felt more important to increase membership. Carole Sampson seconded .

6. To elect Council members for the year 2010-2011.

David Fletcher; Howard Anguish; Richard Carpenter; Andy Colyer; Susan Burchett; Stephen Peters; Simon Robbins; Geoffrey Rogerson; John Slee stood for Council.

The nine nominations were elected on block. Proposed by Philip Wilson and seconded Carole Sampson. Carole then thanked Council for their hard work and Stephen Peters thanked David Fletcher for being Chairman. There were no changes in their respective posts.

7. To appoint the auditor

Alan Davis was again appointed. Proposed by Stephen Peters and seconded by Howard Anguish.

The formal part of the meeting ended at 11.30am


approved.
12/11/11

Chairman's report 19th Annual General Meeting

Good morning

I see three main areas of campaign initiative for NABO for discussion today.

1. The BW 2020 vision and progress towards the NWC, EA waters
2. Current Moorings consultation by BW
3. Legal issues with BW and the acts

I am not going to talk about them in my report, as they will I am sure be extensively discussed in the free sessions after the formal AGM proceedings. I shall concentrate on the organisation issues that I see before us.

This has been my second year in the Chair and I have to express my appreciation to Council and members for their support during the year. Your team have shared the workload and this has been a practical and supportive way to work. Council are a great team to work with, but that not to say we don't want more Council members! I have been more comfortable in the role, with more established contacts and therefore better able to represent you in National forums.

Our communication with membership is an important part of our work and there have been some significant changes during the year. Firstly we have seen a major update to the web site, the content and the style of use. We have to thank John (and Fi) for doing this important work and giving us a new and fresh tool to face the membership and the public. John has made an extraordinary contribution in doing this and we are all very grateful. The style change has meant that e mail news bulletins are no longer a regular feature of our communication. Instead news items are put on the web site almost every week, and there are electronic means of pushing them out to members if they wish. As always we welcome feed back on the new style of communication. We are not trying to compete with Waterways world, Narrow Boat world or the blogs.

Then switching to NN, the May issue was the first one for many years not to be edited by Stuart Sampson. At the time, we did not have a one for one replacement editor to do all the work needed, so a joint editing sub committee was formed of Richard and Howard and they

have alternated editorship, and arranged publishing support from Chris Pink who is canal enthusiast from the K and A area. They are now joined by member Peter Fellows and he has undertaken to take on more of the work. The brief from Council was to give the magazine a new look, with a mix of news, views and information. There has been very positive feedback, but not withstanding that, we welcome comment, suggestions, photographs and articles.

Another facet of the communication this year has been the surveys. There were two, the boaters cost survey, and the waterways condition survey. Taking the first one, this is the second year we have completed this, and so we now have data over three years and so bit by bit we can see a trend. This is both useful as a guide for members for their own costs and useful for new boat owners so that they have some clue as to what to expect. I will talk about recruitment in a minute, but a summary of this data has been used at the recruitment events this year, and it is a useful tool to catch attention for new members. We had around a hundred responses, which is 5% on membership. I am told this is what could normally be expected in a public survey, but the data is only as good as the numbers behind it and we need a fuller response for this to be meaningful. Please do it this year.

Then the second survey was the Waterways condition survey. This was publicised out widely in the associations and waterways press, and we had a good response of over 300. We sent the reports to BW and EA, and then had good dialog with BW both nationally and in some of the regions. They have used the data for planning and for most of the high priority items responded with plans for doing the work. John led this work for us, for both the surveys, and the follow up dialog with Vince Moran, Jeff Wyatt and others in BW. The issues have come up in user groups around the country, although there are good and not so good areas. John reported out on this in July NN.

There have been several major consultations with navigation authorities going on in the year. The first covered the national and local mooring strategies, then Waterways for Tomorrow, BW's 2020, and also the routine of Licence increases, Winter stoppages, BSS and so on. This is the stuff of Council's work and they are tireless in considering what is best and presenting it. Many of the submissions that we make are put on the web site. Please do look, and tell us if we have got it right.

We have not always been able to cover the consultation meetings, and there is always a need for more members to support this work. Of course it is very difficult to represent NABO without some of the background knowledge that the association has available, so this is not instant recruitment. But we need more members to come forward to share the load, attend some council meetings so that they can contribute both locally and nationally. Please do volunteer. Members do come to council meetings, and it is your right, and you are welcome. Nationally the waterways groups are typically represented by solemn grey haired men, the so called Westminster warriors. There is pressure in Government for more inclusivity, so ladies, please do come forward. Sue Burchett has rejoined Council this year, and we would welcome other ladies too.

We have actively worked with other waterways user groups this year, particularly the similar sized ones like RBOA, TBA, DBA. But also TU/Gn, IWA and AWCC. We do not always see eye to eye, but co-operation and avoidance of duplicated effort is important and never more so with the big changes that are being planned. This will continue.

Then I need to talk about membership and publicity. This is a very important part of NABO's future, and Richard has lead initiatives this year to build the profile, recruit and keep our membership. It is particular critical at this time, not for money, but because if the NWC comes off, the division of the influence within that body will be decided in the next year or so. The more members, the more influence. We are holding our own on numbers at the moment, when we understand others are not doing so well. But do we get turnover as our membership ages so if we don't recruit, we will wither. So we went to Crick and to Leeds and to Skipton and other places. The stands are on display today. And Richard works hard to keep in touch with the press, and phoning those members who are slow to renew. Many members and council members give out material on the towpath, and at festivals. We have plans for events in clubs in the winter period to keep the up the NABO. If every member recruited one other boater each year, there would be no problem. We have to go hunting and it is an easy sell, the main issue is that boaters have not heard about us and what we do. We are small yet have a wide range of experience, and this enables us to operate effectively in the National scene. We have a privileged position on many waterways consolation committees and we retain this by turning up and talking common sense. We have the passion for the waterways and we are the only group specifically dedicated to the wider interests of boat owners.

I cannot finish without talking about legal issues. We have spent some serious money on legal advice in the year and we have to thank Geoffrey and Simon for taking on the many issues. Members can question if this expense is good value, and what it has does for members. The engagement has not been very fruitful with BW in that they simply stone wall many of the detailed issues with blanket reliance on the early BW act, and readily fill in the gap on the detail in subsequent acts. Legal interpretation is an art of course and not a matter of fact. We have pressed BW in writing, in meetings and informally to get more cases to court to establish some further rulings particularly on definitions of continuous cruising. I am pleased to say there is some movement, and I am very grateful to members and boaters who have given NABO an insight into their legal cases, legal processes, ombudsmen and the like. Only in this way can we build a picture of what is going on. In our letters to BW we complained about their lack of action in bringing representative cases to court for rulings, and that they rely too much on their own legal interpretation to write terms and conditions. In January they said to us that going to court was unnecessary. Now we see some movement. This is not the final answer, but it is in the right direction.

There are many issues for the new Council to deal with, and we have to set priorities and focus efforts. We cannot do it all. Council member have lives and boat too. We have used sub committees to handle issues as part of the way in which we work to make things more efficient though Council meetings do not get any shorter. We do need more members to come forward to help and give time and expertise.

May I express my own thanks to Council and membership for their support and input during the year.

This concludes my report

Informal notes from AGM November 2010

There followed an open discussion where David explained Simon Salem's role. Land & Water have a dredging contract worth £5m a year for 5 years. Views on our stance on the third sector were sought and other organisations views explained. BW is to become the star of David Cameron's proposals for the 'Big society'. Defra have to consult and the choice is to stay as we are or become a 'third sector' organisation.

Our 20 page Legal Opinion is available to assist members should they need it. Stephen proposed publishing this to disclose BW's actions. Geoffrey explained the constraints on publishing and David explained that after publication it was of no further use to us. The room was divided on what action to take, shown by a show of hands.

Richard talked about recruitment and road shows asking for places to do the shows. Merchandise is now done by smudgeonline so we have no involvement but receive a possible profit.

There was then a break for lunch and David welcomed our guest speaker Simon Salem.

Simon started by talking about the advantages of the third sector and charitable status.

The present grant isn't stable and a 10 year contract will give some stability. The property will be locked into the charity and so will not be able to be sold.

There are tax advantages in new ways of being able to earn money.

There will be new ways of governance with each waterway having its own board.

David asked about enforcement and was told it is much improved with figures going down for non-payment.

Carole asked about the effects on the BW Acts and was told that it would be a Statutory Transfer under the Public Bodies Reform Act, which would largely consist of the new name being inserted. There would be a few changes in wording as IWAC had been disbanded.

Simon hoped the Ombudsman job would continue.

With regards to EA joining BW it could be that the incoming trustees may turn this down.

Geoff Wood was concerned about the large withdrawal of mooring wardens. Simon stated that he wanted continuous mooring to be self policing. Members considered volunteer mooring wardens a step too far. Howard pointed out that there could be conflicts with local mooring strategy. Geoffrey asked how an idea by a pilot group to restrict the number of boats would work legally?

Ian Fletcher mentioned that the funding for the Charity only meets half of the shortfall. Simon is optimistic that reducing cost will help.

Geoff Wood asked about using volunteers to take away frontline staff. Simon said that there were no plans to do this. Volunteers have the same H&S rights and must be trained to the same level.

Panda asked 'Should continuous cruisers be able to send their children to school'? Simon - There are no plans to stop them.

David asked what BW is doing to get boat builders to inform buyers about the legalities. Simon was surprised how few boaters knew of the existence of user groups. Stephen suggested BW helped Nabo with publicity.

Simon asked how many would pay extra to gift aid. One person put his hand up. There followed a discussion on gift aid which Simon said was useful.

A suggestion was made on adding Rod money to boat licences with a roving rod licence for boaters.. EA at present get rod money

Property would be held by a subsidiary company and BW could borrow against assets.

Simon explained the role of BW directors in the new charity. DEFRA appoints the trustees (a small number will be BW directors) for probably 12 months and the trustees will decide on executive directors.

Simon was presented with an offering of wine and a Dunton Double windlass and thanked for his talk.

David summed up and the meeting then ended at 3pm

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Tuesday 16th November 2010

Dear Richard,

NABO Audit – Year Ended 31st March 2010

I enclose a copy of my final 2010 Audit Report to the Members of NABO.

I was satisfied from the information given to me that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view both of the Association's funds at 31st March 2010 and the surplus for the year ended on that date.

Following my discussions with Jon and Melanie, and from other information given to me, I am pleased to report that no financial control issues arose during the course of the 2010 Audit.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of my review of the Financial Accounts in more detail, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Kind regards,

Alan Davis

Alan Davis.

Mr R Carpenter,
General Secretary,
National Association of Boat Owners,
Mill House End Farm,
Grape Lane,
CROSTON,
Leyland,
Lancashire.
PR26 9HB

NABO Audit at 31st March 2010

Auditor's Report to the Members of the National Association of Boat Owners

I have examined the Books and Records of the Association and am satisfied from the information presented to me that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view both of the Association's funds at 31st March 2010 and the surplus for the year ended on that date.

Financial Control Issues – 2010 Audit

From information given to me and from ensuing discussions with the Accountants, no new financial control issues arose during the course of the 2010 Audit.

Signed:



16th November 2010

Alan C Davis, FCCA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2010

	Note	31.03.10		31.03.09	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Membership Fees	1	15,542		16,790	
Donations		874		1,651	
Profit on Merchandise Sales		18		33	
Advertising Revenue		0		0	
Deposit Interest	2	16		867	
Sale of "Boats on Show" Share		0		0	
Other Income	3	974		580	
			<u>17,424</u>		<u>19,921</u>
LESS EXPENSES					
Printing & Distribution of Newsletter		6,553		6,609	
Rallies & Marketing Expenditure		1,112		770	
Printing, Postage & Stationery		1,202		702	
Telephone and Office Expenses		97		168	
Travelling & Conference Expenses		5,698		5,763	
Room Hire & Meeting Expenses		406		720	
Subscriptions & Donations		185		89	
Insurance		1,457		1,341	
Secretarial & Computer Support		1,175		1,637	
Accountancy costs		385		342	
Storage Costs		948		801	
Legal Costs		7,245		1,087	
Web Site Costs		282		234	
Sundry Expenses		230		474	
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	4	161		43	
			<u>27,136</u>		<u>20,780</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME			<u>(9,712)</u>		<u>(859)</u>
Corporation Tax			(186)		(374)
			<u>(9,526)</u>		<u>(485)</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2010

		31.03.10		31.03.09	
	Note	£	£	£	£
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	4		1,409		164
CURRENT ASSETS	5	37,950		48,535	
AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR	6	(14,875)		(14,689)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			23,075		33,846
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>24,484</u>		<u>34,010</u>
RESERVES					
Reserves brought forward			34,010		34,495
Excess of Income over Expenditure/ (Expenditure over Income)			(9,526)		(485)
Reserves carried forward			<u>24,484</u>		<u>34,010</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2010

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. The reserve for advance subscriptions is shown in note 6.

2. DEPOSIT INTEREST

Deposit interest is received gross. Provision for Corporation Tax has been made against this and other profits at the appropriate rate and included under current liabilities.

3. OTHER INCOME

Other income includes £805 (2009: £580) of credit balances on Members accounts which arose in the year to 31 March 2004 (2009: year to 31 March 2003).

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	TOTAL	Office Equipment	Other Fixtures
	£	£	£
Cost Brought Forward	8,502	7,530	972
Additions	1,406	0	1,406
Disposals	0	0	0
Cost Carried Forward	<u>9,908</u>	<u>7,530</u>	<u>2,378</u>
Depreciation Brought Forward	8,338	7,530	808
Charge for Period	161	0	161
Disposals	0	0	0
Depreciation Carried Forward	<u>8,499</u>	<u>7,530</u>	<u>969</u>
NET BOOK VALUE at end of year	<u>1,409</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,409</u>
Net Book Value Last Year	<u>164</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>164</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2010

	Notes	31.03.10	31.03.09
5. CURRENT ASSETS		£	£
Stock of Merchandise		934	954
Stock of Promotional goods & Stationery		1,042	300
Membership fees owing		560	508
Debtors & Prepayments		1,816	1,544
Bank Current Account		7,383	4,528
Bank Deposit Account		26,215	40,701
		<u>37,950</u>	<u>48,535</u>
6. AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR		£	£
Trade Creditors		2,179	385
Accruals		725	1,416
Advance Subscriptions		8,017	8,001
Members Credit balances		3,309	3,887
Corporation Tax	2	645	831
Capital Gains Tax		0	169
		<u>14,875</u>	<u>14,689</u>

7. 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.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Potential Liability to Corporation Tax (CT)

Year	Total	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest Rec'd		867	1,315	922	98	0	0	245
Corporation Tax Rate on 1st £10,000		21%	20%	19%	19%	0%	0%	0%
Possible CT due since 2003	638.87	182.07	263.00	175.18	18.62	0.00	0.00	0.00