

**Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General meeting of the National Association of Boat Owners**

**held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**at The Beef & Barge at Bradford on Avon, K & A**

Present: David Fletcher, Chairman; Richard Carpenter, Gen Sec; Stephen Peters, Treasurer; Geoffrey Rogerson, Simon Robbins and 20 members

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Melanie and John Darlington, John and Fiona Slee, and six others.

2. To agree the minutes of the 2012 AGM

The minutes were agreed

Proposed by Sue Burchett; seconded by Simon Robbins

3. To receive the Chairman's Report

Attached to minutes

As part of the Chairman's report special mention was made of the work done on behalf of NABO by John Slee who had stood down from Council this year following several years involvement. John's work on revamping the web site, the huge admin involved in the survey's he undertook and his general support for other councillors in attending meetings and consultations during the handover period leading up to the CRT. John has offered background assistance – fortunately!

The Chairman also made special mention of Peter Fellows who had been co-opted into council with the specific brief of editor of NABO News. The transformation to a well presented, editorially well balanced and altogether professional publication has helped to provide members with some value for money communication and the image of NABO within the Waterways Organisations, the CRT and the EA has improved as a result.

4. To receive the financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

The financial report was explained by Stephen Peters.

Stephen explained some questions from the floor on some of the expenses incurred.

Stephen went on to explain that with membership remaining relatively stagnant and running costs rising he reluctantly recommended that membership fees would need to be raised. A long debate took place about the impact a rise might make – in particular as there had not been one for more than ten years – it was proposed by Geoffrey Rogerson and seconded by Andy Colyer that this should be a priority for the new Council with a view by a decision in the New Year.

Expenditure is now down due to the reduction of the legal fees received but the improved NABO has not come without increased costs. Further work needs doing by the new Council in reducing overheads, exploring the communication by E mail to members and generally embracing the new Media like Facebook and Twitter.

The cost of the AGM changes depending on the costs of venue. Those attending were asked to make a donation for their food if they could.

A policy on fixed assets is needed and will be put before the new council – there are a number of items listed that no longer exist or are of use – largely used at shows and the like – mostly of little use. Any saleable assets will be notified to members.

Acceptance of the Treasurers report was proposed by Andy Colyer and seconded by John Davies.

5. To determine the annual subscription fees.

See Treasurers report

6. To appoint the auditor.

Alan Davies was again appointed. Proposed by Stephen Peters and seconded by David Fletcher.

7. To elect Council members for the year 2012-2013

David Fletcher; Richard Carpenter; Andy Colyer; Peter Fellows; Stephen Peters; Simon Robbins; Jane Taylor and Geoffrey Rogerson stood for Council and were unanimously elected as the number was less than the Constitution. Proposed by Sue Burchett and seconded by Panda Smith.

The eight nominations were elected on block. Their positions will be decided at the next Nabo meeting. David Fletcher has agreed to serve another year as Chairman. It was revealed that two possible members would attend Council with a view to possible co-option in the future.

Questions from the floor don't usually form part of the minutes but have been included on the agenda to reflect the meeting as a whole.

Debate ranged from NABO policies on BSS, clarity on current issues and consultations including the K&A, general Moorings.

A number of proposals were made on how we need to recruit more members, in particular younger ones! There was also concern that the new council should work on being more user friendly and welcoming.

There were concerns about how BW staff, in particular management would adapt to the hopefully more accountable Trust Status – “watching brief” was the general concensus.

Signed D S Fletcher.....

Chairman 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## Chairman's report 21th Annual General Meeting

Good morning

In 2012 NABO representatives have attended a full range of consultation meetings with DEFRA, BW, then CRT and EA, BSS, NINF, and other user groups etc, both nationally and locally. This is the core work of the Association, monitoring what is going on, reading the papers, listening to the presentations, and making considered comments both in writing and at meetings. Our comments are not always appreciated, but never mind.

It is important that we have a balanced view from members, so please do take the time to let us know what you are thinking. Your Council are active in seeking views, but we can always use more.

We are currently active with issues concerning the licence conditions, and also the national and K and A mooring strategies, house boat certificates, EU legislation on RCD, and other matters. These sorts of issues will impact on all boaters, whether hiring, owning, home moorings or continuous cruisers and we should not sit idly by whilst changes are made.

The set up of the CRT mid year has brought opportunities but it is too early to call it success. NABO was involved with candidates for CRT Council and at least two Partnership places so far without success, but it is really too soon to know whether we will miss out from this, or whether we are better functioning independently and without any hint of conflict of interest. I have been asked to sit on the Navigation Advisory Group. There is nothing new about this, the subject matter was covered under BW by the group know as WUSIG. We debated this subject last year and concluded to have a go, and see what happens. I think the same conclusion is needed now, though I welcome views.

We have tried to maintain relationships with some of the new Trustees, and Council boater representatives, and many of these receive NABO News. We deliberately write pieces to send messages to the outside world as well as members. The Partnership activity is very mixed, and I ask all members to monitor what is going on in your areas, and let us know about the good and bad. Minutes for some are non-existent, where as others are much better. What is happening to your waterway?

The big question is how attitudes will change within CRT and how best to present boaters views. We continue to be fairly robust on some of our core issues. The transition will take time. There is a nice contrast between CRT and EA over licence fees. CRT at cpi, and EA with 2% over and little sympathy with the impact on private boaters.

As I said last year and the year before, we have not always been able to cover all the consultation meetings, and there is always a need for more members to support this work to share the load. Please do volunteer. If nobody attends we do not get the information and we get out of touch, and we miss an opportunity of networking and applying pressure over a range of issues.

We should not forget EA have there issues too. Cost pressures are leading to changes in the way that they wish to interface with us. The fact is that if we do not add value to the discussion, (that does not mean agreeing) we will get dropped. Next year will be significant for EA negotiations, as they will be considered by DEFRA, for transfer to CRT. Obviously CRT will have a view, but this issue will be back with us next year.

This has been my fourth year in the Chair and I have to express our appreciation to members and to Council for your continued time and efforts and support. We are still down in numbers on Council and this is now becoming a critical issue. We are fortunate that almost all the current Council members are standing again, and we have one new volunteer. But it is not nearly enough, and the current team cannot go on and on. If a significant number of new council members do not come forward and take on the work, then we face a bleak future. NABO will stop. Other factors are the membership which is at best static, and costs reported by the Hon Treasurer. Like many clubs and societies, even political parties, we have crisis looming. Council is not a secret society for a few. Please do come to a meeting and see what it is all about and how you can contribute.

NABO news remains our main communication with membership. Peter Fellows is our editor and he has been in the hot seat for more than a year. Chris Pink who is responsible for art work and design, is also here. Can we all please show our appreciation for their fantastic work.

John Slee has carried out some very significant work on the web site and management of membership data. This project is not quite complete, but we are now able to recruit on line and we do see the benefit of this. Unfortunately John has had to stand down from Council and his role as web master, and cc rep for personal reasons. This is a very significant loss to us, and web development is effectively stopped until we find a replacement. We may have to pay for this service if nobody comes forward. We should mark our thanks for enormous effort John has made to get us where we are. The web site is functioning well, and we are always in need to items, so please do let us know. The site feeds for Twitter and Facebook and we continue to experiment in these areas. It does get out name out there, and all advice is to continue with this, particularly Twitter.

Our membership numbers are still dropping a little, and my thanks go to all those who have recruited new members. We did not attend Crick again this year, partly as Council members were not available for the four days, and anyway we doubted the cost effectiveness of this. We suspect that many of the recruits gained from these exercises do not stay long term, perhaps only one year. With universal tight budgets a fact of life, there remains an issue over short term gratification, which we do not offer, and cannot compete with the blogs and professional waterways press. Why should I join?

Money is a significant issue for us, but not a crisis. Cost continue to rise. Membership income is down, and we have to balance the books Richard Carpenter has found us some advertising and this will make a significant difference. There were several debates as to whether this is the right thing and we should thank Richard for this will make a significant difference to our funding. Of course that is not the only work that Richard does and we have to thank him for his boundless energy in keeping the Association on track day in day out.

CRT suddenly stopped consulting over mooring strategies on the K and A at the end of last year and new initiatives are underway. Geoffrey and Andy are our local representatives and they continue to be active watching what is happen and trying to influence the outcome. What happens here is important nationally as well as locally and we must take note as it is by no means clear that proposals are to the benefit of boaters in general. The threat of Roving Mooring Permits has returned and we shall watch this carefully.

Simon Robins has been working hard with CRT on the issues of Houseboat Certificates and we responded to the consultation. Some say this is not a significant issue, but there are several general issues of how boaters and treated and the BW Acts which have deserved comment. HB cert holders will for the first time have a written contract. This basic business convention has been denied and it is primarily due to Simon's pressure that this will come about. We may not be fully happy with the outcome of the consultation, but we are moving. It is another example of where steady pressure over a long period can have an effect. Our thanks to Simon for his dedication.

There is much to be done in the coming year, both in consultation, and for internal NABO business. We are needed, for other user groups are focused in a different way, and we have that unique selling point. Your Council need help to carry this on and secure the future.

This concludes my main report.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2012

Note	31.03.12	31.03.11
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
1	14,098	15,203
Memberships Fees		
Donations	712	877
Loss on Merchandise Sales	-195	-125
Advertising Revenue	0	0
Deposit Interest	10	11
Other Income	230	724
	<u>14,855</u>	<u>16,690</u>
<b>LESS EXPENSES</b>		
Printing & Distribution of Newsletter	9,041	7,617
Rallies & Marketing Expenditure	828	544
Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,234	722
Telephone and Office Expenses	22	71
Travelling & Conference Expenses	4,580	5,535
Room Hire & Meeting Expenses	667	709
Subscriptions & Donations	149	155
Insurance	1,442	1,434
Secretarial & Computer Support	1,218	964
Accountancy costs	371	364
Storage Costs	0	711
Legal Costs	1,140	999
Web Site Costs	188	198
Bank Charges	4	0
Sundry Expenses	70	105
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	618	618
	<u>21,572</u>	<u>20,746</u>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<u>-6,717</u>	<u>-4,056</u>
Corporation Tax	-2	-33
	<u>-6,719</u>	<u>-4,089</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2012

Note	31.03.12	31.03.11
	£	£
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>		
4	1,721	2,339
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
5	23,913	30,106
6	-11,958	-12,050
<b>AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR</b>		
	<u>11,955</u>	<u>18,056</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
	<u>13,676</u>	<u>20,395</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		
	<u>13,676</u>	<u>20,395</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Reserves brought forward	20,395	24,484
Excess of Expenditure over Income	-6,719	-4,089
Reserves carried forward	<u>13,676</u>	<u>20,395</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2012

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 £230 (2011: £635) of credit balances on Members accounts which arose in the year to 31 March 2006 (2011: year to 31 March 2005).

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	TOTAL	Office Equipment	Other Fixtures
	£	£	£
Cost Brought Forward	11,456	8,239	3,217
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Cost Carried Forward	11,456	8,239	3,217
Depreciation Brought Forward	9,117	7,707	1,410
Charge for Period	618	177	441
Disposals	0	0	0
Depreciation Carried Forward	9,735	7,884	1,851
NET BOOK VALUE at end of year	1,721	355	1,366
Net Book Value Last Year	2,339	532	1,807

5. CURRENT ASSETS

	31.03.12	31.03.11
	£	£
Stock of Merchandise	54	544
Stock of Promotional goods & Stationery	546	794
Membership fees owing	193	428
Debtors & Prepayments	822	716
Bank Current Accounts	6,562	6,897
Bank Deposit Account	15,736	20,727
	<u>23,913</u>	<u>30,106</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2012

Notes

6. AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR

	31.03.12	31.03.11
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,099	1,112
Accruals	378	574
Advance Subscriptions	6,489	7,444
Members Credit balances	2,984	2,914
Corporation Tax	8	6
	<u>11,958</u>	<u>12,050</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.