

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**
Held at Tamworth CC at 11.00am
on Sunday 11th November 2018

Present: Stella Ridgway, Paul Howland, Helen Hutt, Peter Fellows, Mike Rodd, Phil Goulding, Alison Tuck, Ken Hylins, Peter Vicars, Joan Jamieson, George Jamieson, Val Fletcher, David Fletcher.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Richard Carpenter, Patrick Rees

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- a. The minutes were approved from the last meeting.
- b. There were no matters arising not on the agenda

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Firstly, thank you for coming today. Apologies that it is on the same day as the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice, this is due to my dialysis on a Saturday, so I thank you for your understanding. My thanks go to this year's council for their support and especially to Mark, Mike and Paul for attending meetings and covering for me.

This year has been challenging for most boaters in the North, the North West being virtually cut off from the system August onwards; in July there were 13 emergency or long-term stoppages due to water shortages, maintenance and pollution incidents elsewhere and a lot of places where the canal bottom seemed to be too close to the top because either it hadn't been dredged or not cleared properly after a stoppage. While most canals are now open; we are not getting the rain required in the Peak District so I anticipate a challenging year ahead. Some maintenance works were done during the stoppages meaning the winter closures might not be as long in some areas

The Trust announced redundancies just after last year's AGM; it appeared to be the longest consultation on record as the posts were not confirmed until June. Although the Licence Review was released as predicted; the London Mooring Strategy was not and it appeared the trust was just a bit lost. Certainly, the logo fiasco, which has alienated the very people, the boaters, that the Trust need onside as they reposition themselves as a Waterways and Wellbeing charity needs learning from. The decision to take it more regionally has resulted in Winter Moorings being organised regionally this winter with some bizarre decisions and there doesn't appear to be any rhyme or reason about some, thus the cancelling of the Mooring and Licence National Advisory Group seems to have been premature. The year finishes with a further 200 roles "at risk" as they move central roles to regional posts. I hope that these do not take a year to be sorted as per the Director's roles.

As you know, in July, I expressed the need for the Trust to listen to boaters, instead of bundling us together with all the other "Customers of the towpath" and engage with boaters, boaters reps to Council and boater organisations; and whilst we have had some very good discussions with the boating team, there no longer seems to be an over-arching brief to put boaters front and centre in the "non-boating" areas of the Trust; so marketing, PR and Press

no longer feed through to the Boating Team nor do the Boating Team have oversight. Thus you have the recent mooring debacle on the K&A where the normal 14 days rule for continuous cruisers to use the winter moorings or visitor moorings was suspended until there was enough complaints from boaters that it had to be addressed with a U-turn.

This has resulted in an all-encompassing review of the Trust, including the Council which is being increased to account for Wellbeing. However, Council and boaters are still not being included in decisions taken and unfortunately; even though the boater team might have taken suggestions on board; other parts of the Trust do not appear to have done so, resulting in boaters feeling even more disenfranchised. The Executive Team wants and needs boaters and their organisations to get onside with the “wellbeing” agenda to encourage the government to continue the grant. I am afraid that this year the alienation of boaters has been rather more successful and it will take a great deal of work to make this right.

The Environment Agency has continued this by completely ignoring all submissions on their Licence Review and increasing their fees by between 5.75% and 10% for the next three years; unfortunately, not everyone on EA Waters are on gold-plated pensions and this may impact CRT in the Future. Certainly, any amalgamation of the two waterways needs careful monitoring.

However, all is not doom and gloom; Paul and I have had some positive meetings with the Boating Team and Head of Customer Service and as a Council Member, I continue to represent boaters views to Council; in fact the theme of not including boaters and Council in decisions taken is an ongoing theme in Council and is at the top of the elected reps agenda so watch this space to see if this is listened to and acted on.

As I said above, the Trust needs our help and NABO and boaters are willing to help and support them wholeheartedly, if we knew they were at least listening to us and our views taken into account. Let us hope that the new Regional Structure (for those of you old enough to remember, this is a return to the BW structure of 20 years ago) and that together we can have a good collaborative relationship.

My thanks go to our members and I hope more will decide to represent us at User Forums (when they start) and continue to let us know your views so we can represent them.

Finally. my thanks go to former Chair Sue Burchett, who resigned this year and to a General Secretary Richard Carpenter, who after sterling service is going into semi-retirement and thus no longer has the time to devote to NABO. We thank them both for their service.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

It has been a calm year with no major issues. The membership income has been static, with new members balancing the leavers. The donations are at a high level, because of the one off right off of historic over subscriptions by members who did not cancel standing order to the Santander action. This issue is now closed. It is 12 months since we opened a higher rate savings account and this has now paid interests for the year at about £200. Barclays paid us £200 compensation after their errors in setting up internet banking. The provision for legal fees was not used in 2018.

The treasurers report was proposed by David Fletcher and seconded by Mark Tizard. The meeting approved the report. The Associations thanks were recorded for the Treasurer.

4. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2018 - 19

The Treasurer said that the Auditor, Colin Walker, had been satisfactory this year, and she recommended using him again for a further year. No objections were raised from the floor. The proposal to appoint Colin Walker for a further year was proposed by Helen Hutt and seconded by Mark Tizard. The meeting approved the report.

5. SPECIAL RESOLUTION

That the Constitution be amended to change the required notice period for Council Nominations clause 5.4 and additionally for notice of resolution clause 6.1.a. Full test is attached.

Mark Tizard and David Fletcher explained the current difficulties of timing in September and October to fit in a sequence of Council meeting, publication of October NN and AGM date. This results in on the mat date for NN being already at or very near the required 42 days' notice. This gives little real time for members to respond. This has been a problem for more than 10 years, and we want to do something about it now. The resolution proposes a change to 21 days' notice for council members and AGM resolutions. The alternatives considered are to hold a Council in August or push back the AGM into December. Neither of these are considered desirable. Stella considers that there is a risk to the Association by doing this. No objections were raised from the floor. The proposal was proposed by Peter Fellows and seconded by David Fletcher. The meeting approved the resolution.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations have been received from Peter Fellows, David Fletcher, Phil Goulding, Paul Howland, Helen Hutt, Stella Ridgeway, Mike Rodd, Mark Tizard, Alison Tuck, and Ken Hylins. There were no additional nominations from the floor. There being no need for an election, it was proposed that the Council members be elected en bloc. The election was proposed by Mike Rodd, and seconded by Mark Tizard. The meeting approved the election.

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

There were no new nominations from members for the role of General Secretary. It was concluded to carry this issue forward to the Council meeting to follow.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A vote of thanks was proposed for the outgoing General Secretary. This was proposed by David Fletcher and seconded by Joan Jamieson. The meeting approved.

A vote of thanks was proposed for past Chair Sue Buchett, who resigned from the Association in 2018. This was proposed by Paul Howland and seconded by Alison Tuck. The meeting approved.

9. CLOSING DISCUSSION.

There followed a wide-ranging discussion of the future of the inland waterways and role of NABO.

Meeting concluded at 12.30

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Resolution for the AGM 11 November 2018

It is proposed to change the required notice period for Council nominations clause 5.4, and additionally for notice of resolution clause 6.1 a).

These are both currently forty two days. The proposed amendment is shown below in red.

5.4

b) Each nomination for election or re-election to the Council shall include the name of the person nominated, be signed by the nominee to indicate willingness to be nominated, be signed by a proposer and seconder who are both full members, and be received by the General Secretary not less than ~~forty two~~ **twenty one** days before the AGM.

6.1 a)

- Such resolutions duly proposed and seconded must be received by the General Secretary not less than ~~forty two~~ **twenty one** days before the meeting, and shall be distributed to all members before the meeting.

Discussion.

It is not known why the constitution historically required 42 days. The Council timetable of a meeting in early September and the AGM in mid November does not provide enough time for the required notice to be placed in NABO News and with members, and still provide a meaningful notice for nomination and resolutions. This has been a significant issue for many years. The alternative options would be to having an earlier Council (in August) or delaying the AGM to December. Neither is favoured. Council members do not wish to hold meetings in August and a December AGM is too close to festive activity. It is not considered that the Association is at risk if the periods are shortened and the necessary communications can take place in 21 days.

Proposed

Peter Fellows NABO News Editor

Seconded

David Fletcher Council Member

23 September 2018

Council view.

The resolution is supported by Council. It is the view of Council that this is unnecessarily long in this time of fast communications. It is recommended that members support it.

Stella Ridgway Chairman

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by several cursive letters, all enclosed within a long, horizontal oval flourish.

NABO, PO BOX 104, LEYLAND PR25 9AN

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Note	<u>31-Mar-18</u>		<u>31-Mar-17</u>	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Membership Fees	1	10,690		11,270	
Less Paypal Transaction Charges		<u>-29</u>		<u>-34</u>	
		10,661		11,236	
Donations	2	1,185		691	
Advertising Revenue	3	1,250		312	
Deposit Interest	4	70		4	
Reversal of Corporation Tax Provision		0		11	
Other income	5	<u>225</u>		<u>0</u>	
TOTAL INCOME			13,391		12,254
LESS EXPENDITURES					
Council Meetings		-909		-980	
AGM		-313		-167	
Membership		-235		-258	
Representing NABO		-178		-67	
NABO News	6	-7,781		-7,799	
Marketing and PR		0		-199	
Website / Internet		-257		-202	
Subscriptions		-25		-25	
Accounts / Audit		-112		-220	
Insurance		-635		-641	
Depreciation	7	-173		-161	
Administration		-73		0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			<u>-10,691</u>		<u>-10,719</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u><u>2,700</u></u>		<u><u>1,535</u></u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	Note	<u>31-Mar-18</u>	<u>31-Mar-17</u>
		£	£
ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	7	231	281
Current Assets			
Barclays Bank Deposit Account	8	3,769	13,766
Barclays Bank Current Account		3,621	6,434
Redwood Deposit Account	8	15,068	0
Paypal Account		178	39
Debtors and Prepayments		488	575
Total Current Assets		<u>23,124</u>	<u>20,814</u>
Current Liabilities			
Deferred Income		-1,058	-1,158
Creditors and Accruals		-563	-208
Members' Credit Balances		0	-695
Total Current Liabilities		<u>-1,621</u>	<u>-2,061</u>
Net Current Assets		21,503	18,753
Total Net Assets		<u>21,734</u>	<u>19,034</u>
Reserves			
Opening Reserves		19,034	17,499
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		2,700	1,535
Total Reserves		<u>21,734</u>	<u>19,034</u>

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

TREASURER

Enclosed are the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March 2018, Balance Sheet as at the same date and Notes to the Accounts.

Helen Hutt

July 2018

AUDITOR

I have examined the books and records of the Association and am satisfied from the information provided to me that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view both of the Association's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2018 and the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

Colin Walker, FCCA

August 2018

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

1 Membership Fees

Since 2015/16 membership fees have been accounted on a cash basis. During the year membership has remained fairly static, with a total at 31st March 2018 of 409 , excluding 144 additional family members, compared with 406 at 31st March 2017.

2 Donations include £695 historic member credit balances that have been written off and treated as donations.

3 Advertising revenue is for a full back cover advertisement in a minimum six issues of the NABO news for Arliegh International.

4 Deposit interest

Redwood bank (see note 8)	68
Barclays bank	2
	<u>70</u>

5 Other income represents compensation from Barclays bank for problems with log-in during the year.

6 NABO news expenditure covers the cost of printing and mailing 600 copies. It is published six times each year.

7 Tangible Fixed Assets

	TOTAL £	OFFICE EQUIPMENT £	OTHER FIXTURES £
Cost			
Brought Forward	11,456	8,239	3,217
Purchases - new printer	123	123	0
	<u>11,579</u>	<u>8,362</u>	<u>3,217</u>
Accumulated Depreciation			
Brought Forward	11,175	8,239	2,936
Charge for the Year	173	12	161
	<u>11,348</u>	<u>8,251</u>	<u>3,097</u>
Net Book Value	<u>231</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>120</u>

8 Redwood bank

In November 2017 a new higher interest account was opened with Redwood bank and £15,000 was transferred from the Barclays bank deposit account. Interest is paid annually. Interest to 31st March 2018 is estimated at £68.