

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Tamworth Cruising Club Saturday 13th November 2021 at 10.45am

PRESENT: Mike Rodd (Chair) Peter Braybrook (Minutes), Helen Hutt, Peter Fellows, John Devonald, David Fletcher, Phil Goulding. (Council Members)

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Anne Husar, Mark Tizard, Ken Hylins, Peter Brayley, Matt Thompson, Richard Carpenter, Val Fletcher, and Carolyn (CJ) Green .
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** held on 14 November 2020 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Peter Fellows and seconded by David Fletcher.

Matters Arising. Peter Braybrook is not listed as elected to the Council

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** (See Appendix 1 for full text)

Key issues:

- Our membership has increased slightly with the usual small amount of mobility due to boat sales etc.
- We are apparently ignored by the navigation authorities. It is not just us either, even the IWA feel they are not listened to any more.
- T & C's key issues must not be let to slip particularly the "continuous cruiser license".
- Also CRT's GDPR deficiencies need to be addressed. EA is also difficult to talk to. Complete change with new people who ignore boater input from the six boating organisations that unite in their views. Will EA take on board the comments resulting from their consultation? TNUF will take a good look. We talk to others. It is noted that NINF (National Inland Navigation Forum) is valuable as, beside NBTA, it brings together mist boating groups (are not a member of most boating groups) and for example, took joint legal action regarding the proposed Police Bill where it was established that boats are not vehicles.
- Ken Hylins report (Appendix 3) was included in the report. Ken understands the problems of disadvantaged boaters and the Equalities Act. He is often acting on behalf of NABO.
- BSS. We continue to be an influence and Mike thanked David for his work in this area.
- Electrical Safety in the future with the move toward high current electrical equipment on boats. Current IET wiring Regs stop at the marina power point and there is a need for guidelines on in-boat installation and use.
- Mike acknowledged the work of Mark Tizzard as general secretary and vice-chairman. Mark is stepping down from Council as he has sold his boat..

- Mike distributed an email from Anne Husar containing her report on Publicity, Social Media and Heritage (See Appendix 4)

Mike indicated his wish to leave the Chair at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

David Fletcher thanked Mike for his work and leadership. He proposed acceptance of the report. This was seconded by Peter Braybrook and carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (See Appendix 2 for full text)

- £753 Excess of income over expenditure this year was reported. Covid has reduced our costs as there were no face to face meetings and expenses were not claimed.
- Income was £10,968 Expenditure £8805
- There was a slight fall in membership
- There was no advertising income as Midland Chandlers no longer advertise.

David Fletcher commended the presentation of the accounts and proposed that they be accepted. Mike Rodd seconded this and the accounts were accepted by the meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2020-21

Helen wished to record her thanks to the Auditor , Colin Walker FCCA, who she proposed be retained for the coming year. Seconded by Mike Rodd and agreed by the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

All current Council members agreed to continue with the exception of Mark Tizzard

Carolyn (CJ) Green has been proposed by Anne Husar.

Election en bloc was proposed by David Fletcher and seconded by Phil Goulding. All were in favour.

The Council for 2021-2022 is

Mike Rodd (Chair); Peter Braybrook, Peter Brayley, John Devonald, Helen Hutt (Treasurer), David Fletcher, Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, Carolyn Green, Anne Husar, and Ken Hylins

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

John Devonald offered his services as General Secretary. He was wary of the workload. Mike shared with him a brief description of the role and he agreed to put forward his name. This was proposed by Peter Braybrook and seconded by Mike Rodd. All were in favour.

Anne Husar will stand as Vice-Chairman. It was noted that she is excellent in the publicity role.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items were introduced at this stage.

9. CLOSING DISCUSSION. This was adjourned to the Council Meeting to follow

FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that we will need to embrace Zoom for the next meeting. Helen will need to look into costs of a Zoom license.

Peter Braybrook

14/11/2021

Agreed as a true record

Handwritten signatures of Peter Braybrook and Helen, enclosed in a large oval.

APPENDIX 1

Chairman's Report for 2021 Annual General Meeting

2020-21 NABO Annual Report

This has been a particularly interesting year and especially a real joy to be working with so many new members of your Council, even if the bulk of meetings have had to be via the Internet. It has also been encouraging to see a small increase in membership – largely, I am sure, because of the issues we have been tackling, which have a direct impact on most boaters.

What has been the most worrying development, however, has been the seemingly growing feeling that both CRT and the EA are actively ignoring the views of their prime customers, us boaters. Yes, at times we have publicly opposed some of their actions and/or proposals, but we have consistently said that we aim to fill the role of – and indeed must always remain – their “critical friends”. And with both of their agreements regarding government funding coming up soon, they need more friends than ever right now – and especially the boaters, who care more than anyone else about the waterways!

A key issue with CRT has been the introduction of changes to the Terms and Conditions related to our private boater licences. We were, to say the least, horrified by some of these proposals and immediately said so, supported by external expert advice, as did many other organisations. In the end, some of our objections were accepted, but there are still some issues that need addressing.

We were also very disturbed by the slipshod way in which these and many other CRT documents were produced; their readability was appalling! CRT’s initial public release of the “final” T’s & C’s was worryingly farcical, for example – having an editorial error in almost every sentence! Some action was taken by CRT to improve this, but we are still deeply concerned by their almost total disregard for the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), in terms of meeting the legal requirements for the collection and processing of personal information from individuals. Again, we are still unhappy with their response to our input, and we have now sought higher-level support by officially bringing the matter to the attention of the Information Commissioner.

To our disappointment, the EA has proved to be as intransigent as CRT, and we joined with six other boater representative organisations on the Thames to present a united front. As with CRT, the EA appears determined to ignore the input from its prime customers – the boaters. A major issue has been their proposals for changes to the licensing of private boats – claiming that they were trying to simplify and unify these across their various waterways (and, of course, increase their income in the process!) The timing of a consultation on these proposals, comprising over 100 separate points, was abysmal, coming right in the middle of the popular cruising months - in violation of their own recommendations about the timing of such discussions! We tried to urge our members to submit responses, but most simply gave up. However, it is interesting to note that many of the EA’s proposals will bring them into line with CRT’s Terms and Conditions – it’s very clear what is going on there!!

In addition to CRT and EA, of course, we continue to represent the views of our members on most issues that might affect them, which often involves us in lengthy submissions to government and other statutory bodies. One issue of importance is CRT’s apparent keenness to sell off many of the assets that (in theory) they own as part of their present government contract. Many of these are of

major historic interest and NABO has been very active in bringing such cases to the attention of local authorities and other interested bodies.

We were naturally aware of the issues related to the non-availability of Calor gas and – given that the company has an effective monopoly over the gas supply to most boats – we have raised the matter with the Competition and Markets Authority (the competition regulator).

We remain active in NINF, the National Inland Navigation Forum, led by its General Secretary, the indefatigable Michael Stimpson, which brings together representatives of most inland waterways organisations on a regular basis. A particularly useful activity this year has been a shared legal enquiry into the proposed “Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, HL Bill 40 of 2021–22”. The concern was whether this bill would apply to boats as “vehicles”. The reassuring legal advice was that it would not!

Another aspect of our work that is much appreciated by many members, is that undertaken by Ken Hylins. He has developed a deep understanding of the requirements of boaters who have personal problems, and the need to ensure that they are treated – by CRT and others – with respect, dignity and, when necessary, within the Equalities Act. This is – regrettably – not always the case, and his advocacy is much valued. Ken’s excellent report, which follows, illustrates this work, and shows NABO to be pro-actively supporting boaters, as a great counter-argument to those who claim that all we do is criticise CRT.

We are, of course, closely following the decisions and the (often ignorant) statements about the need to move away from fossil fuels. Yes, we understand the important issues but – given that the bulk of boats use diesel or petrol not only for propulsion but even more so, for on-boat and boater heating – the insistence (for example, by the Mayor of London) that all boats must switch to being electrically powered is a real bit of ignorant nonsense. Our line is simply that the only short-term answer is to shift to HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) which is a completely renewable diesel alternative, based on vegetable oils, grease waste, or residues from the food industry, etc. This is now available from many sources on the canals but at a seriously higher price when compared to our usual red diesel. This issue needs to be urgently addressed.

On the BSS front, we continue to play an active role in the management and technical contents of the scheme, and we are most supportive of the recent changes as they affect private boats. We are also presently actively supporting the suggestion that smoke alarms be required on all boats. (The bulk of us have them anyway!) Also, given the massive increase in the on-board use of higher-voltage electricity, and the fact that the BSS presently covers only some of the safety implications of this, we are supporting a proposal that the IET (the Institution of Engineering and Technology, previously the IEE, when I was a director!), which is the owner of our electrical wiring regulations, produces guidelines for electrical installations on inland waterways boats.

So, another fascinating year in the life of NABO and what a pleasure it has been to lead our very active and supportive Council. I would especially like to thank Mark Tizard for his many years of service to NABO, especially over the past few years, when he has served as both Vice chairman and General Secretary. His monthly articles in *Towpath Talk* have also been absolutely first class and have brought NABO to the attention of a far wider audience. Sadly, he has sold his amazing boat and decided to become a landlubber!! Mark, we will seriously miss you! **Mike Rodd** November 2021

APPENDIX 2

Treasurer's Report and ACCOUNTS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH 2021

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	<u>31-Mar-21</u>		<u>31-Mar-20</u>	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Membership Fees	1	9,070		9,540	
Unmatched Receipt	2	35		0	
Less Paypal Transaction Charges		<u>-53</u>		<u>-31</u>	
		9,052		9,509	
Donations		585		329	
Advertising Revenue	3	1,146		1,250	
Deposit Interest	4	<u>185</u>		<u>215</u>	
TOTAL INCOME			10,968		11,303
LESS EXPENDITURES					
Council Meetings	5	0		-555	
AGM	5	0		-84	
Membership		-86		-293	
Representing NABO	5	0		-218	
NABO News	6	-7,498		-7,756	
Marketing and PR		0		-19	
Website / Internet		-119		-223	
Subscriptions	7	-7		-30	
Accounts / Audit		-146		-100	
Insurance	8	-706		-615	
Administration	9	-225		-267	
CO Monitor Trial		<u>-18</u>		<u>-45</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			<u>-8,805</u>		<u>-10,205</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS			2,163		1,098
Extraordinary items - Legal Advice	10		-1410		-1164
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE AFTER EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS			<u>753</u>		<u>-66</u>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	<u>31-Mar-21</u>	<u>31-Mar-20</u>
	£	£
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Barclays Bank Deposit Account	4,623	4,621
Barclays Bank Current Account	2,313	2,968
Redwood Deposit Account	15,677	15,494
Paypal Account	186	24
Debtors and Prepayments	681	778
Total Current Assets	<u>23,480</u>	<u>23,885</u>
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Income	-50	-962
Creditors and Accruals	-76	-322
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-126</u>	<u>-1,284</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>23,354</u></u>	<u><u>22,601</u></u>
RESERVES		
Opening Reserves	22,601	22,667
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	753	-66
Total Reserves	<u><u>23,354</u></u>	<u><u>22,601</u></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 2021, Balance Sheet as at the same date and Notes to the Accounts.

Helen Hutt

August 2021

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 2021 and the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

Colin Walker, FCCA

August 2021

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- 1 Membership fees**
During the year membership fell again, despite the recruitment of 15 new members. The total at 31st March 2021 was 351 excluding 109 additional family members, compared with 368 at 31st March 2020.
- 2 Unmatched receipt** represents payment from a potential new member but no application form has been received.
- 3 Advertising revenue** is for a full back cover advertisement in 5 issues of the NABO news for Midland Chandlers. The contract was not renewed in January 2021.
- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 4 Deposit interest | £ |
| Redwood bank | 183 |
| Barclays bank | 2 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 185 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> |
- 5 All Council meetings, AGM and external meetings** were held virtually due to Covid-19.
- 6 NABO news** expenditure covers the cost of printing and mailing 600 copies. It is published six times each year.
- 7 Subscriptions** were reduced to National Inland Navigation Forum only. The River Thames Alliance disbanded.
- 8 Insurance** premiums increased with the addition of cover against cyber attacks.
- 9 Administration expenses** include the remainder of charges for the PO BOX closed in December 2020.
- 10 Legal costs** were for solicitors guidance regarding the Canal & River Trust's proposed changes to private boat licence Terms & Conditions.

APPENDIX 3

Ken Hylins Report to the AGM 13 Nov 2021

Hi all

I hope you will accept my apologies for being with you today and I know you will all understand the reasons in truth it's too much for me to travel and hold a meeting I have kept our chairman Mike Rodd up to date with my intent to carry on as a council member and especially carry on with helping on disability , and whoever the respective managing body is ,I will carry on to support the council in any way I can . (This is in effect NABO being up to date to carry on as a council member under the the equality act and granting reasonable adjustments) The last eighteen months have been like no other with the corona virus and the expectations of the respective managing authority I suppose trying their best and in many cases falling short . There have also been some positive outcomes of the virus and I have been able to increase my level of contact and especially with higher management of CART. Over the the last year I monitor disability Facebook sites and the NABO site I suppose a surprise for most of you I pick up current information relevant for my situation in my many friendly chats I have with various authorities.

Gypsy travellers and boater sites

I attended their seminar via zoom on obtaining care whilst travelling the country by whatever means .The particularly advantage of this was I developed contacts with NHS England and got a further understanding of the problems in obtaining care on the move too which I related to CART . This has also lead to a sharing of ideas between us both and as reference point as I help them they help us and many contacts

Disabled boaters forum

I attend this platform on behalf of NABO .This can be hit and miss as often access can be a problem .The advantage to me attending this as I call the embarrassment effect as they tell me the matters I raise don't exist till I prove it .(This has resulted in a hot line to Matthew Simmons to avoid this ?)

Sean Williams

I have also developed a good relationship with him usually I'm usually alerting him of malpractice or discrimination being exercised by various welfare and support officers ?

Then we come to my work over the year. There has been a series of instances of as I said earlier discrimination against boaters which is strange as I am reliably informed these people have been trained and updated ?

The cases in question have been lengthy matters often with lack of compassion from lower levels of management .This resulted in bypassing them and thankfully getting the right results, reasonable adjustments and the continued wellbeing of the boater.

The other case which is strange I have had to represent myself again the operative was kept aware of my situation but again poor interpretation of the equality act

DUEL ENFORCEMENT

I have been bringing to light this matter to both CART and the column I wrote in NN for nabo members. This is where a computer generated email from CART is sent to a boater to carry on moving and if not challenged remains on the boaters record which can be a problem when the boater renews his or her licence. The sad part in the last week I have been alerted to two boaters experiencing discrimination from cart for which I am active yet again .

The final part of my work is that I have developed a good working relationship with the equality commission and have logged each case I deal with with often getting sound advice from them .

All the best Ken Hylins By email 11 November 2021

APPENDIX 4

Report from Anne Husar to the AGM 13 Nov 2021

Hi,

Not thinking too clearly at the moment but here's a short report

There's been much busy activity on social media with daily items that always attract comments and shares and NABO's Twitter page is also very active. Often because of this, NABO is being mentioned elsewhere, notably on Narrowboatworld and Peter Underwood's News from Under the Water. As they are regarded as "CRT bashers" I try to counteract this by putting positive posts up on Facebook and Twitter as well as not so positive. Both sites are attracting new members every day.

IWA has also been active on our Facebook page, the to and fro of comments on the post about selling off two London properties resulting in an invite from them to join forces about heritage issues. Talking of which, I had a long response from the BCN to my request to canal societies for perceived threats to "their" parts of the system. They have much to be concerned about and it will be a valuable addition to our summary for CHAG in the New Year.

Anne Husar, 11 November 2021 by email