

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 15th October 1994 at the Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham commencing at 10.00am.

Present: Phil Bland, Penny Barber, Jon Darlington, Melanie Darlington, Roger Hancock, Neil Hutchinson, Peter Lea, Stephen Peters, Pete Sterry & Nikki Timbrell.

1. Apologies: Colin Paillin & Christine Potter.

2. The minutes of the meeting of 10th September were agreed an accurate record with 2 minor amendments.

3. Matters arising.

a) 3a. Peter Lea circulated a paper on BW's Leisure & Tourism strategy. To be discussed next meeting.

Jon had drafted but not yet sent the letter on moorings policy.

Roger had not yet considered whether the Bill only affected actions after its passing and effectively approved what had gone before. RH

b) 3f. Stephen reported the safety committee was at the moment only an internal BW one. He would be kept informed of activities.

c) 3g. Job descriptions were still outstanding 2 written reports only produced. JD

d) 3h. The application to the ombudsman was progressing. JD

e) 4. Jon had attempted to contact David Stephenson and had now written. It appeared that RYA were unaware of the consultation procedure. Neil reported he had spoken at a closed meeting of IWA Chairmen about the proposed forum and reported there was little enthusiasm for the idea with the chairmen reluctant to get involved. Jon requested that members of Council should not discuss matters in public where negotiations were being carried on by him behind the scenes.

f) 5. Phil was making progress and had found some information. PB

g) 7. BW were slowly responding to the Select Committee's demands. Jon to contact the Committee stating that if they needed a comment from a user group on any BW counter proposals we would be available. JD

The consolidation of undertakings was regarded as a crucial part of the work of the proposed Forum. Jon reported there was to be a meeting with IWA next Saturday when he would produce draft letters and agenda etc for discussion.

h) 8. Peter Lea had written to the insurance companies.

i) 10c. The trawl of the database had not been done because there was a new proposed Council member working in Runcom who had volunteered. Peter was to send another copy of his letter to Neil as the original had not arrived. PL

Neil announced that because of changing circumstances he would no longer be able to undertake the recruiting officer role next year.

4. Advertising policy

Following circulation of a paper from Peter Lea and a series of amendments from Penny the proposal that the following policy was carried and that the policy approval process should be invoked.

"NABO is a pressure group for all boat owners on the inland waterways. The function of the Newsletter is to inform members of the organisation's activities and of any waterway matters that have come to our attention which might be of use to them. ~~Our prime function is not to be a publishing house.~~ Notwithstanding, paid and unpaid advertisements for waterway-related goods and services may be accepted for publication the NABO Newsletter and "Boater", subject to the Editor's approval and to guidelines laid down by the Council. The editorial content and policies of the Newsletter and "Boater" shall not be influenced by any advertiser."

The following guidelines were agreed:

1) The Editor and the Council shall have absolute discretion to refuse to accept any advertisement, or any advertiser, without giving a reason. A list of advertisers and products for

inclusion in the next issue of the Newsletter shall be presented to Council for approval at every Council meeting.

2) Any issue of a Newsletter or "Boater" containing any advertisements shall also contain the following disclaimer prominently displayed: "The products and services advertised in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by the Association"

3) Articles will have priority over advertisements.

4) The quantity of advertising shall be limited to occupying no more than 25% of any one issue. The maximum percentage of space to be occupied by advertising is to be determined annually by Council.

5) All paid advertisements shall be paid for in advance.

6) Advertising rates are to be set by Council and reviewed at least annually.

7) The amount of advertising revenue is to be disclosed as part of the Treasurer's report at every Council meeting.

8) Advertising revenue should always be regarded as a bonus and as such used for a clearly defined purpose determined by Council. Usage of the funds must be reported on at every Council meeting.

9) Council members are not permitted to advertise goods and services in which they trade without declaring their interest in accordance with the Constitution.

5. RBOA/NABO Code of practice.

The draft having been circulated it was presented by Penny and placed in context. It was agreed to refer the code to the working party for full review and report to Council. **JD PL Penny RH** Phil Bland commented that the provision of a new category of licence would invite further regulation from BW.

6. Visitor Moorings

Simon Ainley had responded to Peter Lea's letter indicating that if asked concessions would be made for weekenders to stay longer than the signed limits. At the subsequent User Group meeting Peter pursued this and obtained public confirmation that if a weekender contacted BW before or as soon after arrival as possible every effort would be made to accommodate them without charge. The notices restricting mooring would be altered to disclose this. Provided this was done it was agreed that this produced the mix of moorings required by BW's undertakings.

Moorings Matrix. It appeared that this was being implemented without consultation and there was evidence of an increase over the one bollard creeping in. BW's internal memo states that local consultation with moorers was critical and the need to influence initial classification was critical. Peter Lea commented that to calculate the increase percentage one should add inflation to the current price and see where that was in the new matrix. The increase should not be above one above the resulting figure. Objections should be lodged quickly.

It was agreed that Jon should write to all regional managers with copy to Ken Dodd asking what is happening about the consultations with moorers. Copies to be given to Area reps to raise at meetings.

JD

7. Environment Agency.

A report by Touche Ross had been issued asking for comment on the management structure of the proposed agency. Jon had drafted a response but it appeared we had not received a copy earlier from the DOE. This was possibly because relations were strained over the BW Bill. Jon & Neil were to try to mend fences with the DOE Officers.

JD NH

The TR report only mentioned the navigation function of NRA twice. There were 5 management scenarios suggested only one of which both separated the operational activities from enforcement and dealt with things on a regional basis. It was felt that regions based on catchment or geographical areas were preferable to political boundaries. Jon to complete his submission accordingly.

JD

The aims of the agency envisaged no public accountability and little consultation with interest groups. It would need careful monitoring and possibly consideration of the concept of a central navigation body as envisaged by IWA under Robert Aikman. NH to ask for a copy of the document produced on "waterways conservancy".

NH

8. Council Member's reports

a) Funding. Melanie Darlington's report is annexed. The annual accounts were approved.
b) Membership Melanie reported current membership of 1378 The database was up to date but there were still a few technical problems to overcome.

c) Recruitment. No report.

d) The Boater/newsletter. Next due quickly. All copy by the end of the week to meet AGM deadlines.

e) Publicity & Public Relations. Pete Sterry had nothing to report.

It was agreed that a list of rallies should be brought to each meeting to see if anyone could leaflet them. Application forms were to be obtained for the rallies at Braunston, Nottingham and Chester.

e) Regional representatives.

i) North West. Neil Hutchinson reported he would take John Rowland along to the meeting in Chester with a view to handing over to him. He was hopeful that someone at Stoke would volunteer to keep an eye on the Macclesfield & Peak Forest..

ii) North East. Pete Sterry reported the Aire & Calder seemed quiet. He had received a questionnaire from Loughborough University asking for information for a countryside and recreation strategy for Yorkshire & Humberside. He would complete it as best he could and call on members in the area for help.

iii) Midland. No report.

iv) South East. Peter Lea had reported in the Newsletter on dredging at the Grand Union meeting. This had been followed up at another meeting and an informal Dredging Initiative Group (DIG) had been set up to lobby on this one issue. Peter was encouraged to continue membership as long as the cost was not significant and did not cut across the work of the proposed forum. He reported that Blakes lock (into the Thames from Kennet & Avon) was to be closed from November to mid April. There had been no consultation BW were merely informed by NRA.

v) East Anglian. Neil Hutchinson reported that the Norfolk & Suffolk Yachting Association was the official arm of YHA in the area and their Yearbook was now out of date. It was agreed that Neil should join at NABO's expense and obtain the up to date information.

vi) River users co-ordination. Stephen Peters' report attached. Concern was expressed over the sink waste comments and Stephen was to monitor this carefully. Peter Lea stated that there were new byelaws for the Thames and he would obtain a copy. He would send copies of Thames and other river meetings minutes which he received, to Stephen. **PL**

vii) Navigation. Neil Hutchinson stated the stoppage details had been published but that they also contained an Opening Hours section. There had been no mention of this at consultation meetings and it was not clear whether they were a codification of what happened in practice or something new.

9. A.O.B.

a) Jon was to draw up a list of jobs which needed doing to enable them to be allocated to the new Council at its first meeting. **JD**

b) AGM. There were 16 nominations for Council so no election was required. Concern was expressed over the change in the accounts over the last 6 months and an increase in subscriptions was proposed. This should be £10 with family membership set at £15. It would be necessary to produce half year accounts showing the change in our fortunes and to emphasise the increased amount of work and expenses.

Dave Green was to be asked to chair the open forum. **JD**

c) Neil commented that increasing membership was not easy and that we may need to consider fund raising by means of raffles etc.

d) BW have won a CharterMark for public service!

9. Next meeting. Saturday 3rd December Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham. Following - 14th January. Dates to be printed in Newsletter.

rmh 17/10/94