

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 3rd December 1994 at Hockley Port, Birmingham commencing at 10.00am.

Present: Penny Barber, Jon Darlington, Melanie Darlington, Roger Hancock, Neil Hutchinson, Mij Lambert, Peter Lea, Nigel Parkinson, Christine Potter, Pete Sterry & Nikki Timbrell.

1. Apologies: Phil Bland, Stephen Peters & Chris Boxall.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 15th October were agreed an accurate record with 2 amendments. The deletion of the final sentence in 3(i) & third sentence of the Policy in 4.
3. Matters arising.
 - a) 4. It had transpired that the Policy on Policy had never been published in the Newsletter. This was to be corrected and the consultation period extended. JD
 - b) 5. A new version of the RBOA/NABO code of practice had been drafted and was passed to the working party for further consideration.
 - c) 6. Peter Lea had written to Simon Ainley asking for changed to the detail on the Oxford visitor moorings. He was trying to establish the discretion available to staff in refusing consent and the degree of publicity for the arrangement
 - d) 6. Moorings matrix. Difficulties were continuing with different interpretations by different managers some refusing to disclose how moorings were scored. Jon had received a negative response from Watford to a request that this be co-ordinated nationally. He was to write to Brian Dice and then the Ombudsman if necessary. Members were to be asked JD in the Newsletter to keep their area reps informed of what was happening. It was NT suggested that where a failure to consult occurred any increase in mooring fee over inflation should be withheld on the grounds that it was not valid for lack of essential consultation.
 - e) 7. The letter commenting on the Touche Ross report had been sent.
4. Election of Officers & Council duties

Chairman	Jon Darlington
Vice Chairman	Peter Lea
Secretary	Roger Hancock (congratulated on the speed & accuracy of minutes)
Treasurer	Melanie Darlington (cheque signing arrangements confirmed and next AGM to consider change to signatories)
Membership Secretary	Christine Potter
Marketing Officer	Mij Lambert

There was a discussion of this role regarded as crucial and agreed that an overall strategy was needed as well as considering publicity. Mij should be supported by the Officers in discussions etc as needed.

Newsletter Editor	Nikki Timbrell (brilliant at job)
Navigation Officer	Neil Hutchinson
Engineering Officer	Nigel Parkinson (Harry Winter willing to help & pass on information)
Newsletter Distributor	Melanie Darlington
Rally Organiser	Penny Barber
NW Rep.	Neil Hutchinson (until John Rowland appeared)
NE Rep.	Pete Sterry
Midland Rep	Chris Boxall
SE Rep	Peter Lea
River Users Rep	Stephen Peters

Broads Link & E Anglian Rep to await results of Mij's contacts in the area.
5. Matters arising from AGM

Discussion after the AGM raised:

 - a) Disabled Moorings. The alleged removal of disabled moorings at Braunston was to be PL investigated and taken up with BW and possibly the Minister for Disabled. Members were to

- be asked to report where these moorings were and whether any others had disappeared. Nikki to draft a letter to Canal & Riverboat & Waterways World seeking information. **NT**
- b) Crown Leisure. Report of Ashby canal being roped off was to be investigated by Mij. **ML**
Pete Sterry would keep watching brief in the area they appeared to work in. **PS**
Newsletter to include a request for information. Jon to write to Ashby Canal Society. **JD**
- c) Fishermen fishing on mooring rings in competition still gave problems. BW did not seem to ensure that fishing club members knew the rules. All Reps to ask that Fisheries Officers attend user group meetings to discuss how things could be improved. **ALL REPS**
- d) BW Moorings wardens. There were mixed views on their benefit. Penny to write to BW enquiring their duties and rewards and how they were identified to boaters. She would also ask what qualifications were necessary to be appointed a security boat for a mooring. **PB**
- e) Holding the AGM at different places was discussed. The idea to be canvassed in the Newsletter. The next meeting should include an item on the agenda to consider ways of getting members together in their areas.
6. Navigation Forum
Jon reported an excellent response to the invitation. He had persuaded Audrey Smith that a proliferation of representatives from BMIF was not appropriate and a meeting was to be held on 14th or 21st January. Reps from IWA, NABO, RYA, BMIF, RBOA, AWCC, NBOC, APCO & CNOA had indicated they would attend. Agreed Jon & Peter Lea to attend fro NABO.
7. BW's cycling Policy
The policy had been circulated but there was no mention of lockwheeling. Cycling was to be banned over large stretches of the system and there were likely to be wide variations in the enforcement by BW managers. IWA had queried anomalies but NABO had never received any consultation. PL to inquire why. Jon to write to all managers asking whether they consider cycling responsibly between locks by boaters should be allowed. **PL**
JD
8. IWAAC Questionnaire
Seems to have a bias against boating. It was agreed that we should respond and point out that navigation was part of the attraction to other users. There ought to be some weighting of responses as some organisations would have little interest (WI) as opposed to NABO. IWAAC to be asked what question they were actually trying to address and then offer further assistance. All Council members to complete their copy of the form and return to JD **ALL** asap so he can respond by 30/12. It was agreed that the existence of NABO's survey and its conclusions could be made known. **JD**
9. BW Bill
2 clauses had been removed in the final version.
a) Visitor moorings which probably brought down the undertakings given to NABO but Jon to consider the wording carefully. **JD**
b) Location & manner of mooring as no longer a crime.
- The result of (a) is that BW do not have power to charge for visitor moorings and NABO lose the right to insist on a proper mix of moorings. Visitor moorings to be looked at at a future meeting. RH to investigate the current law on visitor moorings and BW's charging powers. **RH**
- JD to ask for a copy of any undertakings given by BW to the Select Committee. **JD**
- It was noted that BW are saying that all current surveyors will have to complete their full course before registration to issue safety certificates. At present some latitude was allowed by surveyors depending on the breach of requirements. A safety certificate was not recognised by insurers and a survey may still be needed. These aspects were to be monitored by NABO and guidance given asap. **NP**
10. Environment Agency Bill
PL had read it and drafted a letter to MP's. The bill said very little on navigation but took over NRA's navigation function. Provision was made for the fisheries committee to regulate

navigation! An emergency meeting of PWG had taken place and MPs attending were well aware of the problems. It was intended that the Agency would be in operation by 1/4/95. It was anticipated that the functions of NRA would be carried on in the same way as before but all attending were worried about the erosion of navigation and its subservience to environmental issues.

Agreed that the letter should be sent to all MP's and settled by Nikki, Jon & Peter. Members to be encouraged to write to their MPs. NT, JD, PL

It appeared that DoE were looking again at the combining of NRA & BW navigation functions but were not in favour because of the cost. It was essential that all waterway groups spoke with one voice. PL volunteered to put forward NABO concerns. PL

11. Council Member's reports

a) Funding. Melanie Darlington reported the current position. The annual sub to Waterways World was approved.

b) Membership Christine reported current membership of 1358 20 down on last meeting. There were 51 non renewals in September. Mij to write to them. Christine to provide details. Agreed to activate the possibility of Standing Orders. CP, ML, MD

c) Marketing. No report.

d) The Boater/newsletter.

Leaflets need reprinting as out of date. Nikki to redraft. Renewals or new members at the old sub rate to be accepted but renewal to be after 10 months rather than chase for the £2. NT

Advertising policy to be dealt with as in Matters Arising. NT

Yearbook agreed a good idea but nobody had time to do it. Nigel volunteered to identify NP

matters of policy from minutes. Jon to provide him with a full set. JD

Stone throwing letters would be analysed in the Newsletter by Nikki. NT

e) Publicity & Public Relations. No report.

f) Regional representatives.

i) North West. Neil Hutchinson reported attendance at meetings in Chester, Wigan & Bradford.

ii) North East. Pete Sterry reported on a meeting of the Great Ouse User Group (attached) and raised problems over the moorings matrix. There was a suggestion that BW indicated there would be no greater increase than 5% this year. Jon to check his notes of the meeting with BW. JD

iii) Midland. The failure of the local manager to attend a User Group meeting made it a waste of time. The meeting should be postponed in such circumstances.

iv) South East. Peter Lea had reported that the dredging budget for the Grand Union had been increased from 650k to 1m pa as a result of the combined efforts of the User Group. The NRA had published the draft Lee Catchment area plan. It included provision of less water to BW when levels were low and less residential boats at such times! PL to make representations. PL

Changes in lock opening hours on the tidal Thames were being discussed. NABO's position was that they should be open as long as possible. It was likely that economics would decide the issue.

v) East Anglian. No report.

vi) River users co-ordination. Stephen Peters' report attached (not available at meeting).

vii) Navigation. Neil Hutchinson stated he had received all old BW guide information and was able to proceed with work on craft dimensions over the whole system.

12. A.O.B.

a) Leisure & Tourism Strategy to be discussed at a future meeting.

13. Next meeting. Saturday 14th or 21st January depending on Navigation Forum meeting. JD to

advise and confirm venue as Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham. JD

Following - 4/3/95; 8/4/95; 13/5/95; 24/6/95; 5/8/95. Dates to be printed in Newsletter.

Penny Barber was thanked for organising the excellent lunch.

rmh 05/12/94