

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 5th August 1995 at Northfield, Birmingham commencing at 10.00am.

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

1. Apologies: Nikki Timbrell, Nigel Parkinson, Mij Lambert, Christine Potter & Chris Boxall
2. The minutes of the meeting of 24th June 1995 were agreed an accurate record after minor amendment
3. Matters Arising
Water Restrictions. NH reported the policy of APCO was that there should be none and when all water used up canals should be closed. Agreed that NABO members wanted to see navigation at all times and that restrictions, although not liked were better than the APCO alternative. Members were not restricted to a short time and could decide to wait at locks if they chose. Restrictions had the result of reducing traffic on heavily restricted routes which in turn save water by the reduced number of lockings. Jon to speak to Chris and include an article in Newsletter. Further research into effectiveness of closures was needed. JD
4. Boat Safety Scheme update. Held over to next meeting in absence of NP. Comments on NP's report to him before meeting 12/9. ALL
5. Exhall Marina Pricing.
Pricing was not in accordance with Matrix. BW should be providing basic moorings for those on the moratorium. Pricing could be within Matrix but needed to be lower than Hockley on location factors. If BW spent too much on the site this was a lack of control and essential Matrix was complied with or the whole scheme abandoned. Complaints procedure to be implemented. JD
A separate complaint to be made against refusal of Stumpf to alter charges at Tardebigge despite agreement that they were wrong. There had also been inadequate consultation. JD
6. BW Guidance on "Mooring"
Consultation letter inadequate requiring legal right when only ever a licence available. Act requires non compliance with standards, insurance and moorings before BW can refuse licence. BW cannot choose one and refuse only on that ground. Continuous cruising also gave problems as appeared to exclude weekenders and also end of garden moorings or any on line mooring not licensed from BW. The letter was an attempt to extend legislation and also to take advantage of IWA suggestion that continuously cruising craft should pay more. Licence gives right to use canals and therefore should not be possible to charge more where eg mooring on River Avon.
Objections to be made to all paragraphs. Matter should be referred to Forum, but insufficient time. Draft to be agreed between JD/PL/RH & SP. RH to draft. RH/JD/PL/SP
7. Third Party Insurance for Hire Boats.
Following an accident with an uninsured hire boat it was agreed that unless a member of APCO there was little that could be done until all craft had to be insured under the Act.
8. AGM. Agreed 25th November Friends Meeting House, Northfield. London & Nuneaton rejected.
9. Ray Wood. Agreed to invite him to a special meeting on 4th November to address questions of lobbying and how to deal with politicians etc. Expenses & lunch to be paid. PL
10. Council Member's reports
a) Funding. Melanie reported the accounts were reasonably sound.

b) Membership Melanie reported 1383 members. The list of suggested additional information was discussed. Comments to RH asap to enable questionnaire to be compiled. ALL

A draw of returned forms to be arranged with T shirt as prize.

c) Marketing, no report. Agreed raffle to be considered to help create membership. Another A5 card needs to be sent out.

There was an urgent need to establish priorities and avoid duplication of work of other groups. Clerical assistance was envisaged when the subs were increased and should be used. Additional help might be available if a small payment was possible. PL to do article for Newsletter. JD to speak to Mij. PL/JD

Next meeting to discuss and establish priorities and set targets. We must set the agenda rather than react to that of BW etc.

Chester Rally. Penny confirmed all organised. Approval given to spending £250 on lock handles and historical canal maps for sale on stand. Penny to pursue triangular pencils, if time. PB

Tent. PS reported the proposed tent had only 3 sides. Price for additional side to be obtained. PS

Agreed loan of tent should only be on the basis of a donation (or 5 new members), acknowledgement & display of NABO leaflets.

d) The Newsletter. No report.

e) Regional representatives.

i) North West. Neil had nothing to report.

ii) North East. Pete Sterry had looked at complaint re rubbish at Leicester. Proved only temporary pending collection.

iii) Midland. Chris' report circulated.

Penny reported on Midlands Canal Forum meeting. Perry Barr closure. Rep to write to BW seeking confirmation closure temporary and would not lead to permanent closure. CB

Bradley pumps had broken down after only 3 years. No cathodic protection thought likely cause. Will take 16 weeks to repair and water available only half of normal requirement.

Draft strategy plan produced with little consultation. World canals Conference June 96. Rep to find out what being arranged. CB

Failure of Stumpf and Tyrrell to call user group meetings to be pursued through complaints procedure. Chris to start ball rolling. CB

iv) South East. Peter Lea reported 2 cases where purchaser of land adjoining canal had had registered against them the ownership of a 15ft strip by BW without proof of title. Whilst outside our normal area enquiries were to be made of the Land Registry and PL to include a warning article in Newsletter. Penny had a similar report. If substantiated end of garden moorings could be killed off. PL/RH

f) River users co-ordination. Stephen's report circulated.

g) Navigation. NH reported that IWA' response was more detailed than NABO's contrary to indications at the Forum. It was considered to be the result of internal IWA politics rather than a failure to discuss things openly. However JD not happy about the non appearance of the minutes.

9. A.O.B. None.

10. Next meeting. Saturday 9th September, Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham. subsequently: 21st October and 12th December.

rmh 7/8/95