

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 9th December 1995 at Northfield, Birmingham commencing at 10.00am.

Present: Jon Darlington, Penny Barber, Roger Hancock, Stephen Peters, Nigel Parkinson, Nikki Timbrell, Peter Lea, Pete Sterry, Phil Bland, John Glock, Neil Walker, John Griffith, Denis Smith and Andrew Sherrey.

In attendance: Phillip Ogden

The Chairman welcomed the new members of Council to their first meeting.

1. Apologies: Neil Hutchinson & Chris Boxall.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 20th October 1995 were agreed an accurate record
3. Election of Officers and other posts. Following appropriate propositions and secondings the following were elected:

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| Chairman | Jon Darlington |
| Vice Chairman | Peter Lea |
| Treasurer | Andrew Sherrey |
| Secretary | Roger Hancock |
| North East Rep | Pete Sterry |
| North West Rep | Neil Hutchinson |
| Midlands Rep | John Griffiths assisted by Denis Smith |
| South Eastern Rep | Neil Walker |
| Newsletter Editor | Nikki Timbrell |
| Marketing | Peter Lea co-ordinating Christine Denton |
| Talks & publicity | Pete Sterry |
| River Users Co-ordinator | Steven Peters |
| Engineering/Boat Standards | Nigel Parkinson |
| Navigation | Neil Hutchinson assisted by Chris Boxall |
| Membership secretary | John Glock |
| Lapsed Members/disabled | Phil Bland |
| Rallies Co-ordinator | Denis Smith |
| RBOA Rep | Penny Barber |

Phillip Ogden confirmed his willingness to continue as Consultant.

members were reminded how to claim reimbursement of expenses and that car fuel was paid on the basis of the fuel used based on the individual car's mpg.

4. Meeting with Ray Wood 4th November.

The Chairman reported on the meeting with retired civil servant Ray. He explained how the DOE worked and the policies behind the decisions. The appointment of the BW Chairman reflects DOE policy rather than that of BW. The meeting was useful more for the background than anything very positive for the future. It was apparent how unimportant canals were to DOE. He stated that the DOE was less impressed with sheer numbers of members but more so by logical and persistent arguments.

His suggestion of trying to get IWAAC more teeth would be raised by Peter Lea at the Parliamentary Waterways Group and he would also raise the subject of the Rating (Caravans & Boats) Bill. Penny to obtain copies. PL
PB

It was felt that a number of points needed to be raised at the next Forum meeting.
5. Update on Boat Standards

According to BW "Consultation" ended in October. Despite this Nigel still has not received the minutes of his last meeting. Responses from BW have as usual been inadequate and failing to answer the questions asked. All those who had written to BW to pursue and remind them that the Customer Charter promises a FULL reply within 21 days. JD, NP
RH, PL

Jon's letter rejecting the implementation date under Schedule II has been rejected by Graham Clark the Commercial Finance Manager. No valid reasons are given for the rejection and Jon is moving to stage two of the complaints procedure by writing to Jim Kelly. His letter to contain a threat of Judicial Review. IWA had dropped their opposition. JD

It is understood that Tony Ellis of IWAAC believes BW have not complied with the Act. NT

It was essential all boaters knew the position as soon as possible.

- Confusion still reigned over the £20 discount for relicencing boats with Safety Certificates Jon to clarify the undertaking given to maintain it until the new system was in force. JD
 Clarification on how BW intend to apply standards to visiting craft and those at Limehouse and Glasson Dock was to be obtained by SP. SP
 Anyone writing to BW on Standards to send a copy to NP. ALL
6. Recruitment
a) Generally.
 Christine Denton has agreed to run a campaign under the co-ordination of Peter Lea. Ideas will be collected and a draft strategy will be brought to the February meeting. PL
 b) Survey Form approved with cosmetic changes. RH
 Data Protection Act registration needed. John Glock to arrange. JG
 Freepost registration to proceed. John Glock to arrange. Chairman's address to be used. JG
 An article to be written for Newsletter for republishing for new members later. RH
7. Matters arising from last meeting
 a) Audit. Agreed definition:
 "The Council defines the work it expects to be carried out by the auditors appointed under paragraph 9(e) of the Constitution to be: An examination of the books and records of the Association, and verifying that the Association's accounts are in accordance with them and the information and explanations provided, and are free of material misstatement"
 b) Landfill Tax. Customs & Excise have stated there will be no exemption to £7 per tonne tax. Matter to be raised at PWG and Forum as matter of urgency. Cost will be crippling to BW and other navigation authorities. JD
 c) Tent. Had been purchased. Fire Certificate awaited.
 d) Environmental Code of Practice. Received by Jon. NRA apparently say boating is detrimental to the environment. Stephen to discover exactly what said and then inform them properly of the benefits. PS
 SP
8. Matters raised at AGM
 Agreed that postal voting for Council members a good idea and if not enough responses to a request in the Newsletter requesting an EGM Council to call one themselves with a view to changing the rules. Penny to draft new rules and balloting procedure. It was agreed there was no need for rotational retirements. Notice to be sent calling the meeting in the February Newsletter with the EGM on the same day as the May Council Meeting. NT
 Consideration should be given to making the AGM a bit earlier to ensure publication of Newsletter before Christmas. PB
9. Additional items from Reps. not circulated.
 SP raised the problem of the Transport and Works application by NRA to become the navigation authority of the Wye and Lugg. There was much boater opposition in conflict with landowning and fishing interests. Welsh NRA were not acting in accordance with NRA's national policy. His draft letter was approved. Matter to be raised at next Forum meeting. SP
10. A.O.B.
 i) BW new bylaws. We have asked to be consulted.
 ii) BW Land Grab. Further cases known PL to keep a list. ↑ PL
 iii) BW Chartermark. Chartermark authority claimed not to know who to consult over satisfaction. They have agreed to ask NABO when Mark due for review.
 iv) 2 houseboats at Brentford have been given notice in contravention of the undertakings given NABO. Jon has told BW unacceptable and for the notice to be withdrawn immediately. Matter recommended to solicitors. JD
 v) Cheque signatories. Following approved: Any two of: Jon Darlington, Peter Lea, Roger Hancock, Phil Bland, Andrew Sherrey.
9. Next meetings. Saturday 13th or 27th January 1996, Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham
 Rest of year to July: 2nd March; 20th April; 1st June; 13th July