

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 2nd March 1996 at Northfield, Birmingham commencing at 10.00am.

Present: Jon Darlington, Roger Hancock, Nigel Parkinson, , Peter Lea, John Glock, Penny Barber, Stephen Peters, Pete Sterry, Phil Bland, John Griffith, Denis Smith, Andrew Sherrey, Neil Hutchinson & Phillip Ogden

1. Apologies: Nikki Timbrell, Neil Walker & Chris Boxall.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 27th January 1996 were agreed an accurate record  
Anyone with a copy of the guidance paper for manning Stands to send it to DS  
Comments on BW Angling Code to Chris Boxall. ALL  
ALL
3. Future of IWAAC  
Agreed reply needed. JD to draft response with holding letter beforehand if necessary. Agreed to support retention and strengthen supervision of BW. Should include addressing deficiencies of Ombudsman's powers. BW & NRA should be made accountable to a regulator. JD
4. Environment Agency - Future of Navigation  
Regarded as an attempt to provide some future strategic planning rather than pre-empting of DOE report. We would support a national co-ordinated strategy for all waterway organisations. Strategy should be formulated within a framework of consultation. There should be a presumption in favour of navigation and steps should be taken to protect statutory rights and enhance them and to enlarge and expand navigation generally. SP to draft reply. SP  
JG to see if he can obtain a copy of Aikman's Waterways Conservancy paper. JG
5. Update on Boat Standards *continued*  
3 complaints now co-ordinated. JD writing to Brian Dice. Meeting with all other organisations sharing NABO's views to take place after Council meeting.  
Problems were beginning to emerge where someone has been refused a BSC where previously carried out work for and obtained C of C. Referred to David Allison.  
Factual errors had been made in correspondence with BW which would assist us. Statements that new requirements were as result of consultation and were not more onerous were wrong.  
Other requirements were being brought in by stealth e.g. solid wiring. Doubt was expressed over enforceability of these and matters contained in the Technical Manual which was not part of the Standards. Simple guidelines should now be given to members on what to expect. NP to do article for Newsletter. NP  
Agreed any statement to press must be approved first by JD/PL. NP may need to approve technical matters.  
Essential that statements were countered in Press and where necessary minutes of IWA should be quoted to show they agree with our stance. We needed to focus on the possible expense to boaters.
6. Marketing Strategy  
Paper previously circulated approved as was expenditure on Carrier bags, balloons, mugs, pens and leaflet dispensers.  
Agreed to see if efficiency of production of Newsletter could be improved. JD/PL/JG to consider in conjunction with NT. JD/PL/JG/NT  
Quality of paper for leaflets to be considered in light of ease of completion of forms and weight for posting.  
Current needs: Volunteers - survey form at last sent out, 5th Anniversary ideas - pass on to PL, ALL  
Press officer - vital post needing journalism experience ideally. PL to sound out contacts and to include request in Newsletter for volunteer.  
Agreed all Council members should have stock of leaflets and encourage others to join NABO. ALL  
The need to monitor effectiveness of recruitment activities was acknowledged and would be done by Christine Denton as soon as volunteers were available.
7. Council Structure  
Chris Boxall's paper having been circulated was discussed in detail and was felt to be too bureaucratic for a voluntary organisation. However it did highlight weaknesses and the following points were made:
  - Council members wanted to be able to comment on detail
  - Sub committees might help provided all could attend and reports were made to Council.
    - A more formal organisation was needed to ensure the same responses were made to different navigation authorities.

- Need to improve housekeeping and admin and avoid duplication and getting bogged down in detail.
- Restrict Council to hard core of decision making and leave detail to sub groups.
- Written reports still not made
- Only get involved with National issues not local ones
- Have proper budgets also for subgroups if approved.
- Meetings not controlled sufficiently
- Members should be free to join any sub committee they liked.
- Council too big should be reduced by half.
- Meetings should start at stated time
- All those not present invited to send in comments to CB & JD

ALL

Agreed need to co-ordinate Reps approaches and NH appointed to monitor and give guidance. NH  
 Draft of Council Members handbook to be circulated for comment. SP thanked for his major effort.

NH

8. Additional items from Reps. not circulated.

1. PL written letter in support of alterations to K&A in Reading as part of development to remove bottleneck
2. Stuart Sim had accepted comments on advance notice of canal closures and would include in Waterway Standards in the future. Press release and Newsletter article to be done. PL
3. Hugh Potter invited to include article on 5th Birthday. No response yet.
4. NRA promoting their own proposals for River Wye. Will end public right of navigation. To be resisted.
5. Charges for overstaying time limits in Birmingham. NH to respond after seeing RBOA letter (attached). Regional Reps to co-ordinate any similar charges with NH NH
6. Locking one side of Aston flight to be commented on JGr. to do so. JGr
7. NW Closures and restrictions 'approved by NABO' - by mere attendance at the meeting. Principle of keeping system open as long as possible approved.

9. A.O.B.

- i) BW/NRA Thames reciprocal charge problems to be raised in letter to NRA on strategy.
- ii) Postal Voting - article to be included in next newsletter to obtain pro posers to call EGM. NP to write. N 4
- iii) Practical Boat Owner article had produced many requests for membership leaflets. To consider advertisement and further articles. N 4
- iv) Nottingham CC to be told we could not help draft policy for avoiding accidents on hire boats.
- v) ~~Meetings after Council meetings should not be arranged in future.~~

10. Next meeting. Saturday 20th April 1996, Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham

rmh 04/03/96