

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 1st June 1996 at Northfield, Birmingham commencing at 10.00am.

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

Condolences were expressed to Philip Ogden and Neil Hutchinson. Penny Barber was congratulated on being elected Chair(man) of RBOA

1. Apologies: Nikki Timbrell, Pete Sterry, Phil Bland & Neil Hutchinson
2. The minutes of the meeting of 20th April 1996 were agreed an accurate record.
3. Future of IWAAC Jon to amend draft document asap.
4. Update on Boat Standards  
Jon reported on the meeting with BW on May 10th. None of our suggestions had been considered and David Fletcher gave every impression of not having read them. Guidance notes to boaters were to be issued to boaters shortly but were expected to be different from that promulgated at Nottingham Boat Show. BW were inflexible and the check list would be applied rigidly. This applied in theory to surveyors as well but there were signs they were not happy. No formal response had been received to our letter which should be followed through the complaints procedure. This should be done by sending copies to Bernard Henderson and Robert Jones.  
The existing complaints should be continued with the ombudsman. There was little prospect of changing the detail now and this should be accepted. Those organisations who joined in our previous protests to be contacted and see if they will join in continuation of complaints.  
Agreed that adverse publicity of knocking the BSS needed to be countered. There was a prospect that the objection to BW would be seen as helping their publicity. The main waterways magazines were not interested in BSS at all. Agreed to make statement to our members and to produce a one page resume of where we stand now for the wider public to be given out at Rallies etc. Meetings on BSS would be attended but a low profile adopted generally.  
General advice (subject to detailed consideration of the implications) use a surveyor who can help on appeal and appeal if rejected. There was some suggestion that surveyors might sue clients if accused of interpreting BSS wrongly. Neutral language to be used  
**PL/NP**  
Members position paper to be drafted by PB/PL/NP  
Newsletter to stress further guidance notes for boaters likely and the Technical manual was not yet out (ought to be June 1) No examiners yet trained or surveyors standardised. If have a C of C no guarantee of getting BSS Cert.  
Agreed to lower profile with other waterways bodies.  
Appeals Procedure. The draft circulated rewrote the provisions of the Act which required the panel "shall" deal with disputes rather than "may". The attempt to limit appeals until after the complaints procedure was ill founded as there was no such requirement in the Act. All comments to NP/PL/JD/SP asap. The to consider and respond.
5. Moorings.  
Meeting 21/6 to consider matrix and end of garden moorings. Problems encountered with Stumpf to be aired. Also implication that matrix doesn't apply to new moorings like Exhall basin to be objected to.  
Policies of managers on mixes of moorings generally felt to be satisfactory but to be monitored by reps.  
JD to issue statement of NABO's position on moorings generally for reps.
6. Towpath Cycleways. Calder Navigation society's initiative considered. At users meeting Sustrans had indicated only small use of towpaths would occur but this did not tally with statements relating to K&A.. Felt to be thin edge of the wedge. NABO did not object where there was sufficient space on the towpath for all activities but objected where normal boating activities could be impeded and especially rails in bridge holes. There should be no loss of grass because of the effect on wildlife or changes to the physical structure of the canal. RH to respond to Calder. PL to consider fuller response after consultation with BW.

7. Tunnel safety. Problems with steam powered boats at Harecastle considered. Claims of tunnel keepers being "Harbourmasters" were unlikely in law and to be investigated with BW. Copies of correspondence to Steam Boat Association.
8. Training of Volunteers. To be described as NABO Seminars and locations to be arranged by area reps. Neil to have new list sorted on postcode for division purposes. Up to £30 per location could be paid/donated for meeting room.
9. Marketing Strategy  
 Rallies list circulated . Denis congratulated on his efforts. 37 new members obtained at Braunston. Agreed to improve signing of tent at approx cost of £80.  
 World canals conference. After much toing & froing space obtained. Anyone able to help Denis contact him.  
Merchandise. Only new leaflets and stationery to be used. **All old stock to be scrapped.**  
Selling on track. 20/7. Braunston pound to be covered at Hillmorton/Braunston & Napton. Meet Lord Nelson after. Start 10.00.  
BSS Seminar to be held over possible at Henley in 1997.  
5th Anniversary. To be tied in with AGM. To be held at Hockley Port at 10.30 followed by optional boat trip round the loops of BCN and lunch. PB to organise. Agreed Jon to be photographed buying the first round.  
Membership. Concern was expressed that there was a greater loss of renewals than expected. Increased use of Standing Orders to be promoted. Trends to be considered at the September meeting. Agreed we needed to do more for boaters. Discount schemes and ideas needed. Contact SP & NW with ideas. They to produce paper and consider implications and practicalities.  
Newsletter. It needed to be remembered that it now went to a wider audience and care should be taken. Greater "editing" would occur when the technical problems with Nikki's fax had been overcome.
10. BW Licensing. Draft paper circulated. Comments to PL before meeting 5/6 to discuss.. PL to report back. Request for comments on 1997 fees to be replied to asking for no increased beyond inflation and how about efficiency improvements leading to reductions. JD
11. Canal closures and Water supplies.  
 Locking of Bratch at night not accepted for water shortage. DS to draft letter jointly with JGr. Concern generally that locks should only be closed for good operational reasons.
12. River Wye. Objection made. Public enquiry likely. We to indicate intention to attend.
13. River Wey. PL just received response to comments on Byelaws but only deal with management issues. PL to consider and reply as necessary.
14. Matters arising from Reps.  
 English Nature have declared Pocklington Canal SSI and banned boating. Concern was expressed that boating = damage to environment. No adequate studies have been done to provide answer.
15. AOB  
 a) Advert invite in Canal Boat & Inland Waterways not to be taken up.  
 b) IWA Jubilee appeal declined.  
 c) Thought ought to be given whether privatisation of BW would improve number on track and lessen bureaucracy. Constructive approach to BW on grant in aid to be offered. PL to write Open letter to BW in newsletter.
16. Next meeting. Saturday 20th July on track in Braunston pound.  
Next meetings 7th September 1996, Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham  
 12th October Friends Meeting House, Northfield, Birmingham  
 23rd November AGM at Hockley Port  
 7th December at Hockley Port