

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Minutes of a Council meeting held on the 7th December 1996 at Hockley Port, Birmingham commencing at 1000hrs

Before the election of officers the chair was taken by P Sterry.

1. Apologies

J. Griffiths

3. Election Of Officers

The following Council members were proposed seconded and elected nem con.

Chairman	Peter Lea
Vice Chairman	Nigel Parkinson
Secretary	Neil Walker
Treasurer	Andrew Sherrey
Newsletter Editor	Nikki Timbrell
River Users Co-ordinator	Stephen Peters
Representatives:-	
NW	John Griffiths
NE	Peter Sterry (pro-tem)
Midlands	Denis Smith
South	Neil Walker
Rallies, Recruitment and Marketing:	C. Denton (co-opted)
Disabled Issues:	Phil Bland
Co-opted to Council	P.Ogden

It was agreed that N. Parkinson should continue with responsibilities for engineering, and D. Smith also have responsibilities for navigation planning. P. Barber continues as RBOA liaison.

2. Accuracy of Minutes of Council Meeting 12th October

It was agreed that the following amendments be made:

Item

- 3: add RYA and HNBOC
- 10: Delete "unclear whether rumour or not"
- 12: for PL read PB
- 14(b): insert 'possibly' after 'navigation'.

Subject to the above, the minutes were agreed a true record.

4. Relations with British Waterways

The Chairman summarised the present position which centred around the response of British Waterways to previous complaints made by the Association, and the lack of consultation on various matters. The Chairman also reported on a National User Group meeting (17.10.96) and commented on the lack of support shown for NABO's position by other prominent user groups present at the meeting. He also explained why the BW Chairman was not invited to address the AGM due to lack of time to obtain the assent of Council.

The latest exchange of letters between J. Darlington and the BW Chairman was also considered.

Council agreed that in view of the present poor state of relations between BW and NABO, an informal meeting between B. Henderson, D. Fletcher, J. Darlington and P. Lea could be helpful to clear the air. The Chairman was empowered to arrange such a meeting at a venue of his choosing as soon as possible.

P. Barber confirmed that the RBOA held similar views to NABO over BW's abandonment of proper consultation procedures.

Council also agreed that the matter would continue to be pursued by:-

- a. Raising the matter at the National Inland Navigation Forum
- b. Making the Parliamentary Waterways group aware.
- c. Complaining to the DOE
- d. Campaigning in the Waterways Press.

In discussion over (d) it was pointed out that efforts must be made to involve more non-narrowboat boaters.

5. Rallies Recruiting and Marketing

Christine and John Denton attended for this item and raised the following points

- a) Focus & commitment were keys to marketing success.
- b) Targets should be set and met. Numbers of members were essential to the credibility of NABO.
- c) All Council members should be involved.
- d) Numbers of members could be augmented in publicity to include family members who benefited from the membership of one of their number. This could at least double the number of boaters NABO claims to represent.
- e) Numbers of new members, but not names, should be published in the Newsletter, with a welcome.
- f) Upcoming rallies would be at Little Venice, Braunston and Henley. It was here agreed by Council that a sub-committee to deal with M&R and Rallies should be formed. Members would be C.Denton, P.Barber, P.Sherry, R.Davis, N.Timbrell and P.Lea. It was agreed that at present focus should be on Henley.
- g) NABO stand should be more professional, with greater visual impact. Suggestions for improvement included a board listing bullet points; better photos and a Banner were also required.
- h) More involvement by ordinary members should be encouraged.
- g) A draft list of bullet points to be drafted by N.Walker, S.Peters, N.Parkinson and D.Smith for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Other M&R points raised and discussed included, finance, positions for NABO stands, (list of possibilities has been collated by Roger Davis), Ownership boats, additional rallies and the necessity for a M&R budget. The M&R sub-committee would meet on 18.1.97 at Hockley Port.

6. Press release arrangements

Following agreement by Council on the necessity to employ a professional to write press releases for NABO (NABO Council 7.9.96) the Chairman reported only two candidates available. After discussion Council agreed that Christine Lea should be commissioned to write NABO releases. Payment to be made at the rate of £20 per release within a provisional budget of £300. This matter was voted on. The Chairman did not take part having declared an interest. Council agreed that the issue of a Press Release would need the Chairman or Vice-chairman's approval.

7 & 13 Circulation and timing of Newsletter & dates for 1997 meetings

- a) Council agreed that Environment Agency Regional Navigation Managers should be added to the circulation lists where appropriate.
- b) Timings Item 13 of the agenda was taken with this.
 - (i) Next issue - and last for 1996; the Editor reported that reminders for subs could not be sent with this issue as the 28 page postal limit had been reached.
 - (ii) 1997
The Annual General Meeting would be held on 22nd November 1997

Council meetings:-	18th Jan	Newsletter Copy dates:-	24th Jan
	22nd Feb.		28th Feb.
	12th April		18th April
	7th June		13th June
	19th July		25th July
	30th August		5th Sept.
	11th October		12th Oct.
	22nd November		
	6th December		

8. Secretarial Arrangements

Council agreed on the necessity for an Administrative Secretary. Melanie Darlington was proposed and accepted. Payment would be set at £6 per hour, a budget to be set at the next Council meeting. This arrangement would have the benefit of retaining 111 Maas Rd as the NABO correspondence address.

9. Boat safety scheme Update

No current developments reported. Noted that a dangerous boat had been re-defined; also that the EA were differing from BW on licensing requirements after a failure certificate has been issued. It was also reported that the BS Kite mark for fire extinguishers would be outlawed on the 31st December 1996 and replaced by a European Certifying Mark.

10. Definition of Audit

Council agreed this definition should be:-

"The Council defines the work it expects to be carried out by the auditors appointed under section 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 mis-statement.**"

11. Reports on other meetings attended by Council Members and associated matters.

River Co-ordinators and NE Rep written reports circulated. Council discussed the pros and cons of creating the role of 'correspondent' to designate members other than Council members who could attend user group meetings on Council's behalf should a Rep be not available. It was pointed out that there could be dangers in this approach, but it was also agreed that a solution would need to be found. The Secretary to draft a suitable letter that could be sent to potential members for further consideration by Council.

Forthcoming Meetings:

- Parliamentary Waterways Group
- IWAC
- NIMF
- EACP

12 Matters arising

- a) AGM: Disappearance of British Waterways page on Ceefax to be investigated
- b) Council Meeting 12.10.96
 - i) BW Funding: Chairman commented that the present attitude of British Waterways hierarchy towards NABO did not serve to encourage any efforts to be made on their behalf.
 - ii) Training of reps. Council agreed that the original concept as proposed by Neil Hutchinson (Council 20.4.96) was no longer feasible, and would not be pursued.
 - (ii) Knowle Closures; Stuart Sims reply to our complaint was not considered satisfactory. However it was noted that the leaking gates were to be replaced (reps report).

14 A.O.B.

- a) Cheque signatories: it was agreed that the following would be signatories on NABO cheques.

Peter Lea	Chairman
Nigel Parkinson	Vice Chairman
Andrew Sherrey	Treasurer
Neil Walker	Secretary.
- b) Budget; a revised budget for 1997 would be prepared for the next meeting.
- c) An Internet site for NABO would be investigated.
- d) In response to a previous query, P.Lea reported that steamboats would be allowed through all BW Tunnels with the exception of Harecastle which had problems due to coal deposits in the area.
- e) Gainsborough: P.Foster reported that ABP were intending to close the River Trent to navigation for one year to facilitate workings. Council requested more information .
- f) N.Timbrell reported that EA and BW reciprocal licensing arrangements were not to apply to Hire Craft. This may have further implications. S.Peters to investigate further.
- g) The arrest of four boaters on return to their boat at Nottingham was reported by P.Bland. Further information required to establish if this was a case of BW harrasing boaters without proper cause.

15. Next Meeting

18th January 1997 @ Hockley Port.



Copy a true account