

MINUTES OF NABO COUNCIL MEETING 6.12.97 AT HOCKLEY PORT

1. Apologies for absence

Nikki Timbrell

2. Accuracy of meeting held 11.10.97

Item 5 no concessions should read - minimal concession.

Item 6 The first line should read - as far as other user groups are concerned.

Item 13c Should read - from a member Mr Cheeseborough.

Item 13d Should add - Peter Lea to write to Stewart Sims.

Item 14 iii) Should add - Peter Lea to request copy on disk - obtained.

The minutes were then signed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

None.

4. Council posts.

At this point we all introduced ourselves and stated the jobs that we had on council.

Penny Barber - RBOA liaison & Disabled rep

Geoffrey Barnett - NW. rep

Sue Burchett - Minutes sec.

Roger Davies - Membership sec.

Christine Denton - Marketing, rallies.

John Denton - Organisation & focusing.

Peter Foster - NE. rep & rivers.

Peter Lea - Chairman.

Philip Ogden - Odd jobs, special projects and daytime meetings.

Nigel Parkinson - Vice chairman & eng. officer.

Stephen Peters - River users coordinator.

Geoffrey Rogerson - Southern rep.

Andrew Sherrey - Treasurer.

Denis Smith - Midland rep.

Wendy Hook a non council member who is newsletter editor.

Christine agreed to take on the advertising in the newsletter

ACTION CHRISTINE

IWA NTA committee meetings at Galton Valley are to be covered by Philip.

ACTION PHILIP

5. Update on national issues

B.W. trust proposal response has gone in. Nigel is to go to the next B.W. user group meeting as there are important issues to be discussed.

ACTION NIGEL

B.W. is to abolish short term licences and they are to charge for using the locks to harbours from the 1st January. NABO is opposing both. This could be the thin end of the wedge with B.W. charging for the use of any lock.

B.W. has no uniform policy on the fishing closed season. Will they want to charge fishermen extra when it is abolished?

NABO's response ; the closed season is to be imposed in the NW. and kept in the rest of the country.

Not all fishermen are in favour of no closed season due to family harmony.

Red Diesel:- In France commercial boats use red diesel but pleasure boats don't. It was noted that the price of derv is much cheaper there due to tax. Britain, Ireland and Belgium have an exemption at present, but our exemption could end in 1999 as there is a proposal for an EEC directive to abolish the present deregulation. NABO ~~is~~ working with other groups to formulate a response

English Nature is too powerful. There is no consultation with this Quango. The problem is believed to be with the legislation under which ~~EA~~ was founded. ~~EA~~ seems to see wildlife and boating as incompatible. This attitude needs to be changed.

Wendy declared that she is from a conservation background and the newsletter will reflect this.

Channel dimensions

B.W. are ignoring the mooring matrix in some areas with each manager setting his own charges. There was a complaint from the commercial interests on the K&A so BW are increasing the mooring charges above the norm.

Denis is taking up his mooring charges personally. It was agreed that there was no conflict of interest

Towpath condition. Chris Boxall is to take up fibreway complaints, with Robert Coles being willing to photo bad areas.

Are BW to drop charges and cycling permits on the K&A ? The Wildlife and Countryside bill that is to go before parliament needs an eye keeping on it incase of any impact on the waterways.

#### 6. River Section

Stephen Peters and Peter Foster are currently looking after the river users. 12% of our members are on rivers. Roger to give Stephen a printout of members on which river.

#### ACTION ROGER

We discussed the River Section as a part of NABO. It was agreed to adopt Stephen's proposal for a river section as it would work with council and not be a separate organisation. People need to be found to be reps on each river and communication with council is essential. It was suggested that Stephen should find a member from the Thames to come onto council. This would give river members 3 council members.

#### ACTION STEPHEN

Ways of increasing the river members were discussed. There is to be more of interest to river users in the newsletter. We have good coverage in the canal press. River magazines need to be supplied with river oriented articles and press releases. Peter Lea to check if press releases go to river mags.

#### ACTION PETER LEA

Articles to be written for the newsletter.

#### ACTION NIGEL & PETER FOSTER

Peter Lea congratulated Peter Foster on becoming chairman of TBA.

#### 7. Marketing and recruitment

The rallies to be covered next year are Pelsall, Braunston and

Salford Quays. It was suggested the Trent boat club rally on last bank holiday in May and one rally on the Thames should also be covered, if people could be found to cover these. Request wanted in newsletter for volunteers. ACTION WENDY The newsletter is the best recruitment aid. It was agreed to print an extra 500 copies of each issue using back issues with relevant subjects for the area targeted. Christine is to liaise with Stephen and Denis. A marina hit was suggested. Check membership forms and leaflets for relevance. National and Boat to be emphasised. *ON MAKE CLEAR* Suggested cheap throw away leaflets with current relevant points in, to be scrapped at the end of the year. Christine would like to sell bunting. Supplier required - Chatham docks were suggested. Windlass sell like hot cakes. Back copies of the newsletter and any stock that other members have should be given to Christine. It was agreed to buy a table and two chairs. These would go out with the stand and a photo showing how the stand should be set out. A membership target of 500 was set for this next year.

Thoughts on the millennium are wanted - to be discussed at a future meeting.

#### 8. Regional reps briefing

All reps should go to some meetings but they should cooperate with council members to cover other meetings. The reps should build up a network of reliable people to go to meetings. These need to be briefed and debriefed and minutes of the meetings need to be obtained. These reports then need to be presented to council.

Please will everyone make sure that Sue knows who is responsible for which area.

Some managers are having one to one meetings, on the divide and rule principle. It is part of BW's charter that the regional managers must have user group meetings and it is not acceptable that these should not take place. Members should be allowed to add items to the agenda and notes of the meetings should be available. BW use these meetings to help them set their budget

Bridges are being built with IWA so form local alliances with other groups

A NABO good service award was suggested.

It was noted that BW have now taken over the London Dockland waterways. Mark Benstead is to become ~~Southern~~ *LONDON* regional manager and Chris Mitchell to become Southern ~~area~~ *REGION* manager

#### 9. Regional issues

The chairman thanked Denis for his continuing fight with Roger Herrington on the Stourport issue but feels that it will be 'a pyrrhic victory for this intransigent manager'. English Heritage have decided that the walls base and waterfare *EDGE* listed. Five local groups have joined together to fight this issue, which thanks to Denis is receiving much local media interest. Last Wednesday BW Board took the unprecedented steps of visiting Stourport. IWA and IWACC are showing interest also. The present position is that there are now 5 overnight

moorings in the basin, with 24hr moorings above the lock to the first bridge 400yds and 5 day moorings beyond, which will double as winter moorings. There are no 14 day moorings. We now have good contacts with press and yachting clubs. Existing moorers believe NABO is working against their interests. This is not true, NABO has plans drawn up by IWA which will be acceptable to them. BW have not replied to last two letters.

Geoffrey reported on the K&A water supply. It has been a difficult season with minimal (no) maintenance. Plenty of water was provided by BW when Harlequin was being televised going through locks. This canal is poorly managed. Geoff gave as an example the case of a lock keeper going off duty for the weekend. This resulted in a section of the canal being drained and the canal subsequently being closed for two weeks. As our licence increases are supposed to be spent on the track we believe waterways should be kept open if only for a few hours every day. It was noted that if you write to BW to complain, copy letters to waterway mags and local boat clubs as BW can be embarrassed into complying.

Peter reported on the Trent. A phone line has been set up so that observers can report on water abstraction and an order has gone out for BW workers to remove all rubbish found. The Witham was completely blocked by a non BW weed cutting exercise and the weed had to be released into the Wash. More pontoons for mooring are needed. River boat speeds need to be standardised should be in Knots not mph or kilometres. Silting problems are being caused on the Lower Ouse and Humber due to BW's practice of using flails for dredging. Peter has found locally that persuasion works with BW.

#### 10. Houskeeping

A think tank meeting took place before the council meeting. This discussed the importance of bringing in more members to help with the workload and also of being more focused. There is a need to present a more positive attitude and to get people into jobs that they enjoy.

Before the January meeting please complete the following and tell John of anything that has been missed.

- 1) List all the tasks that you carry out for NABO. Identify essential and non essential tasks.
- 2) What could be delegated.
- 3) What is most important.
- 4) What you enjoy.
- 5) what you hate.

#### ACTION EVERYONE

A session is to be held on strategy at a future meeting. Being a council member should be fun. We need to lay down track for future councils and find future issues to take up. We need to be seen as proactive not reactive both regionally and nationally

The definition of the audit was agreed to be the same as last year.

It was agreed to spend £30 on a gift for our auditor.

Everyone was happy that Melanie should be continued to be paid.

Also that Christine Lea should be paid for press releases up to the sum of £300. To come back to the council if more was required.

The 1998 AGM is to be at Gloucester the possibility of Gloucester Museum to be looked at. Nottingham was suggested for 1999. Venue needs looking for.

#### 11. Reports on other meetings

Nigel reported on the completely different attitude of EA. to BW. EA. both consult and apologise when they make errors. The EA. is worried about water supplies for next year but will discuss with us drought and water usage. They are under pressure to reduce their grant and are looking at the BW trust. EA. are looking at revising licensing. 25% of Thames licence money was supposed to pay to increase lock lengths, but this money was spent on general maintenance. EA. is not continuing with reciprocal licensing.

Peter reported that the Ancholme should become a special case in view of its position. NABO is opposing the lack of short term licences.

<sup>ANCMAYS</sup>  
IWACC. Lady Knowles made clear that IWACC will not act as a sounding board for complaints. The ombudsman deals with all complaints. Her brief is to prioritise the viability of waterway restoration projects, a dangerous concept. BW are to hold a meeting to consider ways of charging towpath walkers. there will be a cocktail party afterwards.

Angela Eagle has asked for nominations for both BW board and IWACC. Women, ethnic groups and disabled are wanted. The sensible suggestions included Lady Ponsonby, Edd Rimmer and Peter Lea.

We received thanks from Carl Legge of BW for our efforts on the changes to boat licences.

The river Cam has a conflict of interests between residential boats and rowers. RBOA and NABO supported the residential boats. The local IWA chairman supported the rowers but has not been backed by his association.

IWA towpath policy is to be digested by Philip ACTION PHILIP

#### 12. Dates of 1998 meetings

To be held at Northfield

31st January;      14th March;      25th April;      6th June;  
18th July;      3rd October;      28th November.

The AGM will be on the 14th November at Gloucester.

#### 14. AOB

Any boat using Manchester Ship Canal must have a certificate of seaworthiness Nigel to look into this. ACTION NIGEL 060ff 13  
Boat survey letter and questionnaire have gone out to every member. They have got until the end of next year to respond  
A problem with T/shirts and sweatshirts was reported. Roger to write to unhappy members apologising and sending a copy of the explanatory page of the newsletter. ACTION ROGER  
Andrew and Penny to sort the problem.

Christine to be asked to take on the sales and distribution.

We received thanks from Nikki Timbrell for her gift in appreciation of her efforts.

Meeting ended at 4-15pm

*FWPlea*  
*2/1/98*  

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