

**Nabo Minutes 09/09/00**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT HOCKLEY PORT BIRMINGHAM  
SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2000**

Members present, Sue Burchett, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Peter Foster, James Mason  
Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers and Andrew Sherrey.

1 Apologies for absence received from Geoff Rogerson, Derek Hackett, Derek Richardson,  
Graham Freeman and John Stephens.

Derek Richardson also explained why he has been unable to attend meetings and would  
continue to find it impossible. It was agreed that he should help Peter Foster with covering  
local meetings.

Graham Till had again sent no apologies and it was agreed to implement the part of the  
constitution referring to non-attendance at council meetings. Sue to write to him. His details  
will be removed from the back of the newsletter.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

Were agreed to be accurate.

3 Matters arising that will not be dealt with under other headings.

Problems with typing errors in the newsletter were discussed. Roger offered that Sara check it  
through.

It was felt that letters to the editor all starting "Dear Wendy" tended to give this part of the  
newsletter an 'Agony Aunt' atmosphere and letters should just be addressed to the editor.

4 Finance

All had received a draft copy of the accounts and a discussion on this was lead by Andrew.  
Revenue from advertising is well below what it should be. This is due to invoices not being  
issued. Derek is trying to sort this out. Something needs to be done to prevent advertisements  
going into the newsletter when they are not being paid for. Derek to liase with Wendy on this.  
Andrew will look into the low interest rate at present being offered.

A cache of letterheads has been found, that is why stocks are so high.

The London Museum was expensive to hire for the last AGM.

Andrew to investigate the large increase in insurance charges.

As Andrew is unable to attend the AGM Sue is to ask Geoff if he will be prepared to answer  
question on the accounts any that are too complicated can have a written reply.

5 Reps Reports

London

No user groups have been attended but the BMIF workshop attended was very thorough and  
results will form the basis for the publication of a new document. Although locks were under  
discussion, there was no mention of the intention to put baffles on top gate paddles.

Sue and James attended all weekend at Waltham Abbey others helped daily. We got seven  
new memberships and many good contacts were made. Members seemed pleased to see the  
stand there and came to discuss issues and chat.

Brentford - The purchasers of the unregistered land and BW have gone to court to try to get  
rid of the boat owners moored there.

Middlesex IWA is very concerned over the BSS and has published articles about it.

Lockkeepers from Limehouse, Bow and Brentford Thames lock are asking boaters to sign  
disclaimers before they can use the lock, when there is a strong stream warning. There is also  
talk of some form of booking fee being charged for use. James to monitor this.

Sections of the Paddington Arm are to get spot dredging. In some areas BW are asking the  
post card system be used to inform them of areas that need dredging.

Cowley Peachy marina is going ahead.

English Nature has proposed some SSSIs that can effect navigation.

### Southern

Trevor circulated a report that was discussed

Do BW keep a register of safety related incidents? We would like to see it.

Banbury lift bridge continues to be out of balance and too heavy for one person to operate. As the lift has to be raised when boats enter or leave the lock it is impossible for one or two people to work a boat through. Sadie to write to area manager and send copy to David Fletcher.

Some areas are trouble spots for break-ins. The police do not seem interested and so often boaters don't report them. Would insurance firms have records? Derek will be asked to research and co-ordinate results.

It seems to be up to area managers and risk assessment results as to what action, if any, is to be taken over gate paddles. Action is going ahead in many areas.

There is to be a show at Crick for the next five years.

Users are not being consulted about BWs various business opportunities. Who is?

EA meeting - Jacqueline McGlade thinks that EA should take over BW's navigations, as her interest is in canoeing this is a worrying thought.

NABO wants one licence and unified standards for all waterways.

### Midlands

John sent to say that there are some problems on the Ashby and he is sorting them.

### Anglia

There has been no comment on our reply regarding the proposed flood scheme near Bedford. A letter of introduction and support has been sent to the revived Peterborough Branch of IWA. They are having a 'Boaters Christmas Social evening'; it would be a good idea to join them.

There are some active members on The Broads who are worried about the BSS.

### North West

No further development on the Ribble Link.

The towpath improvement in the Chester area needs monitoring.

### North East

There is much local concern that boating is not considered a priority with the waterways authorities.

There is a shortage of public moorings on the river.

In Market Harborough there is only a short length of visitor moorings outside of the basin, none in the basin. These are 48hr moorings with a charge of £10 a day for overstaying.

BW is calling their marina Newark Marina and there is already one of that name, the owner of it is not pleased. BW is overselling their marina giving the impression that larger boats than can actually navigate the bridge over the entrance can use it.

The Rail Bridge is now in place.

Although the restoration work on the Grantham canal is nearly complete, it still is not known if it can be linked to the river Trent.

### Rivers

Safe Haven policy - BWs system is under review and Paul Wagstaffe says it will take some time.

BW is asking boaters for information about what they are charged for moorings.

RYA has created a motor boat section, which may relate to canals.

We are concerned over Baroness Young of English Nature being appointed as chief executive with EA. Navigation is so low on their list of priorities that it seems to have dropped of the bottom.

The 'Safe Navigation on Rivers' leaflet is much in demand.

### Roving Reporter

It was agreed that Derek should liaise with the local area rep before taking action on issues he comes upon on his travels.

Anything he published on the Internet must be in the individuals own name. To publish on behalf of NABO it must be cleared with the chairman.

In many areas the extreme growth on the towpath edges is now dying down and creating a fire risk.

On the Gloucester and Sharpness canal BW is charging for overstaying on moorings by the length of the boat. This seems to be more a plan to generate revenue than to deter boaters from overstaying. **Stephen** to check mooring policy, **Sue** to follow it up.

A cycle race has been organised along on section of towpath. **Geoff** to be asked to look into this.

### 6 Membership

Roger gave out a summary and report, the comments from members and those giving reasons for leaving were read and commented on.

Recruitment is up but some memberships due for renewal in January are still not in.

Membership for timeshare and shared ownership boaters was discussed. As we are an association of boat owners not boaters, timeshare boaters could be encouraged to take out associate membership; while shared owners can be full members and encouraged to ask the other sharers to join too.

The 'Why NABO' handout was discussed. Copies went very well at the shows. It needs constant updating. As it is based on the policy document that is produced from the minutes **Sadie** will prepare the next issue, to be produced by **Roger**.

New stickers and pennants will be advertised in the newsletter. **Roger** to handle distribution.

Goods and services for members – a list to be compiled so that people can get some idea of what they may get when they join, bearing in mind that we are all volunteers!

It was suggested that we put a list of boat manufacturers in a prominent place on the stand so that visitors can see we are not just concerned with canal boaters.

### 7 Press and publicity

All those who are standing for re-election to get CVs to Wendy ASAP.

It has been stated in a number of places that IWA is officially in partnership with BW. We should use this to point out that NABO is the only truly independent body that solely represents inland boat owners.

**Derek** and **Wendy** to liaise and ensure that payment is received for published advertisements.

### 8 Current issues

**BSS review** – we will not submit a point by point comment but express member's views and suggestions as to how the scheme can be improved.

**David Smith** and **John Baylis** are still to be the 'observers' from NINF.

Visiting boats on Passage Waterways can be submitted to a 10 point safe boat test, which is free, and get 56days licence.

Examiners are being given the power to decide whether a boat is part complete and new style certificates will say this. Shouldn't examiners just examine?

**James** attended the Technical Committee as NABO rep. We need this to continue. Much discussion followed, **Sue** to liaise.

The problem of flexible hose and clamps required on engines is getting sorted and research is being conducted into the problems with gas tests.

Our policy on channel dimensions remains and members are asked to push this in their areas. The sides should be dredged in areas designated for mooring.

BW is insisting that a mooring be given before they will issue a licence. They are not giving continuous cruising as an option on the forms.

Stewart Sim has written about towpath edge cutting, this shows that action will be taken to keep the amount of vegetation to a reasonable level. Sue to put something in the newsletter.

Stephen still needs input for our submission to parliamentary committee on Waterways for Tomorrow.

Whereas there used to be three men in the office to 80 working along the canals, the ratio seems to be reversed. There seem to be many BW staff concerned with work that should be done by The Waterways Trust. Reps are asked to watch out for this and ask questions about staffing ratios and accountability at user groups.

#### 9 A.O.B.

The list from Railtrack giving notification of works will be distributed to area reps.

Local councils should be made aware of the need to clear areas of towpath.

Sue to collect nomination for council and remind members not present.

There is a new filter that can go into bilge pumps to prevent oil being discharged overboard. This will alter the need for engines to be in a tray.

Members are asking for clarification regarding payment of council tax RBOA should have a policy, how much can we work with them?

The fact that single handed boating is being discouraged or declared dangerous in some areas needs investigating.