

**MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES,
OLDBURY, SATURDAY 19th JANUARY 2002**

Those Present

James Mason: Chairman	NW Gordon Reece: N E Rep
Sue Burchett: Vice Chairman	Mark Northing: Midland Rep
Graham Freeman: General Secretary	Trevor Rogers: Technical
Roger Davis: Membership Secretary	Michelle Harris: Legal Advisor
Stephen Peters: Rivers Representative	Geoffrey Rogerson: BW/EA Liaison
Stuart Sampson: PR & News Editor	Aileen Butler: Minute Secretary

Council's welcome was extended to Mark Northing. It was acknowledged that as an engineer on canals he would have to step back if there were a conflict of interest.

I. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Foster and Andrew Sherrey.

2. Accuracy of Minutes

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

8. Para 3. BW News should read NABO News.

10. First sentence should read: 'There was some discussion on the role of regional secretary'

12. User Groups. The third and fourth sentences should read 'There should be two members on each committee of the user group. James and Sue had a discussion about the possibility that The NINF Group should nominate a user.'

14. Item on Towpath management should read: The BW Chief Executive has said BW managers should visit their area by boat

6w should read BW.

3. Matters arising from Last Meeting's Minutes

The User Group ~~R(S-7)~~ has been deferred until the end of the year.
NW

BW has acknowledged that they do not have the legal power to enforce 'angling only' lengths. It was suggested that NABO should publicise this to the members and the fact that NABO and IWA oppose it. It was decided that **Michelle** would draft a policy statement that NABO rejects 'angling only' lengths but supports specific areas for disabled anglers.

Stuart will include this in the next NABO News

Geoffrey, in consultation with Michelle will write to BW for written confirmation of their statement. Michelle would draft a policy statement that NABO rejects 'angling only'.

EA are deterring people from using the locks after hours, although there is a right of navigation

NABO's policy on BWs Pay to Stay scheme on the Llangollen is to monitor any action and ensure that BW only charge in accordance with the Act. Gordon read to Council the letter he wrote to the local manager. Geoffrey will liaise with Gordon

Graham will obtain a set of the BW Acts for reference at the meetings. It was pointed out that Statements of Intent do not apply to NABO as it is a non-incorporated body. They would however be useful to show the intention behind the Act.

Sue has copies and will let Michelle have sight of them.

It was agreed that BW provision of paid moorings during any 'quiet period' should not be to the detriment of visitor moorings. Boaters' licences were for the whole year and there still needed to be

spaces for boaters to stop and stay.

It was agreed that any extension of moorings by BW, eg making unlimited mooring sites into 48 hr moorings, should not be undertaken without consultation with appropriate bodies.

A case was sited on the Ashby Canal where NABO had agreed with BW's proposal to change the 7 day moorings to 48 hour, but only the off-side moorings. However BW had applied the rule to both sides of the canal. **Mark** agreed to clarify with the ex- Midland Rep, John Stephens exactly what had happened and contact member in Bristol

4. Correspondence

James had received a letter from the Flood Forum. This was to be run by the Hansard Society, commissioned by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology who would hold an on-line discussion on flooding for four weeks from 21 January.

An example of the type of booklet which is being produced for NABO was circulated to the members. It would be for members and the public, cover Birmingham to Brentford and include a NABO editorial and membership form. Each regional secretary will agree the content for their area. The booklet could be published after Easter.

The Port of London Authority's **Pleasure Users Guide** was also circulated for NABO comment.

AWCC also requested comments on their booklet.

EA admitted that they had made mistakes over the past year and promised to put them right.

The Regional Fisheries Ecology and Recreational Advisory Committees of EA (**RFERAC**) would like NABO representatives for each region.

NABO regional secretaries should get in touch. Stephen stated that NABO had been invited by the Gloucester Harbour

Trustees to send a representative to their meetings.

Geoffrey, as EA/BW liaison agreed to attend. The meetings were expected to be in May and November.

Thames 21 had asked for contribution to the survey. A copy of the letter would be sent to Helen.

NABO has a free stand at the NIA to be held 19-21 July. It was suggested that the July NABO meeting be held at the show in Birmingham. NABO should publicise the fact that there will be mooring for members there.

Graham agreed to circulate the new K & A Newsletter.

5. Treasurer's Report

There was no report .

It was pointed out to new Council members that they could claim for travelling expenses to meetings which they attended as NABO reps, as well as council meetings, (normally petrol or train fares)

Members can also be reimbursed for other items bought for council business, eg postage, paper and ink cartridges can also be claimed.

6. Legalities

There was some discussion on the legality of the 10km /28 day mooring rule. It was stated that BW could obtain information on Parish Boundaries from Ordnance Survey maps without cost. There would

need to be further consultation

There had been instances of local managers still applying this rule and BW needed to ensure that their managers stopped this practise. **Stuart** will publicise the current situation in the Newsletter and/or on the notice board and encourage members to inform NABO of any instances where the rule was still being applied.

Geoffrey will write to Paul Wagstaff, BW's Customer Relations Manager requesting information on BW's proposed action for all officers and patrol officers. There would be the usual 21 days given for a reply.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Roger stated that the report had already been sent by e.mail.

He then checked on each member of Council's requirement for the Newsletter.

Roger had obtained a copy of a map of postcode areas which meant that regional secretaries could see which members lived in their areas, with a view to possibly using them for attendance at meetings in the area.

The following membership statistics for non-renewal were given:-

Overall members lost in past 2 years

Reasons given were;

Old age/ill health	19
Died	12
Disagreed with policy	9
Gone abroad	6
Driven away by increased costs and hassle	25
Sold boat	37
No reply	122

It was agreed that these should be mentioned in the Newsletter, but as percentages.

8. Festivals, Rallies, Promotions and Newsletter.

Festivals and Rallies that should be considered for NABO's attendance were;

NIA, giving the largest number of new members

National Waterways Festival, this year in Huddersfield

Cavalcade in London at the beginning of May

Crick in June

Aquafest near the end of July in the north to coincide with the Manchester Games

Gordon agreed to obtain details, especially on the reopening of the basin.

Other suggestions were - Penton Hook 15-19 May and Woking

It was agreed that NABO should attend the London Boat Show and the organisers should be approached in the near future for site details and costs for next year's show.

It was agreed there needed to be a NABO subcommittee to deal just with this show, Sue, Graham and James were put forward.

The Southampton Boat Show was considered low priority this year as it was not an obvious show for boats of inland waterways. However it was pointed out that sailing boat owners would be covered by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) which will also become the regulatory body for

safety for boats of the inland waterways instead of HSE.

Newsletter: Stuart will include some information on other meetings attended by NABO Council members to show members the breadth of the Association's remit.

Michelle

Will write an article on who she is, and what she is not able to do within NABO

Sue

Will write an article on NINF

James

Will write on dredging profiles

Aileen

Will take over the Council overview article

9. Policy Matters

i. Moorings matrix - Waterways manager at Red Bull, Adrian Sains, gave a talk on his own matrix, starting in 2003. IWA are against it. This is an ongoing situation.

ii. BSS - this had been revamped and relaunched at the London Boat Show and a briefing pack had been distributed.

Trevor felt that NABO needed an observer as well as a technical representative at meetings of the Advisory Group to the Executive Management Committee

BW was promoting RYA to take over the BSS.

It was agreed that where there was only one seat on a committee for IWA and NABO that whoever attended should also represent the others interests. David Allison was taking retirement from the BSS and Stuart would mention this in the Newsletter.

The Yacht Designers Surveyors Association (YDSA) was not prepared to support the BSS at all times. NABO BSS Survey. 300 members returned the questionnaire with an overall vote for NABO to continue their action.

Stuart would enter the feedback in the Newsletter in percentage form.

iii. - Certification of part-finished boats. It was proposed to introduce 1 year certificates. This was probably understandable with boats being built in boatyards, but would not be practicable for boats in private hands, where the examiner was supposed to be the judge. Council thought that most private boats were never completely finished and only the owner could make that decision. This clause was, however to be rewritten after consultation with NABO

It was acknowledged that the certification survey was a contract between the boatowner and the surveyor. Details of the boat and/or owner were not submitted to BW, only the statistics but may be in the future. This system does however mask standardization of examiners.

iv. Technical Committee -- It was suggested that the committee be formalised with Trevor in the Chair, and James Stephen, and Graham as members. Trevor would remain on the advisory committee. NABO has two seats on NINF Sue as Co- Chair and James representing NABO

The chairman stated that he felt that the way forward for NABO's future was to discuss with other associations such as TBA, RBOA and GOBA some sort of amalgamation which would increase our membership substantially and give them the National status to be represented on national user groups that they sought, he had already spoken to some who were of a similar mind, so had Sue, he thought we might even have to look at becoming a company limited by guarantee which would need a constitutional change, **Council agreed** that James should enter into discussions with those concerned

vi. Full Canals - There were 1000 new boats on the waterways every year and some canals were getting very congested, Geoffrey agreed to get details of this for the next meeting.

10 Other Organisations

The Chairman has a file on meetings of other bodies to be attended by NABO in 2002. He stressed that he still wanted to know of meetings in each area to be able to compile a master list

Gordon had become a member of the Bndgewater Canal User Group, which covers the upper reaches of the Manchester Ship Canal and the Bndgewater Canal.

It was agreed that people who represented NABO in place of the permanent representative should be briefed by the permanent member, especially on how much power they have in that situation. ie are they observing only, or can they contribute, vote etc. They should also have a copy of the NABO Policy Document as an aide memoir.

It was agreed that the bullet points of the latest (ie 7th) Policy Document be put in the Newsletter.

11.NABO Image

Graham suggested that NABO should consider its long term strategic plans. James agreed and thought that the possibility of NABO representing or even amalgamating with smaller groups where they lack a national voice would be a big step towards this goal. The point was made that should that happen it must be obvious that the NABO representative is not speaking only for NABO alone. James was authorised by council to **take this forward**.

It was agreed that NABO needed to cultivate a higher profile and more positive approach. It was felt that the **proposed booklet** and attendance at the 2003 London Boat Show would help. We need to increase our membership dramatically.

Members should be encouraged to form their own local branches and foster the social side if they wished so as to encourage the grass roots relationship as Brentford had done, but to keep their **Regional secretary** in touch.

12 Current Issues :13 Any Other Business

These items were taken together.

It was decided that the current issues had been covered elsewhere in the meeting.

There was no other business.

14. The Next Meeting will be 9th March on Navigation.

Gordon gave his apologies in advance and promised a written report