

MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT OLDBURY SATURDAY 27
APRIL 2002

Those Present

James Mason: Chairman

Andrew Sherrey: Treasurer

Graham Freeman: General Secretary

Geoffrey Rogerson: BW/EA Liaison

Roger Davis: Membership Secretary

Gordon Reece: North West Secretary

Aileen Butler: Minute Secretary

1. Apologies were received from Sue Burchett, Trevor Rogers, Peter Foster, Helen Gardner, Stuart and Carole Sampson and Michelle Harris

2. Accuracy of Minutes

The following corrections were made to the minutes;

Gordon Reece is NW Secretary (not rep)

Treasurer's report, Para 4: substitute Andrew for Sue, delete ' as existing signatories'

Para 5: substitute £2,500 for £5,000

Regional Secretaries Reports: North East, line 3, delete 'no', substitute 'little'

Current Issues: name should be Dr Greener

3. Matters Arising and Action Points

James: Points 1 and 4 had been completed.

2. NABO status; the paperwork had arrived about NABO and NBA.

3. Awaiting feedback before doing the article on the technical committee.

5. Will speak to Helen re information needed before speaking to Ron Bingham about the Limehouse Link regeneration.

6. Signage on rivers; will approach BW at Boater's Workshop on 16 May

Comment and action arising from other Points were: -

Sustrans and insurance.

The BW cycling licence covered insurance, so cyclists should have a licence, albeit free, to cover the insurance aspect.

9th draft of NABO constitution

Additions suggested were full canals and the non-legal status of BW's letters to boaters asking them to move on.

Helen requested the address of the organiser of the diesel maintenance courses to enable her to send a complimentary copy of her article.

Gordon should ask Michelle direct for her comments on the Llangollen Canal's mooring policy.

The word 'opinion' should not be used as it could be misconstrued.

4. Correspondence and Chairman's Report

James had spoken to the Charity Commission on the charitable status of NABO. This was to ascertain whether there were tax advantages in registering. However NABO may not qualify under the new laws of 2001 as it is more of a pressure group than a charity.

A reply was awaited from Companies House on forming a company limited by guarantee, which would protect the members of the council in any action.

There was a need to explore VAT and tax liabilities.

There was also the question of whether NABO should retain the clause in the constitution about assets. This states that should NABO be wound up the assets would go to a registered charity. However there was also the clause that conditions and assets could not be changed. This clause would need to be dealt with first. Legal advice needed to be taken about these changes.

The possibility of a change should be drawn to NABO members' attention before the AGM. This item should be on the agenda for each meeting up to the AGM on 23 November.

OFT. James had complained to the OFT about BW and the rise in mooring charges. OFT had asked for more details and will involve the Monopolies Commission if needed.

It was agreed that the Noticeboard should ask members to involve their MPs in the rise in mooring charges matter.

BW were taking over, or running on behalf of others, newly opened waterways, which appeared to be approaching nationalisation by the backdoor.

Moorers on the Rochdale will be brought into line with BW moorers elsewhere, as regards licences and mooring fees, within the next 3 years.

Recreational Craft Directive. RYA were not happy that CE marked boats that were exempt the BSS for 4 years would have to undergo a BSS examination to get a Certificate before they could renew their BW licence. The RCD varied from BSS and should supersede them as it was a European regulation.

The RCD applied to new boats on the market, but advice was needed as to how it would harmonise with the BSS and what would happen to those boats after 4 years and to older boats.

The RYA had asked NABO and BMF to join them against BW. They requested a contribution towards their legal costs. The Chairman had agreed that NABO contribute £500. The meeting endorsed this action. Proposed by Roger, seconded by Stephen.

The paperwork was with the barrister. BMF had now dropped out, but IWA had asked to be involved.

Correspondence

BSS letter NABO and TBA had drafted a letter to Dr Greener of BW and Sir John Harman of the EA on this subject. NINF had accepted the letter but RYA had revamped it. It needed 9 signatures. RYA will send it despite doubts on the format from the IWA. and the AWCC

Lord Witty . NABO's letter on their unhappiness with the review will be sent to him.

Gordon had been corresponding with Michael Goodenough about the signage in the Basin at Aldermaston. This gave visitors an hour's mooring, which did not even give time to moor and have a pump out. This timing would now be reviewed.

The EA had notified NABO that they were holding 2 roadshows in May.

Sadie Dean had informed NABO about the length of the forms now needed to book boats on and off the Fens.

IWA had sent a detailed reply on the bye-laws for the Fens.

If boat owners on the Fens were to pay for a navigation licence the Drains would have to be treated as navigable waterways and have reasonable headroom.

James and Graham would meet Stephen

The urgent need for an Anglian Secretary was acknowledged.

An applicant for the Southern Region post had submitted their CV.

Treasurer's Report

Signatures needed were 2 of 4. The 4 people should be; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and General Secretary.

There needed to be a proper accounting system for monies taken at rallies, with a stock form to show which goods had been sold. These should all go to Ann. A cash box should also be used.

James and Ann will meet to sort these details.

Andrew will design a suitable form.

James and Sue will organize new stock with Jancraft.

Orders for pennants and windlasses should go to Ann.

James would remain responsible for storage, wrapping and despatching items.

Stuart will need to alter the advertisement in the magazine to point out that all supplies should now be ordered through Ann.

6. Legalities

It was questioned whether there were more Council members than was 'legal' under the constitution, which stated 4-16. With co-opted members there could be 17.

Data Protection Act Under the new rules NABO does not now need to be registered as the information held was for NABO use only.

7. Membership's Secretary's Report

The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal needed a permanent NABO representative. Stokie, on the canal, wanted to advertise for NABO and it was suggested that James visit him and give him the NABO banners.

It seemed that Poste Restante may cease. Stephen agreed to investigate.

Roger had written to the East Anglian Clubs thinking of coming under the auspices of BW to warn them of the BSS.

8. Festivals, Rallies and Promotions

Crick Rally has been booked and Ann will attend.

Penton Hook has been booked (16-19May)

The Aqua Fest at Manchester will be looked into.

Tamworth BC had invited NABO to attend their gathering on 21-23 June.

Earl's Court Boat Show; James was awaiting an answer to his booking request.

Middlewich Festival, 14-16 June, should be considered.

It was agreed that new application forms and leaflets were needed, along with a new display stand. Ann will organize a new approach.

The application form should be reviewed and a copy would be sent to all Council members within the week for comment.

9. Policy Matters

Mooring had been dealt with and rested with the OFT.

Full canals: It was felt that NABO's allegiance was to the boaters and that BW should manage the canals so that there was no problem with full canals. The subject was on the agenda at the next Boaters' Workshop.

BW's stated aim was to get boats away from towpath moorings and into marinas. However it was noted that although more marinas were being built, boats were still moored outside. It was felt that this was a case of cupidity – greed for gain.

James was awaiting comments from NINF members.

Winter Moorings: it was felt that for the maximum use of moorings, about 25% of any moorings should be visitor moorings. This would be raised at the Boaters' Workshop.

James would ask for statistics for the past 3 years on numbers of linear moorings to ascertain whether there had actually been a reduction.

10. Other Organisations

IWP James would write to Len Walton for the numbers of IWP members within the RYA i.e. the proportion of inland waterway representation, and request an article on what IWP is and does.

EA James will be attending a meeting next week which will include moorings and festivals. He would also raise the issues of lack of distribution of the BSS handbook to moorers on rivers, RFERACS and the Medway bye-laws.

NINF Graham was concerned that at a recent meeting BMF had decided to 'make their own arrangements' It seemed that BMF was working for the trader rather than the user and could make the situation divisive.

11. & 12 NABO Image and Current issues

These items were taken together.

Small associations were interested in associating with NABO and NABO's future would need to be discussed.

13. Any Other Business

Peter mentioned that regional secretaries needed to be diplomatic in their dealing with BW and new secretaries should be well briefed by outgoing members.

14. Date of Next Meetings.

There was a problem that the new possible Southern Secretary, Paul Herbert, was unable to attend any of the planned NABO meetings. It was therefore agreed that the July date be altered to the 27th July. This would also take the pressure off those working at the NIA.

The next meeting will be held on 15th June 2002

ACTION POINTS

James

1. Explore tax and VAT liabilities should NABO become a company limited by guarantee.
2. Initiate legal advice on changes to the constitution on conditions and assets.
3. Include 'conditions and assets' on agenda for the next meeting.
4. Meet Graham and Stephen about implications of licensing boats on the Drains.
5. With Sue to approach Jancraft (at Cavalcade) about new NABO t-shirts etc.
6. Donate old NABO banners to Stokie on the G & S
7. Request stats of BW for the last 3 years linear moorings.
8. Ask Len Walton of IWP for details of its function and membership numbers.
9. Send details of Len Walton to Roger for free copy of NABO magazine
10. Meet Ann to organise the Rally stand.

11. At Boater's Meeting to mention signage on rivers and bridge numbers

12.

Sue

With James approach Jancraft to organise new supplies of NABO t-shirts etc

Graham

Meet James and Stephen about licensing boats on the Drains

Andrew

Draft a stock form to show break down of receipts at rallies

Ann

Organize a publicity flier for new members for placing at boatyards and in magazines

Meet James to organize rally stand details.

Roger

Circulate the current application form to all council members for revision