

Minutes of an extra-ordinary NABO Council meeting
held on 29th June 2002

Present: James Mason (JM) Chairman
Sue Burchett (SB) Vice-Chairman
Graham Freeman (GF) General Secretary
Stuart Sampson (SS) News Editor
Caie Graham (CG) London Regional Secretary
Mark Northing (MN) Midlands " "
Carole Sampson (CS) North-east " "

Apologies received from: Ann Berry (AB), Roger Davis, Andrew Sherry (AS), Paul Herbert, and Gordon Reece.

Minutes: the minutes of the NABO Council meeting held on 15th June 2002 were distributed to be read.

As this was an extra-ordinary meeting, it was agreed to dispense with the usual agenda in favour of concentrating solely on those items outstanding from the last meeting.

Insurance Cover

SB asked if we should wait before going ahead with the upgrading of our insurance cover until AS has seen it. JM felt that we cannot wait as the NIA rally will soon be upon us and we do not have the required level of cover. As we cannot get a quotation without filling a form in, JM will do this and send it to Zurich. He will also get a quotation from Eagle Star. Council will be advised of the figures by e-mail and asked to approve one of them. GF will contact MN and Peter Foster.

Moorings

GF felt that we had to decide whether to continue to fight for the moorings matrix or to abandon it.

SB pointed out that under the new policy, BW cannot be taken to the Ombudsman, so they can charge whatever they like.

GF wondered if there is an outside firm working on the new computer system and telling BW what they need.

CS explained what Ian White had said, that there needs to be new hardware, so BW wants new software to go with it,

ACTION

JM
JM
JM
GF

and it is BW staff that will be working on it (Project Clearwater).

SS felt that they were not charging a mooring fee, but rather a charge to tie up AND water space rental.

It was agreed that a top-down revue is needed.

Continuous cruising was mentioned, from the point of view that most boaters consider this as a means to evade paying a mooring fee.

SB was concerned about someone who sells their house, buys a boat, then finds, when prices go up, they can't afford it any more, and lose their home.

A discussion followed about whether licensing and mooring charges should be considered together.

JM felt that NABO should have some proposals to put to BW at the forthcoming meeting, rather than to just criticise.

After discussion, it was decided that there should be pigeon-holing of categories for PLEASURE CRAFT, as follows:

1. Houseboats - not a boat as per Customs and Excise regulations
2. Residential - this type of mooring needs planning permission, be connected to full services, boats being capable of cruising
3. Long-term BW - a stretch of bank, retained for a particular boats use, with no facilities (this is the basic mooring)
4. Private - same as 3, but BW does not own the bank (may be a marina etc.)
5. End-of-garden - the bank is in private ownership
6. Non-moorers ("continuous cruisers") - this is the basic pleasure boat licence, enabling use of the full waterway network for 365 days per year
7. Visitors

n.b. the moorings matrix could apply to most of these categories, which applies to all canals and rivers where BW is the navigation authority.

JM felt that RBOA should pursue the residential cause, with NABO's support as appropriate (we have some residential members).

SS felt that NABO should be careful not to support a minority as opposed to the majority.

JM made an analogy to a car licence - one licence per vehicle allows travel anywhere, and parking wherever appropriate. So it should be with a boat.

SS - if you want a BW 'garage', then you pay accordingly.

It was decided to send a copy of these proposals to the membership with the forthcoming NABO News, asking for feedback. GF to contact Ruth to warn her about this, GF to produce the master, JM to photocopy (2000 copies - extras to be given out at NIA).

GF
JM

This led on to a discussion about the implementation of the increases. CS explained that when the section of the Rochdale that is/was owned by Calderdale District Council is passed to BW, those that moor there will have to bring their licence and mooring charges into line with the rest of the country. These charges will be phased in over a three-year period.

JM had raised the same issue with David Fletcher at a recent meeting, that different managers were implementing increases in different ways. (He was assured that this would be looked at.)

Licencing

To be considered alongside moorings charges.

The water displacement portion of the mooring fees to be transferred onto the licence fee.

Council will be contacted by e-mail about the new mooring conditions - to be quickly discussed at the next meeting.

GF is to draft e-mails to the chairmen of CBOA and the Community Boats Association saying that we assume they will be dealing with those aspects of Licencing /moorings that apply to them, but to come back to us if they need support.

GF ?

GF

JM feels that there should only be one licence, whatever the boat - it could be administered by a body such as

DVLC, who have the mechanism in place to deal with such a thing - , which should be easily available e.g. at post offices. This, he felt would be much cheaper, cutting down on administration costs.

CS was sceptical about this: a good idea, but would not be cheaper.

A.G.M.

MN proposed Lapworth Village Hall as the venue for the next AGM.. Those present agreed. GF to e-mail the rest of Council for approval. Bill O'Brien has already been invited.

GF

NIA Rally

It had not been agreed who would man the NABO stand.

Friday (19/7) - GF, SB, JM SP

Saturday (20/7) - SB, JM PH

Sunday - SB, JM, MN

GF

SB

JM

MN

A.O.B.

JM to investigate the purchase of more pens - triangular with NABO written on them.

JM

look!

The meeting closed at 3.05p.m..

Date of next meeting

Saturday 27th July 2002