

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Waggon & Horses, Oldbury on SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2003

Present:

Sue Burchett	(SB), chairman, in the chair		
Geoff Rogerson	(GRo)	Stuart Sampson	(SS)
Carole Sampson	(CS)	Stephen Peters	(SP)
Adrian Stott	(AS)	Aileen Butler	(AB)
Gordon Reece	(GR)	Celia Kennedy	(CK)

Apologies for Absence: received from Peter Foster, Peter White, Peter Lea, David Harle, Paul Herbert, and Trevor Rogers.

1. MINUTES

- a) With an amendment to Item 6 - Council Newsgroup - , proposed AS, seconded SP and all present in favour, the minutes of the March 2003 meeting were accepted as a true record. The chairman signed the minutes.
- b) Action Reports from the previous minutes.
 - ALL (i) GRo had not informed David Harle that he has a NABO laptop.
(ii) A full listing of events and rallies can be found in the centre of Waterfront.
 - SB (i) Done
(ii) Done
(iii) Copy had been sent to Graham Freeman - awaiting another copy.
 - TR (i) Proposed GRo, seconded AS, and with all in favour, G Freeman NOT to be approached to represent NABO on BSS committees in view of his association with a rival organisation.
(ii) No knowledge
(iii) Done
 - PL (i) Done - 'thank you' received
(ii) No knowledge
 - DH (i) No knowledge
(ii) No knowledge
 - SP (i) Done - see his report
(ii) Article able to be written, but SP wondered if it is relevant in view of changes coming into effect next year
(iii) Done - response was circulated
 - CS (i) Not relevant, done by chairman
(ii) Done
(iii) Done, two responses, information in Pool Of Information. CS to contact David Harle CS
 - SS (i) Done
(ii) Done, no further news
 - AB Mark Burt has arranged to share with someone else, but is prepared to have NABO paperwork on that stand, and also to look after NABO's stand if someone needs a break
 - AS Done
 - GR As GR had not attended the last meeting, he was unclear as to what action was expected of him. This was explained and he will monitor passage frequency

2. CO-OPTION OF MIDLANDS SECRETARY

Celia Kennedy was introduced to those present. Proposed SP, seconded AS, all were in favour of her co-option.

3. TRIAL MOORINGS CODE

Proposal 1 - that in NO CIRCUMSTANCES will BW in any way penalise any boater as a result of the trial of this code unless said boater can be proven, using measures existing prior to 1/4/03, to have contravened the Law of the Land.

Proposed SS, seconded GR, all were in favour.

Proposal 2 - that BW will, throughout the 'trial', explain to NABO how the results are to be gathered and processed, and make NABO party to said results and the deductions arising from them.

Proposed SS, seconded AS, all were in favour.

Proposal 3 - that BW will consult fully with all national User groups any changes it proposes to make to the code or its implementation in the future.

Proposed SS, seconded GRo, all were in favour.

Proposal 4 - that BW satisfies NABO that the trial will be done in such a way as to accurately reflect to boaters how 'pragmatically' the code will be applied after the trial period. In other words, BW must not give boaters a false sense of security during the trial and then start an iron-fist regime once it is over.

AS felt that pragmatically was the wrong word, he wanted to see a fair and even approach. This led to a re-wording of proposal 4, as follows:

..... that BW satisfies NABO that the trial will be done in such a way as to accurately reflect how the code would be applied after the trial period.

Proposed SS, seconded GR, 7 were in favour, 2 abstentions. Proposal carried.

CS suggested that NABO should collect details from ALL boaters who are approached for default. SS to prepare a press release to appeal for such information, which would then be given to Lord Corbett, together with these proposals. GRo to write an article for NABO News about the enforcement of the code, in the meantime, we await the deliberations of Counsel. CS wondered if we should be requesting a place on the Appeals Panel - thought better to wait until we are asked. CS also asked about hire boats, which tend to be on the same moorings for up to 52 weeks per year. It seems the code is also in the licence conditions for this category.

SS GRo

4. EVENTS

Proposal - that Aileen has some way of paying for events without using her own bank account. It was agreed that she follow previous practice, which is to fill in the forms, then send them to the treasurer for payment, 'phoning the organiser to reserve space if necessary. CS suggested she fill in the forms in advance to bring them to Council meetings, where she would normally be given a cheque on the spot.

This led to a discussion about how to advance the campaign for a Waterways Regulator at the Crick Boat Show. SP suggested a large banner and leaflets, CS a petition (also at the London Cavalcade). SS to produce the artwork for a large poster and leaflets, and to liaise with AB.

SS AB

5. POLICY DOCUMENT

Proposal - that the Council approves the policy document.

CS distributed the new Council Members' Handbook: policy document on page 6.
CS thought that we could not vote on this as the items in the document had previously been approved as NABO policy by previous Councils. It was explained that we were approving the document, not the contents.

Proposed SB, seconded SP, all were in favour that the document be accepted.

6. COUNCIL NEWSGROUP

Proposal 1 - that Council use the Council Newsgroup on a trial basis for discussing agenda items in the two weeks before the next three Council meetings.

The advantages of this system were explained by AS. It has been set up with a free host. It is not secure, so it was agreed that it should only be used for non-contentious issues only. After the trial period, we may prefer to pay for a secure system. CS asked if this is the best time for a trial, in view of members being away cruising, AS said it will be quicker than e-mails, and will reduce meeting time.

Proposed AS, seconded GR, 5 were in favour with 4 abstentions.

Proposal 2 - that Council make a decision concerning the permanent use of the Council Newsgroup at the third of these meetings.

This was thought to be unnecessary, so the proposal was withdrawn.

7. BUSINESS BARGES

Proposal - that NABO wishes to be informed before any planning permission is sought so that it can make an informed decision on the appropriateness in each case.

Proposed SB, seconded by CS, all were in favour.

CS asked who needed to be approached for the information - all members of AINA, details to be found on its website www.aina.org.uk

8. RESTRICTIONS ON POWERED CRAFT

Proposal - that the NABO representatives at the upcoming EA Navigation Users Forum express their opposition to the recent decisions excluding powered craft from the Wye and Suffolk Stour, and request that the issue be discussed in detail with national user groups.

Proposed AS, seconded SP, all were in favour.

SB TR

9. A. O. B.

a) Membership report. GR asked what it meant. AS stated that this could not be considered without a proposal. CS proposed that we discuss the document, seconded SP. No vote allowed, AS stated that there should be a proposal.

SP felt that this would mean that no items of A. O. B. could therefore be considered and we might as well go home.

AS stated that there has to be a proposal as per the agreed Council procedures document approved at the last meeting.

CS left the meeting at this point.

Minutes by AB from this point.

SS felt that the table should be simplified. SB to write to Melanie Darlington to try to obtain a straight comparison of figures from the previous report. `

SB

b) SP informed Council that a letter had been sent from BW to boaters on the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and River Severn, mentioning that Gloucester Docks could only now be used

as a safe haven (definition included in the letter). There are also charges to be applied to Sharpness Locks. SP to respond. SP

c) SP had noticed a discrepancy in the length of short-term visitor licences (no BSS required) between RYA - 30 days in a 12-month period - and the Leisure & Tourism Strategy - 56 days. SP to complain to RYA. SP

SS proposed that AOB items should be at the discretion of the Chairman not subject only to proposals.

CS returned to the meeting, and continued the minutes.

d) CS reported a problem contacting the police in an emergency, AS asked what the proposal was, CS proposed to discuss the issue. AS said we couldn't without a proposal. Proposal - that NABO should have a position on Waterways Awareness

Proposed SP, seconded SS

SB stated that Trevor Rogers had been liaising with John Stevens (previous Council member) about this issue. TR to be asked to work with John to bring up a proposal regarding NABO's position, to be brought to the next meeting. TR

e) Railings. AS asked what the proposal was, and what CS wanted from this item, and that it should be discussed via e-mails.

f) BW Charter Mark

Proposal - that NABO takes steps in furtherance of the removal of BW's Charter Mark

Proposed CS, seconded SB

This was thought to be good support for the case for a Regulator, CS to collect information via NABO News and a Press Release. SB to mention this to Colin Jones (DEFRA). CS

g) Nabolis. SS informed Council that no reply had been received from BW to date.

h) SB will be arranging meetings with Colin Jones and Robin Evans as a matter of urgency. She requests ideas for discussion for these. ALL

The meeting closed at 2.50p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

7-6-03