

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Railway,
Oldbury on SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2003**

Present: Stuart Sampson, (SS) Chairman, in the chair
 Carole Sampson (CS) Stephen Peters (SP)
 Aileen Butler (AB)

Apologies for Absence: received from Celia Kennedy, Gordon Reece, and Geoffrey Rogerson

1. MINUTES

- a) With all present in favour, the minutes of the meetings held on 4/10/03 and 15/11/03 were accepted as a true record. SS signed the minutes
- b) Action Reports from the previous minutes.
All completed where appropriate. CS had received no reply from Eugene Baston.

2. ALLOCATION OF AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- a) SS distributed a map, showing where Council members and those members who have offered their help, in relation to BW's new business unit structure.
SS felt that the biggest gap in coverage is in the Border region and Wales.
AB thought we should appeal for help from members in NABO News.
CS felt that the help should be requested for specific meeting venues.
SS - we need a new publications editor

The question was raised that we should be looking for a new membership secretary

The Worcestershire Navigations User Forum has not been attended last year

We need a Council member to liaise with Regional Secretaries not on Council

It was decided to ask: -

- Paul Herbert to attend the Marine Coastguard Agency meeting on 4th December in Southampton SS

- GRo to attend meetings in Gloucester SS

- Consult GR regarding meeting venues in Wales

- Appeal to members for help in Gloucester, Worcester, Mon & Brec, Doncaster, and Border Counties

b) Co-options.

(i) Trevor Rogers had informed SP that he is willing to continue representing NABO regarding the BSS, and would be prepared to be co-opted if we are desperate! In view of today's problem of barely having sufficient Councillors in good health to be quorate, it was decided that SS will approach him to urge his return. Should he not choose to, then it was agreed that we should contact the BSS committees to affirm that he has the full support of NABO Council, and is representing NABO. CS is to write to TR with a copy of the minutes, SS to phone afterwards. CS SS

(ii) Peter Foster had also let it be known that he wishes to be co-opted. CS outlined various problems, the main one being that as Council numbers have been reduced from sixteen to twelve, we can't really give a Council place to someone who cannot attend meetings, as such a move would not help Council to be quorate.

SP felt that he shouldn't be co-opted while he is still Mayor of Newark, but ask if he will continue as northern rivers representative. CS to contact Joan Jamieson to see if she

will be the Regional Secretary for the East Midlands (off Council). CS

SS recognised that we seem to be moving towards a smaller Council with an extended Council. He will set up a second e-mailing list so that those not on Council can receive minutes and other useful information. SS

(iii) Regarding a Regional Secretary Co-ordinator, SS felt that there were too many R. Secs missing today to make a discussion viable. He suggested GRo or CS, but CS is doing two jobs already. It was decided that this matter should be discussed via e-mails and put on the agenda for next time. CS

SP thought that the job could be done by more than one person - each Councill member could assist those helpers in his/her own area.

Adrian Stott will report to SS SS

3. A. G. M's

CS thought that the 2003 AGM had been a success, and that the cost had been £122.88. Although there had been a small turn out, she felt that it had been appreciated by those present. It was agreed to keep the venue on the list for future years. IT was also agreed that the provision of food is a good idea as long as the price is reasonable.

SS felt that the attendees should be thanked for their donations for the food and the enthusiasm they showed, in the next NABO News. SS

CS proposed Lapworth Village Hall for the 2004 AGM, explaining that this venue had been selected instead of Rowington due to its proximity to a railway station. CS is to arrange for the chosen date, inform AB, who will then approach Judith Moore CS who she knows does catering. AB

Bill O'Brien is to be invited. CS

SP thought that Rowington shouldn't be discounted - we can provide lifts from a station.

4. MEETING DATES 2004

- AGM - 13th November

As we seemed to have little subject matter for last October's meeting, it was decided to bring it forward next year. So Council meetings will be held on:

- 24th January
- 6th March
- 24th April
- 5th June
- 17th July
- 18th September
- 27th November

Council members are asked to keep 2nd October free for an optional emergency meeting.

5. RALLIES

It had previously been agreed that we would not attend the London Boat Show in January. After discussion, it was decided to attend Crick in May, the National in August, Saul boat gathering in July, and one other in the north. AB to ask GR for suggestions AB
CS thought these should be booked as soon as application forms become available, and a rota produced well in advance.

SS will do an e-mail mailshot, once in advance and once nearer the time. Members to be asked for help via NABO News.

6. FINANCE

a) Definition of the audit.

Council defines the work it expects to be carried out by the auditor appointed under paragraph 8.2 of the Constitution to be: "an examination of the books and records of the Association, and verifying that the Associations accounts are in accordance with them and the information and explanations provided, and are free of material misstatement."

Proposed SP, seconded AB that this definition be accepted. All were in favour.

CS reported on the nature of the questions asked during the 2003 audit, and stated that all major expenditure must be approved and minuted.

• Proposed SS, seconded AB, that the recent expenditure regarding the consultation of Shakspeares solicitors and legal Counsel as to the legal soundness of British Waterways Trial Moorings Code, originally agreed by phone, is now ratified by Council. All were in favour.

b) Bank account signatories.

Whilst the four signatories have been the four officers of NABO, under the conditions in the Constitution, passed at the recent AGM, it is not possible for the Chairman and General Secretary to both be signatories, It was therefore agreed that GR, GRo, CS, and SP would be the signatories for 2004. All were in favour.

c) Under / Over payers.

SP felt that a reminder in NABO News is necessary.

SS

SP stated that people were not full members if the correct subscription has not been paid. SS to consult Melanie Darlington to ascertain what the status quo is.

SS

SP felt that overpaying is the member's responsibility, not NABO's. If a bank has made an error, then it is up to the bank to make the refund, not NABO. If the bank requires re-payment, then we should do so less an administration charge, but we don't have to if it is the bank's error.

All were agreed with this approach. CS to contact Melanie D.

CS

d) Budget 2004

CS did not understand why a budget is necessary, as Councillors have to attend meetings, even if a budget for travelling expenses is exceeded. SP explained the need for an annual budget under various headings. GR (treasurer) to be asked to produce categories and figures.

SS

e) Boats on Show share.

CS explained that she had received an exhibitors voucher (for the Beale Park show) to the value of £1000 in lieu of the share. We could either use this to pay for the cost of exhibiting at that show until the value is used up (several years), or send it to Paul Wagstaff who will 'sell' it to his members who will themselves be exhibiting at that show. The latter course of action, proposed CS, seconded SS with all in agreement, was adopted. CS to see to this.

CS

7. NATIONAL USER GROUP MEETING

SS and GRo will be attending this meeting with BW on 9th December. SS went through the agenda, which will include: Moorings Code, Index of Licensing, and two items he has requested - Effectiveness of local user group meetings, and Responsibility when contractors operate locks. He asked if anyone else had any issues worth raising. AB felt that signage is a problem. Some of them are so small that they cannot be read from a boat when cruising past. SS to raise this under AOB if appropriate. SS

8. MOORINGS CODE

CS outlined her thinking, which had previously been circulated by e-mail, since the new Council was charged by the previous Council to try to find a way forward on this subject. AB had been refused a temporary towpath mooring.

SS had been told that there is no problem north of Tring.

SS feels that BW is a leisure industry unable to cope with social problems.

SS feels that the present moorings code dissipates the problem rather than solves it.

CS feels that it is not a mooring code, but a cruising pattern.

It was felt that on the Kennet & Avon, where there is the biggest problem, it is a housing problem. We need to find out if Bath Council, who, it is believed, house people on boats, know that this practice is against BW's by-laws. SP thinks that Bath Council do not know of the problem. SS to ask GRo to contact them. SS GRo

9. NABO STORE

SS informed Council that NABO's chattels have been moved from Reading to a new store close to our meeting venue. This done by Sue Burchett yesterday. Store number 3120. Proposed AB, seconded SP that a year's rental be paid in advance, in order to secure the maximum discount, and that a budget of £120 be allocated to racking and plastic crates as necessary. All were in favour. SS to pay the rental, CS to purchase crates. CS

10. MIDLANDS METRO

Celia K. has responded to this document. As she is absent today, this item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. CS

11. CHANGES TO LICENCE CONDITIONS

We should press BW to date all documentation, as it is often difficult to know which version someone is talking about. SS informed the meeting about the sentence "you may only use your engine to charge batteries while your boat is underway." He had contacted Eugene Baston, who had responded that it is an oversight.

CS felt that the matter should not be left like this, but BW should be asked what is to be done about it, how boaters are to be reassured etc. etc. etc.

SS wondered how many more oversights there are in the document.

SP feels that the Moorings Code is an oversight!

SS to pursue. SS

12. A. O. B.

1) AB is having problems with her computer. It seems she has a problem with her anti-virus disc, as she can only receive small e-mails, no attachments. Could we approve

expenditure for a new disc?

CS felt that said disc could be used by everyone on Council.

SP thought AB should find out if her server operates a virus protection.

2) SP had received information about a BSS open meeting on 15 / 1 / 04 at the London Boat Show. Free tickets are available if anyone wants one.

3) CS has heard from a member who is giving up boating due to increased costs, namely mooring fees. He moored with a farmer, who had been approached by BW who told him that he was undercharging and adversely affecting market forces, CS to investigate CS

4) Regarding the member who had contacted a Council member re end-of-garden-mooring charges, she should be directed to the complaints procedure.

The meeting ended at 2.37pm

Signed: _____



Date: _____

26/01/04