

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Waggon &
Horses, Oldbury, on SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2004**

Present: Stuart Sampson, chairman, in the chair (SS)
 Stephen Peters (SP) Geoff Rogerson (GRo)
 Aileen Butler (AB) Celia Kennedy (CK)
 Carole Sampson (CS) Gordon Reece (GR)

Apologies for Absence: Peter White.

1. MINUTES

- a) Minor corrections having been made, the minutes were approved as a true record. The chairman signed the minutes.
- b) Action Reports from the previous minutes.
- CS All done.
- AB 1) There have been problems regarding the rally bookings, but a space has been reserved for NABO at the national. CS gave AB an application form. There is confusion over Crick, but as the opportunity for advance publicity has been lost, and the short space of time available to organise transport for the stand etc., it was decided not to attend this year. In future years, as Council is so small that there isn't anyone to attend rallies on a regular basis, CS suggested that individual members be asked to attend, using his/her own boat as a trade stand. The member would gain free show attendance with possibly a better mooring closer to the site in return for distributing publicity items, and NABO would save money. This was deemed to be a good idea, to be implemented next year. 'Fly' to mention this in the next magazine, CS to write about the offer to members in NABO News at the appropriate time. AB CS
- 2) Done.
- SP 1) Done - see red diesel later in the agenda.
- 2) Done.
- 3) He had written to the RYA but had received no response. SP feels that the RYA treats NABO with contempt, and suggests we do the same.
- SS 1) Done.
- 2) He has visited the BW website. The Waterway Acts are not there, but a link to the 1995 Act exists on the NABO site.
- 3-5) Done - nothing received from Adrian Stott or Trevor Rogers.
- 6) Two members have volunteered to receive mailed items for the Waterways Reports Board.
- 7) Done.

2. FINANCE

- 1) GR has a cheque outstanding for Hannah Luff: a refund for overpaying for the questionnaire in NABO News. In spite of writing twice, he has received no reply. It was suggested that as it is the end of our financial year, a last letter should be written informing her that this is her last chance to claim it. GR
- 2) CS informed Council that NABO has paid Melanie D just over £1200 for the period

April '03 to January '04. As this falls well within the authorised budget, it was felt that we could ask her to do more if necessary.

3) CS explained the current difficulties with the Alliance & Leicester regarding the bank signatories: it appears that the last change of signatory form has been lost (by them), so that she is the only legal signatory on Council. She suggested that we need to change bank, to one that knows what it is doing, and which the treasurer can go into. With all the extra work regarding the standing orders, GRo suggested we leave things until the next AGM, with GR to investigate other options in the meantime. GR

4) All the end-of-year bumpf has been sent to David Harle. GR reminded Council how much NABO is in David's debt, and proposed a vote of sincere thanks and appreciation for all his hard work. This was enthusiastically endorsed by all present.

5) GR had received the documentation for the Saul rally, and was concerned that the final information, passes etc., would only be received two weeks before the date when he wouldn't be at home. This appears to be normal for rallies. AB is to request the information earlier and she is prepared to attend but will need help. SS is to ask for this in the next NABO News. AB SS

6) GR had received a request from Daystar Theatre for sponsorship. The letter explains that this will be the last year of touring for the company, so the last request that will be made. SS asked what NABO gets out of it? GR explained that we could either sponsor one particular event, or we could have NABO mentioned on all publicity. He has opted for the latter. GRo commented that with thirty events performances taking place, our £150 represents only £5 each time.

PROPOSAL: that NABO sponsors Daystar Theatre for £150 this year. Seconded SP. All were in favour.

GR is ensure we receive the publicity, in which NABO's website and freepost addresses should be included. GR

3. EA TRANSPORT & WORKS ORDER

SP reported that the consultation document is to be published next month. He feels that NABO should not just oppose the Environment Agency, but should base objections on genuine concerns. SS had the feeling, from the last EA meeting he attended, that the EA do not intend to introduce draconian increases to licence charges in the Anglian region when they become based on the Thames length x breadth system. He feels that we should trust the EA to be honourable, in spite of others not being prepared to do this. Council will await SP's deliberations on the consultation document.

4. RED DIESEL

187 members have returned the questionnaire from the last NABO News. The appropriate part has been sent on to the RYA (Neil Northmore). SP has analysed the results: no overall pattern has been revealed.

SS - the red diesel issue is to be raised at the next NINF meeting, to which the RYA has been requested to attend.

GRo - it is on the agenda for the forthcoming Corridor Issues meeting, as he wishes to ascertain BW's position. He also felt that NABO should be liaising with APCO instead of the RYA.

SS will contact Ann Davies (APCO) and speak to her again about this issue. He sees no harm in NABO pursuing various avenues.

SP is to produce a general item for NN, so that members know their responses have been

considered.

SS SP

5. SHARED OWNERSHIP REPRESENTATION

SS had heard from Sue Burchett that there is to be an initial meeting at the Crick rally for shared owners to set up an organisation to represent their particular problems. CS felt that NABO should be that organisation, with possibly a shared ownership person being on Council.

PROPOSAL: that NABO should offer to look after/support their cause, and that we should send a representative to the Crick meeting. Seconded CS. All were in favour. SS is to find out who to contact from SB, then ask John Russell and/or Alan Gilby to attend the meeting. SS

6. LICENSING, CONDITIONS AND CHARGING

Default item on the agenda.

GRo thought everything is stable at the moment.

7. MOORING FEES EQUIVALENCE

SS was concerned that boaters mooring under BWML are no longer going to receive the prompt payment discount which they received from BW.

CS knew of a member who had received the discount in February/March '04.

SP thought it would be difficult to oppose this. Private marina operators would welcome the change. He read out a section of the BWML protocol. In spite of what BW might say, the marinas are a public asset and cannot be just given away (to BWML). It clearly states that any complaints should follow BW's own procedure.

SS thought the situation needs monitoring, to see if any boaters are disadvantaged. He will mention this in his next Chairman's Column. SS

8. NABO POLICY REVIEW

a) CS felt that the policy statement enlargements should not appear in NN until Council has discussed each item.

i) All present were happy with the vegetation statement, with the addition of a mention of the safety issue regarding that which obscures old piling. This instance to be raised at the Corridor Issues Meeting.

ii) It was felt that the whole issue of stoppages hinges on better information being available. CK wondered if it would be more effective for some work to be done during the summer period, when it might be quicker done and more long lasting. SS to tidy up the wording for the next NN. SS

iii) All present were happy with the Channel Dimensions and Dredging statement.

b) Allocation of next policy issues.

i) BW is a navigation authority SS

ii) Cycling on the towpath CS

iii) Angling CS

It was felt that biodiversity comes under vegetation.

iv) Water points GRo

CS to e-mail GRo the policy statement on water points. CS

9. COUNCIL MINUTES

SS wondered if, as BW is making an effort to publish board minutes on its website, Should Council similarly publish its minutes on the members only section of our website? CS thought that non-members (such as Eugene Baston) may well have access already. PROPOSAL: that NABO 'publish' Council minutes. Proposed SS. There being no seconder, the item was thrown out.

10. REGIONAL REPORTS

GR - Northwest. He has received a copy of the consultation document about the restoration and boat usage on the Montgomery Canal. No-one else has seen it, so it was thought that it has not been distributed sufficiently. GR feels it represents a good compromise. He will find out if it is available electronically, and circulate it to all Council members. GR

SS felt that Council can put its faith in GR's input.

SP felt it should be stated that the consultation period is inadequate.

CS - Yorkshire. She informed Council about the shambolic nature of the Yorkshire Unit, frustration shown by users about unfulfilled promises, lack of openness and accountability, the effective closure of the eastern end of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal from 1630 hours (Mon-Fri) or 1230 (Sat & Sun).

CS - East Midlands. CS had met Joan and Gordon Jamieson recently. The main concerns were: over expansion of Canaltime - sixty boats in marinas in Nottingham and Sawley clogging the system and causing general chaos, and the possible sacking of the River Trent lock-keepers.

GRo stated that the latter is a local issue, and that a strong letter should be sent to Derek Cochrane, northern regional director. JJ

General discussion followed about Canaltime. CK produced written evidence that BW is involved, under the guise of Waterways Holidays UK Ltd., which is being actively promoted and marketed. The subject will be raised at the next Boating Issues Meeting.

Anglian. CS had received a letter from Mike Smith who felt that NABO is being excluded from the local committee formed to discuss the Cathedral Cities Link. He requested that a letter be sent to the EA Anglian Director giving him Council's support. CS has already done this, but he has heard nothing to date, GRo stated that if Mike be refused, we should ask why.

GRo - K & A. BW are allowing temporary permanent moorings at approximately £1000 per year. In effect, it allows illegal mooring to be condoned.

CK - Midlands. She presented a copy of the draft stoppage programme for 2004-2005, which had been put out for consultation in advance of the Unit receiving its budget details. CS commented upon the lack of seamlessness, as no other Unit had produced such information. This to be raised at the next meeting. GR

11. NABO CRUISE 2005

CS explained her embryonic idea of organising a cruise from Bristol to Sharpness on the

tidal River Severn for NABO members.

GRo, having done the passage himself, stated that special insurance is required, and that sailors would need to be prepared to wait at Bristol until the weather conditions were conducive.

SP thought that members' opinion should be gauged via NABO News. CS will write about the idea in the issue published in September '04. CS

12. A. O. B.


GRo - The new Continuous Cruising Guidelines should have been issued, in their final form, on 01/04/04. As of 17/04/04, they are not yet finalised. SS to chase Simon Salem. SS

AB - 1) Query about VAT on gas bottles. Answer: 5%
2) Has the increased postage rate on NABO's mail order goods been communicated in NN? SS to attend to this next time. SS

CK - Report of harrassment of children by a patrol officer in her area. She asked if we could ascertain what security checks are made on applicants for these posts. SS is to pursue this. SS

AS - dredging/channel dimensions on the Wey. This was thought to be a local issue and should be dealt with as such.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Signed: -----

Date: 5th June 2004-----