

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Waggon &
Horses, Oldbury, on SATURDAY 22nd JANUARY 2005**

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

Apologies for Absence: Gordon Reece and Peter Foster.

1. MINUTES

Proposed SP, seconded TH, and with all who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 27/11/04 meeting were approved as a true record. The chairman signed the minutes.

a) Matters arising from the minutes

Headed notepaper. SS had distributed six designs, which were displayed at the meeting. One was chosen - blue in colour. CS is to produce some for Councillors. **CS**

b) Action Reports from the previous minutes.

i) GRo had not spoken to Trevor Rogers.

SP had contacted Mike Smith, CS ditto with Joan Jamieson, & SS had spoken to Adrian Stott.

SS i) Has designed something for the envelope of a publicity pack. CS explained that laser printing would require special envelopes as the heat would melt the glue, rendering the envelope useless, and inkjet printing would involve a lot of work folding back the self-seal flap. SS had contacted Berrington Print, who can print these: £90 for 500, £120 for 1000. Subsequent printings would be cheaper as the plates would have been made. SP & GRo felt all that was needed was "NABO Information Pack" + the logo. It was agreed to order 500 with the next NABO News to avoid paying VAT. **SS**

ii) - iii) All done.

iv) He has also initiated an article for BW's Waterfront (following the one it did on RBOA).

v) - vii) All done.

CS i) Done

iii) New handbook distributed to those present. CS explained that copies had also been sent to Adrian Stott, Joan Jamieson, Mike Smith, Alastair Morton, Dave Gerrard and Chris Boxall.

iv) Done

v) Stafford Boat Club has been booked for the 2005 AGM, and Robin Evans has agreed to attend.

vi) - viii) Done.

SP All Done

GR i) and ii) In hand for the end of the financial year.

AB Done

2. EA TRANSPORT & WORKS ORDER

SS explained that two decisions needed to be made today.

- i) Whether to sign the Memorandum of Understanding
- ii) Whether to withdraw NABO's objections to the Order.

SS spoke at length about the status quo following various meetings held between the objectors to the order, and then with them and EA, Regarding NABO's objections, a clause is to be inserted into Part 1 article 2 - Interpretation, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, that excludes waterways controlled by other navigation authorities, and a new article, 25a - Consultation, stating that EA must consult users over any changes to the implementation of the Order (once passed). Regarding the freedom of information, access to the register will only be made available to someone who can provide proof of identity and just cause for being given it.

SS went through the Memorandum of Understanding. User Groups have expressed concern about the charging scheme and the appeals procedure. It is stated that the BSS will be adhered to.

CS felt that: 1) we should not withdraw our objection re adjacent waters unless the Secretary of State agrees to include the extra clause
2) the consultation clause should go as far as BW's Statements of Intent do in stating that the views of users will be considered and taken into consideration.

SP stated that this would mean that EA would have to explain whenever it did not take the views of users into account. He proposed that EA should add a clause under Consultation that commits it to taking the views of users into account. CS seconded this. All were in favour.

CS to prepare the wording for this.

CS

SP is to write a letter withdrawing NABO's objections to the Order subject to the clause re adjacent waters being included, together with the new clause on consultation + the views of users being taken into account.

Concern was expressed at the lack of information about EA's harmonisation of charging regime. Whilst it is NABO's policy that there be harmonisation across all navigation authorities, this does not necessarily mean a length-only charging system. Council will consider EA's proposals when they are published.

3. TOWING PATH MOWING CONSULTATION

A response is needed by 14/02/05.

CS could see little difference between the options and drawings sent out by BW. She wondered if NABO should state what is desirable, i.e. maintenance in order to maintain the status quo after the initial edge to edge cutting, from the point of view that homeowners would cut their lawns at least once a week during the summer.

CK said that there are environmental concerns about grass cuttings falling into the canal, although it is harder for dog owners to see and clear up after their dogs in long grass.

SS felt sure that BW knows about the problems with long grass.

SS asked for a volunteer to go through the document and formulate a response. TH

agreed.

TH

4. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

The latest membership report shows that NABO has lost over two hundred members this year, mainly due to the selling of boats, expense, and bereavement. We need to redress this.

CS thought we could send out an information pack with every renewal notice for members to pass on or leave aboard their boat if they are selling it.

SP wondered if we could send some to boat builders.

SS had tried this with boat brokers with limited success, and has organised a feature in Waterfront.

GRo suggested that we ask BW to include a pack with all new licence applications, or perhaps just a leaflet.

AB thought it could be sent with all BW licence renewals.

It was agreed that BW (Eugene) be approached re sending a leaflet with all new licence applications. TH will display some at the Basingstoke Canal Centre. SS

SP to collect some application forms from the store and bring them to the next meeting. SP

5. REPRESENTATION

i) BSS Management Committee.

SS explained that NABO has no candidate to nominate.

TH explained that he had been interested, but would prefer, after consultation with Trevor Rogers, to be on the BSS Technical Committee, with Trevor being on the Advisory Committee. TH is awaiting information about applying for this from Trevor, and will liaise with him.

CS thought that maybe Trevor could propose TH, with NABO writing in support.

ii) RFERAC Committees.

CS thought we were wasting our time applying for these as it seems that it is always the BW person who is appointed. SP was encouraged to apply if he so wishes, and he will inform Mike Smith and Peter Foster.

iii) Marine Safety Co-ordinating Committee.

TH had attended a meeting, which he thought of limited use, feeling that the regional meetings would have more relevance.

SP had a letter stating that the Northwest and Wales regional committees were to be disbanded, leaving only the east of England + Scotland & Northern Ireland, and felt that it was better to be in at the top.

SS and SP thought it worth continuing, as the MSCC is becoming increasingly involved with leisure boating.

iv) National User Group meetings.

The dates of this year's meetings were given, and various folk opted to attend them as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 22nd February, PWG - Transport, London: | SS + AB + GR |
| 10th March, BW Corridor Issues at Hatton: | SS + TH |
| 7th April, BW Boating Issues at Hatton: | GRo + GR |

Also in April, PWG - Regeneration
April, NNUF
14th June, PWG - The Broads
6th October, BW Corridor Issues at Hatton
27th October, BW Boating Issues at Hatton

The later meeting attendees can be decided at the next Council meeting.

6. CUTCRIME

TH had attended a meeting with Peter Wade (BW safety advisor). BW is collating information on health & safety, which includes crime, intimidation, etc., and is prepared to share this with NABO. The new BW incident report form will be included with the next NABO News mailing, and the project is to be publicised as a joint venture between BW and NABO.

SS said it should be included in the Waterfront article.

SS

This was thought to be good for NABO's image.

TH went on to explain the Basingstoke Canal Boatwatch Scheme. It seems that an exclusion order - similar to an ASBO but quicker to introduce - can be issued by the Canal ~~Society~~ Authority.

7. Default item - LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS and CHARGING

SP has written a personal letter to the VAT head office re VAT on river registration certificates, and is awaiting a reply. When received, he will follow it up.

GRo informed Council that regarding the Continuous Cruising Guidelines, BW is sending out lots of letters. He had also heard that BW is looking at boat numbers with a view to regulating numbers entering the canal at each end. He thought such a policy could be implemented in 2-3 years.

CS said there is an interesting article about the steps BW is taking re unlicensed, overstaying boats in the February issue of Waterways World.

8. NATIONAL WATERWAYS ADVISORY FORUM

SS reported on the meeting which took place with Prof. J. Jowell, and the progress made. NWAFF will be made up of 40+ delegates. There will be one meeting per year of the entire body, which will be attended by BW and members of the BW Board. The Standing Committee will take its views to BW, members of which will be chosen from the main group according to individual capabilities. It is thought this committee will meet 3-4 times a year with BW. The Constitution of the new body is due out early in February, with its first meeting in May, when its first business will be to agree the Constitution and appoint two members onto the Ombudsman Committee.

GRo asked if the Standing Committee would be able to co-opt others when specialist input is needed.

SS - yes, that is the intention. BW is stepping back to allow thrashing out of problems etc. to be done by interest groups. BW will provide the venue and the secretariat.

SP asked about the voting - one delegate one vote? and can substitutes attend?
SS thought that there would be little voting taking place, and didn't know about substitutes.

SP asked if the future of IWAAC would be in question, and GRo asked similarly about NINF.

SS thought it might well be.

Somebody (?) asked if this body could consider matters pertaining to other navigation authorities.

CS said that it is NABO policy to have a regulator for all navigation authorities, and allowing NAWF to do so would be a step in the right direction.

SS said he had thought of bringing it up.

9. FINANCE

i) IWA Ireland Tsunami Appeal.

IWA Ireland is appealing for funds for its specific project of boat building in southeast Asia. CS and SP felt that NABO does not have any boat-building expertise, and that BMF should be more interested.

ii) RYA affiliation.

The value of affiliation was discussed. NABO is currently affiliated and has a seat on the RYA Inland Navigation Panel. SS attended the recent meeting, where he informed the RYA that most boaters did not see any relevance between the RYA and inland issues. He felt they are already aware of this.

There was some uncertainty as to whether NABO is actually affiliated to the RYA - Gordon to be asked to check. If so, we should wait until the expiry/renewal date and then review membership. GR

SP felt that it is a recognised body, and we should have some input.

GRo felt that the RYA has pretensions re the inland waterways and we need to know what it is up to.

10. A. O. B.

i) SS wondered if there should be a cover price for NABO News so that, for example, it could be offered as extra copies to clubs etc.

Proposed TH, seconded AB that the cover price be £1 to non-members. All agreed.

ii) AB reported on the EA meeting at the London Boat Show.

iii) AB thought an identification badge would be useful. CS to investigate. CS

(TH also asked for some business cards) SS

iv) A brass 'Dunton' double had been presented. AB thought we should be selling them as there is a market for them. SP thought these would be very heavy.

v) AB asked if BW are being made aware of fewer and fewer boatyards on the system. SS replied that yes, they are.

