

statement to be presented at the next meeting.

GR

c) Matters arising from the minutes.

i) Stickers.

CS showed those received from PF. They appear to be home-made, and she felt that she and SS could make them at home in the autumn. AB thought they need to be bigger - i.e. horizontal A4 length with three to a page. CS asked for suggestions as to what should be put on them:

Be heard - be NABO

NABO puts boats first

Nasey

NABO for navigation

Overstay sanctioned by BW

Please don't empty your dog here

GRo felt that these should be given away free to members.

It was felt that there is also a need for "Join NABO Here" A5 size notices for Council members to display in their boats. CS thought there were some in the store, but will make more as necessary.

CS

ii) Flue caps.

CS thought that if the flue caps could be made with the ring on the outside as opposed to the inside, these could sell well at rallies. The black ones currently on the market retail at over £27, so a plain one should sell well at £20.

AB agreed. She also stated that more Dunton Doubles are needed. CS will contact Melanie to order more stock.

CS

Sticky-back velcro is also needed.

2. REPORTS

a) The National Stoppage Meeting had been good, although the bumpf was sent out late, for which Amanda apologised. There will be no north-south route open this winter, north of Braunston, and some stoppages were due to start in October. Users had complained about this. The amount of dredging is being reduced.

b) Saul Rally.

AB said that it had been a good rally, with members coming along to chat, but wondered if it is an ideal event for NABO to attend as it is more of a folk festival cum entertainment event than a traditional boat rally. Alastair Morton had been very helpful, with transport and attending every day to man the stand. Two new members had been recruited and one sweatshirt sold. It was decided to give Saul a miss next year, and consider the London Cavalcade and other alternatives instead.

This led to a discussion about advertising.

• It was deemed expensive to advertise in the main waterways press, but perhaps Towpath Talk or Waterfront should be considered.

• AB wondered if it is worth mailshotting all the boats at the National Rally which do not bear NABO stickers: SS felt that the same people go to the rallies and they have already made up their minds as to whether they want to join

NABO. Perhaps we need to talk to fellow boaters as we cruise to try to recruit them, and also ask existing members to recruit other boaters. In return, it was agreed that for each new member recruited, a £5 discount would be given off the next years membership fee for the introducing member, to a maximum of £15. This offer to run for twelve months starting at the AGM in November, if approved by members.

This to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

CS

• More rally packs would be needed for next year - they were thought to have been a good idea.

SS

• SS to add a box to the application form :Introduced by / at

S

TH thought that these (packs containing some 'Why NABO?' leaflets, application forms and a "Join NABO here") should be available at the AGM: this was agreed.

3. Default item - LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS & CHARGING

GRo explained and read out the Ombudsman's decision regarding shared ownership boats not paying a business rate licence. He felt that as a direct result of this, British Waterways had produced the Licence Fee Structure Consultation.

This led to a lengthy discussion. Council was joined by Ivor Caplan, chairman of the Residential Boat Owners Association, at 1245, as members of both organisations would be affected most by the proposals.

• CS felt that there are three issues:

- i) an attempt to circumvent the decision of the Ombudsman
- ii) the creation of a new licence rate
- iii) the 147% increase proposed for "Continuous Cruisers".

• It was thought that a complaint to the Ombudsman would have no effect unless the proposals, as they affect shared ownership boats, were implemented.

• CS thought we should complain to DEFRA

• SP thought that DEFRA would be pleased that BW is trying to raise more money

• SS thinks that the document is flawed, in the statistical method, and the accounting proposals. It is flying in the face of the Ombudsman ruling and needs to be completely re-presented.

• TH suggested that we should have nothing to do with the consultation as it is flawed. He proposed adverse publicity for BW.

• SS asked what has changed since 2002? (the date stated by the Ombudsman in reaching his decision).

• SP thought that we should write to Robin Evans expressing confusion as to the nature of the consultation. Is it:

a) proposed re-classification of shared ownership and multi-user boats resulting from the Ombudsman decision of December 2004

or b) Re-classification of continuously cruising boats into a higher category of licence.

If the latter, this flies in the face of BW's statement on 1st April 2002 (paragraph 3 .

4a) that the broad concensus would seem to be that the basic licence should cover unlimited use.

What has changed since then?

This letter to ask for a meeting between SS, GRo (CS to take minutes if possible), himself and Simon Salem under the "preliminary consultation for clarification" banner.

- TH pointed out that if introduced, it would be implemented at the same time as the abolition of red diesel duty, hitting boaters hard.
- GRo proposed: "that a sum of £1000 be allocated for initial consultations with Shakespeare's solicitors." Seconded GR, all were in favour.

GRo to make the arrangements. GRo

4. MARINE SAFETY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES

TH now sits on the Marine Safety Co-ordinating Committee - MSCC.

There is to be a new passenger code for 12-seater trip boats. BW issuing a licence is conditional upon compliance with that voluntary code.

The MSC will also looking at hire boats. TH feels that it will then look at private boats. It has also been suggested that he joins the Domestic Passenger Ship Steering Group, for, although this body is primarily concerned with trip boats, which are technically not within NABO's remit, private boats could ultimately be affected and forewarned is forearmed. At the next AGM TH will also propose that corporate membership be offered to companies who operate commercial boats on inland waterways. They are also 'boat owners', and face many of the same conditions as do private boat owners.

5. A. O. B.

a) Cruise 2006.

CS reported the success of the 2005 cruise on the Severn tideway, and asked for Council's approval to organise another trip in 2006. She is making enquiries about the River Medway. Everyone was in favour.

b) AB asked if the police automatically inform BW when a report is made? She asked BW but received no reply.

CS thought an Incident Report Form should additionally be sent in.

SS wondered if more Report Forms should be sent out with NABO News. Generally, this idea was supported. CS to contact Melanie D. to see how many she has, SS to contact Peter Wade for more forms CS SS

c) AB had seen a notice on the Grand Union advertising 250 moorings and a plastic storage tunnel for sale. SS is to ask Adrian S. about this. SS

d) AB informed Council that she has had a letter published in Canalboat and Inland Waterways magazine about the Blisworth Tunnel.

e) SP had received a fax from PF with a report. This was read out, and covered: Ouseburn, moorings on rivers, West Stockwith, Trent lock keepers, Lincolnshire waterways, the Broads, Keadby lock, and congestion.

f) GRo asked if he could bring a member who is interested in joining Council with him to the next meeting.. Answer, yes.


g) GR explained that he still hadn't received the debit card from Barclays. He has to fill in a form for it, which will need to be countersigned by SP and CS.

h) TH said that RCR need more membership application forms. CS

i) TH said that the BW southwest unit claims it is not receiving waterway reports. SS

The meeting ended at 3.17pm.

Date of next meeting: 17th September 2005

Signed: 

Date: 17/9/05