

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Waggon &  
Horses, Oldbury, on SATURDAY 19th APRIL 2008**

**Present:** Stuart Sampson, chairman, in the chair (SS)  
Stephen Peters (SP) Simon Robbins (SR)  
Howard Anguish (HA) Carole Sampson (CS)  
Richard Carpenter, hereafter known as RC

Apologies for absence: Geoffrey Rogerson (boat emergency), Andy Colyer (co-  
spare the time), Patricia Putterill - interested member

**1. MINUTES**

a) With all present in agreement, the minutes of the 08/03/08 meeting were approved. The chairman signed the minutes.

b) Matters arising: Tony Haynes has paid for the computer and a receipt sent.

c) Actions

All done by everybody.

This led to a discussion about the Norfolk Broads, Jerry Ping's submission at the last meeting and his subsequent e-mail sent to SS. This had been distributed to Council before the meeting. The tone was considered to be somewhat odd. SS had replied and this was read out to the meeting. HA felt that Jerry's 'group' needs to prove itself to us, and until it does, we should have nothing further to do with them.  
This was agreed by the meeting.

**2. WELCOME TO THE GUESTS**

a) - to Richard Carpenter

Already Northwest Secretary, Richard is now in a position, with fewer work commitments at weekends, to come to Council meetings. He feels his best contribution will be in the marketing and recruitment area. There followed a discussion re marina road etc: RC will put together some ideas for the next meeting. Proposed SS, seconded CS, and with all in favour, RC was co-opted onto Council. SR was appointed as his mentor.

shows

b) - Patricia Putterill

Patricia has expressed an interest in becoming NABO News editor, but wants to check us out first! Unfortunately, due to a sudden family bereavement, she was unable to attend today. It is hoped she will come to the next meeting.

HA is encouraging new member Alan Richards to become involved with NABO. he should be invited to the next meeting. HA

He is similarly encouraging Linda and Bob French, who live in Stamford and who may be future Anglian Secretaries. They are also to be invited to the next meeting. HA

SR has recruited Graham Patterson to represent NABO at EA meetings.

SS was asked about the person who had offered to be webmaster.  
SS hasn't heard from him.

### 3. BW's Draft Paper - CONSULTATION

The document had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

HA said that the document had been superseded at the recent WUSIG meeting.

SR feels that the document has come about as a result of pressure from DEFRA/EFRA, and that consistency of approach is needed - what to consult about and what not.

SP added, and who with.

SR commented that consultation varies with senior management within BW. We should not assume that any internal consultation about the document has taken place.

CS wondered if we should send a letter to BW, proactively suggesting what we wish to be consulted about.

This was agreed. SR to put something together, fairly detailed itemising the level of consultation required. SR

SS wondered if we should involve John Bridgeman.

This should be done as he is the Board member responsible for consultation.

HA had been given a copy of a letter from Simon Salem to Nigel Hamilton (APCO) re the setting up of a standing review panel to look at customer service standards. He feels he should be involved.

It was thought essential that NABO should be involved with this.

SS is to chase BW to achieve involvement. SS

HA reported that Ms Ash had said not to worry, as the idea had been raised by APCO.

SS said that BWAFF would be kept informed - next meeting 12/05/08

SR asked that the matter be discussed at our next meeting CS

CS wondered if NABO should write to BW asking why the trade appears to be favoured over private boaters. This to be discussed next time.

### 4. Default item: MOORINGS, LICENSING, CONDITIONS and CHARGING

a) SR gave a brief introduction to the background of our Ombudsman complaint re the non-existence of consultation prior to the Moorings Tender Trial.

This has been submitted to Hilary Bainbridge (Ombudsman). SR has spoken to her on the phone and received guidance about the complaint and what she is able to consider.

CS asked what time-scale we are expecting - will it take very long?

SR didn't think so as our case is based on factual documents.

SP feels the complaint should take its course, and all were agreed.

SR will contact her and tell her to proceed with BW. SR

b) CS informed Council of the meeting she and SS had had with Simon Salem on 26/04/08. She felt that BW is looking for a way to save

face over the moorings tendering trial.

- c) SR had noticed that Continuous Cruising guidelines are being written into the licence conditions. The guidance is meaningless, so there is no point in putting it in. There followed a discussion about the document.
- d) **Overstaying charges and time limits**  
SS informed Council about a boat he had seen permanently moored on an undesignated mooring on the towpath.  
SR stated that if the boat is someone's home, then the Human Rights Act is applicable, and BW has to follow procedures.  
CS expressed her concerns about any boat being allowed to clutter the canalside towpath.  
SP commented that if aspects of the permission are illegal, then BW should not allow it.  
It was agreed that SS will make his observations to BW.

**5. Matters arising from the WUSIG (Waterway Users and Special Interest Groups) meeting**

- a) It was announced that Liz Horne (BW), Roger Squires (IWA) and Stuart Sampson (NABO) are all retiring this year. They were thanked for their contribution.
- b) Discussions took place about:  
bollards on lock sides  
dredging to standards  
Gloucester & Sharpness winter operation

SR asked about Customer Service Standards, which should be openly accountable, with an audit procedure to measure achievement. He feels that standards will be waived due to lack of funds.

SS feels that NABO should be consulted over works priorities.

**6. RED DIESEL**

There is to be a meeting between HMRC and user group representatives on 30th April. SS is unable to go: a volunteer was requested. If free, SR agreed to go: he will know by 23rd.

**7. Default item: FINANCE**

SP informed attendees that the financial year ended on 31/03/08, and that all expense claims for the year 2007-08 are due by the end of this month

Current Funds are:	Alliance and Leicester	£3101
	Barclays Current Account	£2895
	Barclays deposit account	£39834
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£45,834</b>

**8. Default item: NABO NEWS**

SS asked for contributions, as he hasn't got much so far.

SR will ask Graham (new mid-Thames rep) for a profile SR  
 SP will write a G & S manning report SP  
 HA will provide WUSIG meeting notes H  
 HA and RC commented that boating issues are of greater interest, although it is good to know that the political issues are being taken care of.  
 SR will write PWG and EA meeting reports + something about Mooring Wardens being self-employed. SI  
 HA offered a regular, light-hearted, informative item. HA  
 RC produced the Inland Waterway Protection Society magazine, and thought that some of the contents could be reproduced for NABO members.

## 9. NABO PROMOTION and MARKETING

RC will give the matter some thought and come up with suggestions at the next meeting.

SP pointed out that some boaters think that NABO is too confrontational, and others that it is not confrontational enough.

CS had received an e-mail from the new West Riding IWA Chairman re working together.

SR feels that we should talk to our counterparts in other organisations.

This led to a discussion about NINF, which Michael Stimpson is trying to resurrect. It is felt that it would be a good idea for just boating organisations to get together, but not with trade or marine insurance. SR stated that it hadn't worked last time, so there is no reason to suppose it will work this time, and we've other things to do.

This was generally agreed.

RC agreed to produce a working budget as to what equipment is needed for NABO's future promotion. RC

CS suggested he write something for NABO News about suggestions for marinas to visit.

## 10. A. O. B.

a) SR said that the new member welcome packs are out-of-date, which does not give a very good impression to new members. Also, it can take too long for acknowledgement of membership application to be received. He also has no record of his Standing Order payment ever being taken. CS offered to chase this, and other matters, with Melanie D. CS

b) New members need to be informed about the member bulletin system. CS to deal with this. CS

c) SR asked that Councillors reread his e-mail on the subject of Visitor Moorings durations: the item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting CS


d) HA reported a problem with non-receipt of NABO communications. It seems that there is nothing that can be done, but use his personal e-mail address instead of his official NABO one.

e) SS explained the e-mail bulletin system, that it had been a secret communication with members in the early days, but perhaps this is not so important now. It is a privilege for membership. There is an opt-in list to subscribe or de-subscribe.

CS wondered if new members should be contacted by phone, by their Regional secretary?

The meeting closed at 1450

Next meeting: Saturday 7th June, 10.30am at the Waggon & Horses, Oldbury.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7/June/2008 \_\_\_\_\_