

**MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of BOAT OWNERS, held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday
24th JANUARY 2009**

Present David Fletcher (DF), in the Chair
 Stephen Peters (SP) Simon Robbins (SR)
 Howard Anguish (HA) Andy Colyer (AC)
 Richard Carpenter (RC) Stuart Sampson (SS)
 Brian Rowland (BR) John Slee also attended (JS)

Apologies for absence: Geoffrey Rogerson

1. MINUTES

With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 29th November meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman (DF)

Matters Arising:

- a. Brian had not yet been able to arrange a meeting with Melanie but planned to do so before next council. From his initial look at the information he had on the Microsoft Access programme we use - it was quite an early version and may need updating. He could advise better once he has visited Melanie. (BR)
Brief discussion took place concerning ensuring that other members of council held copies of the membership as back up - probably Chairman and Secretary. BR recommended that we be registered under the Data Protection Act and all agreed he would handle the initial registration process this will include checking the correct definitions. Fees are £30 and agreed expenditure (prop SR 2nd SP) (BR to arrange as necessary).
- b. Council noted that John Slee had attended this meeting following councillors tasked at the last meeting to seek out new possible members or NABO members willing to assist with various tasks as required. It was reported that more people had been approached and indications that some would be helping council in the future.
- c. RC confirmed that he had spoken with Philip Ogden who was happy to continue as representative for disabled matters.
- d. RC was tasked with contacting people who had appeared at recent UG meetings from the Broads Area to seek a possible recruit from that Region.

- e. DF reported that he had only received his requested resume of each individual members personal backgrounds and personal expertise from one Council member – this was asked for help us all understand depth of experience, boating history, current commitments. He asked council again! (ALL)
- f. HA reported on the feedback he had undertaken from members attending the AGM. He will provide an article for NABO News concerning his findings and requesting members to provide feedback on the future content and location. (HA)
- g. Chairman requested a list of concessions for NABO News at previous Council – this list provided to members by RC with a request that each check out the detail, and provide updates to the Secretary asap. ALL
- h. Discussion took place regarding the Handbook and its need for a updating in part. Due to other pressures on Council it was agreed that the overview of policy would be updated by the Chairman (DF) but it would remain for the remainder of this Council Year. It would be made available on our web site once policy was updated and a full review undertake in the future. (DF)

2. FINANCE

a) The Treasurer outlined our balances as follows

A+L Account	£1,130
Barclays Current	£3,832
Barclays Tracker	£40,691

He reported that in the present climate we were earning 0.1% gross!

Generally agreed that we have few safe options for better investment open to us and we just have to accept situation.

SP reported that he had continued the contract for the store for a further year but hoped that when it was sorted out this might be partially refundable.

Acceptance of the report proposed by SR seconded by SS.

3. LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS & CHARGING

- a) **MOORING CONTRACTS WORKING GROUP.** Simon Robbins reported on the Mooring Contracts Working Group,

correspondence shared with Council from Sally Ash concerning this and asked for Council's response to its terms of reference.

- b) Council agreed that the pricing issues were most important and should be part of discussions from the start. SR had already indicated this to Sally Ash.
- c) Council asked Simon to continue with this work and supported his approach to date.
- d) **LEGAL.** The Chairman reported on his meeting with Mark Beasley (our Solicitor) and GR to discuss the various matters and options open to NABO. He reported that discussions to take things to the next stage (Legal Councils Opinion) would require funding in the order of £5,000.
- e) After some debate about costs, the questions that needed to be asked and the next steps Council agreed that we should ask Mark to write on our behalf to BW indicating our legal views and some possible proposals. (DF)
- f) SS proposed that a meeting might be set up with BW, RBOA, NABO and DEFRA to discuss some solutions and initiatives on mooring issues. Council agreed that the next step was the response from the Chairman's further discussions with Mark.
- g) **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.** The Chairman discussed his distributed list of Stakeholder (attached to Minutes as addendum) and asked if there were others we should consider.
- h) SS mentioned the Commercial Boat Owners Association who had indicated that they might like NABO cooperation on Trent matters (SS to follow up)
- i) RC - as a present committee member of SOW will discuss NABO involvement for the future - the SOWAGM in March will shed some light as to its future and options.
- j) DF will report back on a response to National Inland Navigation Forum (DF)
- k) **AUCTIONS.** The Chairman requested further ammunition he could use to continue the assault on this issue.
- l) SR reported that from his information BW were not getting a lot of bids, and in some areas none - he felt that some boaters were holding back.
- m) SS said he was worried that we were not getting our message through to the BW Main Board.
- n) It was agreed that the Chairman would write to BW and DEFRA with some firm engagement.(DF)
- o) SS suggested that the Chair should request it as an agenda item to BWAF which was also agreed. (DF)
- p) The Chairman will be attending the next Parliamentary WWG and will place some strong questions. SR will provide some input for this.(SR)

- q) **GENERAL** Volunteers were asked to take up the offer of Sally Ashes Cruise! AC agreed to go (AC)
- r) HC reported issues regarding the MCA T&C which impacts on Shared Ownership in commercial terms. He was taking the matter up with them and reporting the detail in NABO News.
- s) **LICENCES** SR asked that any complaints being followed up on members behalves with BW be copied to him as that will to help in his work in this area.

4. **NABO NEWS**

General report of praise on the last issue given to SS!
 Usual requests for articles. The Chairman would write a piece on BBS standards and changes in addition to his column (DF)
 HA would be doing something on the MCA and Shared Ownerships. SS will report on the Customer Standards Meeting and AC will report on the London Boat Show.

5. **NABO Promotion and Marketing**

- a) RC outlined his thoughts and showed his first prototype for a display to be carried by willing members on their boats during the cruising season and displayed a boating gatherings. This would feature a leaflet holder which would display an updated version of our present recruiting leaflet and application. The idea was received well and council provided plenty of advice on the size and shape to be made available to members! A budget of £2400 was approved to develop these small displays and print new versions of recruitment leaflets. These will be present at next Council for approval of a range of options followed by a feature in NABO News.
- b) Further thought will be given to the Road Show principle of arranging presentation evenings/events at major locations in terms of boat owners. RC pointed out that this would have to be a stage two programme in the drive to increase membership.

6. **AOB**

1. User Group Meetings A discussion took place about BW User Group meetings. RC reported on a meeting with the BWNW Area Manager Debbie Lund which encompassed several issues including the rather poor way the UGs had been managed of late. Other Councillors reported similar response to these meetings from several areas. RC discussed the issue of volunteers in terms of helping boaters. A pilot may be worked on to give locking assistance to boaters at the

more daunting areas which often put off visitors – Wigan Flight, Central Manchester, Ribble Link as examples. Ms Lund reported on plans to be issued to help and assist boaters to visit the new link into Liverpool.

HA plans to write to Jonathan Bryant on the subject of UG Meetings nationally in terms of content and management. (HA)

2. Web Site. A brief discussion took place about the web site and its need to be simplified and regularly updated. BR reported he was now starting on sorting out the site and would be discussing this with DF
3. Costs of Boating. The Chairman asked for a volunteer to work out the current costs of running a boat to help when he engages with BW/EA. John Slee offered his help.
4. Store - RC reported that no one had yet visited the store to sort it out. Again RC, SP and possible DF will try to sort out a date for a visit. Target still to be to reduce and perhaps do away with a paid for storage – although some may be needed once promotional policy is finalised.

ACTION Points

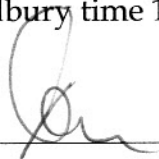
The following are the key action points, however those underlined in the text above are also reminders of continued action.

- a. All to review the list of NABO News Concessions and advise RC of any changes, omissions or updates required.
- d. All to provide a short personal background to DF

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

Date and time of the next full Council Meeting: Saturday 7th March 2009 at the Waggon and Horses at Oldbury time 10.45am.

Minutes Approved _____



D.S.Fletcher Chairman
7th March 2009