

**MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of BOAT OWNERS, held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday
18th April 2009**

Present David Fletcher (DF), in the Chair
 Stephen Peters (SP) Simon Robbins (SR)
 Richard Carpenter (RC) Stuart Sampson (SS)
 John Slee (JS) Howard Anguish (HA)
 Geoffrey Rogerson (GR) Andrew Colyer (AC)

Apologies for absence were received from Brian Rowland (BA)

1. MINUTES

With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 7th March meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman (DF)

Matters Arising:

- a. Brian Rowland had not yet been able to arrange a meeting with Melanie . Simon Robbins noted that he had good experience of Microsoft Access and volunteered to follow up when he could – copy of files to b forwarded to Simon for him to look at. (RC)
- b. RC reported his has still no members with home address which could be broads based with an aim of finding a representative for the region.
- c. RC reported that he continued to update the concessions for the gratis receipt of NABO News but not all. DF requested Sally Ash be added. Some debate about sending two copy's to each BW Region Office as some members had had a response that BW staff could not find a copy. It was also debated that perhaps we letter is sent to each region saying access to NABO News could be given via our web page – not resolved.(RC)
- d. SS had had no further feedback from the Commercial Boat Owners Association but will continue to keep a dialogue open
- e. Sally Ashes cruise has not yet taken place which is being attended by AC. AC felt it was still worthwhile and will push for when it will happen.
- f. RC reported that as yet no one has been able to get together to tidy up and sort out the Store, he will

continue to try and get a date for a couple of Council Members to get it done. (RC)

- g. John Slee had visited the Wolverhampton Boat Club and felt it would be suitable for our AGM. RC reported that Tamworth had not got back to him due a long absence by the correct official there. Council agreed to go ahead with Wolverhampton. (RC will organise)

2. FINANCE

a) The Treasurer outlined our balances as follows

A+L Account	£1,960 (£1198)
Barclays Current	£3,779 (£3,779)
Barclays Tracker	£40,701 (£40,691)
Total	£46,440 (£45,168)

He reported that in the present climate we were earning 0.05% gross!

Acceptance of the report proposed by RC seconded by AC.

3. LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS & CHARGING

MOORING CONTRACTS WORKING GROUP

- SR had nothing to report since last council – no activity.
- JS suggested that this and other matters in relation to moorings would be covered within the WUSIG paper which was generally agreed.
- DF reported that he had had no response from RBOA – SR will try to discuss with Rex with regard to its future as a group. (SR)
- SR reported that at meetings he has attended he is the only actual moorings customer – no else has any experience to offer!

AUCTION Update

DF reported nothing to add since last Council Meeting.

MOORINGS PRICE INCREASES

- SR felt that April 2009 increases had not hit home yet.
- It was agreed that articles would appear in NABO News and on the Web site continuing to ask for members feedback (SS)

4. LEGAL.

- DF reported on the letter he received in response to his from BW
- GR reported that a budget of a maximum of £6000 plus VAT should be approved, however he felt it would be more likely in the region of £.5k to £4k plus VAT. Proposed by GR and seconded by SP – agreed unanimously.

- c) Council agreed that the list of questions that had been circulated were approved and should make up the questions asked of council.

5. WUSIG and BWAF Preparation

There took place a long and wide ranging debate on the detailed response from Council to the consultation paper and the issues raised led by HA who will attend on Councils behalf.

A further wide ranging discussion took place about the Chairman's forthcoming BWAF meeting and a NNUF meeting and councils input.

6. DRINK BOATING

DF outlined the response he was to send, and which was circulated to Council prior. General conclusions were that NABO supported sensible legislation but was against fixing size or speed limits that were arbitrary. NABO also raised questions of enforcement, existing by laws that are adequate and that many vessels are boaters homes and could be involved in an incident while moored but the owner was over the limit!

7. COST OF BOATING SURVEY

a) JS reported the response to date and will have further report for the next Council Meeting (JS)

8. WEB SITE MATTERS

BR was unable to attend meeting.
General discussion was had about the content and how important it was that news of any sort in put on the site weekly.
To be discussed in next council

9. NABO PROMOTION & MARKETING

- a) RC brought stock for council of the boat roof recruiting displays and leaflets for distribution. Six members had responded so far to having a display plus council and distribution was in hand.
- b) Further requests would go into NABO News(Photo and piece concerning these for NABO News RC)
- c) Displays would be used at Little Venice, Skipton, Crooke and Chester Gatherings/Festivals in May.

11. FACILITY GAP ANALYSIS

- a) SS continues to work on this.
- b) DF read a response he had had from Robin Evans which committed BW to seek our advice on designs and content of new or planned updates to facilities.

12. NABO NEWS

- a) Council were unanimous in warm approval of the last issue and SS was modest in his acceptance of such praise!
- b) Contents and articles were agreed by Council Members at the request of the Editor.

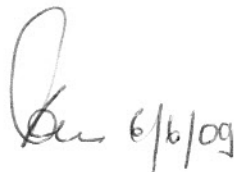
14. AOB

- a) DF will look at a consultation paper we have received regarding building work to extend the Chiltern Railways network in terms of any impact on the Canal. (DF)
- b) John Slee volunteers as a moderator for Waterways Reports (SS to facilitate)
- c) SP reported on ongoing correspondence with BW about access to Gloucester Docks.
- d) RC reported that he had followed up just four members who had not renewed following the normal response by Melanie – three had responded and renewed as a result. It indicated that a personal follow up might be sensible – RC would do a few more before next council and may then ask members to share this light load in future.
- e) RC reported on his invitation from at the ceremony to open the Liverpool Link on 24th March at the Tate Liverpool.

ACTION Points are all indicated through the minutes by underline.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm.

Date and time of the next full Council Meeting: Saturday 6th June 2009 at the Waggon and Horses at Oldbury time 10.45am.

 6/6/09