

MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of BOAT OWNERS, held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday
5th September 2009

Present David Fletcher (DF), in the Chair
Stephen Peters (SP) Simon Robbins (SR)
Richard Carpenter (RC) Stuart Sampson (SS)
Howard Anguish (HA)
Geoffrey Rogerson (GR) Andrew Colyer (AC)
Guest. Pamela (Panda Smith) - member
Apologies John Slee (JS) Brian Rowland (BA)

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1. MINUTES

With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the
11th July meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman (DF)

2. MATTERS ARISING

- a. It was agreed that more time will be needed to address updating our membership software and analysis options and that this would be a subject for council after the AGM (RC & SR)
- b. DF had completed the first update of the concessions list and council was asked to comment. Following the reorganisation of BW regions, DF will send to Caroline for an update. RC will do the same to EA. (DF,RC)
- c. AC reported that the proposed River Lea Cruise with Sally Ash would not be taking place.
- d. RC reported that he and SR managed to spend a few hours at the store and cleared more than 50% of its contents to burn. They retained files they thought might be useful as well as accounts from 2000 on. There still remained old display materials which were probably no longer usable. It was decided that after the AGM, if roles were retained on Council RC would take what remained and store at his home. This would reduce annual costs of nearly £1000 for storage. (RC)
- e. RC reported that AGM is in hand for Wolverhampton Boat Club who were charging £10 for the hire and would arrange a buffet to a price per head as required. RC would discuss and arrange within original budgets. RC would also reconfirm speaker and visit the club to see to seating arrangements etc (RC)
- f. DF reported he had had no response to his letter to BW responding to the 20/20 Vision document.
- g. DF had had no further information regarding Tidal Lock Policy and asked Council to seek any possible areas where there may be something similar in terms of safe havens. (SS will lead on this)
- h. RC reported he had again written to a couple of non re-newer's personally with a result that they had renewed. It's a matter of having the time to do this – our present system of letters and follow up perhaps needed an update in

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terms of content and presentation and this should be something for the new Council. (RC)

3. LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS & CHARGING

Moorings Contracts Working Group

- a) SR had followed up informal meetings with RBOA (Rex Walden) and Madge Bailey on this (the latter being refreshing in terms of dialogue and general approach and manner) - notes on which had been circulated.
- b) SR reported that BW were not in favour of continuing it.
- c) DF and SR will continue dialogue with BW and others on this. (DF/SR)

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Licensing and Mooring

- a) HA gave an update on progress through WUSIG and announced that the Residential Mooring Policy Draft plus the Online Mooring Policy Draft should shortly be issued He indicated that these pre notes were on line and asked for any comments from council within a couple of days.
- b) HA wished to stress to BW following conversations he had had that the Policy drafts were just drafts! He felt that BW thought that because they had involved the key UG's they would go through on the nod! Council needed to stress that we have only commented on the basis of consultation and not approved it!
- c) SR commented that much of the Residential paper was in general very good and was to be commended.
- d) DF reported that in dialogue with BW he issue of the "bollards" was now not for discussion it was a case of use them if you wish!

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4. LEGAL

- a) GR reported that the extra cost for the further consultation with Mark Beasley was as expected - £1000 - which was presented to the Treasurer (prop SS, seconded SP) and was unanimously approved.
- b) GR outlined the letter he was recommending to be sent to BW containing the points made by council. And there followed a general debate about how much of the content should be used initially.
- c) DF pointed out that the content was flexible, the advice we were given was to use as much as council felt was relevant.
- d) SR reminded council hat it had not consulted members in any detail and should ensure members had an idea of the costs involved should any issue come to full judicial review.
- e) SS warned Council that as BW were presently in a state of flux we will be unlikely to get any reasonable response. He also felt we should now let members know what path we are pursuing.

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- f) SP agreed that we needed to think how we let members know whilst keeping our powder dry.
- g) HA, AC and RC all felt that we should only act on a limited amount of the advice we had been given, holding some issues back but we must let our members know that we were taking action.
- h) PS stated as a member that there were other avenues such as the press to indicate action without giving BW too much in terms of information. Members would understand to need to keep the detailed advice very confidential whilst process was taking place.
- i) It was proposed by HA and seconded by SS that an abbreviated letter covering limited points would be sent to BW with an open copy printed in NABO News. (Unanimously agreed)
- j) DF and GR would abbreviate the, circulate to Council confidentially and also run it past Mark Beasley for approval. (DF, GR)
- k) At the same time as release – a press release would be issued to both the Boating and more general leisure press – all activities to take place around the time of the next publication of NABO News in October. (RC to liaise with DF on content.)

5. PANDA SMITH

- a) NABO member, Pamela Smith, as a guest of Council, advised on the case she was making personally against BW with regarding to Moorings issues.
- b) Council pointed out that NABO can and will help and advise Ms Smith on matters relating to her case and that given it was taking place in the South West GR would accompany her to a solicitors visit. (GR)
- c) Council agreed that the basic issues of the case reflected many of its concerns in this aspect of boating and was worthwhile to follow to help in its own forthcoming legal arguments.
- d) This action was proposed by RC and seconded by SP – unanimously agreed.

6. FINANCE

- a) SP reported that NABO Accounts stood as follows:

A+L Current Account	£4,204
Barclays Current Account	£5,342
Base Tracker Account	£29,206

This did not take into account the latest £1000 legal fee.

- b) *SP was checking on rates for the liability insurance for the Association. SR asked for an update on what was actually covered and SS asked SP to contact Carole Sampson who he thought had a schedule. (SP) not approved.*
- c) SP will cancel the Storage once advised by RC after the AGM. There was a small increase announced from

September the impact of which he would report at a future meeting.

7. IWA SOS 2010

- a) DF confirmed he had had discussions with the IWA on their initiative and despite Council being unhappy with the assumption in press that there was overall support from all user groups it was unanimously agreed that provided there were no costs to NABO at this stage our general support would be forthcoming. Some form of publicity campaign would be formulated that would have NABO (and others) endorsement by logo etc. (RC to liaise with print)

8. CONDITION SURVEY

- a) In Johns absence DF reported that initial response had been very good and that RBOA had agreed to promote it to its members.
- b) DF also reported that the AWCC had also asked if they could be included.
- c) It was agreed by all present that the significance of the eventual report given the continued cuts and other waterways related activities would not only be very important but help provide NABO with a much higher profile. Apart from the IWA, who all felt could not be trusted not to hijack results as their own, all felt the widest distribution to boaters was to advantage even if that delayed the gathering and publishing of results.
- d) DF had talked with JS before his holiday about his concerns of the scale of the analysis and JS had indicated he understood these and was happy. (DF/JS)

9. AGM Update

- a) RC reconfirmed all was in hand for the AGM and a maximum budget of £30 was unanimously approved to provide the speaker with a gift. Proposed SS seconded SP.

10. PLANNING - New Council - 2009/10

- a) DF discussed known changes for the new council as both Stuart Sampson and Brian Rowland had indicated that they would be standing down.

- b) DF said BR was happy to continue to look after the web site if asked but felt with his other Sea master Club activities he could not contribute as well as he would like on Council.
- c) SS had already indicated that he would serve this present year to help and assist but his plans for European adventure would eventually take place. He was asked to attend the AGM if possible to say his farewells following almost exactly 10 years service. (SS)
- d) All other members have already reapplied and RC reported that at least one new one was applying. Deadline was 10th October.
- e) DF indicated that the major problem was finding someone to take over the editorship of NABO News which was our key link to the membership – SS indicated that he would be happy to help in the interim to bed a new Editor down.
- f) DF asked everyone to have a thought about possible new members or about encouraging attendance at the AGM where members could meet Council and possibly look at none council roles. He stressed that it was important that with a very significant period approaching on the whole future of the Waterways no Council Member became bogged down with too much responsibility. (All)

11. NABO Promotion and Marketing

- a) RC reported that there had been no significant uptake by members on helping with display but on his own travels had had a good response to leaflets pick up. Membership seemed to be holding but we really need to be able to have someone concentrating on this aspect. Hard to share jobs.
- b) RC was taking advice from a specialist member who he still hoped to recruit full time to Council at some stage – however the advice will help in terms of story/approach etc.
- c) The Xmas calendars were going ahead with provision for large enough envelopes for them to go out with the Xmas NABO News.
- d) No progress had been made in trying to organise some form of Road Show to aid recruitment and a membership involvement. Again the issue is time and willing people RC explained he doesn't have either at this stage.

12. NABO News

- a) SS asked for the Council "statements of eligibility and usefulness" of those standing (RC supplying)

- b) SS would promote the AGM and include maps/directions etc. The Club have some limited moorings for those attending by boat.
- c) DF/GR would liaise on the BW Legal content. (DF/GR)
- d) SS asked all members of council to provide a short list of the individual reasons we each like boating (whatever they may be) to enable ourselves to present ourselves better. (All)

13. AOB

- a) PS asked if anyone had heard that BW were changing bylaws - after discussion no one had but it was pointed out that they could not without a change of legislation.
- b) RC reported that following a REFRAC meeting he attended as a member for the NW he was informed that all their meetings were open to guests and we could always send a representative to attend. This might be useful in areas where Rivers are more prevalent.
- c) PS stated that, following her present experiences, she was looking to come up with a Legal Handbook for Boaters with help from a colleague - Nick Brown. She asked for any help and SR asked to be involved if possible. There was no suggestion of an endorsement at his stage from NABO.
- d) The Travellers Association in correspondence with Panda had suggested an informal joint meeting to discuss NABO/their work. RC has had correspondence with them in terms of contacts etc and would follow this up. (RC)
- e) There was a general expression of thanks to Stuart Sampson for his work and a sadness that this was his last Council Meeting - he was asked to attend the AGM if a all possible to allow the general membership to express thanks.

ACTION POINTS are noted throughout the minutes in brackets and underlined)

The meeting closed at 4.50pm.

Date and time of the next Council Meeting will be at the AGM on 21st November 2009 at Wolverhampton Boat Club followed by a Full Council meeting at the Waggon and Horses at Oldbury at 10.45am on Saturday 28th November 2009.