

**MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS,**

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 5th June 2010

Present	David Fletcher	(Chair)
	Stephen Peters	Howard Anguish
	John Slee	Sue Burchett
	Richard Carpenter and invited member Peter Fellows who was welcomed	

1. APOLOGIES

Council member Andrew Colyer; Simon Robbins; Geoff Rogerson

2. MINUTES

a) **Approval.** With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 17th April meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman

b) Matters arising if not on this agenda elsewhere

+Tidal Lock David is in continuing dialogue with TBA still ongoing

+Houseboat licences are to be followed up taking into account RBOA's views still ongoing. **Action Simon**

+ Legal challenge a meeting took place with Mark Beasley

+ David contacted BBC/ITV re programmes showing irresponsible use of the canals. Unsatisfactory reply received so ongoing. David is now awaiting another incidence before complaining again.

+ FOI. Simon to write article for web site and Nabo News. David to pursue. **Action Simon & David**

+Waterway Wanderers Fishing Scheme. BW are revising the 'boating season' Comments and instructions on moorings vs. fishing.

+David consolidated his list of Nabo reps with areas Manchester & Pennine Stoke on Trent...Peter Killan & Keith Noble N/West & Borders Northwich.....???

Action Richard to follow up

+ AGM Simon Salem has agreed to be the speaker and Wolverhampton boat club is sorting out the catering

3 MOORINGS AND LICENCE ISSUES (default)

John reported on the Moorings Consultation meeting on 28th May, which was chaired by Sally Ash who failed to meet promises on deadlines. The lengthy report was produced but not gone through. User group responses were the opposite of individuals.

The main conclusions were to scrap the idea of an individual to chair the mooring groups and BW should chair. So much time was spent on the discussions at the start of the meeting that the conclusions were rushed through at the end of the meeting.

Zoning idea was approved with boaters paying for a roving mooring permit. This presents another enforcement problem

BW is to look at charging Pubs for moorings.

Short term mooring overstaying charges were discarded as the meeting ran out of time.

John showed a document from 2009, that EA had produced, on the same subject that ran to 4 pages and was clear and concise.

We agreed the policy for residential moorings as per RBOA.

BW suggested a salvage bond as boats sinking on moorings were causing a problem – discussion took place on how this would work. David commented that every boat that sinks is a problem solved in terms of mooring/licensing issues.

We need to wait for ‘notes’ of the meeting then do our response with a need to be constructive.

The papers are now on the BW website under consultations.

David reported on the Wilts Council meeting attended by Geoff and Andy. BW’s only representative was Damien Kemp who is on a short term contract and therefore couldn’t answer any policy questions. BW is wanted to enforce 14day and 48hr moorings.

BW’s excuse for everything now is that they can’t afford it.

Licence issues.

BW have decided not to stop the prompt payment and licences will be increased by 1% in August. BW thinks the Third Sector will be able to forecast better for future increases. Nabo believes it was a good response.

Web; Nabo News and BW

Press release

Action David

Action Richard

We had a discussion on internet access and it is believed to be a problem that will disappear in time.

4 LEGAL UPDATE

Nabo wrote to BW in response and has received a letter from Sally dismissing our claims. A letter has been sent on advice from Mark Beasley and we are again awaiting a response.

There has been no response to Geoff's letter or to letter requesting a meeting. Nabo is unable to take our legal challenge to the Ombudsman as it is a legal matter and is also unable to take it to Judicial Review. A solicitor in Northwich involved in a section 8 case has remarked that the Acts are so vague as to be useless. He has been put in touch with Mark Beasley. The BW Bye Laws are to be reviewed. Bone-fide cruising raised its head again. There are issues with enforcement as BW is in limbo recruiting new staff and then training them. A case is coming up in August on the K & A and BW is hoping to set up a precedent. Geoff and Andy are keeping an eye on this. CC guidelines need discussion with ideas needed. If BW don't enforce any system will fail. David is to contact Paul Griffiths Howard to bring up at NAVCOM

Action David
Action Howard

Drifffield and Leaven navigation boaters living on boats have been told to move off as they haven't planning permission.

5 WEB SITE MATTERS/ONGOING SURVEYS

Web

The web site is working well and some of the information should be put in Nabo News.

One email needs to be sent to all members to explain RSS feeds.

Action John & Richard

There is a new web link facility with a link to BW and Waterscape

Order form for clothing to go on web site

Action John & Richard

On going surveys

Cost of boating survey ends the 9th June and is up on last year. To go on web site and Nabo News

Action John

Waterways survey – ^{Jeh} Geoff Whyatt BW Customer Relations is to be thanked for his contribution. The BW's report on the 2009 NABO waterways condition survey stats: 191 responses listed places needing urgent attention, of which 32 were rated "completed", 75 "in hand 2010" and 7 "In hand 2011/later": a total of 60%. 56 remained "to be investigated" while 21 BW classed as "disagree/no plans for action". John to ask Geoff Whyatt's permission to put on web site and in Nabo News

Action John

Will Chapman has launched a Waterway Watch which is to involve the local community in looking after their local canals. SOW will be closed once an AGM can be organised – probably after the summer.

Concern was expressed that boaters' facilities are being closed and keys are being changed for Moorers use only

David suggested Back log curves per region as a way of watching progress

The Boaters Handbook is looking for a project manager. This will probably be BMF

6 FINANCE

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are Alliance and Leicester £2033 Barclays' current a/c £6318 and deposit a/c £23,717 giving a total of £32,068 Stephen has received a corporate reference number from HMRC

7 MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

- a) **Crick.** This was fine and David, Richard and John enjoyed themselves. The corporate image was good, as was the visibility. The event cost £650 ish less the sale of windlasses. (four boxes were found at the Darlington's) 7 members joined plus 3 online to date. Over 1000 leaflets and flyers were given out. Richard talked to stall holders about them submitting articles for Nabo News advertising their products.

There seemed to be a large proportion of visitors wanting to buy a boat to live on – and with very limited understanding of the ramifications – we handed out more than 100 of our publications “So you want to buy a boat?”.

Richard is planning a road show for marinas in the winter.

Richard explained the costing and ordering of the merchandise and has sent John details for the website. **Action John**

Basically the suppliers “Smudgeonline” who also supply RBOA and others receive all orders, handle all supplies and money. NABO will receive a small commission on each sale which will be held by the suppliers until required or in merchandise.

Article for Nabo News

Action Richard

Council members are to have a fleece or sweatshirt. The budget of £152 was passed by Council. £89.50 has already been spent for Crick.

The laser printer has been purchased £450 including extended 3 year warranty.

- b) **Other festivals.** Chester 26/27th June Sue is to leaflet boats. Mercia Marina 2nd/3rd July David is attending (Richard one day)

Leeds 17th & 18th July Richard is sorting.

Action Richard

8. NABO NEWS: ARTICLES/DEADLINES

Articles to be sent to nabonews@nabo.org.uk by Wednesday 16th June

1 article by Tony Lenton

1 article on Axiom Screws by Stuart

6 articles –Crick review

Natural England

Richard

	Author G. Lewis	
	Info on merchandise	
1 article	WUSIG	<u>Howard</u>
3 articles	Website links	<u>John</u>
	Cost of boating survey	
	Condition survey	
1 article	Health dealing with	<u>Fiona Slee</u>
3 articles	Chairman's piece	<u>David</u>
	Chimneys	
	Licence response	
	Safety with 240v Peter to serialise	<u>Peter Fellows</u>
1 article	FOI	<u>Simon</u>
2 articles	– updating the legal situation and a reprise of the number of boats	<u>Geoffrey</u>
1 articles		<u>Stephen</u>
Pseudonym		<u>Sue</u>
3 articles	already received.	

It was noted that only one sticker had gone out with each magazine. The magazine was late due to the printer being ill and half term affected Ruth. Chris struggled with the technology and the cost was more than expected due to this. There was disquiet about the two white pages but otherwise well received.

9. A.O.B.


David to meet with new MP
 PLA consulting on a new PLA act to ask Simon
 John mentioned that customers were to be ignored over the winter stoppage proposals. The final version is to be available before the end of August
Richard to go to BAAF and the IWA MPs welcome on the 15th June
 David to go to BSS supplementary meeting on electrical matters
 The concession list for free copies of Nabo News needs updating with the new MPs
Action Richard/David

BW say emergency access data is difficult to sort short term but believe the emergency services know where the access points are. They need prompting to publish.

David is to go to an RYA Waterways for everyone meeting.

It was noted that pollution is worse since the red diesel restrictions have led to self filling.

The meeting closed at 4.30 The July meeting has been cancelled so the next meeting will be 4/9/2010


 FLETCHER 4/9/10