

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 15th October 2011

Present: David Fletcher (Chair), Simon Robbins , John Slee

Stephen Peters , Howard Anguish, Richard Carpenter

1. APOLOGIES

Geoffrey Rogerson, Sue Burchett, Andy Colyer, Peter Fellows

2. Minutes of 3rd September 2011

a) Minutes were approved

b) Matters arising

Following Howard leaving Council John Slee volunteered to take over as representative at WUSIG Meetings. Howard will do November if Jon can't – they will liaise. **Action John/Howard**

John Slee reported that the mooring consultation will not be going any further. David Fletcher commented that it was disappointing that BW didn't take it forward – meeting felt it left BW open to future criticism.

Howard will be doing his last IWA NAVCOM meeting this week, Council needs to think about future attendee. Howard pointed out we were guests and so it should be one regular council member rather than a shared load.

David reported that he responded on NABO's behalf to an on line consultation on Euro Fuels.

AGM. Richard reported that Stafford Golf Club was confirmed at £50 rental plus £5 per head for teas and coffees and buffet luncheon. Numbers to be confirmed. David confirmed that Lynn Berry would attend. Richard confirmed that he had invited Nick Wall, Editor of Canal Boat Magazine and for the Club to nominate someone from their Committee. He was waiting for a response.

3. AGM Planning

Nominations received from David Fletcher, Simon Robbins, Stephen Peters, John Slee, Geoffrey Rogerson and Andy Colyer. Richard announced he would not be in a position to stand for Council as he will no longer be a Full Member as he is selling his boat.

There was concern voiced that the nomination Forms, whilst on the web site would not have been delivered to members without access or received only NABO NEWS. At the time of this meeting it had not arrived. Richard reported that as far as he knew it was completed editorially and in layout form. The ladies who sort the post for us did not receive it until two days ago. It should arrive with all members on Monday or Tuesday. Peter Fellows, who would normally chase it up has been away cruising assuming it was in hand. He will be seeking full explanations as to the delay and will be making recommendations for the future print needs. **Action Peter Fellows.**

This meant that arguably new nominations would be too late as far as our constitution is concerned. It was decided that as we were always below the number the constitution allowed, and that Council for certainly the past seven years was uncontested in terms of members voting at the AGM, then if someone came forward with the required nomination forms we always had the option to co-opt. If there were any problems raised beforehand or at the AGM they could be discussed then. It was agreed that in future the Summer Issue of NABO News would handle the constitutional matters. **Action Peter Fellows**

David confirmed he is willing to stand for chairman for another year to work with the C&RT transition as no one had indicated they were prepared to take the role. He firmly pointed out that this would be his last year in the role if elected – he would be seeking to remain involved with NABO however..

Richard indicated that he would be prepared to continue in the Secretary role if no one came forward – this was allowed in the Constitution - General Secretary and Treasurer did not need to be on Council and there was no rule that insisted they were Full Members either.

AGM will start at 10.30 (access to the room with tea and coffee from 10am)

11.15am would be a brainstorming session on various topics including the future role for NABO and its relationship with C&RT and its National and Regional Committees. David asked all to provide him with topics for review.
Action All

Richard confirmed the room hire costs at £50 and the buffet would be £5.00 per head – he had provisional confirmed 50 attendees, based on previous AGM's.

4. NABO Future

A general discussion took place about the lack of new recruits – each member of Council had spoken to potentials with varying degrees of interest. There does seem to be some new blood who might get involved – at least at Regional Level.

A general debate took place about our approach to National and Regional Committees and whether we should seek representation. It was pointed out

that these should be made up of private individuals. It was agreed that we shouldn't nominate at this stage but should debate at the AGM.

As for Officers on Council it was agreed that there would be no huddle at the AGM for the elected Council of NABO – this would be done at the first Council Meeting which follows later in November scheduled for 26th November. The informal parts of the Members Meeting and Forum would be the last duties of the outgoing Council in the roles held.

5. Licensing, Moorings and Charging

There were no current issues to be dealt with before the New Council sits.

John Slee reported that BW had written to continuous cruisers by letter saying that they will work hard to regulate over-stayers throughout the winter.

There was a discussion on Roving Mooring Permits with the result that all will keep an eye on what BW do next.

Simon reported that on the Houseboat issue nothing new was expected until the end of October and he will keep Council up to date.

Simon reported on discussion he had had with the Organisation of Port of London Authority Customers (OPLAC). Their aims are to represent the interests of River Works licence holders to the PLA, to promote issues to the public and elected representatives, and to assist our members in obtaining better terms for their licence. It was agreed that we would offer a reciprocal associate membership with ourselves. **Action Simon/Richard**

6. Finance

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are :- Santander £4513; Barclays current a/c £3,210 and deposit £17,349 giving a total of £25,072.

Council reviewed a copy of the draft accounts which showed quite a high amount listed as assets. It was agreed that the details would be circulated, that items showing as assets were long gone and should be written down. Stephen will arrange circulation through John Darlington. **Action Stephen.**

Richard discussed the falling membership – broadly we lost between 30 and 50 members net a year despite recruiting quite well. An analysis showed that with very few exceptions the reasons given for leaving were retirement and the sales of boats. This has an impact on revenues of course.

7. Charity

The Chair reported on a supplementary consultation from DEFRA on the transfer of BW to C&RT. He will work on it with Geoffrey Rogerson.

David Fletcher did say that the discussions on funding were very much alive and he felt that the Trustees will very firmly reject the transfer unless they are satisfied the issues are viable.

9. Web Matters

John is continuing to work on having membership working through Paypal. He also had some further improvements planned during the coming months in general.

The background to those nominated for Council would be brought up to the front page. **Action Richard**

10. NABO News articles and deadlines.

No NABO NEWS until after next committee meeting and out with members before Xmas.

Richard indicated that there were three advertisers still showing interest in full pages. They wanted to see the new issue and style proposed. Revenues should net £3,000 per annum.

Richard reported that quotes had been obtained from other printers, plus our own (Berrington Print) and they differed widely £700 up to £1400 (Berrington). He felt that probably it will be around £850. Across the year new revenues should mean up to £1500 a year will come off our costs with a much better presented product. This would be a matter for the next meeting and new council but would have to be decided and confirmed then. It was agreed that despite not seeing the final proposed issue this action should take place and that Peter Fellows would be tasked to make it happen. **Action Peter**

It was suggested that we may save money on postal distribution and RBOA are to be asked about their method. **Action David**

11. Road Shows/Crick

A brief discussion took place on Crick and whether we should be there – costs amount to £700 plus in site rental and travel/subsistence. Agreed it would be a discussion to be had at the AGM as to its usefulness – certainly no real indication that it helped recruitment.

Road Shows were successful in providing our members an opportunity to see us at work. Richard felt that effort should be made to continue these but seek out bigger venues and will work on this to do them again in the late winter and early spring.

12 AOB

Everyone was happy that everything had been dealt with and the Chairman made a special mention of the help and dedication given to Council by the retiring Howard Anguish over the past years wishing him well for the future. Howard in turn made it clear he would continue to represent NABO in the North East and Humber region as he is happy to help elsewhere when called upon.

Meeting ended at 3-15pm

Approved
[Signature]
26/11/11