

Minutes of a COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 9th June 2012

Present: David FLETCHER(Chair), Stephen PETERS, John SLEE, Richard CARPENTER, Simon ROBBINS

Guests : Colin and Frances Tuck

1. APOLOGIES

Peter FELLOWS, Geoffrey ROGERSON, Andy COLYER.

DF welcomed Colin Tuck and Frances Tuck, NABO Members and current Chair and Secretary respectively of The Boating Association (TBA) .

2. MINUTES 28th April 2012

- a) Minutes were approved unanimously
- b) Matters Arising/Actions
 - i) DF reported that he had not written a draft letter for the use of Regional Reps to send as introduction to Local Partner ships but had been making personal contacts with some. Stephen had a good item in NN that is suitable for this SP
 - ii) No report from GR on whether a meeting has been set up with Local Partnership Chair and BW Manager. GR
 - iii) NABO Policy articles had been recirculated by RC to Boating Press
 - iv) SR reported that he had been pushing dialogue with BW but with little response on their current attitude to Boat Moving Powers. He continues to do so.
 - v) DF had spoken to Dean regarding the on-going dialogue and shabby response to the H&S issues on the Staffs and Worcester. He seemed to accept that this was done badly in private. DF stressed that if there had been more dialogue with UG's before "jumping into action" much could be resolved sensibly.
 - vi) New Waterways Advisory Group. DF reported that he had applied as requested by Council.

3. LICENSING, MOORINGS and CHARGING (default)

- a) **Houseboat Update and Consultation.** SR outlined some of the background on his campaign (over many years) to clarify the position with regard to Houseboat License matters. At long last a Consultation has been published and SR said a good part of it in his opinion includes a lot of what is hoped for. However it

presents a two tier system to an extent – those currently with a Houseboat License who have retrospective benefits and those applying for the first time. The consultation has to be lodged before 30th September.

After debate it was decided that Council should respond as a whole and SR would prepare his thoughts and guidance. He would be responding as an individual and as one of only 80 such License holders. SR will also write an article outlining the whole subject which may assist Council in understanding and possibly responding. DF will also discuss with RBOA to gauge their position.

SR/DF

- b) K & A. No progress though it is rumoured that consultation is imminent.
- c) Nick Brown is pursuing his JR on the current guidelines which we helped draft. DF will ask Sally Ash for a copy of a judgement and Simon will ask Nick. . DF discussed enforcement reports from BW which have become available through FOI – outline to be published in NN and web site **DF**
- d) 30km Enforcement Zones – further discussions about this latest term which has appeared from BW as criteria which adds to debate and inability to deliver for practical reasons. Recurring message is that guidelines can be issued but its about lack of enforcement which if resolved would result in sensible practical variations.

4. THE BOATING ASSOCIATION

Colin Tuck outlined the history and structure of TBA, largely based on Trent but with members originally based there but now in differing parts of the UK and Europe. He determined that his members differed from NABO in that without exception they were more weekenders rather than longer term cruisers. They were also mainly larger cruising vessels- often Sea Going capable. Formed as long ago as 1939 and active from 1949.

TBA suffers the fate of most organisations - limited active membership on Committee - but has been able to maintain an average of 12 working members. He felt it helped that they were confined to a more localised area which created a social membership and local activities.

Colin reminded Council that we had cooperated on the publication Advice to Skippers for the Trent and this type of publication was available for free to all skippers entering the Trent – it might need an update. RC was going to see if we still had the .pdf and forward this for review.

RC

CT outlined his personal view that he felt TBA was better off outside representation on CRT to be placed in a position to develop relationships but where necessary be critical. He had recommend support for Stephen Peters of course and said TBA was concerned at the mass IWA effort which may not represent boaters very well. Time will tell.

DF in turn outlined more of the history and original issues that led to the formation of NABO, surprisingly most were the same today, including getting active members – must more difficult for a small national organisation without a social section.

A number of areas were discussed for closer cooperation (something that happened already of course) and future discussions may take place about shared representation from time to time to help with workloads for representatives.

5. CRT

a) Council, Contacts.

DF stressed the current need to give supporting communication to the new Council of CRT by providing outlines of our concerns to the Boating representatives. Suggested that in terms of response and new relationship we target Ann Farrell who has specifically asked for regular contact.

After some debate it was agreed the list of initial issues should be drawn from

- Price of Boating Concerns – value for money
- Enforcement of Licencing and Moorings and overstay
- Maintenance of steady state
- Openness and transparency

DF will write expressing or views

DF

b) Navigation Advisory Group. As agreed at last Council Meeting DF had applied for membership as NABO nominee and was awaiting reply.

DF

c) HS&E and Tail Bridges

There was general discussion on the general issues in particular how BW reacted /overreacted in terms of structures and barriers following the sad loss of a cyclist wrongly using the simple end of lock bridge. It was felt that the response we have had from BW has been inadequate and so proposed that we seek a meeting with BW/CRT face to face to discuss the whole issue of H&S in relation to boating facilities. The general opinion is that we must lead on trying to get CRT to involve us on an advisory basis before reaction to many of these issues – this should result in a consensus of approach using experienced boat owners as opposed to the apparently knee jerk and panic reaction by BW/CRT Management. Meeting to be sought to involve DF/JS

DF/JS

6. FINANCE

SP reported our current balances as follows

SANTANDER Current Account	£2,500
BARCLAYS Current Account	£2,870
Barclays Deposit Account	£15,736
TOTAL	£21,106

7. WEB MATTERS

JS was able to report that PayPal is now sorted, had our first payer on it successfully. He updated Council on his activities – he still had small glitches on the system which he was slowly ironing out. In response to a question from SR Council learned that we are currently running a manual membership application record system as well as the new online system in parallel until such time as he and Melanie was happy to switch exclusively to on line only.

Council discussed new media Facebook and Twitter both of which we were registered for. JS stressed that it was important to keep regular updates for them to eventually work for us but also that it was probably our best chance of reaching newer younger members. Any comments about boating issues were fair game and re-tweeting things was easy.

JS will also ensure we have links to and reciprocal links with TBA web sites and Twitter Feeds. JS

8. ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

RC reported he had revisiting a number of targeted advertisers and had better response via agencies – he was hopeful of a deal with two clients (engines and chandlery) and had sent further information to agencies who had requested it.

9. NABO NEWS

The following articles will be written and forwarded to PF by 17th June

Personal Views on Houseboat Consultation (also web site)	Simon Robbins
Licensing enforcement Article (also web site)	David Fletcher
Colin Tuck will write a piece about the Trent and the real need for VHF cover and the dangers without it.	Colin Tuck
Article on Volunteers and why none when it comes to Boating Advice and safety	John Slee
Receive a small ad for TBA recruitment for boat owners specifically on Trent or Sea Going	Colin Tuck
Article on Jubilee Pageant	Stephen Peters
Boating on a Budget	Stephen Peters
Floating on the Thames with the Pageant	Louis Jankel
Article regarding web site	John Slee
Usual Chairman's and Editors Stuff	

10. AOB

1) AGM – view sought on venue (17th November) – Aim is for a simple South West Venue (possible Bristol, Swindon, Reading essential easy access by public transport – back up Wolverhampton BC which we know.

Thoughts on Speakers or a Road show format with a panel that might include Boating members of CRT, Local CRT Manager, K&A Trust Chair DF will start process of invitation once venue is found. RC/DF

2) Next Council Meeting – agreed due to Boating patterns that July 7th Meeting be cancelled with proviso that telephone contact and conference call could be arranged if needed.

September Council Meeting – agreed would be a midweek meeting as discussed in November and venue would be sought close to K&A – Bath/Bradford on Avon.

RC/GR

3) DF reported that the full BSS review was almost complete and he and Trevor Roberts were putting the finishing touches.

Meeting finished at 3.25pm

Approved
RC 2/9/12