

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Held at the Wolverhampton Boat Club on Sat 22 November 2014

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Phil Goulding, Stephen Peters, Mark Tizard, Trevor Rogers, Geoffrey Rogerson, David Fletcher

1) **Apologies for absence:** Peter Fellows, Richard Carpenter

2) **Council Officer elections**

Chairman: Mike Rodd: nominated by Geoffrey seconded by Stephen.

Unanimously agreed.

Vice Chairman: Mark Tizard: nominated by Mike seconded by Stephen.

Unanimously agreed.

Treasurer: Stephen Peters, nominated by Mark, seconded by Trevor.

Unanimously agreed.

General Secretary: Richard Carpenter nominated by David Fletcher, seconded by Geoffrey Rogerson. Unanimously agreed.

The following will continue in their current role: Geoffrey Legal Advisor,

Trevor Technical Advisor, David web site and membership admin.

Phil will be CC rep. and also be the liaison with welfare issues.

3) **Minutes of last meeting**

i) Minutes 18th October approved unanimously. Actions are complete unless recorded below or updated in agenda.

ii) Matters Arising and actions:

1 (ii) NN advertising - Barrus have now responded. See below under Finances.

3 (iv) EA flood risk consultation – Trevor has not got papers to work on – MR/TR
Mike will send.

4) **Policy Discussions: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting**

iii) Response to CRT consultation on Mooring Sales. Mark has sent off the response and we await the outcome. It is noted that Parry and others are saying that they will withdraw the auctions except in London, but that is not what the consultation says. The subject came up at the Trustee soirée on the K and A in November. We are unsure as to the position of other user groups, though historically we have all agreed to object. Mike will ask in NINF next weekend.

MR

iv) CRT's discussions on CCing requirements. These continued at a recent user meeting. The content is currently embargoed pending agreement on notes. Parry had hoped for agreement on distance/range but there were wide views, including 500 miles from IWA. NABO's position is that:

1) we need to see the conclusions from K&A trial,

2) It is up to CRT to set the distances and get it tested in court,

3) 500 miles and the like is outside current custom and practice eg Lee and Stort, and unlikely to be supported in Courts,

4) we really need to talk about enforcement of those moving little or not at all.

The meeting turned to enforcement. Denise Yelland provided (confusing) K&A data. It is reported that the requirements has been reduced from 6 places to

5. Never the less, 50 boats are reported to be in the Enforcement process. Trial ends in April.

It is reported that CRT are operating a Continuous Cruiser process for recent applications (2014). CRT are writing quarterly to those who “do not comply and intend not to renew the licence when due. We have no problem with this, but note that affected boaters may claim unfair treatment in court if enforcement is not more widespread than this. It was noted that CRT must apply enforcement with an even hand and without favour.

It was suggested that we should seek a meeting with Denise to better understand their progress, share views and report to members. Mike will assemble team and fix date.

MR

Our position remains that if CRT wish to make a further judgment on range and distance this, that is for them to do so and defend it in Court but that definition and mapping of ‘place’ is still a useful thing to do, given sufficient attention to local detail.

MR/MT

v) CRT consultation on Water
Mike has submitted a response.

vi) EA flood risk consultation

No progress. Mike will resend documents. Comments to Trevor soonest.

All

vii) CRT winter moorings

Geoffrey/David prepared and sent a letter to CRT on this, ultra vires etc. There followed a long discussion on the merits, custom and practice and policy on this item. It is clearly popular with CCers to the extent of £300k extra cash income.

These points noted:

- a) These winter mooring are for the most part off visitor moorings and this is a major change from the past.
- b) Moorings are always to be more than 0.5km from marinas (figure negotiated behind doors with ACC)
- c) It is the issue of having no specific location for the permit, which leads to illegality, but there is also loss of control by CRT, now that boaters can legally stay anywhere except VM for the duration of the permit. There will be issues with commune gatherings, neighbour disturbance and the like.
- d) A good suggestion is for boaters to pick a location and tell CRT, who may approve or not. If they move tell CRT again.
- e) It is important that we have recorded our legal objections to head off recurrence of CRT proposing 12 month roving mooring permit.
- f) It is noted that range for ccers has to take into account the periods with a winter (home) mooring.
- g) It is noted on the K&A that a group of boaters has set up in Hungerford with winter permits, but this is giving rise to problems with the LA.

Mark will write an item for NN to summarise the position, all to comment and continue dialog with CRT.

MT/All

5) CRT Matters

viii) CRT meeting with boating organisation – last meeting covered above. Next meeting early January

MR

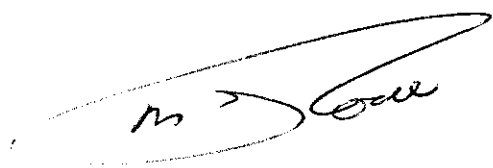
ix) CRT Shared towpath report – awaiting CRT output. It was noted that Jeremy Vine BBC Radio 2 got mixed up in a cycle speeding issue in the Royal Parks. It has many parallels with towpath use and abuse. David will put on item on the web. Mike spoke to Julie Sharman and she is working on the response. She has promised to let us see the NABO reference before it goes out to public.

DF

- x) CRT held Trustee meeting in Newbury. They held a stakeholder event with LA's, companies, K&A trust, Partnership members, senior staff et al. Our Mike attended, the only user group there except for IWA also doubling up for other bodies. Trustees were briefed to cover issues and Mike was asked about range and place and also communications (like morals – always poor!). Ben Gordon, new trustee was there and asking about us. To be added to NN list. Parry said that he was not in a hurry to replace Stevens on the K&A and that he would let Nick run for a while with two regions. **DF**
- 6) Membership**
- i) RCR. New agreement in place which provides discount for members when joining or renewing RCR. Richard made a further proposal that new RCR members should be a “free” membership from NABO, perhaps paid by RCR. This was debated, but a preference to continue with the discount scheme. Richard to be asked to further consider and discuss with RCR and come back to Council. **RC**
- ii) Mark asked for a long session on membership growth in a near future Council with Richard present. **MR/RC**
- iii) We need to capture some of the last year's work on the web site. One paragraph items needed. **All**
- iv) Membership renewals are out for December. We have closed out for June and July, and August and September are in progress. We continue to get lack of response to letters sent out and this is leading to suspension of membership. David had circulated proposed changes to terms and conditions to cover these issues. These were agreed. Mark asked for terms to cover Facebook. David will investigate. **DF**
- 7) EA Matters**
It is reported that funding has been found for the Thames paddle and rymer weir. The new staff structure is in place, and many names are gone.
- 8) BSS Matters**
- i) AC was held last week. Some disagreement over hire boat code issues, but overall the work moves forward.
- ii) TC meetings will be held in November, and MC in December. **TR, MR
DF**
- 9) Finances**
- i) Current balances:
Barclays current account -£4,244
Barclays deposit account - £8,753
Santander - £4,244
Total - £15,674
- iii) Definition of Audit. Council were asked to approve the following definition of audit.
Council defines the work it expects to be carried out by the auditor appointed under paragraph 8.2 of the constitution to be: *“an examination of the books and records of the Association, and verifying that the Association accounts are in accordance with them and the information and explanations provided, and are free of material misstatement”*
Council approved **SP**
- iv) Auditor. Council were asked to approve the honorarium of a box of wine for the Alan Davis. It was noted that he will not continue. Stephen will find a new auditor. RBOA are using Robins Accountants, Earl Shilton, Leicester. **SP**

- Council approved the honorarium RC
- v) Stephen reported successful trials of electronic payments. These to be continued. The system asks by email for a second approval before the payment is authorised. Stephen confirmed that he would accept electronic claims for expenses. SP/All
- vi) Richard had reported that Barrus have responded and offered £500 for three advertisements in the new year. Council agreed. RC/PF
- 10) Web matters**
- i) The web site is stable and there have been no significant issues. The calendar is not working as Google have withdrawn part of the service which links the Gcal with Joomla. This requires some study to fix. DF
- ii) Council were asked to approve software cost for web site software support and downloads from Joomla £89 previous reported at £57. Council approved.
- iii) The current release of Joomla is 2.5. Support for this will be withdrawn in 2015, and we will have to consider upgrade again. David will liaise with John Slee on this issue. DF
- 11) AGM**
- i) There was a poor turnout from members. Richard made a proposal to have a less elaborate event next year, and combine it with a council meeting. There was a general agreement, but concluded that we should poll the membership before finally deciding MR/RC
- ii) Speakers Dean Davis and RCR worked out well, but it is an embarrassment to ask these people and then not be able to fill the room.
- iii) Stafford boat club catering staff were surly and unhelpful. It was noted that they had lost the booking and this caused last minute concerns.
- 12) NABO news**
- i) Next edition is due this week
- ii) Potential items are
- Louis' contribution
 - Rogues gallery for the new council
 - Water Consultation
 - Mooring Consultation
 - Strong stream warnings
 - Closure of the Waggon and Horse
- PF/All**
- 12) AOB**
- i) Next Council meeting to be held at Wolverhampton on 24 January. Richard to book please. The club said we could have had catering if we had booked ahead! Stephen proposed a payment of £40 to the boat club to cover for room hire for the last two meetings. Council agreed RC
- ii) Other meetings are 14 March, 25 April, 13 June, 25 July 5 September, 17 October, AGM 14 November. SP
All
- iii) Mike will attend a NINF meeting next weekend. He declined to replace Michael Stimpson. MR
- iv) David has sent in an application to the Broads navigation advisory committee. We shall see.

DSF 24 11 14


24/1/2015