

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

Held at the Wolverhampton Boat Club on Sat 24 January 2015

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Peter Fellows, Stephen Peters, Mark Tizard, ,
Geoffrey Rogerson, David Fletcher Members Helen Hutt, Allan Richards,
Sadie Dean

1) **Apologies for absence:** Richard Carpenter, Phil Goulding, Trevor Rogers

2) **Minutes of last meeting**

i) Minutes 22nd November approved unanimously. Actions are complete unless recorded below or updated in agenda.

ii) Matters Arising and actions:

3(ii) EA flood risk consultation – Trevor has got papers to work on. Mike will follow up again

MR/TR

4(iii) CRT mooring sales. Mike reported that NINF members were not interested. NABO will follow arguments alone.

4(iv) meeting with Denise Yeland to discuss enforcement. Not actioning this month because so much else going on this subject.

6(i) RCR discussion required by Richard re membership options.

RC

6 (iii) No action on capture of NABO Achievements for the web site, needs follow up again

All

3) **Policy Discussions: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting (not strictly as agenda)**

i) Report on CRT / Users meeting on 19 January. It was noted that the content of this is confidential pending CRT discussions with trustees and their final decision making. This not to be repeated or published.

a. CRT presented Dean Davies' document "Short Term Moorings - Framework for Change", which was complete in 2014 and approved by NAG. We had no chance to review. Main issue for us is that local partnership teams are making local decisions without any reference to National policy, and are missing outside view and being inconsistent. CRT's Debbie Lumb understood the issue. We liked the structure of the K&A review (see item 4 ii below) because it addresses these issues, but the recent Liverpool Link and the actions of the SE Partnership group do not take national issues into account. We need to monitor Debbie's output

MT

b. CRT presented changes to Terms and Conditions for private boat licence. This was billed as minor changes, but evidenced by much red ink. Again no chance to review before meeting. Debbie promised to send a note covering the logic behind the changes and a legal justification, but this is already late from their promise of 23 January. Geoffrey will review and make comments. Our view is that it is probably reasonable but the wording needs scrutiny.

GR

c. Enforcement of CC guidelines and 95 Act. CRT propose to increase the enforcement level to tackle the issue. 5400 CC licences at the moment. 16% are moving 5kms or less in year. A further 50% are moving 20kms or less. Only 34% move more than 20kms. CRT propose to refuse licence renewal for those moving less than 5kms and start legal proceedings. No licences were removed last year. Of 800 'new' CC licences, 20 are now in enforcement for lack of movement. Discussion: Can they prosecute this many? CRT say they are going to budget for this. They say they are looking into streamlining cases for none residential boats. London is seen as a major problem.

We wonder whether they have the resolve to push this through.

It is noted that CRT are not talking about non return rules, as Sally Ash has said in the past.

CRT should not use Part 8 proceedings against live aboard and this may cause boaters to be denied a fair hearing.

CRT's welfare office is in place and he needs to be part of this, to prevent unreasonable action against vulnerable boaters without due process.

Our view is in support of this, and that CRT should have no problem with the Courts with the range being less than the 10kms stated in the Davies case.

Chairman will follow up

- d. Mayer judgement. This is the case that concluded in 2013 but CRT withheld the release of the judgement. Our view is that it is good common sense, and mostly helpful to CRT, but there are issues. Some questions have been raised and are on our web site. They are to be sent to CRT Jackie Lewis for answers.

MR

- e. The future of the National Boating Associations meetings with CRT. Chairman said that he had been forming a view that CRT were taking over the meetings and preventing open discussions to users agenda. IWA continue to hold their own 1 to 1 meetings with CRT. Other players are not pulling their weight. But this last meeting was so significant, Chair is changing view. Got to continue at present but keep under review. We would also continue to meet with ACC and RBOA before the meetings.

MR

- ii) NABO Council EA Flood consultations. Trevor has not been in touch. The view is that this not a must for us.

MR

MR

- iii) NABO Council agenda and minutes. Vice Chair proposed that we make an effort to publicise these as it demonstrates what we are doing. It was noted that minutes would require redaction. All agreed. David will make a menu item on the web site and commence upload.

DF/MR

4) CRT Matters

- i) CRT Liverpool link consultation has been responded to. CRT took some flack on this because it was not published on the web site, and we only became aware through the IWA news letter. Some NABO publicity achieved a response from 20 members, with good quality of input. NABO repose was made and complaints about the way it was handled. It is noted that the link is only available April to October and this is a shame. David will raise the issue in NAG.

DF

- ii) K&A mooring review. Geoffrey reported on this following recent meeting. CRT have said 64 boats are under enforcement being 10% of the boats involved. They are really waiting to the end of April to see how all this ends. It is not clear how the new enforcement initiative fits in with this. We continue to monitor. Geoffrey (and Andy Colyer) have been invited to be part of the working party undertaking the review.

GR

- iii) Dredging. CRT have committed to spend £10m on dredging next year. They are proposing a hot line for shallow spots so they can respond. Vicky Taylor gave the presentation and seems to be a useful and enthsuatic contact. Vice Chair asked if we could publish a list of contacts for CRT so that boaters can direct their comments. Agreed this would be very useful.

MT/MR

5) 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. This item carried over from last MoM

RC

ii) Mark asked for a long session on membership growth in a near future Council with Richard present. This item carried over from last MoM

MR/RC

iii) Historic membership overpayments. We have many of these in the accounts which have been the result of duplicate payments made by standing orders when the subs went up from £10 to £15. David reported that he feels there is no major risk of repayment being required and agreement of council was sought to treat these as donations. Agreed and David will instruct Helen accordingly. This is in accordance with the new terms and conditions updated at the end of 2014. The only exceptions are 7 ex members for whom we have no address but continue to pay us by s/o. These are Holmes, Iveson, Pryce, Clifton, Mundy, Hankin and Segal. The liability on these amounts to £555 and will grow by some £70 per year, as they are for the most part paying £10. We have written to them all again in January 15 and am recording the letters returned to as a record of our endeavours to find them. It was agreed to put a piece in NN asking members if they know of these people and this would be our final action on this matter. At year end it was considered correct that we should only carry over the last payment as a liability for repayment. All other funds to be taken as donations. David will instruct Helen.

DF/HH

iv) Membership renewals are out for February. We have closed out for August and September and October is in progress. We have had a small number of new memberships and some old members coming back.

DF/HH

DF

6) EA Matters

i) Chairman reported that an NNUF meeting is forthcoming and he would attend.

MR

ii) The EA have a working group considering whether they can arrange boat registration renewal on the internet. You have to wonder where they have been for the last ten years.

iii) Charges for mooring on Thames at Oxford. A member has been in touch about this. Many boats have been displaced from the canal, and moorings are busy. EA are making charges of £100 per night after two days, and in this case despite the fact that red warnings are in place. EA are reported to be not even handed in that they do not charge for those with a marina mooring. It appears that there is no policy on this. Mark is in touch with the member. Mike will ask about this in the NNUF.

MT/MR

7) BSS Matters

i) TC was held late November to consider the proposed hire boat ECP changes recommended by AC. David and Mike attended. Discussion was able to resolve most issues and proposals were prepared for MC. The work moves forward.

ii) MC meeting was held in December, and the ECPs and other hire boat code issues were agreed to go to consultation in 2015.

iii) The Parliamentary group on CO will meet in January to review two CO poisoning events on boats. BSS will present and Ian Fletcher member will attend too. David will follow the result.

DF

8) Finances

i) Current balances:

Barclays current account -£6,152

Barclays deposit account - £8,756

Santander - £1,334

Total - £16,242

ii) Stephen and Helen produced an expenditure report budget. Income is down on expected figure. David is requested to identify the number of renewals per quarter, so we can see what the distribution is..

DF

- iii) Stephen noted that travel expenses exceed annual budget already. He proposed that the petrol expenses be cut from 40p to 20p, effective after today. Council approved. All
- iv) Auditor. Stephen will identify an auditor from the membership list provided. SP

9) Web matters

- i) The web site is stable and there are no current issues except as below. The interruption to service at new year was caused by the web master making some changes. The service was restored using available backups and expertise from John Slee. All
- ii) The Google based calendar stopped working as Google withdrew part of the service which links Gcal with Joomla. A replacement stand alone calendar is in place and working. This can be accessed buy all with author rights and Council members are encouraged to add items. All
- iii) The current release of Joomla is 2.5. Support for this has been withdrawn, and we must upgrade to 3.x. David has made a plan and done some testing with John Slee on this issue, and we should be upgraded by next meeting.. DF
- iv) Council were asked to approve software cost for web site software upgrade from Joomla (ACL tool) £25. Council approved. DF

10) NABO news

- i) Next edition is due this week PF
- ii) Potential items are
 - Mark on the perils of renting out
 - David on Waggon and Horses
 - Liverpool link response
 - Louis EA report
 - Dodwell speech on NE freight (see also NNUF paper)
 - Geoffrey on the Mayer case
 - David on lost members
 - Enforcement slide data
 - Louis FAQsPF/All

11 AOB

- i) Next Council meeting to be held on 14 March and we do not wish to move the date. Wolverhampton cannot do this date and we seek another location. Suggestions: BCNS at Titford, Holiday Inn Express at Warwick. Post meeting David suggests Coobeswood Canal Trust RC/MR
- ii) Other meeting dates are 14 March, 25 April, 13 June, 25 July 5 September, 17 October, AGM 14 November. All
- iii) Chairman raised the issue of attendance at Crick. The discussion concluded that it was a lot of money circ £600 and more for stand graphics and printing. We have not seen benefit for increased membership in the past. Concluded not go this year.
- iv) Post meeting note. David's application to the Broads Navigation advisory committee has been declined. The National representative is from RYA.

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