

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

Held at the Weighbridge PH Alvechurch Marina Worcester at 10.45am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
2015

- Present:** Mike Rodd (Chair), Richard Carpenter, Phil Goulding, Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers; David Fletcher. Members: Helen Hutt, Peter and Margaret Lloyd, James Steckerl, Stella Ridgeway, Alison Tuck.
- 1) **Apologies for absence:** Peter Fellows, Paul Howland, Alan Richards, Geoffrey Rogerson, Mark Tizard,
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting**
- i) Minutes 13<sup>th</sup> June April approved unanimously. Actions are complete unless recorded below or updated in agenda.
- ii) Matters Arising and actions:
2. (ii): these items from 2.(ii)
- Dredging – No progress on getting a list of regional CRT contacts for dredging. Vicky Taylor is in charge. Mark will chase again. **MT**
- Ombudsman committee. Action required to send a letter to CRT recording our dissatisfaction that there is no user scrutiny. **MR**
- K&A moorings trial. We will await the promised CRT report before further action.
- RCR no action expected now. There is no better deal available. Therefore we will try and sell the space in NN and drop RCR when it suits us. **RC/PF**
- We have no candidate for London rep. David will look at recent recruit names and circulate. **DF**
3. (vi) Bridge automation. Phil reported that things were going slowly. There are reportedly safety concerns. David will ask at NAG. **DF**
4. (iii) Boater representative elections. Stella raised the issue that boaters without access to mail and internet were not able to receive the information for this. Mike will raise with CRT. **MR**
- 3) **Policy Discussions: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting**
- i). Report and discussion on meeting with Mike Grimes of CRT  
Mark and Mike had met with Mike Grimes, newly appointed Head of Boating, responsible for private and commercial boating, licencing and evasion. It was a déjà vu moment, similar to several others in this post and more senior. He said that he understands that they have ignored customers. Example given of announcement that meetings with National Boating Organisations were going to stop, with no discussion etc. Mike also presented an example of a badly worded enforcement letter (later Mark was asked to rewrite it for them!), and the case of a boat stuck behind the Rufford breach without help was raised. There is some evidence of new thinking, and we have cautious optimism. As there will be no further meetings between CRT and the National Boating Associations, we have to ensure that we drive the individual meetings between CRT staff and NABO. **MR/MT**
- ii). Winter moorings. CRT plans for WM have been announced and they are to drop the roving mooring option as used last year. Council reiterated support for VMs in the old style of fixed location, and tolerance of residential status. Steve Haywood in Canal Boat has written that he is convinced that 'changes in the winter mooring' are due to NABO's objections and that this will not help recruiting from CC boaters. ACC

have reported the same and cited CRT as the source. CRT say they did not say this. Facebook already carries a rejection. It was agreed that we should go back to Canal Boat with a letter to put the record straight. **MR**

iii). CRT Terms and Conditions.

CRT have not replied to our submission and will not do so. We have the latest comments from Shakespeare to hand. Council concluded that we should not let this rest and write to CRT to put them on formal notice of our objections. Council discussed the suggestion from Shakespeare that we advise members to qualify their renewals with a prepared suggested legal statement. It was agreed that this should be subject to further discussion and decision. We should at least advise CRT of this beforehand so that members were not inconvenience by CRT refusing a licence as a consequence. **MT**

iv). CRT enforcement

Stella raised over evidence that that CRT are acting numerically disproportionately against those least able to defend themselves, through age, medial issues, and lack of IT support.

#### 4) **CRT Matters**

i) Meeting with CRT and National Boating Associations

This took place on 6 July with the main items being winter moorings, enforcement work flow, and licencing. These items covered in MT's report circulated previously.

ii) Report on London situation.

CRT announced that VM's would be £25 per day. BRG rejected this as there was no prior notice or consultation. It is now being consulted on.

iii) New CC requirements

CRT have some published data covering number of part period licences issued for not moving enough. The most obvious fact is that the numbers are not very large.

#### 5) **Membership, promotion and marketing**

i) Update of attracting new members.

The rate of new members has dropped to a steady drip, rather than flow. A reprint of pamphlets has been made. **All**

ii) Report following meeting with RCR.

As noted above under notes of last meeting.

iii) Planning for AGM.

Council nominations are now due, and must be finished by 2<sup>nd</sup> October. There was discussion on the merits of a speaker, and we were reminder that last year we concluded not to have one, and have a first Council in the afternoon, being more time efficient. The matter of electronic membership was briefly discussed. There were recognised to be benefits but also some disadvantages. It was concluded not to generate a resolution for the AGM in haste, but further consider the issue.

iv) Regional representatives.

Chairman asked what they were doing and how we could encourage them to be proactive in reporting on local issues. Could we think of a simple was of reporting so that there was a steady flow of information? Mike will contact all and see what is to be done. **MR**

#### 6) **EA Matters**

i) The upcoming NUFF clashes with the CRT meetings. Graham Paterson will attend for us.

ii) IWA have been to see the new Waterways Minister no doubt pleading with

him to fund the transfer of EA waters. What should we do? Agreed that Mike would write to him advising him of our concerns re funding and ability of CRT to undertake new ventures at this time.

MR

iii) EA Thames enforcement of visitor moorings by a contractor has been extended to 24 sites. Council are supportive so long as 2 nights are free.

7) **BBS Matters**

i) Hire boat requirements.

These are now to go to consultation in September. The TC continues to work on issues around training for non slip surfaces. There are so many different types it is proving difficult to word the requirements to be even handed. This has no effect on private boaters.

ii) Risk assessment.

The BSS office and a subcommittee are looking at improvements to the risk assessment methodology as good industry practice. Trevor raised concerns about how long this will take.

TR/DF

8) **Association reports**

i) Alison reported for RCTA and noted that they had had very useful meetings with Mike Grimes and most of their issues regarding traders use of time-restricted moorings have been resolved.

ii) RBOA Chairman was invited but not able to attend.

iii) CBOA Chairman was invited but unable to attend.

9) **Finances**

i) Draft accounts

A further draft was presented by Helen for 2014/15. Various items were discussed and guidance given. She will now finalise.

HH

ii) Current balances:

Barclays current £6879  
Barclays deposit £8758  
Santander current £2289  
Total £17,926

iii) Subscription rates

The Hon Treasurer confirmed that he would not be recommending an increase in the subscriptions at the AGM.

iv) Auditor

James Steckerl attended the meeting and gave some commentary on his views in reviewing the accounts and the presentation thereof. He raised the issues:

Recording of authorisation of expenditure  
Presentation of the adjustments for the historic subscription clean up  
Additional cost centres for expenditure to provide greater transparency  
Identifying the cost of PayPal

Helen, Stephen and Mike will further consider.

HH/SP/  
MR

v) Potential members insurance

Helen presented further details of the potential of having members insurance what would undercut the IWA scheme. We would offer this as a membership benefit. Council were supportive. All are asked to consider and make comments.

All

vi) NN advertising

The Gen Sec reported on his progress to get more advertising income. He had written to some 50 potential buyers and received 11 responses. Richard proposes to sell half page packages with the extra offer of one off one page articles. Council supported and asked Richard to continue.

RC

9) **Web matters**

i) Web site software

The web site is now running on the latest available software in all categories. This is mainly Joomla 3.4 and CB2.0.10 with add ons. Clean up is in progress.

10) **NABO News**

Articles so far for the September issue:

Fly on the wall (Mike)

Market traders report (Paul)

AGM notes (Richard)

CRT Council item (Stella)

Missive on enforcement situation (Mark)

Membership issues (David)

11 **AOB**

i) Stella Ridgway introduced herself and gave us a summary of her background and views. She proposes to stand for CRT council as a boater representative. Council thanked her and promised to consider support of the Association.

All

ii) Phil recorded his view that there were still not enough good moorings and this contributed to overstaying in hot spots.

iii) Peter Lloyd said that NN in paper copy was important and we should be very careful about doing away with it. He also felt that CRT provision of sanitary stations at Bath and Middlewich were a detraction from service that should be available.

Visitors then left and Council discussed the issues below.

iv) The previous RBOA chair, Jim Owen has asked to join us and has a view on his role in NABO. Council had considered his membership and declined this in the June meeting. Jim has asked for reconsideration. Council again declined to accept him membership. Mike will advise and ensure that our evidence of his misbehaviour is retained.

MR

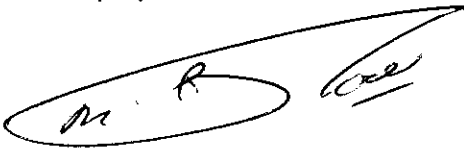
v) Council considered whether NABO should support Stella as the association's candidate for the CRT Council elections. All agreed. Mike will advise

MR

The next meeting of Council will be on 17th October, venue TBA, probably Wolverhampton again, if available.

RC

DF 06/09/15

  
17/10/2015