

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

Held at Wolverhampton Boat Club , Wolverhampton at 10.45am
on Saturday 11th June 2016

- Present:** Mike Rodd (Chair), Helen Hutt , Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, David Fletcher, Geoffrey Rogerson. Members: John Slee
- 1) **Apologies for absence:** Richard Carpenter, Stella Ridgeway, , Mark Tizard, Paul Howland, Stephen Peters.
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting**
- i) Minutes 12th June approved unanimously. Actions are complete unless recorded below or updated in agenda.
- ii) Matters Arising and actions:
Item from 2(ii)g. London Regional reps. There is some engagement but nothing is fixed. Simon Robbins continues to provide valuable input.
- 3) **Policy Discussions: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting**
- i). Report and discussion from meeting on 8th April 2016 with Mike Grimes/Matthew Symonds of CRT
Chairman reported on discussions. His feeling was that CRT are heading back towards BW behaviour.
Mike Grimes agenda is one of bookable moorings, and pay for extended moorings, a move away from boat checkers to a use of trackers or similar technology. He also maintains that CRT can require that boats with a home mooring must BFN. He is not listening to alternative discussions.
It was noted that CRT are now talking 1km moves every 14 days, and of 20 mile minimum range for BFN. We noted that
- CRT are undertaking some court cases to support this, and this was welcomed.
 - If they are going firm now on 20 miles range, CRT cannot say in a few years that this is not enough.
- Council would like to know the cruising pattern that has now satisfied CRT after previously having only been able to get a short term licence. Mark suggested to find out via social media.
- It was noted that members are raising the issue of breakdown stoppages, and that they appear to be increasing in frequency. David will ask for data via NAG.
- The separate meeting with Ian Rogers was also regarded as a waste of time. Ian is delegating all boating issues. We are again at a critical point in our relationship with CRT with no clear way forward.
- Council concluded that we must make our position clear by recording our view on these key points.
- Continuation of free mooring policy
 - Opposition to bookable moorings
 - Implications of locking in the 20 mile range
 - Requirement for boats with a home mooring to BFN
- GR and Chairman will propose a draft letter for review by all.
- ii) NABO input on need to improve canal facilities. (All)
Following the meeting with Ian Rogers, where shortage of facilities was discussed

MT

DF

GR/MR

wrt K&A, Mike has been invited to join a NAG working group active on this subject. It was noted that CRT are using their web site to display information, and they are asking for input to report errors and omissions. We reported these links in the last bulletin. It was suggested that these links should be on the web site.

MT
DF

iii) NABO 2016 AGM:

- a) Review last years' meeting format etc
- b) Planning for new Council members and changes in office holders

The AGM is on November 12th.

Council agreed the open meeting format without an external speaker.

Mike will stand down as chair after 3 years and Stella is proposed to replace him.

The aim must be to build a strong team around her, recognising that new experience is always welcome.

Mark and Geoffrey are not intending to stand again, but are available for correspondence, and in Mark's case for the social media. We have to consider how to transfer their current roles.

Mike will further discuss with Stella.

MR/SR

4)

CRT Matters

i) Report on NAG meetings.

David reported that the Operational meeting had been held on 8 June. The key issues were

- Services – ongoing work of the group that mike is to join.
- Dredging sub group is working with Peter Birch and HBOA boaters, and CRT are listening.
- Vegetation – new review being undertaken on specification, consistency of application, and contractor performance. David is to join the sub group.
- Lock spindle and pawls – new training video has been prepared and NABO will be asked to support. Some issues reported on engineering standards for tapers and fit of windlasses.

5)

Web matters

i) Web site software. The web site is now running on the latest available software in all categories. Backups are in place.

ii) Spam. Spam is an on going problem but does not warrant action at this time. We are getting some increase in rejection of email by non standard ISPs including AOL. This is due to the sensitivity of these providers. Work arounds are available if needed.

iii) Pamphlets. It was agreed that we would pass this to Chris Pink to see if he could come up with suitable graphics.

iv) Some work has been done on the web site wording, but more will be done in July to advertise our recent successes.

RC
All

6)

Finance

i) Accounts for 2015/6. Helen prepared a draft statement which is with the auditor for approval. Council reviewed and asked immediate questions. Mike will further review.

ii) Insurance:

Helen requested agreement to renew the Association insurance. She suggested to remove the value of the exhibition panels as these are now out of date and have no intrinsic value. Council agreed to both issues.

HH/MR
HH

iii) Current balances:

Barclays current account	£8,899
Barclays deposit account	£8,763
Santander current account	£ 795
PayPal account	£ 365

iii) Santander bank account. Helen and David now propose to close the Santander bank account. The effect of this is to block further payments from ex members who continue to pay us subscriptions at the very old rate of £10 or £15 but who have moved home and we are unable to contact. A very small number of current members have ignored the written requests for them to change banks, and we will address these people as any other failure to renew on time.

HH/DF

iv) Members' insurance scheme: Helen reported on the issue of live aboard not being able to cover all their personal effects. The broker CETA is addressing the issues.

HH

v) PayPal. The account is currently blocked whilst PayPal carry out a periodic verification review. We will co – operate to get this cleared.

DF/HH

vi) It was noted that the current auditor James Serkl is not well and will not be able to carry this out next year.

HH

7) **NABO News**

Articles for the July issue:

- CRT moorings issues Mark
- Insurance Helen
- Scottish canals Helen
- Middle level commissioners - mike
- Letter on wire on props David
- Membership issues David

It was noted that there will only be 5 issues this year. Peter will talk to Richard re advertising revenue ex Midland Chandlers

PF/RC

8) **AOB**

vii) Bridgewater Canal. It was noted that the NA is changing the rules over passage for CRT licence holders. David will make contact in due course.

DF

The next meeting of Council is listed for July but it is agreed that this would not be held. The next meeting will on 3rd September venue TBA.

RC

Signed.......... Chair 3/9/16

DF 12/06/16