

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

Held at Tamworth Cruising, Tamworth at 10.45am
on Saturday 4th September 2016

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Helen Hutt , Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, David Fletcher, Stella Ridgway, Paul Howland. Members David Lowe

1) **Apologies for absence:** Richard Carpenter Geoffrey Rogerson, Mark Tizard, Stephen Peters.

2) **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes for 11th June approved unanimously. Actions are complete unless recorded below or updated in agenda.

i) Matters Arising and actions:

3(i) Stella observed that there may be a link between CRT refusing long licences and boats being relatively new to boating. Are CRT trying it on?

3(ii) Facilities. Mike reported on the meeting on 21st June. CRT have produced masses of data, which has turned out to be impenetrable. The view is that it needs more focus on the basics of water and waste, and then engagement with boaters.

5(iii) Art work for pamphlets, the action has got lost. Mike will follow up

6 Bridgewater. The situation was discussed as several council members had experience on the canal. It was observed that the company is focussed elsewhere and have little apparent approach or expertise in promoting tourism.

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

i). Report on reaction of Mike's letter to CRT re our concerns.

Chairman reported that the letter had been responded to by Parry. The point was to put our position in record, and this has been achieved. Mike will follow up in the meeting with Ian Rogers, but there are no great expectations. It is clear that we have to drive any relationship.

ii) Report on CRT's progress on legal matters

NBTA have raised the issues of CC patterns for school age children and separately for pregnant women. They have involved the new MP for Chippenham, Michelle Donelan, who is supportive, but we have the view she has not been told the whole story. Council were not unsympathetic over the proposals, because it is felt that it applies to a very few cases and individual flexibility is enshrined in the 95 Act. Stella reported that CRT has 78 adjustments in place for concessions under the Equalities act. There are concerns about consistency of actions by enforcement officers. It is our view that CRT are losing the PR battle at the moment. Mike and Stella will follow up at the coming meetings.

iii) Unscheduled stoppages due to breakdown or boat damage.

Mike reported that the availability on the K&A has been disappointing after all the work that has been done in the past years. The key to this is to analyse the numbers. David will try and obtain these via NAG

iv) NABO 2016 AGM:

The AGM is on November 12th and Richard has confirmed that it will be at Wolverhampton BC. The meeting will be the same format as last year ie without an external speaker. Mark has said that he will stand again but not as Vice Chairman.

Mike will further discuss with Stella.

v) Membership

MR
MR

MR

MR/SR

DF

MR/SR

- David reported on a steady loss of membership due to boaters selling up and going ashore due to age. We occasionally get new members by word of mouth but there is steady decline. This is the same experience that other organisations are seeing. Facebook is not generating new membership. All
- 4) **Reports on Key issues**
- i) Report on NAG meetings.
David reported that the next Operational meeting is at the end of September. A working group has been set up to cover vegetation, and the first meeting is on 15 September with CRT's Peter Birch
Mark had reported that they have an unofficial NAG sub group of 6 of the new members who are quite a good cross section (includes 3 CC'ers) one has been taking Mathew Symmonds around London by boat identifying non towpath areas that could be potential moorings and another who is prominent on the K&A working with supporting travellers/homeless that includes boaters. CRT have shown there is no desire to engage with NAG between meetings so there is a general feeling of what's the point of a big agenda and a 4 hour discussion - echoes of the previous meetings with the associations.
- ii) EA/CRT merger.
EA have put back their next NUF as they have nothing to report on the discussions with CRT. Current plan is for the meeting to be held in November. Council discussed the issues but nothing new emerged.
- iii) River Thames Alliance.
Mike reported on the AGM held in July. A new structure was proposed as a limited liability not for profit company. He had raised concerns at the proposed structure which involved directors appointing directors, and a council with no powers. They have gone back for a rethink.
The finance report was rejected, as having insufficient detail.
There is an action plan for moorings, but it appears that the person in charge is also leading the Oxford de boating operation, so there is some lack of balance here.
- iv) CRT NUF in September.
Mike, Paul, and David Lowe will be there. MR/PH
- v) CRT Boaters rep Council
Stella reported that there had been no meeting in the summer, but the next would be on 30 September SR
- 5) **Web matters**
- i) Web site software. The web site is running on the latest available software in all categories. Backups are in place. The ISP is operating an email alarm system to notify problems. Nothing has affected our systems recently
- ii) Spam. AOL rejected some of the news bulletins letters this week.. This is due to the sensitivity of this providers. Work arounds are available if needed. DF
- iii) Email The ISP has increased the size of the mail box storages to 1gb. No action is needed to take advantage of this.
- iv) Some further work has been done on the web site wording, any further contributions would be welcome. All
- 5) **BSS**
- i) Hire Boat examination requirements are not final. BSS are preparing training materials and the package will go out shortly. Implementation is from April 2017. Work continues on the stability code, and the solution is proving elusive.
- ii) David reported on the recent CO deaths on the Broads. A couple took out a

recently bought motor cruiser and appear to have been sleeping moored up in a remote location with the engine running. Exhaust fumes had entered the cabin and they were overcome. The coroner and MAIB have yet to report, so we should be silent too.

- iii) The next routine meetings, AC and TC are in November. Alison will attend AC for the first time. There is a plan to have a TC electrical sub group meeting in October, but the date is still to be fixed.

MR/DF

6) **Finance**

- i) Accounts for 2015/6. James Steckel , our Auditor, has approved the accounts unchanged from the drafts at the last meeting . Helen advised that a change to the account methods distorts the figures, but in cash terms we have a small surplus on the year. James has commented on two issues:

HH/MR

We need to be more consistent is approval of expenses and invoices with two signatures needed. Helen has this in hand to enforce the new discipline. Cheques being paid in for subscriptions can take some time to be presented. It was agreed that this was not so important, in the context of volunteer services.

- iii) Audit fee. Helen requested approval of a fee of £75 for the audit services. This was agreed. James has said he will do it again next year, if we have no other way. Helen said that she had found an accountant Colin Walker who does club audits. Council agreed that he could be shown the accounts for this year, so that the possibility could be further explored.

HH

- ii) Current balances:

Barclays current account	£6,493
Barclays deposit account	£13,762
PayPal account	£62.75

HH

- iv) Corporation Tax Helen has received a letter from HMRC confirming that they do not wish to see our accounts for 5 years. The effect of this is that there is no need to make provision for corporation tax in the budgets.

- v) Santander bank account. This is now closed and the balance of £869.73 transferred to the Barclays 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.

- vi) PayPal bank account. This is now up and running again, and we should have no further trouble. Helen noted that they have amended their terms and conditions and included a requirement that users should not disparage PayPal!

- vii) Members' insurance scheme: Helen reported that 130 visits to the web site, but only two boaters have taken out a policy. Helen will redraft the instructions to members, suggesting they telephone first

HH

7) **NABO News**

Articles for the July issue:

- CC and infrastructure maintenance Mark
- Fishing from the boat Peter
- Roving traders report Paul
- Bridgewater David will chase Peel Holdings
- Insurance Helen
- Bow Lock item David

Membership issues David

PF/RC

8)

AOB

i) David L reported on CBOA activities. He said that through NAG there was good work being done guiding CRT on dredging priorities. He also reported on new commercial traffic on the Aire and Calder system. There were also plans for movements on the Trent and Severn. Recently a large vessel had sailed into Leeds for the first time in many years, and this was widely welcomed by river users.

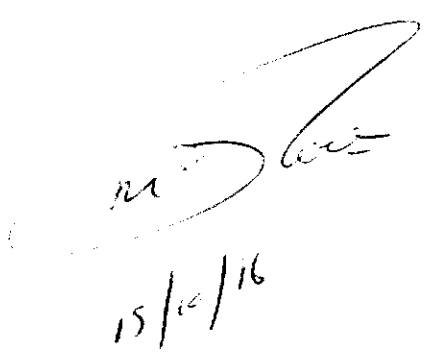
ii) Paul reported on RCTA activities. CRT communications have been difficult, but they had suddenly discovered that traders attract foot fall, and therefore to be encouraged. Stourport and Birmingham events are still to come this year. There is conflict with boaters who see loss of town moorings, but the traders try and work with all. RCTA association is growing with 100 members out of 300 on the system.

RC

The next meeting of Council is 15th October and will be held at Wolverhampton BC

RC

DF 05/09/16



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Stoe', is written above the date '15/10/16'.