

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**
Held at Wolverhampton Boat Club, at 10.45am
on Saturday 20th January 2018

Present: Mark Tizard (Vicechair), Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, Paul Howland, Mike Rodd, Alison Tuck, David Fletcher

1. **APOLOGIES:** Stella Ridgway, Helen Hunt Richard Carpenter.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- i. Minutes approved from 14th November AGM
- ii. No other matters arising not on the agenda

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- i. Chairman. Stella confirmed (by report) that she was happy to continue as Chairman, but recognised that she would be unable to attend meetings on Saturdays as this is a treatment day. Council confirmed the position and considered how best to support the situation.
- ii. Vice Chairman. Mark said he was unhappy to continue a sole Vicechair for health reasons. After discussion it was concluded to have two Vicechairs and Paul and Mark would undertake these roles.
- iii. Treasurer. Helen confirmed (by report) that she was happy to continue as Treasurer.
- iv. General Secretary. Richard confirmed (by report) that he was happy to continue as Secretary.
- v. Editor. Peter confirmed that he was happy to continue as Editor
- vi. Continuous cruising rep Phil confirmed that he was happy to continue as CC representative.
- vii. Legal representative. Mike confirmed that he was happy to continue as legal representative.
- viii. Web Master and Membership. David confirmed that he was happy to continue in these roles.
- ix. Publicity and Media: Alison confirmed that she was happy to continue take on the position of Publicity and Media.

All officers were duly elected.

Matters arising.

- Council considered the options for meetings, and were contract to try and arrange them on Sundays or by telephone. This was preferred to weekday meetings.
- Legal matters. Mike observed that we would benefit from professional legal support on Council. Mark will make contact with members showing solicitor as profession.
- It was noted that the wife of Ken Hylands has died, and that he may wish to get involved further.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I am unable to attend today, I have dialysis Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and as my kidney function fell to 4% last month it was in advisable to stretch dialysis out from two to four days as I would be poorly.

I attended this quarter's boater's reps' meeting with Jon Horsfall, Matthew Symonds and the last 40 mins Richard Parry joined us. Andy Tidy produced some comprehensive notes, which are online (I am sure he will allow us to reproduce them in NABO News, I will check).

I have nothing to add to them apart from the fact that NABO has a meeting planned in February with Jon to discuss our concerns as communicated in the recent letter to the Trust.

The Next Council Meeting is in York in March, the Reps have provided feedback that we feel at present as though the Trust don't value the experience and expertise that they have in NAG (National Advisory Groups), Council Reps, Richard Parry "has taken it on board" so we shall see. As the Trust is reorganising and we shall see if this provides an opportunity for further boating reps to be appointed.

5. POLICY DISCUSSIONS

- i. **Reengagement with CRT.** Our approach to talk to Julie on EA has been rebuffed and we have not responded. It was noted that she is the key person for the reorganisation. Little will be known about this until February, so we can have nothing to say until it is announced. We are to meet with Jon Horsfall on 26 February. We need to get the key points ready for the discussion. Likely attendees are Stella and Paul.
Action: Mark to circulate and all to comment.
- ii. **NABO awareness.** There has been good press coverage over our letter to CRT on the EA takeover in TPT and Canal Boat. Waterways World did not respond, and this is not a surprise as they do not take a critical role. It was noted that TPT are very open to us and will print copy that we send. It was suggested that Alison invite them to look at her canalside venture.

6. REPORT ON KEY ISSUES

- i. **NAG Operations.** There has been no recent meeting. The last one was in September, and the November one was cancelled for weather and non availability. The veg subgroup had a meeting in December, reported before, and meet again at the end of January to review the latest updates on contractor specifications. The next full meeting is in February but David is away. The agenda is: Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy, Update on Strong Stream web site, Use of Nicospan, Sub Groups update (Dredging and Veg Management etc), Navigation Dimensions update, Pawls and Spindles Update, Lock widths update, Mooring Rings and Bollards spec, Navigation Standards review by Group, Marple Wharf, Wide Boats (Potential structural damage)
- ii. **NAG License.** The Chair Mike Annan is waiting on a meeting with Parry to know the way forward. The members are at the point of renewal or standing down, so there is uncertainty over continuity. CRT are known to be unhappy about the present set up. It was noted that the IWA Navcom Chair has resigned.
- iii. **BSS. AC:** There was a meeting on 14 Nov. Main items: Office workload on complaints about examiners, RCD11 changes (reported elsewhere), review of first 6 months on hire boat requirements. Development of examiners. Next meeting early March.

TC: There was a meeting on 28 Nov. Main items: Close out of first group of electrical items, Review of hire boat EPC anomalies for heritage sail boat on Broads, Live testing of smoke/exhaust crossover trials in Feb, LPG tightness testing. Next meeting end April.

MC: There was a meeting in December. Main issue: Four year business plan. Significant workload/staffing/continuity problems to address. Certification charge likely to go up by £7 plus vat. 29 > 36 First rise in 8 years. Next meeting mid March. David asked for approval of purchase of two CO data loggers for use by members. This is to track the risk of CO at low levels in boats particularly in congested waters. The cost is less than £200. Council approved.

Action: David to purchase for the next meeting.

- iv. **CRT License review.** The output is due now. We consider that Matthew Symonds is struggling to come to a conclusion that is supported by the evidence or opinion. The likely outcome is considered to be removal of the prompt payment discount, the adoption of charge by area rather than length, and additional charges for CCers. It was noted that the NABO policy on wide beams has been length plus width, rather than length times width. It was noted that Council approved the change because the situation has changed in recent years, and the proliferation of wide beam boats and the impact on the system. This is seen as simple, fair and reasonable. (post meeting note: the current 2013 policy is silent on this issue, so there is no change to this required.) **Action Identify our members with wide beam boats. David.** It was noted that renting of boats continues and there is a new web site doing this, which has been reported to CRT. The recent licence change is seen as ineffectual.
- v. **London mooring strategy.** CRT have sent the questionnaire to anybody who wanted to respond, including non boaters and residents. The consultation closed in mid December, and we await the output now. The effort is seen as reasonable and sensible. There is a general concern that CRT are focused on reorganisation and have little time for other thoughts. Alison is working on an article about the consultation
- vi. **Blowers Green PH.** We have written to CRT in the last few weeks about this and publicised the letter. We wonder again whether there is any connection between estates and the heritage world.

7. FINANCE

Helen made the Q3 budget comparison available. This is looking healthy mainly due to budgeted expenses not incurred (eg legal).

The bank account balances today are:

Redwood deposit	15,000.00
Barclays current	2,307.34
Barclays deposit	3,766.78
Paypal	87.36
Total	21,161.48

There are no other financial issues.

8. WEB MATTERS

The web site is running on the latest software in all categories. Back ups have been done. There have been no interruptions to mail distribution.

The new membership software is installed and configuration work commenced. The plan is to transfer data in April, but continue with the old distribution system until May. Then if all is well, I will go live in June. The old system is retained and can be used by Alison for community activities. It can co exist.

A back catalogue of technical articles from NN has been uploaded.

David has scanned a number of documents from the archives of 1998 - 2003 and uploaded this to the server for safekeeping. They are not yet displayed.

David requests that his name be removed from the FB account, as he is not involved any more.

Action Alison

9. NABO News

The next issue is due with a copy date of 27 January

Articles for the issue:

Asset management - Mark

Rewind -Howard

Mersey Bridge – David

BSS – David and Mike.

10. A.O.B

There was an incident with the Cheshire Dag Hunt on the towpath at the Weaver Aqueduct, SU Middlewich branch. A member has reported this to CRT and Phil has a10s done so. The member is writing to Peter for inclusion in the NN edition. Others to raise the issue as and when.

Meeting concluded at 14.00pm DUE TO FALLING SNOW.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 10 March but it is likely to be rearranged for Sunday 11th March Location tbc.

Action Richard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.