

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**
 ~~Held at by telephone conference call at 10.00am~~
on Sunday 11th March 2018

Present: Stella Ridgway (Chair), Mark Tizard (Vicechair), Peter Fellows, Paul Howland, David Fletcher

1. **APOLOGIES:**, Richard Carpenter, Phil Goulding, Alison Tuck, Mike Rodd, Helen Hunt.
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**
 - i. Minutes approved from 20th January.
 - ii. No other matters arising not on the agenda
 - iii. We do need to find wide beam members. David to find list made last year. Members who are solicitors too. A barristers in London has been used by NBTA on the issue of reasonable adjustments. Stella will look for others.
 - iv. Blowers Green PH. CRT are now reviewing the situation, with a plan to lease rather than sell. IWA claim credit when they were not the initiator. Typical.
5. **POLICY DISCUSSIONS**
 - i. **Reengagement with CRT.** First meeting was cancelled by us. John H also wants a meeting and he has been asked to give dates, Wednesdays preferred. Stella is talking to John. In the absence of anything about the new structure, is there any point, when we might to seeing different faces? No announcement so one view is no point in having a meeting until got new people identified. Hoping for end March.
Action: Stella to arrange.
 - ii. **Licence review.** NAG had a conference call the night before release. Considered a bit of a damp squib. There was some confusion over discount changes, effectively the current 10% (80% enjoy) goes down to 2.5% but can get another 2.5% by web renew. For one year, there will be no increase licence price. On wide beams, the plan had been to have area based charges, but now with 10% and 20% increases in steps has made the system more complex. (Most fall in the 10' 7" 10% category). Congestion charges are missed out. Logic was if you moor in popular area, you get an added benefit, and this has a cost. It is suspected that CRT will think about a charge for this in future.
Overall Licence review has not produced anything new, and it is not revenue neutral, and is more complex. We consider that a lot of people did not want change, and CRT wanted to see as being listening. Not clear why congestion was not part of the London consultation. Why not? Considered too hard at this moment..
Roving mooring permits did not come up, because CRT could not apply to everybody. We consider that they will return to the issue of range again and try and increase.
Consultation has not achieved prime objectives, but there is not a lot of anger on this on social media. CRT will be content. They are asking now about boat width, as they currently do not record this information.

Our summary: Has not achieved objective, Widebeam owners got away lightly. Expecting 20%. Mark will summarise for NN.

Middle level The Commissioner rep has tried to get us to withdraw requirement on services. Only small income is expected from the registration scheme, circa £300k. They plan one central NAG with more influence than CRT. Mike prepared letter that went to APPWG and to nominated MP. There was a plan to put in two service points. The act went to HoL without amendment. Mike sent another letter to HoL as witness statement. We might be asked to give evidence. Mike will go if needed. Item on services is a good precedent for any future boating acts. The fact is there is not much land to make new facilities, so this is about keeping and maintaining to the current ones. Looking at reciprocal access deal with CRT and EA.

Wide beams CRT not sure how to manage the wide beams. Wide beams are vat free if residential, with certain tonnage and freeboard. There is a complex calculation. A few complaints in licence consultation about Barby marina, accepting wide beams although narrow canal on the Coventry, launched at Braunston and motored up to site. Julie Sharman looking at notice to say what canals are considered OK for wide beam and what is not. North Kilworth (Leics) is having a wide beam dry dock built. Incidents of wide beam owners in tunnel without stoppage and abuse of staff and volunteers. NAG sub group will look at this. Watch this space. Our view. Cannot let the wb destroy the canal bank. Dredging the canal profile is an issue. Wb are sucking side silt into the centre and causing dredging. Should not allow wide beams to be cruising on narrow canals. Should we act on this now? NAG licence are supporting the management of where they can go.

6. REPORT ON KEY ISSUES

- i. **NABO awareness** Waterways World never mention us. Others doing well. Mark sending letters to editors. We should keep doing more of the same.
- ii. **New extended stay medical questionnaire.**

Stella has had a long conversation with Denise Yellands on Friday about this - I explained how unhappy I was as they had not explained that this was to ensure that they were compliant with all aspects of the Equalities Act as it relates to disability and I have also asked that they put guidance notes as to why they are asking certain questions.

Stella is unhappy about the medical aspects of the questionnaire and the benefits question; There is a need to find out the service company they are using and the face to face aspect is just wrong - a visit to your boat, but this should be by someone qualified and who understands both boating and how a medical condition affects your abilities. Stella is very upset. CRT are taking issues on board and modifying documents, but there is concern about the questions. CRT say this only a trial, for comment, but this is not clear. Why have they done this without telling anybody, bit of a mix up. They need to explain why do they need to know some of the questions. Guidance notes needed. There will be concerns that it will be used for licence issues. This is in a background of good policy on adjustments. Staff are getting training including how to fill in the form. Last month they had 30, 28 month before. There are

staff at Milton Keynes and they are looking at web based system too. CRT deserve credit on the changes they are making. It is based on meetings with the Equalities Commissioner. There is no appeal on CRT decisions, just have to go to the Commissioners. Stella is using her MP too, who sits on the BWP committee, shadow spoke person. CAB to get notes. Not explained properly, and intimidating. Stella has asked for an item for NNUF. Stella is looking for comments and it is suggested that Ken Hylands be asked?

- iii. **NAG License.** Not a lot new , just about licensing consultation. There was a presentation by Julie Sharman on organisation, said that they have got to have staff who are 'on board'. Some centralisation has not worked. Got to reverse this so some responsibilities go back to waterways directors. NAG said that they have got to have a manager who knows about the waters, otherwise how will this work? We have no to wait for the decisions. Yelland was uncomfortable about Julie being there. The meeting was told that there was no intention for change NAGs, then all changed by Parry, going to be written to soon so an opportunity to have one central core and sub groups coming off it. Chair Mike Annan has been briefed. Would not be surprised if they did not change, Licence NAG has been mainly critical. Pattern of discussion that no feed back as to outcome on issues. CRT walk away. What is the interface with Partnership? Not clear, evidence of using the groups separately get support by divide and rule. Suggested that until they imbed in the business process, then it will never be effective. This has been said to Parry. Word is that angler reps will be added. This is a dilution of NAG and then the danger that the boating discussions will be lost. Got to avoid the return to long Powerpoint presentations using up all the discussion time.
- v. **NAG Operations.** There have been two recent meetings, neither of which I could attend. 29 January Veg sub group discussed CRT specifications for veg cutting and the like. I had provided numerous comments on the draft documents. It is reported that the meeting was cordial and constructive. There is another meeting on 5th April which I will attend.
There was a full meeting on 13 Feb and the notes are attached, not for publication. It looks like a routine meeting. They did not talk about navigation standards which is an item I lead on. Next meeting is June.
- vi. **BSS.** AC There was a meeting on 5 Mar. Alison and I were there. Main items: COP for examiners, Trusted Messenger, Business plan and increase in BSS certification, Development of examiners. A long and hard grind of a meeting. We expect a report on the 2017 incident to come out next week.
Next meeting early June. We are asked to consider if we are representing or have contact with the tenanted boat users? We should consider opportunities to cover this on social media.
TC There has not been a TC meeting since last year. Next one is end April. CO alarms will come up. Mike and I will attend.
MC There is to be a meeting on 16 March and I will go. Routine stuff
There have been issues with the CO recorders, and David will investigate further before purchase.

Action: David to follow up on this.

- vii. **CRT Council Boater rep meetings.** The next meeting is on 21st March. Stella will attend.
- viii. **London mooring strategy** There is nothing new, the report is not yet out but there are not expected to be any surprises. It will be as previously promised. Middle of London is becoming impossible.
- ix. **APPG meeting.** We had a late request to attend next week, with nothing in writing, Stella is in touch with Claudia. Stella cannot attend, and others are not available to go. We should get a written boating question together that Stella will send. IWA are the secretariat, there is an opportunity for three questions, one about non boating (IWA), RBOA on residential, as well as for boating. We have to agree today quickly.

Meeting stopped, cut off by phone system. The following reports had been sent by email prior to the meeting and are taken as read.

7. FINANCE

Bank balances are as follows:

Barclays current:	£ 3,105.94	
Barclays deposit:	£ 3,766.78	
PayPal:	£ 154.38	
Redwood:	£15,000.00	
TOTAL.		£22,027.10

No particular issues have arisen recently. The financial year ends on 31 March and the auditor is lined up to receive the books in May.

Could I remind everyone to (a) send in his/her claim form, signed off by another council member, for expenses up to the end of March, (b) advise me if there are any bills to be paid after 31/3 which relate to the year 2017/18 and (c) let me know if you are holding stocks of stamps etc, bought in 2017/18 but unused at 31/3. All this before 30 April please.

8. WEB MATTERS

The web site is running on the latest software in all categories. Back ups have been done. Mail for the last bulletin was rejected for hotmail, outlook and some yahoo addressees. I sent them on separately. There have been no other interruptions to mail distribution.

I have not done anything on the new membership software due to absence. I still hope that I will 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 retrained and can be used by Alison for community activities. It can co exist.

On FB I would like my name to be removed from the account, as I am not involved any more. Alison has promised to look at.

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 18 March

Articles for the issue:

Middle level Mike and Mark

CRT Licence Mark

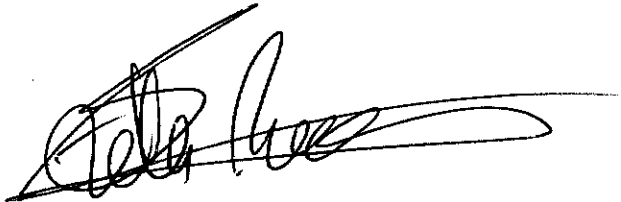
Item on Audlem lock cottage

10. A.O.B

Meeting concluded at 11.55am due the phone cutting off.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 9 June or Sunday 10 June Location tbc.

Action Richard

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