

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS  
Held at by telephone conference call at 10.00am  
on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Richard Carpenter, Phil Goulding, Alison Tuck, Helen Hunt.
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**
  - i. Minutes approved from 11<sup>th</sup> March.
  - ii. No other matters arising not on the agenda
3. **POLICY DISCUSSIONS: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting:**
  - a. **Re-engagement with CRT** Jon Horsfall is suggesting not to set a meeting date until the new directors are appointed and in post. These will not be announced until mid-May and then only in place by 4th June. The final round of interviews was last week. There are expected to be some external candidates and these may not be in place because of their notice periods. We note that some experienced staff have chosen not to reapply for their jobs and are to leave.
  - b. **License Changes**
    - i. FOI shows that CRT expect a net £500k increase in revenue. This is contracted by Julie Sharman (email) saying this is incorrect and revenue neutral. She is reviewing upon being shown FOI references. NABO has concerns about cost neutral licences not happening depending on the way this is presented. Likely effect is that increase of 10% in 3 years. Mark will do a statement on this as draft with a view to a letter. **Action Mark**
    - ii. There remains some noise on congestion charging and it is thought that CRT will return to this again. Indications are that CRT are doing as they will and not really interested in boaters' views. EG NAG licensing to be disbanded.
    - iii. CRT are reviewing benefits boaters receive by CC'ing in popular areas because they think they can make a charge for this. We need to form a NABO view
    - iv. There is ongoing discussion in the media about the CC range issues particularly for school families, term time vs holidays.
    - v. CRT still have their plans for London with more bookable moorings, 7 day mooring and reserved areas for business boats. The London consultation is not yet out, and the thought is that in the current hiatus, nobody is driving it.
    - vi. A general observation is that there is a lack of decision making in CRT, and we assume they are consumed by their own internal issues.

- vii. It was suggested that we send a letter to CRT regretting the dropping of license issues from NAG re long term relationship. Stella / Mark will do a statement on this as draft with a view to a letter. **Action Stella / Mark**

#### **c. New Data Protection Rules**

- i. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new EU law that will come into effect on 25 May 2018 to replace the current Data Protection Act. It's the biggest overhaul of data protection legislation for over 25 years and will introduce new requirements for how organisations process personal data.
- ii. For NABO the big changes are:
  - 1. We have to get separate and specific agreement to the Privacy Policy and the Terms and Conditions from the members. We cannot assume just because members pay that they agree.
  - 2. We have to record the date and way we get that agreement, either on the web site or by correspondence.
  - 3. We have to provide the means to delete personal data. Members can do this themselves on line or can request the membership team to do so.
  - 4. We have to consider whether we have to register. (Post meeting note: we do not have to register, but we do have to comply.)
- iii. David is modifying the web access system so that acceptance is recorded. Notices will go to members in the April bulletin, other emails and May NABO News. **Action David**

#### **d. Wide beams**

CRT now looking at how to manage growth and issues with navigation – Council has seen a 2-page document from NAG, and we need to form a view. This is also being mentioned in the National User group meeting. It was noted that there is a step change in cost of w/bs of a certain size because they become vat free. For CRT there are depth profile issues with wide craft as narrow canals not suitable as w/bs suck the silt into the centre and increasing need for dredging. There are examples of w/bs built or craned into marinas on narrow canals. Do CRT have the powers to restrict use of w/b on narrow canals? The key point is for CRT to say where they do not want w/bs to go. CRT may make a change to T and Cs or Bylaws.

#### **4. Reports on Key issues**

- i. **Results of strategic review** – Stella had seen a presentation in User meeting, but could not get the details, and anyway there are last minute changes, with redefined regions and the like. K&A is to be in one area, as CRT were lobbied

on this by county councils and stopped the split. There is nothing expected before 4 June. The new logo will be rolled out in May for rebranding.

- ii. **NABO Awareness.** It was suggested that we should promote NN again, using articles on FB and the like and perhaps an advert in Towpath Talk. It was noted that TPT is eating the paid for magazine circulation, and that new boater typically do not feel the need to join organisations. TPT have been very good to us and always published our material, TPT they only allow previous copy on line, not the current. We propose to push NN items on FB, Peter, Alison and Mark to talking about options to do this.
- iii. **NAG's –**
  1. It has been announced that NAG L&M is to be disbanded. Mooring issues will be transferred to Ops and license issues will be dropped as CRT consider "Licensing consultation has been done and now is a policy matter, and not for discussion". Last briefing meeting in May with thank you Meal MT will not attend. MT to draft letter to trustees, CRT and press re governance and importance in continuing to consult re licensing and terms and conditions if used to manage congestion, wide beams etc.
  2. NAG Ops. There was a meeting on 9 April, and the CRT notes are circulated. Tony Stammers is leaving this summer and Debbie Lumb is taking over as Safety head. Julies Sharman was there through the meeting and engaged. They announced that L&M would be disbanded, and that M would move across to Ops. There was long discussion about the engineering issues with wide beams on narrow canals. Engagement exercises are to be carried out. I have an ongoing discussion with CRT on Navigation Stds. This will benefit from Debbie taking over.
  3. The Middlewich beach was caused by overtopping following paddles left open. Repairs will take until end of year at least and cost £2-3m.
  4. There was to have been a veg meeting in March but this was cancelled at the last minute and is promised for May.
- iv. **Capability to cruise** Stella is talking to Denise Yelland requesting justification and that some of the questions might be illegal. Stella will draft letter to Denise but will circulate letter in advance. MT confirmed that CRT was also preparing a how to get impartial advice factsheet. Boaters that are granted overstays are likely to be given an official sticker to display - probably optional.
- v. **Minworth** Details are coming out on the Minworth repairs which resulted in a severed depth restriction. It now appears to be as a result of poor decision making by CRT. leaving contractors rubble in place to save money. Draining and re-excavation is taking place and this will cost more with another stoppage and rubble having to be environmentally disposed of.
- vi. **BSS** David attended the MC in March. There was nothing exciting. The four-year budget plan was approved. AINA are finalising the Hire Boat Code wording and this will go to consultation in the later summer. There was more about how to get to the rented boat market. The fire death at Stone talked about, but there is no official information as yet.

There is a TC next week. There is now a report from BRA on the studies done at Mercia in February, and this confirms the feasibility of CO and other pollutants getting into boats from adjacent sources. BSS are going to recommend CO alarms for all boats with overnight accommodation, i.e. private, shared, hire, hotel. This will go to TC and then AC in June. We shall see.

## 5. Finance

- i. Helen provided a full-year budget comparison for 2017/8, along with explanatory notes. The final figures are yet to be confirmed as we go through the audit process but they will not be far off what is presented here.
- ii. There will be one major change to the accounts this year: our current auditor has recommended we revert to splitting membership income according to the period to which it belongs – for example, a sub paid in October will be allocated half to 2017-2018 and half forward to 2018-19. This is the way Jon Darlington dealt with it but our previous auditor wanted things presented differently. A full explanation will be given in the draft annual accounts, which I hope to have ready by the end of May.
- iii. Helen also provided a draft budget for the coming year, for Council's comments and approval. The expected membership income is reduced to reflect the current trend. Also, the cost of meetings is reduced in expectation of more teleconferencing. Other items remain largely the same, including £2,000 for legal fees although this hasn't been used in the last couple of years. Council approved the budget.
- iv. We are now ready to close the accounts on the last batch of lost members who continued to pay us by standing order to Santander. We now have a tax year clear for these with no payment or claim. The credits will be transferred to donations in this tax year. **Action Helen.**
- v. Other than one unpaid cheque (3802 Rees) in the last few days, there have been no particular issues.
- vi. Balances on 19 April are:

Barclays Community	2,457.94	with no outstanding bills to be paid)
Barclays Deposit	3,768.66	
PayPal	350.81	
Redwood Deposit	15,000.00	first interest to be paid in 2018-19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,277.41</b>	
- vii. One other comment from me, already made to Mark: Tamworth CC are very keen to host NABO again – how about holding the AGM there?

## 6. Web

- i. The web site is running on the latest software in all categories. Back ups have been done. Mail for the last bulletin was again rejected for hotmail, live and outlook addressees. I sent them on separately. There have been no other interruptions to mail distribution.
- ii. I have made a lot of progress on configuration of the new membership software and I am now ready to load dummy data and test the automatic email system. I want to complete this before loading the main data base, otherwise I will be sending emails out to everyone. I am not expecting to make this transfer April due to other issues, below.
- iii. Data rules. The plan was to implement the new software and implement the new data rules at the same time. But this is now considered a high risk. The legal need is to provide tick box fields for member's acceptance of the terms

and conditions and privacy policy and then revalidate for all members this starting in May as a campaign. We cannot to the testing on the new software, load the data base, check for errors and have this ready in the next two weeks. So, I will add these required fields in the old software and we can use that for the initial members agreements etc. This has no impact in the long term, it is just a bit more data to move across.

- iv. Council approved the expense of https licence for web application pages at £50 plus vat pa. Action David.
- v. A draft of the revised privacy policy had been previously circulated. This was approved for use.

We have a member Janice Sterkl who has volunteered to join the membership team. We will sort out what her role is in due course.

**7. NABO News**

The next issue is due with a copy date of 28 April.

Items to Peter please

**8. A.O.B**

Meeting concluded at 12 noon due the phone cutting off.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 10 June at Tamworth BC

**Action Richard**

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