

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**  
Held at Tamworth CC at 10.45am  
on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

**Present:** Stella Ridgway (Chair), Paul Howland (Vicechair), Helen Hutt (Treasurer)  
Peter Fellows, Mike Rodd, Phil Goulding, Alison Tuck, David Fletcher.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mark Tizard (Vicechair), Richard Carpenter
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**
  - a. Minutes approved from 10<sup>th</sup> June.
  - b. Stella will write to Sue Burchett re her long contribution to NABO.
  - c. No other matters arising not on the agenda
3. **POLICY DISCUSSIONS: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting:**
  - a. **CRT stoppages and the like.** CRT are making early restrictions such as locking gates overnight, and we agree this is better than full stoppages. We note that they are also bringing forward stoppage works where the canals are closed anyway. There are examples of badly leaking gates that are wasting water. It was noted that there is a marked absence of a campaign on water usage on FB and Twitter, and there has been unboaty language on stoppage notices, sharing single locks and sailing referred too. It was noted that the winter stoppage working group has been effective and CRT staff have been open to suggestions and criticism. The stoppage list for 2018/9 has just been published. All these points are available for use in forthcoming meetings with CRT etc.
  - b. **Re-engagement with CRT.** We are preparing for the next meeting with Jon Horsfall. He was not so happy after the last meeting having been told that he is ignoring boaters. The Chair asked for ideas on the theme of "how to work together". CRT's agenda is very much on the lines of wellbeing, and we need to keep the boater's issues there at the forefront.

The main points identified were:

- keep at a strategic level rather than wittering on about small details.
- Deal with the right people, Heads of department and new regional Chairs.
- Engagement on license issues is important and stopping the NAG is a mistake., issues like butty, widebeam, tenanted boats, consultation, and use of plan English are immediate points of concern.
- Keeping boaters on board when some much general wellbeing promotion is going on to facilitate the contract renegotiations. Boaters are good ambassadors, who need feel encouraged. How will they react to DEFRA when the time comes for support?

- CRT need to show that they value the boating organisations. We usually only prosper when in conflict with NAs. We ask for CRT's public support for the work we do.
- The current data breach issues are at the heart of trust. Why are they things happening?

**c. RTA board meetings.**

It was noted that RTA have now prepared a new constitution and are looking for board members. The presumption is that this will be approved at the next meeting. But that the issues are far from agreed. Mike will review whether we should pay our membership after the next meeting. Action Mike.

**d. EA registration fees.**

EA have a consultation in progress and the NABO submission is in. It was noted that EA have rejected the submission by TUGn and this will cause a major upset between the parties.

**e. CRT Annual meeting.**

Stella will attend the meeting on 26 Sept. It was noted that potential questions to be asked were lack of governance for licencing matters now that NAG is disbanded; data breaches and best practice by including boaters on the new Regional Advisory Boards

**4. Reports on Key issues**

- NABO Awareness** Towpath Talk. Have published a very nice article on the K&A featuring Helen who has been cruising there. They are open to similar items.
- NAG Operations** There have been no recent meetings. The next one is on 5th September, but I cannot be there as I am cruising. The agenda is not set yet, but I will report when it is. There will be a further vegetation meeting in September around Napton on the sOx to look at works in progress. CRT are generally silent between meetings, there is nothing sent to us for comment. Debbie Lumbe has nominally taken over from Tony Stammers, but she is also silent. David has been invited to meeting with CRT on Navigation standards.
- BSS** David attended the TC in July. Mike was away. The main thing to report was the discussion on LPG gas testing. This debate continues and there is heavy push back from the examiner groups on the concept of allowable leakage rates. They want zero leakage. One effect of this would be to remove the use of Alde bubble testers. AINA is also finalising the Hire Boat Code wording and the consultation continues to slip. BSS have now launched the CO alarm consultation. The next meetings are in November.

## 5. Finance

- a. The Treasurer tabled final accounts for 2017/8, along with explanatory notes. It was reported that the audit process had gone well and the auditor had been supportive. The headlines figure is a surplus over income of £2700 for the year. This was after a drop in membership fees, compensated by a final credit from previous donations, a continued contribution from advertising revenue, and no spend in year on legal fees.
- b. Council approved the honorarium of £75 for the Auditor.
- c. Council again expressed their delight and gratitude to the Treasurer for the professional work and presentation.
- d. Balances on 1 September are:

Barclays Community	3,354.74
Barclays Deposit	3,770.74
PayPal	234.41
Redwood Deposit	15,000.00
TOTAL	22,359.69

## 6. Web

- 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 some for hotmail and aol addressees. The were sent on separately.  
There is a need to continue to monitor the activities from Eastern Block countries attempting to break into the web site through the sign in. All significant repeat logins have been blocked, and nobody has complained of a false lock out.
- Further progress has been made on the new membership software. The data has been transferred and it went live for use about a month back. There have been issues with new members signing in, but there are being worked through and we are learning about the software. Members can see their profile data in the new format and many have signed in and updated. Both Helen and David have done monthly record updates. Renewals are still going out via the paper system, and will continue for the time being. No further changes are planned for the next month, just let things settle down and continue to make the tweaks that are needed.
- The Joomla standard login/logoff web page software is now being used rather than the previous CB. This employs different but similar spam blocking software.
- The old CB software is no longer being actively used, but it remains in place for reference to the membership team. This will be switched off shortly to check there is no impact elsewhere, but it is the intention not to renew the licence towards the end of the year, and then delete it. The data is backed up and can be read with Excel.
- I have just renewed the domain name for just under £10. There was no benefit of doing more than one year.
- The Joomla system is due to progress from v3 to v4 in 2019, and I have to plan for this. There is no direct cost, but it is possible that our template software will require an update. This is a nuisance but also an opportunity. I do not expect other software issues.

- GDPR rules. We launched this in April, and there have been several targeted reminders by email, and all paper renewals now have the request. We now stand at about 75% agreed. Response is steady, but there is a way to go. Nobody has said no, but some are silent having been asked several times.
- An ex member contacted us and requested that his email address be removed from the on line 2004/4 edition of NN. This is being organised.
- The social media blog distribution has ceased via (NetworkBloggs), but postings on the web site are still getting onto Twitter in some way not known to me. I have done nothing yet about a new system for FB feed.
- David has been in touch with GOBA on the issue of sharing web know how. They have a new web person starting shortly and we will correspond.

## 7. NABO News

The next issue is due with a copy date of 8 September.

Items

Water – CRT Adam Comerford.

Technical – Tony Brooks

EA registration costs – Mike

TUG issues – Mike

Scottish finances – Stella

Clean air submissions – Peter via Simon.

Data breaches - David

## 8. A.O.B

The AGM will be held on Sunday 11 November. Tamworth has been booked.

Meeting concluded at 2.30pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 14 October at Tamworth CC (booked)



14/10/18