

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**  
Held at Tamworth CC at 10.45am  
on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mark Tizard (Vicechair), Richard Carpenter
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**
  - a. Minutes approved from 1<sup>st</sup> September.
  - b. Stella has written to Sue Burchett but address was wrong. David to supply address.
  - c. Mike reported that the RTA membership has now been paid, but the organisation has problems with viability as Councils have not paid and their contribution is critical and necessary. Another business meeting is due in two weeks.
  - d. We noted that the EA registration charge consultation is to close shortly. It is our view that EA are just going through the motions and they have decided on their intention. It appears to set a poor precedent for the future of registration and licence charges for a combined CRT EA navigation system.
  - e. No other matters arising not on the agenda
3. **POLICY DISCUSSIONS: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting:**
  - a. **CRT stoppages and the drought.** Adam Comerford attended prior to the meeting and he gave a full explanation of the water supply situation and the drought plans. CRT are seeing recovery of reservoir levels but they are not yet at a point where all restrictions can be lifted. Adam said that CRT had brought forward stoppage works where they had the necessary materials (e.g. lock gates) and the canals were closed anyway. We talked about customer perception about waste of water e.g. leaking gates. Adam said that such water was not always wasted as it was needed downstream to maintain levels and make up for evaporation. We made it clear that boaters had little sympathy with this when leaking gates were causing navigational problems and were also a hazard in the operation of the lock itself. We gave him feedback on issues surrounding the publicity given to the water saving measures and the closures. Adam said that if they started on drought notices too early then the trade accused them of scare mongering, and that it impacted on their bookings. CRT have to find a balance.
  - b. **Re-engagement with CRT.** The new regional directors were introduced to CRT Council. Jon Horsfall is reported as saying that we should not expect too much until next year as they get into role. They appear to be experienced in customer service and volunteer management. CRT are reviewing their Council makeup and address the issues of rotation in members and more election stakeholder groups. We should encourage as this is a sign of them getting past their set up stage and into a more long-term requirement. We regard them at a turning point following their recent reorganisation. These other points have come up:

- John Horsfall reported to boater reps that CRT consider boating organisations as important to them, as are boaters. He is intending to restart the national user group meetings.
- Stoppages. There is acknowledged to be an issue about the wording and consistency of stoppage notices. Apparently is very bureaucratic getting the wording agreed, and this has impact, but also regions are inclined to use different wording and this is sometimes meaningless.
- Complaints. Any complaint that has no regional home appears to get lost.

c. **CRT Annual meeting.**

Stella attended the meeting on 26 Sept. and it has been widely reported elsewhere. Adam C made a shortened version of his presentation to us, and there was also a good presentation by the logo branding person. The meeting was oversubscribed but then 25% did not turn up on the day. Very disappointing.

**4. Reports on Key issues**

a. **General Secretary role.** We debated the main issues and agree that we would make a break with Richard and take all work back from him, dividing workload as necessary. There is no immediate volunteer for Gen Sec but we remain open to new individual to take it on, recognising that it is not easy for new comer. There is a need for a name to be nominated in the Constitution, and we will address this at the Council meeting in November after the AGM. In the meantime, is was agreed

- Helen will arrange for a new PO box number based on Alison's address. Alison and Paul will arrange for post to be scanned and forwarded and cheques paid in.
- David will handle any correspondence, and contact Richard to collect the records various.
- Stella will need support to run meetings and the like and this to be further considered in the light of Mark being less active.

b. **AGM.** This is set for 11 November at Tamworth. Some preparation is needed, Helen will draft an agenda. We concluded to propose an amendment to the Constitution to change the notice period of Council nominations and resolution from 42 days down to 21 days. David will draft. We also need to nominate someone to help Stella run the meeting, assuming that Richard is not going to attend.

c. **Members issues** We discussed the main issues to be reviewed in the meeting. These items were raised

- Dredging. We have to continue to highlight the importance of this. CRT are reacting to HBOAs identified list and it does not mean that we should not complain.

- CRT responses to reports put in on line. Are they being responded to or do they just disappear?
- Are CRT delivering on minor maintenance items? We have mixed reports from the summer cruising?
- What is the cost of volunteer manhours, and is this good use of our money. It would appear that it costs CRT £32/hour to supervise this work. Is this sustainable?
- Are the regions operating and delivering consistently/ Can you tell when crossing a demarcation line? CRT are moving towards more decentralisation and greater accountability for the regional teams. Is this good?
- Environmental changes. What is going on in London with the provision of power hook ups, what does it all mean for solid fuel stoves and our dependence of diesel for propulsion, power and heating?

- d. **BSS** There have been no recent meetings. The CO consultation continues to run and we have provided publicity. There is no sign of the AINA consultation on the hire boat code. The next meetings are BSSAC 13 November, BSSTC 27 November, and BSSMC 13 December.
- e. **NAG** There has been no recent full meeting. The next one is 5 December. NAG has commented on the boater's handbook and there will be a new one out soon. There was a veg sub group meeting on 19 Sept. reported on separately. David has confirmed a further 2 years on this group, and that will be enough.

## 5. Finance

- a. The Treasurer tabled an expenditure vs budget for the first six months. Membership is slightly up on predictions and in the absence of legal costs, we are ahead of budget at the moment.
- b. Balances on 14 October are:
- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Barclays Community | 2,788.35         |
| Barclays Deposit   | 3,772.42         |
| PayPal             | 320.75           |
| Redwood Deposit    | 15,000.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>21,881.52</b> |

## 6. Web

- a. The web site is not running on the latest software in all categories. There is a problem with the template and compatibility with php. The current arrangement will not be supported after the end of 2018. A new template is required and David will work on this with a view to change say in December. This will be compatible with Joomla 4. There should be no cost. There have been some cosmetic changes to the current website layout, to make it more easily read on a small screen. Comments are welcome.

- b. The ISP went down on the morning of 9 October. It was their problem, not ours.
- c. Backups have been done. There were no rejections on the mailing for the last bulletin, and spam checks appear to be OK at the moment. Some free software has been implemented to prevent spurious logins by hiding the admin URL. This will be monitored but the false logins have dropped off and there have been no significant repeat attempts in the last few weeks, and nobody has complained of a false lock out.
- d. I have made further progress on the new membership software. The way that updates are carried out has been simplified and I can now move towards implementing an integrated PayPal portal. I want also to start with reminder emails for subscriptions this month. These will be simple at first so there is no risk of personal data loss if things go wrong (as per CRT). The software is due for renewal next month.
- e. The old CB software is no longer being actively used, and I will switch it all off shortly to check there is no impact elsewhere, but it is my intention not to renew the licence towards the end of the year, and then delete it.
- f. The web system and email renewal are due in October and I have paid this £110 plus vat. It is not proposed to change the provider.
- g. GDPR rules. There has been nothing more done on this. Some renewals are coming back without the necessary agreement and these will require further chasing by letter. I will consider what is to be done with those who just do not respond for consideration

#### 7. **NABO News**

The next issue is due after the AGM / Council on 14 November with a copy date of 20 November.

Items

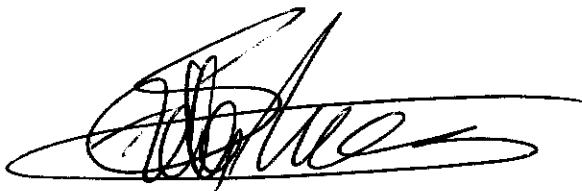
Green impact on cruising boaters – Alison  
Jenny Maxwell items.

#### 8. **A.O.B**

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

Meeting concluded at 3.15pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 11 November after the AGM at Tamworth CC (booked)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alison', written over a horizontal line.