

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS
Held by tele conference at 10.00am
on Saturday 16th January 2021**

The meeting was held by teleconference because of the lockdown for the Corona virus.

Present: Mike Rodd, Mark Tizard, Helen Hutt, Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, Anne Husar, John Devonald, Peter Braybrook, Matt Thompson, Peter Braley and David Fletcher

Apologies Ken Hylins.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- i. Minutes of last council meeting, 14 November 2020 were agreed.
- ii. Matters arising.
 - a. Peter Braybrook will attend BSS AC.
 - b. Other user organisations did not wish to join us on our terms conditions letter, but it is clear we are aligned.
 - c. CRT Boater rep meeting has been moved to 27 January.
 - d. No other items not on agenda.

2. Policy discussions: matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting

- i. Terms and Conditions. This submission was made in December, with a wide input from Council and members. We feel it was a professional effort. It has been referenced widely in social media. It has been useful for our own publicity. We have not yet had any response from CRT. Mike did talk to Jon Horsfall before Christmas, and he expressed thanks, but there is low confidence in CRT's response. There has been no response on GDPR or readability issues either. The Chair expressed thanks for all the work done in putting this together. Chair will make contact with Matthew Aymes to see what progress has been made. Mark observed that boaters in general are not really concerned, and asked for ideas to keep the issues live.
- ii. London Congestion. Mark has prepared this submission and it was made in January, again with wide input from Council and members. We agree that there is a real overcrowding problem driven by the cost of housing in the area. But the overall indication is that most boaters are just not interested in engagement on the issues. It could be inferred that most boaters are happy with the current situation, except perhaps for the lack of facilities. Local social media has been active trying to get boaters to get involved. CRT were not leading very much with ideas and there were no new suggestions. CRT said all they could do would be to identify a lot more 7 day moorings and charge for them and enforce movement. Increasing cruising distances would not help as the range is between Rickmansworth to the River Lea. RBOA has made suggestions on new moorings but these are hardly cost effective. Planning permission issues are limiting ability to build new facilities. The control method most discussed has been 'chargeable areas' but it is not clear how this differs from the old roving mooring proposals. Helen's meeting for boater's rep has been delayed because amongst other things, a late surge in responses to the consultations. Mark will ring Matthew and Mike will ring Jon Horsfall to get a feel of what is to come.
- iii. Strategy for meetings with CRT HQ and Regional Directors. The Chair wants to resurrect the links with the waterways directors, and expressed his view that these contacts are very important. Mike will chase up Ros Daniels, also Mark Evans on the K&A and Peter Braybrook will talk to the West Midlands Adnan

Saif. Howard sent a meeting report from the NE. East Midlands Peter Brayley will contact Phil Mulligan here. Anne will look at the CRT diary and let us know when these are taking place. In principle we will attend them all. There are several listed for January and February.

- iv. EA. EA planning is looking to the future, we think, with a view to transfer to CRT. This has meant lots of reorganisation and change in user facing staff. User meetings have been poor. The current issue is the introduction of parking type contracts for supervision of the Thames mooring. There are many questions about how this will work. There are GDPR questions on data handling. Implementation is currently suspended for three months because of the lockdown. We are suspicious that the EA trial will extend to CRT in the future. The user groups are working well together on this matter.

3. Reports

- i. COVID. We have had emails from boaters asking about moving requirements and CRT only offering restricted licences. It is apparent that CRT are pushing boaters to move and are relatively unsympathetic at this time. CRT are not closing towpaths or showing any wish to restrict access for the benefit of boaters shielding. Mike reported that Ken was very active in all this but was dismayed by CRT's lack of interest in the various problems he and others are experiencing. Boaters will be trying to stay near to doctors to get vaccinations. How will CRT handle this one?
- ii. Media & Publicity. Anne reported that there has been a good response on the terms consultation. There have been a few new members as a result of the publicity. Anne wants to do a podcast and is looking for ideas. Mark suggested something about the impact of Covid. Anne will have a look at the Twitter account and see what might be done with it.
- iii. NNUF. This is not operating well at the moment. Mike will keep us informed. The boater representatives are actively working together to try to get EA to restructure this and other user input, but so far there has been little feedback or interest from EA.
- iv. NAG. There was a meeting on 14th December, separately reported. The next full meeting is at the end of February. There has been no progress on Maintenance Standards. There is a veg subgroup meeting on Monday next 18th to look at the revised mowing maps. These are much better, and the remaining issue is defining locations for line of sight and remote moorings. The new maps will be used in 2021. Work has started on the South Oxford to improve the reed banks and offside vegetation. Helen reported that the Coventry arm towpath is being resurfaced to the edge, preventing pins. David and Helen will take this up.
- v. BSS There was a TC meeting in December to review user appeals. There was an MC on 16 December. The long awaited training programme for new examiners begins in 2021 as soon as lockdown permits. Existing examiners will be required to undertake the same training in due course. BSS has published its accounts. The main costs are staff and subcontract activities. A law was passed in 2020 requiring tenanted premises in England (which includes boats) to have 5 yearly inspections. This has caught out BSS as the electrical standard specified is wrong, and anyway expectations far exceed current requirements which do not include invasive examination and testing. There are parallels with Gas Safe requirements. How are BSS going to handle this?
- vi. Web Our ISP contract is due for renewal in April. David is not wanting to change and would propose to sign up for one or two years depending on the offer on the day. Council were invited to comment if they have thoughts or aspirations to change.

There have been problems in December with rejections from council members BT user's accounts. This has settled down in the last 10 days and the fix appears to be for BT users to white list critical email addresses. Council members are asked to report all occurrences.

- vii. GDPR. There were a few lessons for us having done the review for CRT in November. David proposed that we should gather the lessons at the present time, with a view to update of our terms and privacy policy in a year or two. If we make minor changes we will have to start the procedure of getting approval all over again. This should be once in 5 years or so. Chair was going to look into a peer review. There is only one member who has not agreed to privacy terms. They have been written to last week.

4. Finance

- i. Helen has circulated a budget comparison of the year to date. This is on target for the planned deficit of £1000. There is an issue with Midlands Chandlers and their advertising. This has been a useful top up to our funds in the past. We have responded to their queries and we are waiting for a response. We do want to find other potential advertisers.
- ii. Balances are as follows:

Barclays current a/c	1948.94
Barclays deposit a/c	4623.01
PayPal	8.62
Redwood	15613.43
TOTAL	22,194.00

5. NABO News

The next issue will be produced this week, with a copy date of 23 January

Items include:

BSS accounts David

Consultation responses will go in.

Peter has three items in stock.

John has some items on battery.

Peter Braybrook on chaplaincy

6. AOB

Mike has spoken with RBOA chair. They were in process to become a charity, but we understand that they have concluded that this is not possible. They would like to reopen general discussions with us.

Peter made the point that two policies items need a word check e.g. Electric scooter and Navigation authorities. This will be done quickly so as not delay the booklet.

Phil has a CRT stoppage meeting on the 25 January.

There being no other items, the meeting closed on time at 12.05.

- 7. **Next meeting** 10.00 am Saturday 13th March by teleconference

Minutes approved by Chair 13 March 2021

Mike Rodd