

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**

Held at Tamworth Cruising Club at 10.45am  
on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Mike Rodd (Chair), Peter Braybrook (minutes), Helen Hutt (Treasurer), Anne Husar, John Devonald, Peter Braley, Peter Fellows and David Fletcher

**Apologies** Mark Tizard, Phil Goulding, Ken Hylins, Matt Thompson apologised.

From the chair Mike Rodd welcomed everybody, some to their first meeting face to face. He thanked Council for their hard work during the last 12 months in difficult circumstances.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

- i. **Minutes** of last Council meeting, 24 April 2021 were agreed without amendment.
- ii. **Matters arising.**
  - a. Peter Braley reported that his attendance was not required on a regional meeting.
  - b. Heritage Group, Anne has received an email stating that they are there for Strategic Matters only. They agreed to advise on further meetings This has not been forthcoming.
  - c. Records, David keeps paper Financial records on behalf of the treasurer.

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

i. **CRT Terms and Conditions.**

Mike asked what action we can take now as CRT have published and it is fait accompli.

The Issues that we do not agree with are:

- a) Volunteers taking precedence over a skipper. With respect to this Anne Husar said that the wording regarding volunteers was quite specific. 11.2 in the 16/6 version states '*The Boat Licence does not give You any priority of passage on the Waterway. You must follow the directions of Our employees and volunteers who may decide which boats have priority.*' We need to be careful how we word our concerns as this does only say they can prioritise.
- b) Readabilty issues.

c) Possible future differentiation of License types.

d) other items may be brought together by David and John. **Action: David and John**

e) It was agreed to review the previous legal advice to ascertain the legal basis of license agreements and their issue. **Action: John and Peter J B**

ii) **GDPR, Privacy** Three items are to be disputed and queried:

a) Justifications for the use of data are mixed up David to draft complaint to ICO. Also the use of “legitimate interest” as consent for user surveys is to be queried,

b) Privacy issues are muddled up in the T & C's with the possibility of issues about the transfer of data to contractors arising.

c) Readability-This is still a problem with some sentences of over 30 words.

Mike and David will work on a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. **Action: Mike and David**

ii. **London Congestion Consultation update.**

The independent facilitators have done a review and CRT's response has been published. CRT have rescinded their attempts to establish “safety zones”. They still think it is a good idea but want everybody to be happy with any new proposal.

Mike agreed to contact Mychelle, a local member to keep pressure on CRT to listen to boaters opinions.

Mike expressed sympathy toward CRT and the problems of enforcement in London and on the K & A where it was noted that similar problems exist on the Kennet and Avon.

iii. **Heritage.** On Braunston Stop House: CRT have had interest expressed from two organisations. Anne has had very good information from a CRT volunteer. There are no minutes available from the “CRT Heritage Group” meeting in April. we wondered whether the Landmark Trust be interested. Anne understands that CRT will release a list of assets that have been sold. We need to maintain pressure. The worry is that sales will continue until there is no canal heritage left. **Action: Anne and David**

iv. **Facilities:** Discussion on condition of facilities on the system. Particular problems of rubbish collections. Collection problems are blamed on a shortage of drivers and contractual conditions. There is a problem of non-boating waste being deposited. NAG have discussed the issue and agree that basic facilities should

be provided. It was suggested that the License fee just covers navigation and not facilities which are an optional extra.

There is a trial of a "lavender Boat" on the K & A.

- v. **Calor Gas** supplies: It was reported that the situation has improved in the recent month. There is a shortage of new bottles but re-fills are being provided. Some marinas still have a backlog of empties. David informed the meeting that he had drafted a letter to the Markets Authority and asked whether there was interest in sending it. It was agreed to write to Calor for their reaction first. It was considered that restrictive contractual requirements by Calor effectively produce a monopoly. A cautious letter will be drafted and sent. **Action: David**
- vi. **Grant renewal.** EA and CRT are coming up for renewal of grants. This is going on in the background. CRT are getting so much bad press at the moment. CRT are trying to convince Government of reasons to maintain 40% of their income. EA and CRT are not engaging with us on this issue. It was suggested that we could be interested in the economic benefits and aspects of canals.

### 3. Annual General Meeting

Mark Tizard is stepping down as General Secretary and will need to be replaced. A Job Description will be produced **Action: Mike Rodd**

Mike indicated that he would look for a Vice Chair to take on the Chair in a year or so so that he can concentrate on his relationships with the EA. Anne indicated she had contacted a possible Council Member.

### 4. Reports

- i. Meetings with CRT/area forums
  - a. **Boaters Rep meetings.** Helen will be attending the Boaters Representatives meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September and CRT Council Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Mike Rodd has had interesting discussions with Mark of the Welsh Canals and K & A. Mostly these have concerned the safety on towpaths following an accident to Mrs Rodd. He has also met Ros Daniels about London areas.
  - b. **East Midlands** Peter Braley has had a meeting with the E midlands manager about Veg management and other issues.
  - c. **Ken Hylins** (Welfare Officer) has submitted a report. Ken's experience of serious medical problems has highlighted the difficulties of disabled boaters. He is now in touch with Matthew Symonds. The role of the CRT Welfare officer was discussed and commended. It is understood that there will be another appointment soon.

**Disability Forum** Ken represents us in this forum which has highlighted several issues which he is monitoring. Particularly there is what he terms a dual enforcement

process with lower management being very overbearing and ignoring the wishes of higher management who are sympathetic to needs.

- d. **Meetings with Matthew Symonds.** Mike meets regularly with CRT in this way. David will update Mike with issues following the NAG meeting the day before. Mike is willing to accept topics from other Council members.
  - e. **All Party Parliamentary group.** There is a meeting is September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021. The topic is about using waterways for more commercial activities. NABO are invited but there is not a lot of opportunity to contribute apart from by presenting questions. It is very much IWA led. Anne informed the meeting of parallels with the French Canals and the development of large commercial boating and neglect of leisure use.
- ii. **Stoppages.** The Winter stoppage programme is now published.
  - iii. **Media & Publicity.** There is a need to have someone take over the Towpath Talk column provided by Mike to date. Peter Braybrook said he would give it a go.  
**Action Peter Braybrook** (Peter Fellows left the meeting at 1350h)
  - iv. **Facebook** administration will be taken over by Anne Husar. David asked the meeting to consider expansion of our social media presence on Twitter, Instagram etc.

**Twitter** Anne has identified Caroline Green (CJ) to take on the Twitter account. She will be nominated for Council from the AGM. Mike will invite her formally.

Anne has written articles for *The Times* and is working on an article for *The Guardian*.

Anne is investigating an article for *The Tillergraph*.

- v. **EA. Matters** a) There is a **consultation** out at the moment. It is extensive. Anne will spearhead our response.  
  
b) The Thames boating organisations dominate the forums for discussion with EA but are very much ignored by them. The situation with District Enforcement, whose tender submission did not follow government guidance and contained lies, is worrying. EA appears to be attempting to make themselves “commercially viable”. There is still a possibility that they will attempt to get CRT to take over the navigation authority responsibilities of their waterways
- vi. **NAG.** There is a meeting coming up at Anderton. NAG has been quite active over the Summer. CRT have apologised to NAG for some “mistakes” concerning banners and other matters brought up by NABO. Vegetation Specs are being reviewed by the group. There is a big gap between corporate plans and implementation. The veg cutting trials will be reviewed in the Autumn. Veg management is ecologist driven.

- vii. **Boat Safety Scheme** There was a TC meeting [planned in October. Training courses are running throughout the Summer. The revised ECPs are almost ready and will be going to Examiners in the Autumn. When the new check procedures are public we will be able to comment on them. There is an AC also in October: Peter Braybrook and David will attend.
- viii. **Web and GDPR** David reported one non responder from the membership.

### 3. Finance

- i. Helen reported that there is still no advertising revenue although some have been approached. The accounts have been audited. The final excess on the year will be around £700.
- ii. The budget has been circulated.
- iii. Helen will write to Inland Revenue concerning possible Tax Liability from Interest income.
- iv. Helen asked for expenses claims and distributed forms.
- v. Balances are as follows:

Barclays current	£2191.93
Barclays deposit	£4623.25
PayPal	£63.87
Redwood	£15613.43
Total	£22492.48

### 4. NABO News

Peter Fellows said that he had three articles including one by Ian Hutson on CRT Boat spotting, and by John on Green boating, NN deadline is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Peter Braley has some photos and a report of contact with CRT. Other suggestions were solicited. BSS news will not be able to be published until next year. Petr Fellows asked for photos of veg problems. Peter Braley will share his experience with fire extinguishers. We had several responses to bulletins including good comments about our efforts. Anne will send these to Peter. **Action, All, Anne, Peter Braley**

### 5. AOB

- 6. **Next meeting** 10.0am Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by telephone conferencing.
- 7. **AGM Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Tamworth Cruising Club

There being no other items, the meeting closed at 14.30.

Peter Braybrook 4 September 2021

Amended to Comment from Helen Hutt and Anne Husar: 6 September 2021

Addition re Disability Forum (report from KH) added 13 September 2021

Signed as a true record 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop on the left and a smaller, more complex scribble on the right.