



**MINUTES of a MEETING of the COUNCIL  
on SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022 at 10.45 am**

at The Weighbridge, Scarfield Hill, Alvechurch, Birmingham B48 7SQ

**PRESENT:** Mike Rodd (Chair), Anne Husar (Vice Chair), Helen Hutt (Treasurer), Peter Braybrook (minutes), Phil Goulding, Peter Braley (part time).

1. **Apologies** Ken Hylins, C J Green, David Fletcher and Peter Fellows
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022** were accepted as a true record
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

i) **London Situation:** The latest forum meeting date was changed to make attendance impossible for many. Apart from congestion there are a number of boats that are evidently residences. Mike attended the regional forum. CRT are concentrating their effort on the other factors rather than boating and visiting boat requirements. The activities of CRT are not focussed on boating but on community activities and getting children to appreciate the canal. It was left with an agreement that we cannot do anything without a channel of communication. The London Rep is very active.

ii) **Heritage:** Ian Duncan of IWA is trumpeting his efforts to assimilate heritage buildings into IWA control and repurposed for community use. It was suggested that NABO can only be active in cases where there is a definite danger of the loss of canal heritage. It was noted that the properties that are being offered are not required for operational purposes and many are very remote residential properties. It was agreed that we should keep an eye of the situation and act where there is a definite heritage issue. Each case needs to be assessed on its merits.

iii) **GDPR Response:** Discussion and agreement of David Fletcher's submission by email of the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The recommendations were discussed and agreed. It was agreed to purchase assistance for an external review of our systems. The whole question of confidentiality and data was discussed particularly with respect to the work that Ken Hylins undertakes on our behalf. It was agreed that particular care has to be taken of personal details. The recommended training session was agreed. This will be arranged to ensure that all council members will be able to attend. It was noted that David is educating himself and agreed to support him in this. Discussion highlighted the difficulties that can arise from forwarding and replying to emails that have large circulations. Mike Rodd reminded Council that we need to be aware of our responsibilities to keep data safe. Council agreed all David's recommendations,

The necessity for safeguarding training and DBS was considered but left inconclusive.

(Peter Braley joined the meeting at 12.15pm.)

iv) **EA Situation:** Mike reminded council that EA has re-organised the way they are managing their Navigation Authority responsibilities on the same lines as CRT. He has had an invitation to join a National User Forum. There are no regional forums

any more. Their new groups are now being set up to deal with community cohesion, wellbeing and welfare activities. It was noted that the director who was brought in to re-organise the EA was a “destination manager” from the Forestry Commission. Mike Rodd said that all we can do is try to keep involved alongside the other boating organisations which work together very well on the Thames.

- v) **APPWG** Mike has written to Michael Fabricant MP (APPWG chair) and has had no reply.
- vi) **Contact with Regional Directors:** Matthew Symonds has agreed to facilitate contact if necessary. Regional Reps should try to contact them.
- vii) **“Census”** will give vital information to CRT. Helen reported that the first draft has been circulated to the small working group. She had suggested that Ken Hylins be included but it was not felt appropriate at the initial stage. He will be included in the first test run. Helen suggested that the survey will be really helpful to inform CRT of the real situation on the canals. It will be essential to inform CRT policy. It was noted that the survey is quite long which may put people off. There was concern that NBTA will discourage rather than encourage involvement.
- viii) **Facilities Survey** results should be available at the end of August 2022. There were examples of poor facilities and CRT's lack of maintenance discussed.
- ix) **NAG Representative.** Phil Goulding has heard nothing about his involvement. It is apparent that CRT want to recruit a woman rather than Phil! He cannot change his gender and has provided all the information requested as far as he knows.
- x) **Signatories:** David Fletcher is now a signatory for cheques and internet banking. It was noted that the process was a nightmare. The process took far longer than necessary (>28 days!) Helen has sent a written complaint to Barclays.
- xi) **A Legal Matter:** Phil Goulding brought up the response to an enquiry concerning legal advice and action with respect to a boat being actioned by CRT for non-movement on the Sharpness Canal. The discussion revealed that the case was of a widebeam boat that had wended its way to its current location via the River Thames and Kennet and Avon Canals and River Severn estuary. Basically there was little option for further progress around the system apart from the Stourport and Worcester Basins and the River Avon. After discussion it was agreed that this could only be sorted out in court as there was no further possibility of the boat returning to the “connected system” in the near future.

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

- i) **Petitioning** MP's on funding of CRT and EA. Many letters and emails have been sent. “Standard” replies have been received from MP's and the Minister. In general this is disappointing.
- ii) **London Congestion:** covered above in MA
- iii) **Heritage:** covered above in MA
- iv) **EA situation** re proposed new structures: see above

#### 5. Reports

- i) **CRT Council:** Helen has been invited to a 10 year anniversary bash. Next meeting is in September.
- ii) **Regional Representatives:** East Midlands: (Peter Braley) There has been a change of Director. No replacement for Phil Mulligan has been announced. CRT are clamping

down in overstaying on short term visitor moorings. Visitor moorings at Sawley have been diminished by signage and over-letting of LT moorings. Peter is active in attempting to resolve the situation and will keep an eye on this as it develops. He will represent NABO at a 10 year anniversary event in Castle Marina, Nottingham.

West Midlands: Peter Braybrook reported little action. Adnam Saif is on leave of absence. No details of arrangements for the Commonwealth Games have been forthcoming.

West of England and Wales: Mike Rodd and Helen reported that the K & A is looking decidedly neglected.

iii) **Welfare officer:** Mike Rodd read out Ken Hylins report. He no longer attends the Disabled Boaters Forum as he prefers direct contact with CRT personnel and Welfare Officers. It was noted that Ken has his own health problems. He has several particularly difficult cases at present and is advocating against discriminative behaviours. It was noted that Ken achieves much and works very hard. The new Welfare Officer is now the only one as Sean Williams has been moved to other work.

iv) **Winter stoppages group:** Phil Goulding reported that Sophie has taken over from Julie Sharman and is very effective at co-ordinating all the factions. Reps have been giving CRT a hard time on some of their Summer stoppages and in some places they wonder whether the canals will actually ever re-open. He reported that he sees it as a good working group. There is to be a face to face meeting in early July to co-ordinate the Winter Stoppage programme following first consultation. He is always looking to ensure that alternative routes are available for continuous cruisers. Peter Braybrook commented on a long stoppage on the Oxford Canal. The next meeting will be at Hatton on Tuesday week. Phil will be attending this first face to face meeting for two years. Phil stated that there is a definite shortage of materials and resources. Alternatives to oak were discussed. Mike Rodd indicated that CRT's attempt at composite materials on the K & A was a disaster.

v) **Media & Publicity:** There has been a lot of comment on the new CRT veg management regime: two schools of thought. Many love it, many hate it. Boaters now need to carry shears and strimmers.

The provision of towpath speed narrows and barriers was discussed. An inexpensive scheme at Shardlow was given as an example. These barriers are not very substantial but are wheelchair accessible.

The wastage of resources and overmanning of an inspection of an old stop gate on the Shroppie was reported. Concern expressed at the waste of resources in 20 persons and eight vans to inspect and not even to fix the gate.

Concern was expressed about Lithium Iron batteries on boats that can "spontaneously" ignite. Insurers are refusing to insure some risks. There are two, or maybe more, different types some of which are insurable some of which are favoured by DIY boaters. It is an unregulated area and an engineering nightmare. The BSS is doing work on these risks.

There was concern about laptop and phone batteries too.

We now have almost 3k followers on Facebook. Anne will write a post encouraging full membership.

Peter Braybrook's Towpath Talk column is well received. He asked for ideas for subject material. Next time he is thinking of picking up on a comment from a friend that she did not know whether he was an activist or a trouble maker. Are they the same thing? What is NABO? Anne suggested armchair commentators!

vi) **NNUF and TNUF** These have been disbanded (abandoned by EA) hence no meetings

vii) **NINF** No meeting since last Council meeting

viii) **NAG** Nothing to report apart from the comment on Phil Goulding's application.

ix) **BSS:** David Fletcher reported by email:

“AINA have finally released their paper on revised requirements for commercial craft. This goes into the work programme. As there are only about 2% of the Boats

in this category, I will be pushing to minimise effort.

MAIB have released their report on the man overboard death on the Broads. There is some technical work to do, but it is likely that British Marine will take the lead.

TC Chair is now required to submit for re-election annually (in February) like the AC chair. I have indicated that I will not stand next year. Ten years is enough.

There is an AC meeting at the end of June. Peter and I will attend by video. I am hoping the smoke alarm paper will be presented. I am stirring things up about examination statistics, trying to make these more transparent.

There will be a TC electrical subgroup meeting in July. Mike and I will attend. We additionally attended an IET video conference on electrical standards for boats. This is a critical piece of work.

There has been some member correspondence on BSS matters and these could go to NN if the editor wishes.”

Mike Rodd reported that the IET is presently preparing a publication on Small Boat Electrics which will effectively be an extension to the IEE/IET wiring regulations, aimed at qualified persons undertaking boat wiring but will also be guidelines for those who do their own electrics.

x)Web & GDPR. David Fletcher reported by email:

“The web site is running on the latest software in all categories except the membership system. This is awaiting my time, and has been delayed because of problems with my PC. The J4 system has been stable. Backups have been done. The software checking site integrity is reporting clean every week.”

The report on NABO's GDPR Policy is discussed and recorded in Matters Arising 3 (iii) above.

## 6. Finance

**6.1 A set of Draft Accounts** was tabled. (See Appendix A) It showed a surplus of Income over expenditure of £527. Helen highlighted an unusual expense of a £200 donation to NBTAs homes campaign.

**6.2 Budget.** Helen tabled a Budget for 2022-2023 (See Appendix B). This was agreed with minor amendments

6.3: Balances:

Barclays	£2691.17
Barclays Dep	£4623.96
PayPal	£ 434.63
Redwood	£15835.99

7. **NABO News** Mike told the Council that Peter Fellows has a reasonably full magazine for the next issue.

## 8. AOB

**8.1 Unpowered boats:** Anne informed the meeting of an incident with a canoe. Also commented on paddle boarding on aqueducts and tunnels. Report all near misses.

**8.2 Mileage rate** In view of the rises in fuel cost the rate will be increased to £0.40 per mile until further notice.

**8.3** It was suggested that meetings be held by Zoom rather than teleconference, particularly

for the AGM

8.4 **Personel** It was noted that Matt Thompson has never attended a Council Meeting or communicated his apologies. Mike will enquire of him whether he wanted to remain on Council. It was noted that CJ Green is active in many ways but that Matt Thompson is particularly silent. He is based in the north of England.

8.5 **Water Conservation:** The current shortages and future prospects were discussed alongside the current laughable advice from CRT to save water by planning routes that use less locks.

**Next Meeting is 3 September 2022 by teleconference**

**Tamworth CC is booked for Council meeting on 12 November (inc AGM)**

Signed as a true record 3 September 2022

**PJB, MR 27/06/2022**

**HH 26/06/2022**

**AH 29/06/2022**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PJB', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	<u>31-Mar-22</u>		<u>31-Mar-21</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Membership Fees	1	8,990		9,070	
Unmatched Receipt		0		35	
Less Paypal Transaction Charges		-52		-53	
Donations		470		585	
Advertising Revenue	2	250		1,146	
Deposit Interest	3	159		185	
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			9,817		10,968
<b>LESS EXPENDITURES</b>					
Council Meetings	4	-166		0	
AGM		-73		0	
Membership		-81		-86	
Representing NABO		-53		0	
NABO News	5	-7,413		-7,498	
Marketing and PR		0		0	
Website / Internet		-161		-119	
Subscriptions		-4		-7	
Accounts / Audit		-186		-146	
Legal fees	6	-45			
Insurance		-823		-706	
Depreciation		0		0	
Administration		-85		-225	
Donations	7	-200		0	
CO Monitor Trial		0		-18	
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<u>-9,290</u>		<u>-8,805</u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>527</b>		<b>753</b>
Extraordinary item - Legal Advice			0		-1,164
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>			<u><u>527</u></u>		<u><u>-411</u></u>

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	<u>33-Mar-21</u>	<u>31-Mar-20</u>
	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Barclays Bank Deposit Account	4,623	4,623
Barclays Bank Current Account	3,013	2,313
Redwood Deposit Account	15,836	15,677
Paypal Account	109	186
Petty Cash	0	0
Debtors and Prepayments	590	681
Total Current Assets	<u>24,171</u>	<u>23,480</u>
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Income	-40	-50
Creditors and Accruals	-250	-76
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-290</u>	<u>-126</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><b>23,881</b></u>	<u><b>23,354</b></u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Opening Reserves	23,354	22,600
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	527	754
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<u><b>23,881</b></u>	<u><b>23,354</b></u>

### REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

#### TREASURER

Enclosed are the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March 2022, Balance Sheet as at the same date and Notes to the Accounts.

Helen Hutt

July 2022

#### AUDITOR

I have examined the books and records of the Association and am satisfied from the information provided to me that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view both of the Association's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2022 and the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

Colin Walker, FCCA

July 2022

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

**1 Membership fees**

During the year membership fell by only 2, with the number of new members (32) almost matching resignations/deaths (34). Due to a technical error, two members were not sent renewal notices so, in effect, received one year's free membership. The total at 31st March 2022 was 349 (excluding additional family members) compared with 351 at 31st March 2021.

**2 Advertising revenue** is for a full back cover advertisement in one issue of **NABO News** for River Canal Rescue. It is hoped this arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future.

**3 Deposit interest** rates fell during the year, as expected

Redwood Bank	159
Barclays Bank	0
	<hr/>
	159
	<hr/>

**4 Council meetings** were split roughly 50/50 between virtual and real.

**5 NABO News** expenditure covers the cost of artwork, printing and mailing 600 copies. It is published six times each year.

**6 Legal fees:** this is a contribution to the National Inland Navigation Forum's legal bill for advice on whether boats were classed as vehicles under the new Police & Crime Bill.

**7** £200 contribution toward The National Bargee Travellers Association's CrowdJustice campaign '**Protect boats that are people's homes**'.



