

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

Saturday 8 October 2022 by teleconference 10 AM
Dial: 0333 0110 464 Room Number: 23732157 PIN:8521

Present: Mike Rodd (chair), Anne Husar, (VC), Peter Braybrook (Minutes), Ken Hylins, Peter Fellows, Peter Brayley, (Council Members); Mark Tizzard, John Stabler (observer) who briefly introduced himself

Apologies: Helen Hutt (Treasurer), C J Green, and David Fletcher were received. Phil Goulding was thought to be unavailable. Matt Thompson has been informed that he is removed from the Council for non attendance.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- i. Minutes of last council meeting were approved as distributed. Proposed by Peter Fellows. Nem con.
- ii. Matters arising. from the Minutes
 - a) GDPR : We have not yet received details of the correspondence course promised by David. MR will remind David. The chair reminded Council to be careful of passing on data e.g. by forwarding emails. Care has to be taken. The needed review of the GDPR procedures is not yet arranged. If anybody knows of a suitably qualified person please contact Mike or David.
 - b) MP Correspondence : no further replies received.
 - c) All Party Parliamentary Group on Waterways (APPGW) meeting postponed because of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II is to take place in the new session of Parliament on 2nd November. This is about funding and will be addressed by Richard Parry. There is an atmosphere of pessimism in conversations with CRT at present and this meeting will be important.
 - d) **NAG.** We still have no news on our nomination to replace David.. The character of this forum appears to be changing and CRT want a more diversified NAG. Anne suggested a further candidate, Sharon. Anne will make contact.
 - e) License Charge Increase: We did write about this in great detail. There was a good response to our writings when other boating organisations appeared to be apathetic.

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

- i. **London Congestion Consultation** update. There has been little movement on this. There is a local meeting in early November. This is about the River Lee. Anne will listen in to that meeting.
- ii. **Heritage and infrastructure:** Mike informed Council that there appears to be a lull in sales and we keep an eye on this topic.
- iii. **Support for CRT boater's survey** (Census) There was concern that many boaters have not received emails. Mike Rodd received his on paper. Approximately 1000 emails "bounced". Most

had already filled theirs in without too much trouble. It will be interesting to see what comes back from the information received.

Survey of Facilities It was noted that the standard quoted was developed by the IWA. It appears that CRT are looking for the minimum facilities that they can get away with. Obviously maintenance costs of existing facilities are an influence in what they can produce. On the EA waterways there are very few facilities provided. Boatyards provide facilities required. It could be that CRT are looking to withdraw from the provision of some facilities and put it in the hands of marinas and boatyards. It was agreed that pump out facilities in general are old and fragile. It was noted that vandalism does occur and affects their availability. It was noted that pump out facilities are not provided by CRT in all areas with some areas only served by marinas etc. It was noted that transfer of elsan disposal facilities to boatyards might incur additional charges to boaters.

iv. **Bridgewater Canal** The marina at the canal mouth is now in the hands of the Local Council. The question has arisen as to whether one can continuously cruise on this very short canal. CRT have indicated that this is not acceptable to them. It is about 11 miles long. Cost of maintenance is considerable. There are 10- 15 boats involved. Why the Town Council cannot provide moorings is unknown. Going to court appears to be the only solution. This case brings up the whole question of bona fide navigation. The chair indicated that NABO needs to keep an interest in the case and have a discussion later on support.

v. **Planning for AGM:**

It has been suggested that the AGM part could be also available on Skype. This is video and sound. There will be a need for careful chairmanship to ensure that virtual attendees are included. This will be confirmed and arranged by the Chair and David. We do have new nominations for council. There will be a large hole to fill as Peter Fellows will not be continuing with editing the NABO News. Peter gave the Council a flavour of what the job involves. Articles are usually forthcoming and he cannot remember when he has last needed to write one. Photographs with the necessary permissions to use them are a little more problematic. For more information talk to Peter F. It was noted that Peter F also writes "Fly in the wall".

3. Reports

i. Meetings with CRT

a. Boaters Rep meetings: Helen has circulated a report of the meeting on 7th October. See Appendix 1

"There will be a edge to hedge cut before the end of the year" We will monitor this.

b. Meeting with Matthew Symonds : nothing to report. The winter works plan has been changing very frequently It is now said to be finalised. These are useful meetings. The next meeting will be on 16th November 2022

c. Regular Regional meetings. Many rescheduled because of the Queen's death.

Anne reported that one needed to be a company to take part in the NW Let's Collaborate Community Forum (13 October). Eventbrite will not let one register without this being completed. The link was given. on a Community Forum.

- ii. **Stoppages and winter works programme.** The full final programme has been published. It was noted that this has been developed and changed very frequently. It was noted that we have a valuable input to bring local knowledge into the planning.
- iii. **Welfare:** Ken Hylins reported on his work and networking. He specifically referred to cases of need that he has addressed leading to reasonable adjustments of CRT's continuously cruising requirements. He supports many who can no longer cruise to any extent because of long term illness or age. The chair commended Ken for his valuable work which is so much appreciated.
- iv. **Media & Publicity:** Anne reported that CRT very rarely now use the excuse of 'vandalism' for stoppage notices after we questioned this with them. NABO Facebook page posts are now also being shared by other boating group pages which is all good publicity for our work and concerns.
- v. **Regional Representative Reports**

West Midlands P Braybrook informed the Council of an approach from a campaigner for the full use of Rudyard Lake. He will circulate details. The chair confirmed that NABO would be interested in joining this campaign.

Northwest Ken informed the meeting that there have been no meetings in the northwest but conditions regarding veg and a lock crossing are very poor.

E Midlands Peter Brayley reported on a meeting of the Nottingham Canal Partnership which he attended. This manages many activity groups and is successful in involving local businesses.
- vi. **EA** Mike Rodd informed Council that he will be joining the National Waterways Forum. The first meeting will be in September. There are many other groups being formed such as The National Advisory Technical Group, The National Advisory for Sustainability Group etc. Alongside the national groups there will be local groups. He finds the structure strange but awaits to see how it works out. EA are now certain they will not be joining CRT .
- vii. **NAG.** It is unfortunate that we no longer have a representative on this.
- viii. **BSS :** David Fletcher had circulated a report by email. (see Appendix). There are currently discussions reviewing a lot of important issues by a working group has been formed to examine these basic principles. David Fetcher is part of this. Aspects being examined include the viability viability of the oresent business models, frequency of examination, re-examination on boat sale or transfer, whether examiners should be allowed to examine the same boat on each examination. There was also a discussion about bubble testers and as to whether they should be allowed. Research has proved them to be reliable and accurate.
- ix. **Web & GDRP.** See report by email form David Fletcher (see Appendix C) No Comment
- x. **National Inland Navigation Forum (NNIF)** This is a useful forum for most boating organisations. It will take place on 20th October and Mike will attend and report back.
- xi. **CRT Annual Report** The recently published report needs to be questioned as the financial aspects are incomprehensible. Anne asked for questions to be asked at a meeting on 11 Ocotober2022

4. Finance: Helen Hutt reported bank balances as follows:

Barclays current a/c £ 2,180.71

Barclays deposit a/c £ 4,625.39

Paypal £ 543.62

Redwood deposit a/c £15,782.89

TOTAL £23,132.61

We are healthy and have funds to cover legal advice, if required.

5. NABO News: Peter F has informed Council that he will not be continuing to Edit NABO News as he is moving to Ireland soon. He is not collecting material at the moment as the next issue is December but will be asking for material at the AGM.

6 AOB :

6.1 Lithium batteries: Concern was expressed about these and the explosion risk. There are issues with battery management and there might be issues with insurance if the installation is not notified to the insurance company. BSS are working on this at the moment. It was noted that the problem of explosion is known and precautions are taken on aircraft to smother and contain phones that heat up. The problem is extant and huge because extinguishers do not work on lithium fires. Peter Brayley informed the meeting that there is a facebook group on "12v boating" that has a lot of information about lithium.

The chair thanked all for attending including the observers who wanted to get involved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1216h

The AGM and Council Meeting will be at 10.00am on 12th November 2022 at Tamworth Cruising Club

Signed as a true record on 12 November 2022

Handwritten signatures of Peter Braybrook and Anne Husar, enclosed in a large oval.

8/10/22 Peter Braybrook

10/10/22, Anne Husar, Mike Rodd

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

BIOATERS REP MEETING REPORT FROM HELEN HUTT

Boaters Reps meeting at Hatton, 7/10/22

Census: extended to end October; over 30% replies so far; 1,000 email bounce backs replaced by letter; several boaters completed over phone. Statistics student will be analysing responses and producing report November. EA reported to be interested in doing similar. There is a separate hire boat survey.

CSF; there will be a link for all boaters to access in the next Boaters Update (today?); runs to 21 November

Trade boats: Tim questioned 'rule of six' but there is no CRT stipulation. The suggestion may have come from RTA. MS to open dialogue with them.

Vegetation: there will be an edge to edge cut everywhere before the end of the year. Some question as to whose responsibility small saplings are? Hopefully things will normalise next year.

Accessible moorings: CRT and Disabled Boaters Group drawing up policy and design principles. Still some way to go before anything finalised. Idea is that some VMs would be designated 'accessible' with priority for any boater with any sort of disability (including pregnant women for example) but it would still require other boaters to be understanding and either leave them free or move on if asked.

Stoppage notices system: IT update in progress. Maps now included via a link at the bottom. We made some suggestions as to how these could be improved but generally thought they worked well. Volunteers and hire boat companies could be used more to disseminate stoppage information to boaters.

Winter stoppages list: MS will investigate the possibility of sending a alert to all licence holders when the list is updated, with a link to the latest version and explanations about why things have changed (often for reasons outside CRT's control). Apparently there is some GDPR issue here.

Pump outs: new payment system to be trialled on SU and T&M next year.

Licensing review involving NAG this autumn inc planning for next 10 years. Public consultation later.

Who to contact in case of infrastructure failure? It's the regional team, eg enquiries.westmidlands@canalrivertrust.org. Contrary to something Anne has written in NN (I haven't seen it yet).

Improper mooring process – update at our next meeting.

Signage: agreed that many signs are illegible to boaters on the water. This is being addressed. As is the 'welcome' signage which makes no mention of boats.

Query about mooring on vacant permit holder moorings: boaters shouldn't do this unless in an emergency but they will not be fined if they do.

Towing 'broken down' boats to new locations to avoid overstaying: CRT allows a reasonable time for a boater to make repairs but if they don't it may be suggested they get towed elsewhere to avoid contravening their licence T&Cs. Apparently this is happening in London.

Adam Comerford is giving a webinar on water resources next week (sorry I can't get hold of the date just now!)

APPENDIX B

BOAT SAFETY SCHEME

David Fletcher, By email 29/9/2022

There was a Technical Committee (TC)in September. This was review of on going work.

The office is working on a plan for revision of the requirements for commercial craft. This will go back to AINA before work starts probable in 2023/24

The advisory ECP 8.10.5 (no unintentional gaps in solid fuel stoves) was reviewed, following a paper on the risk of thermal runaways. The ECP is written for CO poisoning. It was concluded not to make changes at this time.

We looked at the stats on emanation failures previously shared with \advisory Committee (AC). I pressed for BSS to have a campaign on this.

An examiner in Scotland is challenging the use of bubble testers as a valid and legal option in testing hire and live-aboard boats (in scope of Gas Safe). This revisits work done 4 years ago and was rejected by TC. There is nothing new in the misguided statements from the individual.

The issue of fixing of Squirrel stoves by Aquiline rumbles on. Aquiline are not planning a recall. BSS office is considering whether to take this to the Consumer bodies. Examiners have been instructed not to pass these boats.

The next TC is in January.

BSS AC have a sub group looking at some long term issues. There is an AC on 8 November

APPENDIX C

David Fletcher by email 29/9/22

The web site is running on the latest software in all except the Joomla base software. This is at 4.1.9. When I upgraded to 4.2 in September, the site crashed. I am holding off the upgrade for the time being. Backups have been done. The software checking site integrity is reporting clean every week. I renewed the web site domain name. I have sorted out some bugs in the membership software.

I completed a full back up of NABO records and web site and sent copies to the Chair and Treasurer.

I have progressed the formal review of web software security, but this is not complete. I still plan to report in October. There is no concern. This consists of going though best practices and writing down how we address each issue. Then summarising the software used.