



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 96/6: September 1996

## 1996 NABO AGM ISSUE

### Editor's comment

We are sorry to disappoint those of you who were looking forward to a good long read, but this slim issue is a special one seeking nominations for next year's Council. We need you to fill in the form and send it to the Secretary by 12th October. Go on, NABO needs people like you!

But I can promise you a sparkling October issue, full of news, letters, stories - and some ideas for Christmas!

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**National Association of  
Boat Owners**

# NEWSLETTER

## Chairman's comment

As in previous years, a few Council members will not be re-standing for various reasons.

One is Roger Hancock, our Secretary, who has been on the Council for four years. During that time he has been of immense help, advising on legal matters as well as acting as Secretary. He has produced minutes of Council meetings with amazing efficiency, and produced a regular feature in the newsletter without fail. Roger was also responsible for the recent questionnaire.

We are also very sorry that Neil Hutchinson who has been a NABO Council member for all five years has had to resign owing to family commitments. Neil's enthusiasm and fire have been an inspiration, even if they were also a little uncomfortable at times. He has told us when we were wrong, and it has been Neil's very clear and strong opinions (and sometimes dissent!) which has been so valuable. Very often Neil was right. Without the alternative viewpoint we would probably have made more mistakes than we have done. Neil has also been

acting as our North West rep.

The other person not standing this year is myself. I was Vice Chairman for two years and have been Chairman for three years now. During this time I was made redundant and became self employed. This year my work load has increased and I have found it increasingly difficult to carry out NABO tasks as I would wish. I feel that the Chairman should be driving forward with more enthusiasm for the task than I can currently muster. There are very able people on the Council who could do this better than I can.

So, BW, that's the good news! The bad news is that what made me get involved in NABO in the first place is a continuing innate anger towards and hatred of injustice, unfairness and misuse of authority which I felt was happening five years ago, and I still believe is sometimes happening today. By relieving myself of the duties of Chairman and Council, I will be able to concentrate on the issues that really wind me up.

One thing I should mention however is that during the five

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## Chairman's comment (continued)

years of dealing with BW, I have found that the individuals involved are almost always pleasant civilised and decent folk who are just doing their job. We may disagree vehemently with them and object strongly to some of what they are doing and the

way they are doing it, but as people they're all right.

Please stand for the Council if you feel strongly about the issues that affect boaters, particularly if you have time to spare. It is vital for NABO to continue to have a strong Council.

## View from the Council meeting held on 7th September, 1996

*Moley was on holiday for this meeting, but sent his substitute...*

Plenty of feelings abounding at this Council Meeting. First of all, deep regret that we shall no longer have Neil Hutchinson's services to rely on in the future. Personal circumstances have prompted his resignation from Council and he will be sorely missed. Regret too that Council will be losing two more of its most senior officers this year. And there was annoyance at David Fletcher's brusque dismissal of NABO's critique of the Boat Safety Scheme and frustration at our seeming inability to pursue the matter further except through the Ombudsman. There was a measure of satisfaction that the Ombudsman had at last defined 'maladministration' and we now know in which cupboards to look.

A little despair added as well at the BW revision of their Charter which at first sight looks like a general loosening of its terms. Rumours too of a large increase in licence fees did not help. However, despite all this, the Council Meeting was not all darkness and no light!

There was pleasure in congratulating Christine and John Denton for their sterling efforts in recruiting new members and pleasure too in recognising Denis Smith's valiant and sometimes solitary efforts at Boat Rallies throughout the year. Pleasant anticipation also of a well-attended AGM coupled with an enjoyable trip around Birmingham's canals. And last of all, hope that many good and true members will put forward their names for election to Council.

# NABO BUSINESS

## The 1996 Annual General Meeting

The 1996 Annual General Meeting will be held at Hockley Port in Birmingham on Saturday 23rd November. The meeting will start at 10.45am, and will be followed by a boat trip and buffet lunch on board the narrowboat "Sparkbrook" which operates from Hockley Port.

### AGM DETAILS

The meeting will be held in the Community Centre at Hockley Port, All Saints Street, Birmingham B18 7RL. Instructions for finding the venue and a map will be included in the next Newsletter. There is ample parking.

### "NABO FOR NOSH AND NAVIGATION"

After the formalities of the AGM are over, members are invited to join the Council aboard the trip boat "Sparkbrook" for a trip to Gas Street and back with buffet lunch, at £7.50 per head.

To book a place on this trip, please send a cheque (payable to NABO) and sae to Penny Barber (address on back page); she will send tickets by return.

## Resolutions and alterations to the Constitution

Resolutions must be received by the Secretary no later than 12th October. The Constitution can be found in the September 1995 issue of the Newsletter, or telephone Nikki Timbrell for a copy.

## Stoppage News

### Southern Region

Since you received your printed winter stoppage list, BW Southern Region have issued an extensively revised version. Our advice is - check with local BW offices before planning you winter journeys.

### GU stoppage at Knowle

Andrew Stumpf (BW manager GU North) closed the Grand Union canal at Knowle and Camp Hill with only 24 hours notice, despite assurances from Stuart Sim that at least 3-4 weeks notice would be given of any stoppages.

Peter Lea would like to hear from any member who has been inconvenienced by the stoppage or by the lack of proper notice.

# NABO BUSINESS

## NABO NEEDS NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR THE COUNCIL

### Nominations for Council

Nominations must be received by the Secretary by 12th October. Nomination form below. If you don't know any other NABO members to nominate/second you, members of Council will do this for you. Just complete the details about yourself and send it

off as soon as possible please.

If postal voting is accepted by the SGM on 12th October, arrangements will be made for members not attending the AGM on 23rd November (see page 4) to vote by post. Details of all the candidates will appear in the next Newsletter.

### Nomination form

Proposed candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
.....

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*I am willing to stand for election to the NABO Council*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
.....

Proposer's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
.....

Secunder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

P.T.O.

## **NABO BUSINESS**

### **NABO NEEDS A PRESS OFFICER: could it be you?**

Wanted: Press Officer for NABO to write press releases and occasional articles.

Must be experienced, flexible, able to respond quickly and to have good writing skills. Car driver preferred. NABO will pay a

(modest) fee and expenses to the right candidate.

Please send personal details and samples of published work, including press releases, to Peter Lea at

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### **Nomination form: brief details of candidate**

Please include a few words about yourself, your experience and why you would like to stand for the NABO Council:

# THE ADVERTS PAGE

**Michael Stimpson & Associates**

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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS

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**For the right protection for your boat  
PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE TALKING**

# **NABO REPRESENTATIVES**

## **Council members contact addresses**

Penny Barber  
(RBOA Liaison)

Phil Bland  
(Rep for disabled)

Jon Darlington  
(Chairman)

John Glock  
(Membership Secretary)

John Griffiths  
(Midlands Rep)

Roger Hancock  
(Secretary)

Peter Lea  
(Vice Chairman/Marketing)

Nigel Parkinson  
(Engineering Officer)

Stephen Peters  
(River Users Co-ordinator)

Denis Smith  
(Rally Co-ordinator)

Andrew Sherrey  
(Treasurer)

Peter Sterry  
(NE Rep/Publicity)

Nikki Timbrell  
(Newsletter Editor)

Neil Walker  
(SERep)