

Electra Fast Electric Championship 2011

Round 2 – Sun 22nd may, Beale Park Lake, hosted by Mid Thames MBC
Report by Mark Shipman

Electra hadn't raced at Beale Park for a few years so it was great to be able to return as guests of the local model boat club, Beale is an excellent venue, initially it looked like we might have to cancel the meeting due to weed, luckily we were able to find a good spot on the large lake that was clear and we were not bothered by weed all day. There were 35 entries on the day, 29 from Electra and 6 non championship entries this time all from two SWAMBC members. The weather was variable all day, with bright spells some cloud and even a little light rain, but it was the strong wind that caused most concern, occasionally the gusts were enough to flip a boat over, causing quite large waves on the large body of water, typically it remained calm in the weeded up area we had planned to use!

Two of the classes, Mono 1 and Mini Oval had sufficient entries to require splitting into two heats, Mini ECO was however undersubscribed so was not run at this round. Everybody was on site soon after 9:00 but the change of location due to weed caused a little delay and the first round didn't get until 10:45.

Mini Oval (Mono & Hydro)

10 entries; 8 registered for the Championship:

As at the previous round there was some very close and consistent racing, perhaps less so than at Elmbridge as the variable nature of the wind effected these small rapid hulls more than most. John Newton won comfortably in the end with the only hydro in the field, scoring 37 Laps 22 seconds, behind him it was very close with just 11 seconds covering the next three places SWAMBC regulars Chris Osman (33 laps 14 sec) and Torran Hayward (33 laps 20 sec) were second and third both running Etti Mini Envoy's from Dave Parker (33 laps 28 sec - 2nd in Championship), racing his faithful Eagle hull, and Trevor Goodinson in 4th (31 laps 14 sec), with another Mini Envoy and therefore collected 3rd place championship points.

ECO Expert

3 entries; all registered for the Championship:

A low turnout again for ECO Expert, but some close racing in the first heat with just 2 laps covering the 3 boats. Roger Graves set the pace with two consistent run's in the first two heats and had done enough to win by a lap without needing to enter the final round (42 laps 29 sec). Alan Hazeldean was second with 41 laps 32 sec from defending champion Dave Parker with 39 laps 27 sec. Lets hope for a few more entries at the next round.

Mono 1

8 entries; 6 registered for the Championship:

Mono 1 was again well supported with 2 SWAMBC visitors bolstering the field, requiring two heats of 4 boats. In the calmer conditions of the first heat SWAMBC stalwart Chris Osman scored a best of the day and quite remarkable 34laps 9 seconds with his 3S powered Etti Envoy, demonstrating what is possible if you have a trouble free run, half way through the heat there was some concern among the

officials that we had got the scoring wrong, but a check on the counter and Chris's lap times of about 10 seconds confirmed that it was no mistake! Worsening conditions meant that Chris wasn't able to repeat this mighty score in subsequent heats, as he struggled with stability along with the other competitors, but he had done enough to win by 10 laps with a final score of 58 laps 24 seconds. Defending champion Dave Parked brought his Etti Chaser home in second with a not inconsiderable score of 48 laps 8 sec a healthy 6 laps ahead of third placed Martin Harvey (42 laps 18 sec - 2nd in championship points) and Roy Hitchcock (41 laps 17 sec - 3rd place in championship). SWAMBC visitor Torran Hayward didn't have the best of days, his Etti Envoy diving under in the rough conditions and not resurfacing, we were expecting to see it bob back up during the day, but it didn't a search from the rescue boat proved fruitless as the water was very deep at that point, but persistence pays off as Torran went back next day and it was bobbing on the surface trapped in the remains of an old sunken buoy which it had dragged back to the surface, a lucky escape, and a clear demonstration of the value of buoyancy.

Hydro 1

5 entries; All 5 registered for the Championship:

John Newton followed up his win in Mini Oval with a win in this class, running the same mini hull in the third heat and matching his and Peter Lockhart's 21 lap best scores of the day, despite the rough conditions and size of the hull. John's score of 44 laps 23 sec was three laps clear of Peter in the end (41 laps 16 sec) while I came in 3rd again with my 14th scale Atlas Van Lines (35 laps 27 sec) despite flipping it near the end of the first heat and retiring from the last heat with a very noisy drive line, that was drowned out the lap caller!

Mono 2

4 entries; 2 registered for the Championship:

SWAMBC visitors Chris Osman and Torran Hayward dominated the first heat running Etti Exiga's with very close scores of 26 laps 5 sec and 26 laps 7 sec, Torran had a failure in the second heat and was out for the rest of day ending up third with 43 laps and 10sec. So it was down to Electra regulars Mark Woolcott and defending champion Trevor Goodinson to try and stop Chris, but nobody could come close in the second heat, actually nobody came close to the finish line either, all scoring DNF's. Trevor got his Etti Exiga up to speed for the final heat, and it looked like the race was on, but after some close racing with Chris they got a little bit too close and Trevor lost a big chunk of prop, dropping him back to a still decent pace but eventually falling a lap short of Chris. In the end Chris won by 6 laps (53 laps 13 sec) from Mark Woolcott (47 laps 5 sec), with Torran in 3rd (43 laps 10sec). As neither Chris or Torran are registered for the series, max championship points go to Mark and second to Trevor who finished with 39 laps 11 sec

Hydro 2

5 entries; all registered for the Championship:

Some fast and furious racing again, but reliability was a big issue, of 15 potential starts there were only 3 finishers! I was first to fall, the wire drive in my 10th scale Pay-n-Pak coming unglued after just 3 laps. next to go was Martin Harvey in race 2 when after just 4 laps a massive collision with Paul Upton Taylors impressively quick JEA left Martins wooden built rigger split in two, just held together by the drive line and some cable, amazingly Paul was able to continue, for another 7 laps. Race 3 was quickly over with the field reduced to just 3, Brian Barrow was out on lap 3, followed by Mark Woolcott the next laps and it was all over when Paul joined the inverted fleet on lap 6! Plenty for the rescue boat to do in this class, perhaps it should have a race number, it might have done quite well. Once all the hulls were collected First place went to Brian Barrow by a commanding margin as he was the only one with two decent scores (45 laps 12 sec) 25 laps ahead of defending champ Martin Harvey (25 laps 8 sec). mark Woolcott came home in third place with 22 laps 20 sec.

Summary

A good days racing, despite the initial concern over the weed and very blustery weather. Another boat was thought to be lost on the day, but was recovered the next day.. Thanks once again to the host club of Mid Thames MBC, for use of the fine venue and rescue boat. There is now a 3 week break before round 3 on 12th June, at Althorne.