

MINUTES OF ELECTRA AGM 2014

Held on 2nd November 2014
at Ashwells Sports & Country Club, Brentwood

Attendees:

Dave Parker (DC 77), Mary Parker, Mark Shipman (DC 84), Brian Woolcott (DC 10), Roy Hitchcock (DC 38), Martin Harvey (DC 87), Peter Lockhart (DC 46), Sue Lockhart, Steve Rayner (DC 90), John Croyden (DC 73), David Harvey (NE112), Roger Graves (DC73)

Meeting Opened at 13:40

Peter Lockhart welcomed the members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence:

David Richardson and Phil Toler.

Minutes of 2013 AGM:

No matters arising. Acceptance proposed by David Harvey
Seconded by Steve Rayner
votes for: unanimous.

Chairman's Report:

Looking back over the past year, I think we have had a good season, considering issues at the start. Due to the continued rainfall at the beginning of the year we had to cancel the April and May meetings at Elmbridge Club's lake.

Thanks to the hard work of Martin Harvey, we managed to reschedule one of the meetings to September, enabling us to get in 7 rounds.

Unfortunately membership has been down this year, but this has not prevented us from having some exciting and close racing. The results of Hydro 1 have confirmed this, with only 1 point separating the first three places.

Sadly Mark Shipman is standing down as Public Relations Officer and Webmaster. He will be missed and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours with SWARM. We would like to thank Mark for all his sterling hard work on behalf of Electra over the past years.

Many thanks to the committee of Dave Parker, as Treasurer and Records Officer, Martin Harvey as Secretary and David Harvey, as Safety Officer, for all their hard work and support.

If anyone can think of ideas on how we can raise the profile of Electra to attract new members, we would welcome your comments.

Secretary's Report:

Martin reported that at the beginning of the year there had been the issue with the MPBA regarding Lipo batteries and the way we adapt them for our own use. It had somewhat calmed down a bit but the issue was going to be raised again at the NEC meeting at the end of November. The Fast Electric Section had made a proposal to amend the wording of the addendum document to strike out the reference to Naviga thus enabling any boat to be able to run. Scale boats could have a particular problem accommodating standard LiPo batteries. Martin also raised the issue of the new rules for Electra whereby there is a capacity limit as opposed to a weight limit. In Martin's opinion this did not seem to be satisfactory as he had bought 1700mAH batteries that actually took nearly 1800. Martin also said that apart from the problems with too much water in the lakes there had also been a problem with sorting out meeting dates. Several now ex-members had given the committee a level of abuse regarding the dates. At the recent SAWS meeting there had been seven records either set or broken, Mark had three new records, Donatas had one new record, John Croyden broke an existing record, David Harvey set two new records. Whilst not a current member of Electra Paul Upton -Taylor broke the L6 hydro records with a speed just under 60 mph and was presented with the Wilkinson Sword trophy.

Treasurer's Report:

A Treasurer's report had been handed out at the start of the meeting. This showed that the club finances stood at £2,635.82 which was a reduction of £476.20 over the previous year. Dave thought that whilst this balance was satisfactory we could not stand this sort of loss for a number of years, so we should look at what savings we could make to keep the club finances healthy. The main reasons for the drop were the income from membership fees which had fallen by about 50% and race fees had fallen by about 40%. Whilst Dave had not particularly looked at why this was he suspected that it had something to do with the core membership being older. On the expenditure side the venue fees (for the agm) was one area that could be looked at. There had also been a set of safety equipment purchased.

Dave gave his thanks to Mary for her assistance provided over the year collecting race fees and with the book keeping.

Membership Secretary's Report:

There had been an decrease in membership of 8, making a total membership of 19. Dave also reminded members that there was a copy of the membership renewal form attached to the report, and also that it was on the web site. Dave reminded members to put their email address on the form if they wanted regular updates.

Regatta Records Officer's Report:

There had been a decrease in the number of entries in the year, down from 291 in 2013 to 182 in 2014. There had not been as many guests racing this year especially with fewer entries from the Northern clubs this year. Only having 7 rounds had also impacted on the numbers. Mono 1 and Hydro 1 had been the most popular this year followed by Mono 2 and Hydro 2. Mini eco and Mini Mono had no scoring rounds.

Public Relations Officer's Report:

Mark said that he had talked to Sue Lockhart about the job. Dave Parker asked about the web hosting fee. Mark said that he had not had any demands for the money and the host seemed laid back about the whole thing.

Safety Officer's Report:

David reported that he had to cancel two meetings early in the season for safety reasons. There had been one LiPo fire this year, but safety procedures had been adhered to and there had been no resultant problems. David said that he had also noticed that some boats were still not able to be seen when upside down. He reminded members that at least one third of the bottom of the boat should be painted in a bright colour and not just the sides. He also suggested that hydros should also have the bottom of the sponsons painted.

Presentation of Trophies

The 2014 trophies were presented where possible.

Election of 2014/15 committee:

Mark Shipman proposed that with the exception of the PRO/web master and second Safety Officer the committee be elected as existing. This was seconded by Steve Rayner. The membership agreed unanimously. Thus:

Chairman:

Peter Lockhart

Secretary:

Martin Harvey

Treasurer/Membership Secretary:

Dave Parker

Regatta Records Officer:

Dave Parker

PRO/Web Master

Sue Lockhart - Proposed by Martin Harvey
Seconded by David Harvey

Accepted unanimously

Safety Officers:

Dave Harvey (chief)

Deputy Safety Officer

Brian Woolcott - Proposed by Mark Shipman
Seconded by Dave Parker

Accepted unanimously

Rule Changes

There was a proposal that the race time for Hydro 1 & 2 be increased from 5 minutes to 6 minutes. This would then bring Electra in line with other clubs and organisations. The reasoning behind this was that the speed of these classes was getting too high and that increasing the race time should reduce these speeds to a safer level.

Proposed by Martin Harvey
Seconded by David Harvey

7 votes for
2 abstention

Proposal passed

A.O.B.

1. Dave Parker had made a suggestion that where we run on a water that has a host club a special class could be run for members of that club. The class to be for any electric powered boat using any motor and any type of battery up to a maximum 24v. Run time to be 6 minutes or other as decided on the day. Course to be decided on the day, but most likely to be the same course as Electra is running. Heats to be at the end of the Electra 1st and 2nd heats. This would be an introduction to racing. Dave felt that the mini classes were too specialised to be a beginners class. Participants must have insurance but a safety loop is not essential. Entry to be fee free, but some form of trophy to be given. Mark said that SWARM were already going to introduce this class at their events. After some discussion it was put to the vote.

Proposed - Dave Parker
Seconded - Mark shipman

Passed unanimously but review in 12 months

2. Following on from the Treasurer's Report a discussion took place regarding cost savings. Martin asked about the insurance for the boat and whether it was still required. Dave Parker said the insurance also covered the people in the boat. Dave Parker to clarify the reference to 'employees' as written in the policy. One of the biggest area of annual cost was the trophies. A number of members said that they threw away a lot of trophies as they could not display them all. Martin said that there was a lot of wastage with engraving of plates as plates were engraved for all eight classes for all eight meeting at the

beginning of the season. It was suggested that plates did not need to have the class and venue on them which should reduce engraving costs. It was also suggested that a trophy only be given for 1st place and certificates for 2nd and 3rd. Trophy engravings to only have '1st Place' on them.

Savings on trophies proposed by Dave Parker
Seconded - Roger Graves

Passed unanimously but review in 12 months

(Post AGM the reference to 'employees' has been clarified :-

Noble Marine have told me that the policy is an Any Person Policy - ' The policy provides full cover for any person sailing the vessel with the policy holders permission ' The reference to employees in the policy excludes persons employed in any capacity by the insured and a person operating or employed by the operator of a ship yard, repair yard, slipway, yacht club, sales agency or similar organisation. Because we do not pay anyone to operate the boat and no money changes hands for operation of the boat our members are not employees and are covered.)

3. Dave Parker felt that as we were going to introduce the new host club class that we should be looking at expanding the number of different venues that we use. Martin said that he had received an email from Brentwood Club stating that their platform had now been repaired and the venue was now open for running events. However Brentwood club would expect 50% of entry fees. Martin said that the rescue boat there was not in a good state and also there was a serious weed problem. Toilet facilities were restricted to a porter potty. After some discussion it was decided to look at Mote Park, Fairlop Waters, Willen, and Aylesbury. Martin to look at these venues.

Meeting closed at 16:30