

Minutes of Electra AGM 2015
Held on 8th November 2015 at Ashwells Sports & Country Club, Brentwood

Attendees:

Dave Parker (DC 77), Mary Parker, 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), Phil Toler (DC71)

Meeting Opened at 12:20

Peter Lockhart welcomed the members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence:

Vaughan Miller, Martin Morgan-Owen, Mark Shipman, Alan Hazeldean, Mark Woolcott

Minutes of 2014 AGM:

Martin explained that whilst it had been agreed to give certificates for 2nd and 3rd places there had been sufficient medals in stock to use these throughout the season. These had now nearly all been used.

Acceptance of minutes	Proposed by David Harvey
	Seconded by Steve Rayner
	votes for: unanimous.

Chairman's report:

Looking back over the past year, we have had a good season with mixed weather. Unfortunately I could not make the first meeting of the season as I was unwell. As it turned out I understand that only 2 rounds were completed due to bad weather.

The turnouts at this year's meetings have been mixed. The last meeting of the season was probably the best, with many guest competitors joining us for the day.

Once again, I would like to thank Martin and David Harvey for all their hard work in setting out the courses at the meetings and rescue boat duties.

The Novice Challenge was introduced this year, but only run at the two Beale Park meetings, which those that took part enjoyed.

It is with regret that Dave Parker is standing down from the committee as Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Results Officer. We would like to thank Dave for his contribution over the years, and to Mary for supporting him and collecting the entry fees. Many thanks to the rest of the committee for all their contributions and hard work which has enabled us to keep Electra running.

Secretary's report:

It has been a quiet year for Electra. As already mentioned the stock of medals have been used this year but are now virtually used up.

Personal thanks to Dave and Mary Parker for all their work over the past years.

Mark Shipman had been it touch to say that SWARM had decided to continue so he would not be available to offer his services as a committee member.

Thanks to Sue Lockhart for her efforts in getting to grips with the Electra website, and updating it.

Whilst not competing as an Electra and UK member at the Worlds, Donatas Ceponis had become World Champion in class Mono 2.

The MPBA are in need of a new Secretary and Treasurer. These posts need to be filled for the association to be able to continue. So if anyone is interested in these posts then they are welcome to put their name forward.

Treasurer's report:

Club finances remain healthy at a level commensurate with the club's objectives. The finances were in good shape at the end of the 2014 season with a balance of £2,635.82 carried forward into 2015. The current balance stands at £2,328.41 which is a reduction of £307.41.

A table laying out the income and expenditure was presented.

The club's main income has been from race fees and membership subscriptions which have both been increased this year. The main expenditure has been on trophies and venue fees. Please note that the cost of the 2014 AGM venue hire in the venue fees column.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all involved in the financial aspects of running the club while I have been Treasurer. A sensible and balanced approach by everyone has made the job relatively easy and straight forward. A special thank you to Mary for her help collecting race fees and book keeping, and for her support which has been invaluable over the years.

Membership Secretary's report:

The number of Electra members is the same as 2014 and currently stands at a total of 19. Please renew your membership before 31st January or it will cost you an extra £5 (Electra general rule 8.4). A membership renewal/application form is included in the handout, or can be downloaded from the website. Please send completed forms to the new Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

If you want regular updates of race results and championship positions please include an email address on your application form.

Regatta Records Officer's report:

The overall number of boats racing this year has increased slightly from 182 in 2014 to 214 in 2015. This increase is mostly due to the full schedule of 8 meetings held this year whilst there were only 7 last year because of floods.

Attendances were relatively evenly spread across 4 venues with Elmbridge once again the most popular.

Analysis of the regatta records show that the Hydro classes have been the most popular with Mini Hydro and Hydro 1 leading the way. Mini Mono and Mini Eco were poorly attended with only 1 scoring round for Mini Mono and none for Eco, so trophies will not be awarded for these classes.

Public Relations Officer's Report:

At last year's AGM I took over as PRO from Mark Shipman, the responsibilities of keeping the Electra website up to date with results, etc., and also compiling and sending out the Newsletters.

It was quite a steep learning curve for me, but after lengthy conversation with Mike Smith of ModelTech, who is responsible for our website hosting, things became clearer and the knowledge I gleaned enabled me to understand the intricacies of the website.

In an effort to increase the profile of Electra I have been actively updating the website and also the Electra Facebook page. I know that not all of you have Facebook accounts, but you can still view it without one by doing a Google search or clicking on the Facebook icon on the Electra website. The Facebook page has attracted quite a bit of interest, but mostly from former members, two of which turned up at the last meeting of the season. (It is hoped that after being informed of the low cost of kit these people will come back to the hobby)

I also contacted both Marine Modelling and Model Boats magazines in an effort to get some exposure and also to make them aware of the introduction of the Novice Challenge for 2015. Both ran an advert for the Challenge.

Peter and I met an old friend, Ian Williams, from Electra past, at the SAWS Time Trials back in April. He wrote a very complimentary article in Marine Modelling following the event and mentioned both Peter and I and Electra.

As you know I have been taking some photographs at the meetings and have been uploading them to a Google account which anyone can access. I have named it Electra Racing and it has had nearly 10,000 views!

Many thanks to Paul Upton-Taylor for his photographic contributions, and also to Donatas for his contributions to the Electra Facebook page.

As always I am indebted to Vaughan Miller for continuing to send me his Miller's Meanderings for the Newsletter.

If you have any suggestions regarding any advertising or articles you would like to see in the future please let me know.

Safety Officer's Report:

There had been no lipo fires this year.

It was noticed that some members were still not putting bright colours on the bottom of their boats. There should be at least one third of the bottom painted with a bright colour in the centre of the boat and not just down the edges.

There had been one possibly dangerous incident at Althorne in very windy conditions when Martin nearly came out of the rescue boat. He was there by himself when the boat was

blown onto the bank. There should be two people in the boat so that one could control the motor and the other collect the model. In calm conditions this may not be necessary. It should be the Safety Officer's responsibility to determine when two people should be used. Also it might be better to use the club's own boat which has a flat bottom unlike the local club's boat which has a round bottom. (see A.O.B.)

Peter also mentioned the incident at Elmbridge when a Hydro 1 boat came out of the water and hit him on the back. There had been no harm done but it was felt that some form of catch fencing could be used on the bottom left corner of the course where sometimes it became difficult to see boats through the spray.

Presentation of Trophies

The 2015 trophies were presented to those winning members present.

Election of 2015/16 committee:

Chairman:

Phil Toler: Proposed by David Harvey
Seconded by Dave Parker

Votes for - unanimous

Secretary:

Martin Harvey: Proposed by Dave Parker
Seconded by Steve Rayner

Votes for - unanimous

Treasurer:

Peter Lockhart: Proposed by Martin Harvey
Seconded by John Croyden

Votes for - unanimous

Membership Secretary:

Peter Lockhart: Proposed by Steve Rayner
Seconded by Roy Hitchcock

Votes for - unanimous

Regatta Records Officer:

Martin Harvey: Proposed by David Harvey
Seconded by Phil Toler

Votes for - unanimous

PRO/Web Master

Sue Lockhart: Proposed by Martin Harvey
Seconded by Peter Lockhart

Votes for - unanimous

Safety officers:

David Harvey (chief): Proposed by Roger Graves
Seconded by Peter Lockhart

Votes for - unanimous

Deputy Safety Officer

Brian Woolcott: Proposed by Roger Graves
Seconded by Peter Lockhart

Votes for - unanimous

The new committee then took over.

Proposals

There had been no proposals submitted and put on the agenda.

A.O.B.

1. David Harvey proposed that it is at the safety officer's discretion whether two people should man the rescue boat.

Motion seconded by John Croyden

Votes for: unanimous

2. Peter Lockhart proposed that the Novice Challenge should continue.

Motioned seconded by Martin Harvey.

Votes for: unanimous

3. Martin Harvey proposed that the number of meetings held each year be reduced from 8 to 7.

Motioned seconded by John Croyden.

Votes for: unanimous

4. The issue of race entry fees was raised by Roger Graves. Roger felt that £5 a boat was too much and that something needed to be done to reduce the cost of racing. There was an interesting discussion around this issue, the main point being that the club should try to cover the majority of its costs for running the meetings. Suggestions such as a fixed entry fee for the day, a reduced fee per boat were discussed, no trophies to be given. A number of members thought that there should be some kind of trophy, particularly to entice any new members that might join. To reduce costs some members offered to recycle trophies from previous years. Phil Toler said that he thought that the club funds were healthy enough to try a reduction in entry fees for 2016.

Roger Graves proposed that the entry fee be reduced to £3 per boat.

Motioned seconded by John Croyden.

Votes for: 9
Votes against: 0
Abstentions: 1

5. Brian Woolcott asked if there were any buoys that needed repairing. Brian would like some more of the foam used for making the buoys. Martin Harvey was asked to try to contact Trevor Goodinson to find out where the foam came from.
6. Martin Harvey asked if anyone could create some designs for the 2nd and 3rd place certificates as he had been unable to find anything suitable on the web. Roy Hitchcock said that he would ask his grandson, who designs websites, if he could come up with something. Roger Graves said that he had some old certificates which might be of use. Both Roy and Roger to liaise with Martin on this.
7. Roger Graves asked if there was any possibility that in the future the club could acquire an electronic lap counting system. He described a method of holding out the pickup wires which did not need anything fixed in the water. It was pointed out that the cost of the equipment would prohibit such a system to be purchased by Electra.

Meeting closed at 14:55