



# *Hornsby Electric Model Flying Club*

## AGM Minutes – 2nd July 2017

### **Attendees:**

Basil Smith	Marcel Lehrer	Ian Smalley	Trevor Prinsloo
John Anderson	Stephen Rickard	Ed Drakes	Geoff Stanfield
Rod Nordsvan	Ian Friery	Louis Abdilla	Carl Bower
George Sampson	John Bartram	John Pellicano	Tom Pecar
Isaac Broadbent	Rex Broadbent	Caleb Broadbent	Richard McDonald
Ken Critchley	Phil Bonny	Mark Preston	Rob Attard
Carl Bower	Dillion Giglio	Stan	Ian Hutchings

### **Apologies:**

Alistair Bennetts	Joshua Abdilla	Ken Craddock	Stewart Thornton
Peter Brown	Victor Florida		

1.1. Meeting opened at the Fagan Park flying field at 10:00 am.

## **2. Reports & Minutes – agenda**

2.1. Last year's AGM minutes accepted by Geoff Stanfield seconded by Steve Rickard

2.2. President's report accepted by Tom Pecar seconded by Marcel Lehrer  
(See appendix A)

2.3. Treasurer's report accepted by Rod Nordsvan seconded by Steve Rickard  
(See appendix B)

2.4. Secretary's report accepted by Basil Smith seconded Marcel Lehrer  
(See appendix C)

- 2.5. Members attendance report accepted by Louis Abdilla seconded by Geoff Stanfield  
(See appendix D)

### **3. Election of Office Holders**

#### **3.1. President:**

Ian Friery was nominated by John Pellicano and seconded by John Anderson

He was elected unanimously.

#### **3.2. Vice President:**

Rod Nordsvan was nominated by John Bartram and seconded by Ed Drakes

He was elected unanimously.

#### **3.3. Treasurer:**

John Pellicano was nominated by Ian Friery and seconded by Geoff Stanfield.

He was elected unanimously.

#### **3.4. Secretary:**

Louis Abdilla was nominated by Geoff Stanfield and seconded by Rod Nordsvan.

He was elected unanimously.

#### **3.5. Safety Officers:**

A call for volunteers for the positions of Safety Officer was made. The following volunteered:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| - Peter Brown      | - John Bartram     |
| - Ken Craddock     | - Richard McDonald |
| - Darren Critchley | - Ken Petersen     |
| - Ed Drakes        | - John Pellicano   |
| - Marcel Lehrer    |                    |

All nominations were accepted.

#### **4. General business:**

- 4.1. General discussion was held about drones and the future of drones within NSW.  
There is an official Government enquiry to drones and once released committee will discuss any actions if needed.
- 4.2. John Anderson raised the issue in relation to the plastic chairs at the club breaking which can be dangerous to our members. Hornsby Council is currently reviewing in installing wooden benches at the club and will wait for decision before any action is taken.
- 4.3. Ian Friery raised the idea of having a surveillance camera installed at the field which would monitor wind and members flying, cost is near \$9,000.00. Agreed this will not be pursued.
- 4.4. Discussion was held how members can notify each other on when they will be flying. WhatsApp a messaging tool was discussed as a great way for communication in order for members to notify when they would be flying at the field.
- 4.5. Building a Club house was discussed. Cost would be near \$40,000.00 Agreed this will not be pursued.
- 4.6. Shade to be erected in the pits was discussed to provide shelter for members and planes. This will be reviewed by the committee.
- 4.7. Sealed runway was discussed however advice from MAAA was that the runway may damage planes. Agreed this will not be pursued.
- 4.8. Members shirts was discussed with new logo. This will be reviewed with costs associated. Committee to review.
- 4.9. Next fund-raising event may be held in October. Ian and Rod to discuss.
- 4.10. Pit Area – grass has difficulty growing. Installation of astro turf as an option. Committee to review.
- 4.11. HEMFC Website to be updated – John Bartram and Isaac Broadbent will work on this together.
- 4.12. Ian to talk to CASA about boundaries of flight at HEMFC and Fagan Park.
- 4.13. Roller for field was discussed and if the club can purchase one. (Ian will also check with the park Ranger)

#### **5. Meeting close**

- 5.1. Meeting closed at 11:35 am.

**President's Report for AGM**

**HORNSBY ELECTRIC FLYING CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2 JULY 2017**

1. Welcome to everyone to what I understand to be our 21<sup>st</sup> annual general meeting. To those who have been around for a while, thank you for attending and to those who have joined in the past year, a very warm welcome.
2. A club like ours does not just run by itself. It has taken a lot of dedicated, behind the scenes, work by numerous people to make the club run smoothly and harmoniously and to make it what it is today. Some of us are in formal roles . Others aren't but just get up and help out as and when required. To all of you, I express my thanks and appreciation for you help over the past year.
3. I'd like to pass on special thanks to my fellow committee members – Rod Nordsvan, Louis Abdilla and John Pellicano for their unwavering support throughout the year. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the ongoing support and guidance provided by Geoff Stanfield (who we have appointed as our Director of Special Projects). Collectively, these four individuals have been the cornerstones to what has been another successful, but challenging year for the club.
4. As mentioned by Geoff last year, it has been an ongoing challenge for us to ensure that we train and retain new members to the club. To this end, I'd like to pass on my gratitude to Ed Drakes and Rod Nordsvan who have continued to provided their services as our chief instructors. During the year, 5 fellow members also took up the challenge and have become assistant instructors. This has taken some of the pressure off Ed and Rod and has enabled the sharing of the workload in training new members. I'd like to sincerely thank each of you who have taken on these important tasks and encourage anyone else who is able to assist Ed and Rod in this task to let us know.
5. During the year we have had a number of members achieve their Bronze, Silver or Gold wings. These are a great way to help improve and develop your individual flying and everyone is encouraged to continue to challenge yourselves in this regard. To this end, it is also pleasing to see a number of our members have been actively participating in F3A pattern flying competitions at state and national level. They are

to be congratulated on their results during the year and have certainly raised the bar for the rest of us in relation to improving our flying skills.

6. It is a MAAA and Council requirement that we maintain records of who is on site on any given day. To this end, I thank Ed Drakes for continuing to maintain attendance records for the club. This is an important task and the data was very useful in our discussions earlier this year with Council in order to show them how active the club was in using the field. It has also enabled us to identify who was flying on a particular day so that we could revert to Council, CASA and the MAAA in a timely manner in relation to any incidents that had been reported.
7. We have very little by way of infrastructure in order to maintain the field but there are always odd jobs that need to be done. To this end, I'd like to particularly thank Ken Peterson and his clutch of helpers who have been doing their best to beat the efforts of the rabbits to tear the wheels off our planes. I'd also like to thank Dennis, Marcel and others who assisted in repairing the field after vandals decided to break in and thought it would be a good idea to do donuts on the field.
8. Our Safety Officers play an important role in ensuring that we operate in a safe environment, both for ourselves and for members of the general public. We have had some challenges on this front during the year and I appreciate the extra efforts that the Safety Officers have made to ensure ongoing safe flying operations.
9. We should not, however, rely solely upon the Safety Officers to call out any breaches. Safety is everybody's business. If you see somebody flying out of bounds or doing something that you consider dangerous, it is incumbent on you to call it out, irrespective of whether or not you are a Safety Officer. Any ongoing breaches or verbal abuse against anyone calling out a misdemeanour will not be tolerated. We should not be willing to allow the actions of one or two individuals to jeopardise the ongoing viability of the club.
10. This brings us to some of the issues that have occurred this year. I'll put these into three main categories:
  - a. Fly aways
  - b. Flying out of bounds
  - c. On the ground safety
11. Fly Aways – we had only one significant incident during the year where electrical problems resulted in a plane flying some distance from the field and purportedly landing in someone's property with claims that it had damaged property and injured a horse. Whilst doubts are held over authenticity of the claims, it is important that members ensure that their gear is working properly and, if possible, measures put in place to ensure that any aircraft that loses signal will have default settings which will ensure that it does not continue to fly.

12. Flying out of bounds – this has resulted in a number of complaints being received during the year. In several instances, claims have been made that people and or animals were endangered by these breaches of the airfield boundaries. Whilst we have not had any complaints in relation to dangerous flying near the playground, issues of concern relate to flying operations encroaching across Bayfield Road and behind the flight box. There is no point in sticking our heads in the sand and saying it doesn't happen as we have all seen it from time to time and members of the public have also provided video and photographic evidence that this is the case. We need to ensure that we take responsibility for the actions rather than blaming the messenger.
13. As everyone is aware, the above instances resulted in Rod and I being summonsed to Hornsby Council. Council clearly has a duty of care to members of the public and quite rightly asked us to provide explanations for what had happened and what we were doing to address the concerns raised. Following issuance of notices to members which has resulted in an increased awareness of the issues and expectations, no further complaints have been received over the past few months. To this end, I'd like to thank everyone for their increased diligence and remind you that Council are only willing to provide six monthly extensions of our lease so ongoing compliance is critical.
14. The third point relates to on-the-ground safety. Everyone is aware of rules in relation to operating planes in the pit area. I ask that helicopter and quad pilots pay particular attention when flying at the southern end of the field to ensure that they do not encroach into the pit area and endanger people or equipment there. As Henry Hua will attest to, propellers of electric planes are very unforgiving so we ask that you continue to pay attention when activating throttles and to use throttle cuts until you are ready to fly. The final point in this area is that nobody is to let Geoff Stanfield have a knife to cut sausages at future AGMs as tomato sauce is already provided and the sausages will be burnt by the time he gets back from Hornsby Hospital.
15. Our meeting in January with Council did provide us with an opportunity to highlight to them that the club was very active and well attended. Some of the points highlighted included:
  - a. Our membership has doubled in the past 10 years and we now have around 90 members
  - b. 49% of our members are over 60 years of age and 75% are over 50 with those under 30 accounting for only 11%
  - c. Over the past three years we have donated \$3,500 to charities, including Royal Flying Doctor Service, Camp Quality, Friends of Fagan Park and Cancer Council
  - d. Between March 2011 and January 2017 we had over 15,000 attendances at the field, averaging out at over 50 per week.
16. We reviewed the field map with Council and highlighted the growth of vegetation over the years had made take offs and landing approaches problematic given

existing boundaries. We obtained their approval to extend the southern boundary to better facilitate take and landing approaches. This extended area is just to be used for these purposes solely and is not for general flying.

17. Since the meeting with Council they have graded the driveway to improve access, replaced the gates destroyed by vandals, installed an additional barrier at the entrance and they have removed the dead trees and planted Turpentine to replace them in the car park area.
18. Vandalism has continued to cause ongoing problems during the year. We continue to follow Council up in relation to the possibility of installing more permanent, vandal proof benches and tables in the car park/pit area. We are also awaiting their response as to whether it would be feasible to get power on to the site to facilitate recharging of batteries along with the installation of additional warning signs around the field advising members of the public to take care during flight operations.
19. All in all, Council appear to now be fairly comfortable with our operations although we should never take this for granted.
20. This then brings us to where do we want the club to go in the future? Are members happy with the existing minimalist approach at the site which adequately provides for our basic needs or do we want to investigate what opportunities may exist for the future?
21. Bearing in mind that the Fagan Park Conservation Management Plan does place restrictions on what can be done with the site, are members interested in developing some form of strategic plan for the future which may see some improvements to the airfield? Various options that could be considered include:
  - a. installation of a camera monitoring system which feeds back to our website (preliminary indications are that such would cost around \$9K and then \$70pm for 4G coverage)
  - b. Installation of a more permanent hard surface runway
  - c. Establishment of a club house
  - d. Concreting and covering the pits area
22. All of these options would necessitate working with Council and the Fagan Park trust and I envisage that a number of them may result in objections that the outcomes would not be commensurate with the original intentions of the Trust Deed. Another factor is clearly one of funding. We have limited funds at present and, whilst we may be able to seek funding assistance from Council and MAAA, we would most likely need to increase our membership fees and fund raising activities in order to proceed with a number of these options.
23. We are not going to solve this today but I'd be glad if we can hear some views from the members on your thoughts during General Business.

24. I'd like to remind everyone that your membership renewals for 2017-18 are now due and payable. We have again kept the fees unchanged this year and I ask that, if you have not already done so, can you please arrange payment asap to ensure that you have ongoing insurance cover.
25. Finally, this club has a long and enviable reputation for operating in a safe and friendly manner. However, as per the events earlier this year, there is a very fine line between operating safely and in harmony with our neighbours. Reputations that have built up over many years can very easily be tarnished and I trust that we will all continue to act in a harmonious and responsible manner whilst still enjoying the great camaraderie within the club and the great sport of model flying.
26. I trust that everyone will be able to join us for the BBQ after this meeting and look forward to many more challenges in the air (and not on the ground) during 2017-18.

Ian Friery

President

2 July 2017



## Appendix B - TREASURER'S REPORT – July 2016

### HORNSBY ELECTRIC MODEL FLYING CLUB INC.

#### Income & Expenditure Statement: 01-July-2016 to 30-June-2017

	<u>2016-2017</u>
<b><u>Balance b/f</u></b>	<u>\$23,173.01</u>
<b><u>Add Income</u></b>	
Gala Days Income	\$475.65
Interest Received	\$16.38
Membership Fees	\$12,825.00
Sales - Gate Keys	\$40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$13,357.03</u></b>
<b><u>Less Expenditure</u></b>	
Donation - Friends of Fagan Park	\$1,000.00
Donation- Royal Flying Doctor	
Donation - Camp Quality	\$500.00
Donation - Cancer Council	
Fees Paid - Club Registration - NSW Fair Trading	\$54.00
Fees Paid - Website/Domain Name Costs	\$170.90
Fees paid - Hornsby Council Field License	\$899.00
Fees Paid - MAS (ANSW)	\$7,500.00
Affiliation Fee - ANSW	\$25.00
Fees Paid - Mowing	\$2,160.00
Fees Paid - Westpac	
Purchase - Badges	\$335.28
Purchase - BBQ Supplies/Gala Day costs	\$686.42
Purchase - Club trainers, transmitter & equip	\$280.00
Purchase - Gate Keys	\$142.42
Purchase - Get well card	
Purchase - Rakes	
Purchase - Postage stamps	
Purchase - Signage at gate	\$25.00
Purchase - Tables & chairs	
Purchase - Umbrella base, poles & pegs	
Refunds - Fees (Instructors)	\$80.00
Refunds - Keys Returned	
Recovery Pole	\$2,046.00
Refunds to Members	\$80.00

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,984.02</b>
<b>Balance c/f per Bank Statement</b>		<b>\$20,546.02</b>
<b>Balance c/f Comprises</b>		
<b>Income/(Expense) For New Financial Year</b>		<b>-\$5,765.85</b>
<b>Surplus At Year End</b>		<b>\$14,780.17</b>

**Prepared By** John Pellicano (2016-2017)  
Treasurer

Signed: Date: 2-Jul-17

Counter Signed: Ian Friery - President Date: 2-Jul-17

## Appendix C

### SECRETARY'S REPORT – July 2017

#### Thanks to Gary Hoggard

Thanks to Gary Hoggard who is still assisting with the website.

Thanks to Committee and Geoff Sandford for the continued hard work especially as the past year has been a tough one with complaints.

#### Member Details

This is a reminder to all members to log into the members' area of the web site (<http://hemfc.org.au>) and check that your details are correct. For those who have not logged in, and those who have forgotten their

password, please contact Louis on 0402 141 151, or email  
Louis@contentsecurity.com.au

## **Member Name Tags**

Each member either has or shall be issued a name tag. Please contact the Secretary if you have not received your name tag.

- Safety – safety should all members number 1 priority at the club.
- Please take care for horses when entering club's gates.
- Please also beware for snakes near the lake especially during summer.
- Please ensure the correct calling signals are announced when in the flight box – and for members not using the correct calling signals it's important we educate our fellow members to do so.

## **Environment**

HEMFC has a tremendous environment for all members to enjoy the hobby we all love. This environment has been built over many years and in recognition of members from past and present. It's important to continue to hold this great environment as I believe HEMFC is a special club. Let's all work together to maintain this environment for the current and new members for the future.

Louis Abdilla  
HEMFC Secretary

## Appendix D

### HEMFC 2016-2017 Attendance Report

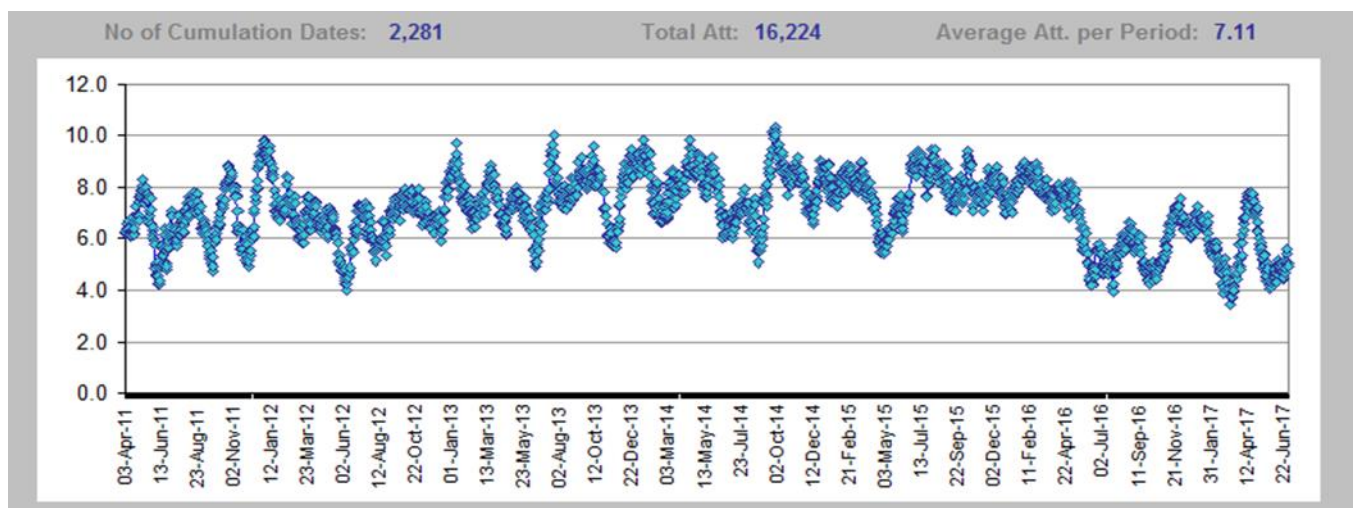
#### Average Attendance..

Year	Total Att.	Daily Average	%age Change since last year	Zero Attend. Days
16/17	2,049	5.61	-27.4	94
15/16	2,829	7.73	+0.1	60
14/15	2,818	7.72	-3.9	66
13/14	2,931	8.03	+14.7	63
12/13	2,554	7.00	+3.2	71
11/12	2,481	6.78		84

#### Summary:

Over the last 6 years attendance has varied between 5.6 and 8 per day. The extended inclement weather - either very windy or very wet - since July 2016 has forced our average daily attendance down by around 27% from previous years.

#### Total Attendance since 3-April-2011 when computer records began..



#### Summary:

Over the last 6 years the total number of attendances has reached 16,224. This results in an average attendance, long term, of 7.11 per day. This last year has been marked by a serious drop in attendance.

### Attendance Nuts for 2016/17

80 Guys contribute to the total attendances = 2049.

Average cost per attendance =  $190 \times 80 / 2049 = \$7.42$

These following 11 guys contribute half the total attendances.

Member #	Name	Init	Count	
73769	Ed Drakes	EDS	167	167
76331	Richard McDonald	RMD	117	284
76488	Ken Peterson	KPN	109	393
83204	Dennis Fragias	DFS	108	501
67494	Geoff Stanfield	GSD	100	601
73998	Marcel Lehrer	MLR	87	688
82689	Trevor Prinsloo	TPO	80	768
34415	Ian Smalley	ISY	69	837
76386	Carl Bower	CBR	68	905
83626	Basil Smith	BSH	67	972
57740	Les Stacey	LSY	63	1035

Zorba

#### Summary:

11 Members contribute half the total attendances.

80 Members contribute to the total attendance of **2049**.

The average cost per attendance is thus  $[190 / 2049 \times 80 =] \$7.42$

Of course this varies between about \$1 (for the high attendees) and up to \$190 for those who attend just once.

### Most Popular Days of the Week

Monday	251	12
Tuesday	296	14
Wednesday	221	11
Thursday	173	8
Friday	186	9
Saturday	471	23
Sunday	451	22
	<b>2049</b>	

#### Summary:

Saturdays' attendances account for nearly 1/4 of the total.

Thursdays account for less than 10% of the total.

