

The IMechE Dorchester Area Committee Meeting

The Royal Oak 9th February 2012
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Present

Gerry Pritchard Chairman (C), Steve Stubbing School Liaison Officer (SLO), Andrew Samways Publicity Officer & Minute Taker (PO & MT)

Apologies Nick Fryer (Treasurer)

Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the previous AGM were accepted without alteration. Any matters arising are dealt with in the following minutes and those of the 37th Ordinary Meeting, which followed on immediately after the AGM.

The Chairman's report

Committee – There are still only four Members on our Committee despite our continued efforts to attract new blood. We meet nominally three times a year but contact by telephone is frequent. The venue for meetings remains the Original Thomas Hardy Inn as this is convenient to members locally and living nearby.

Lectures – In reality we prefer to speak of 'talks' which lacks the description of lectures and allows freedom to the speaker and his subject. This is perhaps our major activity. We seek speakers on varied and hopefully interesting subjects. Once again, we arranged three talks during the year. Finding speakers with valid subjects requires considerable effort and to ease the workload, during the year we developed close ties with the IoP. Hence, the Weymouth lecture programme is now IMechE, IET and IoP sponsored. Refreshments are provided at all talks and our regular venue for talks is Weymouth College. Attendees are of mixed background, active and retired, young and old. The average number attending is about three dozen. The three lecture titles for last year were; 'The renaissance of Nuclear Power and its Future', (Joint with the IoP), 'Search and Rescue – Humans and Technology' and 'Lets get Wrecked – Discovering Local Shipwrecks'.

Schools – An area of activity to which much effort is given by some members of the committee. After school clubs are operated at the schools we support (Budmouth, All Saints and Wey Valley) with involvement in Greenpower a key activity. Effort and time given to this is commendable and the committee has seen fit to help with SLO travel expenses. Our SLO does a splendid job. See attached summary report.

Visits – There is little scope for visits in the area and it is largely a matter of opportunity.

Finance – Good working relations exist between Region and Dorchester treasurers and all works well and smoothly.

General – The Dorchester Area has struggled to keep going for some years and has only exceeded due to the willingness of its few members. I think we have done well and Region has been patient and should recognise our efforts over this period.

Secretary's Report

Since the Dorchester Area has no Secretary there was nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

The Dorchester Area had a Grant of £1,700 from Region last FY which was used, in the main, to support three very well attended lectures at Weymouth College, our SLO activities, together with the committee expenses. Expenditure was in line with previous years.

School Liaison Officer's Report

See attached Activity report from the SLO.

PO Report

The Dorchester Area Website is now one of our main communication methods. Post lecture summaries are written and added to the website. The dates for the 2012 lectures have now been added. PO is making continued good use of the 'List' server facility with global emails sent out to the DT1 – DT7 postcodes to members informing them of lecture details. It was decided to use this facility again to appeal for more committee members. However, so far, this has not encouraged any new blood to join the Committee. In parallel with the Website tasks, the PO has updated the 'paper' mailing list. During the year the committee arranged three lectures.

Election of Officers

All the present officers were prepared to continue in their current posts. There were no other members who had shown any interest in these posts. The post of Secretary remains vacant despite numerous appeals to members.

AOB

There was none.

Closing Comments

The Committee as a whole expressed satisfaction with the past year's work with regard to the programme and the schools involvement.

Nick Fryer
Dorchester Area Minute Taker
29th April 2012