

## USA Waterski East Region Winter Meeting 2015

**When:** January 10, 2015 (Start at 9.30, end by 4pm)

**Location:** Chesterbrook, PA (Embassy Suites @ Valley Forge)

Name	Representation	Attended Meeting & Drive Time
Pat Byrne	Director	Y-4hr
Hutch Haines	Director	Y- 4hr
Jon Thacher	Director	Y- not indicated
Tonya Maurer	Director, EVP & Council CT	Y – 4 hr
Bill Fosbenner	Council NJ	Y – 2 hr
Al Harris	Council VA	Y- 2 ¾ hrs
Darlene McCormick	Council VT	
Brett Brandau	Council DE	Y- 1 hr
Dave Allen	Council MA	Y- 6 hr
Jean Giove	Council MD	Y- 3 hr
Dave Robbins	Council ME	
Bill Swaffield	Council NH	
John Paulovich	Council NJ	
George Vosburgh	Council NY	Y- 5 ½ hr
Dean Rudy	Council NY	Y- 5 ½ hr
John Davis	Council PA	Y- 5 ½ hr
Gary Noll	Council PA	Y- 15 min
Jeff Hardin	Council VA	Y – 2 ¾ hr
Sam Ingram	Council WA	
Roger Hammel	HND	Y- 3 hr 5 min
Doug Robbins	HND	Y- 5 hr
Jerry Stansberry	HND	
Steve Lohr	HND	
Bill Baker	HND	Y – 15 min
Paul Allebach	HND	
Rick Norford	HND	
Marie Baker	Treasurer	Y-15min
<b>Committee Members</b>		
Jennifer Kelly	Tournament Seeding	
Gary Noll	Rules Committee	Y
Sara Lemley	Rules Committee	Y – 3 hr
Pat Byrne	Safety Committee	Y
Dana Hinman	Skiers Rating	
Chip Shand	Technical Committee	
Doug Robbins	Towboat Committee	Y
John Davis	Regional Search/Site	Y
John Harris	Waterways	
Darlene McCormick	Webmaster	
Ralph Hall	International Activities	Y – 5 hrs
Jon Thacher	International Activities	Y
Tonya Maurer	Judges/Scorers Committee	Y
Orly Berjarno	Jr Development	
Corey Vaughn	Jr Development	
Ann Lohr	Awards	

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### **Membership Attendees:**

Ron Ramsey (VA) 5.5 hr drive	Diane Thacher (VA) not indicated
Peggy Harris (VA) 2 ¾ hr drive	
Karen Melnik (PA) not indicated	
Wick Merchant (VA) 4 hr drive	
MeriLou Rudy (VA) 5.5 hr drive	
Lewis Fields (VA) 7 hr drive	

**Total Attended: 28 (of which 21 were council & committee members)**

(Note; if all council and committee members joined we would have 39 people attend)

**AGENDA & Notes, action items in Yellow/Red**

Key Topics
<p>1. Opening &amp; Call to Order <b>(15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Meeting started at 9.05am</li> <li>b. Introduction of Council &amp; Committee Members</li> <li>c. Introduction of guest Speakers</li> <li>d. Sign In Sheet</li> <li>e. Agenda Review</li> </ul>
<p>2. Treasurer's Report <b>(15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Noted that we had 30 people signed up to attend.</li> <li>b. 2014 Results &amp; 2015 budget items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Following items are outstanding from the 2014 year end financials:</li> <li>ii. Reimbursement to John Wilkins for 25% of the Jr entry fee</li> <li>iii. Reimbursement to John Wilkins for aspiring official: \$220 (Kevin Driggers)  <b>ACTION:</b> Tonya to request the invoice from Kevin before Marie submits a check to John.</li> <li>iv. Question from Jeff Hardin: Who keeps the regional budget &amp; P/L statements?                      Answer: The LOC. Tonya noted that she has made the Pangaea financial information available.</li> <li>v. <b>ACTION:</b> Marie to change any reference from guidebook in the financials to be sanctioning (both for fees and income).</li> <li>vi. Question from Hutch: where is the distribution for the 4 Jr Clinics that happened in 2014? Answer: that was a line item in the July financial summary.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>3. Committee Review: AWSA Rules <b>(1 hour)</b></p> <p>4. –Proposal 1 (exception for onetime experiment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What is the definition of 'one time'?</li> <li>b. <b>Motion</b> – Doug - Do not approve the proposal.</li> <li>c. <b>Second</b> – Jon Thacher</li> <li>d. <b>Discussion</b></li> <li>e. – add to 2015.</li> <li>f. – The time is insufficient and the power is being putting in to a pocket of people – BOD, and LOC</li> <li>g. – need advance notice for changes to Nationals – 3 months is too short.</li> <li>h. – this language allows changes to operate outside the rule committee process</li> <li>i. – Add the Year as 2015.</li> <li>j. – Maybe add change 3 months to 12 months</li> <li>k. <b>Vote:</b> Motion approved, Opposed: 0</li> <li>l. <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> East regional does not approve the proposal as written. If the proposal is approved, then why do we need a rule change?</li> </ul> <p>5. – Proposal 2 (MM/OM rating must be determined by ELR tourn. only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Discussion</b> – East region doesn't have the ELR tournaments that other regions have; this will be a disadvantage for the Eastern Region.</li> <li>b. <b>MOTION:</b> Hutch - Oppose the proposal.</li> <li>c. <b>Second:</b> Doug</li> <li>d. <b>Vote:</b> Motion approved, Opposed: 0</li> <li>e. <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> East regional does not approve the proposal as written.</li> </ul> <p>6. – Proposal 3</p>

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- a. Dave Allen will need NOPs factors, and speed, need the requirements for the scoring program. **ACTION** to **Gary/Sarah** to be sure that Dave is looped in on the specifics.
  - b. Likely will not be in place for 2016.
  - c. **RECOMMENDATION**: East will approve the proposal. Need to include the logistics of implementation.
7. – Proposal 4
- a. Not discussed – **assume** East will approve the proposal.
8. – Proposal 5
- a. Not discussed – **assume** East will approve the proposal.
9. – Proposal 6
- a. Not discussed – **assume** East will approve the proposal.
10. – Proposal 7 (malfunction)
- a. Added the reference to 8.10F – nothing else changed.
  - b. No additional discussion – assume East will approve the proposal
- 11.– Proposal 8 (added boat engine)
- a. Gary/Sara noted change as this was a request that the East had previously.
  - b. **RECOMMENDATION**: East will approve the proposal.
- 12.– Proposal 9 (Light/Mid Lines)
- a. Standard, Mid Line, Light Line
  - b. Light line needs to be available across the tournament; meaning if someone shows up with a mid/light line – then they need to make it available to others at the tournament in that division/event.
  - c. The LOC does not need to provide a light/mid line.
  - d. **RECOMMENDATION**: East will approve the proposal.
- 13.– Proposal 10 (jump boat path)
- a. EC- End Course
  - b. **RECOMMENDATION**: East will approve the proposal.
- 14.– Proposal 11 (jump timing)
- a. Not discussed
- 15.- Proposal 12 (no logo on the surface of the jump)
- a. **RECOMMENDATION**: East will approve the proposal.
- 16.– Proposal 13
- a. Not discussed – assume East will approve the proposal.
17. –Proposal 14 (hand measurements when record is set)
- a. Discussion:
  - b. - This section is carried over the .... How does it and who validates
  - c. **Motion**: Doug made motion to go back to Rules Committee for more clarification.
  - d. **Second** Dean/Matt
  - e. **Vote** Motion Passes, Opposed - 0
  - f. **RECOMMENDATION**: Send back to the committee for more information.
- 18.– Proposal 15 (Lower MN11 slalom)
- a. Question: When would this go into effect? Answer: It could be in 2015 – determined by the vote at HQ.
  - b. No additional discussion – **assume** East will approve the proposal
- 19.– Proposal 17 (“the” pylon & center line)
- a. Discussion:
  - b. – this a TC rule and ultimately a TC issue

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- c. - Splash Eye will be needed to enforce the rule
  - d. - How do can clubs and officials actually comply with the rule? Class C – more for money that the LOCs need to dole out to actually ensure they comply.
  - e. - This will penalize the new drivers
  - f. **Motion:** Doug – Oppose as written.
  - g. **Second:** Brett
  - h. **Vote:** Motion passes, Opposed: 0
  - i. **RECOMMENDATION:** East regional does not approve the proposal as written.
- 20.– Proposal 19 (tricks - buoys)
- a. Not discussed – **assume** East will approve the proposal.
- 21.– Proposal 20 (optional shore judge)
- a. Discussion:
  - b. – should it note that the Chief will assign? Discussion is no – that is micro managing.
  - c. **RECOMMENDATION:** Approved as written
- 22.– Proposal 21 (reversals)
- a. This triggers work on Dave’s part for the scoring program.
  - b. **RECOMMENDATION:** Approved as written
- 23.– Proposal 22 (height of camera)
- a. Discussion:
  - b. - Boat owners won’t allow folks on their seats
  - c. - Too hard to get the camera at a specific height above the windshield.
  - d. - No consistency based the various boat windshields/bimini
  - e. **Motion:** To oppose the proposal.
  - f. **Second:** Roger
  - g. **Vote:** Motion Passes, Opposed - 0
  - h. **RECOMMENDATION:** East regional does not approve the proposal as written.
24. Gary noted that one of the requests from the east was to eliminate the calling in the times for slalom – the response from the rules committee that it is needed because the ability to accidently get into the recreational mode.
25. Regionals (**1 hour**)
- a. 2015 Regional Bid – Lake Holly
    - i. Expect a large volume of skiers because Nationals are in FL and So Regionals are in KY)
    - ii. Q: Bill F- Will there be pre-described slots for practice? Answer: yes.
    - iii. Q: Tonya - Tricks – what option will you go with based on the 3 noted in the bid? Answer: option not firmed up; but likely the shuttling of chips will be used (i.e. from start dock to Marie Fields cottage). Sara noted that they will use the tune up to work out the efficiencies.
    - iv. Q: Tonya - Practice – will the other lakes close to Lake Holly be used for practice? Answer: Yes Timber Lake will offer practice and will coordinate with Lake Holly on the communications.
    - v. Q: Tonya - Practice – will practice only be M-W at Lake Holly? Answer: Yes.
    - vi. Q: Tonya – When is the Regional meeting? Answer – on Sat before the banquet.
    - vii. Q: Is the Banq fee separate? Answer: Yes (price TBD).
    - viii. Q: Tonya- is there a charge for on-site camping? Answer – No (it is dry camping)
    - ix. Q: Tonya – will all JRs ski before they go to their event? Answer: Yes.

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- x. Brett noted that need to communicate the time for when the boats need to arrive so that the promo boats can plan. Jon T noted that all the boats are local.
- xi. **ACTION** – Tonya to research if we have set the precedence for 3<sup>rd</sup> Scorer for regionals.
- b. **MOTION 1** Allow the included officials to be the officials.
- c. **Second:** – Marie
- d. **Vote:** Motion 1 does NOT pass (1 voted yes)
- e. **Motion 2:** Doug - Accept the bid, with the chiefs as noted and use the documented Policy & Procedure to appoint the remaining officials (Judge/Driver/Scorer/Safety).
- f. **Second:** Brett.
- g. **Vote:** Motion 2 Passes, Opposed – 0 (I believe some abstained)

26. Officials Voting Required *(n/a)*

- h. Regional Officials
  - i. **NOTE:** that the Regional Bid included one extra driver; the bid was already approved & there was no other discussion. So for the 2015 regionals there will be an additional Driver which differs from the Policy and Procedures
  - ii. **NOTE:** Ron Ramsey asked to be included in Scorer and Judge consideration for the vote to support the LOCs request to keep cost down.
- i. National Officials

**Lunch (45 min) <<note that we were about 15 min behind schedule>>**

27. Tally and Announce Officials

**REGIONALS:**

Judges (Chief - Sara, Ast Chief - Bill):

Roger Hammel

Gary Noll

Ed Nicholas (doesn't use email, I'll send him a txt to notify him)

Bill Cooper

Dave Knight

Jerry Stansberry

Kevin Driggers (paid for by Region - in this case no cost since Kevin is local)

Scorers (Chief - Kathy Roach)

Jennifer Frederick-Kelly

Dave Allen

Drivers (Chief - Marie Fields)

Al Harris

Ralph Hall

Jon Thacher

Doug Robbins

Safety (Chief - Peggy)

Pat Byrne

**NATIONALS:**

Drivers: Matt Byrne and Marie Fields

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Judges: Sarah Lemley & Gary Noll are the appointed; Ed Nichols, Bill Cooper and Ralph Hall are the assigned

Safety: None

Scorers: Dave Allen & Tonya Maurer (I'm retesting for my Sr in Trick next month)

TC: None

Announcers: None

### 28. Other Committee Updates (~2 hour)

#### j. Regional Site Search Committee (20 min) – John Davis

- i. Dean – can we take some of the uncertainty out of running the regionals
  1. If the region supported with equipment/technology requirements
  2. Purchase and make technology available for other sites.
- ii. Dave – issue with technology is that it changes every 2-3 years; but maybe get some Lap Tops for Scoring & Judging that can be 'community' machines
- iii. Tonya – could the region pay for the survey on behalf of a LOC?
- iv. George - Do we need all the officials? – Gary – need to focus group of officials that will always be available; so yes.
- v. Bill B – can any of the equipment be rented? Discussion: No not really, maybe radios or cameras – it's the wireless and the contingency planning
- vi. Ron R – need more E/L/R tournaments so that the sites can build up and get the equipment they need; Discussion: Folks don't want to go because the cost of the tournaments are more for ELR's. There aren't the officials to do a lot of ELR – the pool is small. Most of our skiers are not "looking" or "seeking" out ELR tournaments.
- vii. Bill B – When regionals use to be run, each state would take on a role during regionals to support the event – why don't we do that anymore?
- viii. Doug - Event Insurance (like the national bid) – Can this be an option to entice other sites?
- ix. GOV - Need to get the JRs involved.
- x. **ACTION**: All sites that have hosted the regionals in the past need to come to the table in the summer meeting with response to whether or not they would run the regionals again; and what challenges does their site face?
- xi. **ACTION**: this is a call to action to squash any negative discussions/chatter about sites that do host tournaments in general (not just the regionals). Every site is different (like a golf course) and each has it own unique qualities – we need to embrace those qualities.

#### k. Regional Nominating (5 min) – Jean Giove

- i. Vote on EVP @ summer meeting.
- ii. Vote on National director – Jon's session is up (has been in position for the last 6 years; undecided if he would like to continue)
- iii. USA national director – Pat's session is up (has been in position for 1 year, and is avail to serve if others are not interested)

#### l. Regional Tournaments (15 min):

- i. Guidebook Time Line – Tonya Maurer
  1. Get the sanctions in as soon as possible.
  2. Regional Championship Ad for guidebook is needed as well.
  3. Due date for all tournaments and other information is 1/20.
- ii. Tournament Coordinator – Bill Fosbenner
  1. We had 61 tournaments last year.
  2. **ACTION** – Tonya to communicate that all sanction income checks are to be mailed to Marie Baker.



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- m. Junior Development (**10 min**) – Tonya Maurer
  - i. New National Chair named – Jim Divito
  - ii. Need additional help on the JR Dev Committee: check with Jim / TG Powell, maybe Matt Byrne
  - iii. GOV – 2016 – JR US Open (Under 21) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend
    - 1. Will have Clinic for Jrs early in the week w/ tournament
    - 2. Allow winners from the tournament to be on the dock at the tournament
    - 3. The winner of the Jr US Open from the East is then invited to the Masters
- n. Regional Records (**5 min**) – Chip Shand
  - i. Records on the website by the summer meeting
- o. AWSA Technical (**5 min**) – Chip Shand
  - i. See Notes from Chip:
  - ii. Several TCs are lacking their maintenance clinic requirements, but Jerry Jackson has made sure that no TCs have lost their ratings.
  - iii. Jerry Jackson has put together a 4-module PowerPoint package for TC Maintenance Training that should soon be posted on the AWSA website. Reviewing the package will serve as a virtual maintenance clinic. All TCs need to thoroughly review each module and remit a signed statement that the modules have been reviewed in order to receive credit for a maintenance clinic. This is for maintenance only – it does not count as a clinic for an aspiring TC.
  - iv. The requirement is two record tournaments per event. Two Class C tournaments can count as one Class E, L, R tournament, so all TCs should make sure that the scorer lists them as a TC for Class C tournaments even though a TC is not required for a Class C tournament.
  - v. Jerry Jackson is proposing a new “TC Ambassador” ranking. A TC Ambassador is grandfathered in as a TC with no requirement for training. The initial nomination list of TC Ambassadors are Ed Brazil, Bob Corson, Dave Clark, and Roger Dilling.
- p. AWSA Boat Drivers (**15 min**) – Al Harris
  - i. What is the status of Downgrades?
  - ii. Trained Driver situation
    - 1. Allan Frederick – Emeritus Approved
    - 2. Trained Driver: a change being looked at to allow any capacity actually supports the trained driver role. This is any sanctioned event.
    - 3. Don't have to sign off –but regardless need to have the form filled out and sent it.
    - 4. NOTE: Dave Allen confirmed that the scoring system includes the ability to note trained drivers and will be sent to HQ in the officials' credit information; HQ will process and store the credits.
    - 5. All officials need to check their credits every year.
    - 6. When in doubt fill out the paperwork for your Trained Driver maintenance credits and send to HQ.
    - 7. **ACTON** – Tonya to send out a communication to the regional membership that trained drivers can be listed and given credit.
  - iii. Clinics in 2015 – **ACTION** Al to work with the various drivers to coordinate 2 clinics that can be published in the guidebook.
  - iv. **(Side Bar Discussion) Hardship** for Meri Lou – ASAP; work through Al Harris.
- q. AWSA Towboat (**10 min**) – Doug Robbins



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- i. Towboat Selections Completed – MC, Malibu, Centurion, Nautique
- ii. Display issues with the bad time for Jump – should have a fix
- iii. Standard Displays – is that possible? Manufactures aren't willing to do it. Our market share is too small.
- r. AWSA Judges & Scorers **(20 min)** – Tonya Maurer
  - i. Downgrades – no stats available yet.
  - ii. **Motion** to host the 2016 National Officials Clinic
  - iii. **Second** Dave
  - iv. **Vote:** Motion Passed, Opposed - 0
  - v. East hosted 3-4 years ago- Jon Thacher coordinated the activity.
  - vi. Question: Are the new videos up for the Sr. Test? Yes they are on u-tube – Ron Ramsey as seen them.
  - vii. Dave noted there are a lot places you can to review the trick videos now. Check our AwsaEast website for links as well.
  - viii. **NOTE** There will be 2 Scorer Clinics this spring – Tonya working with Dave to coordinate. The Dates are: 2/21 and 3/21.
- s. AWSA Safety **(10 min)** – Pat Byrne
  - i. Proposed Clinics in 2015 – yes Peggy & Pat working on a schedule
  - ii. Question: Can we fast tracking medical personnel? Answer: NO
  - iii. Simon Gray – is a **NEW** Regional Safety!!!!
- t. AWSA Bylaws **(5 min)** – Steve Vincent (Tonya to cover)
  - i. Look to a updated By-Laws later this year.
- u. AWSA Grassroots – **REMOVED, given back to USA water ski** (formerly Al Harris)
- v. AWSA Awards – Ann Lohr *would like to vacate*
- w. Not Attending or No Updates:
  - i. AWSA Announcers – Bill Cooper
  - ii. AWSA East Website – Darlene McCormick
  - iii. AWSA Skiers Rating – Dana Hinman
  - iv. AWSA Nominating – Pat Byrne
  - v. AWSA International Activities – Ralph Hall & Jon Thacher
  - vi. AWSA National Junior Development – Chris Goodhue
  - vii. AWSA National Tournament Seeding – Jennifer Frederick-Kelly
- 9. **ACTION** – Per Jon T - need to find Replacements for East Representation on the International Committee.

### **Break (10 min)**

#### 29. Policy & Procedure Updates **(20 min)**

- a. **ACTION:** Council and Committee reps need to review the updated P&P.
- b. **ACTION:** Tonya to schedule conference call, in Feb, to review questions, clarifications, changes and to vote on a refreshed version of the P&P that can be published.

#### 30. National Discussion Topics **(20 min)**

- a. AWSA Board of Director Representation
- b. AWSA Executive
- c. USAWS Executive
- d. AWSA Membership Trends
- e. **ACTION** – Tonya - Need to get the membership numbers just for the region.
- f. Discussion:
  - i. Jon T - Need the insurance policy (i.e tow boat policy issue with the \$1M liability – which pushes to the promo boat – 500K gap).
  - ii. **Motion** – Doug: **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EAST:** EVP to request that

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the policy (without the premiums) be made available to the EVPs, and Directors. With written response back from HQ.

- iii. **Second** from Gov.
- iv. **Vote:** Motion Passes, Opposed - 0
- v. What are the additional insured.... Insured for?

### g. Insurance –

- i. for the first 5 years – premiums have not gone up
- ii. \$10K expense for the US – OC for the Safe Skier
- iii. This expense will be pushed down to the sport divisions
- iv. **ACTION:** Tonya to find out other value do “we” get from the relationship with US – OC. Send request to HQ.

### h. Waterways

- i. MD, CT, MA → helping with slalom course installation
- ii. There is an annual American Boaters association meeting in DC that rep at USA water ski attends.

### i. Real-estate issue

- i. Back ground:
- ii. US Foundation and USA Waterski own the property
- iii. \$80K annual budget for the location
- iv. Paid for by the USA Waterski
- v. Someone to buy the building.
- vi. The lake stays where it is.
- vii. Gone from 25 HQ staff, 8 HQ staff now

### 10.Div2/Div1 →

- a. **Question** (Roger): Who will receive the revenue from the entry fees? Is it the same format as the Div1? 60/40 split?
- b. Risk (GOV) – is the burn out of the officials.
- c. Risk (Doug/GOV) – what happens in a non-Oakee? Last time it was
- d. Concern – that someone in Div2 claims National Championship
- e. Other sports have other divisions.
- f. Might make tournaments bigger because of the level 7 skiers shooting for national champion title.
- g. **Question:** What happens on the back side (good or bad response)
- h. **Question:** Can we use this as a way to open the door for other officials (aspiring reg/sr)
- i. **Motion:** Tonya – **The East Recommendation:** Support the proposal, with the need for clarification based on the questions noted above.
- j. **Second** Doug
- k. **Vote:** Motion Passed, Opposed - 0

### 31. State Council Updates (15 min)

- a. VA – (15 min) Al Harris, Jeff Hardin
  - a. Would like to move the nationals to later (later Aug/Sept)?
  - b. Hutch - Loose the skis because of other sports and for school.
- b. NY – Dean Rudy & George Vosburgh
  - a. Terence Fogarty – the a lot of good on the point feedback from the community from the regionals.

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- b. John Davis – concurred with George’s comments and backed up with examples from when he talked with Terence in the fall.
- c. Not Attending or No Updates:
  - a. VT – Bruce Epstein & Darlene McCormick
  - b. WV – Sam Ingram (not attending)
  - c. MA – Dave Allen
  - d. MD – Jean Giove & Mike Sturdevant
  - e. ME – Dave Robbins (not attending)
  - f. NJ – Bill Fosbenner & John Paulovich
  - g. PA – John Davis, Gary Noll, John Bickle
  - h. RI – (vacant)
  - i. DE – Brett Brandau
  - j. NH – Bill Swaffield
  - k. CT – Tonya Maurer

32. Regional Recommendations to the AWSA BOD (*see minutes*)

33. Review Action Items & Pending Business Items & Conference Call end of Jan/beginning of Feb (*see minutes*)

34. Request for Semi - Virtual meeting – there are 20 for and 1 opposed to the idea.

35. Adjourn – Motion/Second: Jon/GOV – done at 4.00PM