

READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on 6th December at Woodford Park, Woodley

20 attendees

1. Apologies for absence

The AGM invitation email asked members to advise the club if they were, or were not, attending so that refreshments could be ordered accordingly to keep waste to a minimum. Thank you to those members who did respond. As a result, this year there was minimum wastage.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Minutes of last year's AGM

The minutes as published were agreed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda

None.

5. Chairman's report

I guess the feature of this year is the changing nature of our sport/hobby. The area of growth is in multicopters (drones) in many forms. We have around half a dozen members whose chief area of interest is in this developing technology. Two members hold CAA qualifications to operate these craft professionally whilst two others who are currently at university are actively involved in FPV racing. The benefit to the hobby as a whole is that it is going a small way to redress the demographic drift toward the 'wrinkly' end of the population!

The seven day a week use of our TVP site is well established this along with the Google group has meant that a good deal of flying is taking place but with smaller numbers gathering at any one time. Another feature of our changing flying habits is at what time, and for how long members are on the field. At one time Wednesday afternoon was the prime time for mid-week flying a start at around noon continuing until 8pm. notably this year when I have turned up at around lunchtime people are packing up and heading home. The apparent explanation is down to changing technology. Members arrive with a bunch of batteries, fly and then go home, rarely anyone recharges on the field. This year little or no flying has taken place in the evenings. Again demographic drift could be to blame, home for early cocoa! Or it could be;

The weather! A topic of consuming interest for us. A very mild winter followed with a wet and windy spring and early summer has had an effect. Indeed with the winds being from odd directions and often cross wind has had an effect. None of the club flying events really happened in the way they should. Although the autogyro event was well attended by our visitors it too was plagued by a cross wind.

Indoor flying took place at Woodford Park during the winter and enjoyed reasonable attendance. Thanks to Neil for overseeing these events. If you haven't tried this discipline why not come along and have a look. Club meetings, following a series of poor attendances and the difficulty in arranging suitable activities or guest speakers it was

decided to discontinue them for the moment. However if anyone has some innovative ideas for them please let us know.

This year we welcomed Richard Williams as Hon Treasurer following a long spell of duty by Ron Perkins. Richard has brought a new set of skills to the role and we now have a very professionally set up treasury. The adoption of BACS for subscription payments is just one of the changes, others will be revealed later. A curiosity of having a new Treasurer is that it did mean that we had two or three meetings in the Cuning Man car park!

Andy our Hon Secretary spear headed a concerted effort to identify and negotiate a new flying field. Sadly without a positive outcome. We will continue in 2017, but employing ever more devious methods to secure a second site. I should mention that a bounty still exists; payable to any member who identifies a new site. The bounty payable when we occupy the new site.

Joe Dray stepped in to act as membership secretary after the decision was taken to separate the role of treasurer from that of membership secretary. Joe has done an excellent job and providing members complete the renewal forms accurately and ensure they end up in Joe's hands then the start of 2017 should go very smoothly.

This is probably the moment to thank all of the committee members for their efforts over the past year and in particular thank Dave Belcher, Neil Viney who are standing down this year after significant lengths of service. Especial thanks goes to Dave Grey for shouldering the bulk of the training effort once again. Dave also revealed an undiscovered talent in patching the turf of our strip very expertly following its use as a barbecue site.

Notable events, Dave Roberts our tame American returned to the USA or Trump Land as it will become in January! This time its congratulations to Paul Eisner for becoming FAI F2A (control line speed) world champion, and no your eyes have not deceived you Paul has been flying a foamy Acro Wot. On the same sort of theme we have moved the Heli pad to a more, we hope, safer position and altered its shape to make it more suitable for C/L flying.

This autumn marked the passing of Mick Harris. A very active member during the '70s and '80s. A pioneer of scale helicopters and involved in the production and servicing of Fleet radio control equipment during that period. In recent times arthritis curtailed his model flying activities. A number of our members attended his funeral. Stuart, his son is an active member of the club.

Next year? Decent weather more consistently would be nice. If you haven't built a model from scratch dropping in on the clubs builders Google group at the moment is worth while.

6. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts for last year.

1. Introduction

- a. It should be noted that the previous accounting period was 11 months from 1st December 2014 - 31st October 2015. Our financial year has changed to 1st November - 31st October each year to allow more time for auditing prior to the AGM.

2. Income

- a. Our gross income was £7599.89, which shows a small year-on-year increase of £151.89. This results from recording members' £794.00 indoor flying contributions as income.
- b. The largest category of income – membership - is down by £519.00 as a result of lower membership numbers; there are 81 paid-up members this year

compared with 94 last year. 24 club members did not renew; this was partly offset by the recruitment of 11 new members.

3. Expenditure

- a. Overall expenditure was £5386.08, an increase of £845.81. The largest item was the £2295.00 paid to the BMFA.
- b. Indoor flying expenditure of £1114.75 was partly offset by £794.00 paid by members; the committee decided that this was a legitimate club expense that was not required to be fully self-funding. It is now shown as a new category in the accounts.
- c. The expenditure of £561.08 for the December 2015 Christmas was partly offset by £234.00 raffle income. The 2016 event will be scaled back by reducing catering and room hire by combining the event with the AGM.

4. Net Assets

- a. A savings account was opened with Barclays in January 2016 and £25,000 was transferred from our current account. The 0.5% interest rate will reduce to 0.25% from 5th December 2016.
- b. The surplus of income over expenditure was £2213.81, a reduction of £693.92 from the £2907.73 surplus last year. The committee has agreed that making a large surplus each year is no longer required.
- c. This surplus, when added to our already healthy bank balance, increased our net assets to £32,964.26
- d. Please see the separate paper concerning our future reserves policy and the impact that this will have on membership subscriptions.

Year-end accounts to 31st October 2016-12-09

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2016

	YEAR END 31-Oct-2016	YEAR END 31-Oct-2015	VARIANCE
INCOME	£	£	
Membership Income	6264.00	6783.00	519.00
Indoor Flying Income	794.00	0.00	794.00
Interest & Other Income	307.89	350.00	42.11
Christmas Event	234.00	315.00	81.00
TOTAL INCOME	7599.89	7448.00	151.89
EXPENDITURE			
BMFA	2295.00	2373.00	78.00
Room Hire	23.50	234.00	210.50
Stationery	45.86	82.58	36.72
Miscellaneous	52.49	538.49	486.00
Training	230.88	40.20	190.68
Competitions	73.70	166.80	93.10
Christmas Event	561.08	319.45	241.63
Committee Expenses	100.86	65.75	35.11
Flying Field	887.96	720.00	167.96
Indoor Flying	1114.75	0.00	1114.75
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5386.08	4540.27	845.81
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	2213.81	2907.73	693.92
BALANCE SHEET			
	31-Oct-2016	31-Oct-2015	
ACCUMULATED FUND	£	£	
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	30750.45	27842.72	2907.73
ADD EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	2213.81	2907.73	693.92
	32964.26	30750.45	2213.81
REPRESENTED BY:	£	£	
Bank Balance - Current Account	7728.32	30579.85	22851.53
Bank Balance - Savings Account	25090.89	0.00	25090.89
Bank transactions not yet credited - Current Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash in Hand	145.05	170.60	25.55
LESS LIABILITIES			0.00
Uncleared cheques	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET ASSETS	32964.26	30750.45	2213.81

Resolution 1 – that the accounts be adopted.

Proposed by Peter Talbot. Seconded by Jack Bishop. Resolution carried.

Resolution 2 – that Mike Kenney is appointed auditor.

Proposed by Paul Simmonds. Seconded by Ron Perkins. Resolution carried.

7. Search for new flying field.

The Secretary advised members that over the past year 25 local farmers have been written to. Two farmers responded to say that they had no suitable land, the remainder simply did not respond. The Treasurer had also sent letters to local estates. They either responded to say no available land, or again did not respond. Land-fill sites have also been contacted but no response. The committee will continue to search for another flying field during 2017 but the outlook is not hopeful.

If any member does have any ideas please contact a committee member and we will try and take the idea forwards.

8. Election of officers and committee

Secretary.

The post of Secretary, as advertised to all members as part of the AGM pack, was up for election this year as a result of the 3 year rotation of club officers. Andy Warlow was prepared to continue in post for another term. There were no other nominees.

Nominee – Andy Warlow. Proposed by Dave Grey. Seconded by Peter Talbot. Appointment carried.

Membership Secretary

Joe Dray has been in this post for the past year. As this is not a club officer position, the position is due for election annually.

Nominee - Joe Dray. Proposed by Ron Perkins. Seconded by Dave Grey. Appointment carried.

Committee members.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Dave Belcher and Neil Viney, both of whom have decided to stand-down from the committee after many years service. The remaining members of the current committee indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. A block nomination was proposed by Paul Simmonds, seconded by Ron Perkins.

Motion carried.

The revised committee for 2017 is shown in the table below.

COMMITTEE FOR 2017	
Chairperson	Martin Dance
Secretary	Andy Warlow
Treasurer	Richard Williams
Membership Secretary	Joe Dray
Committee	Dave Grey (Flying Field Safety Officer) Edward Lawrence (Junior representative) Steve Fleming Ron Parker

9. Club fees for 2016

As reported by the Treasurer, the club portion of the fees has been reduced for 2017. BMFA membership is unchanged from 2016

As a result, club fees for 2017 will be :

Junior members - £10 club + £17 BMFA = £27

Full members - £35 club + £33 BMFA = £68

Senior 65+ - £28 club + £33 BMFA = £61.

For new members, the club joining fee has been reduced from £50 to £25.

10. Any other business.

BMFA Insurance documentation

Joe Dray advised members that the BMFA were processing membership once a month so 2017 insurance documentation may take a while to be returned to members. If members required some form of document in advance of the BMFA one, Joe will provide an email.

RDMAC website hosting move.

Andy Warlow advised the membership that the club website would be hosted by the BMFA from end of January as the current hosting service at RC Groups was ceasing. The BMFA do not charge for hosting and it makes sense to host with them going forwards. The site will migrate during January and members will be advised of the new site address once the site is open for business. The current site will continue until the end of January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:35.