

# **READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB**

## **MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting held on 5th December at The Oakwood Centre, Woodley

30 attendees

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Duncan Davies and Jack Bishop.

### **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 will start by thanking the members of the committee for their work during the past year. It's always invidious to single out individuals but especial thanks goes to Joe Dray for continuing to act as membership secretary during 2017. It can be a tricky job as there is a large amount of detailed work at the start of the year it doesn't end there as new members join throughout the year and applications have to be processed. Fortunately the vast majority of members renew quite promptly during December and January which helps the situation. Again my unreserved thanks go to Dave Grey for once again shouldering the lion's share of the training effort. My thanks to goes to Steve Fleming for taking on the task of membership secretary

We have had a very quiet front on the new flying field hunt. It does continue but during this year we have taken the opportunity to reflect on the situation so there have been no new developments in this area. Perhaps it is a good moment to remind the membership that the bounty for locating a new field still stands and is payable when a new field is occupied.

The Southern Area of the BMFA and the achievement scheme committee have been particularly active this year. In March I attended an achievement scheme roadshow held in Royal Wootton Bassett, aimed at promoting and updating clubs on the current state of play of the achievement scheme it proved to be a worthwhile event. Later in September the Southern Area and South Midland Area held an examiners workshop on Popham Airfield. This gave practical expression to the ground covered in the earlier roadshow. Unfortunately the weather was too good, unbroken sunshine and zero wind which made the task of the demonstration pilot tricky as 'faults' were really glaring which reduced the amount of discussion about standards and the effect of wind on a candidates performance. Overall though a worth-while exercise bearing in mind legislation that is likely to be forthcoming in the near future.

On the point of safety. There was a lively discussion on our Google group about model restraints a few weeks back, suffice it to say 'live' models in the pits must be restrained whether they are electric models with the ESC armed or an i.c model with the engine

running. Further than that the arming in the pits or at the runway's edge or the incorporation of an arming plug into the motor circuit is probably best dealt with on a case by case basis. What is outside discussion is the setting and regular testing of fail safes. You must test your failsafe at the start of a flying session. This applies to all 2.4Ghz systems and all 35Mhz systems using a PCM Rx or an IPD Rx if it includes a failsafe. The minimum setting is one that brings the motor or engine to a low idle or stop. Any other input is at the discretion of the user if the system permits it.

One of the features of our hobby, and indeed many other hobbies is the rising age of new comers. Today the new comer is likely to be someone who is close to or who has recently retired. Junior new comers are few and far between. No doubt being relatively well off and in good health upon reaching retirement age is to some extent responsible for this shift. Our flying field because of its location does provide the opportunity for a wider range of the public to see our sport at close quarters and to stop and chat to us. Yet we rarely get new recruits because of this advantage. Has this changed over time? Quote from 'Model Flying Oct 1964 Editorial Para2 Is our hobby going to be more regulated, well I started flying R/C in 1966 and needed a R/C licence.

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

### Introduction

- a. It was agreed at last year's AGM that the large surpluses of income over expenditure historically featured in our accounts were no longer required as the club already has substantial reserves to fund an additional flying field should suitable land become available.
- b. The committee therefore agreed to pursue a policy of achieving breakeven/small surpluses in future. To work towards this, reductions were made in membership fees for 2017 as follow:
  - i. Juniors' subs reduced from £15.00 to £10.00 (+BMFA)
  - ii. Seniors' subs reduced from £51.00 to £35.00 (+BMFA)
  - iii. Retireds' subs stayed the same at £28.00 (+BMFA)
  - iv. The joining fee was reduced from £50.00 to £25.00

### Income

- a. Our income was £5375.60, which shows a significant year-on-year decrease of £2224.29.
- b. The largest category of income – membership - is down by £1353.50 as a result of the policy outlined above.
- c. Membership numbers remain broadly similar – there are 80 paid-up members this year (including 12 new) compared with 81 last year.
- d. Indoor flying income reduced by £451.00 as the committee decided it no longer needed to be self-financing so the session fees were reduced from £10.00 to £5.00
- e. Christmas event income was £0 compared with £234.00 the previous year as a result of the decision to combine the AGM with the Christmas event and make no charge for refreshments.

### Expenditure

- a. Overall expenditure at £4322.84, showed a reduction of £1063.24 on last year; costs were down on most categories.
- b. The largest item of spend was the £2172.00 paid to the BMFA.
- c. Indoor flying expenditure of £695.50 was £419.25 less than last year as a result of a lower number of meetings and shorter sessions

#### Net Assets

- a. Our savings account with Barclays holds most of our cash: £30,172.99. An additional £5000 was transferred to the savings account from the current account. Because interest rates are very low - 0.25% from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – we only received £82.10 in interest.
- b. The surplus of income over expenditure was £1052.76 - a reduction of £1161.05 from last year - is consistent with the committee's decision on smaller surpluses.
- c. This surplus, when added to our already healthy bank balance, increased our net assets to £34,017.02

#### Membership subscription proposals:

- a. It was announced at last year's AGM that the committee has agreed to reduce the number of membership categories from three to two as follows:
- b. Juniors' subs will remain the same at £10.00 (+BMFA)
- c. The current Senior and Retired membership categories will be combined into a new Adult category with a fee of £28.00 (+BMFA); no members will pay more club subs than last year.
- d. The joining fee will remain unchanged at £25.00

#### There are three resolutions concerning finance and membership requiring agreement:

- a. Resolution 1 – that the accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 are adopted  
Proposer: Peter Talbot. Seconder: Dave Grey. Resolution carried.
- b. Resolution 2 – that Mike Kenney is re-elected as auditor for 2018  
Proposer: Ron Perkins. Seconder: Dave Belcher. Resolution carried.
- c. Resolution 3- that the membership proposals and subscriptions are approved.  
Proposer: Dave Belcher. Seconder: Pete Talbot. Resolution carried.

**Year-end accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	<b>YEAR END 2017</b>	<b>YEAR END 2016</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Membership Income	4910.50	6264.00	1353.50
Indoor Flying Income	343.00	794.00	451.00
Interest & Other Income	122.10	307.89	185.79
Christmas Event	0.00	234.00	234.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5375.60</b>	<b>7599.89</b>	<b>2224.29</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
BMFA	2172.00	2295.00	123.00
Room Hire	24.00	23.50	0.50
Stationery	34.56	45.86	11.30
Miscellaneous	0.00	52.49	52.49
Training	100.00	230.88	130.88
Competitions	0.00	73.70	73.70
Christmas Event	424.90	561.08	136.18
Committee Expenses	101.88	100.86	1.02
Flying Field	770.00	887.96	117.96
Indoor Flying	695.50	1114.75	419.25
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4322.84</b>	<b>5386.08</b>	<b>1063.24</b>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1052.76</b>	<b>2213.81</b>	<b>1161.05</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
<b>BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	32964.26	30750.45	2213.81
<b>ADD EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	1052.76	2213.81	1161.05
	<b>34017.02</b>	<b>32964.26</b>	<b>1052.76</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Bank Balance - Current Account	3797.98	7728.32	3930.34
Bank Balance - Savings Account	30172.99	25090.89	5082.10
Bank transactions not yet credited - Current Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash in Hand	46.05	145.05	99.00
<b>LESS LIABILITIES</b>			0.00
Uncleared cheques	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>34017.02</b>	<b>32964.26</b>	<b>1052.76</b>

**Accounts Approved:**

Martin Dance, Chairman  
Richard Williams, Treasurer  
Mike Kenney, Auditor

**Signature**

## 7. Search for new flying field.

We have now exhausted all known avenues in the search for a new flying field having now contacted local farmers, land owners, local authorities and landfill operators. Other than the odd response saying that they had no suitable land, in most cases there was no reply. We have no plans for 2018.

The £300 bounty still exists, payable to any member who identifies a new site and would be payable when we occupy the new site so 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

### Chairman.

The post of Chairman, 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. Martin Dance was prepared to continue in post for another term. There were no other nominees.

Nominee – Martin Dance. Proposed by Dave Grey. Seconded by Peter Talbot. Appointment carried unanimously.

### Membership Secretary

Having done a sterling job in this post since taking over from Ron Perkins, Joe Dray has decided to resign from this position. The club officers have decided to co-opt Steve Fleming, an existing committee member, into the position and he has already received the necessary hand-over from Joe in advance of the 2018 renewals process.

### Committee members.

With the exception of Ron Parker, who has been absent due to illness, members of the current committee have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. A block nomination was proposed by Douglas Heathcote, seconded by Neil Viney. Appointments carried.

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

<b>COMMITTEE FOR 2018</b>	
Chairperson	Martin Dance
Secretary	Andy Warlow
Treasurer	Richard Williams
Membership Secretary	Steve Fleming
Committee	Dave Grey (Flying Field Safety Officer) Edward Lawrence (Junior representative) Joe Dray

## **9. Presentation of cups.**

The following cups were presented:

The Tony Simpson Trophy is a trophy donated by a past chairman to be awarded to a member, selected at the discretion of the committee, who has made a notable contribution over the past year. This cup was not awarded last year, but this year it goes to John Ratcliffe for the build log of his own design Raven model on our builders Google group which kept us all fascinated for many months and we were all impressed by the way it flew on its maiden flight. Sadly, after several flights, the model suffered a structural failure in flight but his effort is indeed worthy in an era of ARTF foamy instant gratification.

The Concours d'Elegance cup was awarded to Colin Pritchard.

The Vintage day cup was awarded to John Ratcliffe.

As the recipients were not present, they will receive their cups at some point in the future.

## **10. Club fees for 2017**

As reported by the Treasurer, the previous 65+ membership class is now merged into the adult membership and adult club fees reduced for 2018. BMFA membership for adult members has increased by £1 from 2017. Junior fees have not changed.

As a result, club fees for 2018 will be:

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

Adult members - £28 club + £34 BMFA = £62

For new adult members, the club joining fee remains at £25.

## **11. Any other business.**

**None.**

There being no further business the meeting retired for refreshments at 20:40.