

READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

MINUTES OF 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Reading and District Model Aircraft Club was held at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green on 6th December 2011 with approximately 30 members in attendance.

Item 1: Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Duncan and Jonathon Davis

Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published

Item 3: Minutes of last year's AGM

The minutes as published were agreed

Item 4: Matters arising

There were no matters arising that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Item 5: Chairman's report

The chairman thanked the committee and club instructors for their work during the year and Dave Belecher and his daughter for the work on the club website.

Flying had been difficult throughout the year due to the mixed weather. Nevertheless lots of flying had been done and hopefully the weather will be better for the next year.

He reported that there may be a prospect for a new flying site, but that it is early days yet and depends very much

He reported that there had been a number of technical developments during the year, particularly with the use of First Person View (FPV) and the possibility of no longer needing a buddy box to use. There ensued some discussion on the use of this equipment at the club flying site. It was emphasised that club members must follow the BMFA guidance and it was agreed that this should be added to the club website as an interim measure. It was agreed that the new committee should consider the implications and decide on the appropriate position for the club. This may require some amendment to the flying field rules which the committee can make. All agreed the club need to consider the position very carefully.

He reported that Tony Simpson had very kindly donated his models to the club and these have been sold on. The funds raised have been used to purchase a trophy which has been named the Tony Simpson Challenge Cup. The competition for this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Item 6: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that despite the doom and gloom of rising costs and prices the club would not be asking for any increase in the club portion of the membership fee. There had been a large increase in the number of new members which had raised funds through the joining fee. There had been 24 new senior members and there are 100 members in the club currently. From the previous year 14 members had not renewed their subscriptions from the previous year.

The BMFA had raised its subscription by £2 for seniors and £1 for juniors. At the BMFA AGM the original proposal had been to increase the senior fee by £1 but a proposal from the floor for a £2 increase had been carried.

It was reported that the BMFA insurance for the coming year has increased benefits. The BMFA has changed insurance broker and the insurance is underwritten by different companies to the previous years.

It was proposed that the accounts be adopted. The motion was proposed by Tony Roberts, seconded by Neil Viney and carried unanimously.

There was some discussion on the reserves policy as it was noted that there is a substantial amount in the accounts. It was explained that the club had taken measures to protect the reserve from misappropriation. The money had been built up initially with a view to purchasing a flying field. It was accepted that this was extremely unlikely as the amount required would be very substantial. Despite that, the club needed to have reserves available so that should another site be identified we would have the funds available to pay for agreements to be drawn up and any necessary ground work to be carried out.

There was a question whether there was a limit on the number of members. It was explained that there is no upper limit though the committee had considered this in the past when the numbers got to nearly 150 members. However, currently it was not considered necessary though should numbers rise significantly the committee would consider again.

Item 7: Ratification of amended club constitution

Following the previous AGM the Committee had tidied up the amended constitution as agreed at the AGM. No changes had been made during this process. However, it was now proposed to make one amendment to article 7 of the General Rules to remove the restriction on when people may join the club. It was considered that this restriction was unnecessary and should be removed. It was proposed that the first sentence of Article 7 be replaced with: Applications for new membership may be made at anytime during the year, but there will be no reduction in fees for those joining part way through the membership year.

It was proposed that amended constitution be adopted with the above change included. Proposed by Dave Belcher, seconded by Dave Grey and agreed by a majority vote.

There was then some discussion about whether the club fee could be reduced for those joining after a certain date in the year. It was explained that this could cause some difficulties or complications and the general consensus was that it was not necessary to do this.

The Treasurer reminded everyone that the club rejoining period ends on 31st January after which anyone would be considered a new member and required to pay the joining fee. He also reminded that anyone wishing to fly on or after the 1st January 2012 must have paid their membership as otherwise they will not be insured.

Item 8: Election of officers and committee

In accordance with the club constitution the post of secretary was due for election. The current secretary indicated that he was willing to be considered for the post again, but that he was also quite happy to stand aside if there was another volunteer for the post. Andrew Stretton was proposed by Jack Bishop, seconded by Dave Belcher and elected unopposed.

The remaining members of the committee had indicated their willingness to stand for re election. In accordance with practice they were elected by block vote on a proposal from Andrew Stretton seconded by Martin Dance and agreed unanimously.

A nomination for a new member of the committee was made. Patricia Martin was proposed by Ron Perkins, seconded by Dave Dempster and elected unanimously.

There were no further nominations for the committee

COMMITTEE FOR 2012	
Chairman	Martin Dance
Secretary and Club Safety Office	Andrew Stretton
Treasurer	Ron Perkins
Committee	Dave Grey (Flying Field Safety Officer)

	Dave Belcher Neil Viney Kevin Mercer Joe Dray Dave Dempster Patricia Martin
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Item 9: Club fees for 2012

As explained by the Treasurer in his report (see item 6) the club was not seeking to raise its portion of the membership fee. The motion was therefore that the club fees rise in line with the increases in the BMFA subscriptions. This was proposed by Dave Belcher, seconded by Dave Grey and adopted unanimously.

Membership fees for 2012			
Category	Club	BMFA	Total
Full	49	31	80
Junior	14	16	30
Senior Citizen	20	31	51
Joining fee			50

Family membership as advised by treasurer

Item 10: Presentation of Trophies

Due to a number of factors including the weather there had been no competitions this year.

The club now has the Tony Simpson Challenge Cup as explained by the chairman and the club needed to decide on the criteria for its award. Tony has expressed a wish that it be awarded for some form of competition and the committee had been considering some ideas. It needed to be a competition where everyone had the opportunity to win and it was suggested that it be a challenge over a period with different elements. Dave Belcher explained that he was formulating some rules which would be announced later and will be discussed by the committee.

Item 11: Any other business

The question of indoor flying was raised. The chairman responded that as yet no arrangements had been made for this winter due to the cost. There was discussion about whether such events had to be self financing or whether the club should allow them to be loss making events. It was pointed out that the club has funds and that these could be spent for the benefit of club members with acceptance that other non-club members might also benefit. It was agreed that indoor flying events had proved popular and that the committee should take the matter forward.

It was suggested that the changes to club meetings in the summer has had an adverse effect on events such as competitions. The meetings had effectively become training sessions only. It was agreed that the committee would consider how to progress club events. It was suggested that the club had become very training orientated and maybe we should consider how we could involve more of our instructors and whether we should try and limit the number being trained. It was agreed that provision of training was an important part of the club activity and whilst there may be a number of other clubs in the area that do not offer training, it could be a backward step to try and limit the numbers being trained.

A big thank you was given to the ‘Daves’ for all their help at the flying field.

There was discussion about whether the club should allocate funds for speakers at club nights so that they could be offered a fee. It was pointed out that the club has always offered expenses for speakers,

but it was agreed that the committee should discuss the idea further and consider how much might be allocated. It would very much depend on the speaker.

Martin Dance proposed that Dave Grey be awarded free club membership in recognition of his provision of training. The motion was seconded by Andrew Stretton and agreed unanimously.

The 2012 AGM will be held on Tuesday 4th December 2012.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:19