

# READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

## MINUTES OF 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Woodford Park, Woodley

23 attendees

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Ron Parker, David Stone and Almaz Nizamutdinov

### 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

Firstly thanks to the members of the committee for their continuing efforts on behalf of the club again this year. Especial thanks to Dave Grey for shouldering the bulk of the work of instructing new flyers.

It has been an interesting and challenging year. We obtained planning permission and gained the discharge of conditions in the first half of the year for the new flying field, only to be thwarted by a company approaching Grundons with a proposal for a solar farm on the site. Since then stale-mate. As late as yesterday I contacted Grundons head office to see if I could get further information but the director involved in the project was not available and has as yet not returned my call. Notwithstanding the frustrations of this situation we have had a successful year. Flooding lasting from December till March allowed a protracted period for float plane flying and the use of other aquatic craft. However this was frustrating for other flyers. Fortunately the strip survived this years flooding better than 2012/13 and with the care of our mowing contractor was soon in prime condition.

We ran our second autogyro event in July and were supported by a number of visiting pilots. Brett took the opportunity to take some air to air shots of the action, some photos of which are on the website. Many thanks to him for providing this unusual view point.

We ran a club scale event, a very low key event which produced some interesting models and some interesting flights!

We were invited to the McMichael Radio Rally through the good offices of Trish. This is the first "external" event we have attended for some years. We organised the loan of one of the BMFA's simulator trailers. Here grateful thanks to Edward and his Dad for carrying out the collection, setting up and return of the trailer to Leicester. A successful operation which gave us some exposure to a new audience and some of us the opportunity to pick up some electricricker bits at the flea market. It is certainly worth repeating. Flying of appropriate models is possible on the site, so do your B test and get involved next year.

On the flying scene there was disappointment at the dwindling of interest in indoor flying through the winter months. Perhaps we need to rethink our approach on this aspect of model flying.

Congratulations to all those who gained their A achievement this year. I've not heard from the BMFA whether Almaz is the first junior Russian national to gain an 'A' certificate.

We also need to consider some changes to our fee structure and some of our financial structures during 2015 to take account of both an ageing membership and the implementation of the BMFA's club portal and changes in how members pay their subscriptions and to make the end of our year less stressful for our Treasurer who has very few days to complete and have audited accounts in time for the AGM.

For me my new man cave is now operational so I intend entering all events organised next year starting with the vintage event in Jan.

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

The treasurer advised the members that the 2013 accounts presented at the 2013 AGM had not been audited at that point in time. These accounts have now been audited and signed-off by the committee.

The 2014 accounts were presented to the members. These showed a surplus of £293 compared to a surplus of £1637.17 in the previous year.

Neil Viney drew the members attention to the 2013 accounts as the total of the items listed under expenditure was much higher than the £5117.12 stated in the accounts. This discrepancy also affects the balance brought forward into the 2014 figures.

The treasurer assured the members that the 2013 accounts had been audited so this must be an error in the figures stated in his report. He will investigate the matter and report back to the committee. The 2014 accounts will also be investigated before these go to the auditor. The treasurer confirmed that the bank balance matches the 2014 end-of-year brought forward figure.

The members **did not** approve the 2014 accounts.

The treasurer informed the members that the 2014 surplus of as little as £293.30 was too little to run the club on and there was a risk of eating into the capital. As a result, the treasurer proposed that the membership fee be increased by £2.00.

## **7. Election of officers and committee**

The post of Chairman was up for election this year as a result of the 3 year rotation of club officers.

Nominations for the post were:

Martin Dance      Proposed by David Belcher      Seconded by Kevin Mercer

Patricia Martin      Proposed by John Bennett      Seconded by Jack Bishop

Following a show of hands, both nominees scored the same number of votes.

Dave Belcher proposed that the post of Chairman be shared by Martin and Patricia, seconded by Kevin Mercer. The proposal was carried so the club now has chairpersons.

Following Kevin Mercer standing down from the committee, there were no nominations to fill this position so the position remains vacant.

The existing committee were prepared to stand again with the exclusion of Patricia Martin, who is now an officer of the club. This resulted in another committee position becoming vacant.

All members of the current committee indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. A block nomination was proposed by Martin Dance, seconded by Jack Bishop. The existing committee were elected unopposed.

The committee for 2015 is shown in the table below.

<b>COMMITTEE FOR 2013</b>	
Chairperson	Martin Dance/Particia Martin
Secretary	Andy Warlow
Treasurer	Ron Perkins
Committee	Dave Grey (Flying Field Safety Officer) Dave Belcher Neil Viney Joe Dray Edward Lawrence (Junior representative)  Vacancy 1 Vacancy 2

### **8. Club fees for 2015**

As reported by the Treasurer, there was a need to increase the club portion of the fees by £2. There is no change to the BMFA fee.

The treasurer proposed an increase of £2 for both senior members and senior citizens. Junior fees would remain the same.

A counter proposal of £2 for senior members and £5 for senior citizens was proposed by Dave Belcher, seconded by Richard Williams. This motion was carried.

As a result, club fees for 2015 will be :

Junior members - £15 club + £17 BMFA = £32

Senior members - £51 club + £32 BMFA = £83

Senior citizens - £28 club + £32 BMFA = £60.

### **9. Presentation of Trophies**

The Chairman presented Tom Stanton with the Tony Simpson Cup in recognition of the design and engineering innovation exhibited by his scratch built American Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft which Tom has progressively developed over the year.

### **10. Any other business.**

#### **Probationary period for new members.**

The committee suggested that the probationary period be increased from 3 months to 6 months. This motion was proposed by Richard Williams, seconded by Dave Belcher and carried.

#### **Accident Reports**

The chairman reminded the members of the need to submit accident reports if a model lands on the ground within 50 meters of the general public or a vehicle/building, in an uncontrolled state, with risk of possible injury to a person or damage to a building/vehicle. Biggest concern is members of the public who might subsequently decide to complain and the club would have no record or knowledge of the event.

### **Changes to club membership fees**

The committee suggested that the concessionary fees for senior citizens (65 years old and above) be removed for new membership commencing January 2015. Motion proposed by Dave Belcher, seconded by Richard Williams and carried.

It was also proposed that existing members, when they reach the age of 65, are no longer eligible for a concession. Motion proposed by Trevor Blake, seconded by Richard Withers and carried.

It was also agreed that the words Senior member would no longer be used and it would change to Full member.

The club would, therefore, comprise Junior members, Full members and Senior Citizens.

### **Indoor flying events**

Indoor flying during 2014 cost the club money when fewer flyers than expected turned up for a couple of events and the £10 per person charge did not cover the cost of hiring the sports hall. It was proposed that the club support another indoor flying event during 2015 with indoor flyers being charged £10 each to attend. Neil Viney would assess the level of interest and make a booking if there was sufficient interest. It was proposed that the club provide £130 in support of the event but that the event should attempt to be self-funding to try and avoid using club funds. This motion was proposed by Neil Viney, seconded by Richard Williams and carried.

### **Accounts cut-off date.**

To remove the pressure on the club treasurer completing the accounts prior to the December AGM, it was proposed that the end-of-year date be brought forward to the of September. Motion proposed by Dave Belcher, seconded by Ron Perkins and carried.

### **Allow flying on Mondays and Fridays**

The members asked if the no-flying on Mondays and Fridays could be lifted. It was explained that this had been requested before but the request had been denied. The committee agreed to approach the landlords to ask if flying for all types (i.c. and electric) could be permitted or even just electric.

### **Lone flying.**

The members asked if this restriction could be lifted. The committee agreed to review at the next committee meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:30.

Please see below for Treasurers reports and 2013 and 2014 accounts.

## Treasurer's Brief

I must make it clear that last year I presented the 2013 Income & Expenditure Account unaudited as our usual auditor had left the area, I was introduced to another lovely lady who offered to help us out and audited the 2013 accounts for us. (tick in box)

However due to taking a late holiday I have again missed the chance to have the 2014 accounts audited in time for this meeting, I can assure you all that after this meeting I will be contacting our auditor shortly to rectify this omission

From the Club expenditure statement it can be deduced that after paying our bills etc this year there was only a miserly amount left over ie £293.-.

Therefore to preclude the Club running on an unnecessary tight budget I propose that we increase the Club part of our subs by £2. Across the board, but excluding junior members from this increase.

Although I regret this action please take into account that the last time a increase became necessary was at the 2010 AGM and before that it was at the 2007 AGM.

We the Committee made a statement at that time that the club would not allow a situation again to arise which might compromise the Club again.

When one considers how all prices have risen very steeply over the past five years you can begin to understand the situation that we as a Club find ourselves in.

Hence my request to the membership tonight to **Propose an increase across the board to our Club membership subscription of Two Pounds.**

Therefore Snr rate = £51 S/C rate = £25 Junr rate to remain the same.

**Proposer**

**Seconded!**

Some facts & figures £26,670 in the bank, Club Auction commission £53

**READING & DISTRICT MODEL CLUB**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR TO 30th NOVEMBER 2014**

<i>Income</i>	<b>2014</b> £	<b>2013</b> £
Club subs gross inc of joining fees	5747.00	6,510.00
Christmas Raffle proceeds	150.00	165.00
Donations Don Richards	85.00	10.00
Commision from Club auction sale	53.70	
Raffle receipts 2013	150.00	100.00
Sale of club trainer	30.00	
Wokingham Council deposit refund	50.00	
BMFA credit notes	32.00	
	<b>6297.70</b>	<b>6,785.00</b>
<i>Expenditure</i>		
BMFA subs paid – net	2,547.00	2,659.00
Bulmershe / Woodford meeting rooms	521.30	638.40
Stationery	127.91	127.66
Web site	00.00	23.99
Club Trainer	166.15	31.50
Competition Prizes (3 comps)	180.00	120.00
Committee expenditure	636.54	367.32
Field Maintenance	600.00	575.00
Field Rent	120.00	120.00
Christmas Raffle (141.62 2013)+282.89	412.50	195.00
Christmas Buffet + drinks & dips	264.50	248.00
Gratuities Christmas (Security TVP)	14.50	12.60
West Berkshire Council	100.00	385.00
Michael Sugiure Noise Survey letter	144.00	2,154.00
Beenham Field locating prize	<u>350.00</u>	<u>00.00</u>
	<b>6,004.40</b>	<b>5,117.12</b>
Income over expenditure	293.30	~ 1,637.17
Balance brought forward	<u>27,549.42</u>	<u>25,862.25</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>27,842.72</u>	<u>27,499.42</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Bank current account	27,670.85	27,209.12
Petty Cash in hand	<u>171.87</u>	<u>340.30</u>
	<u>27,842.72</u>	<u>27,549.42</u>

**Treasurer** ..... Ron Perkins **Date** 2nd December 2014

**Chairman** ..... Martin Dance **Date** .....

**Auditor** ..... Julie Ballard **Date** .....