

READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the Covid-19 regulations in place at the planned time of the meeting, 1st December 2020, it was not possible to hold an actual meeting as per previous years. Instead, members were issued with the AGM documentation pack as usual prior to 1st December and asked to vote on December 1st via email on the five resolutions, highlighted in these minutes.

A total of 25 members submitted votes.

1. Apologies for absence.

N/a

2. Adoption of agenda.

N/a

3. Minutes of last year's AGM.

N/a

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

None.

5. Chairman's report.

When I sat down to write last year's report there was no inkling of what 2020 was to bring. The concerns were about drones and CAA registration and impending regulation of the hobby. Now we have a whole new vocabulary, social distancing, Covid 19, lockdown, to deal with apart from track and trace, and sanitising.

First a big thank you to Andy for organising and managing the flight booking system which has been running for some months. Also a thank you to all members who have accepted the situation and co-operated with the system and got some flying in. My perspective suggests it has run pretty smoothly, especially when members realised they weren't able to use a spot and gave it up in good time for it to be reallocated. Of course my thanks to all of the committee for their efforts this year.

Sadly though, for those new members who had hoped to learn to fly this year the situation has prevented any training taking place this year. Similarly I had intended to make another effort to find a new flying field by visiting farms. This year I would have been about as welcome as snow at harvest time.

It's an ill wind that blows no one any good. In conversation with George at 4Max and Ian at Modelbau, just about our nearest model suppliers these days, they both report a substantial rise in demand as modellers turned to building during lockdown. Similarly we decided to buy an astronomical telescope. So if you've been wondering why it's been so cloudy for the past month I'm afraid we're responsible. Here again the people at Tring Astro reported a strong rise in demand. The downside is that the supplies of goods have been affected by the Pandemic. The other snag is the shortage of balsa wood. The Chinese have cornered the market in order to make wind turbine blades, not only that Depron is hard to come by!

The committee's plan to arrive at a fiscal balance this year has failed, we still made a profit. So to offset that and to give back something to the membership we are proposing that those people who are paid up members for 2020 will not be charged for club membership for 2021. BMFA subs and CAA fees will still apply.

So what does 2021 have in store? Sadly, I suspect there will be restrictions on social gatherings until at least the 3rd quarter of 2021, so model flying will still be conducted under the same sort of regime as this year. So carry on building and refurbishing (I won't say repairing) your model fleet for sunnier times ahead.

6. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts.

Introduction

We agreed at the 2016 AGM that the large surpluses of income over expenditure are no longer required as the club already has substantial reserves to fund an additional flying field should suitable land become available.

As a result, our aim is to achieve near breakeven each year. In the last four years members have benefitted from reductions in subscriptions which have reduced from £51.00 to £35.00 in 2017; to £28.00 in 2018; £25.00 in 2019 and to £20.00 this year (all +BMFA+CAA). Despite our best efforts to break even, we are reporting a surplus again this year.

Income

Our income for the financial year ending 31st October was £6080.49, (including £2411.00 that we pass on to the BMFA for our insurance), - a year-on-year increase of £1431.04. However, the £1899.49 shown as Interest and Other Income includes £1343.09 for the sale of the late Peter Mann's models and engines to club members. A further £464.00 was raised from the sale of other donated models and items of equipment.

The largest category of income – membership - is down by £291.00 as a result of further reductions to the annual subscription mentioned above.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure at £5129.01 is seemingly £989.56 higher than last year; this is because the £1554.03 Committee Expenditure includes a donation of £1343.09 to the Alzheimer's Society; Peter Mann's family expressed the wish that the money collected from the sale of his models and engines was donated to this excellent charity. Removing this from expenditure means that our costs were actually £353.53 lower than the last financial year.

Net Assets

Our savings account with Barclays holds most of our cash - £33989.62. Very low interest rates (currently 0.01%) mean that this sum only attracted a return of £92.40.

The surplus of income over expenditure of £951.48 is £441.48 higher than 2019.

When this sum is added to our already healthy bank balance, our net assets now stand at £36,326.26

Membership

Membership numbers have been steadily declining over the long term – we had 131 members in the year 2000; membership stabilised at 75 in 2018; 75 in 2019 (71 adult; 2 concessionary; 2 junior) and 74 in 2020 (70 adult; 2 concessionary; 2 junior). We also have 15 prospective members on the waiting list; COVID-19 has placed limitations on training and slot availability with pit capacity limited to 6.

Membership subscription proposals:

In view of our large surplus and the disruption to flying caused by the pandemic, the committee has agreed to a subscription holiday for all who are club members on the date of the AGM. Only the BMFA and CAA fees will be payable in 2021.

For new Adult category members joining after 1st December 2020, the annual subscription will remain at £20.00 (+BMFA+CAA+joining fee).

New Junior members joining after 1st December 2020 the annual subscription will be £5.00 (+BMFA)

The joining fee will remain unchanged at £25.00 for Adults. There is no joining fee for new Junior members

There are three resolutions concerning finance and membership requiring agreement:

Resolution 1 – that the accounts for year ending 31st October 2020 are adopted. This resolution was unanimously adopted by email vote.

Resolution 2 – that Mike Kenney is re-elected as auditor for 2021. This resolution was unanimously adopted by email vote.

Resolution 3 - that the 2021 subscriptions proposals are agreed. This resolution was unanimously adopted by email vote.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Resolution 4 – the office of Chairman

The office of Chairman, as advertised to all members as part of their AGM pack, was up for election this year as part of the club 3 year officer rotation policy. Martin Dance indicated his preparedness to continue in the post for another 3 years. There were no other nominees.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by email vote.

Resolution 5 – additional committee members.

The 2019 committee members have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by email vote.

The committee for 2021 is shown below.

Chairperson	Martin Dance
Secretary	Andy Warlow
Treasurer	Richard Williams

Membership secretary	Steve Fleming
Committee	Dave Grey, Tim Jones

8. Club fees for 2021.

As reported by the Treasurer, the adult membership fee has been reduced to £20. Junior fees have also been reduced to £5. The joining fee is unchanged at £25. The BMFA membership for both adults and juniors remains unchanged at £38 and £17 respectively.

As a result, club fees for 2020 will be:

Junior members - £0 club + £17 BMFA = £17

Adult members - £0 club + £38 BMFA = £38

Joining fee for new adult members remains at £25.

CAA registration via the BMFA will cost an additional £9.

The above fees will be reflected in the club membership renewal forms issued to members via email.

9. Any other business.

There was no response to an email issued to members requesting any AOB issues to be raised with the Secretary by email prior to December 1st.