

READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

19 attendees.

1. Apologies for absence.

Jerry Taylor, John Bennett, Dave Belcher, Ray Chesterman, Leo Daniels, Richard Williams, Tim Jones, Graham Legg, Alan Holt and Dave Hall.

2. Adoption of agenda.

The agenda as published was adopted.

3. Minutes of last year's AGM.

The minutes as published were adopted.

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

None.

5. Chairman's report.

Chairmans report for 2023 AGM

Thank you for finding the time to attend this AGM. It is good to see a reasonable turn-out and we have, as usual, arranged a small buffet as a way of saying 'thank you'.

I would like to start by saying thank you to the committee for their time and continuing support to the club during 2023. None of the committee roles are taxing but it is important for club members that the committee act, and take decisions, on their behalf even during quiet times as per this last year.

Throughout the year the club regularly receives emails via the club website which go to either Steve or me. They commonly begin 'I would like to join the club' and that is it. That starts an email trail as we try to understand if they are a beginner and need training, or not, and it may be weeks before we get to a position of knowing what the club needs to do to support them should they chose to join the club. Occasionally we get lucky and the person enquiring is a qualified flier but more often than not either the enquirer decides this is not for them or they need training. This year we have had two members pass their 'A' test, Leo and Mark. Congratulations to both of them and, more importantly, thank you to those members who helped train them and provided their time, patience and flying skills to get trainees in the air and bring their models back in one piece, most of the time! Our membership is slowly declining year-on-year and, if we cannot train new members, then they will not join and this decline will accelerate.

Congratulations to Trevor Stokes who examined his first test this year after passing his examiner test least year.

The club currently has just over 60 members and remains financially healthy. In common with other clubs that I know, we have a much smaller 'core' of regularly active flying members but that means we rarely have to fight for flying space. Over the past year I have seen a significant move away from standard, fixed wing aircraft being flown to a more diversified set of models including the 'Angry birds' from Ian, EDF jets and, finally, two very experimental models of an F35-like vertical take-off and landing jet being developed

simultaneously by both Ian and Steve. While the number of active fliers in the club remains small, it is great to see the diversity of models being flown these days. Yet another year has gone by without the Thames flooding and the strip remains in good condition but, as a result, float plans have not made an appearance so we can only wait and see if conditions change and they, too, come out to play.

Rachael, the TVP manager, moved jobs in October and Dorota Dregier is her replacement. We have little/no contact with Oracle and rely on the TVP manager to maintain our relationship with Oracle, the landlord. The re-write of our operating licence remains in the hands of the Oracle legal team and, as far as I know, it has not progressed, however, given that Oracle agreed to do this at no cost to the club, it is difficult to chase them up so we still wait on this.

Compared to the earlier Pandemic period when the general public flooded the area by the river, this year has been back to normal and although we still get members of the public aimlessly crossing the strip and the surrounding area, please remember that we have no control/jurisdiction over them. We can politely warn/advise them of the risks they take but sadly that is all we can do.

The earlier risk of the council putting no parking lines along the dual-carriageway has not materialised, probably due to more TVP staff working from home and less justification for a cycle lane, but a reminder please to keep an eye open for any planning notices that might appear along the dual-carriageway and let me know if you see one.

Safe flying in 2024.

6. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts.

Introduction

It was agreed in 2016 that a large annual surplus of income over expenditure was no longer required as the club had built up a substantial reserve to fund a flying field if suitable land became available. Annual subscriptions were then reduced on an ongoing basis from £51 in 2016 to £20 in 2020.

- a. In 2022 and 2023 a subscriptions holiday, funded from reserves, was agreed in view of the disruption to flying caused by the pandemic. This resulted in losses of £615 in 2021 and £1009 in 2022
- b. The savings account currently stands at £34,207 and although a substantial amount, it would probably not be sufficient to purchase a flying site.

Income

- a) Membership income improved by £252 over 2022.
- b) Indoor flying revenue was increased by £254 over 2022.
- c) Interest rates increased dramatically during 2023. Our interest receipts increased from £3 in 2022 to £211 in 2023
- d) This net result was in improvement in Total income of £713

Expenses

- a. BMFA/CCA fees at £1935 down from £2081 in 2023, due to reduced membership
- b. Flying field costs at £870 in line with £886 for 2022.
- c. Indoor flying costs were £663 marginally up from £614 of 2022.
- d. This resulted in an improvement in Total Expenditure of £367

Net Assets

- a. Net assets have increased by £71 being the profit for the year for the year

b. The current account has dropped by £340.

The savings account increased by £211 being the interest earned for 2023

Membership and subscriptions proposals.

- a. Membership numbers are marginally down
- b. We experienced cost increases in the latter part of 2023 and anticipate further increases in 2024 .However we are proposing subscription remain the same for 2024 which will give a small loss. This means we may need to increase subscriptions in 2025
- c. The annual club subscription for Adults is proposed at £15 and £5 for Junior members. In addition there will be BMFA and CCA fees to be paid.
- d. The joining fees for Adults will remain at £25 and £0 for Junior members.

Resolutions requiring agreement.

Resolution 1 - that the accounts for year ending 31st October 2023 are adopted.

Proposer: Trevor Blake
Secunder: Peter Talbot
Resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 2 – that the 2023 subscriptions proposals are agreed.

Proposer: Trevor Blake
Secunder: Steve Fleming
Resolution passed unanimously.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

No changes to club committee officers are due for the current year

The remaining members of the committee, Steve Fleming, Dave Grey and Tim Jones are prepared to continue in their role. No other members wished to join the committee.

Resolution 5 – that the current committee continue for another year.

Proposer: Neil Viney
Secunder: Steve Bennett
Resolution passed unanimously.

The committee for 2024 is shown below.

Chairperson	Andy Warlow
Secretary	Joe Dray
Treasurer	Ian McConnell
Membership secretary	Steve Fleming
Committee members	Dave Grey, Tim Jones

8. Club fees for 2024

Junior members - £5 club + £20 BMFA = £25

Adult members - £15 club + £47 BMFA = £57

CAA registration via the BMFA will cost an additional £10.33

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

The joining fee for new adult category members remains at £25. There is no joining fee for new junior members..

9. Any other business.

There was general discussion about number of trainees in the pipeline and the lack of members willing to participate in training. There was general agreement that there was enough club equipment available for training purposes.

There followed a general discussion about the CAA, changes in technology and new legislation that might threaten the future of flying at Thames Valley Park. No resolutions were made.