

# **READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB**

## **MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley

21 attendees.

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

Ray Chesterman, Robert Powell, Jerry Taylor, Paul Eisner, Nigel Beats, Tim Jones, Andy Nash, Richard Williams, Harjinder Obhi, Graham Legg, Peter Allen, John Bennett.

### **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.**

Thank you for finding the time to attend this AGM. It is good to see a decent turn-out, especially given the need to approve the new club constitution later in the agenda.

I would like to start by saying 'thank you' to the committee for their time and continuing support to the club during 2022. None of the committee roles are taxing but it is important for club members that the committee act, and take decisions, on their behalf

Thank you also to those members who have undertaken training this year. Thank you for your time, patience and flying skills that help to keep trainees in the air and bring their models back in one piece, most of the time! A particular word of thanks from Bob Powell, who is unable to attend due to a knee operation, to John Bennett for his help in training. Throughout the year the club receives a regular stream of emails from people looking to join the club and learn to fly. Without the support of members who are prepared to train others, these new members will not join and, as we historically lose members every year, the club will eventually cease to exist.

Congratulations to the trainees who gained their 'A' certificate this year – Trevor Stokes, Dave Henderson, Bob Powell, and Harj Obhi.

Thanks also, and congratulations to, Trevor Blake who travelled to the BMFA at Bedminster for an examiner training weekend on completion of which Trevor gained his Examiner certificate. He now joins Dave Belcher and Martin Dance as our club examiners, who I would also like to thank for giving their time to examining trainees.

The club remains financially healthy but for a club of 70 members, rarely do we see more than 10 - 15 flying at any one time. Quite why the remaining 75% remain as members of the club is unclear but this seems to be true of other flying clubs and although the non-fliers help keep costs down, it would be good to see a more active club. I suspect that at the end of this year, following the

pandemic and the reintroduction of membership fees, membership will drop but hopefully not by too many.

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 please 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 for 2023 and with a bit of luck we will have yet another year when the Thames does not flood the flying strip, although those of you with float planes might be looking forward to the flooding!

## **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 a subscriptions holiday, funded from reserves, was agreed in view of the disruption to flying caused by the pandemic.
- b. The savings account currently stands at £33,996 and although a substantial amount, it would probably not be sufficient to purchase a flying site.

### **Income**

Membership income was roughly in line with 2021 at £2438 for 2022.

- a. Indoor flying revenue was increased from 2021 to £420 for 2022. The cost for each session is roughly the same but income varies by the number of attendees.
- b. Interest rates remained abysmal with an income of £3.43.

### **Expenses**

- a. BMFA/CCA fees at £2081 for 2022, in line with £2172 for 2021.
- b. Sundry expenses relate to a gift to the outgoing chairman.
- c. Flying field costs at £886 in line with £916 for 2021.
- d. Indoor flying costs were £614 and should be compared to the Indoor flying revenues of £420.

### **Net Assets**

- a. Net assets have decreased by £1009, being the loss for the year
- b. The current account has dropped to £702 and if we are unable to breakeven this year, we will be required to top it up from the savings account.

### **Membership and subscriptions proposals.**

- a. Membership numbers remain static with 73 members (69 Adult, 2 Honorary and 2 junior)

- b. In determining the 2023 proposed fees we have taken into account inflation but no provision for costs in respect of the renewal of our licence with our landlord.
- 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 are adopted.

Proposer: Dave Belcher  
Seconder: Jay Quinlan  
Resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 2 – that the 2023 subscriptions proposals are agreed.

Proposer: Pete Talbot  
Seconder: Neil Viney  
Resolution passed unanimously.

## **7. Election of Officers and Committee**

Andy Warlow moving to the role of Club Chairman earlier in the year requires members approval.

Resolution 3 – that Andy Warlow is elected as Club Chairman

Proposer: Dave Belcher  
Seconder: Steve Fleming  
Resolution passed unanimously.

With Andy Warlow moving to the role of Club Chairman, his previous role of Club Secretary was advertised to members prior to the AGM. I am pleased to say that Joe Dray responded to say that he would like to apply for this position. As the only respondent, members need to approve this appointment.

Resolution 4 – that Joe Dray is elected as Club Secretary

Proposer: Dave Belcher  
Seconder: Dave Grey  
Resolution passed unanimously.

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: Trevor Stokes  
Seconder: Steve Bennett  
Resolution passed unanimously.

Martin Dance stepped down from the role of Club Chairman earlier in the year. The committee would like to thank him for his service to the club by making him an Honorary Member. This requires member approval.

Resolution 6 – that Martin Dance be made an Honorary Member.

Proposer: Pete Talbot  
Seconder: Jay Quinlan  
Resolution passed unanimously.

**The committee for 2023** 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 2023**

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

Adult members - £15 club + £42 BMFA = £57

CAA registration via the BMFA will cost an additional £10.

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. TVP licence update.**

Having tried to establish the terms and conditions applying to our current flying licence at TVP, it appeared that neither the club, Oracle nor TVP Management have a softcopy of the licence, however, Rachael at TVP did find a scanned copy of the licence that was signed by all parties back in 2001. The licence contains a table of designated flying times and a map of designated space which shows the permitted flying area, location of the flying strip, hovering patch and the pits. Over the past several years the club has requested changes to the designated flying times plus the move of the hovering patch. These were agreed by TVP Management but TVP Management did not advise Oracle nor did these changes get incorporated in to the licence. Both TVP Management and Oracle are joint Licensors on the licence.

The licence now needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the previously agreed changes which, according to the licence, the club is responsible for paying. Solicitors representing Oracle have been asked to provide the club with their cost and time estimate for this work which the club is still waiting for.

### **10. Additional Flying Site discussions.**

A number of members have asked about the club acquiring a second flying site. The committee have discussed this and have decided that they will not actively seek a second flying site based on how few members fly regularly at the current site, and the potential costs involved in acquiring a second site. As an example, East Berks have recently moved to a new farmers field which costs the club somewhere around £4,000 per annum rental with no surety over the long term and, possibly, no planning permission.

The committee has no issue with any member seeking a new flying field but members have no authority to negotiate on behalf of the club. If a member advises the club that they have found a location which is both suitable and affordable and the members approve the costs involved, the club will pay the member a 'finders fee' as was previously agreed.

#### **11. Flying Field rule changes.**

Resolution 7 – Flying Field rules changes

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

#### **12. Club Constitution.**

Resolution 8 – Adoption of the new Club Constitution

Proposer: Dave Belcher  
Secunder: Pete Talbot  
Resolution passed unanimously.

#### **13. Any other business.**

There was no other business raised by members.