

READING AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held at 20:00 on Tuesday December 3rd 2024 at the Oakwood Centre Woodley

16 Attendees

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jerry Taylor, Ray Chesterman, John Bennett, Kevin Mercer and David Ballard

2) Adoption of Agenda

The agenda as published was adopted

3) Minutes of last year's AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were adopted

4) Matters arising not listed elsewhere on agenda

None

5) Chairman's report

To those members who haven't found anything better on the TV or are not too busy washing their hair this evening, thank you for attending this meeting. It is good to see you and we have, as usual, arranged a small buffet as a way of saying 'thank you'.

Let me start by thanking the committee for their support over the past year. Never an onerous task but via the committee we do make sure that members views are taken into account during discussions and decision taking.

Throughout this year, enquiry emails have continued to trickle in from the general public usually asking to join the club and get training. As a result, we have a waiting list for training which, as it currently stands, is going to take several years to clear.

With flooding at the start of the year, poor flying weather for much of the year and a further flooding in September I have been struggling to get any decent time with my current trainee, Isaac, so although he is progressing really well, he will be back next year to complete his training and take his test.

Since none of the people enquiring about membership this year already have an 'A' certificate, new membership is not managing to keep pace with the number of members leaving the club so club

membership continues to decline, although the club remains healthy financially.

Last year there seemed to be a general move into EDF powered jets at the flying strip but less so this year it seems to me, albeit my attendance has been down a bit on previous years and more driven by Saturday training. In amongst all the various EDF jets I must say congratulations to Steve who, over the past year, has continued to develop his experimental F35 prototype such that it now contains sophisticated onboard electronics to manage the gyros and the transition from vertical to horizontal flight. Apart from Steve, I am sure that more members will have been investing in float planes given the earlier flooding and with flooding back again, it looks as though the landing zone for float planes has grown significantly, albeit it will take a brave soul to recover a plane from a landing accident given the depth of water.

There continues to be some uncertainty around the flying strip. As we will discuss later in the meeting, TVP management has changed companies, making changes to the TVP licence a bit more challenging, and it remains unclear if Royal Berks (Hospital) is going to relocate to an area behind TVP, albeit that is years away, but as it stands, we continue to enjoy our flying strip when we can.

6) Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts

1) Introduction

- a) In 2021 and 2022 a subscription holiday funded from reserves was agreed in view of the disruption to flying caused by the pandemic. This resulted in a loss of £165 in 2021 and £1009 in 2022
- b) At the 2022 AGM it was agreed to reintroduce subscriptions to £15 for Adults and £5 for juniors, based on a projection that this would result in a break-even Profit/Loss for the 2023 year
- c) The savings account currently stands at £34513 and although a substantial amount, is unlikely to be sufficient to purchase a flying site.

2) Income

- a) Membership income improved by £398 over 2023
- b) Indoor flying revenue decreased by £234 over 2023
- c) Interest rates continued to remain high during the early part of 2024, but started to drop off in the latter half of the year. Our interest receipts improved by £294 over 2023
- d) This resulted in an improvement in Total Income of £458

3) Expenses

- a) BMFA/CAA fees increased by £321 over 2023
- b) AGM costs increased by £223 over 2023, but this was a timing issue when the AGM costs were paid.

- c) Flying field costs increased by £70 over 2023, but strip cutting expenses remained constant and the difference was the purchase of an additional transmitter for training
- d) Indoor flying costs increased by £63 for 2023, roughly in line with inflation
- e) This resulted in increased costs of £642 over 2023.

4) Profit and Loss

The net result is a loss of £113 for 2024 against a profit of £71 for 2023

5) Net Assets

- a) Net assets have dropped by £113, being the loss for the year.
- b) The current account has dropped by £418
- c) The savings account increased by £305. We were required to transfer money from the savings account to the current account to support the loss.

6) Membership and subscription proposals

- a) Membership numbers are marginally down.
- b) Last year we advised of inflation increases in the latter part of 2023 and anticipated further increases in 2024. However, we held subscriptions at the 2023 levels and predicted a small loss for 2024.
- c) In 2025 we expect interest to drop further and we believe membership rates may drop both reducing income.
- d) Costs are expected to inflate but at lower levels than 2024
- e) The net effect will be a greater loss in 2025 than 2024 if we do not increase membership costs. However, the committee proposes that we hold membership costs at 2024 levels to make the club more attractive to new members. The expected loss will be funded from the savings account.

7) Resolutions

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

Proposer: Steve Fleming

Seconder: Jade Quinlan

The resolution was passed unanimously

Resolution 2 that the 2025 proposed subscriptions and joining fees are adopted

Proposer: Steve Fleming

Seconder: Jade Quinlan

The resolution was passed unanimously

Treasurer's report continues with discussion on best way to encourage new membership and to use funds in savings account. One suggestion is that we might pay to establish a training programme. Also, discussion about safely lowering the current requirement for an A certificate. Agreed that a **temporary sub-committee** be set up to explore these and similar proposals to encourage growth in membership and longevity of the club.

If you would like to participate in this sub-committee, please give your name to the chair or secretary

7) Election of officers and committee

The post of Treasurer was due for renewal this year. No expressions of interest were received before or during the meeting. Ian McConnell agreed to remain in post.

Resolution 3: That Ian McConnell be re-elected as Treasurer

Proposer: Dave Grey

Seconder: Dave Belcher

The resolution passed unanimously

It was assumed that other committee members are prepared to continue in their role

The committee for 2025 is shown below:

Chairperson	Andy Warlow
Secretary	Joe Dray
Treasurer	Ian Mc Connell
Membership Secretary	Steve Fleming
Committee Members	Dave Grey, Tim Jones

8) TVP Management and TVP management – update

The chairperson provided an update on the current situation at TVP and the work surrounding the update of our current licence to fly on the site.

The proposal currently on the table is that the club becomes a company 'limited by guarantee' and that current officers sign the new licence on behalf of the company and not as individuals. Due to recent changes in the management of TVP this has not yet been agreed as an appropriate solution. Further internal meetings to discuss this matter are due imminently.

Funds from savings may be required if company is to be set up. Committee will seek agreement of members if spending is to be over the current agreed limit of £1K.

9) Savings account

Discussions on this included above in section 6

10)Any other business

None