

Raydon & District Model Aircraft Club

Annual General Meeting
Held at the club hut on
10.00am Sunday 24th December 2019

Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies for absence

There were 22 senior members and one junior member in attendance.

Apologies for absence: Gerry Pilling, Eric Bull, Don Judge, Clive Joseph, Kevin Bennett, Trevor Williams, Paul Keeble, John Kinsey, Tony Waters

2. Agreement of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on December 2nd 2018

Proposed: Patrick Kelly
Seconded: David Jowers
Agreed by vote

3. Matters Arising

None

4. AGM 2019 Chairman's Report – Nigel Banham

I am pleased to see that the ongoing drive to raise standards of safety at our site is continuing and being adopted by the membership.

I am seeing more people range checking their models before the first flight of the day. Most of you are flying with a "traffic spotter" at your elbow. I will not go through the rest of it but there are still those who ignore "best practice".

Make no mistake. If you are involved in an insurance claim, particularly, - God forbid - if it is an injury claim, then questions will be asked of you and an insurance "refusal to pay" could involve a great deal of expense for you.

Incidentally, none of us are immune – not long ago I mistakenly overflew the car park on the peri-track with my big Chipie, and it was instantly, - and correctly, pointed out to me. Good – we are all safety officers!

As you all know, the drone issue raised it's political head this past Summer and we responded to the appeal by the BMFA to write to the CAA, the aviation minister and to our local MP here, James Cartledge. This all entailed quite a lot of correspondence one way and another and Tony and I met with him and his sec here. He certainly went away with the correct impression of what this club is about, and we were at pains to point out that we were typical of a number of other clubs in the region. I believe that he represented our case fairly to the minister and to the CAA as did a number of other MPs seen by BMFA clubs.

As you know, it appears that the government is at least now talking with the BMFA and appears to be taking a more reasoned stance on all of this and not treating us all as irresponsible boys with dangerous toys, which is what would certainly have happened had we all done nothing. If anyone thought that the BMFA and the other organisations did nothing constructive for us, by golly they have certainly pulled their fingers out this year.

As you may have noticed, we are doing some maintenance around here. This is one of the responsibilities in our lease. I never quite understand why commercial leases are that way, but they are. So we have been working on the west wall of this building-the rest will follow – my son gave me a lesson in rendering and, truth be told, did quite a lot of it for me. I have been putting special mastic into the cracks inside and out and we hope to keep the rot at bay for a few more years.

One other change that we are planning is to make a li-po charging place in the outbuilding. I believe that the roof is now waterproof and we now need to fit a new door on it. The reason for this is the fire risk when this room is used, because members put these batteries on charge here and leave them, so if we came to have a fire claim on our insurance, they just might ask some awkward questions. In the outbuilding there will be less to burn. In fact, potentially only the door and the roof timbers.

You might have noticed that the steel doors on the mower hut and at the back of this building need some renovation in terms of welding plates in due to rust attack. Nick Skinner has volunteered to use his equipment to do this. John Kinsey and Tony Waters have elected to help him. Chris Bush has stepped up to organise the purchase of the steel, so our thanks to them. I collected the steel this week and we now have it stored.

Outside our maintenance remit, but of importance to many is the continuing saga of the vandalism of the toilets. Important to some members and vital to others!! There seems to have been a lull in this at present but it has happened a lot and I try to keep you informed of the situation when I know.

Another change is that, as you have been notified, the year-end will be the deadline for renewals. This will enable us to meet in January and to discuss proposed members a month earlier. It will also remove the “insurance doubt” where members cannot fly until they have paid up, although who checks? It will also mean that Tony is able finalise all the BMFA stuff in January and in one go, instead of having it drag on into Feb.

One other thing is that we have put the painting of yellow lines down the road on the back burner – we felt that the problem of parking is not as bad as it once was; it usually only matters where there is a cross-wind anyway and it is usually solved by someone just walking over and having a word with the driver, as indeed I saw Rob do a couple of weeks ago. It would be a great deal of work to do and to maintain – and it would be quite costly.

You may have noticed that we have begun some model noise testing here again. The idea is not to ban models from flying but we need to be aware that building is taking place adjacent to our site so your committee felt that we should try to pre-empt problems by checking and advising pilots of models which might be noisy on ways of reducing that. It is possible to reduce noise without drastically reducing the power of an engine. Manufacturers need to know that in today's climate they cannot continue to market very noisy engines and the only people that they will listen to is us – their customers. We hope that you are on side with this. Tony's wife, Sue has a friend who is moving in down there so we have asked for some “friendly feedback” from her. She has three kids though, so she may not even notice it!

We ran our schedule of events this year, the New Year's Day fun fly, where we all paddle around in the mud; (Dick and Irene volunteered to cook this year but they did it in the superlative comfort of the back room here) the Mid Summer's evening fun fly, when, if we had held it on mid-summer's evening, we would have paddled around again in our wellys. It was postponed a couple of times! Our vintage evening – run by Paul, and which I find a delight. Roger Emms remarked

"Coo – they emptied out the graveyard for this one, didn't they?" Incidentally, I notice that the vintage thing is "taking off", with the use of vintage radios converted to 2.4. Roger Emms and Steve Hart are sincere converts and I notice that Tony is also diving in.

Then our scale/warbirds day, successfully run by Chris and Ethan Bush, with a little help from Dick, Irene and Ray Mathias, myself and Steve Hart – thanks to all.

I would like to revive our "Jets over Raydon" day, because when we ran it the last time it was a success and our visitors were very well behaved, but as with all these things, we need volunteers to help to run it.

The BMFA code holds that in order to fly gas turbines you should hold a "B" cert to fly at an open event, so for insurance reasons we will need to go with that here. We need volunteers to get there early to set up; to run the Tx control, which we must do for insurance reasons at open events; to organise the food; to brief the pilots and to run the flight line safely and then to clear away again. If we cannot run these things safely then we should not run them at all, so if you want them – and they are a lot of fun when they go well – then we need you guys to help. If we get enough helpers, then we all get a chance to have a flight as well, so before each event I will be asking for some "active" bodies!

As usual I must thank all of the people here - in addition to those already mentioned - who have helped to run our club. It just would not function without them - all of the stuff that just "happens" is done by someone.

Firstly, to Dick and Irene who have turned out to cook at all of our events; to Brian and to Ian who have mowed, strimmed and trimmed our grass; set rat traps/mole traps and the like.

As many of you know, Tony has had a period of illness this year and this forced him to drop out of the grass cutting team, so I stood in for him. I am delighted to say that he is now back in robust health so that next year, he is prepared to mow again...so that I will not need to! For this relief much thanks. Despite this, he carried on with the demanding job of secretary without a break.

On the subject of mowing, John Kinsey has volunteered to service and maintain our mowers for us and this will save the club a lot of money – about £600 every two years or so, so our thanks to John, who will, I am sure do a better job than the agents did.

Thanks to Alan for cooking the books; To Trevor for auditing them; and to Geoff for painting the clubroom door so skilfully; he has volunteered to do the maintenance on our picnic tables and the wooden benches. Thanks due to Mark Alum, the carpenter who replaced our club-room door and fitted the new lock; to Kevin Bennet, Patrick Kelly, Trevor Williams and Ian McFadyen who filled the holes in front of the tank – an ongoing task which needs work again; to Brian Dicks who always ensures that there is enough fuel for our mowers – these containers are rather a weight at 25 litres of diesel as I know from filling the tanks this year;; to Lee Marshal for his work on building and testing our web-site. Thanks to Mike Havard for running the bar and to the other members of our committee who patiently turn up to hear Tony and I droning on about this and that.

As part of our drive to raise flying standards, our thanks too, to Neil Garnett, who despite the demands of a young family, has given up his time this year to coach and to test our prospective "B" certificate candidates each week in the summer. Rob Jardine and Tony Waters succeeded in passing, and likewise, Nick Skinner got his "A" test, so well done to all of them.

Our sincere thanks to Irene for organising our excellent Christmas do last week – I think that you might have a regular job there!

Finally, although strictly outside the remit of this report, although if I get voted out, I will not be here at the end so I wish to do this now – I want to propose a vote of thanks to two members who are standing down from the committee after some years of service to the club. Dave Wilde is standing down after many years in which he regularly ran events, took A and B tests with members and cooked for us at events and open days etc. Our thanks to him.

The other gentleman has also been a very great help to the club. Whatever it was, he volunteered to paint it, organise it, tidy it up, clear it out, mow it, maintain it - and swear about it. We owe him our sincere thanks for a great deal of work well done - Rob Jardine.

5. Safety Officers report – Richard Mathias

The flying standards at club level and event level is fairly high, however we do have some concerns as occasionally pilots stray into the no-fly zones as shown on the RADMAC site layout.

This is mainly over the pits area and down to the main fleet hanger area over the vehicles and buildings to make an approach for landing.

An alternative approach to this can be made from the NW crop field in front of the tree line over the top of the gate area on the concrete runway to the grass runway area to land. This would keep the aircraft away from the buildings and vehicles and comply with the CAA drone legislation of 50 metres from any building or vehicles.

The further you fly from a position away from the pits down to the south end of the field the less chance of going into the no-fly zone. In the pits area please use a model restraint when starting engines, do not taxi in or out of the pits, do not take off from outside the pits, taxi or carry your aircraft to the take-off area. Carry out a range and fail-safe check before flying. Please read the drone and model aircraft code on the CAA website also RADMAC operating instructions to be compliant and fly safely.

6. Treasurers Report to 2019 AGM – Alan Jackson

I would like to record my thanks to Trevor Williams who conducted an audit of the accounts. Trevor has been a club Treasurer and gives up his time to carefully check all the receipts and bank statements to look for any discrepancies in the accounts.

Trevor Williams audited the accounts and agreed the figures are an accurate record.

I would also like to thank Tony Waters (Secretary) and Brian Dicks (Groundsman) who provided a detailed breakdown with receipts of their petty cash spends. This makes it so much easier for me to compile the club accounts ready for the audit.

Mike Havard conducted a Bar Audit showing there was £19.50 of stock and float. It was agreed at last year's AGM that the bar stocks would be maintained at a level to support club events as there is a much-reduced demand by members at the flying site. I would like to thank Mike for the many years he has been Bar Member keeping the bar stocked with a selection of drinks, crisps and nuts.

Richard and Irene Mathias provided the barbecue at many club events and returned a profit of £33.22 which includes the expenditure for the free Member's Night barbecue. A detailed list of expenses and receipts was provided. This has involved a lot of their personal time to shop for the food and then cook at the flying site for which the club is very grateful as it means they're not being able to participate in the flying activities. Looking at the Income – Expenditure figures show that there was a small loss of [£124.45].

The figure should be [£202.27] as £77.82 did not get processed by TSB for Mark Allum's expenses to replace the clubhouse front door. Mark is certain he has been reimbursed so the club is the beneficiary.

There were no unexpected large expenses so the deficit can be attributed to there being 61 senior members instead of the full complement of 65. The 2019 membership fees were calculated assuming there would be 65 seniors.

John Kinsey kindly volunteered to maintain the large Jacobsen mower which has and will save the club a large amount and help keep the membership fees down. The large mower is due a major service next year and previously cost £576 when carried out by Bartram Mowers in November 2017.

The overall club value has reduced this year by ~£125 to £16,657.93.

The club signed a five-year building lease (2018-22) in order to get financial stability and lower costs. There are three years outstanding on the contract which the club is liable for and have been taken into account in the account's summary. The effective funds available to the club are £9,111.12.

John Ranson asked if Si Cockerills (Hangar 53) had received any payment for the broadband and electricity as it did not appear under the Weather Station heading. Alan J confirmed £90 had been paid to Si Cockerills and that the payment was included in the web site heading

Action - Alan J to amend the accounts summary to show the £90 payment under Weather Station (action completed after the AGM).

RADMAC accounts summary			
Income	2019		2018
Members renewal fees (including BMFA)	6737.00		7472.00
Bar takings	0.00		0.00
Club meetings	0.00		0.00
Barbecues for Member's Night, Vintage evening & War	138.70		0.00
Birds/Scale Day			
Replacement cheques	373.59		0.00
Clothing with RADMAC logo	0.00		0.00
Total income	7249.29		7472.00
Expenditure	2019		2018
BMFA fees	1571.00		1492.00
Bar takings	69.36		0.00
Xmas gifts for Peacock family	178.50		178.25
Club meetings	0.00		40.00
Barbecues for Member's Night, Vintage evening & War	105.48		44.63
Birds/Scale Day			
Replacement cheques	373.59		0.00
Club site rent & insurance - Notley Enterprises	2140.53		1934.66
Club site rent - Flying site extension - Peacock's	850.00		800.00
Babergh District Council - Business Rates on club buildings	177.41		167.82
Club house (Unit 67) maintenance	158.08		71.51
Storage hut (Unit 45) maintenance	10.00		185.00
Furniture for club house	0.00		155.00
Weather station	90.00		85.00
Petrol, diesel & spares for mowers and strimmer	929.37		716.36
Maintenance & misc items for flying site	186.43		669.41
Electricity meter payments	237.33		237.33
Chairman's expenses	0.00		0.00
Secretary expenses	185.37		30.80
Treasurer's expenses	15.00		14.52
Web site	54.12		71.85
Modeller of the Year award	10.00		8.00
Clothing with RADMAC logo	0.00		0.00
Refund of Founder Member fee	0.00		0.00
Total expenditure	7341.57		6902.14
Opening Balances	2019		2018
TSB current account	7074.18		6331.00
Ipswich Building Society	9378.61		9363.43
Petty cash	155.09		328.41
Total bar stock & float value	84.50		75.05
Total	16692.38		16097.89
Closing Balances	2019		2018
TSB current account	6993.19		7074.18
Ipswich Building Society	9411.44		9378.61
Petty cash	143.80		155.09
Total bar stock & float value	19.50		84.50
Total	16567.93		16692.38
Surplus on activities (closing - opening balance)	-124.45		594.49
Liability on RADMAC for outstanding building lease & insurance	7453.89		9594.42
Effective club funds allowing for building lease liability	9114.04		7097.96

Proposed: John Ranson
Seconded: Irene Mathias

This was then voted upon by all present and was carried.

7. 2020 subscriptions

The buildings lease will increase by £200 to £2,100 including a £100 services charge, and there will be £244 building insurance to pay.

The grass flying site rent will remain at £850.

This year the committee decided to use 60 as the number of members to calculate the 2020 membership fees in case we do not get the full complement.

Taking into account estimates for other expenditure eg ground, building and mower maintenance, the Senior membership fee is proposed to be £85 which is the estimated amount when we took on the five-year building lease.

Year	Unit 45 rent & service charge	Unit 67 rent & service charge	Senior Membership fee
2018	£850	£850	£80
2019	£950	£950	£85
2020	£1050	£1050	£85
2021	£1150	£1150	£90
2022	£1150	£1150	£90

Table 1 - Estimated Senior membership fees before signing five-year contract

Table 1 shows the annual rent and service charge for the five-year term.

The buildings lease and grass flying site are the known large expenditures the club will incur.

The ground and building maintenance costs are estimated based on the 2018-19 figures.

Membership fees: Seniors £85, Juniors £42.50, Non-flying £42.50

Proposed: Mike Havard
Seconded: Chris Bush

This was then voted upon by all present and was carried.

8. Proposed changes to the constitution

The changes to the constitution were detailed in two documents that were reviewed separately:

8.1 Changes to section 10 and section 11

In summary the proposed changes:

- Changed the membership end renewal date to 31st December.
- Clarified Junior membership
- Web site "on-Line renewal
- Clarified BMFA Membership requirements

Proposed Al Foreman
Seconded Randy Taylor

This was then voted upon by all present and was carried.

Action: Tony Waters (Secretary) to update the Constitution and issue to the Members

8.2 Changes to Appendix 1. Terms of Reference of Committee members

In summary the proposed changes:

- Addressed how bank transfers from the club bank account will be operated by the authorised signatories.
- Updated the Terms of Reference of the Secretary.
- Deleted the Terms of Reference of the Bar Member as the post no longer exists.

Proposed Patrick Kelly
Seconded Chris Bush

This was then voted upon by all present and was carried.

Action: Tony Waters (Secretary) to update the Constitution and issue to the Members

9. Notified Business

No requests had been received.

10. Election of Committee Members for 2020

Committee positions generally

This resulted in the following Committee for 2020 – they were unopposed

Nigel Banham	Chairman
Alan Jackson	Treasurer
Tony Waters	Secretary
Chris Bush	Welfare Officer
Richard Mathias	Safety Officer
Vacant	Safety Officer
Brian Dicks	Grounds Man
Paul Jefferies	Members Rep
John Kinsey	Members Rep
Patrick Kelly	Grounds Man

All of the above were subject to a "Block" vote, after being proposed and Seconded:

Proposed: Irene Mathias
Seconded: Jeremy Drummond

The block vote from those in attendance was carried unanimously.

Iain MacFadyen – Member's Rep Proposed Tony Waters Seconded Trevor Williams

This was then voted upon by all present and was carried unanimously.

Mike Havard – Member's Rep Proposed Richard Mathias Seconded Marc Osborne

This was then voted upon by all present and was carried unanimously.

11. Clubman of the Year

As agreed at the 2018 AGM, the club members were asked for nominations and Nigel Banham received the most votes.

The Clubman of the year trophy was then presented to Nigel Banham for carrying a lot of maintenance work on the club house with assistance from his son. Nigel also took on grass cutting duties while one of the ground crew was unavailable. Nigel has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure smooth operation of the club facilities for the members.

The meeting was then called to a close

The meeting concluded at 11:25am

Alan Jackson
RADMAC Honorary Treasurer