

## **IVCMAC Committee Meeting Minutes – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The meeting was held by Zoom and the following attended

John Wynn –	Chairman
Alan Paul –	Secretary
John Clarke –	Membership Secretary
Tony Neal –	RC Rep
Stuart Marsden –	Safety and Welfare Officer (audio only)
Ann Parker –	Treasurer
Paul Burling –	Treasurer designate

Steve Mynott sent apologies

### **Item 1 – Finances**

We reviewed the finances (see last page for updated summary). It was the clubs stated strategy at the last AGM to reduce the funds held from £9,000 down to a war chest of £5,000 over a number of years by providing free Saturday indoor flying.

If we carried on with this strategy it would reduce the funds by approx £2,400pa which was unsustainable. If we covered the costs of Saturday indoor flying by charging members to attend, the annual loss would be reduced to approx £700pa which was a more acceptable figure and it would take another 3 or 4 years to reduce the bank balance to £5,000 after which we would have to review things again.

It was also felt that with relatively few people attending on Saturdays, the subsidies were unfair in that only a few members benefitted.

Having agreed the financial strategy for the next few years, we moved on to item 2 and discussed the indoor flying for next winter.

### **Item 2 – Indoor flying for next winter**

We discussed various options to meet the financial requirements above. This included stopping the Thursday flying completely due to low attendance on Thursday evenings and concentrating on free Saturdays. In the end we decided that the Thursdays still had value as a social event and there may be more people attending next winter if Covid has gone away.

We decided that we would book every Thursday evening and every Saturday afternoon for next winter, but would charge adult members £5 to attend on Saturdays. This would cover the costs on Saturdays if 13 people attended on average. Juniors would be free on Saturdays.

A committee member would collect the money on Saturdays and pass to the treasurer. Guests would have the option of paying a higher rate of £10 per session or joining the club and paying £5.

If attendance on Thursday evenings next winter remain low – e.g. below 10 people regularly, we would retain the option of cancelling Thursdays completely and moving to free Saturdays only. If we did this, it would be based on a 3 week cycle – FF one week, RC the next and mixed 30 min sessions the next to provide a social forum and mixing of disciplines.

### Item 3 – Girton

Girton remains a bargain at £283pa. It is used regularly by a small group and we should encourage more use now that we have a programme of sports events listed on the website and there is less likelihood of turning up and finding the field in use.

### Item 4 – Birthday Bash on 11<sup>th</sup> June

We confirmed that this annual event will go ahead once again. The field is booked. Alan to speak with Steve Mynott and see if he will supply the BBQ once again. Funds of £100 were approved for Steve to supply food, drink and gas!

John Wynn agreed to ask Michael Marshall if he wants to organise the Malmstrom Trophy (Bow tie) on the day for any of Rays FF designs.

### Item 5 – Christmas Party

Having not had one for 2 years we felt that this should go ahead this December. In the past we have relied on volunteers to provide food but this is almost impossible now. We will use the conference room as before but book it 30 mins before the start to allow setting up time. Date TBC and conference room to be booked.

John Wynn volunteered to investigate provision of food from outside caterers and cajole some help with getting food and drink to the venue. We also need volunteers to do the raffle and the quiz. The food will be snack type as in the past and it will not be a formal Christmas dinner. It is likely that costs will be higher than in the past so we will need to start selling tickets early to gauge interest. We cannot subsidise this from club funds other than the hire cost of the room.

### Item 6 – Competitions

We do not have any competition secretaries anymore, but have had some informal competitions including at the recent public open day. We will also have some informal RC competitions on Friday evenings.

The formal competitions this summer will probably be the Ren cup for FF at Newmarket Heath and the Malmstrom Trophy at the Birthday Bash. John Wynn to ask Michael Marshall if he wants to organise these. Also the Malmstrom Cup control line F2b competition at Girton run by John Copsey.

The lack of formal competitions reflects a national trend and we should not be surprised. If any members want to organise competitions, we have a supply of cups – see the website meetings and reports page for details.

### Item 7 – Search for an additional flying site

We reviewed the report from Dave Kay who has lead the search team. After a few promising leads, we have been disappointed that they have all been dead ends. The difficulty of finding a site where we don't have onerous maintenance tasks is fairly obvious.

Now that we have reviewed the finances, it is obvious that we cannot afford a huge annual outlay on any new site.

It was decided that we would ask Dave to continue looking but not to make this an all consuming task. We need a site where club members do not have to mow the grass etc.

We need to make more use of existing facilities such as Girton and the 2 unofficial sites at Longstanton and Cottenham. Members must ask for advice before using the 2 unofficial sites as overuse or inappropriate use could jeopardise their future availability.

### Item 8 – Public Open Day October

The public open day in April was a great success and we made a small profit. We agreed to hold a similar event in October. Alan to ask the 3 musketeers – Michael Marshall, Tony Harper and Gordon Hannah if they will organise it again and give them a big thank you for their efforts at April's event. Need to fix a date and book the sports hall ASAP.

### Item 9 – New treasurer

Ann has done this important task since 2014 and was roundly thanked for her efforts. We are also very grateful to Paul Burling for volunteering to take over this autumn.

Ann is going to ask the bank what paperwork they need for the changeover. Specific additional questions were –

- Can we add the new signatories now and have an overlap. We would then remove the old signatories later.
- New signatories would be Paul Burling as treasurer and John Clarke as membership secretary. John would then be able to monitor membership fee payments and act as the second signature on the annual accounts.
- Can we have (or do we want) both electronic signatures on online banking payments or would one suffice.

The plan is for Ann to complete the year end accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and then hand over to Paul.

Once we know the banks requirements, Alan will convene a virtual EGM to formally vote Paul in as treasurer and to make a small change to the constitution. The constitution change was in an e-mail dated 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 to the committee and is required because we were not doing what it says currently by appointing an auditor, and we are replacing this with John Clarke being the 2<sup>nd</sup> signature on the accounts.

The virtual EGM will be an invitation to a Zoom meeting with an option to reply to the e-mail to vote yes or no so members don't have to Zoom to vote

## Item 10 – AGM 2022

We agreed that we would issue an annual report as we did last year. Alan to prepare this and circulate to the committee for approval. As we did last year, we will inform members in advance so they can table AOB which will be included in the annual report.

## Item 11 – AOB

- World Record attempt – Alan explained that this has been simplified and members can turn up and fly on the day without any registration beforehand. We just need names and model type on the day. Full details to be circulated in a few weeks. FF modellers can launch 2 if they want.
- Juniors and education programmes – Paul Burling said he would be happy to do some presentations to the Village College to promote aeromodelling and STEM. We also have 2 cub groups visiting this summer on Friday evenings and once word gets out there may be more. They will be split into 3 groups of 8 cubs plus a leader to spend 30 mins hands on at FF, CL and RC. We could also add some STEM stuff to the Newsletter.
- Reduced subs for members who haven't been able to fly much over the last few years was suggested by Ann. Whilst this is a great idea to show fairness, after reviewing the financial situation and the relatively low club fees, we decided that we could not afford to do this.

Alan Paul  
Club Secretary  
15<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## **Financial Summary**

### **Bank balance**

Oct 31st 2020 –	£8,546
Oct 31st 2021 –	£8,998 (up due to Covid refunds)
Todays balance –	£8,400 (after this winters indoor & Girton paid)
Oct 31st 2022 forecast –	£7,400

### **Future annual income and expenditure forecast FY 22/23**

<u>Membership fees based on 75 paying</u>	<u>£2,100</u>
Thursdays in the gym	£1,500
Saturdays in the Sports Hall	£0 (note we need 13 people at each event paying £5 to break even so this may rise)
Annual fee for Girton	£283
Cost for the field on Friday evenings	£322 (£14 per session)
Annual Birthday Bash incl BBQ costs	£150
Incidental expenses/contingency	£200
Potential sports centre 10% hike	£350
<u>Total expenditure</u>	<u>£2,805</u>
<u>Total annual loss for FY 22/23</u>	<u>(£705)</u>

Note – we currently pay £21.67 per hour for both the sports hall and the gym. The list price for the sports hall is £43, so we get a very decent discount. We remain at risk should the sports centre decide to hike our costs which have been the same for 3 years.