



Annual report to members 2023

Chairmans report – John Wynn

Many members will know that John has not been well over the last few months and has not been able to come to many club meetings. The committee have asked John to remain in post as club chairman and provide ongoing advice and wisdom from his very many years in the club. We hope to see more of our chairman at club meetings in the future.

Secretarys report – Alan Paul

This has been a year that has seen significant change for the club.

The most obvious was the decision taken at the end of last year to scrap the historic 2½ hour Thursday evening flying sessions in the gym, and replace these with 4 hour sessions in the bigger and much more suitable Sports Hall every Saturday afternoon with a 3 week rotation of FF, mixed (2 hrs of each) and RC. As the clubs biggest expense is indoor hire charges, it was considered fairer for indoor flyers to pay an additional £30 for their indoor flying. This has been a great success and we have now booked the Sports Hall every Saturday up to April 2024. In 2022, when we had Thursday evenings and some Saturdays, we used to charge £5 per Saturday session, so the new arrangements are in fact cheaper than the old ones!

Regarding indoor flying, there has been a suggestion that we should consider scrapping the mixed indoor sessions and just have alternating FF and RC sessions. The reasons for the request were that some members travel a longer distance and for them it's not worth it for just 2 hours. Also some members prefer the more leisurely 4 hour sessions. The committees view is that the mixed sessions are useful for the chance to meet and share ideas with flyers of other disciplines and that if we lose the mixed sessions it would essentially mean we become 2 clubs (FF and RC). The committee has decided that we will continue with the current format for the remainder of this winter flying season and review it again next summer before the next winter season.

The other significant change has been to the outdoor flying at IVC on Friday evenings. There were far fewer free flight modellers attending – sometimes only 1 or 2. There was a good turnout for control line with some new faces on the handle. Radio flyers were by far the most numerous with a big increase in fixed wing training being carried out, plus drones and FPV acro quads.

Following a couple of very minor incidents in July, the committee reviewed the drone rules for IVC Friday evenings and made some changes to increase separation from the other RC, free flight and control line flyers. It is clear that there is some concern from members who are not familiar with drones and quads, and the revised RC guidelines seek to address this.

As the membership secretary reports, the club membership remains strong and a lot of new members are drone or quad flyers looking for a welcoming club to help them enhance their skills. Some of these new members go on to embrace other disciplines including indoor free flight. The club actively encourages flyers of all disciplines as it has done since the early days and tries to balance all the competing requirements including safety whilst remembering the club ethos of "Friendship, Flying and Fun".

Several new members, both senior and junior, have been taught to fly fixed wing RC using John and Alans buddy box systems.

There haven't been many competitions this year, possibly because people are just having fun flying. Michael Marshall organised an end of year FF competition in the Sports Hall in December for models under 13" which was won by Bruce Lindsay, and flushed with success organised a Peanut and Gymminie Cricket competition at the last indoor session in April which were both won by Clive Anderson. We had an RC limbo competition at the Birthday Bash in July which was won by Greg Bradley. If anyone wants to organise competitions, we have several trophies which can be awarded.

The club have held a public open day twice a year for many years, but decided not to hold any this year. This is because we are having more indoor flying in the big sports hall and can invite guests to these sessions. Also, the free flight modellers who organise the event are finding it more difficult to do the heavy lifting and set up of the hall for the event. The committee will give financial support to another public open day in 2024 if volunteers come forward to organise it.

In April we were shocked to receive notice that the sports centre were planning to increase the hourly rate for the sports hall from £21.67 to £49. We had a long negotiation with the head office who were fairly hard nosed about it. However good local relations with the manager at Impington led to a negotiated rate of £24.50 per hour for a regular block booking on Saturday afternoons. They also planned to charge per hour rather than per session for the outdoor flying, but reversed their decision on that and we now pay £15 per session for outdoor flying at IVC instead of £15 per hour. It used to be £14 per session.

Several club members took part in the FF indoor scale Nationals at Wolverhampton in April and were very competitive. Garry Flack won the Veron trophy for the best Veron kit model for the third time and Gordon Hannah was an impartial judge.

In May we once again took part in the BMFA challenge and had 23 flyers with 36 models in the air at 12 noon, beating our 34 models from last year.

In June, John Copsey again organised the Ray Malmstrom cup open competition for F2b CL aerobatics at Girton. The weather was perfect and the RM cup plus the club trophy were won by club member Brian Turner. The Clubman competition was won by Con Spinks.

The Girton fete was held in July and this year we mainly did CL displays with a few radio flights. We attend the fete to do a display as a thank you for the low cost rental of the Girton field. Thanks again to John Copsey for organising the event this year.

Also in July we held the annual Birthday Bash and BBQ. The weather turned out to be perfect with light winds, lots of flying and lots of Steves burgers. We took part in the BMFA round the world challenge and contributed 382km made up of 32km FF, 150km CL and 200km RC.

The last outdoor flying sessions of the summer were blessed with great weather, unlike some of the earlier Friday evenings, and indoor flying resumed in mid September in the large sports hall with good numbers attending.

The number of indoor RC flyers has increased which is a double edged sword, and we decided to introduce timed 20 minute slots for fragile, gentle and aerobic flying on a trial basis to see how it worked out. This was mainly because we had witnessed some fragile models getting badly damaged in mid air collisions. This will be subject to ongoing review and refinement if necessary.

Past club secretary John Copsey has been appointed to the role of East Anglia area outreach coordinator. This is a new role which is to coordinate the flow of ideas to and from the area clubs and the BMFA Outreach Director, whose remit is to bring new blood (young and old) into or back into the hobby. It will be very interesting to see how this develops. The club supports new aeromodellers and has just bought another batch of Tradfly rubber powered models. One is given to each new junior who wants one and they are offered for sale to adults for £15 (they used to be £10 but Midair models have put their prices up).

In March and October we had visits from the "Round the Pole" flyers who used the gym at the same time as we were flying in the sports hall. They travel form across the country and seem to like the venue. It's interesting to see this rather niche branch of our hobby and the very interesting scale models they make. They plan to come again in 2024.

Our treasurer, Paul Burling who gallantly took up the role when the previous treasurer Ann Parker retired, has had to step down due to work commitments. We thank Paul for his hard work over the past year and especially for getting the club into the 21st century with the excellent on line banking system which certainly makes things so much easier. From 1st November, John Clarke and Alan Paul have jointly assumed the duties of Treasurer until our very welcome volunteer for the post George Adam takes on the role.

Dave Kay has given an update on the ongoing search for a permanent flying site. He has viewed 6 possible options this year but none of them met our requirements for a large enough field that someone else will keep mowed for us at a reasonable cost. The committee do not want to take on the maintenance requirements – e.g. owning a large lawnmower with attendant security and storage requirements let alone having a mowing rota!! This is a difficult task and one that will remain on our radar but as a low priority.

Membership secretarys report – John Clarke

We have 101 members this year which is up 1 on last year. Membership has steadily increased from 62 in 2016. 73 seniors renewed and 14 joined the club. We retained 7 juniors and 4 joined the club. It is particularly good to see junior members enjoying the hobby and they are the ones who will keep clubs going in the years to come.

The club's success in attracting new members is probably because of the wide range of disciplines which it offers, the very low membership fee and the informative website and the Newsletters which all give a very good idea about what we do. New members frequently say how welcoming, friendly and helpful the club is to them so well done everyone!

Most juniors join the club because we allow the flying of drones which is the cool, exciting RC activity. It is great that many take up other aeromodelling activities. The free Tradfllys that we give to juniors, thanks to the BMFA grant, help to foster this widening of interests.

A big thank you to Tony Harper who continues to print and post the Newsletter and circulars to members without access to email.

Thank you to all who pay by BACS and those who renew their BMFA subscriptions themselves. This reduces my workload but I am very happy to process cheques (and cash if necessary) and do BMFA renewals for those not so comfortable with the online world.

Safety and welfare officers report – Stuart Marsden

It has been a testing year on many fronts, the summer weather wasn't the best, we have changed indoor arrangements and have many more members who are focussed on Radio Control and then we have First Person View, where the pilot is only seeing what he or she sees through a headset. It is no wonder we have had some discontent; however we have had no really bad incidents. At times like this, I have to remind myself that life is indeed about change.

Change then, well we have had several changes and thanks to our secretary, changes have been swift and these have been implemented and displayed on our web-site. Your committee have all been active in sharing their thoughts and Alan has collated all of this to get as safe a flying environment as it is possible in the multi discipline arena.

I am aware that not all members use the web-site and to this end, the AGM as I proposed to the committee is in person not a Zoom meeting. As long as you turn up to the AGM when everyone will have a voice, no one is excluded. To conclude I wish to remind all members of a few basic rules which apply to Radio flying:

- Every single member is a safety officer and it is your duty of care to politely point out to other members who are not following the guidelines, what they are and to fly with consideration of all other pilots, all of the time.
- Always fly in front of the flightline, never overhead and never behind you.
- Always call, "Taking off" before doing so.
- Always call "Landing" before doing so.
- Always call " Retrieving" before doing so.

These basic rules are most important to safe flying and should be the basic framework when flying with anyone other than yourself. Remember, as an example the FPV pilot can hear but won't necessarily see you. Speak up when you call!

Apologies for being so direct however it is for the right reasons. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and happy flying in the New Year.

Treasurers report

As reported earlier, Paul is standing down as treasurer from 31st Oct so this report is a combination of his report plus John Clarke and Alan Pauls inputs. Once again thanks to Paul for stepping in and for overcoming many bureaucratic hurdles to get the online banking set up. The committee are very grateful to George Adam for stepping forward and volunteering to be our new treasurer. George was appointed to the role at our committee meeting on 4th Nov.

The full summary accounts are on the last page of this report. The committee are mindful that the club has a healthy bank balance and it has been the strategy for the last couple of years to use some of this to subsidise club subscriptions and reduce the balance over the next 7 or 8 years to about £5000.00.

Despite budgeting for a slight loss this year, the club has in fact made a small profit. This is due to the membership numbers holding up and also the large number of members paying the annual season ticket of £30 for indoor flying. For reference, the large loss in 2022 shown in the accounts on the last page was exceptional and was fully reported in the 2022 annual report.

As members will see from the accounts, most of our expenditure is over the winter to hire the sports hall every Saturday, and we were very lucky to have good relations with the sports centre management and avoid the draconian increases planned by their head office earlier in the year.

Our club has now been using NatWest on line banking for over a year and this has allowed our club to make payments on time with full traceability of credit and debit transactions. It has also made oversight and auditing of transactions very easy with the club secretary and membership secretary having access as well as the treasurer.

The clubs finances are in a very healthy state and the committee recommends that the subscriptions remain the same for 2024. As a matter of interest, the basic club subs have remained the same for as long as we have electronic records.

Budget for 2024

IVCMAC Budget Jan to Dec	2024 Budget	Notes
Income		
Membership fees	£2,200	Assumes slight reduction from 2023
Season tickets for indoor flying	£1,156	Assumes slight reduction from 2023
Indoor payments on the day	£50	Reduced as most will have paid £30 for the season
Total income	£3,406	
Expenditure		
28 x 4 hour Saturday afternoons	£2,744	28 sessions at £98 per session
Friday evenings on IVC field in Summer	£330	22 sessions at £15
Girton hire	£311	
Summer BBQ	£150	
Expenses (Tony Harper paper distribution)	£60	
Annual CL comp at Girton	£0	
Spring and Summer Public Open Days	£0	
Website and Newsletter	£0	
Potential 5% IVC and Girton increase	£170	
Total expenditure	£3,765	
Profit / loss	-£359	

Subscriptions for 2024

Due to the fact that we made a small profit this year as opposed to the budgeted small loss, the subscriptions for 2024 will remain the same.

Adult club subs £28 – This covers summer flying at IVC, flying at Girton, the annual BBQ and socialising and spectating at all the indoor flying sessions. It also allows flying at the unofficial sites at Longstanton and Cottenham.

Indoor flying season ticket £30 – This covers flying at all 28 indoor 4 hour flying sessions over the winter.

Juniors are free for both the above subs.

Club officers

The club has some new volunteers on the committee from the AGM onwards. George Adam has taken over from Paul Burling as treasurer and John Copsey comes back to the committee as CL rep taking over from Steve Mynott.

A new role has been created as our Drone and Quad rep and Daniel Kenyon-Jones has taken up the challenge of this role to represent the growing band of quad and drone flyers in the club.

The following members put themselves forward for election or re-election to the committee.

Chris Strachan –	Club President
John Wynn –	Club Chairman
Alan Paul –	Club Secretary
George Adam –	Treasurer (taking over from Paul Burling)
Stuart Marsden –	Safety and Welfare Officer
John Clarke –	Membership Secretary
John Copsey –	Control Line Rep (taking over from Steve Mynott)
Tony Neal –	Radio Rep
Daniel Kenyon-Jones –	Drone and quad rep (new role)
Steve Mynott –	Radio Examiner
Alan Paul –	Newsletter and Website editor. Data Protection Officer

Accounts for the year to 31st Oct 2023

Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

Profit and loss account

For the year ending 31 October 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
Income	Membership Fees	4,961	
	Less BMFA/CAA fees	<u>-1,307</u>	
		3,654	
	Saturday pay as you go	<u>545</u>	
	Gross income	4,199	
Expenses	Sports hall hire	-2,426	
	Gym hire Nov and Dec '22	-379	
	Gym hire for RTP	-195	
	RTP flyers payment for above	195	
	IVC field summer flying hire	-345	
	Girton field hire paid May 23	-311	
	Girton field (shown as prepayment in 2022 accounts)	-118	
	Newsletter printing and posting	-60	
	Cash spend	-15	
	BBQ	-130	
	Christmas dinner '22	-13	
	Miscellaneous	<u>-29</u>	
	Gross expenses	-3,826	
	Club's net profit/loss	372	-1,381
	Club assets brought forward from previous year	<u>7,617</u>	<u>8,998</u>
	Calculated club assets at end of year	7,989	7,617
Club's assets*			
	Balance at bank at end of year	8,766	7,644
	Cash in hand		15
	Prepayment - Girton PC		118
	Money collected for Christmas dinner	-760	
	CC Council Grant remaining	<u>-15</u>	<u>-160</u>
	Actual club assets at end of year	7,991	7,617

NB 'year' refers to the club financial year (1 Nov to 31 Oct)

*The Christmas dinner and grant money are not part of the club's assets so are deducted to show what we have.

John Clarke

07/11/23