

IVCMAC committee meeting 4th November 2023

Attended

Alan Paul, John Clarke, Paul Burling, Tony Neal, John Copsey and George Adam

Apologies

John Wynn, Stuart Marsden and Steve Mynott

Introduction

Alan had spoken to chairman John Wynn and asked him to stay in post to provide ongoing guidance as a long standing member and chairman.

We welcomed George Adam to the meeting as treasurer designate and John Copsey back to fold as CL rep and Area outreach coordinator.

For perspective, 2023 was the first year of our major new flying arrangements where we had scrapped the cold Thursday evenings in the old gym and moved to indoor flying every Saturday in the much bigger sports hall.

Finances

After a year as treasurer, Paul has had to resign in order to spend more time on his 3 businesses. The committee thanked Paul for stepping in and especially for getting the on line banking set up which makes the treasurers job much easier. It provides a high level of accountability with 2 people required to make any payment, and both the membership sec and club sec monitoring all transactions. This is particularly important as we are custodians of a large bank balance on behalf of members.

As outgoing treasurer, Paul gave a summary showing that instead of a budgeted small loss of just under £300, we had in fact made a profit of over £300. After allowing for members money held for the club dinner and ringfenced grant money, the bank balance on 31st Oct was £7,991 – slightly up on the previous year.

The unintentional profit was due to membership numbers holding up very well, many new members and a higher take up of the indoor flying season tickets.

Paul reminded us of the fracas with the sports centre in April where they arbitrarily hiked the fees for the sports hall from £21.60 per hour to £49 plus VAT. We have never paid VAT and Paul convinced them that as a sports club we were exempt VAT which they accepted. We also had a good relationship with the local manager who agreed to give us a “buy one get one free” deal for the sports hall on Saturdays, effectively giving an hourly rate of £24.50. We also agreed to an increase from £14 to £15 per session on the sports field after they initially tried to price this per hour which would have tripled our costs.

The strategy for next year remains to make a small loss and use up some club funds gradually for the benefit of members.

Subscriptions

We agreed to hold the subs as follows for another year

- Club subs - £28. This covers all outdoor activities such as Girton, Friday evening at IVC, the annual BBQ and flying day plus spectating at the indoor Saturday sessions.
- Indoor season ticket - £30. This covers all 28 indoor flying sessions on Saturday afternoons in the winter

We wanted to keep both these subs low to attract members who may only come infrequently. It also save the hassle of collecting cash on Saturdays.

We had some discussion about free membership for longstanding members who have paid in over many years, but in the end decided that the fee of £28 was very low and it would be too difficult to decide who qualified.

Future format for the P&L and balance sheet

When Paul took over he had to spend considerable time getting the new system up and running. 2 of the major issues were cash payments and the BMFA subs that we collect on behalf of the BMFA from those unable to do it online.

Membership sec John now has a good system of collating all this and together with the club secs spreadsheets showing money held for grants and the annual dinner, we feel that it will be easier for new treasurer George to work with John and Alan to produce the accounts in future. For this reason, although Alan has signed off Pauls accounts, we will be presenting the 2023 accounts in the annual report using Johns new format.

Appointment of new treasurer

The committee are very grateful to George Adam for volunteering without undue pressure to take on the role of treasurer.

George Adam was appointed by the committee as new treasurer.

Appointment of new Control Line rep

We were very pleased to welcome the previous club sec John Copsy back to the committee as control line rep taking over from Steve Mynott. Whilst Steve is still regularly flying CL, John is well placed to take over as he organises the Malmstrom Cup CL event every summer.

John Copsy was appointed by the committee as the new control line rep

Review of summer flying and inter discipline co-existence

There were noticeably fewer FF modellers on Friday evenings this year with many more RC flyers and drone flyers. CL was flown on most Friday evenings as well.

We had to revise the RC flying rules twice during the summer after minor incidents with drones. We need to encourage drones in a safe and responsible way as this is how most new juniors get into model flying.

We discussed the 6pm start – it used to be 7pm but people came early on fine evenings anyway. As we pay per session we decided to book the field from 6pm, although due to lack of control by IVC, there can often be football training sessions in one area of the field till 6.30pm. Our safety rules say we should not fly RC till any footballers are at the far NW corner.

We agreed to reinforce the rules for RC and drone flying before next summers flying starts – Alan will do this.

John Copsey suggested we should have a drone rep as well as Tony being the fixed wing RC rep. Alan will approach likely candidates.

We all agreed that as one of very few clubs holding regular mixed discipline flying sessions we should try to keep the tradition going whilst making sure it was safe to do so.

Review of indoor flying

This was the first full year of the new 4 hour Saturday indoor sessions and generally it was very popular and working well.

The popularity of the RC sessions was a double edged sword and it became quite chaotic at times. In October we introduced the 3 slot system – fragile, gentle and aerobatic. Whilst it's not perfect it is probably the best way to handle the issue of fragile models getting shredded. We will continue to review it.

Several people have suggested that we scrap the mixed session and just have alternating FF and RC Saturdays. The committee view (along with many members) is that the mixed sessions are useful and provide a chance for the FF and RC modellers to mix. We decided to keep things as they are over the winter and review in the summer.

We also discussed mandating left hand circuits etc. Whilst this has its merits, we generally felt that it was too constraining and that the 3 slot system at least affords some protection to fragile modellers.

Appointing a drone rep may also help to avoid drone incidents.

Both indoor and outdoor flying have an open discussion line on the AGM agenda.

Annual Report

Alan was just finalising this and it would be circulated to committee members first for approval. It will include the accounts and the budget for 2024 as well as individual reports.

Once approved by the committee it will be sent to all members 2 weeks before the AGM along with the AGM agenda.

BMFA East Anglia area committee

The club is lucky to have 2 places on the area committee

Alan is webmaster and comms, and John Copsey is the new outreach coordinator. John gave an outline of his new area role which was 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.

A benefit of access to the area committee is that we are well placed to apply for grants. John is applying for money to help with the CL competitions and Alan has a request in for £200 to top up our money available to give FF models to juniors.

AOB

There was no AOB.

Alan Paul
Club secretary
6th Nov 2023