

IVCMAC – Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 25th November 2023

Introduction

The club sec welcomed 30 members including 6 committee members to the first “in person” AGM since 2019. It was an opportunity for members to have their say in the running of the club.

Chairman John Wynn was unable to attend. The committee wanted to thank John for staying on as chairman, and, as one of the longest serving members, continuing to provide advice to us all.

Apologies were received from John Copsey who was also unable to attend but makes a welcome return to the committee as CL rep.

Thanks were given to Paul Burling our retiring treasurer and the new treasurer George Adam. Also to Steve Mynott for being CL rep for many years and John Copsey for taking on the role. Finally we thanked Daniel Kenyon-Jones for accepting the new role of drone rep.

We would run through key points from the annual report before voting on it and then have an open forum on indoor and outdoor flying.

Secretarys report

This was the first year after major changes to indoor flying with the end of Thursdays in the gym and the start of new regular Saturday sessions in the sports hall. It would be hard to imagine anyone wanting to go back to the gym.

On that basis, the sports hall had been booked right through to April 2024.

We had also survived the draconian price increase from £21.60 to £49 per hour and had been able to negotiate a rate of £24.50 per hour (i.e. half price) for Saturday afternoons.

We would discuss flying arrangements in detail later.

Membership secretarys report

We now had 102 members – the highest for many years.

The contact list now had 57 people on it. If members want to be added, they should contact John Clarke.

Renewals to the club and BMFA would be open from 1st December and the club sec thanked John for his hard work in dealing with the complexities of renewals etc.

Safety and welfare officers report

Stuart encouraged members to read his comments carefully in the annual report. Whilst there had been no major incidents, there had been some minor ones which could have been avoided if people followed the clear guidance for RC operations.

These include announcing your intentions clearly e.g. taking off, landing, retrieving etc.

The introduction of a new drone rep should help to ensure happy coexistence of all disciplines outdoors next summer.

Treasurers report

This was given by the club sec due to the handover period. The detailed accounts were in the annual report.

The strategy is to use some funds for the benefit of members whilst retaining a war chest for unforeseen arisings. We had planned a small loss for 2023, but actually made a small profit of about £300 due to the membership holding up and the 40+ indoor season tickets sold.

We have about £8,000 in the bank and as custodians of this money members can rest assured that it is safe. 2 signatures are required to withdraw money (usually treasurer and membership sec) with a further signatory able to stand in when required and also monitor transactions (club sec).

Budget for 2024

The plan for 2024 is again to make a small loss of about £350, but if numbers don't hold up as expected, we can survive a bigger loss if needed and review the position at the end of 2024. The detailed budget was in the annual report.

70% of our budget is spent on hall hire over the winter.

Subscriptions for 2024

We plan to keep these the same as this year. One reason is to encourage people to remain or join the club even if they don't come every week. Subs for 2024 will be -

- Adults £28 – includes everything except actual flying indoors. E.g. all outdoor flying, annual BBQ, spectating and socialising indoors
- Indoor flying season ticket for 28 sessions £30
- Juniors free
- BMFA subs are going up by £5 to £47 for seniors. Juniors still TBA
- If needed, the operator ID fee of £10.33 will be increasing to £11.19 in April

Club officers

Once again, thanks to all volunteers who do great work on behalf of members.

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

Vote to accept the annual report

Proposed by Richard Staines and seconded by Clive Anderson.

Carried unanimously.

Indoor flying – open discussion

There had been some great turnouts for indoor Saturday flying. RC in particular had proved a victim of it's own success such that we had to introduce timed slots.

There was a lively discussion and some key points are minuted below –

- Mixed sessions – whilst there was a view that we should stop these or have them less frequently, the committee decided to keep them as they are to encourage mixing and a “one club” feeling. We undertook to keep this under review.
- RC slots – there was discussion about Vapors flying in later slots and getting in the way of bigger planes, and also mandating circuit direction etc. Whilst the current slot system is an improvement on the previous free for all, the committee agrees that there is further room for improvement and will circulate some new guidelines for trialling from Saturday 9th December. These will then be reviewed and refined as we go along. Unfortunately as other clubs have found out, there is no ideal solution to this!! We do rely on people flying sensibly with consideration for others.
- Inviting Peterborough club members to our indoor FF sessions – Stuart has been talking to the Peterborough club and they are having problems paying for their hall which costs 4 times what we pay. We agreed that Stuart would invite them down to our FF sessions on a trial basis and on the assumption that they wouldn't all come at the same time.

Outdoor flying on Friday evenings – open discussion

As expected and welcomed, we had a robust discussion on this subject.

We are probably the only club that has a regular weekly meeting on a marginally suitable field with multiple disciplines of FF, RC, CL and drones. The committee want to keep this tradition that dates back to 1946 going, but recognises that there have been some minor incidents during the summer. Despite these issues being minor, and certainly not a major safety concern, they have nevertheless caused some friction. The committee have taken prompt action including –

- Revising the RC flying guidelines twice during the summer
- Appointing a drone and quad rep to the committee

Prior to next summers flying, the RC guidelines will be reviewed and reissued and will include a mandatory spotter for FPV pilots and a requirement to ask permission before FPV chasing of other members models.

We are confident that with a bit of give and take and cooperation from all members we can carry on the tradition of interdisciplinary coexistence for years to come.

AOB

We had covered pretty much everything during the meeting, but there were 4 items of AOB

- John Copsey is now the BMFA area outreach coordinator who will work with the BMFA to encourage new members into the hobby. As well as juniors the BMFA wants to encourage returners back to the hobby. BMFA subscriptions have dropped from over 35,000 to under 30,000 over the last few years.
- Club sec Alan is now the BMFA area delegate and will attend BMFA area council meetings.
- The state of the tables in the hall is diabolical. These are a school responsibility so we can't complain to the sports centre. It was suggested that we have a sort out and put the broken ones at the back of the store room.
- The search for a new flying site is not easy. As reported Dave Kay has reviewed 6 sites this year which were not suitable. We are offering £500 per year to someone to mow a patch and allow us to fly there. This may be unreasonable when you consider that the Ramsey club pays the farmer £2,000 pa and has also just paid £7,000 for a gang mower. It is still an ongoing but low key activity.

Alan Paul
Club sec
26th Nov 2023