



Minutes of a committee meeting held on Saturday 11th October 2025

Present

John Copsey, Alan Paul, John Clarke, George Adam, Tony Neal, Daniel Kenyon-Jones and Stuart Marsden.

80th Anniversary celebrations in 2026

We discussed the draft document and confirmed the decision to have 2 all day indoor events in the Impington Sports Hall immediately after the indoor flying season ends, and one expanded Birthday Bash in July before the school holidays start. Secretary will cancel the booking at the University Sports Centre.

The BMFA grant application has been resubmitted for £400 showing the change of venue. We also agreed to use up the £275 in the "Tradfly" fund as part of the 80th celebrations.

Secretary has updated the draft note about the 80th anniversary taking on board the discussions. Once approved by the committee it will be circulated to all members for info.

George had a great idea for a record of the most models flown in a church and will get permission for this. We can then have a go at it next year.

The outdoor event may be impacted by the all weather sports pitch – see below.

All weather sports pitch

There is no current start date, but we are in contact with IVC and have seen the plans. The annual report now has a section on this to refresh members memory.

It should still be possible to keep our Friday evening meetings going but we will have to redefine where the allocated flying areas are. If no one is using the all weather pitch, there won't be any problems, but if they operate this round the clock we will have to ensure we don't fly over it.

We agreed to walk the ground and make decisions when we see what happens. A new risk assessment for IVC Friday evenings will be required.

Club of the Year

We were very pleased to get this award and John Copsey and Mrs Copsey are attending the annual dinner and prizegiving to accept the Robin Gowler award.

There will be BMFA publicity on this to encourage other clubs to have a go. Despite only 30 clubs applying out of 800, there were 5 contenders and IVC MAC only pipped them at the post as we are a multidiscipline club. Most of the others were traditional RC only clubs.

Review of summer flying

This went really well this year and we had some great weather on occasions. There was a lack of FF, but a really good turnout for CL, RC and drone flying.

Safety discipline was well observed which is essential on such a congested site and this will only become more important when the all weather pitch starts to impact our operations.

We are very lucky to have sites at Girton (paid for), Longstanton, Cottenham, Waterbeach and Newmarket Heath – all documented on the website. In addition, John Street is in discussion with Homes England in his role as Parish Councillor regarding use of the Oakington Car Boot site. None of these would be ideal alternatives for Fridays at IVC though.

Secs note – Girton might be suitable as a Friday evening replacement if we could get an official booking rather like we do for the 2 big CL events. We would have to tackle this carefully if it became necessary.

Review of indoor flying

We have had very good turnouts for both RC and FF with 20+ people coming to most Saturday events. There are also 3 self funded RTP events each year.

We discussed and decided to keep the 3 week cycle of Saturdays as the mixed event allows FF and RC flyers to mingle. There are several members who come along for the social aspects only which is good.

Membership status

John Clarke has updated us all and details are in the annual report. Membership is slightly up and we know of several prospective new members in the pipeline.

This is very encouraging and slightly bucks the national trend, but is not something we can take for granted.

Finances

The end of year is 31st Oct and George will finalise the accounts in time for inclusion in the annual report by 7th November.

The finances are very healthy and we are certainly not running down the reserve towards the £5,000 that we have set as a minimum. George highlighted that we may need the reserve if the flying site at IVC becomes a problem.

George suggested that we might offer free BMFA membership to juniors. Whilst this is a great idea the committee felt that juniors and parents may be more committed if they paid the £20 BMFA fee. Also some of them are spending much more than that on models / drones etc. We decided not to do this at present, but would consider doing it for individual juniors in cases of hardship.

Bearing in mind that many members don't attend very often and probably pay annually because the fees are so low, we decided to keep membership fees the same once again at £28 per year and £30 for the indoor season ticket.

Christmas Dinner

This is at the Cambridge Motor Boat Club on 4th Dec. The caterers are charging £10 per head for a 2 course cold buffet and we will provide tea, coffee and milk. There is a £100 charge for hire plus barman.

We are charging £15 per person so should break even on the night. Thanks to Tony for setting this up.

Annual Report

This is now complete save for the finances which can't be done till the end of the month. It should be circulated to members 2 weeks before the AGM which is on 22nd November at 2.30pm – i.e. it uses the last 30 mins of the RC session and hopefully none of the 2nd half FF session.

AOB

We discussed adding talent to the committee and decided to ask Andrew Langford if he would be willing to join. Andrew will be a very welcome addition, and after the meeting he agreed to join us to provide an additional viewpoint on the challenges ahead – thanks Andrew.

Alan Paul
Club Secretary
15th October 2025