



# LANCASTER & MORECAMBE MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB



*Chairman: Titch Little Secretary: Bob. Little Treasurer: Martin. Ireton*

## EGM 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011 : Minutes

Meeting started: 19:35 hrs

**In attendance** Titch Little, Bob Little, Chris Troughton, Thomas Leeming, Rolf Wadsworth, Eddie Bewes, Norman Holme, David Smith(14 members).

**Apologies** David Van Laere, Brian Hinchey, Derek Woord, Martin Ireton

The current membership of the club stands at 33, 8 people in attendance and with Martin Ireton asking David Smith to vote on his behalf as proxy it was agreed that we were quorate. However it was pointed out that from a membership of 33 to only have 8 members there was very disappointing and something the committee needed to consider in the future.

### **Agenda Item 2: CASC and changes to Club Constitution**

The Chairman explained that by joining CASC (Community Amateur Sports Clubs) we would be able to reduce our new Council Rates by 80%. The remaining 20% would probably be then likely to a gratuitous rate reduction. Currently, since the last planning application was put through, the club has been rated on the area of land it uses for its flying and by talking with the council has been reduced by 50% for being classed as a small business and 50% as a gratuitous rate reduction; this is unlikely to continue every year so being a member of CASC will ease this situation. Having discussed our application for membership with a CASC representative we have been advised to remove Paragraph 11 of the constitution regarding termination of any members membership in the first 6 months and to specifically state that we are a non-profit organisation. Neither of these are major issues for the club and it proposed to accept these changes by **Titch Little** and was seconded by **Bob Little**; all those in attendance voted for this proposal including Martin Ireton who asked to vote for the proposal by proxy.

It was pointed out that this new revised Constitution and a new Welcome Pack needed adding to the web site – where all current documentation should be kept.

### **Agenda Item 3: Club Trainer Uses and Fees**

The club purchased a new club trainer, with two transmitters and buddy lead, in the winter and although this has been popular it was agreed that the trainer needed to pay for itself – rather than being a drain on club resources. It was agreed that the trainer was for 3 purposes as follows:

1. For non-members to try out model flying without needing to purchase expensive equipment.
2. Training of new members up to the point of going solo.
3. For use by existing members whose model has gone un-serviceable **ON THE DAY**, the number of flights being limited to 3. This use is on a purely ‘you



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bend it, you mend it' basis. Also both other uses take priority over this one; i.e. if someone has come down on the basis of being trained or to try out model flying then this takes priority over a member using the trainer when their own model has become un-serviceable.

Although discussed, it was felt that having a form that members signed agreeing to the 'bend it, mend it' rule prior to flying the trainer was too difficult to implement and we leave this up to members to honour.

A discussion of pricing followed, appreciating the need to consider the high cost of fuel, the need to cope with replacement parts, etc and it was agreed the following:

1. Trial flights by non members : £2.00 per flight
2. Members under instruction : £ 2.00 per flight or, if providing their own fuel, £1.00 per flight.
3. Members using the model : £ 2.00 per flight or, if providing their own fuel, £1.00 per flight.

For uses 1 and 2 Club Instructors (or better) are required to operate the buddy box system. Club Instructors can be 'appointed' after 6 months of gaining their 'A' certificate.

It was agreed that the Secretary will contact the BMFA to confirm the insurance position for claims incurred whilst training people and it was also agreed that the above uses and pricing be printed, laminated and attached to the plane for all to read!

Bob Little proposed that Chris Troughton be appointed as a Club Examiner and Thomas Leeming as a Club Instructor. Rolf seconded this and all agreed.

## **Agenda Item 4 : Thomas Leeming as Club Liaison Officer.**

Titch explained that he would not be willing to stand as Chairman after the end of this year but with the BMFA Bird study commencing this year felt that he would be best placed to perform the role of liaison with the BMFA which would then continue into next year. This was accepted and it was proposed by David Smith to remove Thomas as Club Liaison Officer and replace him with Titch Little. Seconded by Bob, this was agreed by all and thanks given to Thomas for his short reign!

## **Agenda Item 5 : Proposal to allow secretary to sign cheques**

This was proposed by Titch, Chris seconded and it was agreed by all.

## **Agenda Item 6 : Discussion re talking to farmer over extending mown area but NOT the size of the flying circle.**

This was discussed but rejected due to concerns over the farmer's reaction.

## **Agenda Item 6 : Current Membership**

It was reported that we now have 33 members for 2011 with some previous members leaving the area and some leaving the hobby. It was agreed to actively encourage new



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members to the club and some documentation was produced that we would ask Model and Hobby World to put up and add to aircraft boxes for sale.

## AOB

1. The role of Events Organiser was discussed and in light of the poor turn out it was felt that we couldn't appoint a new Events Organiser and that this role would be taken on by other members of the committee.
2. It was agreed that in future the club would allow on-line voting by polls rather than requiring formal meetings.
3. The issue of Safety at the field was discussed for some time. It was agreed the following:
  - a. That we need to amend the 'no-fly' zone to cover the area behind the pits.
  - b. That members should be VERY aware of what they needed to do if flying, attempting a landing or about to take off and hear another member shout 'Dead Stick. They need to immediately CLEAR the landing area; any member having experienced a dead stick situation will sympathise with this rule!
  - c. With the field as it is, we aren't overly strict on the BMFA rule of leaving your transmitter at the edge of the field when collecting your aircraft from the landing area.
  - d. All flyers need to stand near/in the pilots box when flying and should approach the landing zone very carefully when launching their aircraft; do NOT walk straight through someone else's flight path.
  - e. When flying over the take off/landing circle – such as when practicing touch and gos – always fly into wind and let other flyers know what you are about to do.
  - f. A diagram showing the no-fly zone be laminated and put on the club notice board at the flying site.
  - g. Mobile phones must NOT be taken onto the field; please leave them in your vehicle.
  - h. Alcohol must NOT be taken onto the field and all members are reminded of the BMFA rules over competency to fly.
4. An update on the BMFA Bird Study  
Titch reported that the RSPB wanted us to have a bird survey done – at an estimated cost of £1000 (which we naturally couldn't afford). Roger Bellingham, the BMFA Site Development Officer, has now agreed to back us and fund us with this survey. We are now looking for a respected ornithologist on the web, someone independent from the RSPB and BMFA. It was mentioned that our current planning application has been temporarily passed with no 'end' dates.

The meeting officially finished at 8.50pm and David Smith presented a small presentation on how to use our web site.