



LANCASTER & MORECAMBE MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB



Chairman: **Martin Ireton** Secretary: **David Smith** Treasurer: **Bob Little**

Minutes of the AGM for 2011

Meeting started: 19:45 hrs

In attendance Title Little, Bob Little, Martin Ireton, Dave Mitchell, Derek Wood, Phil Hudson, Rolf Wadsworth, Paul Tudor, Graham Tudor, Bill Hayhurst, Steve Dougherty, Chris Lupa, Keith Mercer, David Smith(14 members).

Apologies Chris Troughton, Thomas Leeming, John Jenkins, Philip Jenkins, Mick Clough

Minutes of last years AGM had already been semi-approved at the previous meeting but with members having had plenty of time to read them they were

Proposed as a true record by: Bob Little

Seconded by: Paul Tudor

and were then approved by all.

There were no direct matters arising.

The Treasurer's report was distributed to members and read by Martin Ireton (copy attached).

Martin wanted to raise the following points:

1. Membership numbers were slightly down on last year.
2. With being a member of CASC we reduce our rates bill by 80%, and with a remaining balance of around £40 this would end up with nothing to pay (Council won't raise invoices for this amount).
3. Total funds are down compared to last year and with the mower due for a service, the need to purchase a new shed and with the constant need for a contingency fund (Martin has tried to maintain this at £2k for the past few years) he proposed that the membership fee be raised to £45 (½ this for junior membership).

After some discussion a proposal to raise the membership fees as above was

Proposed by : Martin Ireton

Seconded by : Bob Little

and this was approved by all.

The Secretary's report was read by David Smith (copy attached). Titch Little responded to the suggestion that we try and send a member to the North West Area meetings by saying that many of the meetings he attended there would hold absolutely no interest to our club members, with all the discussion relating to indoor flying.

The Chairman's report was read by Titch Little (copy attached).

No questions were asked regarding any matters relating to any of the above reports.



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Constitutional Amendments

Titch reported that CASC required us to change our constitution again, minor changes but ones needing approval from the members. Titch read out the relevant changes and these were proposed as being acceptable by:

Proposed by : Martin Ireton

Seconded by : Rolf Wadsworth

All agreed.

David Smith reminded the members that the latest constitution could be found on the website.

Alcohol Ban at the flying field.

Following our last meeting where the above was discussed and it was agreed that this would be voted on at the AGM a proposal to completely ban the use of alcohol at the flying field be added to our flying and safety rules. This was

Proposed by : Paul Tudor

Seconded by : David Mitchell

All agreed.

The flying and safety rules would be amended accordingly and the latest copy added to the website,



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Election of offices

Chairman: Martin Ireton
Proposed: Thomas Leeming (form)
Seconded: Bob Little

Treasurer :
Proposed by : Thomas Leeming (form)
Seconded by : David Mitchell
All agreed.

Secretary : David Smith
Proposed by : Thomas Leeming (form)
Seconded by : Bob Little
All agreed.

Vice Chairman & safety Officer : Thomas Leeming
Proposed by : Bob Little
Seconded by : Paul Tudor
All agreed.

President : Titch Little
Proposed by : Martin Ireton
Seconded by : Bob Little
All agreed.

Events Secretary/Committee Member : Chris Lupa
Proposed by : Thomas Leeming
Seconded by : Bob Little
All agreed.

Committee Members : Paul Tudor and Graham Tudor
Proposed by : Titch Little
Seconded by : Bob Little
All agreed.

Proposal to offer Bill Hayhurst an honorary membership

This was put forward at the last meeting by Thomas Leeming and Martin Ireton (now Chairman) advised the members that this was being offered for all the work that Bill and his wife have done for the club over many years. Martin seconded the proposal and everyone agreed.



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BMFA Credits

David Smith reported that he had two credits relating to members who have overpaid for this year. These will be used in the coming 2012 year for the respective members who are Eddie Bewes and Mick Clough (David will let these two members know what their new BMFA fee for 2012 would be).

David also reported on the variety of material that the BMFA sends out to us as a club and wondered how best this could be distributed to those members wanting to read it. We have acquired a few copies of the 'Up and Away' booklet this year that is free to new members but normally costs £2. Perhaps these could be left in the shed for people to browse or given to potential new members for them to read prior to joining. There is also a monthly BMFA news but there is an on-line copy of this which a link from your our website points to. There is another bundle of material that arrives that perhaps should be put up in our new shed, especially if it were to be boarded out and made more hospitable than the one we have.

Replacement Shed

Everyone appreciated the need for a replacement shed; the existing one was kindly given to us by previous members but is definitely coming to the end of its life. Chris Troughton has offered to source a good one for us at around £800. There was a discussion over mechanisms for funding this but it was proposed that we leave the decision of what to purchase and when to the new committee with a ceiling of £800. The committee would look into the potential for council grants, CASC grants and/or lottery funding. This was
Proposed by :Titch Little
Seconded by : Bob Little
All agreed.

Any Other Business

David Smith suggested that the role of new membership take-on be handled by one person rather than two, being more efficient especially now that documentation has to be sent to the BMFA and this was agreed. He also suggested that having had 9 enquiries this year through the website for details of the club, how to join, where did we fly etc that we should have a 'one-stop shop' approach to this meaning that anyone enquiring can be pointed to one person who would organize their first meeting at the field, perhaps a trial flight, etc. This was agreed and Bob Little (an instructor) agreed to do this.

Chris Lupa agreed to offer helicopter lessons – including straight and level flight! - for any member interested and also agreed to become a club examiner.

David Smith asked about putting a large amount of gravel/stone in the field gateway but after discussion over costs etc it was agreed that the committee look at providing some large sheets of ply that could be used in the wet months to enable the mower to be taken from the shed to the circle and for people to navigate the often very muddy entrance; these could be stored in the shed at the end of the day. Also the committee would discuss putting up some of our electric fencing – kindly repaired by Alan Stephenson – around the area of the 'car park'.



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Take-off area

Thanks to Steve Dougherty who was there when the original strip was marked out we now know that this was at that time 40m * 20m. With a little basic maths this equates to a circle – if that is what is wanted by the members – of around 32m diameter. Recently the flying area was paced and was approximately 26 paces. (strip size of 40m * 20m = 800 m² : circle with 32m diameter = 16m radius therefore πr^2 gives us 804 sq^m.)

This implies that we can increase the size of the current circle by 3 paces all the way round without exceeding what the farmer has agreed to; this might even enable me to hit the spot!

Offer of owning our own field.

Titch Little reported that a member of the club had enquired as to whether we would be interested in owning our own field and had explained that he was interested in purchasing a field that then could be rented back to us. Although this was accepted as a very kind offer the majority of the members were worried over the long-term viability of this (i.e. what happens if the field gets sold etc) and just how big an area we would get knowing the very high price of agricultural land. Planning permission was also discussed and it was pointed out that with our current field and the relevant lack of surrounding obstacles we do enjoy a very large flying area. It was agreed by the members that we turn down this member's kind offer.

Martin thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting closed around 9.30pm.