

**Kinross Radio Model Flying Club**

**Minute of Annual General Meeting**

**Held at Girl Guide Hall, Milnathort**

**24th April 2022**

A.G.M. commenced at 13:02

A total of 18 members including committee members were in attendance.

The following members submitted apologies via email: Dave Kelly, David Tabb, Robert Boyd, Ian Sutherland, Brian Barclay, Pat Baxter.

Minute of the last A.G.M. (held Nov 2019) was read out by the Club Chairman Tom Wilson.

**Proposed as correct: Billy Dunn. Seconded by: Neil Gourlay.**

**Chairman’s Report:** Tom thanked everyone for attending this year’s AGM and explained that the venue had changed on this occasion due to the bowling club being in full season and their facilities in constant use.

He thanked the interim secretary, interim treasurer and co-opted committee members for stepping in during the two years since the last AGM, and especially Bob Gadd for his continued support as a committee member. George Robertson had already intimated his decision to step down from a committee role.

Tom stated that the new lawnmower had made the grass cutting faster and easier than ever before. He thanked Billy Dunn, the previous Club secretary, for his efforts in achieving the goal of purchasing a new mower and all the members who donated to the purchase of the machine.

**Secretary’s Report:** Neil Grayson spoke on the following points:

BMFA record attempt at 12:00 on 15th May 2022. He confirmed that he would be the Record Attempt Coordinator for KRMFC and responsible for logging pilot details and submitting them to the Record Verification portal. He asked members to complete a form available at the meeting if they were interested in taking part or to email him separately.

A precision flying introduction and coaching day is scheduled to take place at the Clyde Valley Flyers club on 21st May 2022 between 10:00 – 15:00. Contact emails for interested members are available.

The Scottish Water Planes event on Loch Leven is scheduled for 13th and 14th August 2022. Members to get in touch with Bill McDiarmid if they want to help. More information is provided in the Any Other Business section of the minute.

The Club newsletter. The regularity of this has been well received and members are thanked for their varied and interesting contributions and are encouraged to continue to submit articles and to come up with suggestions about what else could be included. Submissions can be slow until the last few days of the month, but so far it has been possible to put a newsletter together. There will be no newsletter on 1st May due to work put in for the AGM but it will be back on 1st June.

**Treasurers Report:** Mike Hill spoke on the following points:

**The Accounts:**

Mike introduced himself by advising members of his history with the club and that he had been a passionate member since 1997.

He stated that the club currently has approximately 46 members and that 35 members are needed to meet running costs.

Last year the club had to absorb the expense of a new mower and he had calculated that, without generous donations from club members, it would have taken 8-9 years to get the money together. Generous donations between £25 - £1000 had been made by individual members, and on behalf of the committee he thanked all members who had donated to the fund.

No one could have predicted Covid and the club never knows what expenses are going to be incurred in the year ahead so it is good to have the following year’s fees in place. This means that in general membership fees collected this year are for expenditure next year and membership fees collected next year will be used in the following year.

Mike then gave a summary of the accounts. See **Annex A**. He stated that the farmer had discounted the field rent to £1700 this year. The accounts had been set out in a layout that is easier to complete and understand than the layout provided in the constitution. A proposal to amend this part of the constitution will be forthcoming.

**Administration:**

Mike then moved on to discuss the issue of the orientation and layout of the flying field further to a member’s article published in the April edition of the newsletter. It was felt that the article could have appeared unbalanced and in retrospect, should have appeared with a response from the committee rather than appearing unchallenged.

Following this, on 5th April 2022, the committee had issued an email response to all members explaining that as a club we are restricted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and providing the reasons for the original plans being rejected. Only by meeting the HSE requirements was planning permission by Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) approved. HSE requirements dictated the layout of the field and within these constraints it is not possible to turn the field round as it would mean flying too close to the A977. The HSE Diagram was distributed to all members with the email.

Mike apologised for not sending the PKC planning consent form initially but this had no bearing on HSE requirements. The member who had written the article tried to interrupt at this point and was told he could have the floor when Mike had concluded. The member left the meeting at 13:17.

Mike continued, explaining that as a particular member had enquired to PKC about the club’s planning consent, the council were now aware that original consent had expired in 2013. As far as PKC is concerned the field may be agricultural land, not a flying field. This may have been an unfortunate oversight by the committee at the time and may mean the club has to reapply for consent. Clarification will be sought from PKC. Mike concluded this part of his presentation and asked for any comment.

Bob Gadd requested to see the relevant paperwork and Mike gave him a copy.

Jim Walsh queried if we are flying without planning consent does that mean we would have no insurance. Tom Wilson answered stating that the only stipulation from the BMFA and the SAA is that you have the landowner’s permission.

In response to a previously received query, Mike confirmed that club safety rules are not negotiable. If there is concern about or disagreement with a safety rule then the matter needs to be raised with the committee using the correct channels. The issue will be discussed and changed if necessary or appropriate. Put simply for the sake of clarity, “if you don’t believe in a rule, it doesn’t mean you can break it”.

**Committee Elections**

Before the election of members to the committee the Chairman, Tom highlighted and recognised the work the committee does on a voluntary basis, in particular their commitment of time and money into cutting the grass, buying paint for and carrying out renovations, and preparing and printing all the paperwork for the AGM, amongst many other matters for the efficient running of the club. As an example, the interim secretary had spent considerable time and energy refreshing and publishing the club newsletter. The committee do all of this to help the club.

Tom stated that despite these efforts, both the interim secretary and the interim treasurer had considered resigning due to the constant niggling of some members and the excessive demanding of information to be made available to them.

The club may not be perfect in some people’s view, but membership is voluntary. It should be recognised that the founders of the club spent a lot of time, money and energy setting it all up. A lot of manual digging was done to prepare the entry road into the site so that cars do not get bogged down. The flying field was levelled off and slabs were laid for the flight benches to sit on.

It was now agreed to draw a line under the disproportionate disruption that had been caused by a tiny minority of members and to move on to the election.

The current chairman, Tom Wilson stated immediately that he was happy to stand down if anyone else wanted to put their name forward. No other members volunteered. The election of committee members then followed:

**Chairman: Tom Wilson**

Proposer: Billy Dunn Seconded: Mike Hill

**Treasurer: Mike Hill**

Proposer: Ian Miller Seconded: Billy Wilkie

**Secretary: Neil Grayson**

Proposer: Tom Wilson Seconded: Billy Hatley

**Committee Members -**

**Billy Wilkie**

Proposer: Tom Wilson Seconded: Mike Hill

**Bill McDiarmid**

Proposer: Mike Hill Seconded: Tom Wilson

**Jim Walsh**

Proposer: Mike Hill Seconded: Billy Dunn

The chairman thanked Bob Gadd for his long service on the committee and it was proposed that he became an honorary member, thus allowing another club member to serve on the committee. Bob was happy with this proposal and receiving no objection from members present, it was agreed that he would become an honorary member of the committee.

**Proposed Club Constitution Amendments**

The secretary, Neil Grayson spoke on the proposed constitution amendments. He reiterated that they were minor changes intended to update the way the club is run. He covered the major points such as meeting frequency, the chairman’s vote and the change of subscription date. Jim Walsh asked about insurance still having to be paid by December but it was pointed out to him that the only thing changing was club subscriptions.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to approve the proposed amendments as not enough members could make it to the AGM. Club membership is 46 so to form a quorum of 51% of the membership 24 members including the committee would have needed to be in attendance.

Neil stated that he would email members and get a vote electronically instead. Mike Hill proposed that taking a vote at the meeting then obtaining a vote online would be sensible. Members agreed to this proposal. 16 members voted as 1 member had left the meeting and under the current constitution the chairman had no vote. All members at the meeting accepted the changes.

**Update 26 April 2022.** A further 14 members have now voted by email to accept the proposed amendments to the constitution. With the 16 members present at the AGM who voted previously there is now a clear majority and the amendments have been adopted.

**F3A Competition Date**

Tom Wilson asked members if they were happy to hold the F3A competition on a Saturday as it would mean that members would be unable to fly for most of that day. It was unanimously agreed that a Saturday was acceptable as it brings money into the club. Lindsay Dickie stated that Saturday 18th June would be the date for the F3A competition as agreed with the F3A organisers.

**Any Other Business**

**Loch Leven Sea Planes**

The Loch Leven sea plane event used to be run by the Balbedie club until 4 years ago when they decided to stop running it. Bill McDiarmid and Colin McClean took over running it for a few years but then Colin moved north so Bill did it on his own. Bill is happy to do the organising and get permission from PKC and also from NatureScot, (previously Scottish National Heritage), due to it being a nature reserve. He will also give a courtesy call to the fishermen.

Bill asked the committee and members if KRMFC could adopt and run the Loch Leven Sea Plane event which is due to be held the weekend of 13th and 14th August this year. Members from KRMFC, Balbedie and Glenrothes helped last year and it was a very successful event.

Proposed by: Bill McDiarmid Seconded: Billy Dunn

This event has now been adopted by KRMFC.

**Points Raised by Douglas Fulton**

Neil Grayson read out a list of questions received from Douglas Fulton which he had asked to be raised at the AGM. As Douglas was absent from the AGM, he was unable to provide background or expand on his suggestions.

*Q. What aims or goals are there for improving club facilities?*

Tom Wilson stated that a maintenance day would be organised. Currently benches and pilot boxes need some attention. Neil asked for suggestions of where we could source a cheap supply of wood. No ideas were forthcoming at the meeting.

*Q. Are there any ideas for events at the club, now that Covid restrictions have been fully lifted?*

Tom Wilson stated that it would be possible to organise a fly-in this year but noted that at the last fly-in which was held in 2019 only a few members of the club turned up to take part and all other flyers were guests from other clubs. Bad weather on the day had also been an issue. The SAA has now published their calendar of events in Scotland so a date will be picked that is clear of any other events (and monitor the weather closely!).

Tom also went on to say that the club hoped to host drone racing again along with the F3A event on 18th June, both of which provide good income to the club.

*Q. How can we promote the club and attract more members?*

Neil Grayson stated that since he has been undertaking secretary duties, he has advertised KRMFC in the Dalgety Bay Diary and the Kinross Community Council Newsletter. The previous secretary, Billy Dunn organised a static display in the Kingsgate shopping centre in Dunfermline in 2019.

Neil also stated that now KRMFC had adopted the Loch Leven sea planes event it would be an ideal opportunity to advertise the club as the area is open to the public and there is always a lot of interest from people walking along the loch.

*Q. Would anyone be willing to organise group training sessions for different disciplines?*

Tom explained that individual help and advice were readily available within the club. It is just a matter of asking. There are articles in the newsletter and if members emailed the committee with a question, they would also be able to help or pass on the question to a member who could assist. Lindsay Dickie or Dave Kelly are good sources for aerobatics advice and Craig McVeigh is the person to go to for advice on drones and associated technology.

Mike added that the committee’s email address is underused and unfortunately has been used mainly for criticism, but any of the above questions could have been put to the committee at any time, so enabling a wider circulation for ideas and fuller responses.

**Fund Raising Ideas**

Bill McDiarmid advised that the Loch Leven sea planes is a good event to raise funds for the club. Flyers are charged £5 for the weekend and £2 for the day. Approximately £100 - £150 is raised but some of the money is used for fencing and laying out the event. It was suggested that a raffle could be held on the day for small prizes, non-aeromodelling related which could be open to the public.

Tom stated that the drone racing event last year brought in £120 for the club and the F3A event a more modest amount. The participants in the drone racing were keen to use our site again but have not yet been in touch this year.

**Permission to fly large models above 400 feet**

Lindsay Dickie asked Tom Wilson about getting the club clearance to fly models over 7.5Kg above 400 feet. Tom had contacted Andy Simmons of the BMFA and he is going to send us the appropriate paperwork. A site visit may be required. There are two certificates available: one for a weekend fly-in or a permanent certificate. KRMFC would apply for a permanent certificate.

**Full sized planes over-flying the club**

Tom Roberts brought up the subject of full-sized planes flying dangerously low over the flying field. Tom Wilson advised that Bob Gadd had visited Balado 2 or 3 times about this matter it in the past. NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen) have been issued to pilots advising them not to fly over our site but it still happens. Bob Gadd was tasked with contacting Balado again to remind them of our presence.

Tom Wilson advised members to bring their plane down immediately if they see an aircraft coming over dangerously low.

Billy Wilkie stated that his brother-in-law flies fixed winged planes from Glenrothes and he uses an app which shows restrictions, but Kinross is not on the app. Billy would ask his brother-in-law how we can get KRMFC included in the app.

With no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 14:02.

Annex A

