

Hartlepool Model Flying Club
Minutes for the Annual General Meeting
Held on
WEDNESDAY 20th November 2024
at Stranton Social Club

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies received.

There were 8/24 members present for the AGM

2. Matters arising from the November 2023 AGM minutes

The 2023 AGM minutes were emailed to all members in the last week as a reminder of what took place last year.

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

Nothing to report

4. Secretary's report

We currently have 24 members of which 21 are Full BMFA members and 3 Social members. Our attempts to boost club meeting attendance have been great fun and interesting to all that attended but didn't make much difference to actual attendance numbers. We will continue with these activities this year mainly because those taking part seem to enjoy it. Once again thanks to Chairman Paul, Mike and Kevin for working on the grass strip to get it decent and making it usable all year. Hopefully the cows don't ruin all your hard work.

5. Treasurer's report

The Club's finances are as follows,
Money in the bank = £1115.72
Cash in hand = £177.15
Giving a total of £1292.87

A full breakdown of the Club's finances sheets was circulated around members present.

Club finances are currently quite healthy with the year's total up around £50 from last year, the increase mostly due to sales of hats and caps from the previous year. On balance we stand around the same as last year so I would recommend the £25 club fee remains the same for 2025.

Fees for 2025

Club Fees 2025 - £25

CAA Operator ID Fee 2025 - £11.13 (Expected to rise from April 25)

BMFA Fees 2025 - £49 (Expected from BMFA EGM)

Club members will be emailed the fees once BMFA confirm them.

6. Welfare officers report

There have been no safeguarding issues raised this year. The BMFA have reviewed their safeguarding policy and associated documentation and, in line with their advice, we have also reviewed our own. Our references to safeguarding in our constitution have been confirmed as still valid and fit for purpose. We have created a safeguarding policy document, adapted from the BMFA version and this will be added to the documents on our website.

Mike Bell

7. BMFA delegate's report

Delegate absent so nothing to report.

8. Proposed Motions

Two Proposals by the Secretary/Treasurer Bob Waugh

- **Return to 'All fees due at AGM' as stated in Club Constitution**

The Club fees were moved from the AGM (unofficially) to March when we were without a flying field for a few months quite a few years ago. I would like to return to all fees due at the AGM (as it still states in the Club Constitution) as it proving very difficult to keep track of who is a current Club member, a BMFA member or a social member. We now have our legal requirements for flying to consider along with the fact that some people don't pay up on time anyway. In past years it has been May and on one occasion June before everyone had coughed up all they are due. I would like to be able to get to the end of the January meeting and be able to say clearly who is a current member for that year and who isn't. Obviously some people will have budgeted for March 2025 on Club fees so this could start now but come in fully at the AGM November 2025

Proposed – Bob Waugh

Seconded – Richard Atkins

Passed – Unanimously

- **Recording Club members Flyer ID and Operator ID**

There is no requirement for the Club to have a record of members Operator ID and Flyer ID and the dates they expire. However, as you know, the BMFA have contacted everyone about this and when I asked the BMFA about this their response was '... the club should not permit any individual to fly at the field unlawfully.' The only way I can see this happening is if we have a record of both ID's along with expiry dates. This would ensure that no one flies at the Club field illegally.

Both sets of ID's will stay the same and once collected only the expiry dates will change. Recording can be done fairly easily, either forwarding me the information by email or bringing it to the club meeting on paper.

Proposed - Bob Waugh

Seconded – Mike Bell

Passed - Unanimously

There will be further information about the Flyer ID etc. in the Club Meeting Business following this AGM.

9. Changes to the Club Constitution

The old Club's constitution has been emailed to all members in the past week.

The following amendments and alterations are requested.

- **Alteration to Section 10 Club Rules and Safety Code**

You should all be aware of a change in the law regarding Operator and Flyer ID's. The BMFA has emailed all members about it. Both of these are now compulsory for anyone flying models over 250g or with a camera attached. The BMFA have suggested we change our constitution to reflect this as follows.

Change from

Compliance to the rules and guidelines within these two documents is a mandatory condition of club membership.

To

All members, without exception, must comply with all Club, BMFA and CAA rules and operate lawfully at all times and must show proof of any required registrations on request. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Club which may lead to dismissal.

This alteration was passed unanimously

- **Alteration to Section 14 Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

A slight change needed to protect club members.

Change from

Members should only give lifts and take responsibility for an unrelated junior or vulnerable adult once a relationship (the sentence wasn't completed for some reason)

To

Removal of this incomplete sentence as it isn't necessary.

This alteration was passed unanimously

- A new updated 2025 copy of the Club Constitution will be emailed to all members along with these minutes.

10. Election of Club officers

The club officials for 2024 consists of the following,

Chairman – Paul Hewson

Secretary – Bob Waugh

Treasurer – Bob Waugh

BMFA Delegate – Paul Breckon

Welfare Officer – Mike Bell

All of the officials are prepared to re-stand for 2025 if the membership agree.

The proposal that the club officials be re-elected came from

Proposed – Richard Atkins

Seconded – Kevin Hunton-Young

The re-election of club officials for 2025 was carried unanimously.

11. AOB

Club Documentation

Myself and Mike have been working on updating all the Club's documentation for 2025. The new documents, The Club Constitution, The Club Rules and a new Risk Assessment document will be posted on the Club website and emailed to all members along with the AGM minutes

AGM Closed at 8.30pm

Club business for 20th November 2024 following the AGM.

- **December meeting Christmas party**

We will be holding the Christmas Party again next month on Wednesday 18th December. We had the food quantities about right for last year, so again I'd like firm number of those who will attend and want food. Please come along and bring family etc. The club will foot the food bill and hopefully we can have a raffle again to recover some of the costs. If we get accurate numbers we can keep the cost down.

I will email everyone around the start of December for firm numbers for those wanting food.

- **Flyer ID Information**

As you are aware the BMFA have informed us that it is now a CAA legal requirement for anyone flying models either, outdoors over 250g or, outdoors with a camera fitted, to have a Flyer ID as well as an Operator ID. If you don't have a Flyer ID or the Operator ID on your model you won't be flying legally and so your BMFA insurance won't be valid.

What is the Flyer ID

The test for the Flyer ID can be likened to the theory test you take for driving a car to prove you understand the Highway Code. The Flyer ID test proves you understand the CAA aviation rules that now apply to flying model aircraft and drones. These rules of the air have come into being over the past few years and can now be legally enforced in the same way the rules of the road can be.

The Flyer ID – To get this you sit a test. Either a CAA test or what's better for us is the BMFA test called the RCC, it's said to be more relevant to model flying.

The test can be found here <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/rcc>

The current test last 5 years and is free.

The Flyer ID starts with **GBR-RP-** bla bla bla.

The Operator ID - This is a paid for number you stick on your plane, currently costing £11.13 per year and starts with **GBR-OP-** bla bla bla. This is what you have been currently paying for each year.

Complications?

Up to now anyone with an A or B competency cert from BMFA should have been given a Flyer ID automatically. This is no longer the case. If you haven't been emailed this recently from BMFA then you probably don't have one. You are welcome to contact them and find out if you think you should have one

Anyone who has sat the test previously or thinks they have an Flyer ID generated from their A or B cert may find it only last 3 years, depending when the test was taken.

Anyone who takes the BMFA RCC test and passes will be emailed a .pdf certificate. This can be printed for your records. The .pdf file **MUST** be uploaded onto your section of the BMFA portal, if not the information won't be sent to the CAA and even though you have passed the test you won't get a Flyer ID and so you won't be legal. Instructions for uploading this are on the email you get.

If, for whatever reason, you haven't got a Flyer ID at this point the easiest way to get one and be legal to fly in 2025 will be to take the BMFA RCC test or to register with the CAA and take their test.

For the Club to ensure that all flyers at our field are flying legally I will be collecting both the Flyer ID numbers and the Operator ID numbers along with their expiry dates for club records. We have been told by the BMFA that the club should not permit anyone to fly illegally at the club field.

If you haven't got a Flyer ID and the Operator ID on your model you can't fly at the club field.

This is obviously going to take a little bit of time to organise but please try to get yourselves set up with the ID's and get them passed to me ready for the decent weather returning in the Spring.

Myself and Mike will be available to help those who are struggling with the test or with the computer side of things. As the Secretary I am able to upload the file for you to your part of the portal if you can't manage it but you will have to send the original file to me first.

- **Activities for January meeting**

So long as the alterations to the room at Stranton Social Club haven't started will hold another Drone flying night. Following the formal part of the meeting we will set up an obstacle course and have timed flights around it, similar to what has been held before.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm