

Cotswold Radio Control Society

Committee Meeting

Thursday 28th February 2013 at Aston Down Control Tower

The Chairman, Mario Malecki, opened the meeting at 7.56 p.m.

1. Present

Committee members present :

Mario Malecki

- Eric Brownbill.
- Gordon Bishop.
- Doug Garland.
- Jon Parker.

CRCS members present :

- Graham Birt.
- Terry Clarke
- Dave Hancock.

Apologies :

- Bob Maltby.
- George Ford.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the January Committee Meeting of were read by the Secretary, Eric Brownbill.

- Proposed : Doug Garland.
- Seconded : Gordon Bishop.

The minutes were unanimously approved by the meeting.

3. John Dobson

The matter of the club donation to the John Dobson Memorial Fund was reopened, as there had been some feeling amongst club members that the previously agreed sum of £25 was insufficient.

Doug Garland proposed a sum of £50 and Eric Brownbill proposed a sum of £100.

On a vote, there were 2 in favour of £50, and 2 in favour of £100. On the casting vote of the Chairman, £100 was decided upon, and the Treasurer undertook to issue the necessary cheque.

4. Financial Records

Several members of the club had expressed concern about the transparency of the financial records of the CRCS, and the fact that the accounts hadn't been audited recently despite the fact that the constitution of the club required accounts to be audited annually.

The Treasurer explained that the accounts had never been formally audited, either during his term of office, or during the term of his predecessor. As nobody had previously raised the issue, he had assumed that the membership was satisfied with the statement of accounts which he presented each year at the AGM and which had been accepted by the meeting. He stated that there would be no problem in providing the necessary paperwork for an audit to be carried out.

A discussion took place on the best way to proceed in this matter. Andrew Evans, who is a respected member of the CRCS and a retired bank manager, had offered to do an audit, and had provided a sample of how he recommended the accounts be set out. There was some question as to whether accounts could be audited by a member of a club, but it was

believed that audit by a member was acceptable practice in a private members' club, provided the auditor was not directly connected with club finances.

- Motion : That the Treasurer should continue with his normal duties, but in addition collect together the necessary papers and pass them to Andrew Evans at year end for audit.
- Proposed : Jon Parker.
- Seconded : Eric Brownbill.
- In favour : 2 votes. Abstentions : 2 votes.
- Motion carried.

5. Vote of confidence in the Treasurer

- Motion : The committee has full confidence in the Treasurer and offers their thanks for his work in that role.
- Proposed : Eric Brownbill
- Seconded : Doug Garland
- Passed unanimously.

6. Publishing minutes of committee meetings on the web site

Some members had expressed the view that there was little or no information on what the committee had been discussing and deciding, and that this was detrimental to the running of the club and the involvement of members.

The secretary, Eric Brownbill, explained that he had made the decision, the previous week, to put the minutes of committee meetings on the web site, and that minutes from the previous 12 months had been put up several days ago.

Dave Hancock said that he had read these minutes and felt that they were very helpful, and had brought to his attention several important issues of which he was completely unaware.

7. Committee Meeting Agendas

The issue of meeting agendas was raised. The normal practice had always been to agree the agenda at the start of the meeting, taking into account what was happening at the time and the input from members. The Chairman felt that, to date, this had served the club well and had minimised the administrative effort of building and circulating an agenda prior to the meeting.

A discussion took place on the merits and disadvantages of this approach, and the practice of other clubs.

The consensus was that no change should be made at present. The Chairman emphasised that members were always welcome to submit topics for discussion and decision, and that they were always welcome as guests at committee meetings.

8. New committee members

Due to ill health and related causes, the number of committee members who were able to attend regularly was now reduced to 4 or 5. A discussion took place on the best composition of the committee, and the general feeling was that some 'new blood' would be desirable.

It was agreed that the committee should advertise for at least one person who would like to be co-opted as a member.

9. Wroughton flying club

The issue of the possible closure of the Wroughton club was raised. They were believed to be 120 strong with a predominant interest in jet flying. It was a possibility that they might try to join the CRCS en masse, and the club couldn't accommodate either the numbers or the jets on an active airfield.

A discussion took place on the issue. It was decided that the Chairman should consult the BMFA, and that Manny Williamson might be invited to come to Aston Down, discuss the issue with the committee and perhaps address the membership.

10. New Members

The Treasurer told the meeting that he had received membership enquiries from 2 people :

- Ian Halliday who was 16 years old.
- A flyer who was currently, or had recently been, a member at Wroughton.

It was also agreed that enquiries from prospective beginners should be circulated around the committee.

11. Training & BMFA Tests

Progress on getting the Chairman authorised as an examiner was on hold until the weather improved and some flying practice could be obtained.

It was confirmed that Steve Holland, who was to be made an honorary member, no longer held BMFA examiner status.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20p.m..

Minutes Approved by

- Chairman :
- Secretary :