

Minutes of the Club Meeting on 7 March 2019

- 1) Apologies - Nigel Burton & Phil Perry
- 2) Matters arising from our previous meeting (the AGM) and from the Christmas meal and New Year gathering - Nothing raised but both social events went down well and were enjoyed by all those present.
- 3) Achievements - None that we were aware of this year so far.
- 4) OAL report - Unfortunately, due to decreasing attendance at our meetings it was deemed uneconomical to host the annual February meeting by OAL. As such a summary report was given at the meeting last week. In essence, OAL Ltd is approaching the last year of their current lease, which was for 9 years. In preparation for its renewal, negotiations are already under way with the signing of the new lease due any day now for a further 9 years tenure. As part of that renewal the lease has increased by circa £2000 per annum and as such the user fees have had to increase to reflect this. The present fee for airfield users stands at £385 and this will increase to £430/annum in April this year. Ground rent, at this time, will remain fixed at its current rate but this will be assessed later in the year and may or may not, be subject to an increase. Other business included the fact that OAL's internal management structure is currently undergoing change and that we would be updated once discussions in that respect were concluded.
- 5) Clubhouse - As you know there were plans last year to renovate the current clubhouse. Unfortunately, due to time restrictions on specialised labour, these plans were put on hold. Since that time the committee have explored a few options that were brought to the table and will revisit and update you on the project in due course.
- 6) Flyouts - There have been a few flyouts already this season with one to North Coates being well attended and a great success. There are plans afoot from several committee members to organise several "weekend" trips this season. Further details with dates will follow once we have given them some consideration. There are also several pilots planning on attending Spamfield this year on the 7th-9th June. The best person to contact in this respect is John Richards who is planning on attending.
- 7) Flyin - This year the club plan on hosting another annual flyin. This year it will not be aimed specifically at Eurostars as all are equally welcome. The dates for this have provisionally been booked for the 17th & 18th August as these don't appear to clash with any other main BMAA/ LAA event as in previous years. If you are free

on either of these days in an operational capacity then please let a member of the committee know as your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

8) Scouts - We have now agreed a plan of action with a local scout group who intend on visiting the field on Sunday 14th April for a talk on navigation which will take place in the clubhouse. This particular talk has sufficient volunteers but if a success we will be asking for further volunteers to offer their support for future events.

9) Treasurer's report - the club bank account was deemed healthy and the club solvent with a balance of circa £3900. It was reported that the committee has recently bought a new generator which was approximately £1000 but has no other large purchases (other than the clubhouse project) on the horizon.

10) Communication - a member raised concern surrounding the committee's method of communication (or lack of) to our members. We reminded all that the Whatsapp group was not our primary means of communication and that it was only really for 'real-time' communication for organising flyouts etc. Our primary method of communication is via email to which I, the club secretary, send out on and circulate OAL's messages when asked to do so. A newsletter was also requested but unfortunately this had previously fell by the wayside when Alex tried to reinstate this a few years back but received no support or input from our members. The present committee confirmed that they do not have the time to offer this at present and so it was put to the members that we do have a space free on the committee if anyone would like to take this on but, as expected, there were no takers. The committee have, however, taken on board the comments and have since added a "blog" to our website which is now available for all members. In order to blog/comment you will need to register on the site. Despite criticism of the current website, which John Richards has given a lot of time to, the committee were defensive of its design and intended use which up until now has been purely informative.

11) Court Action - the hearing regarding the incident which happened on the airfield several years back with the nearby "idiot" has now been scheduled for 3rd June 2019 and is set for a 5 day hearing. If you are free on any of the days to go and offer your support, it would be appreciated by those involved who have already stated that they would welcome a friendly and supportive face. The time of the hearing will follow.

12) Roy Sears - Some of you may have read in the latest LAA magazine, or be well acquainted with Roy who may have inspected your plane as an LAA inspector. It is with sadness that we must inform you that Roy passed away in February this year and so our thoughts go out to his family at this time.

As a reminder to all, if you do have any specific articles, news, sales etc that you feel appropriate to any of our club members then please do pass these on as I will happily circulate for all to see. We are here on the committee in a purely voluntarily capacity and do rely heavily on all your support and input. I do feel that sometimes this is forgotten and so send out a polite reminder in this regard :)

SAC Secretary