



Dumfries Model Flying Club

Club Constitution

General

The Club shall be known as The Dumfries Model Flying Club and will be affiliated to the Scottish Aeromodellers Association (SAA)

The Club's principal aim is to promote the hobby of aeromodelling in the Dumfries area in a safe and responsible way, and to encourage the free interchange of knowledge, experience and ideas within the club membership and with other clubs and the general public.

Alterations to this constitution can only be made at an Annual General Meeting or at a General Meeting called for that purpose. Any proposed alterations must be submitted to the secretary in writing at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

Members

A "Member" means any class of membership. Membership shall be open to any person subject to any restrictions on numbers imposed by the committee from time to time. The Committee has the right to refuse membership to new applicants at their discretion and without explanation. All Club Members without exception must comply with all Club Rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the club which may lead to dismissal from membership.

There will be four grades of membership:-

Senior, Junior (up to age 18), Non-Flying Member, and Veteran Member (age 80 and over). A Veteran Member will not be required to pay a club subscription provided he/she has paid at least ten years subscription prior to age 80. The committee may also appoint Honorary members from time to time.

Members are required to hold third party liability insurance as provided by the SAA, alternatively if a British Model Flying Association (BMFA) member, insurance through that organisation is acceptable.

Subscriptions and insurance renewal are set annually at the Annual General Meeting and are due by 1st January each year. For further information refer to the club rules.

Committee

The Committee shall consist of the following Office Bearers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition there will be three supporting Committee Members. The Committee Members will have administrative responsibility for the Club's affairs. The Club Committee is responsible for determining flight safety rules and regulations which are published via the Club website. Alternatively, additions and amendments may be communicated via email. Responsibility for the safe and legal operation of their model aircraft rests with the individual members.

Term of office for Committee Members shall be for one year after which Office Bearers and other Committee Members will be eligible for re-election. The Club will indemnify all Committee Officers and Committee Members if they incur any liability on behalf of the Club. A quorum for meetings shall be three, at least two of whom will be Office Bearers.

Discipline

Any complaint concerning any member must be made in writing and signed by the complainant(s). The written complaint must then be forwarded to the Secretary so that the matter can be addressed at the next committee meeting.

Where an allegation of misconduct is made against a member, the member may be suspended from all Club activities while an investigation is carried out.

The Committee may impose a suspension from Club activities including attendance at the Club Flying Site, not exceeding 30 days upon any member in the event of misconduct. Any suspension must be accompanied by a verbal and/or written warning as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

The Committee may consider removal of membership where conduct on the field or elsewhere is considered to be prejudicial to the club. Dismissal will be in accordance with the following procedure in order to comply with the laws of natural justice.

1. The member is to be given a verbal warning by an authorised Committee Member in which the Member is made aware of his misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
2. If the Member does not respond, he is to be given a written warning by an authorised Committee Member to advise him of his misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
3. If he still fails to respond the Committee should invite him in writing to meet with them at a previously agreed date and time to discuss the situation, advising they are considering withdrawal of his membership.
4. If he still fails to respond to reasoning or fails to attend without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise him in writing that his membership is withdrawn, stating the reasons why this decision was reached.
5. When the Member is advised of withdrawal of his membership, he must be given the right of appeal. If he opts to appeal this will be to the Club Membership at an EGM which the Committee would call on his behalf at a previously agreed time and date.
6. In the event of gross misconduct, immediate dismissal without warning may be considered but the member must still be accorded his rights to present his case to the Committee and be given a right of appeal.

7. In the event of dismissal the committee will arrange for the member's current Annual Subscription (excluding SAA/BMFA subscription) to be reimbursed pro-rata in relation to the elapsed days of the calendar year.

General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held during the months of November or December at a venue fixed by the Committee. The meeting shall be announced and an agenda compiled at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

The agenda for the annual general meeting shall at least contain the following:-

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. Adoption of accounts. (A competent individual other than a Committee Member) shall be elected by the Committee to carry out an independent examination of the accounts before the Annual General Meeting to verify that the Balance Sheet is correct and fairly represents the expenditure and receipts of the Club, its assets and liabilities.
3. Fees for the following year.
4. Election of Office Bearers.
5. Election of three supporting Committee members.
6. Any Other Club Business.

Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Committee at fourteen days notice or by 25% of the membership by giving a written request to the Club Secretary who shall then be required to call an EGM giving fourteen days notice.

All motions to be considered at a General Meeting must be made in writing and should be received by the Secretary seven days before the meeting.

Any proposed amendments to the Constitution must be received in writing by the Secretary seven days before a general meeting.

Voting at meetings:- Each Senior Member present shall be entitled to a vote at a General Meeting. In addition the Chairman shall have a casting vote which shall only be used in the event of an equal number of votes being cast for and against a motion.

Quorum:- One third of the membership must be present at a general meeting before any amendments to the club Constitution can be ratified.

Club Rules

The Club and its members shall operate within the prevailing Scottish Aeromodellers Association rules for the safe operation of model aircraft.

It is the responsibility of each member to read, understand and abide by the SAA Safety Code. In accepting membership of the Club all individuals accept responsibility for all liabilities incurred while operating model aircraft.

In using Club facilities, attending meetings and in operating their models, Club Members shall treat all other members and the general public and their property with consideration and respect at all times.

In addition to the above, the Club maintains its own set of Rules which are published on the Club website and it is a condition of membership that each Member shall read, understand and comply with these rules. These rules may be changed from time to time by the Committee, and members will be informed by email whenever such changes are made, and members are then required to familiarise themselves with the revised rules and comply with them.

Winding up the Club

Should it be decided at a General Meeting to wind up the club, any money in the accounts will be dispersed in the following manner.

1. All outstanding accounts will be settled.
2. Existing members shall be given a refund in proportion to their unexpired period of membership. This refund should be no more than one year's subscription and would be reduced accordingly if funds did not permit a full payment.
3. Any residual funds would be donated to a local organisation or charity as decided at a General Meeting.
4. All members will receive a final statement of accounts.

This constitution should be read in conjunction with the DMFC Club Rules which are published on the Club Website.

dmfc.org.uk