

RAMSEY MODEL AERO CLUB
CONSTITUTION 2023

GENERAL

1. The club shall be called Ramsey Model Aero Club and will be affiliated to the British Model Flying Association (BMFA).
2. The clubs' principal aim shall be the promotion of safe and responsible model aircraft flying.
3. 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 14 days prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS

4. A "member" means any category of membership. There shall be three main categories of membership: Senior, Junior and Life member. A Junior shall be any person who has not reached the age of 18 on the 1st January of the membership year.
5. The Committee has the right to limit the maximum number of members at any time and refuse membership to new applicants without recourse. Juniors and Life non-flying members are not included in the maximum membership count.
6. New members will be required to fill in a formal membership application which will be reviewed by the committee. They will be required to serve an initial probationary period of 6 months. During this time, they will not be eligible to serve on the Committee and may have their membership terminated at the discretion of the Committee for unsatisfactory conduct.
7. When Ramsey Model Aero Club has a waiting list priority will be given to new applicants who live within 25 miles (as the crow flies) of the flying site. When contacting applicants, if no reply is received within 21 days the applicant will be removed from the list.
8. New member's subscriptions shall be dependent on membership category plus the joining fee as decided at an Annual General Meeting. Reduced subscriptions for new members will apply from September when they will be halved.
9. Subscriptions are due by 1st January each year. Any member who has not paid the Club subscription, BMFA membership fee and CAA Drone Registration and Education Scheme (DRES) fees in full for the ensuing year by this date will not be permitted to fly until they have done so. Proof of BMFA membership and CAA DRES, when not supplied through Ramsey Model Aero Club, must be provided by the 31st January.
10. Members who have allowed their membership to lapse for less than 31 days will not normally be asked to re-apply for membership but will have to pay the joining fee along with Club subscriptions, BMFA membership fee and CAA DRES Registration fee.
11. Members who have not renewed Ramsey Model Aero Club membership, BMFA membership and CAA DRES Registration by 31st January will be deemed to have left the club and renewal after this period will be treated as a new membership application.
12. All members must be members of the BMFA and have a CAA DRES Registration and must be able to provide evidence of such on request with exception of for non-flying Social/Life members.

13. A member may be made a life member for extensive services to the club. Life members can only be created by a majority ballot of club members at a general meeting.
14. All members, without exception, must comply with all club 'Operating and Safety Rules' and the club Constitution. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Club, which may lead to dismissal.

RULES, DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY

15. Additions and amendments to field safety rules and regulations can only be made by proposals at a General Meeting.
16. All field safety rules and regulations will be reviewed annually, and will be considered binding for 12 months, excepting where urgent action is required. This action must then be ratified by the members at the next general meeting.
17. 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.
18. 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. A suspension is considered a neutral act and infers no blame or guilt prior to an investigation.
19. The Committee may impose a suspension from club activities including attendance at the Club flying site, not exceeding 28 days upon any member in the event of misconduct. Any suspension must be accompanied by a verbal and/or written warning as deemed appropriate in accordance with Article 19.
20. 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: -
 - a. 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 they are reasonably required to do to make amends.
 - b. If the member does not respond, they are to be given a written warning by an authorised Committee Member to advise them of their misdemeanour and what they are reasonably required to do to make amends.
 - c. If they still fail to respond, the Committee should invite them in writing to meet with them at a previously agreed date and time to discuss the situation, advising they are considering withdrawal of their membership.
 - d. If they still fail to respond to reasoning or fails to attend without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise them in writing that their membership is withdrawn, stating the reasons why this decision was reached.
 - e. When the member is advised of withdrawal of their membership, they must be given the right of appeal. If they opt to appeal, this will be to the Club membership at an EGM which the Committee would call on their behalf at a previously agreed date and time. The motion to uphold the membership withdrawal or reverse it must be in accordance with the voting procedures set out in the Club Constitution.

In the event of gross misconduct, immediate dismissal without warnings may be considered but the member will still be accorded their rights to present their case to the Committee and be given a right of appeal in accordance with sub-paragraphs c, d and e above.

In the event of dismissal the Committee will arrange for the member's current membership fee (excluding BMFA subscription) to be reimbursed in full.

FLYING

21. The Committee, Officers and Instructors, will be responsible for the running of the flying site at all times. Appointment to the position of Instructor or Examiner can only be made by a Committee decision.
22. All flying members must attain the minimum standards of flying required under the club training scheme before receiving the BMFA 'A' Certificate and before being permitted to fly indirectly supervised. All NEW members requiring an 'A' test will be offered training for a basic period of two (2) calendar years. This time period, active from the time that their membership is agreed by Committee.
23. Any member whose flying standards drop below the minimum requirement solo standard will be required to rejoin the training scheme until the desired standards of flying are met.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND APPOINTMENTS

24. The Committee of the Club shall comprise of not more than nine members.
25. The Officers of the committee shall be, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Site Protection & Safety Officer. Other roles and responsibilities shall be taken up by committee members as necessary. The description of roles and responsibilities for committee and other posts will be maintained in a separate document.
26. One senior club member should be appointed annually as the clubs' BMFA Delegate who should represent the club at all relevant meetings should the committee find it practical to do so.
27. Any Committee member or member who is involved in any organisational position within the Club must hold membership of the British Model Flying Association.
28. Committee officers and members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from written nominations received no later than 28 days prior to the meeting, to serve for a period of one year. The Committee will be elected by majority vote from members present. All fully paid up members and life members are eligible to vote.
29. Should a committee position become vacant, the Committee may, by a majority vote, co-opt a replacement who will then serve until the following Annual General Meeting.

COMMITTEE ORGANISATION AND POWERS

30. Members elected to office will have full voting rights at all meetings. In the event of a tie the Chairman will have a casting vote in addition to his initial standing vote.
31. The Committee are authorised to carry out negotiations and make decisions in the interest of the club or on behalf of the membership where necessary without consulting the members. Approval from the membership at an ordinary meeting must be sought for expenditure greater than £3,000.
32. At least three Committee officers are required to submit a sample of their signatures for banking reference purposes.

33. Money may be withdrawn from the club funds by cheque signed by any one of three Committee Officers authorised to do so. The use of Internet banking, for paying club related invoices and expenses, is permitted by up to three Committee Officers authorised to do so.
34. The Secretary must be informed of any negotiations proposed by club members which affect the Club as a whole, and copies of any written correspondence must be submitted to him for record purposes.
35. No member of the Committee or Officer of the club may be a Committee Member or Officer of another model flying club.
36. Any Committee Member or Officer wishing to resign must do so in writing.
37. Any member of the Committee who is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable cause will automatically forfeit his seat on the Committee.
38. The Committee may pay accounts and incur any normal liabilities on behalf of the club.
39. Under exceptional circumstances the Chairman and Site Manager have discretionary spending powers. Exceptional circumstances means (for example) if there has been a break-in, fire etc at the field and repairs to make buildings etc safe are required immediately, or the mower requires a new battery, tire etc on the day of mowing taking place. In these circumstances the Chairman and Site Manager are able to spend up to £500 without getting prior committee approval. This should be the exception (ie max once per year) rather than normal practice.

VOTING AND CONDUCT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

40. All committee meetings will have an agenda and minutes taken. Minutes of committee meetings will be made available to members on request to the secretary.
41. A quorum of any Committee meeting shall consist of five Committee Members.
42. All proposals must be seconded and voted upon. A majority vote of those present is required to carry any proposal.
43. Voting will normally be by a show of hands; however, a secret ballot must be taken should any committee member request that this be done. Proxy and postal votes will not be permitted.
44. An audio recording of committee meetings may be taken by the secretary only, for the sole purpose of producing accurate minutes. The audio recording must be deleted once the written minutes are approved.
45. Non-committee members may attend committee meetings as observers by applying to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Any non-Committee Member may be asked to leave the meeting subject to approval from the Committee.

VOTING AND CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

46. All general meetings will have an agenda and minutes taken. Any other business will only be accepted at general meetings if the Secretary is given at least 14 days' notice in writing of the item to be discussed.
47. A quorum of any general meeting is to be at least 20% of the membership.
48. All proposals must be seconded and voted upon. A majority vote of those present is required to carry any proposal including proposals to alter this constitution.

49. Voting will normally be by a show of hands; however, a secret ballot must be taken should any member request that this be done. Proxy and postal votes will not be permitted.
50. Amendments to proposals must be voted upon first.
51. An audio recording of general meetings may be taken by the secretary only, for the sole purpose of producing accurate minutes. The audio recording must be deleted once the written minutes are approved.
52. Non-club members may attend Club meetings as observers as invited guests of a club by applying to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Any non-Club member may be asked to leave the meeting subject to approval from the Committee.
53. The Committee, through the Chairman has the power to ask a person to leave any meeting in the event of that person disrupting the meeting.
54. Patrons of the club have no voting rights but are free to attend all club meetings and committee meetings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

55. A date for the Annual General Meeting will be decided each year by the Committee. At least 28 days notice of the meeting will be given in writing to all Club members.
56. Annual subscriptions and the joining fee will be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
57. A qualified accountant (non-committee member) shall be appointed by the committee to carry out an audit 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.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

58. The Secretary will convene an Extraordinary Committee Meeting within 14 days on request from any officer of the Committee, stating the business to be discussed.
59. The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the club by a resolution of the Committee stating the business to be brought before the meeting, of which 28 days notice has been given to all members in writing stating the business to be discussed.
60. The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the club on receipt of a request in writing signed by not less than one quarter of the membership of the club, stating the business to be brought before the meeting. The meeting must be called within 28 days of request and 28 days notice must be given to all members in writing stating the business to be discussed.
61. When a request for a meeting is made in accordance with Article 59 and it is not called within 28 days, the requisitioners may themselves convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club by giving 28 days notice in writing to all members, duly setting out the purpose for which the meeting was called. Any resolutions passed at such a meeting shall have the same force and effect as if they were passed at a meeting convened by the Committee.

INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

62. The club will hold both Civil and Employers Liability Insurance, provided through affiliation to the BMFA.

63. The club will indemnify all committee officers and committee members if they incur any liability on behalf of the club.
64. In the event of a Committee Member being awarded damages or costs in the course of proceedings taken by him in his representative capacity, such damages or costs will belong to the club and not the Committee Member and upon receipt that Committee Member will pay them to the Club Treasurer.
65. When there is a joint meeting between the club and another club, the participating club must be able to provide evidence of adequate insurance cover well in advance of the event.

DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

66. Should it be considered necessary or desirable to dissolve the Club, the Committee will call an Extraordinary General Meeting. Should a quorum fail to appear, the meeting will be adjourned and a further EGM must be called within 14 days. The second meeting will proceed even if a quorum is not present and the motion will then be carried by a simple majority vote.
67. On dissolution and after the sale of assets, settlement of all outstanding debts and the refund of subscriptions for the remaining part of the year to the paid-up members, the remaining funds will be held in trust by the BMFA for a period of ten years, to be returned should the club be reformed within that period. Should the club not be reformed within that period the funds are to be absorbed into the work of the BMFA to further model flying in the UK.
68. If the final accounts are less than required to refund the subscriptions to the members, the total money remaining will be donated to the BMFA. All members will receive a final statement of accounts.

CHARITY

69. The Club reserves the right to periodically donate funds to charities. The amounts and gaining charities must be agreed by majority vote at a general meeting.

Extraordinary Circumstances

70. In the event of a pandemic or similar event the committee reserve the right to:
 - a. Temporarily modify the club rules to accommodate the latest government law / guidance.
 - b. Conduct committee, general, annual general and extraordinary general meetings in a remote fashion – ideally using both video and audio. Voting for the meetings will be conducted in such a way to accommodate as many of the club members as possible, this may be online or postal.
 - c. Site maintenance will be conducted by committee approved members and/or 3rd parties.