



Long Mynd Soaring Club

Annual General Meeting

At The Kings Arms Church Stretton, on Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Andy McDonald (Chairman) welcomed those who had travelled to Church Stretton to meet in person and those who had dialled in by the zoom web link. A total of 33 club members attended either in-person or online. The members of the 2024/2025 committee were introduced to the audience and the audience were reminded that they were welcome to become involved and seek election to the Club Committee.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Jason Smith

Overall, 24/25 was a relatively uneventful year, with costs being kept quite modest. There has been a small surplus on the year of around £700. The club operates with a turnover of around £7,3K

Income, as always, was predominantly from subs. This amounted to around £4.95k split 65/35 between bank transfer and Paypal payment methods. Paypal are charging £1.17 / member for the service.

Site fees gathered for flying Long Mynd amounted to £717. This is split around 50/50 between payments made via Paypal and via cash payments into the honesty box.

The change to the 32-day notice account for the deposit amount of our savings accrued £533

Major costs for the year were gifts to farmers at Christmas of around £1,000

The treasurer reported that he was yet to receive any mileage claims from the majority of site managers. They were reminded not to be out of pocket for acting on behalf of the club.

Paypal payments collected via webcollect incur an embedded charge of 8p each along with an annual admin charge of £230 for operation of the service.

Webcam sims cost around £18/ month in total and typically cost the club about £150-200 in maintenance.

Website hosting costs about £72/yr.

The club continues to subsidise coaching courses, the summer barbeque and monthly socials.

The club has total cash deposits of £26k split between the 32day deposit account (£19,650) and the instant access deposit account (£6,370), the current account (£25) and Paypal (£83).



Paypal and the current a/c are used for day-to-day transactions with the instant access deposit account used to transfer funds in/out as required. During '24 an additional £4k was transferred to the 32-day account as this attracts the highest interest rate. Unfortunately, as it is a business account, the interest rate available is not terribly high at present.

Membership: Luke Evans

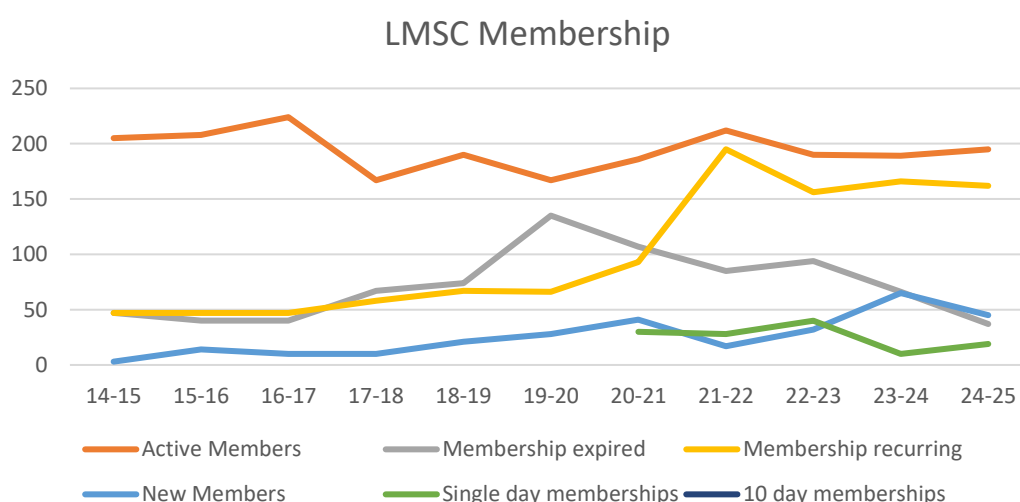
Luke reported that the number of currently paid-up members is 195. There had been 45 new members join this year.

There had been just 3 people take advantage of the new ten day option for membership and 19 persons had become members for one day.

83% of current members are recurring memberships.

| Period/Years | 14-15 | 15-16 | 16-17 | 17-18 | 18-19 | 19-20 | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total No in database | | | | 234 | 264 | 302 | 293 | 297 | 284 | 316 | 352 |
| Active Members | 205 | 208 | 224 | 167 | 190 | 167 | 186 | 212 | 190 | 189 | 195 |
| Membership expired | 47 | 40 | 40 | 67 | 74 | 135 | 107 | 85 | 94 | 66 | 37 |
| Membership recurring | 47 | 47 | 47 | 58 | 67 | 66 | 93 | 195 | 156 | 166 | 162 |
| New Members | 3 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 28 | 41 | 17 | 32 | 65 | 45 |
| 1 day memberships | | | | | | | 30 | 28 | 40 | 10 | 19 |
| 10 day memberships | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |

The trends over the previous ten-year period show a high of 224 active members in 2016-2017. This coincided with very few membership expiries. The more recent high number of active members, in 21-22, was soon after the pandemic. This coincided with a strong growth in new members which has then been exceeded in this year and last year.



The group noted that the schools are responsible for the growth in numbers of new members, and they thanked Dave Roberts and Dave Manning who were both present. Also noting the continuing good work of Marc Leavesley's school.



A member question was raised as to whether we might be able to enquire of the people who's membership has expired, why they had left? This query will be taken up by the committee at their next meeting.

Communications: Roy Dade

Roy reported that he had been using the *Webcollect* email system to ensure that important club communications were sent directly to paid up members.

He felt that the website was not really a place for club dialogue any longer.

The telegram groups (LMSC Chat, LMSC Site Reports) were being well used, with sub-topics now removed.

The more specialist telegram groups (LMSC XC and LMSC BCC) were also useful for the relevant members.

The club Facebook page had been beyond Roy's control and Andy McDonald said that he keeps an eye on it, but that it is little used.

Roy is standing down from his period working on Communications for the 25/26 period. He reported that Chris Baird is happy to take up the role in the 25/26 year.

Roy has also been involved in the Wilderness first Aid training course and has been leading a small subgroup on incident response on LMSC sites. He wishes to remain within the committee on a co-opted basis if possible.

Safety: Dave Thomas

Dave reported that thankfully it had been quiet year, with very little in the way of incidents or issues reported on LMSC sites. There had been a low-level reserve deployment at the Mynd which he reported had possibly been related to an inappropriate landing approach.

The club had a successful trial, helped by pilots of various levels, at Red Hopton; not just the initial requirement for highly experienced pilots. The site has now been brought into regular use, rather than as an experimental site, but for CP plus 25 hours minimum.

It has been great to see coaching and training of post CP pilots, getting help and support on the Mynd. Whether free coaching, or paid for, it is a critical period that is likely to determine whether those CP's remain safe and in the sport for more than their first year. Thanks to all who are helping those new pilots.

Cameras and weather stations. Dave Thomas

All devices are still running on a variety of service providers, PAYG and PAYM, dependent on data requirements, service availability in the location and cost.



The Solarcams on the Mynd have both had internal lenses replaced and had UV filters added. The previously good picture quality is back and, as the summer is coming, the video has been turned on. There is an outstanding question for the committee to agree on as to whether the club should replace the solar panels with something bigger, that will run the cameras in the winter.

ACTION POINT

The Clatter weather station was dismantled, the Davis weather station lubricated and the camera lens replaced. All are now working again.

The Lawley weather station is still intermittently inaccessible via the internet, due to poor mobile signal. It appears that nothing more can be done with that. Signal quality is good at the bottom of the hill, but not at the top. The camera quality is not great, and could have a replacement like Clatter, but replacing it will take two visits and require multiple people to do it, so until it becomes really bad, it maybe best to leave it as is.

A question was raised regarding whether it was possible to track the number of people who access the cameras. As all feeds are on the same webpage it was felt that website visitor data was not helpful. However, there was general positive feeling from the members in the room regarding the value that the cameras offer. Dave Thomas was thanked for all the time and effort he puts into maintaining this service.

Sites: Richard McCrohan

The last year has seen no major issues with any LMSC sites, with usage primarily being at the Mynd, Wrekin, Corndon and the Lawley, plus Black Knoll for training.

The Mynd saw the introduction of the new primary PG landing field and the site guide was updated to reflect this. The site was also used for competitions and an accuracy training day during the year.

Red Hopton is a new site, very close to the one we had at Sarn, which has recently been opened up to CP+25 hours pilots (or with a coach /instructor). The site guide has been updated based on feedback from a number of members who tested the site.

Haughmond Hill was considered as a possible new site, but the committee decided it was not worth pursuing as an official club site at this time, for a variety of reasons.

The committee confirmed that the Wrekin is not to be used for any commercial activity, due to what we understand our position to be in relation to permission restrictions from the landowners. Work is on-going to gather further information on this topic.

The old landing field at the Lawley is no longer available for use, but a new field has been agreed, out front from the lower take off. Details are contained in the revised site guide.

Members were reminded that there is a CP+25 hours (or with a coach/instructor) requirement for Corndon.

The more distant sites get little use, but Camlo, Clatter and Llandinam, were all used, albeit infrequently, over the last year. This is encouraging.



Richard thanked the various site officers (Tim Dunn, Tony Flint, Marc Leavesley and David Bibby) for the work done in keeping the sites available for club use. Mike Cluer was thanked for volunteering to become the sites officer for Clatter and Llandinam.

Competitions: Dave McCleod

David reported that there had been some individual club member progression, and success, in competition flying overseas and that there had been two rounds of the Advance British Club Challenge (BCC) held at the Mynd in 2024. It had been some time since the club had hosted the BCC. The first round had been combined with the Club's summer Barbeque and this had led to the club winning a 'Spirit of the BCC' Award for the event. Many thanks to David Bibby, Phil Bibby and others for supporting this. The club had also hosted a round of the BOS Hang Glider competition and they may return to our sites on the weekend of May 10th to May 13th and again from the 6th to the 9th of September.

There is more to be done with developing a competitive and fun culture in the club and David has been working with Phil Bibby to develop some local turnpoint challenges on our club sites. The Dales and Cumbria clubs have been running the NCT challenge on their club sites for several seasons and there is now a self-managed webtool where pilots can log their efforts in bagging turnpoints and match themselves in a mini league.

It is hoped that we will be launching the LMSC series before too long and we can then make some club awards for winners available at the winter social meeting.

Coaching: Dave Roberts (Chief Coach)

Dave acknowledged the hard work of Phil Bibby in setting up the coaching course in Church Stretton at the end of March. Phil congratulated David McCleod on becoming a coach but reported that some others had chosen not to renew their coaching ticket. James Allcock reported that he would soon be attending the senior coaching course and hoped to be able to help support the coaching community at the club.

Dave Roberts and Dave Manning invited members to approach them for any coaching or teaching support.

James Allcock thanked Dave Roberts for his support in helping some foreign-born pilots through the BHPA's Alternative Entry scheme. He reported that several pilots had been supported with their BHPA Pilot Rating exams after the recent 3rd party insurance reminder from the BHPA in relation to pilots flying XC.

Social: Dave Bibby

Dave reported that he felt that the club was making better progress in relation to social gatherings.



Having secured the Hay Loft at the Kings Arms as a social hub for the club, and having developed a relationship with the management, we can now use the facilities at the venue free of charge. Committee meetings and AGMs are now held here.

The 'Last Thursday in the Month' Socials have gone down well with the membership. A regular diary date and venue has secured good attendance of a hard core of membership. New members have frequented the socials thanks to the efforts of the communications sent out by Roy Dade.

Due to the wide geographical distribution of the LMSC membership, it can be difficult to attract members who perhaps view the LMSC as their second club. This has been borne out by the SWAT analysis of the membership by our Communications Officer.

The summer BBQ was a hit last year, bringing in over forty participants. The stars aligned with nice weather, a guest speaker and a second visit by the birds of prey. Along with a round of the BCC on the Mynd, a successful event was had.

This year's BBQ has been postponed to July/August due to organisational difficulties and a packed month of May with two bank holidays, the BOS precluding a round of the BCC on the same weekend and a clash with the Buttermere Bash.

The Christmas function has grown each year and over forty members attended last time around. Jocky Sanderson's appearance as a guest speaker was popular and an excellent presentation was given. Hearty food and a good atmosphere created an excellent evening. Compare this with an attendance of fourteen for a Christmas function several years ago!

Our method of payment for functions has been migrated to Webcollect and Paypal, which makes it easier for members to engage.

Dave reported that he works closely with the communications officer to make the socials better advertised and to enable us to react to feedback from members.

As we go forward, the BBQ is next on the agenda followed by the Christmas 'do'. If any club activity requires support of social input, Dave stated that he would be very happy to assist. The 'Last Thursday in the Month Club' usually has a summer break, but Dave believes that it may be better to continue the meetings throughout the year, to see if this proves popular.

Finally, Dave Bibby requested that the club consider installing a club calendar of functions on the club website. It was felt that this might help with planning social functions and events and it was agreed that the committee will consider this point at the next meeting. **ACTION POINT**

Secretary: James Allcock

James invited any member to consider taking on this job! It's not too onerous but gives a good insight into how the club committee works.

There has been some effort to provide member updates to the matters being discussed by the committee and this will continue in liaison with the communications officer. There is also some



work to be done in ensuring that the processes of the club, including it's liaison with the BHPA and the processes surrounding the AGM, are documented for future incumbents of the secretarial role.

ACTION POINT

The Club Constitution is also under review this year and a draft with certain changes will be offered for consideration by the members prior to the AGM in 2026

Chairman: Andy McDonald

Andy thanked all those who had taken the time and trouble to attend the meeting and he thanked the volunteers who had worked for the club in their committee role over the previous year.

The officers proposed for club positions for the 2025 to 2026 year were then read out. Each person had a proposer and a seconder.

The persons elected for the 2025-2026 year were as follows:

Club Chairman: **Andy McDonald**

Secretary: **James Allcock**

Treasurer: **Jason Smith**

Membership Secretary: **Luke Evans**

Sites Officer: **Richard McCrohan**

Safety Officer: **Dave Thomas**

Communications Officer: **Chris Baird**

Social Secretary: **David Bibby**

Competitions Officer: **David McCleod**

The Club Committee then appointed **Dave Roberts** as Chief Coach.

It is hoped that **Geoff Minshull** will continue as Club President and that both **Roy Dade** and **Phil Bibby** will continue in their co-opted roles in support of the projects they have been working on