

LONG MYND SOARING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | of the 18TH APRIL 2023

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 10/05/2023 r.1 passed to committee | To be checked for errors or omissions & amended |
| Date r.2 | Approved Official AGM document |

The Long Mynd Soaring Club holds its AGM in March or April. This year it was the 18th April 2023 and was a Zoom online meeting.

The AGM started as advertised with a request for it not to be recorded as everyones permission was not obtained and for all those present to be respectful. Telegram Chat group was to be used to communicate should there be any technical hitches with the Zoom software.

Minutes

As the Secretary was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman has produced this AGM document which will be passed to the new committee to check and agree before it is published.

The committee at the time of the AGM consisted of:

| COMMITTEE POSITION | CURRENT | AVAILABLE TO STAND AGAIN | PRESENT AT AGM |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Chairman | Crawford Coulson | no | yes |
| Secretary | Jon Tatton | no | no |
| Treasurer | Jason Smith | yes | yes |
| Communications | Chris de Pinna | no | Apologies received |
| Website | Max Edwards | yes | yes |
| Safety | Dave Thomas | yes | yes |
| Membership | Luke Evans | yes | yes |
| Competitions | Vacant | n/a | n/a |
| Social | David Bibby | yes | Apologies received |
| Sites Coordinator | Ben Henson | no | yes |

Additionally there are posts which are appointed by the committee, thus these are determined at a meeting of the newly elected committee asap after the AGM. At the time of the AGM, the appointed posts were held by Chief Coach and Site Managers as follows:

| APPOINTED POSITION | CURRENT | PRESENT AT AGM |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Chief Coach | Dave Roberts | Yes |
| Black Knoll | Mark Leavesley | Apologies Received |
| Camlo & Shepherds Tump | Vacant | n/a |
| Clatter & Llandinam | Vacant | n/a |
| Clunbury | Tim Dunn | Apologies Received |
| Corndon | Ben Henson | Yes |
| Lawley & Caer Caradoc | David Bibby | Apologies Received |
| Lan Fawr | Mark Leavesley | Apologies Received |
| Long Mynd | Tim Dunn | Apologies Received |
| Wrekin | Tony Flint | Yes |

Meeting Agenda:

ATTENDANCE

REPORTS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MOTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO NOMINATIONS

CALLS FOR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

STAND DOWN

VOTE AND ELECT

ATTENDANCE

In addition to the committee and appointed post positions as indicated in the tables above, the following members were present:

Andrew McDonald
Richard McCrohen
Dave McLeod
Alasdair Mitchell
Roy Dade
Phil Bibby
Dave Manning
Rebecca Manning
Patrick Manuel
Geoff Minshull

REPORTS

Chairmans Report

In the running of the club, I always look at it as sites first then members and everything else will fall into place. Keeping sites through healthy relationships with landowners and tenant farmers and treating them with respect is the core of what we should do. The club will not have happy members with ongoing site issues or loss.

With sites and happy landowners and tenant farmers, we're already well on our way to having happy club members. Responding quickly to members queries, communicating well, making interaction easy and providing events that they feel are useful should result in a healthy club.

A lot of effort has gone into trying to increase our contact and communications with site owners and tenant farmers. Feedback here has been good and we have received no complaints or significant sites issues.

A healthy amount of time and effort has gone into the general running of the club and I feel the current committee can be proud of the position the club is in. Unfortunately, due to lack of time, a few projects remain in need of attention but will be passed to the new committee as something to consider. These include landowner/tenant farmer information booklets to new member welcome packs to a club t-shirt. One longer term project that did proceed was an area fenced at the Mynd for club members and their guests to watch from and to socialize within, with the hope of adding more seating area soon.

We have increased our socials, we're bringing in a new and clearer website, we've added a new (though currently experimental while expert pilots report back) flying site, we've increased communications with members and we've promoted the BCC competition. And we continue to provide a useful weather & sites report almost daily.

I try not to mention names because there are some roles in the committee where members efforts are very 'visible' and other equally important roles far less visible yet all the roles are important and the committee only really succeeds and progresses where the positions are filled and the team works together and that's when the club reaps the benefits.

I will make an exception though, and that is for Max Edwards. New to the committee he has he spent a huge amount of time designing a very impressive new club website and off his own back attended the BHPA parachute packers training, then organized the best club repack event the club has had in years and will hopefully soon be a qualified repacker himself. The new website will be live very soon after the AGM.

We're thankful accidents have been relatively low and extend our best wishes to anyone unfortunate enough to have had one. We are very grateful to all pilots who have followed rules and thus helped to reduce the possibility of issues with sites.

The committee was approached by a new school wanting to use LMSC sites which has exposed some resistance to change from some landowners/tenant farmers as well as decisions to be agreed within the committee on school operations and any limitations on club sites. As such the relationship particulars and protocols between club and schools and landowners/tenant farmers, will need to be closely scrutinized. The interests of club members and protection of sites for club members should always be at the forefront of any decisions. The commercial aspect compared to the club structure raises some concerns however schools do of course have a valuable role in the sport and should be good ambassadors where they operate from club sites.

There are always things to look at, from keeping an eye on the landings at the NT landing field to cattle on Black Knoll to a application for a TDA (temporary NOTAM activated danger area) that will affect XC's and the Shepherds Tump site to likely future wind turbines affecting sites. Members have also made us aware of things that need to be looked at, from the webcollect payment system being unnecessarily complex for a simple day fee payment to complaints that new members receive no significant welcome information. So we acknowledge there is more to be done and we are not complacent.

The club remains in a healthy position and has in my opinion some of the most unspoilt and fantastic sites in the country and I'm very glad it retains experience from long standing committee members that are willing to be re-elected for another term as well as valuable fresh ideas and experience from those new to the committee.

To end, my huge appreciation and thanks to everyone that makes the club what it is; in no particular order, and sincere apologies if anyone or group has been inadvertently missed:

The BHPA for their help and advice

Appointed post volunteers including chief coach and sites managers

Coaches

Trustees

Chris Webb for having hosted our 'old' website for many years

All committee members and those members that help the committee

All our landowners, land agents and tenant farmers

All our club members and our flying visitors and guests that respect our club rules and our sites

Crawford Coulson

Chairman

Treasurer's Report (Jason Smith)

No written report available, summarized by Chairman as:

Jason presented an interesting display of the financials of the club showing where the money came from and how it was spent.

The banked money has remained roughly as the previous year, which is a slight loss with current inflation taken into account. There was still money to be paid for the new fenced off safety/social area on the Mynd.

The club has reasonable reserves and Jasons preferred plan is to retain the bank balance at this level or higher in the hope that one day it could go towards acquiring another site, perhaps with the help of BHPA site funds and club fund raising.

Any member is welcome to ask to view the club financials and all are invited to scrutinize them.

Membership Report (Luke Evans)

No written report available, summarized by Chairman as:

Luke gave a brief summary of the current membership status, pointing out that year on year it stays roughly steady on membership up to roughly 180 to 190 (including ordinary members, committee & trustees).

[It would be fantastic to break into and maintain numbers in the 200's!]

Safety Report (Dave Thomas)

Very few incidents raised which has been a safe period considering the concerns about low pilot currency during the preceding and very extended Covid lockdown period.

A trainee pre CP pilot at Corndon under training and effective radio contact flew directly into rocks and suffered major injuries. The BHPA investigated and found that there was no further action required by either schools, BHPA or our club.

An experienced hang glider pilot was injured landing in the far North East corner of the Long Mynd top landing field (Upright corner), due to suspected rotor turbulence. The club have further detailed advice for pilots on our sites guide.

The club ran a very successful emergency reserve parachute repack with two qualified packers and two trainee packers in attendance, hopefully this can be repeated more regularly.

Dave Thomas
LMSC safety

Social Report (David Bibby)

The year of 2022/ 2023 has seen an uptake in the general interest of social events within the club. There have been five Last Tuesday in the Month Club social events in the last year and a Christmas function. There will be a further social gathering on the 25th April 2023 now advertised.

All avenues of social media are used to reach the membership which include the Social Events page on the LMSC website, personal emails to club members, Facebook on both sites and Telegram.

Most communication with me appears to be through Telegram.

A dedicated location at the Kings Arms Church Stretton in the Hayloft which has social media facilities available for club use has in my opinion been a good find. The Kings Arms hosted our Christmas function and we have developed a good working relationship with the management. I recommend we continue to use this facility.

The club provided a training event by Dave Thomas on weather and XC flying at the Hayloft. I have introduced the use of sandwiches etc. to the events as members will be travelling from work to attend. The feedback has been good but it is very difficult to cater for numbers. The cost to the members has been £5.00 per head. With the rise in the cost of living I believe this is good value bearing in mind we use the facilities for free. I recommend that we carry on this practise.

The Christmas Function was excellent with 28 attendees. The feed back was extremely positive.

Several attempts were investigated to hold a barbecue on the Long Mynd however logistical problems make it difficult to hold plus an open flame ban during the Summer by our Fire Service put an end to our plans. Therefore I propose to hold a barbecue in the Summer months at the Red Lion in Longdon Common which if flyable at the Long Mynd it will be on the way home for most. If its flyable elsewhere and pilots are scattered far and wide it is very difficult to cater for. Inclement weather can be catered for.

To sum up an improved year with social uptake across the board and more flying events are in the pipeline.

David Bibby
LMSC Social Sec.

Question And Answers

Time was provided for those attending to ask questions. This session was not minuted.

Motions

No motions were received.

Introduction to Nominations

Of the 5 committee members who had indicated they were not to stand again, the club received 4 nominations in advance to volunteer for 4 of these roles.

Andrew McDonald – for Chairman
Richard McCrohen – for Sites Officer
Dave McLeod – for Competitions Officer
Alasdair Mitchell – for Secretary

Each of these members gave a brief introduction of themselves to those attending.

Each was asked if they were aware of any conflicts of interest, those stated were:

Andrew McDonald who as an Air Experience Instructor occasionally charges for tandem experience flights and who is a RAF instructor pilot and a member of various flight related groups including the BHPA FSC.

Calls for Communication Officer

The only role to be vacant was for a Communications Officer, as no nominations were received the committee had agreed to ask at the AGM. The only member to offer to volunteer was Roy Dade.

Roy Dade gave a brief introduction of himself to those attending.

Roy was asked if he was aware of any conflicts of interest, those stated were that he sells some paragliding kit.

All committee members stood down

Elections

As there was only 1 person volunteering for each role, the voting was for a simple majority of those attending for the volunteer to secure the role. All those volunteering were successful in achieving a majority vote and the new committee for 2023-2024 was formed as follows:

| COMMITTEE POSITION | CURRENT |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman | Andrew McDonald |
| Secretary | Alasdair Mitchell |
| Treasurer | Jason Smith |
| Communications | Roy Dade |
| Website | Max Edwards |
| Safety | Dave Thomas |
| Membership | Luke Evans |
| Competitions | Dave McLeod |
| Social | David Bibby |
| Sites Coordinator | Richard McCrohen |

To conclude

Congratulations to the new committee, we trust that our club is in good hands and thank you sincerely!

A handover meeting will be arranged such that the new committee can be briefed and any knowledge or advice can be passed to the new committee.

The meeting was concluded.