



Longmynd Soaring Club Annual General Meeting

Chair: Andy McDonald

Scribe: Alasdair Mitchell

Date: 18th April 2024

Time: 19:00hrs

Location: Hayloft Room, The Kings Arms, Church Stretton + Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Andy McDonald, Roy Dade, Luke Evans, Tim Dunn, Dave Roberts, Dave McLeod, Jason Smith, Tony Flint, Dave Bibby, Dave Thomas, Alasdair Mitchell + Members (Clive Davis, Ian Jones, Phil Bibby, James Allcock, Geoff Minshull).

2024/25 Committee Election

The existing committee stood down and the following committee was elected for 2024/25:

Chairman: Andrew McDonald

Secretary: James Allcock

Treasurer: Jason Smith

Communications: Roy Dade

Website: Max Edwards

Safety: Dave Thomas

Membership: Luke Evans

Social: David Bibby

Sites Coordinator: Richard McCrohan

Competitions: David McLeod/James Allcock

Meeting Notes:

Opening statement from Chairman - summary this year and objectives next year:

- Picnic area completed and considered a success.
- Meetings have been efficient and kept to schedule.
- Enabled CP+ development on the Longmynd site.
- Established schools requirements for the club sites.
- Improved membership options with temporary membership possibilities.
- Diversity in committee and club needed.
- Constitution still needs to be updated.
- Socials attendance to be improved to grow the club.
- Thanks to all committee members in the last year.
- Improved comms and PR have reduced the number of committee enquiries.
- Thanks to Max for quick and professional website updates.
- Thanks to all sites officers.

Treasurer report (Jason Smith):

2023 saw a small increase in funds of ~£400 and as such overall reserves remain consistent (dropping with respect to inflation).

There was significant one-off expenditure on completion of the fencing and new picnic area on the Mynd, which is now finished.



As bank interest rates started to rise, we have now transferred a level of our reserves to a 30 day high(er) interest account while still leaving sufficient funds for day to day operational issues. Please note that as a club (business) we are unable to access the still higher rate accounts open to personal customers. However, we are now starting to see some meaningful interest payments.

During 2023 we paid nearly £700 in bank fees and admin costs. This breaks down into fees from Paypal (£150) for subs and day fees. Zoom conferencing fees (£190), Webcollect (£240), website hosting and other fees (£120).

The club also makes minor payments for social events (generally paying the tip) and modest nibbles at monthly socials.

2024 sees the introduction of a single month membership @ £10, so it will be interesting to see what happens to normal club membership and revenues as a result.

It is the treasurer's belief that the membership fees represent good value for money for members and that the fees should remain as-is for 2024/25.

A full statement of accounts and other breakdown graphs etc are available on request.

Sites report (Richard McCrohan):

- New sites – Red Hopton, the club has requested the most experienced pilots to fly it first to identify any safety concerns. It is hoped that Red Hopton will replace the previously lost site Sarn.
- A members poll was used to review all sites usage.
- Landowners from less used sites would like to see more people flying them.
- No complaints from any sites.
- Haughmund Hill has been considered as a potential new site but there are safety concerns. Douglas's leap 40m wide SW facing area looks feasible without significant hazards. To be progressed next year.

Comms and PR (Roy Dade):

- Surveys this year gathered useful information e.g. many members live more than 1 hour away.

Membership (Luke Evans):

- 1 member less than last year, 66 expired, 65 new members. Total membership ~300.
- Paypal £27 income, honesty box still generates the most day fee income.

Safety (Dave Thomas):

- 1 major incident at the Longmynd, a long time pilot tried a speed wing for the first time and broke his arm trying to slope land.
- Weather stations – waiting for a group of volunteers to change the sim card in the Lawley (generally bad signal there). Solar cam company can be paid to repair the longmynd camera or we can buy our own and try to repair it ourselves. Clatter camera is also not great but supplier no longer in business.
- Other clubs are having similar issues with their cameras.



Social (Dave Bibby):

- BBQ social at Red Lion in Longden common a highlight, 38 people attended with very positive feedback. Thanks to Roy for arranging the birds of prey display.
- Christmas social also well attended at the kings arms.
- Good relationship at the kings arms, great facility and free of charge to book room.
- Socials are now continuing throughout the winter and helping to develop the club activities.

Secretary (Alasdair Mitchell):

- All minutes for the year saved to Dropbox, there is a blank minutes template for the new secretary to continue with.

Competitions (David McLeod):

A round of the hang gliding BOS competition was held on the Long Mynd in July 2023 with no reported issues (I believe). They have again requested use of the Mynd, Camlo or Clatter on 29th June to 3rd July this year which has been approved by the committee. Tim D has drafted letters to site owners to inform them of the dates.

BCC: Poor weather and unavailability for the few rounds held meant LMSC only competed in one round with only 2 pilots attending. An initial attempt to hold a BCC round at the Mynd was aborted when I became aware of the previous decision to avoid competitions on bank holiday weekends. A single LMSC team has been entered into this year's BCC.

The attempt to hold a club Vol-Biv event "The Dragon's Tail" in August was unfortunately beaten by the weather. I hope there are plans to try again this year.

The North South Cup may request possible use of the Mynd on 16th to 19th May. But we have yet to receive the Comps Request form.

The Inter Services Development Championships have also requested possible use of the Mynd on 8-13th June. Again, we have yet to receive the Comps Request form.

I have an action to re-write the Competitions Booking Form, to update the sites details.

AOB:

- Ad hoc support roles in addition to the committee will be encouraged throughout the year E.g. Lawley technical support (Ian Jones).
- All meetings are open for members to attend and contribute unless stated otherwise.
- Next year's priorities:
- Improve school relationships and socials (members from all schools to attend socials next year).
- Focus on the Wrekin and Black knoll sites use and costs. Make the use of the sites clearer and ensure it benefits the membership.
- More in person meetings, less electronic communication. Zoom can be set up at the same time. A mix of both online and in person meetings is expected to be most productive.
- Constitution to be completed.
- Repack to be rerun.
- Chairman thanks all for support in the last 12 months.
- Next meeting with new committee in 1 month time (~23rd May).



- A club president role was suggested – for a person with long term knowledge of the club to provide continuity. This post exists in the current constitution. Role to be defined and proposed at the first committee meeting. Geoff Minshull suggested for president.
- James Allcock will arrange comps and Dave Mcleoad will arrange the BCC events. Phil Bibby will support when James is absent.
- BCC to be encouraged, it markets the sites, and helps boost membership.
- Coaching – direction to take needs to be set in the first committee meeting.
- The club should issue a formal statement from committee for why a bank balance of £25k is being kept (i.e. to buy land).

The next AGM will be same time next year (closest Thursday to 18th April 2025).