



Sutton Park Model Aero Club Constitution

NAME.

The name of the Organisation shall be the Sutton Park Model Aero Club (hereinafter referred to as The Club).

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the club shall be to promote and facilitate the sport of model aircraft construction and flying.

MEMBERSHIP.

- a. To provide facilities for the sport of model aircraft construction and flying.
- b. To assist members to improve their standards of building and flying and to require strict observance of SPMAC and BMFA Safety rules.
- c. To encourage Club social activities.
- d. To abide by and promote the National Policies and rules of the Governing Body for the sport, by affiliation to the British Model Flying Association (Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd)

Applications for membership may be made at the monthly Club Nights and a probationary membership period of six months will apply.

Membership will begin immediately after payment is made to the club. The SPMAC membership card will be accepted as proof of BMFA membership and insurance (unless this fee is paid separately to the BMFA), until the official BMFA card is received.

In the event of it being necessary to limit the number of members admitted to the Club (for lease considerations or other reasons) the membership limits shall be decided by the General Committee, with immediate effect, to be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP.

- a. ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP – There shall be two classes of Ordinary Membership, SENIOR AND JUNIOR. Persons seeking membership who are 18 or over on the date of their application for membership shall be required to join as a Senior member. Those under 18 on the date of

application may join as a Junior member for the remainder of the current membership year.

- b. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – Honorary membership of SPMAC may be conferred at the discretion of the Committee.
- c. New members and Honorary members who are not existing members of the British Model Flying Association, will be required to join the BMFA if they wish to fly in Sutton Park.

In the event of club membership being full, applicants can place their name on a waiting list until such time as a vacancy occurs.

MODEL CATEGORIES.

Any type of radio controlled model aircraft may be flown, including fixed wing, flex wing and rotary winged, subject to the weight and engine limitations as stated in the Club Rules.

Free Fight models must be flown in an open area, well away from the R/C flying site.

DISCIPLINE

- a. All members shall abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Club, and BMFA safety rules.
- b. The Committee may consider removing from the role of members any member whose conduct on the field or elsewhere is considered prejudicial to the Club. Dismissal will be in accordance with procedure to comply with the laws of natural justice.
- c. The member is to be given a verbal warning by an authorised Committee Member in which the member is to be made aware of his or her misdemeanour and what he or she is reasonably required to do to make amends.
- d. If the member does not respond, the member will be given a written warning by an authorised Committee Member to advise him or her of their misdemeanour and what he or she is reasonably required to do to make amends.
- e. If the member still fails to respond the Committee should invite the member in writing to meet with them at a previously agreed date and time to discuss the situation, advising them they are considering the withdrawal of his or her membership.
- f. If the member fails to respond to reasoning or fails to attend without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise the member in writing that his or her membership is withdrawn, stating the reason why this decision was reached.
- g. When a member is advised of withdrawal of his or her membership, he or she must be given the right of appeal. If the member opts to appeal, this will be done to the Club Membership at an EGM which the Committee would call on the members' behalf at a previously agreed

date and time. The motion to uphold the membership withdrawal or reverse it must be done 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 must still be accorded his or her rights to present his or her case to the Committee and be given a right of appeal in accordance with sub-paragraph e, f and g above.

In the event of dismissal the Committee will arrange for the member's current fee to be reimbursed in full.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

- a. The amount of any initial "joining" fee and annual subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting, by agreement of the General Committee, after consultation with the Club Treasurer and the members present at the meeting.
- b. The annual subscription shall become due on 1st January and shall cover membership for the calendar year. For members joining towards the end of the year, the Joining and membership fees will be the full amount, but the BMFA fees will be amended as instructed by the BMFA.
- c. BMFA Insurance lapses on 31st December each year, along with club membership
- d. Any memberships that have not been renewed by the February Club Meeting shall be deemed to have lapsed and another joining fee must be paid if that person wishes to continue flying at Sutton Park.
- e. New members who are not existing members of the British Model Flying Association will be required to join the BMFA as a condition of membership of the Club, and pay the BMFA fee together with the Club subscription. On payment of the fee the Club will issue a membership card, which will also act as proof of BMFA Insurance cover, as required by all members of the club.
- f. No person shall be entitled to exercise any rights or privileges of membership until the appropriate fees and any arrears have been paid.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The Management and financial activities of the Club shall be vested in a General Committee, elected from the membership by a majority vote at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall be made up of the number of members as decided at the AGM.

Committee Members shall hold office until the conclusion of the next AGM, unless voted out at an Extraordinary General Meeting, for any possible disciplinary reasons.

The Officers shall be Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Flight, Fixed Wing, Director of Flight, Helicopter and Director of

Flight, Gliders. The Secretary and Treasurer posts may be combined. All Officers shall retire annually, but will be eligible for re-election by a majority vote, if they so wish.

Elected Officers are required to attend relevant Committee meetings.

Committee Members, who are absent from the AGM without having previously stated an interest in continuing in their post, shall be deemed to have resigned, unless the Committee accepts that there are extenuating circumstances.

The Committee shall be responsible for the production and maintenance of Club "Flying Rules" which shall be binding on all members operating on any site being used officially by the Club.

VOTING AND CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

All meetings will be agendered and minuted. Any other business will only be accepted at general meetings if the Secretary is given at least 14 days notice in writing of the items to be discussed.

Voting will normally be by show of hands, proxy or postal votes will not be allowed, in the event of a tie the Chairman will have the casting vote.

All proposals must be proposed and seconded and voted upon. A majority is required to carry a proposal.

QUORUM.

A quorum of any Committee meeting shall consist of a majority of Committee members.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.

The Committee shall meet at the Annual General Meeting, or more often as circumstances require.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the March Club Meeting each year.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda must be submitted in writing by members to the Secretary or Chairman at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

The meeting shall consider the reports of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and elected Committee Members and Officers for the ensuing year.

Nominations for Committee posts will be accepted from 1st January onwards. Nominations should be proposed and seconded by members entitled to vote at the AGM.

Nominees shall be entitled to attend Committee meetings prior to the AGM, without voting rights, in order to assist them to take up office if elected.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called:

- a. By the General Committee.
- b. At the written request of (20) members.

Members must be informed of an EGM at least 14 days before the date of the meeting. Full details of the matters to be raised shall accompany the notice.

FINANCE.

The Club is a non-profit making organization. No profit or surplus will be distributed.

BANKING.

The funds of the Club shall be lodged in a bank account(s) approved by the Committee.

All Club receipts will be paid into the appropriate Club account(s) Cheques or other withdrawals must be authorized by the Treasurer and the Chairman.

Normal expenses of the Club must be authorized by at least two members of the Committee.

Capital expenditure must be authorized in advance by the General Committee.

Satisfactory documentary evidence will be obtained to substantiate all expenditure.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Amendments to the Constitution can only be made at a General Meeting.

Proposed alterations must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least 28 days before the meeting is held.

Alterations or additions to the Constitution are approved if 75% of the members present are in favour, either by a show of hands, or if demanded, by a ballot.

INTERPRETATION

The interpretation of the Club Constitution, Rules, or Bye-laws shall be the responsibility of the General Committee.

FLYING RULES.

The General Committee reserves the right to add, delete, or amend flying rules where necessary, by agreement with the membership at the AGM or EGM, and, if required, with the Sutton Park Authorities. (Birmingham City Council).

DISSOLUTION.

Should the dissolution of the club become necessary, for whatever reason, the remaining funds in the club bank account will be donated to a charity as decided by the members at an EGM.

BMFA membership will remain in force for each member until the end of that year.