

BLACKDOWN RADIO CONTROL FLYING CLUB



CONSTITUTION

(As amended at the November 2010 Annual General Meeting)

(Words of a masculine gender should be taken to include the feminine gender unless the context indicates otherwise)

GENERAL

- 1 The Club shall be called The Blackdown Radio Control Flying Club (hereinafter BRCFC) and will be affiliated to the British Model Flying Association (hereinafter BMFA).
- 2 The Club's principal aim shall be the promotion of safe and responsible radio controlled model aircraft flying.
- 3 The Club's financial year shall end on 31 October.
- 4 All members, without exception, must obey all club rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Club which may lead to dismissal.
- 5 All flying members must be members of the British Model Flying Association and must be able to provide evidence of such on request.
- 6 When there is a joint meeting involving flying between BRCFC and another club, the participating flying members must be able to provide evidence of adequate insurance cover.
- 7 Members may invite guest fliers to the site on arrangement with

the Officers but they must be either BMFA or Large Model Association (LMA) insured and the club member must assume responsibility for the actions and safety of the guest. Guests must fly under the supervision of instructors if their ability requires it, and such arrangements must be made in advance of the visit.

8 A "member" means any class of membership. The classes of membership shall be Senior, Junior, Honorary Life and Associate (non flying membership).

9 A member may be made an Honorary 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.

10 The Committee has the right to refuse membership to new applicants.

11 New members' subscriptions shall be Senior, Associate, or Junior as decided by members at the Annual General Meeting.

12 Members who have allowed their subscriptions to lapse for less than one year will not normally be asked to re-apply for membership, but will be required to pay a full 12 months' subscription. Reduced subscriptions will apply from September when they will be halved. The Committee reserves the right to ask for a formal membership application if it so wishes.

13 The Club Flying Rules will be reviewed annually by the Committee, and will be considered binding for 12 months, excepting where urgent action is required.

14 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.

15 The Committee may consider removal from the roll of members any member whose conduct on the field or elsewhere is considered to be prejudicial to the Club. Dismissal will be in accordance with the following procedure in order to comply with the laws of natural justice:

a. The member is to be given a verbal warning by an authorised Committee Member in which the member is made aware of his misdemeanor and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.

b. If the member does not alter their problematic behavior, he is to be given a written warning by an authorised Committee Member to advise him of his misdemeanor and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.

c. If he still fails to take note of the written warning, the Committee should invite him in writing to meet with them at a previously agreed date and time to discuss the situation, advising they are considering withdrawal of his membership.

d. If he still fails to respond to reasoning or fails to attend without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise him in writing that his membership is withdrawn, stating the reasons why this decision was reached.

e. When the member is advised of withdrawal of his membership, he must be given the right of appeal. If he opts to appeal, this will be to the Club membership at an Extraordinary General Meeting which the Committee would call on his 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.

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

17 In the event of dismissal the Committee will refund the member's current membership fee in full.

18 Any alteration to this Constitution can only be made at a General Meeting. Any proposed alterations must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

19 **COMMITTEE**

20 The Committee of the Club shall be comprised of a minimum of 8 members, including the Officers. A quorum of any Committee meeting shall consist of 5 Committee Members.

21 The Officers shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

22 One senior club member should be appointed annually, by the Committee, as the Club's BMFA Delegate who should represent the Club at all relevant meetings.

23 Officers and Committee members shall be elected from written nominations, at the Annual General Meeting, to serve for a period of one year. The Committee will be elected by majority vote by a show of hands from members present, subject to a request for a secret ballot in accordance with Article 42.

24 Other office holders may be elected at the Annual General

Meeting to specific positions within the Club. Such office holders may, or may not be, members of the Committee.

25 Should a committee position become vacant, the Committee may co-opt a replacement who will then serve until the following Annual General Meeting. This will be by a majority vote from the Committee Members.

26 Members elected to the Committee will have full voting rights at all meetings. In the event of a tie the Chairman will have a casting vote.

27 Each Officer of the Club is required to submit a sample of his signature for banking reference purposes.

28 Money may only be withdrawn from the Club bank account by cheque signed by not less than any two of the Officers.

29 The Secretary must be informed of any negotiations proposed by club members that affect the Club as a whole and if requested copies of any written correspondence must be submitted to him for record purposes.

30 Any member of the Committee will be entitled to claim expenses in respect of outgoings incurred in the administration of the Club's affairs.

31 Any member of the Committee or Officer of the club, who is a Committee Member or Officer of another model flying club, must notify the Secretary.

32 Any Committee Member or Officer wishing to resign should do so in writing.

33 Any member of the Committee who is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable cause will automatically forfeit his/her seat on the Committee.

34 The Committee may pay accounts and incur any normal liabilities on behalf of the Club. If a Committee Member engages or becomes involved in court proceedings, whether criminal or civil in his/her representative capacity on behalf of the Club, as opposed to his capacity as a private individual, the Club will indemnify the Committee Member in respect of any fines or damages or costs awarded against the Committee Member.

35 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 personally and upon receipt that Committee Member will pay them to the Club Treasurer.

36 **VOTING AND CONDUCT OF ALL MEETINGS**

37 All meetings will be agendered and minuted. Any item requiring a vote at a General Meeting will only be accepted if the Secretary is given at least 14 days notice in writing of the item to be discussed. Other matters may be discussed under Any Other Business but not voted upon.

38 A quorum of any general meeting is to be at least one quarter of the membership.

39 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 allowed.

40 All proposals must be seconded and voted upon. A simple majority vote is required to carry any proposal.

41 Amendments to proposals must be voted upon first.

42 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.

43 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.

44 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

45 A convenient 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.

46 Annual subscriptions will be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

47 Subscriptions are due by 1st January each year. Any member who has not paid the subscription for the ensuing year by this date, in whole or in part, will not be allowed to fly until they have done so. BMFA membership must be in place before flying.

48 An Auditor or Auditors shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting to examine the accounts to be presented to the Annual General Meeting to verify that the Accounts are correct and fairly represent the expenditure and receipts of the Club, its assets and its liabilities.

49 **EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

50 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.

51 The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club on receipt of a request in writing signed by not less than 8 members of the Club, 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.

52 When a request for a meeting is made in accordance with Article 53 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.

53 **DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

54 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 Extraordinary General Meeting must be called. The second meeting will proceed even if a quorum is not present and the motion will then be carried by a simple majority vote.

55 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 funds remaining will be distributed as agreed by the members in General Meeting.