



# OXFORD MODEL FLYING CLUB CONSTITUTION

## Aims

**GR1.** Oxford Model Flying Club (OMFC) is a non-profit-making organisation which aims to promote and encourage all aspects of model aircraft building and flying, in a fully inclusive manner, while paying special attention to the legal and safety aspects of the hobby. As such, OMFC welcomes new members

## Membership

**GR.2** Oxford Model Flying Club (OMFC) has four separate categories of Membership, as described below.

**Full membership** allows members to enjoy all the model flying, social facilities and other opportunities offered by the Club. BMFA/BDF Membership is mandatory in this category. It is important to note that BDF Membership does not run concurrently with OMFC membership. If an individual's BDF Membership expires during the year, their OMFC membership will revert to 'Associate Membership' status and they would not be permitted to fly until their BDF Membership is renewed.

**Associate Membership** is available to individuals who do not wish to fly models at any of the Club's venues or events but wish nevertheless to attend Club Meetings and other social events, and to receive the Club's newsletter. A reduced membership fee is payable and BMFA Membership is not required.

**Honorary Membership** is lifetime free Membership, conferred by the Committee on deserving individuals, in recognition of exceptional service that has benefited the Club directly or indirectly.

Should Honorary Members wish to avail themselves of the Club flying facilities that would normally accompany Full Membership, they must have current BMFA Membership.



**Junior Membership** is available to persons under the age of 18 at the time of application. BMFA Membership is required as for Full Membership above.

Note: when attending Club meetings or when participating in Club activities Junior Members must be accompanied by their parent, legal guardian or authorised adult who will be responsible for ensuring the Junior's good behaviour and their paying due attention to safety instructions.

**GR.3** All individuals applying for membership of the Club must have read and will be deemed to have agreed to abide by this Constitution, the Club's Disciplinary Code and its Flying Rules.

**GR.4 Probationary Period/Termination of Membership.** New-members will serve a twelve-month probationary period, during which either side may terminate the agreement without explanation.

If the decision to terminate the individual's membership is made by the Club, the subscription will be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

**GR.5** The respective Membership subscription rates will be set at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

**GR.6** The OMFC committee reserves the right to decline/reject any membership application without explanation

## **Committee**

**GR7.** The Club Committee is to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will be made up from Full and Honorary members and will comprise a Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and up to four additional Committee Members.

The Committee may co-opt additional Members. The Chairman may hold office for a maximum of three consecutive years but, upon standing down, will be eligible immediately to hold another Committee post. There is no maximum term for other Committee Members but all are subject to annual election/re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

It is recommended, but not mandatory, that in order to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Committee, all Members should consider not standing for re-election after a maximum service of five consecutive years.

All decisions of the committee will be based on a majority vote, with the chairman holding a casting vote in the event of a tie.



**GR8.** The Club Constitution may be added to or amended at either the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting requested by a quorum of ten members. It may also be amended by the Committee, subject to endorsement by a majority vote at the next Annual General Meeting. The Committee may also add to or amend the Flying Rules at any time for reasons of safety, or due to changes in legislation, having first notified members of any such additions or amendments.

## **Discipline and Disputes**

**GR9.** Conduct liable to bring OMFC into disrepute will result in a warning letter to the member/s concerned and the imposition of a new probationary period or the extension of any current one. The complainant will be informed in writing of the action taken. Further misconduct during the probationary period may result in action under the heading of gross misconduct.

Examples of conduct liable to bring OMFC into disrepute includes:-

- Aggressive conduct towards members of the public at any model flying event or gathering
- Aggressive conduct towards other OMFC Members
- Malicious communications concerning OMFC and/or any of its Members, propagated verbally or via any media, including print, online forums and social media
- Flying aggressively and/or dangerously at any designated OMFC flying site
- Persistent disregard for noise abatement
- Any other behaviour likely to damage the reputation of OMFC

**GR10.** Gross misconduct includes endangering the public, deliberate disregard of the club Constitution or Flying Rules or cheating in competitions. It also includes conduct likely to cause offence or discomfort to members of the public or other club members. If found guilty of this offence the member/s will be expelled without recompense and letters may be sent to appropriate bodies disassociating OMFC from the member's action.

## **Procedures**

**GR11.** To enact the Procedures:-

- The complaint is to be reviewed as quickly as possible, not later than one month after submission.



- In order to review the complaint a sub-committee of three, drawn from the Committee and normally including the chairman, will be appointed by the Committee. All will have equal votes.
- All submissions of written evidence and statements of the complainant(s) must give full details of the times, dates and witnesses to the alleged misconduct. Written evidence must be signed by the complainant(s).
- The defending club member(s) must be invited to make their own statement(s) to the sub-committee. Should they choose to waive that right, this is not to be construed as being in any way an admission of guilt.
- Minutes must be kept, recording the points considered and the sub-committee's specific comments relating to them.
- When the sub-committee has reached a majority decision, the actions recommended are:-
  - a) The complaint(s) is/are dismissed as not proven and no further action is to be taken.
  - b) b) The defending club member(s) is/are ejected from the club, in which case their Club Membership Fee will be forfeit.
- The sub-committee's decision is to be conveyed in writing to the defending member(s) by the Club Secretary. That letter will also confirm the proposed action to be taken and, if appropriate, advise the defendant(s) of their right of appeal.
- Should the individual(s) opt to appeal against the decision, the sub-committee must re-consider it, reviewing the original and any further submissions. Their decision will be final.

## Appeals

## Dissolution

**GR12.** Should the Club be dissolved, the assets will be realised by the members forming the last committee and the proceeds donated to an aeromodelling cause to be determined by those members.