

MFC Flier November 2011

In the last newsletter I promised that all club members would be informed of key points and decisions that had been taken at all future Committee meetings. The following is a list of such events from the most recent meeting, last night:

Committee decisions –

- Chairman approved to represent MFC in Court hearing with Terence Barker.
- To accept David Lloyd's resignation as Instructor & CFI.
- To Accept Catherine Lloyd's resignation as Committee and Club Member.
- To continue with the 2 separate reciprocal landing agreements with Lancashire Aero Club and Peel Holdings. Secretary to provide details adjacent to radio for the attention of Duty Pilots.
- Not to engage with Blake & Co. for MFC entry in Parliamentary Yearbook.
- To inform owner of G-MYFH that it is the Club's intention to sell the aircraft unless he both makes contact with the Club and offers proof of insurance within 28 days.
- To urgently feed back to Duty Pilots and private owners that over the last few weeks there have been several instances of the hangar being found insecure. Both the side door (adjacent to toilets) and the wicket door in the main NE doors have been found closed but not locked at various times.
- Duty Pilot co-ordinator to provide this information to Duty Pilots in his reminders: MEMBERS MUST ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ALL MFC BUILDINGS IF THEY ARE THE LAST TO LEAVE THE AIRFIELD.

Noted at the Meeting -

- CCTV installation with 4 infra-red cameras and recorder now installed.
- RAF Safety Audit completed satisfactorily with only minor administrative requests made.
- Committee Members Terms of Reference production is progressing satisfactorily.
- Club Aircraft G-BILS returned from annual overhaul/inspection.
- Police investigation into G-BRSK incident progressing but no forensic information to date. Various Club Members interviewed and DNA/fingerprint evidence taken together with Club records.
- Defence Infrastructure representative is expected to provide rent & rate estimates for MFC use of ATC building later this month.
- AGM date tentatively set for Sunday 11th December.
- The committee unanimously felt that members leaking information to the media resulting in public disclosure of unresolved incidents could seriously undermine our relationship with the RAF and thus our security of tenure at Mona and reveal a wanton disregard for the Club's future wellbeing.
- The Committee also unanimously felt that the recent Member's Action Group letter was unnecessarily and unreasonably personal in its criticism of the MFC Chairman and his leadership of the Committee.

Chairman's Comments –

The meeting was a somewhat turbulent event lasting for around 3 hours, most of the discussion centring on the demands of the Action Group letter.

The whole committee expressed the view that the Club's treatment of David Lloyd, orchestrated by their decisions, had been entirely proper and correct throughout the period from his arrest until his re-instatement. Further, that they were bitterly disappointed with the refusal of the Action Group to provide a reasoned explanation for their demand to remove him as CFI.

Ultimately a decision was taken that the committee would comply with the Action Group's demand as it was perceived to be in the best interest of the Club as a whole. Further delay would only result in yet greater damage to the Club. Once that decision was taken David Lloyd offered his resignation with immediate effect.

For member's information I attach a copy of the reply that I sent to the Action Group Chairman following the recently circulated demand letter.

The AGM date has been tentatively set for Sunday 11th December, subject to the accounts being available by that date. I entreat all members with an interest in the continuing successful operation of the Flying Club to please attend and let us know your desires and thoughts about both the present and future of the Club.

25th October 2011

Victor

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 22nd October.

I am deeply saddened by the tone and content of your letter, it is written very much as a personal attack and I find it difficult to reconcile your language and behaviour with that displayed in our face to face discussion a few days ago. I write primarily to attempt to clarify the issues raised in your letter, they are dealt with in the order of your paragraphs.

I and the committee are aware of the discontent felt by at least 39% of club members about David Lloyd being re-instated as CFI. We are unaware of any other serious issues not related to that.

I am unable to recall anything said by me at the recent EGM that might conceivably stifle feedback other than my comment that the observation made by the MFC treasurer in the mid 70s still applied today. "Members who made the most complaints were usually the ones that did the least". Despite the invitation at the EGM no Member has shown any interest in attending a Committee Meeting and your Action Group have refused our request to meet myself and a small group from the Committee.

I have not misquoted the results of the ballot I have merely given an overall view, I quite clearly stated that my reference was the number of members balloted. Neither I nor the Club Secretary are aware of any extant members who were not balloted.

Many members who were present at the EGM have not been seen at the Club or expressed any interest in its running or well-being for a considerable time, I assumed that some "networking" went on prior to the meeting to ensure their attendance, maybe that was an invalid assumption on my part.

I wholeheartedly agree about the responsibility of the Committee to manage the Club in the best interest of its members and to ensure its longevity; however, as Directors of Mona Aviation Limited, they have an over-arching legal responsibility to always apply their best skill and judgement to ensure the success of the company, which is surely for the benefit of its members. I have said many times before that they can only do that when they are in possession of all the relevant facts surrounding an issue, to allow them to make an informed decision.

I and the Committee stand by our decision for the reason quoted above, we need to understand the facts surrounding the issue and be sure that "personal vendettas" play no part. You will no doubt recall that you were the only person to offer any guidance to the Committee at the AGM. I repeat again we have a request from 39% of the members balloted to remove David Lloyd as CFI. As Directors we need to satisfy ourselves that we understand why we are being asked not just to undo his appointment as CFI but totally dispense with his services; in the event of his termination it would also allow us to give him the precise reasons so as to forestall any claim that he might consider making. I and the Committee will do our utmost to provide a full response to your demand, it may or may not be within your arbitrary deadline.

I am not sure what to make of your final paragraph. There seems to be an implied complement but it is not clear where it is directed.

I would like to clarify one issue; although I do, personally, produce the "Flier" newsletter it is a reflection of the views of the Committee as a whole. This last issue was circulated to all Committee Members and the final published version contained many changes as a result of their feedback.

I shall write to you again in due course.

Yours faithfully

David Frankland