

## **CONSTITUTION 2019**

### **GENERAL**

1. The club shall be called South Warwickshire Electric Flyers and will be affiliated to the British Model Flying Association.
2. The principal aim shall be the promotion of safe and responsible electric model aircraft flying. With this in mind it is strongly recommended that each member has immediate access to a first aid kit.
3. 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.
4. All members must be members of the British Model Flying Association and must be able to provide evidence of such on request. The only exception to this is for those members who play no active part in the club whatsoever, i.e. social members only.
5. Members may invite guest fliers to the site on no more than three occasions, by arrangement with the Executive Committee but they must be BMFA insured and the club member must assume total responsibility for the actions and safety of the guest.
6. There are two classes of membership.

(a) Full membership

(b) Junior up to the age of 18 unless the junior remains in continuous full time education, in which case they will retain junior status until the completion of their education

Providing a parent or guardian of the junior is a member of the club, membership for juniors will be free. If the parent or guardian is not a member the junior fee will be charged at half the full subscription rate. However all juniors must still have the appropriate BMFA membership and must always be accompanied by a parent or a guardian at all times they are on the SWEF site.

7. A "member" means any class of membership.
8. A member may be made a 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.
9. The Committee has the right to refuse membership to new applicants.
10. New members' subscriptions shall be subject to a registration fee in addition to the annual fee. This to be decided at the Annual General Meeting. The annual fee for new members will be reduced by £10 per month on a pro rata basis after 30<sup>th</sup> May. This rule applies to new members only and may not be used by existing or lapsed members. Only in exceptional circumstances will the committee permit a previous member to rejoin under this rule
11. Membership renewals fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> November each year and must be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> December. Late renewals after this date will be subject to the registration fee in addition to the full membership fee. .
12. Persons letting their membership lapse for one year or more will be required to re-apply for membership and pay the joining fee on their return to the club.
13. All field safety rules and regulations will be reviewed annually, and will be considered binding for 12 months, excepting where urgent action is required. This action must then be ratified by the Committee

and if necessary implemented immediately, notifying members of any changes. The field safety rules are considered as a supplementary code to those laid out by the British Model Flying Association's Members' Handbook, compliance with which is mandatory within South Warwickshire Electric Flyers.

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 impose a flying suspension not exceeding 28 days upon any member in the event of misconduct. Any suspension must be accompanied by a verbal and/or written warning as deemed appropriate.

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

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

### **FLYING**

17. No 27 MHz equipment is to be operated on the clubs flying site. In addition, by agreement with the South Midland Soaring Association, only odd channels are to be used on 35 MHz.
18. The Committee, Officers and Instructors, will be responsible for the running of the flying field at all times. Appointment to the position of Instructor or Examiner can only be made by a Committee decision.
19. Before being allowed to fly unsupervised, all members must demonstrate their ability to fly safely, as determined by one of the appointed club instructors - see point 18.
20. Any member whose flying standards drop below the minimum requirement solo standard will be required to fly supervised until the desired standards of flying are met.

### **COMMITTEE**

21. The Committee of the Club shall comprise of not more than seven members, including the Executive Committee.
22. The Executive Committee shall consist of four officers. These shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
23. One senior club member should be appointed annually as the club's BMFA Delegate who should represent the club at all relevant meetings.
24. Committee members shall be elected by nominations proposed 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 eligible members present.

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 office will have full voting rights at all meetings. In the event of a tie the Chairman will have a casting vote.
27. The Executive Committee reserve the right to carry out negotiations and make decisions in the interest of the club or on behalf of the membership where necessary without consulting the other Committee members.
28. Each Executive should submit a sample of his signature for banking reference purposes.
29. The Committee may pay accounts and incur any liabilities on behalf of the club. With regard to this, cheques withdrawing money from club accounts must be signed by not less than two Executive Officers. The Treasurer may make on line transfers to pay accounts due by the club but must keep duplicate records for inspection as required.
30. The Secretary must be informed of any negotiations proposed by club members which affect the Club as a whole and copies of any written correspondence must be submitted to him for record purposes.
31. Any Committee Member or Officer wishing to resign should do so in writing.

#### **VOTING AND CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

32. All meetings will have an agenda and the points discussed minuted.
33. All proposals must be seconded and voted upon. Voting will normally be by a show of hands; however a secret ballot must be taken should any member request that this be done. A majority vote is required to carry any proposal.
34. Amendments to proposals must be voted upon first.
35. 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.
36. 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.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

37. A convenient date for the Annual General Meeting will be decided each year by the Committee. At least 28 days of the meeting will be given in writing to all Club members.
38. Annual subscriptions will be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
39. Subscriptions for SWEF membership are payable by Direct Debit only and renewal automatically occurs on the 1st November each year. Any member who cancels their direct debit with SWEF is assumed to indicate their intention to leave the club on the 31st October, and is welcome to apply to re-join as a new member thereafter. All SWEF members must always hold current BMFA membership which you can renew yourself on the BMFA portal: [bmfa.azolve.com](http://bmfa.azolve.com). If we are unable to verify your BMFA membership prior to SWEF membership renewal, then your direct debit will be cancelled & you will no longer be a member of SWEF.

### **EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

40. 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.
41. The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the club on receipt of a request in writing signed by not less than 5 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.

### **DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

42. Should it be considered necessary or desirable to dissolve the Club, the Committee will call an Extraordinary General Meeting. The motion will be carried by a simple majority vote.
43. On dissolution, after the sale of assets and settlement of all outstanding debts, provided there are sufficient funds, the refund of subscriptions for the remaining part of the year will be made to the paid up members.
44. If the final accounts are less than required to refund the subscriptions to the members, the total money remaining will be divided by the total number of paid up members and each will receive an equal share. All members will receive a final statement of accounts.

October 2019