

The Kapiti Flyers Update – May 2015



<http://www.kapitimodelflyers.org.nz/>

Your President speaks!



Well - the AGM has come and gone. Two motions before the floor saw some robust debate and I believe the sign of a healthy club is when members constructively propose and debate issues. Changes to the committee will ensure we have new ideas going forward and there is already good talk about what we can achieve. Remember though, that the Committee are simply your representatives, they can't do everything or have all of the ideas. So if you have constructive ideas make sure we hear about them.

Each month I'll endeavour to give a brief overview of what we are up to, that way capturing all members, not just those who come to club night. With the colder weather and darker evenings upon us, I trust many are beavering away building/repairing models and therefore hope to see some interesting sights of same at our monthly club nights.

Steve

Meet your new committee.

This is the new team. If you haven't met them before, this is what they look like. Let them know of your views, expectations and requests. Contact details are on the web site.

			
<p>Don Lynn Vice President</p>	<p>Paul Buckrell Treasurer</p>	<p>Dave Marriott Secretary</p>	<p>Warner Summerton Club Captain</p>
			
<p>Ross Monk General Committee</p>	<p>Terry Beaumont General Committee</p>	<p>Brendon Whitaker General Committee</p>	<p>Andy Avgas General Factotum</p>

Andy's AGM summary

Andy Avgas reports that this year's AGM was a disappointment. He expected cheerleaders, a brass band and fireworks, and all we got was learned debate under the skilful guidance of Steve Hutchison, and a cup of tea from Ron. The biscuits had all been eaten by the time Andy got his cuppa.

Andy recorded 45 members present (almost 50% of our membership), which overflowed into the main part of the Surf Club rooms and made vote counting difficult. This was made harder by the secretary's inability to count beyond his fingers (reluctant to take his shoes off) and that some members got tired after 30 seconds and their hands fell down. After 3 counts were needed on the first remit, it was decided to go for a paper vote on the second.

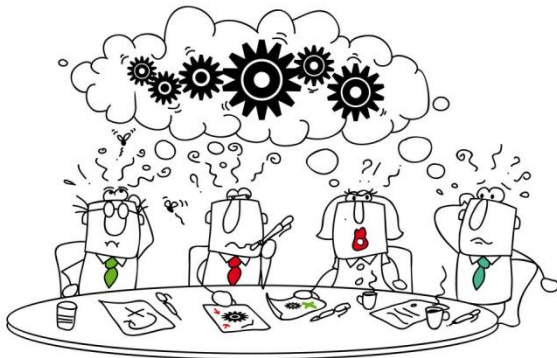
The main outcomes were that:

- Neither of the proposed remits (clarification of the use of proxy votes, and banning of multirotors from QE Park) were accepted,
- Fees will go up by \$3 per year to cover the increase in the MFNZ component,
- Your new committee is:
 - President – Steve Hutchison
 - Vice President – Don Lynn
 - Treasurer – Paul Buckrell
 - Club Captain – Warner Summerton
 - General Committee – Terry Beaumont, Ross Monk, Brendan Whitaker
 - Secretary – Dave Marriott

A draft set of minutes has been posted on the website, so check it out if you are bored with watching repeats of CSI and want a gripping reality read.



First Committee meeting



Your new committee met on 30 April for a "brainstorming" session. It looks like we have an active committee focussed on improving and developing the club, to provide better and more services to members. Some of the key things discussed include:

- Decisions made, include replacement of the pit fence mesh with an open weave bird netting. This should be more durable than the previous. A new weedeater has been purchased and has already been on active service. Additional electric fence stakes are to be procured to replace some of the old tired stakes.
- Formation of a small team to review and implement improvements to the facilities. This will be driven by Ross Monk supported by John Miller and Ian Crossland. (not sure if they know yet!). Current thoughts include upgrading the water supply, painting, repairs, clean out junk under clubhouse, separate shed to store equipment. Please make yourselves available for work parties (these can be fun) and feel free to offer any suggestions to Ross and co.
- Formation of a small team to manage the relationship with GWRC and parks management. We hope to meet regularly to discuss issues such as rabbits, blackberry control, walkway developments, approval for facilities upgrades, and establishing a more formal tenancy arrangement.
- Longer term plans include:-
 - Development of a long term plan or "vision" for the club
 - Review of club risks (later in the year)
 - Review of constitution
 - How to attract junior members
 - Review of rules
 - More fun events

It looks like the committee has set a busy agenda for the year. The next committee meeting is on **26th May**, so if you have anything you would like the committee to address, please contact a committee member before then.

Lipo storage

Yet more reports of Lipo fires – this time one in Stoke, Nelson, and another documented in the Model Flying World. Fortunately these incidents are rare, but in the nature of risk management, they fall into the “*unlikely but catastrophic*” category, which is hard to manage, but which you ignore at your peril.

It would appear that most Lipo incidents occur during charging, but there are a few, where the battery has been sitting in storage and has decided all by itself to catch fire. These are the dangerous ones, as we can all be vigilant during charging (eg charge outdoors), but if a battery in storage goes amuck, it is difficult to know how to protect yourself. I think these incidents are very rare, and are generally traceable to crash damage or some internal defect. The mechanism appears to be an internal short, which causes the battery to swell and burst, throwing inflammable goo around like a napalm bomb. In a recent experiment it was shown that the explosive force was sufficient to burst open the door on an old microwave oven which was being used for storage. I store mine in a steel army surplus ammunition container, but I have no idea about how well it would contain an explosion.

Michael Cuthbert of WMAC suggests that Lipos should be stored separately, so that if you get an “event” with one battery, it doesn’t set the whole lot off. He suggests using a row of concrete blocks (the ones with a hole in the centre) on a concrete base and put a LiPo in each hole. Then put plastic bags filled with sand over the blocks with the idea being that if a LiPo did catch fire, the flame would melt the bag and the sand would prevent the fire spreading. Its an idea worth thinking about.



Tomboy Meets

These are scheduled for the following days. (last Tuesday of each month)

- April 28th
- May 26th
- June 30th
- July 28th
- August 25th
- September 29th
- October 27th
- November 4th
- No meeting in December.

While the weather is C—p, build yourself a Tomboy. All you need is access to the kitchen table, some recycled balsa, and old newsprint or gladwrap for covering. Be traditional and get high on dope. Terry can give you the magic motor, ESC, propeller combination.



Ernie’s contribution (Is that a picture of Andy?)



Secretarial request

Does anyone, particularly previous committee members, still hold copies of early club correspondence on significant issues – such as the establishment of the club, negotiations with CAA, negotiations with the Council etc.? I would like to capture this and file in a historical documents register. Any format – even on paper!

Indoor flying

This has now resumed for the winter session, and we have had 2 sessions so far this season. Next session May 10th.

QI links – loosely connected to aviation.

- There's money in drones – any spare cash to invest? - <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-11/israeli-drone-maker-has-6-billion-backlog-and-a-red-hot-stock>
- Who watched SpaceX attempt to vertically land the first stage of a Falcon 9? See link for high res video. Best to watch full screen. Note the side thrust jets at the top, trying and failing to bring it upright after landing. This is an exercise in stability control. <https://youtu.be/BhMSzC1crr0>. Interesting aerodynamic solutions such as grid fins for directional control at supersonic speeds after re-entry.
- New Lancaster documentary -This is just the trailer - will be good when the doco is fully released later in the year. <https://www.youtube.com/v/5O12rem6d3g&autoplay=1&rel=0>
- Morphing flaps – do away with hinges and have a bendy wing instead - <http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-successfully-tests-shape-changing-wing-for-next-generation-aviation>

Cycling Group

This has continued to ride on a weekly basis. (other than John Miller who bikes every day and has a fitness advantage!). The typical ride is through Otaihangā Park and back to the beach, but on occasion we get a little more adventurous. Its a low impact ride suitable for all levels, and a good opportunity to get a small physical workout and enjoy the comradeship of fellow fliers and partners. All newcomers welcome. Contact Peter Halfacre peter_halfacre@hotmail.com for more details .

Coming events

- Next club night 19 May – Brendon to talk about finishing plastic display models to a professional standard.
- Next Silver Fox Squadron 21st May
- Indoor Flying May 10th and 24th
- Tomboy meet - May 26th (subject to weather!)
- MANZ rally at Kapiti – targeted for end Jan. To be confirmed.
- Rally 2016 - 12/13 March 2016.
- AGM 2016 – 19 April 2016

Donated Mick Reeves Hawker Hurricane



Way back in the September 2014 newsletter, members were advised of a large scale (22%) Hurricane kit, which had been donated to the club – partially built but needing a full kit out. The donor requested that a new owner be found who had the time, resources and commitment to continue the project. He didn't want it to end up gathering dust in the back of someone's shed. The committee sought expressions of interest from members who felt they could match the donor's expectations.

After a lot of deliberation, the committee has decided to pass this to Don Lynn. We look forward to seeing it in flight sometime.

Thats filled my quota for this month. See you at the flying field.

Dave Marriott – Editor

(P.S. if you want photos and stories of aeroplanes – send me some !)

