



# GRANTHAM AND DISTRICT MODEL AIRCRAFT SOCIETY

## CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY

### Contents

CONSTITUTION.....	1
Title.....	1
Aims.....	1
Membership.....	1
Subscriptions.....	2
Finances.....	2
The Committee.....	2
Annual General Meetings.....	3
Extraordinary General Meetings.....	4
Disciplinary Action.....	4
GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY .....	5
Conduct.....	5
Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection.....	5
Visitors and Guests.....	5
Membership Cards.....	6

### CONSTITUTION

#### Title.

- 1) The Society shall be known as the “Grantham and District Model Aircraft Society”, herein after called the Society, the official address of which shall be that of the Secretary.

#### Aims.

- 2) The aims of the Society are the promotion, protection, organisation, and encouragement of all types of model aircraft building, safe flying and development. It shall also encourage the introduction of new members to the sport.

#### Membership.

- 3) Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons<sup>1</sup> regardless of age, gender, religion, or ethnic background who are willing to:

---

<sup>1</sup> For clarity the Constitution and Rules of the Society refer to the male gender only but in practical terms this includes the female gender.



## Grantham and District Model Aircraft Society (GDMAS)

### Constitution and General Rules

- a) Uphold and abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Society.
  - b) Become immediate paid-up members of the British Model Flying Association, herein after called the BMFA.
- 4) All members are deemed to be Full Members whether or not the Society is their primary club through which they have joined the BMFA.
  - 5) Honorary Membership is awarded for life and incurs no subscription to the Society. It shall be awarded at the discretion of the Committee subject to ratification of the award by the membership at a General Meeting.

#### Subscriptions.

- 6) The BMFA subscription will be set by the BMFA at its AGM in the previous year.
- 7) Full membership consists of:
  - Junior: Under 18 years of age on the 1 January of the subscription year.
  - Senior: Over 18 years of age on the 1 January of the subscription year.
- 8) The Society membership subscription year ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year. Membership and entitlement to the use of the Society's facilities shall have been deemed to cease if subscriptions are not paid before this date.
- 9) Society subscriptions and the joining fee shall be set at the Society's AGM in the previous year and shall not be adjusted except at an EGM.

#### Finances.

- 10) The financial year shall commence on the 1 December and the annual accounts shall be prepared and presented to the Society for its approval at the AGM.
- 11) Auditing shall normally be the responsibility of the Treasurer.
- 12) An independent audit of the accounts can be called for by the Committee or by the membership at a General Meeting.
- 13) Any two members or a qualified auditor as authorised by the Committee, or the General Meeting may carry out an independent audit. The results are to be published at the next AGM.
- 14) All monies due to the Society shall be recoverable at law in the name of the Secretary.

#### The Committee.

- 15) The Committee shall be voted in by the membership at a general meeting, normally the AGM. They may only be proposed and seconded by members of the Society.
- 16) The Committee shall comprise<sup>2</sup>:

---

<sup>2</sup> Committee members may elect to accept more than one duty.



## Grantham and District Model Aircraft Society (GDMAS)

### Constitution and General Rules

- Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Membership Secretary
  - Safety Officer
  - Newsletter Editor
  - BMFA Delegate
  - Up to nine other members in order to represent all of the disciplines flown.
- 17) All members shall have one vote only with the exception of the Chairman who shall also have a casting vote.
- 18) All Committee members shall be members of the Society except where the Committee deem it beneficial to co-opt a non-member in an advisory capacity only.
- 19) Committee meetings will be held as business demands. A quorum shall consist of more than half of the elected members.
- 20) The term of office is to be two years from the AGM at which elected. If elected at an EGM, the term of office shall terminate at the next AGM.
- 21) Should a committee member resign or be dismissed, the Committee may co-opt a replacement until the next AGM. Any member co-opted under these circumstances shall have full voting rights.
- 22) The Chairman shall decide whether voting shall be by a show of hands or a secret ballot.
- 23) Any Committee member not attending three consecutive meetings shall have his position reviewed by the Committee and may be dismissed at the Committee's discretion.
- 24) The Committee is empowered to amend Society rules and carry out normal Society business. It should interpret the Constitution as necessary but any proposed amendments to the Constitution must be tabled at a General Meeting.

#### Annual General Meetings.

- 25) The AGM shall normally be held in the first week of December but in any case, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- 26) Notice of the AGM together with the agenda shall be sent to members not less than 21 days before the meeting.
- 27) The quorum for an AGM must be at least 15% of the membership and must include a quorum of the Committee. In the event of a quorum not being secured the meeting will be adjourned for 14 days and all members notified of the adjournment. Should no quorum be



## Grantham and District Model Aircraft Society (GDMAS)

### Constitution and General Rules

present at the adjourned meeting, business is to be conducted notwithstanding the insufficiency of attendance.

- 28) Business conducted at the AGM shall be strictly limited to those items published on the agenda. The Secretary must receive any AOB items no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> November prior to the meeting.
- 29) Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority either by a show of hands or a secret vote as decided by the Chairman. The Chairman has the casting vote.

#### Extraordinary General Meetings.

- 30) Any ten members acting together can call an EGM to discuss any matter. At least 21 days' notice must be given in writing to all Society members by those members calling the meeting. The notification of the meeting shall bear the names of those calling the meeting and shall specify the business to be conducted. No other business is to be conducted at the meeting.
- 31) The quorum for an EGM must be at least 15% of the membership and must include a quorum of the Committee. In the event of a quorum not being secured the meeting will be adjourned for 14 days and all members notified of the adjournment. Should no quorum be present at the adjourned meeting, business is to be conducted notwithstanding the insufficiency of attendance.
- 32) Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority, either by a show of hands or a secret vote as decided by the Chairman. The Chairman has the casting vote.

#### Disciplinary Action.

- 33) Should any member not uphold the Rules of the Society they may be subject to disciplinary action as follows:
  - a) The member will be given a verbal warning by an authorised member of the Committee in which the member is to be made aware of his misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
  - b) If the member does not respond he is to be given a written warning by an authorised member of the Committee advising him of his misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
  - c) If the member still fails to respond, the Committee should invite him to meet with the Committee at an agreed time and date to discuss the situation, advising the member that they are considering withdrawing their membership.
  - d) If he still fails to respond after the meeting, or fails to attend the meeting without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise him in writing that his membership is withdrawn, stating the reasons why the decision was reached. Reimbursement of his Society subscription will be at the Committee's discretion.



## Grantham and District Model Aircraft Society (GDMAS)

### Constitution and General Rules

- e) The member has a right of appeal to the membership at an EGM, which the Committee shall arrange on his behalf. The motion to uphold the appeal or rescind it shall be carried out in accordance with the rules governing an EGM.
  - f) If dismissal is being considered because of gross misconduct, then items “a” or “a” and “b” can be omitted depending on the severity of the misconduct.
- 34) For the benefit of the Society, the Committee is empowered to suspend any member whose conduct they consider unacceptable pending disciplinary action. A suspended member may not use the Society’s facilities.

### GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY

#### Conduct.

- 35) For the benefit of the Society, the Committee requires all members to strictly adhere to the rules of the Society.
- 36) Members undertaking any form of activity within or outside of the Society shall do so in a manner that does not endanger the reputation of the Society. Members are not to undertake negotiations on behalf of the Society unless authorised to do so by the Committee.
- 37) Without exception, members are to obey any instructions issued by MOD personnel whilst using MOD facilities.

#### Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection.

- 38) The Society complies with the BMFA’s Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. Those working with children and vulnerable adults (other than with relatives or in a professional capacity) are to be thoroughly conversant with this Policy and obtain CRB Disclosure Certificates through the BMFA. Advice on how to proceed with this will be provided by the Secretary.

#### Visitors and Guests.

- 39) The Society welcomes flying and non-flying guests. There are no specific restrictions on non-flying guests other than they should conduct themselves in a manner that will not impinge on flying or safety and are subject to para 1.3 of the general rules of the society.
- 40) Flying guests must be BMFA members and are to abide by the Rules of the Society. Each guest is limited to two visits a year following which they must become members of the Society if they wish to continue to use Society facilities.
- 41) The member inviting the guests is responsible for their safe conduct and ensuring they comply with the Rules of the Society.
- 42) The above does not preclude the BMFA scheme whereby any person wishing to try model aircraft flying for the first time may visit and fly for up to three separate days. A member who holds a minimum of an “A” certificate appropriate to the type of aircraft flown must supervise them. Under these circumstances, insurance cover is provided by the Club’s indemnity.



## Grantham and District Model Aircraft Society (GDMAS)

### Constitution and General Rules

#### Membership Cards.

- 43) BMFA, Society membership cards and evidence of ID are to be always carried by members whilst using the Society facilities. They must be produced if requested by other members, or by MOD representatives when flying on MOD property.