



White Sheet Radio Flying Club
2025 AGM

Minutes





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1. Chairman's Welcome

Chairman Jess Nicholls opened the 2025 AGM with a warm welcome and sincere thanks to all those who attended. He acknowledged the venue and expressed appreciation to The Dolphin Inn for providing the food and hosting the clubs AGM once again. Members were invited to help themselves to refreshments before the meeting began.





2. Quorate

The Committee:

Jess Nicholls	Chairman
Jerry Stone	Vice Chairman
Ian Duff	Treasurer
David Bradfield	Membership Secretary
Pete Cushion	Open Slopes Secretary
Nick Whittaker	Scale Secretary
Mike Bleathman	Competition Secretary
William Fourie	Competition Secretary

In attendance:

Andrew Beaven	Club Secretary
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Members Present

Richard Edmunds	John Moore	Julian Yelliah	Mike Tetley
Steve Vincent	Russell Whittam	Simon Minson	Paul Bragg

Apologies

Chas Andrew	Barry Cole	Antonia Gigg	Chris Morton
Keith Bannister	Rob Cook	Mel Gigg	Richard Ormondroyd
David Bicker	Geoff Crew	Louis Hawkins	Mark Passingham
David Bradfield (*C)	Joe Cubit	Graham Hill	Chris Saunders
Jamie Bradfield	Bill Ebdon	Will Hosie	Robin Saunders
Martyn Brake	Ray Eggleston	Andy Lang	Dave Scott
Alan Brocklehurst	Bob Fairall	Graeme Mahoney	Chris Williams
Neville Brownlee	Will Fourie (*C)	Paul Martin	
Dave Camp	Mark Foote	Roger Matthews	
Robin Carroll	Andrew Fowles	John Mees	

*C = Committee Member

Membership at the 2024 AGM stood at 149.
Membership in 2025 stands at 124.

Attendance on the day was 15 members, compared with 21 the previous year. Apologies increased significantly, rising from 22 last year to 37 this year.

All 37 apologies included proxy instructions, allocated as follows:

- JN: 30
- JS: 2
- NW: 3
- MB: 2

This brought participation to **52 members**, comfortably exceeding the 15% quorum requirement (19 members).

Participation comparison:

- **2024:** 25%
- **2025:** 43% (in-person + proxies)

Members had also sent numerous messages thanking the committee and praising the smooth running of the club.

The AGM proceeded in accordance with club rules.





3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

A full copy of the 2024 AGM minutes was available at the meeting and had remained accessible on the WSRFC website throughout 2025.

Members were asked to confirm their accuracy.

(Item 1): Verification of Accuracy of the 2024 AGM Minutes

- Proposed by: *Andrew Beaven*

- Seconded by: *Simon Minson*

Result: Carried unanimously.

Amendments:

No amendments were required.





4. Handbook Amendments

(Item 2): Approve Completed Handbook Amendments 2024

No handbook amendments were carried out in 2025.

Result: No motion required.

The Secretary noted that, although no amendments were needed this year, the wider regulatory landscape remains uncertain, and future rule changes may be required. It was therefore recommended that the committee retain authority to implement necessary amendments.

(Item 3): Approve consent for the committee to make any necessary Handbook amendments for 2026 and beyond.

- Proposed by: *Andrew Beaven*
- Seconded by: *Russell Whittam*

Result: Carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary.





5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman noted that this was the club's 50th year. A flat-field event had been planned, but persistent rain led to its cancellation despite fine weather beforehand.

Members were asked whether this type of event remained desirable for future years. The response was positive.

- Pete Cushion supported continuing the event and reminded members that it is primarily a social gathering, not strictly an F5J competition.
- Richard Edmunds suggested that Jess propose potential new dates.

The Chairman reminded members that committee meetings are held monthly and are open to all. A light-hearted encouragement was made, noting the availability of a complimentary drink and shared chips. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of each month; members should confirm the meeting is going ahead before attending. It was noted that meetings may also be combined with a flying session at White Sheet.

The Chairman thanked the committee for their work throughout the year.

Jess Nicholls – Chairman





6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that Lloyds Bank is introducing banking charges and closing the Gillingham branch. Alternatives were reviewed, but no bank offered cheaper or more convenient options, as most are withdrawing from the high street. The Post Office will not accept cheque deposits for Lloyds, leaving Salisbury as the nearest branch, far from ideal.

The Treasurer agreed to continue for another year to avoid passing on the transition during a difficult period. Work will begin on transitioning the club to electronic banking.

The club balance stands at approximately **£2,200**, considered healthy but gradually declining. A fee increase was recommended to maintain this balance, particularly as this year's report reflects only eight months of bank charges.

The report includes expenses for cards and posters for both 2024 and 2025.

A cheque for **£64.94**, relating to F3F English Open trophies, had expired and will be reissued.

Membership numbers have stabilised at typical levels following the reintroduction of membership fees.

The long-standing "Road Fund" remains in place, retained partly for tradition, and partly, the Treasurer admitted, to mildly irritate Lloyds.

The club operated at a deficit of roughly **£500** this year.

For the annual charitable donation, the Treasurer recommended continuing support for Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance as it is quite possible members may benefit from these organisations.

A detailed Statement of Accounts is appended as Appendix (a).

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer.

7. Membership Fees for 2026

(Item 4): Approve Membership Fees

- Seniors: £16.00
- Juniors: £0.00
- Proposed: *Ian Duff*
- Seconded: *Mike Bleathman*

Result: Carried unanimously.

8. Charitable Donation for 2025

(Item 5): Approve a charitable donation of £250.00.

- Proposed: *Ian Duff*
- Seconded: *Paul Bragg*

Result: Carried unanimously.

(Item 6): Approve the donation in equal parts to Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance (£125 each).

- Proposed: *Ian Duff*
- Seconded: *Paul Bragg*

Result: Carried unanimously.





9. Scale Report

Nick reported a challenging year, with persistent easterlies early on. The first event in March was a North Westerly.

Six of nine planned events were run successfully, with reserve dates proving useful. Nick sought feedback on whether wooden models could fly in stronger winds than he had assumed.

Nick commented that although White Sheet may not be the best slope, it did have the benefit of often working and in most directions aside easterlies.

Attendance averaged around 20, with some new participants.

Nick raised for later discussion whether Scale Days might be too restrictive, however he did feel that this year had been reasonable successful.

The Chairman thanked the Scale Secretary.





10. Competition Report

Two competitions were run this year: an F3F event on 8 June and the English Open.

The English Open became a one-day event due to little to no wind on Saturday. On Sunday, with a steady SSE breeze and access to the rifle range, approved by the Avon Paragliding Club following a request by William.

Sunday dawned bright and calm. Both Competition Secretaries arrived at around 07:15, and were soon joined by Joe Cubitt. With everyone pitching in, the course was set up in good time. Racing commenced at 10:00 following the pilots' briefing. Eleven rounds were flown in mostly pleasant conditions, with wind averaging 10–12 mph and only the occasional lull. The final round wrapped up at roughly 16:15.

The club retained the English Open title for the second consecutive year. In 2024, Graeme Mahoney became the first-ever White Sheet club pilot to win the English Open in its 22-year history. This year, the club proudly retained the title.

Results:

1st – *Mike Bleathman*

2nd – *Mike Evans*

3rd – *John Phillips*

Fastest time: *John Phillips* – with a superb 41.94 seconds

Honourable WSRFC member mentions: *Joe Cubitt* (4th), *William* (6th)

Plans are underway to run next year's competitions as a BMFA event to attract more international flyers.

The meeting was informed of the passing of our friend and fellow F3F pilot Phil Taylor following terminal illness.

The Chairman thanked the Competition Secretary.





11. Open Slopes Report

Weather this year was favourable overall, with only two cancellations (rain and easterly wind).

One Saturday event took place, this attracted the lowest turnout but the afternoon conditions were perfect.

Of ten scheduled events, seven were completed, with one remaining.

Slope usage:

- 2 × Morgan's
- 2 × Spencer's
- 2 × NE slope
- 1 × Split between Spencer's (am) and Morgan's (pm)

Attendance totalled **91 members**, averaging **13 per event**, an increase on last year.

It was noted that the attendees are often the same group of members that actually fly models.

Open Slopes Days remain the closest thing to a club meeting, offering opportunities to view aircraft, compare performance, discuss products, share knowledge, and enjoy the social side of the hobby.

Members were encouraged to attend regardless of conditions; even if unsuitable for their models, much can still be gained.

The report was presented by *Pete Cushion*.

The Chairman thanked the Open Slopes Secretary.





12. Discussion

Scale Days – Restrictiveness

Nick Whittaker asked whether Scale Days were too restrictive for members who do not fly scale.

The Secretary reminded the meeting that Scale flying is a core part of the club's identity and that Nick's concerns may be misplaced. The "Scale Only" rules were originally introduced after a series of incidents involving scale and sport models sharing the slopes. Those rules were designed to prevent conflicts between the two disciplines, and they continue to fulfil that role effectively today.

Jerry noted a previous committee suggestion to schedule three potential events per month (one as reserve), coordinated between Scale and Sport Secretaries. However, the calendar for this year had already been printed.

Attendance was compared, with Scale Days generally drawing more members than Sport events. It was noted that a line-up of well-crafted scale gliders on the hill tends to attract considerable interest, serving as excellent promotion for the club and encouraging new participation.

Members agreed that attendance is a personal choice, influenced by conditions and the suitability of individual models, and that Nick's concerns were unnecessary. The decision to fly a model rests squarely with each pilot, not with the Scale Secretary.

Consensus: Scale Days are functioning well; no change required.

Nick thanked the members for their feedback.

The Chairman thanked the Scale Secretary.





13. Election of the Management Committee

As no new nominations were received, a single vote en bloc was proposed.

(Items 7–14): Approve the re-election of all current committee members, as standing on 15th November 2025, to their existing positions for 2025–2026.

- Proposed: *Russell Whittam*

- Seconded: *Simon Minson*

Result: Carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the Members.

The Chairman thanked the Members

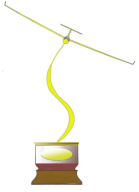




14. Other Business

The Treasurer confirmed that, due to banking changes, the club can no longer accept cheque payments for membership or renewals. No concerns were raised.





15. AGM Prize Draw (Presented by Mike)

Mike thanked David for supplying the prize mugs.

Awards:

- Crash of the Year – *Nick Whittaker*
- I Forgot to Bring... – *Jerry Stone*
- Carer – *Richard Edmunds*

An additional award was given by Ian:

- The Land Out Trophy – *Mike Bleathman* (for lodging his model in the top of a remote tree)

A prize draw for **free WSRFC membership for 2026** (committee excluded) produced the following winners:

- *Richard Edmunds*
- *John Moore*
- *Mike Tetley*





16. Closing Remarks from the Chairman

Jess thanked all present for attending, and gave special mention to Nick and Pete for their considerable work during the year. Members were encouraged to consider the potential flat-field event for next season.

The Chairman closed the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.

The meeting adjourned.



END



*Minutes prepared by Andrew Beaven, Secretary (2017–2025),
Jerry Stone, Vice Chairman (2024–2025)*



Appendices

Appendix (a): Treasurer's Report

WHITESHEET RADIO FLYING CLUB

Statement of Account Year Ending December 2025 – General Account

Opening Balances	2024	2023	2022	2021
Deposit				
Current	£3,960.14	£5,145.07	£5,437.37	£2,670.96
Cash				
Total	£3,960.14	£5,145.07	£5,437.37	£2,670.96
Closing Balances	2024	2023	2022	2021
Deposit				
Current	£2,670.96	£3,960.14	£5,115.07	£2,231.89
Cash			£ 30.00	£ 00.00
	£2,670.96	£3,960.14	£5,145.07	£2,231.89

Income	2024	2025	Expenditure	2024	2025
Membership Fees	£150.00	£1,130.00	NT licence	£300.00	£300.00
			Committee Expenses	£361.65	£240.53
			EGM expenses	£000.00	£000.00
			Charity Donation	£250.00	£250.00
BMFA Subscriptions	£000.00	£000.00	Sundries (postage)	£235.39	£199.12
Transfer from Road Fund	£000.00	£000.00	Room Hire/Food	£238.90	£263.50
			Cards/Posters (2024)	£ 00.00	£152.36
			Cards/Posters (2025)		£134.40
			AGM raffle prize	£000.00	£150.00
			Gratuities	£ 123.31	£ 49.00
English Open 2021	£190.00	£ 40.00	Hoodies/ beanies	£000.00	£000.00
			Stickers (2024)	£112.45	£000.00
			Bank Service Charges	£000.00	£ 35.50
F3F contributions	£ 52.45	£ 70.40	F3F E.O. trophies	£ 64.94	£000.00
			Wordpress Domain	£000.00	£000.00
			BMFA 'A' certs - expenses	£000.00	£000.00
Additional Contributions	£ 5.00	£ 64.94	WSRFC Web Hosting 2022	£000.00	£000.00
Total Income	£397.45	£1,305.34	Total Expenditure	£1,586.64	£1,744.41
Surplus/Deficit	- £439.07		Outstanding Commitments		

Membership Analysis	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Senior members (paid)	113	15	18	17	111	103	100	93	91	86
Senior members (committee)	10	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	7
Junior member (free)	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1
Senior members (free)		122	122	112	1	1				2
Total	124	149	152	140	123	115	110	102	100	96

WHITESHEET RADIO FLYING CLUB

Statement of Account Year Ending December 2025 – Additional (Road Fund) Account

Opening Balances	2023	2024	2025
Deposit			
Current	£000.87	£000.87	£000.87
Cash			
Interest			
Total	£000.87	£000.87	£000.87

Transfer of £352.00 to general account in 2019 for payment to National Trust for road/track repair – access to Whitesheet Down.

Closing Balances	2023	2024	2025
Deposit			
Current	£000.87	£000.87	£000.87
Cash			
Interest			
Total	£000.87	£000.87	£000.87

This annual accounts statement – General Account and Additional (Road Fund) Account - has been prepared by Ian Duff (Hon. Treasurer WGRFC) and is to be reported to the Annual General Meeting of the Whitesheet Radio Flying Club, scheduled to take place on 15th November 2025.

A separate report is made monthly by the treasurer at each meeting of the committee to allow for oversight and scrutiny.

Signed : 

Date : 14th November 2025



