

**2024 Annual General Meeting of the Light Aircraft Association Ltd.  
The Discovery Hub, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**MINUTES**

**1. Eryl Smith, LAA Chairman, opened the meeting at 12.00**

After a count of members in the hall (41) and present on Zoom (13), the Chairman advised that the meeting was not quorate. In accordance with Article 18 of the Association and at the Chairman's discretion the meeting proceeded as a valid meeting. Proceedings were recorded to assist review.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from David Faulkner-Bryant

**3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

There Minutes of the 2023AGM were received by the meeting. There were no matters arising. One abstention was noted and the Minutes were approved *nem con*.

**4. Chairman's Welcome and Report**

The Chairman welcomed those present, together with those attending on Zoom, noting that the 2024 AGM was reporting on the year to 31 December 2023. Alongside him were Company Secretary David Mole and CEO Simon Tilling.

Expanding on his Statement in the Annual Report and Accounts he acknowledged that 2023 had been an important year with the transition of CEOs. There had been time to adapt into the role but by year end there were a number of important initiatives in hand to improve service performance and conducting a full budgetary review to challenge costs, improve revenues and address the operating deficit. The Chairman acknowledged that the increases in fees were uncomfortable at a time of continued cost of living challenges but necessary to address the underlying operational shortfalls and return the Association to long term financial sustainability.

The Board had continued to pursue recovery of the Fraud loss however the Financial Ombudsman had concluded his deliberation on the LAA complaint against Nat West Bank and found in favour of the bank. The Board had concluded that there was no further redress and pursuit of the recovery of funds was now closed. The Board's focus would remain on exercising greater scrutiny over financial matters and enhanced governance. A review of the Association's Articles, Rules and Code of Conduct had been commissioned. It had now reported and its recommendations adopted by the Board.

Externally the LAA continued to seek to play a strong and visible role in promoting the interests of recreational aviation. Recent changes within governmental agencies, additional pressures on airspace and the increase in

commercial drone operations together with the planned removal of TEL from fuel all presented challenges which were detrimental to our interests. Within the LAA we continue to face the challenge of an aging demographic; how do we sustain our Club and Strut network and encourage volunteers who are so important in delivering many of our social activities.

In closing the Chairman expressed his appreciation to the retiring Directors who between them had given over 30 years' service – an immense contribution to the Association. Appreciation and thanks were also expressed to the LAA's Hon president Roger Hopkinson who concluded 9 years in that role. The Chairman concluded by thanking the HQ staff, contractors, inspectors and the many volunteers who continued to work ceaselessly on behalf of members and the Association.

## **5. Adoption of the 2023 Statutory Accounts**

The Chairman presented the 2023 Statutory Accounts, which had been approved by the Board following review by the Association's Independent Auditors. No material issues had been identified.

There were no questions raised by members concerning the Statutory Accounts.. Two abstentions were noted. The 2023 Statutory Accounts were otherwise adopted *nem con*.

## **6. Re-election of Just Audit and Assurance Ltd. as Auditors for the Association**

Just Audit and Assurance Ltd. One proxy vote against the re-election of the Auditors was noted otherwise they were appointed *nem con* to serve as Auditors to the Association for 2024.

## **7. Election of Directors of the Company**

The Chairman thanked those directors, John Brady, Brian Davies and Marcus de Ferranti who were standing down at the conclusion of their terms of office. Between them they had given 31 years of service as Director and their contribution had been greatly appreciated.

In accordance with Article 23c, there being fewer candidates than the number of vacancies Chris Holloway, Eryl Smith and Ian Sweatland were deemed to have been re-elected, unopposed as Directors of the Association.

## **8. AOB**

At the conclusion of the AGM the Chairman presented a framed print of the Associations 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Hon President Roger Hopkinson at the conclusion of his 9 year term as President. Roger had previously served as Chairman of the Association. During his combined tenure he had led the transition from the PFA to the LAA and been instrumental in the growth and governance of the LAA and its standing amongst peer groups, regulators and international sport and recreational flying organisations. His contribution to the LAA was greatly appreciated.

## **9. Close of Meeting**

The AGM closed at 12.45pm. There followed an informal open forum and Q&A session led by the CEO, Simon Tilling.

Signed:

Chairman