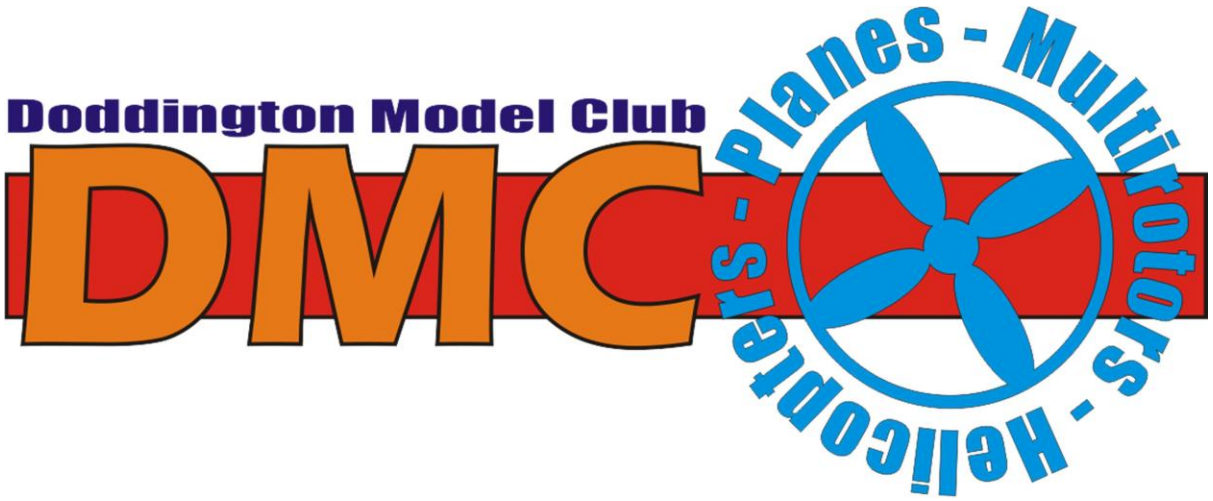


Club Constitution 2026

Version 3.0 (April 2026)

Table of Contents

1 General 3
2 Membership 3
3 Rules, Safety, Safe guarding, Discipline and 'Two strike' system 4
4 Committee structure and appointments 6
5 Committee organisation and powers 6
6 Conduct of committee meetings 7
7 Communication and Voting 7
8 Insurance and Indemnity 7
9 Dissolution of the club 7
10 Charity guidelines 8

1 General

1. The club is called Doddington Model Club and is affiliated to the British Model Flying Association (BMFA). BMFA Registered Club No. 2840
2. The club is often abbreviated to DMC.
3. The club's principal aim is the promotion of safe and responsible R/C model flying.

4. It is a not-for-profit club and all fees are used for the its promotion, upkeep, maintenance and donations to agreed charities. Its committee or members do not receive any financial recompense for any of the work it does.

5. The club is run by a committee of club members on a voluntary basis.

6. Changes to this constitution can only be made by either:
    i. Consultation with the current membership, (Approval requiring a simple majority of those members voting on any proposal)
    ii. Unanimous vote by Committee members

2 Membership

1. The term 'member' means any of the following classes of membership:
    - Junior (Aged under 18 years)
    - Senior (Aged 18 and over)
    - Honorary (See Para. 13)
    - Non-Flying (Social)

2. Membership fees for each class are set annually by the Committee.

3. The Club is limited to a total of 25 members. If necessary, new applicants are placed on a waiting list which is processed in order of application.

4. The Committee has the right to refuse membership to new applicants. Any refusal will be documented in Committee meeting minutes together with the reason(s) for refusal.

5. New members are required to serve an initial probationary period of 6 months. During this time, they are not eligible to serve on the Committee and may, at the discretion of the Committee, have their membership terminated for unsatisfactory conduct. Such dismissals do not need to follow the disciplinary procedure described in Section 3.

6. All members must be members of the BMFA. They must also comply with the registration and competency requirements of the Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme (DMARES). A copy of club member's BMFA membership number, Flyer and Operator IDs, will be kept on club records for the membership year.

7. A Club year runs 1st April to 31st March. This is to enable members to separate their club fees and insurance for affordability, and also to start the year following the winter months.

8. The club will pay a basic rent fee each month to the RSPCA and then an end of year donation in December. The total monies (rent and donation) to the RSPCA centre will be agreed by the Committee in alignment with available club funds. The total figure is in line with club rent around the country, but donating allows us to do more for the RSPCA where possible and raise money for RSPCA at events. The donation will be funded from fund raising events for the RSPCA and club

funds. Members agree that their funds will be used in this way, including the donation to the RSPCA. (see section 10)

9. Club membership fees are due by the 1st of April each year for existing members. New members fees are due on joining.

10. Members who have not paid their club membership fee by the 15th of April will be deemed to have left the club and not allowed to fly. A renewal after this period will be considered by the Committee and may be treated as a new membership application.

11. For applications for membership made from the 1st January fees will reduce to 2/3 normal fee. The full fee becoming due April 1st.

12. To ensure they are happy they wish to join the club New Club Members are entitled to two flying sessions, and as many visits (not flying) as they require without incurring any club fees. After this introduction period, club fees are applicable. New members will always be supervised by a competent club member, until the club Committee is satisfied, the new member can fly solo – this applies no matter what the initial 'declared' skill of the pilot is.

13. The Committee may, at its discretion, award honorary membership for extensive services to the club. Honorary members have their annual Club membership fees paid by the club. The Committee may also, at its discretion, waive the Club membership fee for members with specific responsibilities.

14. Non-flying members are not required to hold BMFA membership and therefore do not take part in any flying activity.

3 Rules, Safety, Safe guarding, Discipline and 'Two strike' system

3.1 Rules

1. All members, without exception, must comply with the Club Rules. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action by the Club which may lead to dismissal.

2. Club rules will be reviewed annually; however, the Committee may make urgent changes to the Club Rules if circumstances demand it. Approval requires a simple majority of Committee members.

3.2 Safety

1. Proficiency to fly solo will be assessed by a committee member. Any member whose flying standards, in the opinion of the Committee, drop below the minimum safe standard will be required to fly under supervision until a satisfactory standard has been reached.

2. Members may invite guest fliers by arrangement with the Committee. Guests must be able to provide evidence of current BMFA membership, valid Flyer and Operator IDs. The club member must assume total responsibility for the actions and safety of the guest and the guest may only fly in the presence of the club member. Guests will fly under the supervision of a committee member if their ability requires it; such arrangements must be made in advance of the visit.

3.3 Safe guarding

1. The club has adopted the BMFA policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Within the meaning of the BMFA policy, the Club Chairman acts as the Welfare Officer.

2. There is a separate Club Safe guarding policy statement and this will be reviewed annually.

3.4 Discipline

1. Reports of Rule infringements other than dangerous behaviour or flying will normally be dealt with informally by committee member with a discussion with the party or parties concerned to ascertain what happened and why, pointing out the need to follow the rules. However, if the rule infringements are deliberate or repetitive discipline will be escalated to the committee and the 'Two strike' system.

2. In the interests of fairness, reports of 'Dangerous Flying' will be decided by the club Committee following feedback from the member concerned and other member witnesses. It may not necessarily take feedback from anyone external to the club who made the complaint. Permanent exclusion will be considered as a last resort and will only occur when the club Committee and any complainant ALL agree the flying was 'SO' dangerous; the member should be permanently excluded. In the unlikely event of exclusion, no club fees will be refunded.

3. In the case of any verbal warning being given, these will be followed up by email.

4. The Committee may also consider removal of membership where conduct on the field or elsewhere is considered to be prejudicial to the club.

3.4.1 'Two Strike' system

1. Dismissal will be in accordance with the following procedure in order to comply with the laws of natural justice:

2. Any member who **intentionally** disregards the rules or behaves in a way to pose risk to themselves or others (whether flying or not), will receive a 'strike' (verbal warning). If the person continues the conduct or behaves in another manner to cause risk to them or others, on receipt of a second 'strike' (verbal warning), will be required to leave the field for the remainder of the day. 'Strikes' will only be issued by club Committee members on site. Members who feel that another is posing risk to safety should inform the Committee immediately for investigation.
3. If a member is deemed intentionally to be behaving or flying 'So Dangerously' they may be given two strikes immediately and required to leave the field. If a course of conduct of dangerous flying is displayed, permanent exclusion will be considered.

4. In the unlikely event of an incident, Doddington Model Club will not take responsibility for loss or damage to models, injury or property belonging to members or visitors. Each member is responsible for providing their BMFA insurance policy details to any interested party. As a member of Doddington Model Club, members are considered solely responsible for your actions and any outcomes of those actions.

5. If a member fails to disclose details to an interested party, following an incident – Doddington Model Club, on the advice of BMFA – may disclose such member details as required for the purpose of dealing with insurance matters.

4 Committee structure and appointments

1. The Committee is made up of 4 club members. NB To comply with HSBC bank account requirements. Probationary members and Committee members/Officers of another club are not eligible.

2. The Officers of the Committee are:
    i. Chairman
    ii. Secretary
    iii. Treasurer
    iv. Member representative

3. Once the Committee is in place it will continue unless; there are resignations, the membership requests new elections or a member is asked to step down. To call for new elections this must be proposed and seconded by two paid up members in writing.

4. In the case of elections, candidates other than existing Committee members standing for re-election must be proposed and seconded by current club members. If there is more than one candidate for a position, the current membership will be invited to vote for their choice. Election to each position will be by a simple majority of those members casting a vote.

5. Should a committee position become vacant, the Committee may, by a majority vote, co-opt a replacement who will then serve unless challenged by the membership.

6. Any Committee Member or Officer wishing to resign must do so in writing.

7. A committee member may be asked to 'stand down' if the majority of the other committee members or majority of paid-up club members consider this necessary for the benefit of the club.

5 Committee organisation and powers

1. Committee members have full voting rights at all Committee meetings. In the event of a tie the Chairman will have a casting vote in addition to his initial standing vote.

2. The Committee is authorised to carry out negotiations and make decisions in the interest of the club and its members without consulting the members.

3. The Treasurer is the authorised operator of the club bank account.

4. 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 them for record purposes.

5. When agreed in advance Committee members will be re-imbursed for any expenditure necessarily incurred on behalf of the club. Claims for re-imbursement must be accompanied by corresponding receipts if required by the treasurer.

6. In the case that a committee member cannot temporarily perform their role it may be delegated to other committee members. If and when this occurs it should be kept under review to decide if replacement is necessary.

7. As HSBC only requires one signature to authorise payments from the club bank account it is essential they are agreed in advance by both the committee and the agreement recorded. Any

payment made without a record of this will be considered unauthorised and the committee member making the payment may become personally liable for the expenditure if not subsequently agreed and recorded.

6 Conduct of committee meetings

1. The Committee meets in person on an ad hoc basis.

2. All Committee meetings will have an agenda and minutes recoded. Minutes of Committee meetings can be made available to members on request to the Secretary.

3. A quorum of any Committee meeting shall consist of a majority of the current Committee members.

4. A majority vote of those present is required to carry any proposal.

7 Communication and Voting

1. The Club Secretary maintains the club mailing list. Updates containing club news, reminders and other items of interest are emailed to all members as required, members not having access to email may request information by post.

2. The Committee circulates an Annual Report in February of each year. The report contains:
    a. A review of the club's activities
    b. Club membership statistics
    c. A financial summary
    d. Confirmation of the membership fees for the ensuing year
    e. Decisions requiring a vote by Committee or the membership

3. Members also receive an annual membership renewal form showing all of the information that the club holds about them.

4. Communication between the Committee members between formal meetings may take place using WhatsApp or email. Decisions taken using this process well be recorded and the outcome circulated in minutes.

8 Insurance and Indemnity

1. The club holds both Civil and Employers Liability Insurance, provided through its affiliation to the BMFA. This indemnifies all Committee officers and Committee members if they incur any liability on behalf of the club.
2. Club members have their own insurance via membership of the BMFA which mandatory

9 Dissolution of the club

1. Should the Committee decide that the club is no longer viable, it will recommend dissolution in a motion put to the membership. Should the recommendation be rejected by the membership, the club will cease to operate pending the appointment of a new Committee willing to run the club.

2. On dissolution (after the sale of any assets, settlement of all outstanding debts and the refund of subscriptions for the remaining part of the year to members) the funds remaining will be distributed

in equal shares to the Club's members or charity. If the final accounts are less than required to refund the subscriptions to the members, the total money remaining will be donated to the Club's nominated charity.

3. All members will receive a final statement of accounts.

10 Charity guidelines

1. The Club may, if possible, support local charity events when asked, subject to the practicability of providing a relevant display of the club's activities. The Committee will assess all requests and make decisions based on the feasibility, cost and safety of each proposed event.

2. Any money raised at these events may be for the benefit of the club or named charity at the discretion of the Committee. The purpose of the fund raising will be displayed at the event.

3. In the event of the club being approached to donate money to a local worthy cause, the Committee will make a decision on the amount to be donated.

4. In the event that the Club is approached for sponsorship of a member or their close associate who is involved in a charity event, the Committee will make a decision on the amount to be donated.

5. The nominated club charity is the RSPCA. We are proud to donate to the RSPCA, without them we would not have such a great flying site, and our money goes to do good causes for the animals.

6. Members will be notified of donations if requested.

7. Club finances including donations will be published at the end of each club year or available on request for previous years. Full records commenced July 2011.