

R.M.A.C
RAND MODEL
AERONAUTICAL
CLUB



Newsletter September 2021



**Contact
the club**

Email: secretary@rmac.co.za
Join the club at: www.rmac.co.za
09:00 – 15:00 Monday – Friday

Join the **whatsapp group**

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JMqWRnPWQFvF7BW5FBROtP>



Chairman's Report	Page 3-4
Finances	Page 5-7
General	Page 8
Member Birthdays	Page 8
Month of September	Page 8
Month of October	Page 8

Your committee members are:

Name & Surname	Position	Contact
Matthys Botha	Chairperson	bothamj@hotmail.com
Renier Venter	Safety Officer	renier.venter5@gmail.com
Harty Borchers	Treasurer	hartyborcherds@gmail.com
Stan Fincham	Secretary	stan@fincham.co.za
Lionel Whitecross	P.R.O.	lionel@easyweb.co.za
James Bennett	Special Events	james@beyerschocs.co.za
Francois Van Loggerenberg	Multi rotor / Helicopter	vanloggerenbergfrancois@gmail.com
Jacques Alberts	Large scale / Scale Rep	alberts.jacques4@gmail.com
Conradt Spies	Groundsman	conradtspies@gmail.com



Please like our Facebook page at [@rmacboyztoyz](#)



Join our [Whatsapp group](#) to see information on a regular basis

The Club Secretary

09:00 – 15:00

Monday – Friday

Email secretary@rmac.co.za

Dear Members,

During the last couple of months, you might have seen the committee engaging with the council and conducting meetings on a regular basis. I therefore want to provide you with some feedback, as well as discussing a rather serious topic and issue we are faced with in terms of membership fees and operating costs.

The first thing I would like to discuss with you, are some changes that will be made to the club regarding safety and compliance. As you might be aware, SAMAA has changed their insurance providers and in turn, came some changes that need to be implemented at the RC Clubs of South Africa.

Now this is nothing serious and if you look at the overseas flying clubs, you will notice that our clubs here in SA are not nearly as safe with virtually no barriers between spectators and the flying areas. Therefore, we want to implement a couple of changes at RMAC to comply with safety and increase our Spectator and Pit areas at the same time.

You might have noticed that the small area in front of the clubhouse was usually reserved as a play area, and not really accessed by members at all. The jungle gym located in this area has also reached the end of its life span with it being rusted away, it has been maintained over the years, however the amount of metal left on it is only held together by the paint and is at this point a safety hazard to kids who play on it.

Plans and discussions are being held to have something for the kids in future but is not finalized now, however we will have to remove the jungle gym for now until we have a suitable replacement for kids.

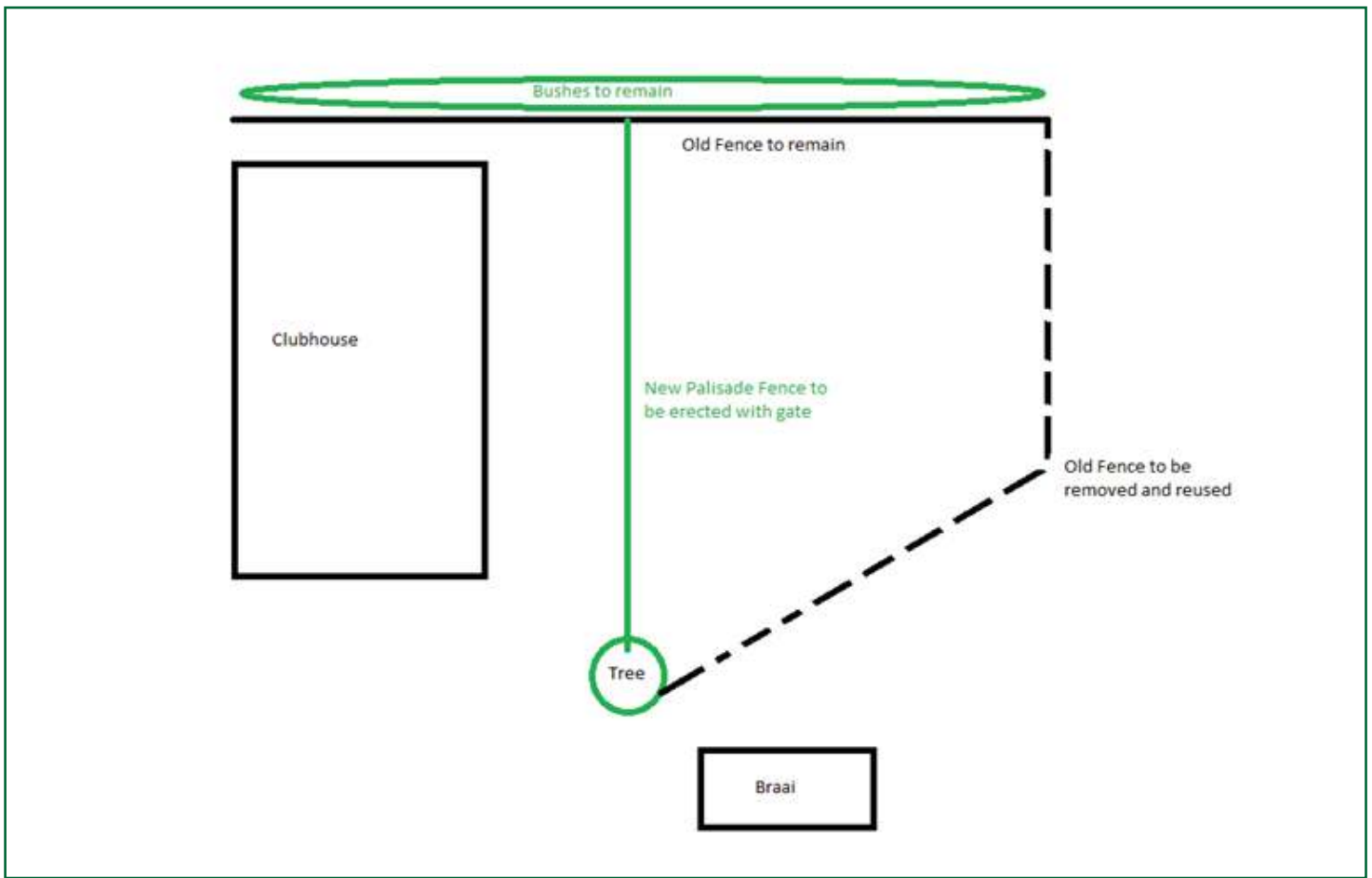
Moving on to the changes we want to implement at the club.

The changes proposed are illustrated below and will take the club some time to implement. The first change that needs to happen will be the addition of Fire Extinguishers that will be placed in and around the Clubhouse and will be marked accordingly.

The next set of changes will be for Pilot and Spectator safety, a physical barrier or fence needs to be erected to safeguard members from run-away planes. We have therefore discussed at length the best possible way to implement this without the disruption of our operations and the pit area. Upon the completion of this work, we will be erecting a one meter high fence around the spectator area to provide protection to spectators and shield members from any runaway aircraft.

Note that we will provide sufficient gaps within the fence to allow members to push their aircraft to the runway or starting areas. Below is a representation of the changes. The first major change is going to happen Infront of the clubhouse, we will be moving the fence closer to the clubhouse as per the below and install a large gate so that the clubhouse can be accessed from this new area.

This New area will extend our current pit and spectator areas and provide additional shade and picnic space. The green metal benches will also be re-arranged accordingly, and this change will also provide more space for the wooden picnic tables.



Upon the completion of this work, we will be erecting a one meter high fence around the spectator area to provide protection to spectators and shield members from any runaway aircraft. Note that we will provide sufficient gaps within the fence to allow members to push their aircraft to the runway or starting areas. Below is a representation of the changes.

We will also be erecting a removable barrier on the flight line, which will protect pilots and callers while flying. With these changes in place RMAC will conform to the safety regulations and will continue to operate as a SAMAA approved flying field.

We also urge all members to provide us with ideas and feedback regarding these changes. We have also been informed that some members will be donating materials to complete the work, and we thank them for these donations.

If you want to assist in either building or supplying materials, we will welcome that, and any funds donated is most welcome. We aim to have these changes completed by the 20th of December 2021 and might call on members to attend a **“Workers Day”** at the club to complete this work.



Finances and the Membership Fees

Moving on to a more serious note. Finances and the Membership Fees.

As you might be aware, RMAC does not own the land on which we operate and must pay rent each month. This rental agreement, however, contains a rental increase clause, which means that the rental increases by 8% every year. With the lease up for renewal in 2024, the committee has reached out to members of city council and the ward councillor to see if they can assist us with the renewal and perhaps negotiate a better rate in future.

I would like to say that we were successful in meeting with them, and the game plan was straightforward, we showcased our facilities, and the value we bring to the land owned by the council. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about the rent or inflation rate now, as that will only be open for negotiations one year prior to our renewal. The current inflation rate we pay is 8%, which means that every 4-5 years our rent almost doubles, which is not sustainable at all.

We hope to meet again with Council after the elections are done as we were informed that not a whole lot will happen because of the elections. This meeting was scheduled for the end of November, and we will provide feedback on that meeting at a later stage. As we will be meeting with all the relevant stakeholders that can help with the renewal and rates.

Now, with the Covid 19 pandemic, we have seen a decline in our membership, as more and more people are unable to enjoy the hobby we love. Our total membership is at 83 members. And with costs increasing we are limited in terms of options when it comes to our membership fees.

As you are aware, not only do we have to pay the rent, we have to have a care-taker to look after the facilities, we need security, and we need insurance, and maintenance, as without these our facilities will have been carried away at night. All these points increase the total cost and if we keep going down the road we are on now, we might not be able to afford these necessities in the near future.

We therefore want to provide the members with a couple of scenarios and options we have come up with, to remedy the situation at hand.

Below are the current membership fees.

Current Membership Fees

Junior Member	(Under 18 Years of age)	Free
Adult Member	(18 – 65 years of Age)	R2800
Pensioner	(Over 65 years of age)	R1500

Finances and the Membership Fees

Option 1: (least desirable)

The first logical option would be, to take the total cost of operations and divide it by the total number of members, and that would be your membership fee for the year. Although this is the easiest option, we feel this is not entirely desirable. As there would be a jump in cost that might be too big of a gap for some and might result in an even bigger loss of membership in the long run.

Below is a breakdown of what these costs might be for the next year.

Proposed Option 1	
Total Operational cost (pa.)	R211 166,00
Junior Member (Under 18 Years of age)	Free
Adult Member (Over 18 years of age)	R2544,17
This means that all members pay	R2544.17 per annum

Option 2:

Option 2 is like Option 1, but with less of an impact.

We take a phased approach to level the membership fees over two years.

The reason for removing the Pensioners fee is that of the 83 members, almost half are pensioners, and this is not sustainable for the club, more and more members are becoming pensioners and with our already high membership fees it is difficult to attract new members to offset this.

Therefore a phased approach would be better suited and implemented over the next two years.

Phase one: 2022

We would keep the Adult Members at the same rate, and increase the Pensioners fees only:

Proposed Option 2: Phase 1		
Junior Member	(Under 18 Years of age)	Free
Adult Member	(18 – 65 years of Age)	R2800
Pensioner	(Over 65 years of age)	R2000

Finances and the Membership Fees

Phase two: 2023

In this phase we align all members to pay the same amount.

Proposed Option 2: Phase 2		
Junior Member	(Under 18 Years of age)	Free
Adult Member	(Over 18 years of age)	R2500

This amount is still much higher than the surrounding clubs, and we want to reduce this even further as time goes on. It all comes down to numbers, and if we can gain more members in the next year our problems would be something of the past, and we would be able to lower our membership fees even more in the coming years.

We would also like to announce some additional plans we will put in place to increase income and membership.

1. New member initiative. Any existing member that introduces a new member and has them join the club, will receive a **50%** discount on their membership the following year.
2. All RMAC club events will be held as fund raising events for the club, we will sell food & drinks, and have a small entry fee. These events include Jet Day, Stick Day, Glider Day, Scale Day, and the Fun Fly event.
3. All SIG events held at RMAC will also be considered as a fundraiser, where food & drinks will be sold, we will also ask all Sigs to provide us with a donation for the use of the facilities.
4. The clubhouse will be rented out as a venue for events and functions to generate income. (We have received a generous donation from Harty Borchers in the form of a gas heater that will provide us with warm water) and talks of getting a generator donated is underway and will allow for power to the clubhouse, for events and functions.

We believe that with the steps mentioned above we can remedy the situation at hand. If any members have any questions, queries, ideas, or suggestions please feel free to contact us so we can discuss this.

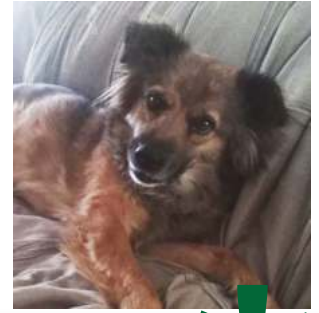
We would value your input and ideas, and if anyone has any contact to assist us with reducing the overall costs, please get in touch with us!
This could range from insurance, to electricity and even road works.

General

Jenny the dog



I am glad to report that Jenny is doing well, and is well looked after by Kevin Selby. She has settled in nicely with the other dogs, she has now fully explored every inch of the garden and picked all the best spots to lie and bake in the sun. I assure you she is living a dogs 'best life! Her leg has fully recovered, and uncle Kevin will be grooming her soon for summer time. Once again, Thank you Kevin for taking her in.



Member Birthdays for October

Russel Vd Westhuizen	8 October 2021
Michael Botha	9 October 2021
Graham Graves	13 October 2021
Hylton Ordman	30 October 2021



Membership Initiative

Any member who introduces a new member to the club, and that member joins will receive a **50% discount** on their following year's subs.

What will happen in October



During the month of October members can expect the following events to take place at the club.

3 October - Series Scale Day



31 October LSA Clinic

Note:
The field will be open for normal flying.

What to Expect in November

On Saturday the 27th of November, We will be hosting our annual Fun Fly Day.

The day will be full of fun activities, like Touch & Goes, Taxi skills, etc. We encourage all members to attend this day, as we will be doing a Swop & Sell Event on the same day. Members who want to sell or swap their unwanted/used goods are welcome to do so. Check the website and other social media for the flyer and more information that will be sent out soon.



That is it for the Month of October, keep an eye out for the 2022 Calendar which will be published soon. Until next time, fly safe.