

Secretary report Atlanta 2017

Last year I reported my concerns regarding Member Manager and this has proved to be a major problem. The owner of Member Manager is Tom Watson and unfortunately he is currently on dialysis. Something has gone wrong with his site and it's just not being rectified. Emails to him generally receive no reply so I have telephoned him a number of times and just get nowhere with him.

Our webmaster Bo Johnsson in Sweden has done a very good job with our website and is looking to host all folders previously held on MM – files such as minutes and meeting agendas, accounts and bylaws.

As I write this to pass to Ian Jenner, I have found a suitable site to hold our database and am currently testing it. This will enable members to access their own record and a summary of all other member records via laptop, tablet or mobile. My early view is that it will do what we need such as:

Easy display to all members of similar data to that presented in the member directory

Ability for members to update their own record if they see something is incorrect

Ability to email members individually or by groups such as by section. The system sends an individual email to each member so if an email address is incorrect and bounces we have an opportunity to correct it by phoning the member. This is very important given email is our main means of communicating.

Extra fields have been added so each member's Rotary District can be recorded, there is now a preferred language field to help communications with non English speakers and there is a field for Squadrons within sections. Additional fields can readily be added if required.

The cost of the above solution will be less than half what we have been paying to Member Manager. The name of the site that hosts it is membermojo.co.uk and members only need their email address to log in.

Bank security was discussed in Berlin and it was proposed to have double signatures for amounts in excess of \$10,000. Bank of America cannot operate this so in order to fulfill the wishes of the Board the secretary can control accounts with balances up to \$10,000 and WP approval is required to transfer funds from the reserve account, such approval to be made by email.

Funds were returned to sections as agreed in Berlin, the annual subs being netted off against the returns to minimize transactions. It was hoped that per the board decision, money returned to sections “should be used at each section’s discretion for recognized General Aviation purposes”

With the secretary being based in the UK it had been felt it would be useful to hold some funds in a Sterling account. However with the pound suffering in the international currency market it was agreed to run down the balance and this is now down from around £5000 in 2016 to a couple of hundred. Exchange losses noted in the accounts are somewhat artificial as many of the costs paid were actually in pounds but converted to dollars for accounting purposes.

Finally I apologise for not being with you but sincere thanks to Ian Jenner, my fellow member of the Rotary e-club of Aviation, for carrying out my duties at the meetings.

Ian Kerr
World secretary and treasurer