



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB IMPACT REPORT 2025

ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB
— FOUNDED 1918 —

PRESENTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



FOREWORD

From Air Vice-Marshal Warren 'Bunny' James (ret'd), Chair of the Board of Trustees
and Mr Miles Pooley, Chief Executive and Club Secretary



Miles Pooley

Warren 'Bunny'
James

Welcome to the 2025 Royal Air Force Club Impact Report

The past year has been another productive one for the Club. We began 2025 from a position of financial stability, supported by a positive reserves strategy that has allowed us to continue investing in the Club while maintaining value for Members.

Throughout the year, the Trustees and Club Senior Management Team have remained focused on strengthening the Club's financial resilience (financial, physical and future) while ensuring it continues to serve the current and future membership effectively. Particular attention has been given to affordability for serving officers and maintaining the relevance of the Club for those currently serving. This has included continued emphasis on the 'On Duty' accommodation rate and the introduction of a new 'Care and Compassion' Welfare and Respite break, offering serving officers and their immediate families the opportunity to use the Club's facilities for a break during periods of difficulty.

The Club made a significant investment in its facilities, recognising that the quality of the club-house environment is central to the Member experience and the Club's long-term sustainability. The complete refurbishment of the Basement Kitchen and Running Horse Tavern was completed during the year, and the Board thanks the House Committee for their work on this project. Preparatory work was also undertaken for the refurbishment of the Ground Floor Kitchen, which commenced in early 2026 as another important investment in the Club's future.

Alongside these improvements, we continued to progress work on systems and IT modernisation, cyber resilience, environmental accreditation and the further development of the Club's governance framework. During the year, we also began shaping a new strategy to guide the Club from 2026 to 2031 and beyond.

In 2025, a portrait of the Club's Patron, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, His Majesty The King, was commissioned, and we look forward to it being presented to the Club in 2026 where it will be displayed in the Sovereigns' Room.

The year also saw a change in leadership of the Board of Trustees, and we would like to record our sincere thanks to Air Vice-Marshal The Hon. David Murray (retd), who served as a Trustee and Chair of the Board from 2022 until July 2025. The Club benefits greatly from the strong foundations laid during his tenure, and we remain grateful for his commitment and leadership.

Finally, we extend our thanks to our Trustees, President, Vice-Presidents, Committee members, Club management and staff for their professionalism and dedication throughout the year. We are also deeply grateful to the many Members and supporters whose donations, legacies and participation in the Friends programme help sustain the Club's charitable work. Above all, we would like to thank you, our Members, for your continued commitment to the Club; your loyalty and ongoing engagement are fundamental to its strength and sense of community.

Together, these contributions ensure the Royal Air Force Club remains a welcoming and enduring home for its Members.

With our very best wishes,



Warren 'Bunny' James
Chair of the Board of Trustees

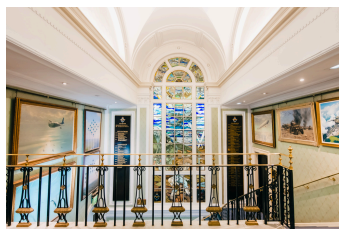


Miles Pooley
Chief Executive & Club Secretary



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MRAF The Lord Craig of Radley
Vice-Patron



MRAF His Majesty King Charles III
Royal Patron



AM Sir David Walker
President

CLUB GOVERNANCE

The Board of Trustees



Flt Lt Haig Tyler
Vice-Chair (Business)



AVM Warren 'Bunny' James
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Air Cdr Phil Wadlow
Vice-Chair (Serving)



Gp Capt Jim Beldon
Chair of Arts & Heritage Committee



Gp Capt Peter Brown
Trustee



Air Cdre Paul Higgins
Chair of Membership Committee



Mr Neeraj Kapur
Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee



Gp Capt Al Lockwood
Chair of Fundraising & Legacies Committee



Sqn Ldr John Peters
Chair of Events Committee



Wg Cdr Gavin Poole
Trustee



Wg Cdr Amanda Wolfe
Trustee



Air Cdr Adam Wardrobe
Trustee



Mr Bernie Watson
Trustee



Air Cdre Dai Whittingham
Chair of House Committee



Wg Cdr Paula Willmot
Trustee



AVM David Murray
Chair of the Board of Trustees

RETIRED IN JULY 2025

CLUB GOVERNANCE

Trustees, Committee Members, Members of Working Groups, Internal Auditors, Librarians and Club Archivists are unpaid volunteers, contributing over an estimated 450 days annually at a value of around £70,000 to the Club. The Club greatly benefits from their professional expertise and invaluable advice. The list below reflects Committee membership as at 31 December 2025. During the year, a number of Committee members retired from their roles and are therefore not listed. The Board of Trustees wishes to record its sincere thanks to those individuals for their service and valued support to the Club.

LIST OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

ARTS & HERITAGE

Gp Capt Jim Beldon
Air Cdre Adam Wardrope
Mr Aubrey Dawson
Dr Michael Fopp
Mr Grant Lewis
Wg Cdr James Poynton

EVENTS

Sqn Ldr John Peters
Gp Capt Al Lockwood
Sqn Ldr Stuart Quinn
Wg Cdr Wayne Dennis
Ms Naomi Miles

FINANCE AUDIT & RISK

Mr Neeraj Kapur
Mr Bernie Watson
Mrs Sonja Jackman
Flt Lt Jennie Kingston
Mrs Julia Lucas
Mr Andrew Manning
Mr James Nailer
Sqn Ldr Charles Stewart

FUNDRAISING

Gp Capt Al Lockwood
Gp Capt Mark Hollingsworth
Mr Richard Ashton
Flt Lt Mike Stubbs
Fg Off Joachim Wrang-Widen

HOUSE

Air Cdre Dai Whittingham
Wg Cdr Gavin Poole
Wg Cdr Neil Cook
Flt Lt Gary Hornby
Sqn Ldr Mike Sewell
Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull
Mr Richard Ward
Sqn Ldr Andrew Whisker

LIBRARIANS & ARCHIVISTS

Dr Peter Elliott
Mrs Jacky Atkinson
Mrs Gaynor Cooper
Fg Off Sandy Copland
Wg Cdr Rob Stephens
Mr Peter Thorne
Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull

MEMBERSHIP

Air Cdre Paul Higgins
Wg Cdr Paula Willmot
Wg Cdr Amanda Wolfe
Wg Cdr Louise Clarke
Gp Capt Guy Sawyer
Flt Lt Jane Shepherd
Wg Cdr Neil Tomlin
Sqn Ldr James Traynor

SYSTEMS & IT

Flt Lt Haig Tyler
Mr David Alexander
Mr Jonny Dunn
Mr Joe Hardstaff
Fg Off Robert Smith

Becoming a volunteer

Interested in becoming a Club volunteer?

We regularly share opportunities to get involved, from Trustees and Committees to Working Groups and other roles in the Club e-news.

THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mrs Rachel Matthews
Director of People & Culture



Mr Elliot Plimmer
Executive Chef



Mr Miles Pooley
Chief Executive & Club Secretary



Miss Katariina Reissaar
Director of Operations



Mr Paul Sylva
Director of Finance

CLUB HISTORY

The Royal Air Force Club has a rich history that dates back to the 1st January 1917, when its antecedent, the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) Club, opened its doors at 13 Bruton Street, Mayfair. Founded by Walter Bersey, whose portrait still welcomes guests in our Reception, the building was originally a residential club for RFC officers on leave.

With the generous support of Lord Cowdray, it became the Royal Air Force Club on 1st January 1919 and found its permanent home at 128 Piccadilly in 1922.

Today, the Club continues to offer outstanding facilities in the heart of London, celebrating the proud heritage and traditions of the Royal Air Force. We're here to be a welcoming home for regular, reserve and retired RAF officers, their families, and our wider membership, bringing people together and keeping the RAF spirit alive.



Scan the QR code to explore the rich history of the RAF Club.

Images from the Club archives



Female RAF Cadets visiting the Women in the Service of the Royal Air Force Stained Glass Window.



Cliff Richard winning an award at the Club, October 1970
© Getty Images

OUR MISSION

To provide high-quality and value-for-money facilities and services in Central London that are in keeping with the heritage and ethos of the Royal Air Force.

OUR VISION

To be the London Club of choice for serving and retired Royal Air Force Officers, their families, and other Members in order to preserve, promote and foster the spirit of the Royal Air Force.

OUR CORE VALUES

Service

Give personalised, warm and consistently exceptional service.

Create memories

Create positive, memorable experiences for every Member.

Respect and Integrity

Value, respect and support each other.

Give back

Care about and give back to our local community.



Do you have historical photographs of the Club that we may not have seen?

If so, and you would be happy to share and for us to use them, we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in historical images of the Club's bedrooms, public rooms, interiors, and spaces over the years. We appreciate the value of personal and event photographs, but we're not currently seeking images of private events or large gatherings of people. If you can help, please email press@rafclub.org.uk with a copy of your photographs.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER BENEFITS

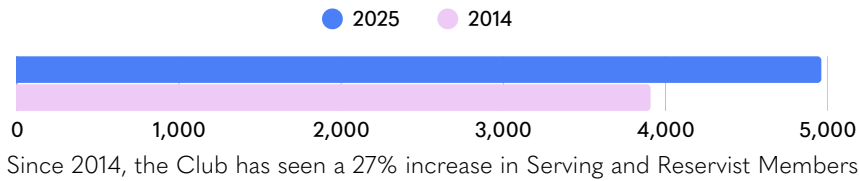
- Fitness & Business Facilities:** A fully equipped Fitness Centre and Business Suite, both available from 0600hrs to midnight.
- Quality Accommodation:** Comfortable, high-quality rooms in London offered at competitive rates.
- Reciprocal Clubs:** Members enjoy access to an extensive network of private members’ clubs around the world.
- Sustainable Dining:** Both formal and relaxed dining options featuring sustainably sourced, high-quality ingredients.
- Event Spaces:** Elegant and well-appointed venues suitable for a wide range of functions and gatherings.
- Social Programme:** A varied calendar of Club events, many celebrating military heritage and history.
- Aviation Library:** Members can borrow from the Club’s specialist aviation book collection.
- Support for Newly Commissioned Officers:** First year free and then £25 a year for the next four years.
- Member Communications:** Stay informed through the 128 Magazine, social media updates and monthly e-newsletters.

YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

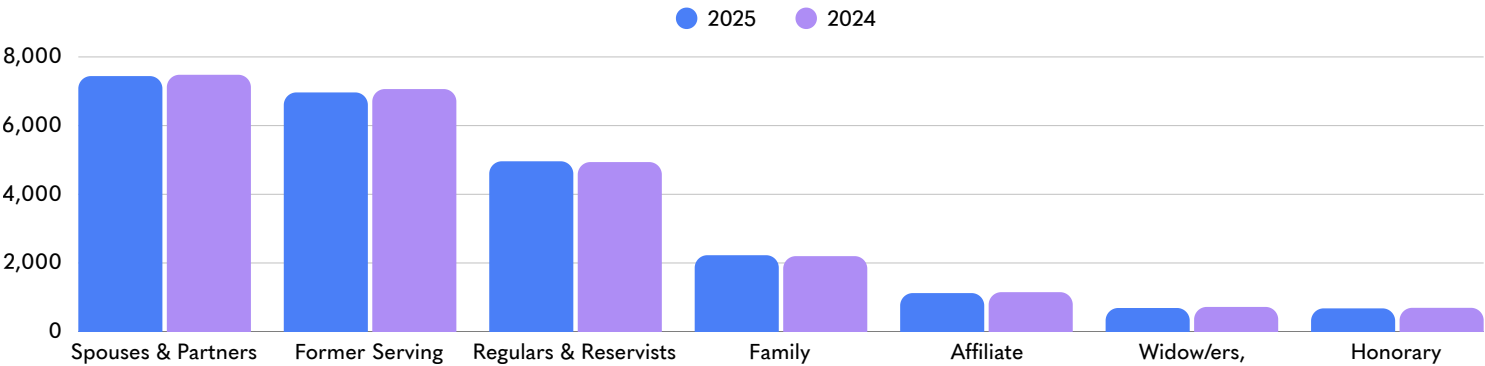
2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
24,068	24,245	24,037	23,905	23,779



REGULAR & RESERVIST SERVING MEMBERS



MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY



MEMBER BENEFITS

THE LIBRARY

The Club Library, access through the Churchill Bar on the ground floor, provides a well-established lending and research resource for Members. Founded in 2002 following a generous gift from aviation artist Frank Wootton, the collection has expanded to almost 4,000 volumes, exploring many subjects connected with aviation and the story of the Royal Air Force, spanning from the First World War through to the present day.

The Library is open daily with volunteer librarians present on Wednesdays between 1100hrs and 1500hrs. The Librarians are pleased to offer tours of the collection, outline the borrowing system, and support Members with research enquiries. The Librarians also welcome offers of book donations to help further develop the collection. Members interested in making donations or volunteering are invited to contact the Librarians via library@rafclub.org.uk.

Alongside its role as a lending and research facility, the Library can also be hired privately in the evenings, providing an elegant environment for small dinners, family gatherings, celebrations, and other special occasions. For private hire enquiries, please email: meetingevents@rafclub.org.uk.

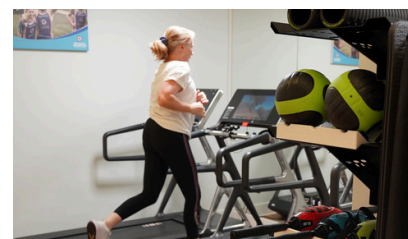


Scan the QR code to learn more about the Library including the catalogue of books in the Club's collection.

THE FITNESS CENTRE

Opened in 2018 by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Fitness Centre offers a convenient space for Members to stay active, whether visiting the Club for the day or staying overnight. Located on the ground floor of the Centenary Extension, it is open daily from 0600hrs to midnight and provides a selection of TechnoGym cardio and weight machines, along with mats available for stretching.

With its practical facilities, including showers and changing rooms, the Fitness Centre provides a comfortable and accessible way for Members to maintain their fitness routine while enjoying the Club, with ongoing improvements ensuring it continues to meet Members' needs.



Scan the QR Code to read more information about the Fitness Centre including the equipment available.

Fitness Centre usage

● 2025 ● 2024



MEMBER REFLECTIONS

My Club

I have always appreciated the flexibility the Club offers, whether visiting for the day, somewhere to stay and put my parents up for the night, or even just resting my feet after a weary shopping day in London.

Having been a member for many years, the RAF Club continues to mean a great deal to my family and me, and it remains somewhere we truly value.

From the moment I arrive, I am struck by the warm and professional welcome from all the staff who make the Club what it is.

I have also found the accommodation to be exceptionally comfortable and well-suited to my needs and the new Running Horse is tremendous.

The RAF Club remains somewhere I am always delighted to return (and indeed escape!) to.

Sqn Ldr F Williams
(Former Serving Member)

My Club

Everything as always was of high standard. We are frequent visitors & the staff are always amazing.

Mrs V Leslie
(Associate Member)

My Club

What can I say? It is not like staying at a Club, more like "alma mater," The Club staff are incredible... more like meeting old friends than employees... a wonderful ambience and something to cherish.. I hope all members appreciate the above and beyond service.

Mr J Coaten
(Family Member)



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB
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My Club

In all respects, the Club deserves the highest praise for the outstanding way it delivered our Cranwell reunion lunch. The event was beautifully organised, the service was friendly and attentive, and the food was excellent. Those of us who stayed overnight enjoyed the same warm hospitality, which made the whole occasion even more special.

ACM Sir John Cheshire
(Former Serving Member)

My Club

As a 2025 graduate from RAF Cranwell who visited with my father over many years as a child, it's been a real pleasure to follow in his footsteps into the RAF and experience that same warmth and hospitality time at the Club in my own right since my first visit with him.

Flt Lt S Williams
(Serving Member)

My Club

As a widow who visited so many times with my husband, a former Wg Cdr, I was a little apprehensive about coming on my own and whether I would still receive the same welcome. I needn't have worried. What I value most about the Club is the strong sense of being part of one big RAF family. There is always a fellow member to chat to in the Running Horse or the Cowdray Room, and I never feel alone when I visit. The staff are always so kind and welcoming too, which makes a real difference.

Mrs J Brown
(Widowed Member)

CLUB EVENTS

Organised by the Events Committee, the lively year-round programme forms a central benefit of membership while also supporting one of the Club's key charitable aims. During 2025, the calendar included wine and gin tastings, RAF-focused visits and tours, dinners featuring distinguished speakers, and a range of cultural experiences. Members are welcome to invite non-member guests to many Club events.

Below is a selection of just a few of our memorable events hosted at the Royal Air Force Club throughout 2025.

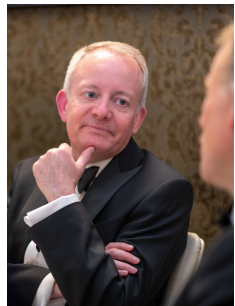
New Members' Dinner



Jazz Quartet Dinner



Club Dinner with the Chief of the Air Staff



Cocktail Making Masterclass



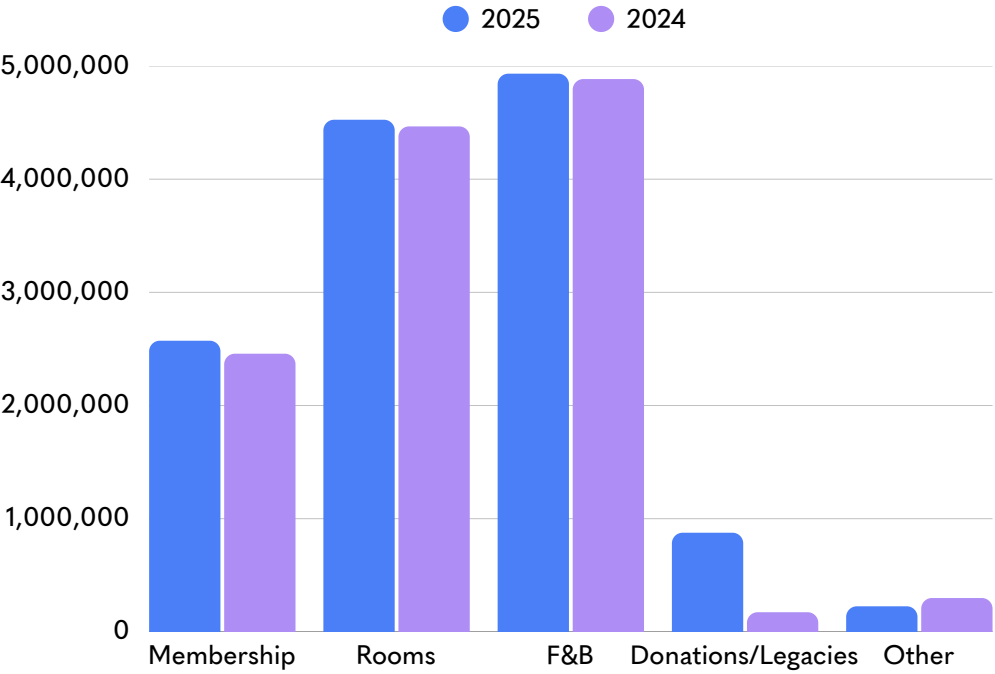
50 Year Members' Reception



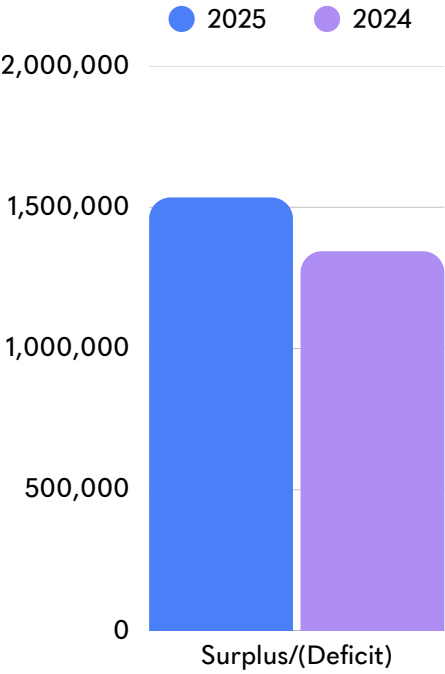
Scan the QR Code to view the calendar of Events.

CLUB FINANCES 2025 VS 2024

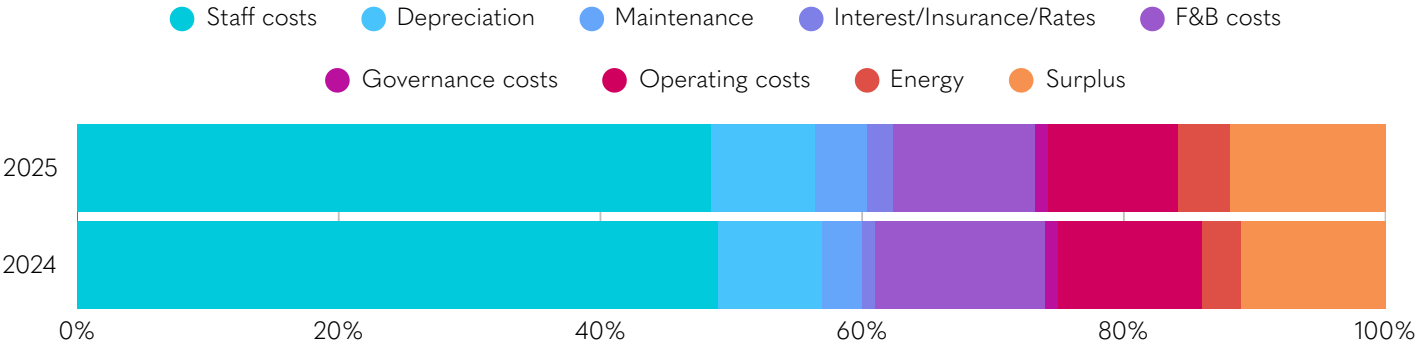
TOTAL REVENUE



SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

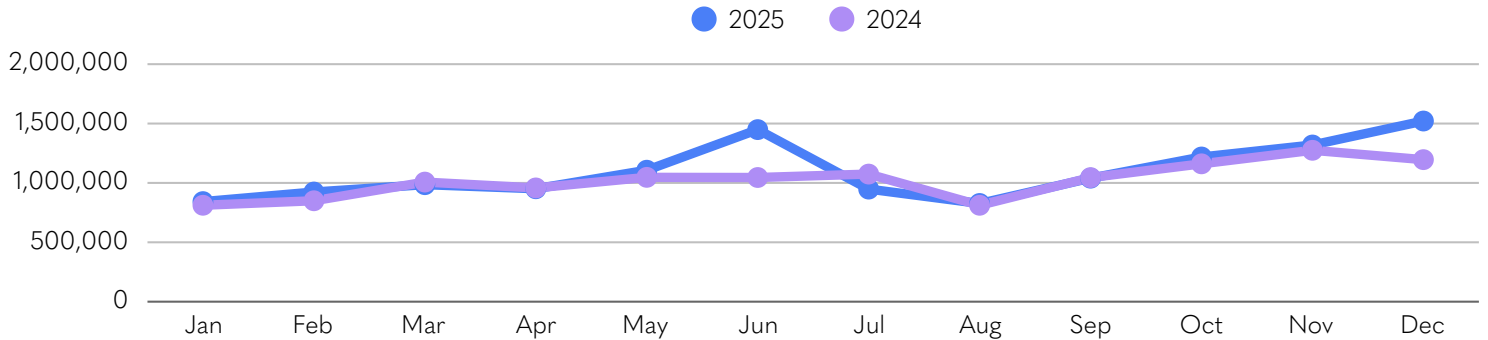


2025 VS 2024: SPEND PER £100 OF REVENUE (INCOME)

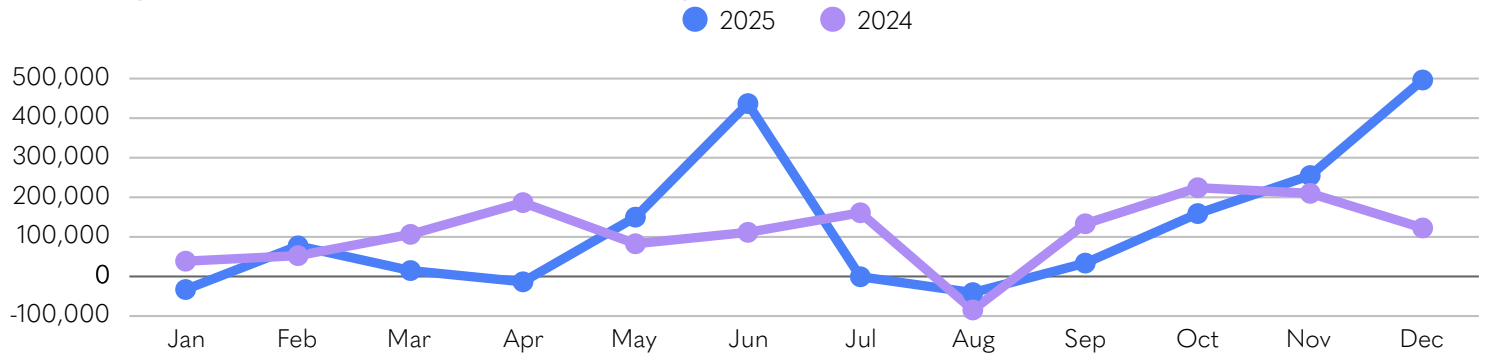


CLUB FINANCES

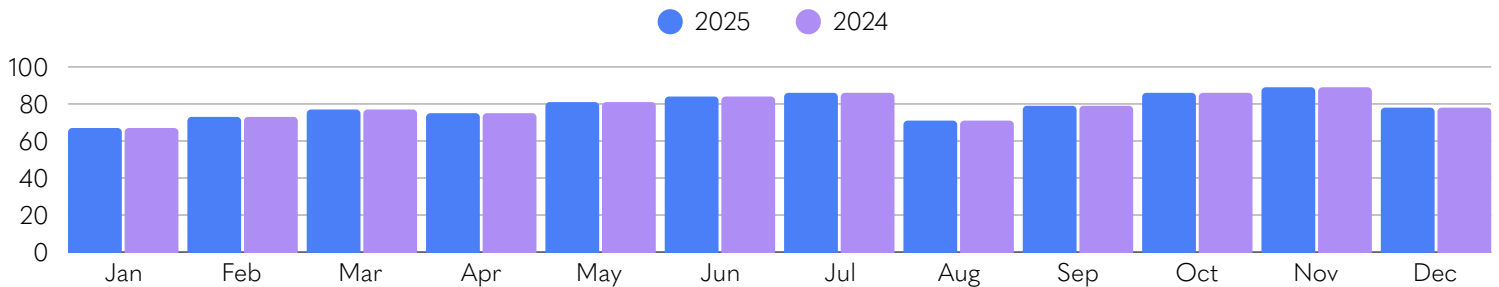
Total Revenue ~ 2025 vs 2024 (including donations)



Operating Surplus ~ 2025 vs 2024 (including donations)



Bedroom Occupancy ~ 2025 vs 2024



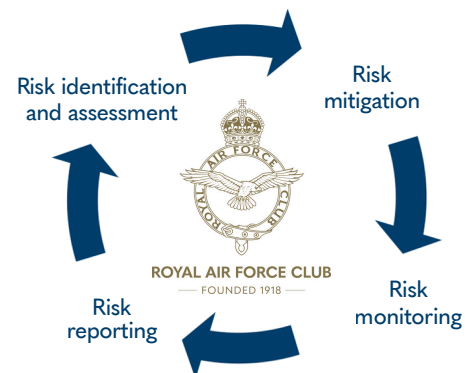
RISK & RISK APPETITE

The Board of Trustees, alongside the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Club's Senior Management Team, maintain close scrutiny of the risks that may affect the Club, and manage them accordingly.

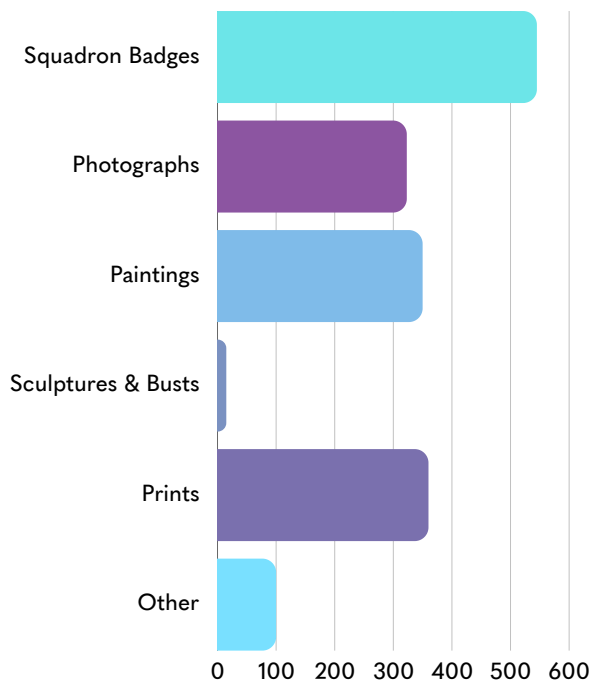
Such risk areas include cyber security, financial resilience, governance and compliance, the safety and wellbeing of members and staff, and the upkeep of the Club's buildings and services. The Club also remains alert to emerging challenges, including the increasing use of artificial intelligence.

The focus is on managing these risks in a practical and proportionate way. Clear policies, regular oversight and ongoing staff training help ensure that risks are well controlled, allowing the Club to operate with confidence.

This approach also helps ensure that the right protections, including insurance, are in place so the Club can continue to provide a safe and welcoming environment for its members.



ARTS & HERITAGE



The Royal Air Force Club is proud to care for the country's largest private collection of aviation art comprising over 1,350 artefacts overseen by the Arts & Heritage Committee with the support of the Board of Trustees. This diverse collection includes hand-painted Squadron Badges, RAF-related works, stained glass windows, sculptures, cartoons, busts, silverware, and paintings displayed throughout the Club, offering members a unique visual journey through RAF history.

Following a comprehensive audit in 2024, in 2025 the Committee continued to improve how the collection is managed and displayed. Particular focus was placed on positioning key artwork effectively, with ongoing improvements to the presentation of artwork in public spaces and Club bedrooms.

Over the past year, the focus has shifted towards caring for the existing collection. While new acquisitions are still considered, priority has been given to conservation work. Several pieces have been cleaned, repaired and reframed – much of it long overdue – to ensure the collection is preserved and presented at its best.

In 2026, the Committee will launch a searchable PDF catalogue of the Club's artwork in the Members' section of the website, and begin work on an updated edition of the '128 Piccadilly' book, planned for release in 2027.

NEW CLUB SILVER

In 2025, the Club was honoured by the RAF Museum's transfer of ownership of eleven silver pieces from its distinguished collection. While the Club has long displayed and used its own silver in the Cowdray Lounge and at formal dinners, this generous gesture ensures that additional historic pieces (previously held in the Museum's storage and not on public display) can now be appreciated and enjoyed by Members as part of the Club's heritage. The silver is currently being cleaned, photographed and inventoried by the Arts & Heritage Committee and, once complete, will be placed on display within the Club.



NEW ACQUISITIONS



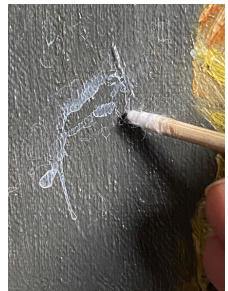
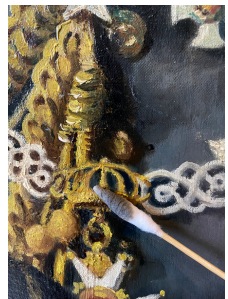
Champion Suffolk by Frank Wootton OBE, gifted to the Club for the Running Horse Tavern and presented during the renovations by Club Member Mrs Lindsay Wright.

Two pencil drawings (below) in the Running Horse Tavern by revered artist and Member Mandy Shepherd, featuring the RNAS, RFC and RAF VC winners of the First and Second World Wars.



CARE AND CONSERVATION

One of the paintings identified for Care and Conservation in 2025 was that of former Club President, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Salmond, GCB, CMG, CVO, DSO. Now cleaned and repaired, the painting has been returned to the Cowdray Lounge.



Restoration photographs © Gamma Conservation

OUR HERITAGE

These beautifully handwritten minutes from the 5th October 1916 record the founding meeting of the Royal Flying Corps Club at Adastral House, establishing the Club that would later evolve into the RAF Club.

As a charitable institution, the RAF Club preserves its archives, reflecting both its own history and its close association with the life and development of the Royal Air Force. These early records form an important part of that legacy, illustrating the Club's longstanding role within the RAF community.

Transcribed

Proceedings at a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Royal Flying Corps Club, held at Adastral House, C., on 5th October 1916.

Present:

- Lieut. Genl. Sir David Henderson, K.C.B., D.S.O.
- Brig. Genl. J. M. Salmond, D.S.O.
- Lieut. Col. W. W. Warner
- Lieut. Col. North D.S.O.
- Mr W. C. Bersey
- Mr P. C. Simmons
- Mrs Atchison

- 1: It was proposed by Mr Bersey that General Henderson should be elected Chairman of the Committee. Seconded by Mr Simmons, and carried unanimously.
- 2: It was decided that the name of the Club should be "The Royal Flying Corps Club."
- 3: The selection of the premises at 13 Bruton Street, W., as a Club House was formally agreed to.
- 4: The Report on the sanitary condition was submitted to the Meeting and passed to Lieut. Col. Warner, with a view to the Club Committee expressing their opinion on it.
- 5: The Committee considered that the premises should be inspected in regard to arrangements in case of fire.
- 6: It was decided that the Steward of an existing Club should be requested to advise as to culinary matters, etc., and Colonel Warner undertook to make arrangements for this.
- 7: On the question of heating, it was decided that the upper rooms should be heated by electric stoves.
- 8: With regard to furniture, it was decided that narrow wardrobes should be provided in the bedrooms, and that lockers be provided. The bedrooms not to be carpeted, but to be supplied with linoleum and a rug. Dark green blinds to be supplied. Decided that one of the rooms on each floor should be used as a Dressing room.
- 9: The appointment of a Secretary to the Committee was left in abeyance, and temporary arrangements will be made for an Officer of the R.F.C. to act.
- 10: Decided that the Executive Club Committee will leave to the Club Committee the drafting of the Club Rules, which will be submitted to their final sanction.
- 11: Mr Simmons will undertake the registration of the Club.

(signed) David Henderson

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David Henderson

SUSTAINABILITY & OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Club remains committed to operating in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner, a focus led by the House Committee, Board of Trustees and all staff. Over the past year, this commitment has continued to evolve across several key areas:

Carbon Footprint Reduction: We are taking a long-term, strategic approach to reducing our environmental impact, improving efficiency and lowering emissions across all operations.

Energy Efficiency: Continued investment in infrastructure is enhancing energy performance across the building. This includes upgrades to heating and cooling systems, optimisation of the Building Management System, and the introduction of more efficient technologies through refurbishment projects.

Transition Away from Gas: A key priority is the phased removal of gas. Projects such as electric kitchen installations, replacement of gas fireplaces, and heating system upgrades are supporting our ambition to eliminate gas usage and future-proof the Club's infrastructure.

Water Conservation: We are improving water efficiency through upgraded equipment, water-saving fixtures, and ongoing monitoring, recognising both the environmental and operational importance of responsible water use.

Waste Reduction and Management: Our focus remains on reducing waste at source while maximising reuse and recycling, with evolving practices aligned to best practice and supported by our waste management partners.

Sustainable Procurement and CAPEX: Sustainability continues to inform procurement and capital investment decisions, ensuring projects deliver improved efficiency, reduced resource use, and long-term environmental benefits.

Responsible Sourcing: We work closely with suppliers to prioritise sustainable products and ethical supply chains wherever possible.

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration: Ongoing engagement with industry bodies and peers enables us to share best practice and stay aligned with developments across the hospitality sector.

Giving Back: Surplus items are donated to charitable organisations, ensuring resources are reused and contribute positively to the wider community.

Sustainability ~ EarthCheck Benchmarking



The Royal Air Force Club is proud to be working in partnership with EarthCheck and, in 2025, achieved Bronze Benchmarking status. The Board of Trustees are committed to delivering exceptional hospitality while continually reducing our environmental impact. EarthCheck is a globally recognised sustainability benchmarking programme for the hospitality industry, assessing performance across areas such as energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and responsible sourcing.

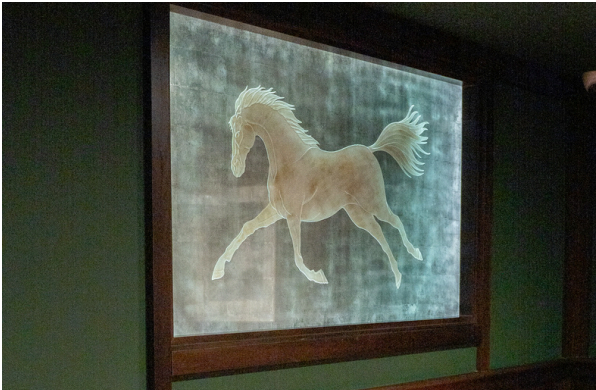
The Club is now working towards Silver Benchmarking, using these insights to guide our decisions and strengthen our long-term sustainability strategy, reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement and responsible hospitality.

CLUB IMPROVEMENTS



Overseen by the House Committee, the Club's programme of improvements continues to focus not only on our main social spaces, but also on the wider building and the services that support them.

One of the most notable recent projects has been the redevelopment of the basement, including the Running Horse and its kitchen areas. This has created a more welcoming and vibrant space for Members to enjoy, while also delivering important improvements behind the scenes. The upgraded kitchens and service areas will help the team operate more efficiently, supporting a consistently high standard of service across the Club.



Work has also continued as part of the rolling bedroom refurbishment programme, with further enhancements to rooms in the original building. On the 5th floor, updated carpets and refreshed interiors are helping to bring these rooms in line with more recently refurbished areas, ensuring a comfortable and consistent experience for Members and their guests.

Alongside these visible improvements, several smaller but important upgrades have been made throughout the building. These include enhancements to lighting, with the introduction of additional motion-sensor controls in selected areas, as well as ongoing improvements to the Club's infrastructure to support reliability and day-to-day operations.



Looking ahead, the Club is also preparing for several longer-term projects to modernise key systems and facilities. These will support future efficiency and performance, while also contributing to the Club's wider sustainability ambitions, which are explored further in the next section.

Together, these improvements reflect a continued commitment to maintaining and enhancing the Club, ensuring it remains a welcoming, comfortable and well-functioning environment for all Members.

AVM Bunny James
Chair of the Board

AM Sir David Walker
President

Mr Miles Pooley
CEO

at the re-opening of the Running Horse

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL AIR FORCE FAMILY

As an RAF charity in its own right, the Royal Air Force Club is proud to stand alongside the broader family of RAF-related charities, united in support of the serving and wider RAF community. The Club's charitable activities take a variety of forms, including the provision of complimentary meeting spaces, the donation of prizes, and the promotion of, or collaboration on, a range of initiatives, projects, and events throughout the year. Some of the organisations we support include:

The RAF Club sponsored Modular Initial Officer Training Course Prize



Photograph © Royal Air Force

The MIOTC prize (formerly known as the IOT Prize) is awarded to the RAF Officer Cadet who, in the eyes of the Directing Staff has, throughout the Course, shown grit and unwavering perseverance, meeting every challenge with enthusiasm.

The sought-after award includes a complimentary two night stay, dinner and an exclusive RAF Club decanter.

2025 MIOTC prize winners

MIOTC 32 - February 2025
Off Cdt L Millard

MIOTC 33 - April 2025
Off Cdt G P Tugulu

MIOTC 34 - May 2025
Off Cdt Y E Rixon

MIOTC 35 - July 2025
Off Cdt A F Warwick

MIOTC 36 - September 2025
Off Cdt E Conroy-Oaks

MIOTC 37 - October 2025
Off Cdt T G Bone

MIOTC 38 - December 2025
Off Cdt M GILL

Royal British Legion including the Poppy Appeal

The Club is proud to support the Royal British Legion throughout the year, playing an active role in the annual Poppy Appeal by providing a welcoming space for RAF and other military personnel to rest and recharge during the official London Collection Day.

In 2025, Club Members, Staff, and Guests donated over £4,000 to the Appeal. This included amounts raised by several other non-military London Clubs that work with the Club during the Poppy Appeal.

Additionally, during the Poppy Appeal, the Club Shop offers a range of bespoke poppy-themed items, with all profits donated directly to the Poppy Appeal.



SUPPORTING THE CLUB

Legacies and Friends of the RAF Club have been an important part of the Club's fundraising efforts in recent years with Gifts and donations enabling us to complete special projects that would otherwise have not been possible or fully funded through membership income, rooms revenue or food and beverage income streams.

Our new, fully accessible Running Horse Tavern and in previous years projects such as the sympathetic refurbishment of the main entrance, are a result of support from Members' and Friends' generosity along with occasional legacies, enabling us to maintain the Grade II Listed clubhouse to support the best possible member and visitor experience.

A recent reminder of this was a generous Gift in Will by much loved ex-Head of the WRAF, Club Member and Friend, Air Commodore Ruth Montague. Ruth's specific intent was that we continued to ensure the clubhouse was fit for purpose through capital enhancements beyond her lifetime. Without this incredible Gift, the full extent of the Running Horse building and refurbishment could not have been realised.



The 2025 Fundraising Campaign: Aviation and the Victoria Cross

We were delighted that last year's special Fundraising campaign, two pieces of commemorative artwork to honour RNAS, RFC and RAF recipients of the Victoria Cross, met its £15,000 target by the end of 2025 through a combination of Tankard sales and general donations from Members and Friends. For 2026, discussion is now underway to progress with the construction of a large capital project: a new accessible walkway between our original 4th floor building and the newer Centenary Wing.



Investing in the Future

In summer 2025, the Club launched a new partnership with the National Free Wills Network. Members benefit from a complimentary Will Writing or Amendment service through a registered Solicitor close to home. To date, over twenty Members have utilised the service, with the majority choosing to support the Club through a Gift in their Will. Whilst these Gifts will hopefully not be realised for many decades to come, the scheme does enable the Club to begin to plan for the future.



Friends of the Royal Air Force Club

To support our fundraising strategy and charitable aims, and on the back of the generous support afforded to the Club during and after the pandemic, we launched the Friends of the RAF Club initiative in 2021. These Friends of the Club, who make voluntary annual donations for the benefit of the Club and now number over 400 across three tiers – Gold, Silver and Bronze – are acknowledged in appropriate Club publications along with invitations to special events and receptions.

Friends' Events 2025



If you would like to contribute to the Club's future, you may wish to consider becoming a Friend of the RAF Club or leaving a legacy gift. For more information scan the QR code or contact Charlotte Gray, Director of Fundraising & Member Relations at membership@rafclub.org.uk



CARE & COMPASSION BREAKS

Alongside our capital projects and refurbishments, the Club launched fully funded Care & Compassion Breaks in summer 2025, an initiative designed to assist Serving Officers within our membership who have recently experienced or are currently facing welfare or health challenges. Eligible families should be nominated by an officer of Wing Commander (or equivalent military rank) or Civil Service equivalent.

Feedback from families to date highlights the powerful impact some time away from it all can have on wellbeing and we hope to be able grow the number of breaks moving forward.

For our Friends of the Club, helping fund these breaks is a way to support the Club and Serving Members in need.

For more information, please email trustees@rafclub.org.uk (please do not include any personal/sensitive information in your initial enquiry) .



Feedback from a Care & Compassion recipient

"Thank you so much for a lovely stay, it was hugely welcomed and appreciated. We really enjoyed the whole dining in experience of which we wouldn't have been able to afford had it not been for the break offered by the Club. We haven't stopped thinking and talking about it since we returned."

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL AIR FORCE FAMILY



Royal Air Force Widows Association

The Club is pleased to host an annual meeting for the Royal Air Force Widows Association (RAFWA). Founded in 1992, RAFWA is a national charity offering friendship, practical, and emotional support to those whose spouse or partner served in the RAF and have since died, including those currently or formerly serving themselves. Run by a dedicated network of volunteers who are RAF widows and widowers, the Association provides a genuine understanding of the challenges members face.



Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Forces Association

The Club supports the work of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Force Association with complimentary meeting rooms, an annual donation on behalf of the membership and other support throughout the year.



Royal Air Force Museum

The Club provides ongoing support to the Royal Air Force Museum, including the provision of complimentary meeting spaces and assistance with various initiatives throughout the year.



St Clement Danes Church and Friends of St Clement Danes

The Club provides complimentary meeting space and other support to St Clement Danes and Friends of St Clement Danes



Royal Air Force Air Cadets



The Club regularly partners with RAF Air Cadets from across the United Kingdom, providing a welcoming space to relax, change, and visit when in London for official or social engagements. The Club also works closely with local London squadrons, particularly when a Guard of Honour or cadet support is requested for Club events. More recently, the Club's Arts and Heritage Committee assisted a donor in presenting an engraved silver salver to 356 (Felixstowe) Squadron ATC, which remains based on land that was formerly part of the RAF Felixstowe flying boat station.



OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Club supports many other non-RAF related charities throughout the year, including:



"The furniture donations made by the Royal Air Force Club have both helped fund lifesaving research & support local families by allowing them to buy your quality no longer needed furniture from our stores. Thank you from everyone at the BHF"



Club staff have raised funds for Samaritans and The Passage through book donation contributions and the annual staff quiz night.



The Club supports the 'Back to the Floor' bi-annual event, raising funds to support Hospitality workers facing hardship.



Through the donation of carefully repurposed towels and bed linen, the Club supports the Marylebone Project in providing safety, comfort and dignity to women facing homelessness.

CLUB STAFF

The Royal Air Force Club's staff are at the heart of everything we do, making sure Members and guests feel welcome and well looked after. Whether they're front of house or working behind the scenes, every team member plays an important part in keeping the Club running smoothly and maintaining its enviable high standards.

Their hard work and commitment help preserve the Club's character while also creating a warm, friendly atmosphere: one that continues to make it a real 'home from home' for RAF Club Members.



MENTORING NEW TALENT



The Club works with a range of organisations to foster new talent and promote itself as an employer, with a particular focus on supporting schools and colleges for children and young adults with learning difficulties, hearing impairments, and special educational needs.

The Club has many recognition and reward programmes in place which include:

- **Employee Appreciation Day:** Over 100 appreciation cards shared among staff, alongside chocolates.
- **Service Anniversary Lunches:** Celebratory lunches in the Library for staff marking work anniversaries.
- **Cultural Diversity Map:** Staff pinned their home countries on a map celebrating our team's diversity.
- **Welcome to Work:** Monthly, two heads of departments deliver a 'welcome gift' across the Club.
- **Spin to Win:** Employees can nominate each other for prizes.
- **Staff Christmas lunch,** including departmental awards.

EX-SERVICE RECRUITMENT

The Club has recently partnered with an organisation that specialises in finding employment for those who have recently left military service.

STAFF WELFARE FUND

Member donations have helped to establish a Staff Welfare Fund, providing emergency financial support to employees facing personal hardships. This fund reflects the deep appreciation and commitment members have for the members of staff who make the Club such a special place.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bedroom Reservations

020 7399 1019
reservations@rafclub.org.uk

Front Desk

020 7399 1016 / 1017
frontdesk@rafclub.org.uk

Membership

020 7399 1084
membership@rafclub.org.uk

Cowdray Lounge

020 7399 1073
cowdray@rafclub.org.uk

Hall Porters

020 7399 1018
frontdesk@rafclub.org.uk

Board of Trustees

via email
trustees@rafclub.org.uk

Dining Room

020 7399 1020
dining@rafclub.org.uk

Meetings & Events

020 7399 1003 / 1005
meetingsevents@rafclub.org.uk

Club Website

www.rafclub.org.uk

You can book bedrooms, events, dining and afternoon tea, as well as update your membership details.



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB IMPACT REPORT 2025

The Royal Air Force Club
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Registered Charity: 1108295
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Royal Patron: Marshal of the Royal Air Force, His Majesty King Charles III