



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB IMPACT REPORT 2024

PRESENTED BY THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB
FOUNDED 1918



FOREWORD

From Air Vice-Marshall David Murray, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Mr Miles Pooley, Chief Executive and Club Secretary



Welcome to the 2024 Royal Air Force Club Impact Report

The past year has been a busy and successful one for the Charity. Financially, we performed well, allowing us to repay the Coutts Centenary Extension Loan several years ahead of schedule—an achievement that has resulted in substantial savings of more than £400,000 in interest payments.

Our commitment to the Club's charitable mission—to foster and promote the traditions of the Royal Air Force—and our vision to be the London club of choice for serving and retired RAF officers and their families remains at the heart of the Trustees' work. The RAF Station Club Representative network continues to play a crucial role in both attracting new members and strengthening our engagement with existing ones. We are especially proud to announce that in 2025, we will launch a 'Respite and Welfare' scheme, offering complimentary all-inclusive short breaks to serving (or recently serving) personnel who have experienced trauma or require welfare support. In 2024, we provided over 700 discounted room nights to serving RAF officers visiting London on duty, while also fostering growth in member-sponsored events, including squadron lunches and dinners, weddings, and family functions—all helping to further increase RAF-related bookings.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance the Club's facilities, we completed several refurbishment projects in 2024. These included the renovation of 12 bedrooms, a full refresh of the Presidents' Room, and the installation of two acoustic pods in the Business Centre, made possible through generous legacy donations, for which we are extremely grateful. Our commitment to environmental sustainability also continued, with the Club partnering with accreditation body 'EarthCheck' to certify our efforts in reducing our carbon footprint and guide future capital investment.

The Club maintained its strong ties with the Royal Family, and in May, we were honoured to learn that His Majesty King Charles III had graciously accepted the role of Patron of the Royal Air Force Club. Plans are now underway to commission a portrait of His Majesty, which will be displayed in the Sovereigns' Room, and we look forward to welcoming The King for a visit when his schedule allows. In October, we were also privileged to host HRH The Duke of Gloucester, who visited the Club to unveil a new stained-glass window commemorating the centenary of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

In August 2024, Kathryn Cooper, the Club Manager, retired after 38 years of outstanding service. In recognition of her remarkable contribution, the Club was delighted to award her Honorary Life Membership. Separately, as part of our governance processes, there were several changes to the Board of Trustees in 2024. In July, Air Cdre Phil Wadlow joined as Vice-Chair (Serving), ensuring that the vital link between the Club and those currently serving in the RAF remains strong. In November, we bade farewell to four long-standing Trustees — Air Cdre Barbara Cooper, Flt Lt Ian Melia, Sqn Ldr Sean O'Brien, and Hon. Gp Capt Jo Salter — each of whom stepped down after nine years of dedicated service. The Trustees extend their heartfelt thanks for their tireless contributions, particularly during the challenging COVID period. At the same time, we warmly welcomed Hon. Gp Capt Peter Brown, Wg Cdr Gavin Poole, Wg Cdr Amanda Scarth, and Mr Bernie Watson to the Board.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to those members who have joined as 'Friends of the Royal Air Force Club' at Bronze, Silver, or Gold level, directly supporting the Club's important work.

David Murray
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Miles Pooley
Chief Executive & Club Secretary

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VICE-PATRON

MRAF The Lord Craig of Radley



ROYAL PATRON

MRAF His Majesty King Charles III



PRESIDENT

AM Sir David Walker

CLUB GOVERNANCE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



AVM David Murray
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Flt Lt Haig Tyler
Vice-Chair (Business)



Air Cdr Phil Wadlow
Vice Chair (Serving)



Gp Capt Jim Beldon
Chair of Arts & Heritage
Committee



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



Air Cdre Adam Wardrope
Trustee



Air Cdre Dai Whittingham
Chair of House
Committee



Wg Cdr Paula Willmot
Trustee



Gp Capt Peter Brown
Trustee



Wg Cdr Gavin Poole
Trustee



Wg Cdr Amanda Scarth
Trustee



Mr Bernie Watson
Trustee



Air Cdre Barbara Cooper
Chair of Fundraising &
Legacies Committee



Flt Lt Ian Melia
Chair of Finance, Audit
& Risk Committee



Sqn Ldr Sean O'Brien
Trustee



Hon. Gp Capt Jo Salter
Chair of House
Committee

APPOINTED IN NOVEMBER 2024

RETIRED IN NOVEMBER 2024

CLUB GOVERNANCE

Trustees, Committee Members, Members of Working Groups, Internal Auditors, Librarians, and Club Archivists are unpaid volunteers, contributing around 500 days annually. The Club greatly benefits from their professional expertise and invaluable advice.

LIST OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

ARTS & HERITAGE

Gp Capt Jim Beldon
Air Cdre Adam Wardrope
Wg Cdr James Poynton
Air Cdre Rick Peacock-Edwards
Dr Michael Fopp
Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert*
Mrs Mandy Shepherd
*retired in 2024

HOUSE

Air Cdre Dai Whittingham
Hon. Gp Capt Jo Salter*
Wg Cdr Neil Cook
Flt Lt Gary Hornby
SqN Ldr Mike Sewell
*retired in 2024

EVENTS

Sqn Ldr John Peters
Gp Capt Al Lockwood
Ms Naomi Miles
SqN Ldr Stuart Quinn

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

FINANCE AUDIT & RISK

Mr Neeraj Kapur
Flt Lt Ian Melia*
Mr James Calladine*
Flt Lt Jennie Kingston
Mr Andrew Manning
Mr James Nailer
Mr Bernie Watson
*retired in 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Air Cdre Paul Higgins
Wg Cdr Paula Willmot
Wg Cdr Louise Clarke
SqN Ldr Steve Potter
SqN Ldr Jo Rowe
SqN Ldr James Traynor

FUNDRAISING

Gp Capt Al Lockwood
Air Cdre Barbara Cooper*
Flt Lt Mike Stubbs
Fg Off Joachim Wrang-Widen
Mr Richard Ashton
*retired in 2024

NOMINATIONS

Flt Lt Haig Tyler
Gp Capt Peter Brown
Miss Jane Ford
Air Cdre Phil Wadlow
Air Cdre Adam Wardrope

SYSTEMS & IT

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

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM



Mr Miles Pooley
Chief Executive &
Club Secretary



Mrs Rachel Matthews
Director of People &
Culture



Mr Elliot Plimmer
Executive Chef
from February 2025



Miss Katariina Reissaar
Director of
Operations



Mr Paul Sylva
Director of Finance



Mrs Kathryn Cooper
Club Manager
Retired in 2024



Mr Michael Dutnall
Executive Chef
until January 2025

CLUB HISTORY

The Royal Air Force Club has a rich history that dates back to the 1st January 1917, when it first opened as the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) Club 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 serving, reservist, 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 (top left to bottom right)
The Club (1960's), Cowdray Lounge (1950's), The Writing Room (1994), Dining Room (1998 & 1976) & The Buttery (1976).

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

RESPECT & INTEGRITY

EXCELLENT SERVICE

COMRADESHIP

VALUE FOR MONEY

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Quality Accommodation: Affordable, high-quality stays in London.
- Sustainable Fine Dining: Formal and casual options with sustainably sourced high-quality food.
- Event Spaces: Beautifully appointed venues for various events.
- Social Events: A range of Club social events, many of military and historical significance.
- Aviation Library: Books are available for loan to Members.
- Fitness & Business: Fitness Centre and Business Suite available 24/7.
- Support for Newly Commissioned Officers: £1 per month membership for the first 5 years.
- Communication: 128 Magazine, social media and monthly e-newsletters.
- Reciprocal Clubs: Access to many private members' clubs throughout the world.

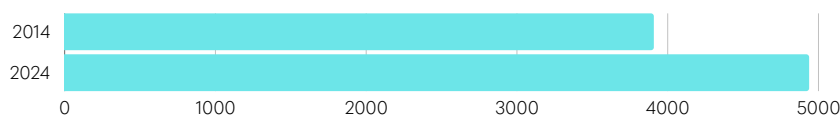


YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

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



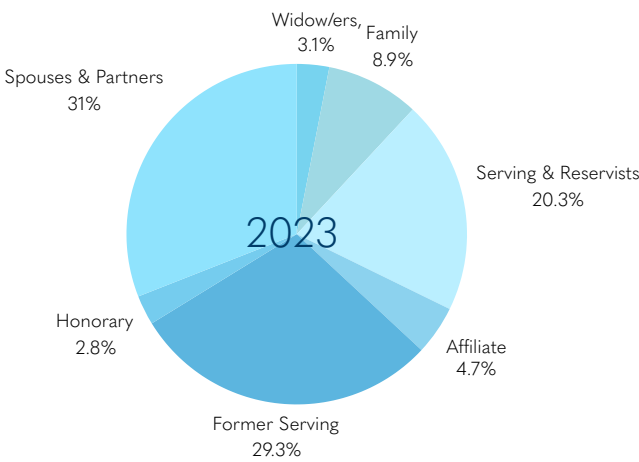
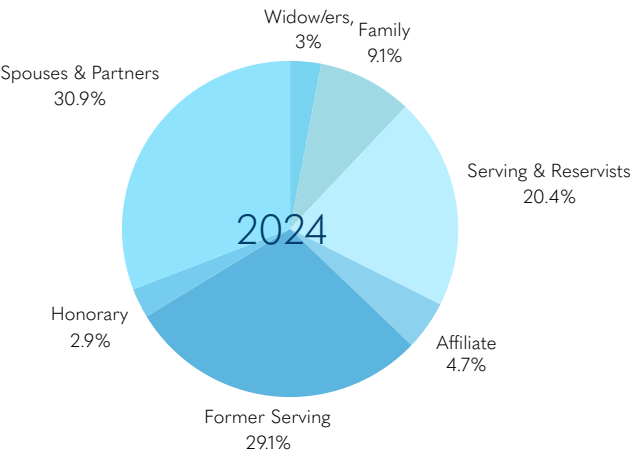
SERVING & RESERVIST MEMBERS



Since 2014, the Club has seen a 26% increase in Serving and Reservist Members.



MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY



MEMBER BENEFITS

THE LIBRARY

The Club Library, located through the Churchill Bar on the ground floor, is a comprehensive lending and research facility for Members. Established in 2002 with a generous donation from aviation artist Frank Wootton, the collection has grown to nearly 4,000 books, covering a wide range of topics related to aviation and the history of the Royal Air Force, from the First World War to the present day.

Members are encouraged to utilise the Library for research, personal reading, or as a quiet place to work when visiting the Club. Books are available for borrowing, ensuring the Library remains a valuable resource for those interested in aviation history.

The Library is open every day with volunteer librarians available on Wednesdays from 1100hrs to 1500hrs. They are happy to provide tours of the collection, explain the borrowing process, and assist with research inquiries.

In addition to its role as a lending and research facility, the Library is available for private hire in the evenings, offering an elegant setting for intimate dinners, family events, and special occasions.

The Librarians welcome offers of book donations to further enrich the collection. To discuss any potential contributions, Members are kindly asked to email in advance.

For further information about the library, please email library@rafclub.org.uk, or for private hire enquiries, meetingsevents@rafclub.org.uk

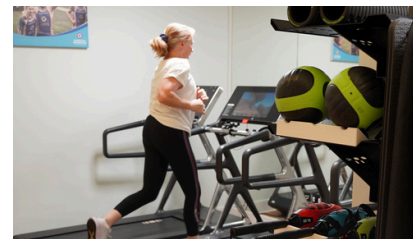
THE FITNESS CENTRE

Opened in 2018 by Queen Elizabeth II, the Fitness Centre is a convenient space for Members to stay active, whether visiting for the day or staying overnight. Located on the ground floor of the Centenary Extension, it is open daily from 0600hrs to 2200hrs and features state-of-the-art TechnoGym cardio and weight machines, as well as mats for stretching.

With its well-equipped 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.



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



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

MY HOME IN LONDON



From Former Serving and now Reservist Air Vice-Marshal Aroop Mozumder and his wife Jane who have written about the special role the Club has played in the lives of both themselves and their family.

"We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Club for playing such a special role in the weddings of all three of our children. The exceptional service, warm hospitality, and attention to detail have made each occasion truly unforgettable for our family.

Our journey with the Club began in 2016 when our son, Jack, and his wife, Haffy, celebrated their wedding reception in the Sovereigns' Room, the Churchill Bar, and the Running Horse. The setting was perfect, the service impeccable, and the entire experience exceeded our expectations.

Then, in July 2021, the Club came to our rescue during an incredibly challenging time. After three postponements due to the pandemic, our daughter Sarah was finally able to celebrate her wedding reception in the Sovereigns' Room. This was one of the first large events the Club hosted after Covid restrictions eased, and the team handled everything with such professionalism and care. It was a deeply emotional moment for us all, and we are profoundly grateful for the Club's support in making it possible.

Most recently, in October 2022, our youngest daughter, Katie, held her pre-wedding breakfast at the Club before heading to Westminster Abbey for her wedding. It was a wonderful way to begin such a momentous day, and once again, the Club ensured everything was flawless.

On each occasion, many of our family members and close friends stayed at the Club, and without fail, we have always been made to feel so welcome and well looked after. The staff's dedication and hospitality have not gone unnoticed, and we sincerely appreciate the effort put into making these milestone moments so special for us.

Our connection to the Club spans decades. Jane and I have been members for at least 30 years, and our children have been familiar with the Club since they were young. It is particularly meaningful to us that Jack, who lives in Singapore has now become a member himself, continuing our family's tradition. The Club, quite simply, is our Home in London."



CLUB EVENTS

Planned by the Events Committee, the vibrant year-round calendar is not only one of the core benefits of membership but also supports one of the Club's key charitable objectives. In 2024, events ranged from wine and gin tastings to RAF-related visits and tours, dinners with exceptional speakers, and a variety of cultural experiences. Members are welcome to bring non-member guests to most Club events.

Below are just a few of the exciting events held at the Royal Air Force Club in 2024.

Sons and Daughters' Dinner



Celebrating our Chefs who participated in 'Bake Off - The Professionals'



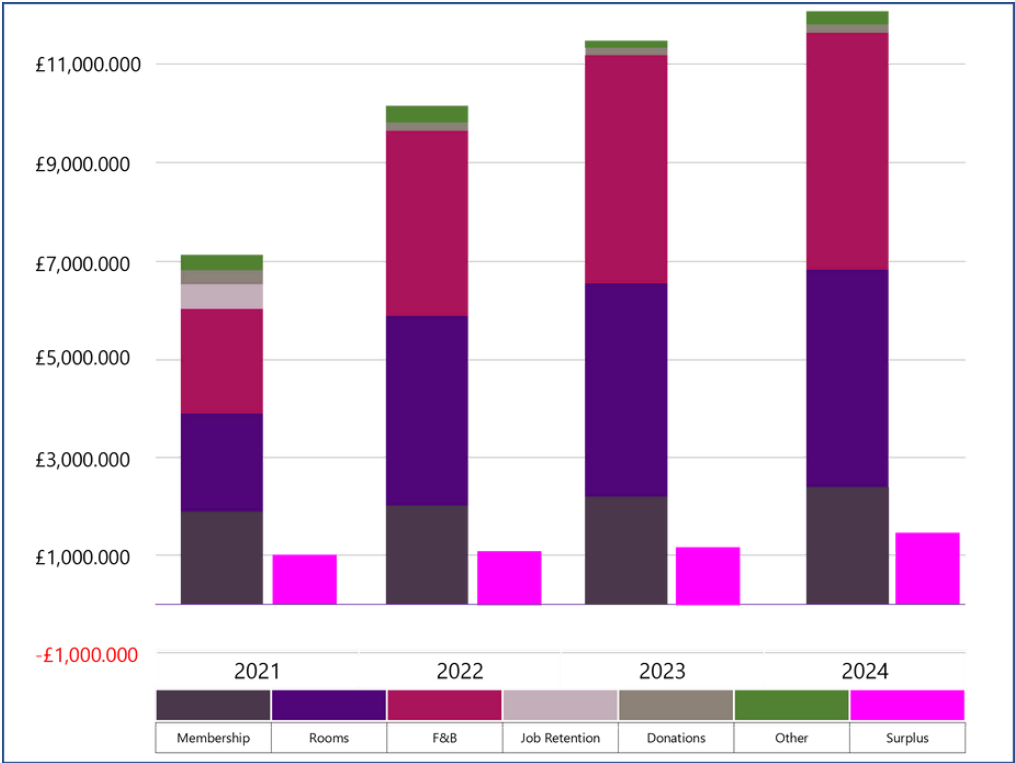
Winter Gourmet Dinner ~ Indian Fine Dining



Scan the QR Code to view the calendar of Events.

CLUB FINANCES

TOTAL REVENUES AND SURPLUS 2021 TO 2024



My Club

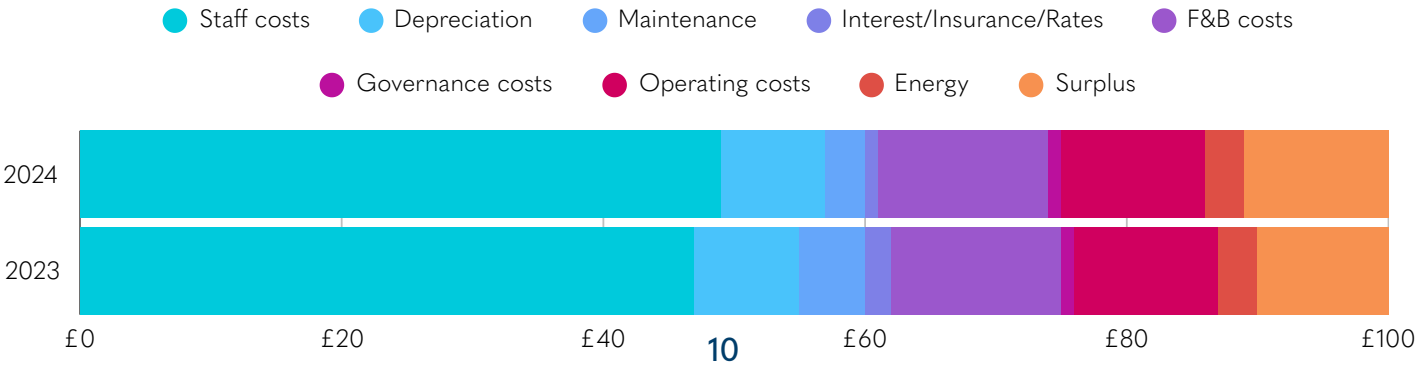
I just wanted to take a moment to say how much I appreciate the warm and welcoming hospitality at the RAF Club. As a member for over 20 years, I can honestly say that being part of the Club means a great deal to both me and my family. From the friendly greetings at the front desk to the fantastic service in the dining areas, every visit is always such a pleasure.

The Dining Room team always goes above and beyond, providing attentive and friendly service with a smile. The food is always top-notch, and I always receive so many compliments from my guests about both the quality of the cuisine and the excellent service.

Additionally, the bedrooms are always perfect for my needs, offering comfort and convenience every time I stay.

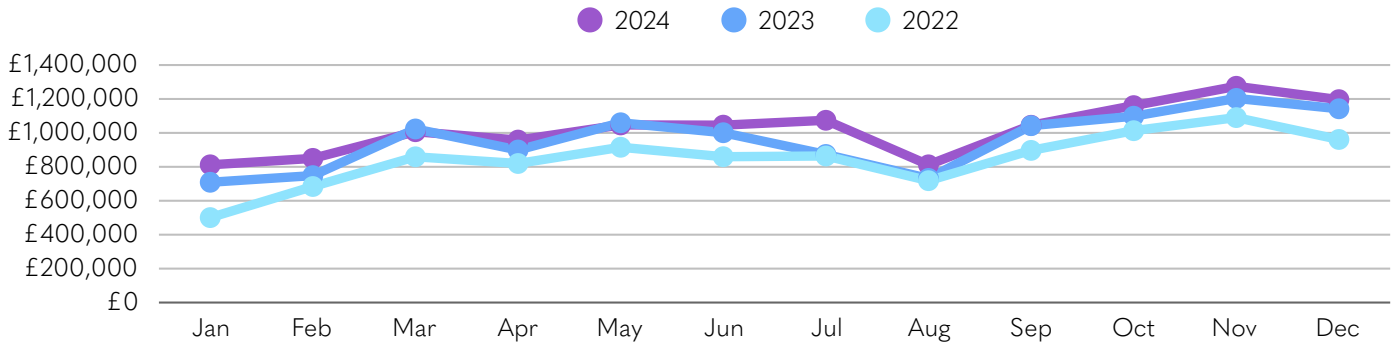
Wg Cdr Evans (Retd)

2024 VS 2023: SPEND PER £100 OF REVENUE (INCOME)

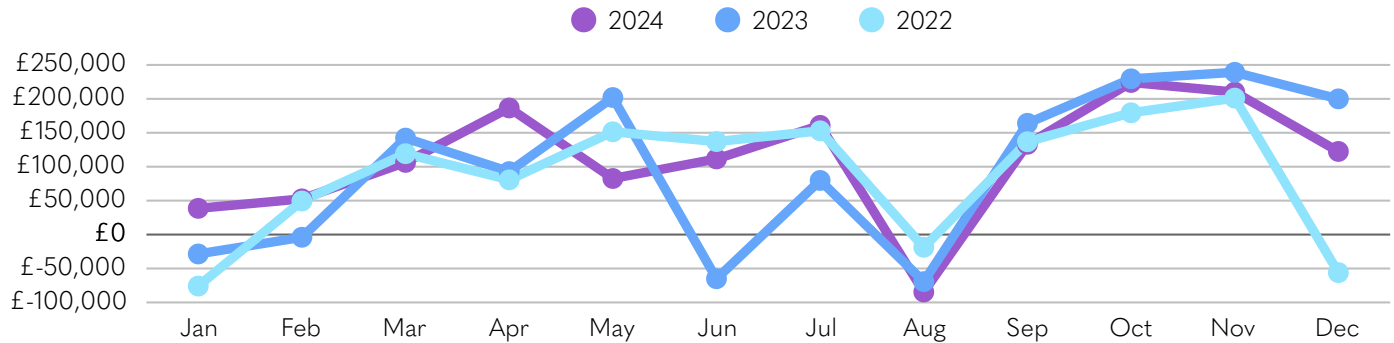


CLUB FINANCES

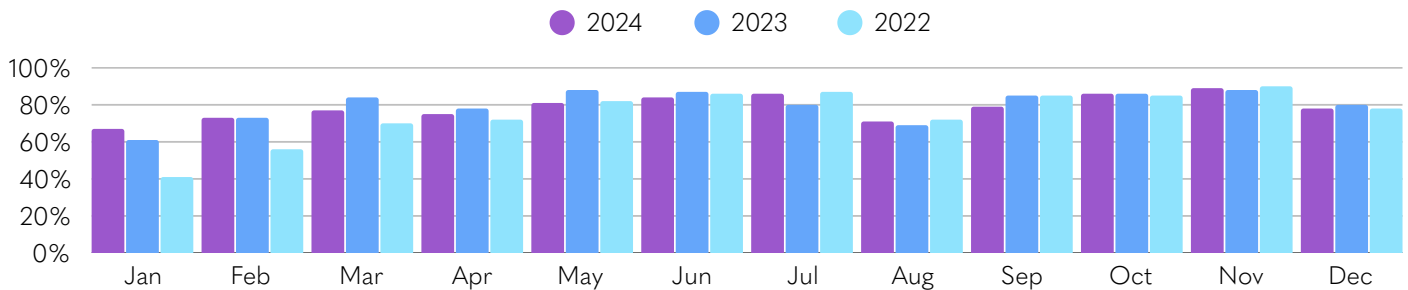
Total Revenue ~ 2022 to 2024 (including donations)



Operating Surplus ~ 2022 to 2024 (including donations)



Bedroom Occupancy ~ 2022 to 2024

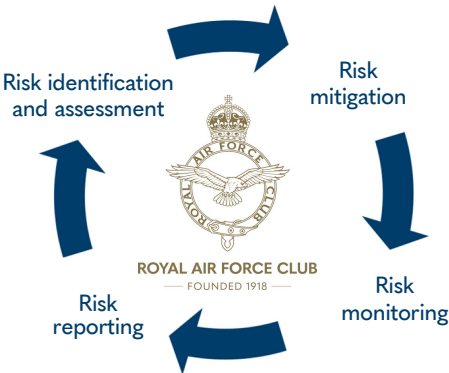


RISK & RISK APPETITE

The Board of Trustees, working closely with the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and Club Management team, regularly reviews the Club’s approach to risk and its overall risk appetite.

This includes identifying and managing both critical risks; those that could have significant consequences and emerging risks, such as the potential misuse of AI, which may become more relevant in the future. By staying proactive, the Club ensures these risks are carefully monitored.

For each identified risk, mitigation measures, such as financial control policies are assessed, and the remaining level of risk is carefully considered. These reviews also help shape the Club’s annual insurance coverage, ensuring the right protections are in place.



My Club

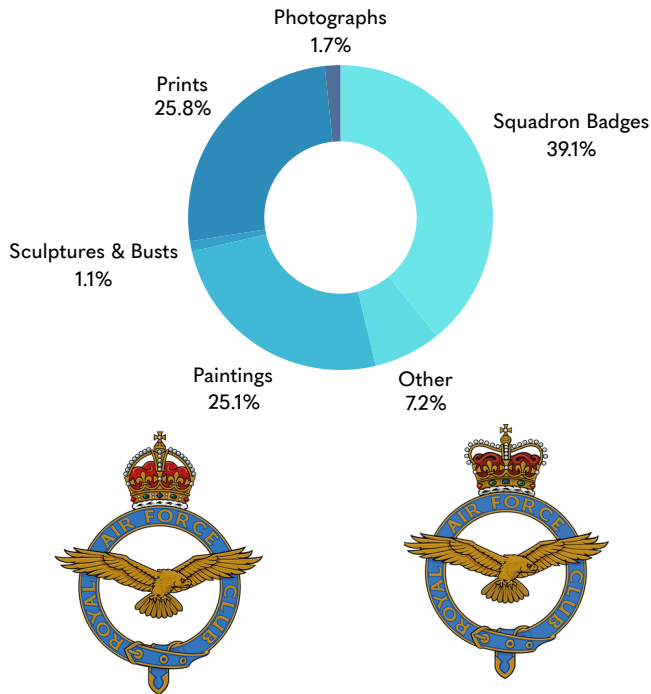
Since graduating from RAF Cranwell in 2005, I’ve proudly followed in my grandfather’s footsteps by becoming a member of the Club in my own right. One of my earliest memories is sitting on my grandad’s knee in the Running Horse pub, enjoying a lemonade when I was about 10 or 11. Now, the roles have reversed, and I get to treat him to a pint whenever we have the chance to visit together. The Club truly is a special place.

Fg Off Williams

Top 10 risks

Risk	Inherent risk	Mitigated risk
Loss of Key Staff resulting in adverse impact on service and functionality	High	Medium
Late/Incorrect filings to the Charity Commission and/or Companies House	High	Medium
Control of income and expenditure, including energy costs	High	Low
The negative impact of possible International Conflict	High	High
Computer system failures or loss/corruption of data	High	Medium
Cyber Security Breach	High	Medium
Significant loss of Club facilities through fire or similar disaster	High	Medium
Terrorist Activity	High	Medium
Reputational damage by 3rd party and social media outlets	High	Medium
Inaccurate financial information, fraud, reputational damage	High	Medium

ARTS & HERITAGE



The Royal Air Force Club is proud to house a remarkable collection of over 1,300 pieces of art, overseen by the Arts & Heritage Committee with the support of the Board of Trustees. This diverse collection includes hand-painted Squadron Badges, RAF-inspired works, stained glass windows, sculptures, cartoons, busts, silverware, and paintings displayed throughout public spaces, corridors, and Club bedrooms, offering a unique visual journey through RAF history.

In 2023, a comprehensive audit added the entire collection to a centralised database. The Arts & Heritage Committee is now reviewing the placement of key pieces to ensure optimal display and rotation as new works are acquired. The Committee also regularly assesses items for damage or necessary repairs to maintain the collection's preservation. An online catalogue is in development and will soon be available to members via the website.

In 2024, the Club received its new official badge (left), painted by the College of Arms featuring the Tudor Crown. The previous RAF Club badge (right), used during the reign of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, featured the St. Edward's Crown.

RECENTLY PRESENTED ARTWORK

Air Chief Marshal Lord Hugh Dowding and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park



© Artist: Hazel Morgan

In September 2024, the Royal Air Force Club unveiled two new portraits commemorating Air Chief Marshal Lord Hugh Dowding and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, key commanders in the Battle of Britain. Painted by artist Hazel Morgan, the portraits now hang alongside the iconic portrait of Honorary Air Commodore Sir Winston Churchill, who famously commended 'The Few' in his 1940 speech.

Lord Dowding, the architect of Britain's air defence strategy, and Sir Keith Park, who led the defence of London and the southeast, are both renowned for their leadership and tactical brilliance during the Battle of Britain. Their portraits were made possible by generous sponsorship from the RAF Fighter Control Officers Association, the Mercury Foundation, the Battle of Britain



© Artist: Hazel Morgan

Fighter Association, the Cranwellian Association, and private donors. The portraits, on display in the Churchill Bar are a lasting tribute to their legacies and fitting tributes to two of the Service's greatest commanders, alongside Sir Winston Churchill's portrait, inspiring all who visit the RAF Club.

Portrait of Daphne Pearson GC Unveiled

In April 2024, Air Marshal Clare Walton — the RAF's most senior serving female officer — unveiled a portrait of Corporal (later Flight Officer) Daphne Pearson GC. The unveiling was overseen by Air Marshal Dame Sue Gray, former Club Chair and then Vice-President. Daphne Pearson was the first female recipient of the George Cross, her original Empire Gallantry Medal being converted to the GC upon the institution of the decoration in 1940. The painting is displayed in the Noor Inayat Khan GC Room.



© Artist: Paul Brason



Air Marshal Dame Sue Gray



Air Marshal Clare Walton

RAuxAF Stained Glass Window

On 8th October 2024, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) and President of the British Society of Master Glass Painters (BSMGP), honoured the Club by unveiling a stained glass window commemorating the RAuxAF's centenary. Sponsored by the Beaverbrook Foundation, the window was designed by Air Specialist Class 1 (AS1) Chad Kenney, a serving RAF aviator who won a competition organised by the Club's Arts and Heritage Committee in partnership with the BSMGP. Five shortlisted candidates were supervised by experienced BSMGP mentors, and their anonymised designs were judged in April.

AS1 Kenney's design showcases the remarkable talent within today's RAF. The project, unprecedented for both the BSMGP and the Club – encouraged emerging stained glass artists to express their vision through a competitive process, fostering young British artistic talent while supporting the Club's wider charitable and social aims. AS1 Kenney's exceptional achievement stands as a striking tribute to the RAuxAF and enhances the Club's reputation for housing one of the country's most significant collections of secular stained glass artwork. We are deeply grateful to the BSMGP, to AS1 Kenney and to Deb Lowe, who mentored him throughout. The window is now installed in the 601 Squadron Room.



© Artist: AS1 Chad Kenney



The Yellowjacks and Red Arrows

In 2024, artist and Club member Mal Grosse painted and gifted three paintings of the Yellowjacks and Red Arrows to the Club. These paintings, including the Yellowjacks piece (pictured left), are now on display near the main stained glass window.



© Artist: Mal Grosse

SUSTAINABILITY & OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Club is dedicated to fostering a sustainable and environmentally responsible operation, a commitment driven by the House Committee, the Board of Trustees and all Club Staff. This is a comprehensive strategy encompassing several key areas including:

- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** We are actively minimising our environmental impact.
- **Energy Efficiency:** To decrease energy consumption, we have implemented several measures, including the transition to LED lighting, the installation of automated sensors, enhanced management of plant equipment, and the deployment of a new Building Management System for real-time monitoring.
- **Water Conservation:** We are optimising water usage by replacing showerheads with high-efficiency, low-flow aerated models and collaborating with laundry equipment suppliers and housekeeping teams to improve water efficiency. Additionally, we are committed to using natural or reduced-chemical cleaning products wherever possible.
- **Waste Reduction and Management:** Our focus is on preventing waste generation and maximising recycling and reuse. We have phased out nearly all single-use items and maintain regular consultations with Westminster Council, our waste management partner, to ensure best practices are being followed.
- **Sustainable Procurement and Capital Expenditure projects (CAPEX):** Sustainability and environmental factors are integrated into all key purchases and capital projects. Each CAPEX initiative and major equipment acquisition undergoes a thorough sustainability assessment as part of the procurement process.
- **Responsible Sourcing:** We are committed to working with our supplier network to ensure responsible sourcing practices.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:** We actively participate in knowledge sharing and best practice learning through our engagement with other London Clubs and our membership of the UK Hospitality Association.
- **Giving Back:** Continuing our partnerships with organisations such as the British Heart Foundation, the Marylebone Project and other local charities who we can donate any excess or no longer needed clothing, furniture or stock.
- **Staff Engagement and Education:** We foster a culture of sustainability through our internal 'Green Arrows Team' initiative, which encourages staff participation and learning.

Sustainability ~ EarthCheck Accreditation



The Royal Air Force Club is proud to have partnered with EarthCheck and begun the accreditation process, working towards Bronze certification. As a responsible members' club, we are committed to providing the best hospitality while reducing our environmental impact. EarthCheck accreditation is a globally recognised standard for sustainability in the hospitality industry and will audit our efforts in energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and responsible sourcing. It will also reinforce our reputation and give us a clear path towards Silver and Gold levels. It will also help us make decisions about our future. This accreditation reflects our commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring the RAF Club leads the way in responsible hospitality.

CLUB IMPROVEMENTS



The quality of a Club is ultimately measured by the experience of its Members on each visit. With this principle in mind, the House Committee diligently oversees the Club's extensive Capital Expenditure programme, ensuring a strategic approach to long-term improvements. A carefully planned schedule of renovation projects spans the next decade, guaranteeing that the Club continues to meet the highest standards of comfort, functionality and elegance.

Throughout 2024 and into early 2025, several key refurbishment projects have taken place, significantly enhancing the Club's facilities. As part of our annual rolling bedroom programme, 11 guest rooms have been fully refurbished, ensuring they remain tranquil, well-appointed spaces with touches of luxury. The refreshed interiors feature a brighter, more uplifting atmosphere, with carefully chosen décor that incorporates the Club's signature blue, blending modern sophistication with timeless charm.

One of the most significant transformations has been the refurbishment of the Presidents' Room, its most extensive upgrade since the 1980s. This elegant space has been revitalised with new crystal chandeliers, upgraded carpeting, a full rewiring of electrical systems, and improvements to both the air conditioning and new audio-visual technology. These enhancements have elevated the room's grandeur while ensuring it meets the evolving needs of our Members.

Additionally, the Business Suite has been improved with the installation of two acoustic pods designed to provide a quiet, focused environment for phone calls and private meetings. These modern additions cater to the increasing demand for flexible workspaces, allowing Members to conduct business in comfort and privacy. The pods were funded by generous legacy donations, for which we are very grateful.



My Club

My first stop is always the Running Horse. There's nothing quite like the pride of sharing my own private pub with family and friends.

Sqn Ldr Adams





ACCESSIBILITY

As part of our ongoing commitment to accessibility, the Club has replaced the wheelchair lift with a new self-operated version at the 6 Old Park Lane entrance. This upgrade allows members who require step-free access to enter and exit the Club independently, without the need for staff assistance, though help always remains available if required.

MEMBER FEEDBACK

After each stay, dining experience, or event, the principal member receives an electronic feedback form to share their thoughts. This valuable input helps us continually refine and enhance our services.

In 2024, the Club earned an outstanding 4.73/5 feedback score, reflecting our commitment to excellence in hospitality, service, and facilities. Members frequently praised the accommodation, dining experience, and attentive staff.

All feedback is carefully reviewed by the Leadership Team and House Committee, ensuring every comment contributes to maintaining and enhancing the Club's high standards.



This word map visually represents the most common themes from our guests' comments, showcasing the aspects of the Club that they appreciate most.



SUPPORTING THE CLUB

The RAF Club has a long-standing tradition of both supporting and being supported by officers of the Royal Air Force and their families. Founded on philanthropy, the Club was established in 1918 when Lord Cowdray donated £100,000 to create a permanent space in recognition of the contributions and sacrifices of airmen.

Today, as a Registered Charity, the Club continues this mission by offering high-quality, affordable facilities and services for its Members while upholding the traditions of the Royal Air Force. Any surplus is reinvested into improving Club facilities, with projects such as the lobby refurbishment made possible through donations and legacies.

For many, the Club is a place of shared history, camaraderie, and connection, reflecting the esprit de corps of the Royal Air Force. As the Club looks to the future, support from Members and Friends helps ensure that it remains a welcoming space for generations to come.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB

The Friends of the Royal Air Force Club, now numbering over 400, are helping to raise funds for capital improvements to the Club, the welfare support of staff, and the rebuilding of our reserves.

GOLD FRIEND An annual donation of £2500+

SILVER FRIEND An annual donation of £500 - £2499

BRONZE FRIEND An annual donation of £120 - £499

Friends are invited to annual social events, with the supporter's name listed in appropriate Club publications. Friends can move to a different level at any time.

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 and Member Relations, at charlotte@rafclub.org.uk



Pictures from a 'Friends' Reception event



CARE & COMPASSION BREAKS

Launching in 2025, the Club is proud to introduce a welfare & respite scheme, a new initiative reflecting our deep commitment to the well-being of those who serve. Established by the Board of Trustees, this scheme offers complimentary, all-inclusive stays at the Club for Serving Officers and their immediate families who have recently faced, or are currently experiencing, significant welfare challenges.

Each Care and Compassion Break includes one or two nights accommodation, meals, afternoon tea, and, if applicable, an activity pack for children. Designed to provide a moment of rest and relaxation, the initiative ensures that those who have dedicated themselves to service receive the care and support they deserve.

The scheme will be administered by the Vice-Chair (Serving) of the Club, via Station Welfare Officers and the RAF Club Station Representative Network. For more information, please contact those listed above or email trustees@rafclub.org.uk (please do not include any personal/sensitive information in your initial enquiry).



ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS



The Club regularly welcomes RAF Cadets to the Club, offering places to change, eat and relax when on duty in London or inviting them to assist at Club Events.

Pictured left: Lt Gen Karel Rehka, the Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces with Cadets from 312 (City of Canterbury Squadron) who provided a Guard of Honour during the presentation of three Squadron Badges to the Club in 2024.

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:



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 and other support throughout the year.



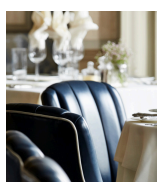
Royal Air Force Museum

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.



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 2024, Club Members, Staff, and Guests generously donated over £3,000 to the 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.



OUR COMMUNITY



As part of our commitment to supporting the community, the Chefs of the Royal Air Force Club prepared and provided Christmas meals for selected Haringey residents who would not normally have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch.

The meals were served on Council premises, allowing residents to choose when and with whom they dined, creating a more dignified and comfortable experience. Feedback from both residents and staff overwhelmingly praised the quality of the food and the sense of care and compassion it conveyed.

Residents shared how much the meal meant to them, not just for its quality but for the simple fact that they felt remembered and valued during what can be a difficult time of year. Staff also noted how important these gestures are, particularly in reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation. Acts of kindness like this serve as a reminder that even small moments of generosity can have a lasting impact.

It was also heartening to hear that some residents were able to spend time with family, making the season even more special for them. This initiative, alongside the efforts of the wider community, reinforces the importance of connection, care, and shared moments of support.

Since 2018, we have recognised the challenges that many individuals face during the holiday season. Initiatives like this highlight our ongoing commitment to ensuring that those in need feel seen, valued, and supported.



STAFF CHARITY FORUM

The Staff Charity Forum, formed in 2022, is a volunteer group of RAF Club staff who organise social events and initiatives for staff-chosen charities.

In 2024, over £2,030 was raised for Central London Samaritans through a Quiz Night, with proceeds supporting five team members running the London 10K. The team then hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning, supported Wrap Up London with coat donations, and celebrated Christmas Jumper Day. These efforts reflect the team's dedication to making a positive impact within the wider community.



My Club

Whether it's having somewhere to shower, leave my bags, or enjoy a breakfast when I'm not staying, it's these extra benefits of membership that I find so valuable.

Wg Cdr Brown (Retd)

CLUB STAFF

The staff at the Royal Air Force Club are the backbone of its operations, ensuring that members and guests receive exceptional service in a welcoming and distinguished environment. From front-of-house hospitality to the behind-the-scenes operations, every team member plays a crucial role in upholding the Club's traditions, maintaining high standards, and creating a seamless experience. Their dedication and professionalism not only preserve the Club's rich heritage but also foster a sense of community, making it a cherished home away from home for RAF members past and present.

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 people who make the Club such a special place.

MENTORING NEW TALENT

The Club works with the following organisations to foster new talent and promote the Club as a place to work:



STAFF APPRECIATION

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

- Employee Appreciation Day: Over 100 appreciation cards shared between 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.



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB IMPACT REPORT 2024

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