

## **UKRA 2021 AGM.**

### **Personal statements of candidacy for consideration for election to Council.**

#### Michael Williams. Current UKRA Chair.

Michael Williams is a founder member of UKRA and has previously been deputy chair, acting chair and chairman in 2019/2020. Michael has also produced the new version of UKRA Model Achievement program.

Michael is UKRA Level one and RSO. Michael flies regularly at MRC and less often at EARS.

#### Andy Calver UKRA biography. Current Membership Secretary.

I have been involved in rocketry since 2006 and I am a L2 RSO, I am the Secretary of EARS and have led our response to launching safety during the pandemic. I have been a member of UKRA Council since 2019 and I am currently the membership secretary and a member of the Safety and Technical Committee. I wish to stand for Council to continue to promote UKRA as a unifying body for all amateur rocketry enthusiasts and to build bridges between the various groups. Our community is too small to continue to look back at past disputes, we must look forward.

#### Paul Carter. Current Council Member, and Chair of Safety & Technical Committee.

Hopefully you all know me well enough to know my ethos and my passion for rocketry. I am standing for council because I believe UKRA is at a pivotal point in its existence. If we leave UKRA as it is, it will die. I believe in UKRA which is why I am here. However, UKRA has to change, it has to engage and it has to be seen to change, if not UKRA will die.

Some of the points for me are:

- 1) I want UKRA to be seen as a professional organisation and has a public presence.
- 2) UKRA should be a National Governing Body. It is not a club, it's an association.
- 3) We have to be more "Corporate" in our public presence; we are no longer a group of mates in a field. If we are to become the "GO TOO" rocket organisation then the people we engage with such as UKROC, UKSEDS, CAA (for example) are all associated with multi organisations that have HR and codes of practice. In this day and age these organisations "CANNOT" be associated with anything other than compliant in these matters.
- 4) Poor and lack of communication creates whispers, jungle drums and speculation and this just causes issues.
- 5) UKRA should be forward thinking. We should embrace tech to operate effectively and smartly.
- 6) When UKRA makes a statement it should be on rocket related / guidance to its members and the wider community. No one should be posting personal views on any UKRA platforms. Be it political or even jokes can be interpreted in many ways to different

people and our audience is male, female, young, old, various religions and then there is the political affiliation and gender orientation etc... .

7) Personal conduct is paramount.

8) It's the organisation first, not personal benefit first.

9) If UKRA is seen to operate in a clear and transparent manner then you will win over people and they will see value in UKRA. Good people that have been lost will come back!!

10) Strong leadership.

11) UKRA's past has defined us and has damaged UKRA to the membership and wider rocket community.

12) If someone posts something "Public" or asks a "question" You cannot be a keyboard warrior rip them apart insult them etc... You cannot expect people to come forward in an open and transparent manner when there is potential for public humiliation/embarrassment.

13) We have all seen the building of powerhouses too. All of which have lead to the apathy of individuals within UK rocketry and the total lack of desire to become evolved with UKRA.

14) People are sick of the politics within rocketry.

Michael Hoffman. Current Council Member.

I'm Mike 34 from Cambridgeshire formerly chairman of EARS though now fly at MRC due to preferring the clear atmosphere the club has to provide. I am standing for the UKRA Council because I believe I can continue to bring something positive and stable to UK rocketry as a whole, from upkeep of the RSO / L2 examination through to guidance on current explosives licencing and storage from my extensive contacts within this area of expertise. By day I am a fibre network delivery asset assurance compliance officer for a UK communications company, this involves a variety of tasks ensuring health and safety risk assessments are carried out and individual assets are certified and fit for use within the network. In rocketry I have been involved in UK rocketry on and off since 2001 becoming certified level 1 in 2003 and launching lots of ambitious yet successful flights in the way of model clusters and multistage flights as well as simple yet effective HPR flights. In 2018 I certified L2 and RSO and have safely RSO'd 100's of flights and declined a few unsafe ones along the way too; Much to the disappointment and annoyance of those looking at breaking the UKRA safety code - rules are there for the safety of everyone, not to be broken by those that believe they are above them.

John Bonsor. Current Secretary.

I am *not* standing for re-election to the Council this time. I feel that I should say why that is. We have six excellent new candidates standing for election. I'm standing down to provide a place for at least one of the new candidates to bring their fresh initiative, ideas, and energy to the Council, at this time when UKRA and UK rocketry so much needs that. I will of course continue to do all that I can to support UK rocketry and its development. There's plenty of scope for doing that outwith the Council.

Ronald Hatcher.

### **Rocketry Bio**

I have been involved in my current rocketry activities for 6 years after taking quite a long break from building and flying models as an early teen. I have certified up to level 2 and am also an RSO and I enjoy building and flying models as well as HPR; especially semi-scale rockets. I am lucky to be able to fly at EARS and MRC and have been involved with the EARS committee, most recently acting as membership secretary and managing the EARS website.

### **What I can bring to the council**

During the time I have been involved in UK rocketry, I have found a true passion for the hobby as well as a unique camaraderie through the various groups both in the UK and abroad. Being a part of the UKRA Council will allow me to broaden these activities and help ensure a long and safe future for UK rocketry. I feel as though I can help to extend the outreach of UKRA through web and social media, encouraging new people to join the hobby.

Daniel Innes.

### **Rocket bio:**

My name is Daniel and I am a project engineer for UK Launch Services. We provide launch consultancy and system integration bringing together all elements of UK launch, including the rocket, and I primarily focus on launch infrastructure requirements, siting assessments, operations and safety management. I have had a love for the theoretical side of rocketry since I was a young boy encouraging a mathematics degree and a further space engineering degree, however it has only been over the course of the last few years that I have been introduced to the hands-on practical element of model and high power rocketry. This introduction to HPR has really sparked what I can tell will be a lifelong hobby! I was vice-chairman of CranSEDS and part of the rocketry team at Cranfield University and since then I have achieved my Level 1 and 2 UKRA certification, and I have assisted in the organisation and running of a university student CanSat event at Machrihanish Spaceport. I am currently organising a rocketry competition Mach-22 for next year and assisting Sheffield University with their launch of their large solid motor Vesna vehicle.

### **What I'd bring to UKRA:**

- I am a young enthusiastic individual who is very keen quick learner and hard worker.
- I can assist in modernising the UKRA website, memberships, references, certification and documentation
- Through networking and day-to-day communications I have multiple contacts throughout the UK space and launch industry
- I can bring a detailed understanding of UK regulations and safety considerations where necessary

- Through my work launching model rockets at a children's summer camp as well as doing some work at a primary school, I am able to promote rocketry, and contribute to education and STEM activities.
- Also due to my experience in project engineering, I am able to put time aside for the input to day-to-day activities in running UKRA including, responding to emails and enquiries, creating or up-issuing documentation and updating the website.

#### Ben Jarvis.

I've been involved in model and high power rocketry in the UK for a little over 31 years now, having launched the first BMFA insured HPR flight in 1994 and gone on to help found UKRA, design it's logo and worked on the early certification program. I've made close to two thousand rocket launches over the past three decades of which at least 800 have been HPR and nearly thirty have been Level 3 or 'amateur' launches including rockets up to 30ft tall, 600kg launch mass and 'P' class total impulse. I now work in the commercial launch sector as launch campaign manager for suborbital and orbital launch at the SaxaVord Spaceport in the Shetland Islands and also have a significant involvement in space related educational opportunities which I am working to expand. Having been on the UKRA council for a good few years in its early stages I am now very keen to return to the team and bring some fresh ideas on education, engagement and public visibility of UKRA, backed up by the experience and insight I've gained through my career as well as my continued personal launch experience.

#### Ian Lewis.

I have been a rocketeer since 2016, after I was introduced to the hobby by John Jacombe. Since then I have achieved my L1 and am working towards my L2 and RSO qualifications. I am currently the Treasurer at EARS Rocketry Club in Cambridgeshire.

I believe that we need to attract younger people into the hobby, which is why I am also a mentor for the UKRoc competition, although this year I will be unable to attend the final as I will be representing Great Britain in the Space Modelling World Championships in Romania.

Normally I tend to launch smaller model rockets, mainly because High Power means I end up walking further (may not be a bad thing!) and I also like the slightly odd configuration of rockets or recovery mechanisms, as more of a challenge.

#### Stuart Livings.

The following are areas that I feel passionately about and would like to drive for change:

- \* UKRA should be a facilitating association, not a governing body.
- \* The constitution should be reviewed and updated to reflect the modern organisation.
- \* Membership, including certifications and qualifications, should move to an online system.
- \* The certification process, study guide and written test should be reviewed and updated.

Over the course of the coming year I would strive to achieve the following in collaboration with the remainder of council:

- \* An updated constitution to be voted upon at the next AGM.
- \* A fully online membership system.
- \* A full review and update of the certification process.
- \* Devolving responsibilities out of the central council, allowing a smaller and leaner council to move faster in decision making and allowing individuals and small groups to move quickly with the full support of the council.

At the next AGM I would love to see a modernised organisation ready for fresh insight and new changes, particularly encouraging younger fliers with new ideas to join the council or one of the supporting bodies.

Aaron McNeil.

I am currently employed as a Design Engineer at Gravitilab Aerospace Services. Duties include design, analysis and optimisation of components for sub-orbital sounding rockets and other microgravity testing systems. Modelling of the components and creating engineering drawings is achieved by utilising Parametric modelling on SolidWorks, and analysis is carried out using CFD package Ansys Fluent, and FEA package Ansys Static Structural. I am also involved in fabricating components and assembling sounding rockets in the workshop. My latest tasks were designing the combustion chamber components for our hybrid rocket propulsion system - which is just entering the test phase - and carrying out trajectory analysis on our first hybrid rocket propelled test vehicle. The components of this system will later be used in our >100km capable sub-orbital sounding rocket.

I would be interested in being on the UKRA Council, as I have been a member of UKRA for a long time now. I have had a lot of experience in building and flying HPR rockets, and enjoy giving advice to new starters and student teams at rocketry events. I hope to inspire the younger generation to get involved in rocketry, and to encourage them to pursue a career in the aerospace industry. Thank you for considering my application.