

WYK Aviation Club

The Aviation Club, founded by Fr. Cunningham on 29 October 1960, played a significant role in the initial build-up of the Air Scout Troop. By enrolling its members, the screening necessary for admitting boys as Air Scouts that were genuinely interested in aviation were lessened. The original 12 recruits, extended to 3 patrols in a month, were drawn largely from Aviation Club members.



By 1967, the Aviation Club had built up quite a strong support network, through the good office of Father Cunningham and his friends in the aviation community, and old boys who have found roles in the industry like HKAECO, as air traffic controllers and miscellaneous positions in the airlines. These support opened up venues for visits, talks and gathering of training/reading material.

The Club had built up quite a library too, with collections of periodicals and books donated by friends and old members, and significantly from the USAF through their Liaison Officer Col. Hum. Various other Aircraft manufacturers and Airlines like Handley-Page and Lufthansa, also generously provided monthly contributions in magazines and films.

The Club room, then located in the NE corner of the school hall balcony, had two walls lined with book shelves and another wall of airplane models from members.

The two continued to be intertwined; it was not unusual to find Air Scouts lounging in the Club room, or browsing through its library. The space and the large tables outside the Club Room were used almost as much as the Scout Room below the Cafeteria.

The membership had always hovered around 30-40 boys due to logistic/space difficulties in arranging visits for any larger group. With the establishment of the Air Scout Troop, the Club membership was actually available to more boys since some existing member were 'bled off' to the Air Troop, alleviating earlier enrollment limits and the occasional "waiting list". But Air Scouts were defacto Aviation Club members through the years when Father was director. In the first couple of years anyway, the Aviation Club continued to be the first place to search for potential recruits.

As both grew, some of the Founding members like Felix Chiu, John Liu, Vincent Woo, Thomas Wan, Samuel Tsien, and 1968 recruits like Kwan Pak-kin, Anthony Fei and Lo Cheung-on served in the Club's exec committee, well until they left WYK.

(Lo Cheung-on served as President in both 1971 and 1972.)

AVIATION CLUB

1970

Director - - - - - Father P. J. Cunningham, S.J.
President - - - - - Cheung Po Sum
Secretary - - - - - Szeto Yin
Treasurer - - - - - John Liu
Librarians - - - - - Felix Chiu, Anthony Fei
Signum Correspondence - - - Vincent Woo
Representative to the Council - Thomas Wan

This year the Club had a total of forty-six members. We held four general meetings and two council meetings. During these meetings, activities for our members were discussed and planned. Later, owing to other more interesting school activities many of our plans had to be abandoned. Better luck next year, fellows! By courtesy of Lufthansa and the United States Air Force we were able to have a film show once a month and had a very good attendance. The films were all very interesting and supplied our members with an up-to-date knowledge of the world of aviation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lufthansa and Colonel Hum, U.S. Air Force Liaison Officer in Hong Kong.

This year's Parents' Day was a great occasion for the Club. Through the kind support of several air-line companies and also the Air-port Fire Station we were able to put an exhibition which received great attention and also many words of praise. We would therefore like to extend our thanks to the personnel of the Air-port Fire Station who so kindly lent us their Kai Tak Air-port Model for display. During March, 1970, some of the members were given an opportunity to visit the U.S.S. Constellation. The visit turned out to be a great treat for all those who went. After two hours of sight-seeing, the members all came back with a better knowledge about the United States Navy. Apart from that they each had a little souvenir from the ship.

VINCENT J. WOO.