

MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HONILEY ON 2nd October 2010

The meeting commenced at 1:00 pm.

Present were:

Gordon Warburton FSMAE, Ian Pallister, David Knott, John Elkington, Chris Allen and Steve Kessel

1. Apologies

Richard Scarborough (who had been invited to sit in prior to joining the committee formally next year).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the meeting of 12th June 2010 were proposed by Gordon, seconded by Dave and accepted unanimously as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Dave spoke of his experience taking on the dual role of team manager and competitor at this year's world championship. He has been adequately reimbursed by the BMFA for his expenses but felt that this is only due to the fair minded approach taken by the current budget controller, Jo Halman. In brief he had to make bookings in advance with no guarantee of reimbursement. He was concerned that others may be put off taking on the dual role of team manager and competitor if the rules governing expenses are not revised. Under the current system someone taking on the dual role could find themselves at a financial disadvantage compared with other team members if the budget controller does not operate the system in the same way as Jo. Gordon supported Dave's view on this matter and Ian undertook to raise the matter at the next Technical Council Meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported as follows:

Surpluses from R/C Scale events at Osbournby and Merryfield amounted to £148 and have been paid into the Scale Contest Fund.

A cancellation fee is expected from Elvington Village Hall following the decision not to hold the team trials.

No figures have yet been received of any funds allotted to Scale arising from surplus income at the August Nationals.

The latest accounts from Leicester show the following balances:

Team Travel Fund:	£7,948.00	
Contest Fund – Interscale	£3,068.44	
Contest Fund	£3,351.55	
Technical Committee Expenditure	£339.94	(Budget £2,000.00)
Training and Excellence Expenditure	£775.55	(Budget £1,500.00)

In preparation for standing down from the committee Gordon then passed the accounts to Ian who thanked him for his contribution over the years and reminded everyone that we shall be looking to elect a new treasurer at the next meeting.

5. Report on the BMFA Full Council meeting of 12th September 2010

Ian highlighted the following points that were discussed at the meeting:

- 5.1 *FAI Licence information is now on the website.*
- 5.2 *The 'Perkins Slade' trophy will be awarded for the first time this year. From now on the individual technical committees' nominations for the trophy must be filed by 6th August each year. Gordon suggested that in future the nominations should be sent to Perkins Slade for them to select the winner.*
- 5.3 *Ian has asked that the detail of the expenses for the Indoor Nats be presented in the notes accompanying the accounts for next year.*
- 5.4 *Free Flight had been refused permission to use their training and excellence budget to train potential team managers.*
- 5.5 *Chief Executive's report:*
 - 5.5.1. *Proposed dates for use of Barkston Heath required as soon as possible.*
 - 5.5.2. *The new Club Support Officer is Terry Eto.*
- 5.6 *Vice Chairman's Report*
 - 5.6.1. *The number of insurance claims has gone up this year.*
 - 5.6.2. *There has been a fatal accident in Switzerland.*
 - 5.6.3. *There have been incidents of crop fires caused by small LiPo batteries on F/F models where the batteries have been allowed to run flat. There will be an article in the BMFA News about use of batteries.*
 - 5.6.4. *No change in the FAI licence fees.*
 - 5.6.5. *There will not be a Schools' Challenge Competition in the coming year.*

6. Draft Proposal for a Scale C award

Ian has produced a draft document for the ASRC which was circulated for written comment before the meeting. There was general consensus that he had produced a very good document and after further discussion it was agreed that it should be submitted to the ASRC after the following amendments:

- 6.1 *It needs to be emphasised that the achievement scheme is aimed at club flyers who want to demonstrate a certain level of achievement in flying scale models. As such it does not aim to test the scale building competency of candidates.*
- 6.2 *The manoeuvres to be flown should follow those described in the BMFA competition rules for scale models and be assessed accordingly. However, with prior agreement of the examiners, candidates will have scope to adjust the dimensions and positioning of manoeuvres to suit local conditions. A paragraph will be added to the draft document to this effect.*
- 6.3 *The following manoeuvres are not considered as suitable for the a C certificate test:*
 - 6.3.1. *Parachute dropping*
 - 6.3.2. *Bomb dropping*
 - 6.3.3. *Horizontal Triangle*
 - 6.3.4. *Horizontal Rectangle*
- 6.4 *Sections 1 and 2 of the examination score sheet should be merged*

Ian will make the changes and submit the document to the ASRC.

7. Scale Free Flight

7.1 Bill Dennis asked the committee to consider a rule change to clear up an oversight in the Outdoor Rubber rules (6.5). He wrote:

For two years we have used a 'field rule' at the nationals, deleting the ROG. This was because:

- a) *Rubber model take offs are rubbish.*
- b) *Most attempts end in failure or damage.*
- c) *Many subjects are unable to perform ROG because of prop clearance and we don't want to restrict choice.*

It has worked well so I propose:

6.5.5 Flight

a) Initial climb	K = 20
b) Realism in Flight	K = 40
c) Transition to descent	K = 15
d) Descent and landing approach	K = 25
Total	K = 100

The committee agreed with the proposal and agreed that the rules for 2011 should be changed accordingly. Chris will ensure that this is done.

7.2 Safety at the Nats F/F line

It was generally agreed that control of the small crowd that gathers to watch the F/F competition has not been as good as it should be. The possibility of using two marshals with a rope to 'guide' the crowd was also discussed, but in the first instance it was decided to have a single designated Safety Officer wearing a yellow jacket to control the crowd. This will be tried at the 2011 Nats.

8. Indoor Scale Report

8.1 Forthcoming Events

RAF Digby 23rd and 24th October (Open, Peanut & Kit Scale)

Impington 31st October

RAF Digby 5th December (Indoor R/C scratch built and foamies – no profile fuselages)

8.2 Peanut Rules

Ian has invited comments regarding revision of the rules for Peanut Scale. There have been many ideas put forward but so far there is not much consensus. He is waiting for more responses before deciding how to proceed.

9. Scale Control Line Report

It was agreed that we should have an ex-committee representative for C/L Scale. Bernard Seale's name was suggested and since the meeting he has been approached by Ian and has agreed to take on this role. He will be added to the Scale Newsletter list and his contact details published on the website.

10. Scale RC Report

10.1 World Championships

Dave reported that the World Championships were well organised and very friendly. It was a good site with a single 60m wide runway. The weather was variable during the week varying from wet and windy to ideal. The only criticism was that there was a good deal of wasted time during the week.

The committee congratulated the British team for their individual achievements and on coming first in the team competition. Dave was also thanked for taking on the dual role of Team Manager.

10.2 Nationals Review

There was a lengthy review on this year's Nats; the main points for discussion being:

10.2.1. Number of Competitors

The flying only competition is clearly very popular but the numbers taking part make it very difficult to squeeze in three full rounds of flying, particularly as the weather was not always at its best. Consequently the choice of options was reduced by two in both F/O and F4C. It was agreed that it was undesirable to drop manoeuvres, particularly from F4C. Unless another flight line can be made available the maximum number of entries across all classes that can be accommodated flying a full schedule is 36. This being the maximum that we think we can cope with per day given reasonable weather.

If the entries are limited it begs the question of how to do this. Ian reminded us that the Nats is an 'open' competition and therefore the introduction of achieving a 'qualifying score' in order to participate is not an option. Also, this would prevent the occasional foreign visitor from taking part. It was agreed that in future competitors would be allowed only one entry across all classes. In the absence of any better ideas it was suggested that entries be considered on a 'first come first served' basis but this too has its problems. Many competitors book hotel accommodation well in advance and, as the Nats is team a qualifying event, potential team members should not be excluded on this basis. Ian undertook to raise the issue with the Comp Sec at the Tech Council meeting.

10.2.2. Flight-line Management

There was also considerable discussion about how we can improve the management of the flight-line and general organisation at the Scale Nats. Ideas put forward for consideration were the introduction of a linesman with yellow and red flags to warn pilots that their model is close to or beyond the airspace boundary for the scale flight-line; use of walkie-talkies to improve communication between scale flight-line officials; emphasising the responsibility of the caller to advise his flyer what is going on around him, and reducing the size of the TX control space in the marquee (to make more room for static judging and storing models).

10.2.3. Proposal to revive a 'Clubman' style competition

Martin Fardell had put forward the suggestion that we reintroduce something similar to the old Clubman competition which introduces a static element to encourage modellers who would like to take part in an F4C style competition but feel that they cannot compete with the standard of craftsmanship of the best F4C competitors. Moreover, he suggests that getting a 'builders' class going as a lead-in to F4C is absolutely vital to the future of F4C. It might also provide a more acceptable formula to replace the unpopular rules for the provisional F4H class. There was unanimous support for this suggestion but the impact on the overall number of scale entries had to be considered. It was agreed that Ian would include this in his discussion with the Comp Sec.

10.3 Team Trials 25th-26th September 2010

It was noted that it has been deemed unnecessary to hold a Team Trial competition this year because of the lack of interest among our flyers of competing at the European Championships in Romania next year. Only two competitors, both of whom had obtained qualifying scores during the year, had shown an interest. However, it would be necessary to invite applications for the position of Team Manager. Ian agreed to draft an entry for the BMFA News.

11. Ratification of Drawings

11.1 Twin Lacey by Andy Sephton

These drawings have been checked and approved as an accurate representation of the original aircraft by Bill Dennis.

11.2 Ryan PT22 by Richard Crapp

These drawings have been checked and approved as an accurate representation of the original aircraft by Pete McDermott.

11.3 Curtiss Robin by Bill Dennis

These drawings have been checked and approved as an accurate representation of the original aircraft by Pete McDermott.

11.4 Sopwith Cuckoo by Mike Smith

These drawings have been checked and approved as an accurate representation of the original aircraft by Pete McDermott.

11.5 Rubber Stamp

It was agreed that STC should purchase a rubber stamp to mark drawings that have been approved on behalf of STC to replace the current sticker system, which could be copied. The persons currently used to check and approve drawings are Pete McDermott, Bill Dennis and Chris Allen. Ian undertook to obtain one stamp for each checker

12. Proposed changes to the BMFA Scale Competition Rules for 2011

The following changes were approved. Chris will inform Chris Bromley of the changes and write a short article about the changes for the scale newsletter.

12.1 Procedure Turn

The procedure turn will be reintroduced into the list of optional manoeuvres in keeping with the current FAI rules.

12.2 Cuban Eight

The description of allowable variations of the Cuban Eight manoeuvre will be amended in keeping with the current FAI rules.

12.3 K Factors

The K factors for Smoothness of Flight and Speed of Flight will be amended in keeping with the current FAI rules.

12.4 Gyros

It was decided by unanimous agreement that the ban on the use of gyros to assist the flight control of models competing in UK domestic scale competitions should be retained. It is acknowledged that it is difficult to police such a ban but the general feeling among the scale fraternity is that allowing the use of gyros would reduce the skill required to fly in a realistic manner and ultimately debase and ruin scale competitions. However, in order not to disadvantage our international team members, they will be allowed at the team trials for the following year in accordance with current FAI rules.

13. Mike Goldby Memorial Trophy

Ian reported that a trophy has been commissioned and will be completed ready for presentation at this year's annual dinner. The trophy will be a solid silver replica of Mike's clipped wing J3 Cub model and will be presented annually to the winner of the Kit Scale Competition at the Indoor Nats. The trophy will be purchased from the funds accumulated from the sale of Mike's modelling goods and the surplus will be donated to cancer charities.

14. Newsletter

The rule changes described in items 7 and 12 will be detailed in the next scale newsletter.

15. Actions required before next STC meeting

The letter from Chris Bromley to all Technical Committee Members was reviewed in order to make sure that all matters are in hand before the committee disbands at AGM time.

Chris Allen made the point that the BMFA has never officially recognised that Graham Kennedy sits on the CIAM Scale Technical Committee and that this should be rectified. There was unanimous agreement on this and Ian undertook to raise the matter at the Council Meeting on 15th October.

16. A.O.B.

16.1 Dave circulated the provisional competition dates for next year.

16.2 John raised the subject of the time and place of STC meetings. In view of the fact that Gordon is standing down from the committee it was suggested that Honiley would no longer be a central location for the committee members. Steve had already made enquiries of Old Warden but the cost of hiring a room there was more than we pay at Honiley. There was a general consensus that Old Warden would be a good meeting place so Chris undertook to make further enquiries as he is a lifetime member of SVAS.

16.3 Gordon said that although he is standing down from the committee he would offer to continue editing/managing the indoor scale website, but would appreciate it if someone else offered to take over this task in due course. Ian said that he may be interested and would speak to Gordon about it outside the meeting.

16.4 Gordon also said that he would not like to be considered for the positions of Nationals CD and UK Team Manager in future.

16.5 Chris informed us that with the approval of Narve Jensen he has taken on the task of revising the English wording of the FAI F4 Rule Book to make it more readable and easier to understand. Part of this task will be to separate out the Judges Guide.

16.6 Ian once again thanked Gordon for the wealth of experience and wise words that he has brought to the STC and for his contribution to the BMFA scale scene in general.

17. Provisional Date and Venue for next meeting

The next meeting was provisionally arranged for Saturday 11th December 2010 at Old Warden; confirmation of venue and starting time to follow.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5:30pm.

Stephen Kessel
Secretary - Scale Technical Committee

20th October 2010