

MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT OLD WARDEN ON 8th October 2011

The meeting commenced at 11:00 am.

Present were: Chris Allen, Ian Pallister, David Knott, Steve Kessel, Andy Sephton and Richard Scarbrough.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the STC Meeting of 11th June 2011 were approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising (not covered by the agenda)

Item 3 – 10.2 Activities previously performed by Gordon Warburton Programme used for processing competition scores

It seems that this programme is written using a programming language that rather old and not familiar to many people. The view around the table was that we should look into writing a MS Excel version that could be more easily updated. Steve undertook to do this and report back at the next meeting. Chris will send Steve a copy of the current programme.

4. Treasurers Report

Richard presented the following report:

TREASURER'S REPORT (08/10/11)

The budgets for the current financial year to 31 March 2012 have been set at

Scale Technical Committee costs	£2,000
Scale Training & Excellence	£1,500

These are the same figures as for last year.

No budget has been allocated for Contest fund interscale/Contest fund scale or TTF scale, but none in previous years either.

Since the last meeting in June 2011, the following events have taken place with surpluses as follows:

		Surplus/(deficit)
Warboys	19/06/2011	52.00
Merryfield	03/07/2011	122.00
Osournby	31/07/2011	156.00
Merryfield	11/09/2011	34.00
Team Trials	24-25/09/11	(22.99) * loss

* Loss due to Church Fenton airfield cost £30 and room hire £80 (which were in addition to costs for judges £60).

I have only received accounts summaries for the first quarter up to 30 June 2011 from head office and these show the following :

TC costs - scale	630.75	costs
Training & excellence	-	
Contest fund interscale	-	
Contest fund scale	** 1,987.30	income
TTF scale	-	

** includes £1,434.30 banked re: Indoor Scale Nats at Nottingham on 1 May 2011

5. Chairman's Report

Ian reported on the following matters:

5.1 Proposals.

Proposals sent electronically to the office don't need to be signed or followed by a hard copy. The email address will be taken as signifying the originator; provided that they are received from the secretary of the relevant technical committee.

5.2 Insurance

Dave Phipps outlined his discussions over getting a better deal on insurance and has secured a new policy with the Doodson Broking Group. As well as lower premiums for better cover, they have offered much more flexibility for low value claims which will allow the BMFA to settle minor damage issues quickly directly from the Leicester office (up to £25K per year). It will take effect from the beginning of December. This is rather embarrassing after Perkins Slade have just bought a trophy recognising their long association with us but business sin business!

5.3 Team Travel Funding

This was the most contentious issue of the day. F3B/J had put in a paper arguing for more money for 'helpers'. My bid for Scale helpers to be treated equally was rejected by Jo Halman as they are not a mandatory requirement. The SC4 F4 Sporting Code merely states that 'One helper is permitted... etc' which is not strong enough to secure funding.

On the positive front we were able to secure a return to full £400 funding for WCs for all classes. Indeed, EC funding was also increased to £400 – subject to any shortfall in the budget being made up from sponsorship (eg from Doodsons).

6. Free Flight

Nationals Report

Ian reported that it was another difficult Nationals for F/F because of the wind and flying took place only on Saturday evening. Entries in all classes held up and a number of R/C flyers are threatening to have a go next year, having seen Pete McDermott win Superscale with his miniature DH9a, one of only 3 out of 11 models to return a flight score. The weather impact on CO2/Electric and Rubber was similar.

As a result of the incident between the model and car at the Nationals it was decided that the following measures be put into place to minimise the chances of a re-occurrence:

- a) There should be a minimum of 200m upwind of the take off area,
- b) Marshalls to record the registration number of cars that have not been parked in a 'safe' area,
- c) Marshalling to be more 'robust' and
- d) Spectators to be upwind of models at take off.
- e)

Rule Query

We discussed Bill Dennis' query about rule 6.1.6c with regard to parts missing from models because of flight damage. Our interpretation of the rule is that models should be intact at the first flight attempt and if any damage is incurred then the CD must exercise his discretion as to whether the model is still legal for subsequent flights. Ian will reply to Bill accordingly.

7. Indoor

No detail to report but there may be a possibility of an event at the Manchester Velodrome in February 2012.

8. Control Line

The C/L event attracted a reasonable entry but, although static judging took place, no models were flown due to the strong wind. In order to obtain a result the STC has agreed to allow the flying element to be conducted at a later date, to be organised by the Scale C/L coordinator. Thus far none of the committee has been notified of a new competition date or results. Ian will speak to Brian Cordwell to find out what is happening.

9. Radio Control

Nationals Report

Ian reported that there were 18 entries in F4C, including 2 from the Netherlands and 2 from Norway. The standard of models and flying was consistently high with less than 2% separating the top 3 scores. Ian Bryant reversed last year's result by pipping Pete McDermott to the Championship with his immaculate DH51. The introduction of a qualifying requirement for Flying Only, along with not allowing pilots to enter both R/C classes, appeared to have had the desired effect of limiting numbers. The 19 entrants of whom 18 flew were able to enjoy a full competition schedule and, again, the flying standard was good across the board in challenging conditions, especially for the biplanes. Steve Fish was again a clear winner with a tight competition for the remaining podium places.

Organizationally, the arrangements to monitor and control flying in the downwind sterile area were effective and all pilots flew a tighter pattern with fewer incursions into Show Line airspace... However, both Chris and Steve said that they were not always aware of the position of the flagmen. To improve the situation further it was agreed that we should try using walkie-talkies to improve communications between the flagmen and the CD; and hence the judges and competitor.

An on-going problem was that we were again over-flown by the jets flying from the Display Line on numerous occasions. Ian has reported this to the last council meeting.

F4C Team Manager for 2012

Steve reported that the only application for this post has come from Graham Kennedy, but the deadline for applications to be received (30th November 2011) had not yet passed. In view of this, and the need for someone to deal with the administration that has to be done now for next year's world championships it was agreed that Graham should be appointed as interim Team Manager until the deadline for applications closes.

Financial Support for UK F4C Team at 2012 World Championships

We had a very interesting discussion relating to the level of funding for our international team. The view has been expressed by some that financial support for team members at previous championships has been rather frugal. In view of this we decided to look into the possibility of providing a more generous contribution from the Team Travel Fund for next year's championships. A figure of £1500 was proposed. Richard and Ian will look into the implications of such a contribution and report back to the next meeting.

BMFA Stand-Off Rules for 2012

After some debate about the scoring system for 'design complexity' and taking consideration of correspondence received, it was agreed to accept issue 2 of the proposed rules. Chris will prepare the rules and send to the BMFA Office by mid November. It was recognised that the introduction of stand-off competitions in next year's competition programme will require us to come to a decision on the eligibility of flying scores gained in stand-off for team trials. This will be on the agenda for the next STC meeting.

Scale Declaration Form

Further to correspondence from various scale competitors the requirement for competitors to bring a copy of the scale declaration form to each competition was considered. The view of the committee was that this requirement was not too onerous and it was agreed that there should be no change to the rules relating to this requirement. Ian will reply to those who raised the matter.

Woodvale

Ian stated that he had been approached by the organisers of the Woodvale Show who are interested in incorporating a stand-off scale competition in the show. There was agreement that this would be an opportunity to have a competition in the NW, but also questions about how well the event could be supported with judges and competitors. Further discussions will take place and Dave will look at how the event would fit into next year's competition schedule.

10. CIAM Plenary 2012

Stand-Off Rules / F4H

Chris will send. New BMFA Stand-Off rules to to be considered as a replacement for existing F4H rules.

FAI Rules – Helpers

After some debate we decided not to pursue the suggestion of making it a 'requirement' of the FAI rules that competitors in all R/C classes use a helper.

11. Technical Council Meeting 15th October 2011

CIAM Posts

Steve to send our nominations for the following CIAM posts to BMFA office:

Technical Expert and CIAM representative – Chris Allen

F4C Judges – Chris Allen, Graham Kennedy, Steve Kessel, (Bill Dennis - static only)

F4C Team

F4C Team Members for 2012 World Championships and Interim Team Manager (pending final decision on Team Manager following the 30th November closing date) to be sent to BMFA Office.

Standard Agenda for a First Technical Council Meeting

The standard agenda as issued by Chris Bromley was duly noted.

12. Models for static display at SAME AGM 12th November 2011

Ian will approach the following competitors to ask about the availability of their models for the AGM: Ian Bryant, Pete McDermott, Pete Iliffe, Mick Henderson, Dave Toyer and Richard Crapp.

13. Newsletter

The following items were identified for inclusion in the next newsletter:

- a. Encouragement for more people to gain experience as judges for both flying and static aspects of our competitions.

14. AOB

Ian brought the following points to our attention:

- a) CAP658 is being re-drafted but there is no indication yet as to when it will be published.
- b) New recommendations for the disposal of batteries are being proposed.
- c) There is some concern being expressed about high power 2.4GHz transmissions from some airborne First Person View systems now being imported into the UK. These raise the general 'noise' level in the 2.4GHz band and the chance of interference with 2.4GHz R/C systems.

15. Next Meeting

It was noted that the Library at Old Warden has been booked for our remaining meeting this year on: Saturday 3rd December.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 4:45 pm.

Stephen Kessel
Secretary - Scale Technical Committee

19th October 2011