

MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT OLD WARDEN ON 5th DECEMBER 2015

The meeting commenced at 11:10 am.

Present were: Chris Allen (CA), Robin Gowler FSMAE (RG), John Minchell (JM) and Ian Pallister (IP).
Dave Knott (DK) was also in attendance as a volunteer for co-option.

We followed the set agenda for the first meeting of a new Technical Committee. Steve Kessell (SK) had been nominated by the BMFA Chairman to open the meeting but, as he could not be present, he had passed the responsibility to Robin Gowler.

1. Election of Officers, Co-Options, Specialist Bodies

- a) The initial voting strength was four (4).
- b) **Election of Chairman:** The elected members voted unanimously for Chris Allen to take over as Chairman (Proposed RG, seconded JM). Chris then took over the Chair from Robin.
- c) **Co-options:** As Richard Scarbrough had formally submitted his resignation from the STC on 24 Nov, Dave Knott had volunteered to take his place. His co-option was carried unanimously. (Proposed RG, seconded CA)
- d) The voting strength was now confirmed as five (5).
- e) Done – item b.
- f) **Election of Secretary:** Although not present, Steve Kessel had expressed his willingness to serve another term as Secretary. (Proposed: IP, seconded: CA) Carried unanimously.
- g) **Election of Treasurer:** Dave Knott (Proposed CA, seconded JM). Carried unanimously.
- h) **Election of Council Delegate:** Robin Gowler (Proposed: IP, seconded: CA). Carried unanimously.
- i) No **specialist bodies** are attached to our committee.
- j) The final voting strength remained as five (5).
- k) Done – item b.
- l) Done – items f, g and h.

As there were no contested positions, the following elections were made, all by unanimous decision:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| m) PRO | Andy Sephton (AS) (ex-committee) |
| n) Safety Officer | Chris Allen |
| o) Rules Officer | Chris Allen |
| p) Results Officer | Ian Pallister |
| q) Team Travel Budget Signatory | Dave Knott (Treasurer) |

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Steve Kessell, Andy Sephton and Graham Kennedy (GK) (who had agreed to manage the Scale R/C competition programme ex-committee).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There was one minor amendment required to the minutes of the previous STC meeting of the 3rd October 2015. The title of Item 15 should read: BMFA **Provisional** Scale Rule Book. With this amendment the minutes were approved by those who had been present. (Proposed: CA, seconded IP, one abstention).

4. Matters Arising

Item 6(e): Ian had spoken to Any Symons about moving the STC website onto the BMFA site but before being able to progress it further he had received notification from Gordon Warburton that the hosting contract for the current site had auto-renewed. Gordon had now put a stop to further auto-renewals but this took the pressure off needing to migrate the site in the short-term. Ian would continue to work towards modernising the STC's Internet presence. **(Action IP)**

Item 8(a): Bill Dennis had confirmed his willingness to remain as the STC rep for FF Scale disciplines (ex-Committee) (subject to Andrew Hewitt continuing as Scale FF CD for the Nationals).

Item 14: Ivan Taylor had provided 3 models, (including his Eric Coates-winning Supermarine S5) for the Scale display at the AGM which, together with Robin's Sopwith Pup, had generated much interest from delegates. Both were thanked for making the effort to bring them.

5. Miscellaneous Appointments

- a) There is no formal list of scale judges for domestic competitions as it is considered that this would be too constraining.
- b) The following posts and responsibilities were decided:

Newsletter	Andy Sephton (ex-Committee)
RC Contest Manager	Graham Kennedy (ex Committee)
Scale Indoor Representative	John Minchell (+ Graham Banham (ex-Committee))
Scale Free Flight Representative	Bill Dennis (ex-Committee)
Scale Control Line Representative	Brian Cordwell (ex-Committee)
Scale Helicopter	John Copeston (ex-Committee)
CIAM Representative	Graham Kennedy (ex-Committee)
Webmaster	Ian Pallister

All ex-Committee representatives are welcome to attend any STC meetings, when appropriate, in a non-voting capacity.

6. Disciplines Covered

The disciplines covered by this committee are: Scale R/C, Scale F/F, Scale C/L, Scale Helicopter and Scale Indoor.

7. Council Agenda

The committee had no proposals to put on the next BMFA Council Agenda.

8. Nationals de-briefing and pre-planning

- a) The de-briefing of the 2015 Nationals was conducted at the previous STC meeting.
- b) Should it go ahead as planned the F4 World Championships in Romania in late August 2016 would take several of our usual officials and competitors away from the Nationals. There was also still a question over the availability of Barkston Heath for the August Bank Holiday. In view of these uncertainties, further pre-planning was deferred until the next meeting in March.

9. Teams

The results of the team trial to select the GBR team for the 2016 F4 World Championships in Romania were reported at the last STC meeting. Since then, 2 of the 5 who qualified had declined to take up their places. The remaining 3 members, Mick Reeves, Richard Crapp and Dave Toyer who qualified 1st, 4th and 5th respectively, have accepted offers of team places. In view of the withdrawal of higher-placed competitors the STC, having taken advice from the CIAM Scale Sub-Committee Chairman regarding other entries for the Championships, unanimously agreed that our best chance of a medal would be in F4H and not F4C. Whilst this had been discussed informally with potential team members, they had not been officially advised. Chris Allen undertook to write to each member requesting them to confirm if they would accept a nomination for F4H only. If we were unable to field a full team the STC would not support a GBR entry. In the meantime, the STC Sec would submit a provisional Data Gathering Form to the Comp Sec for consideration at the January council meeting. **(Action CA & SK)**

10. Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers

Having managed the GBR team at the last F4 WC in 2014, Steve Kessell had indicated his agreement to manage the team again in Romania. In view of the uncertainty over the event and potential complexities of travel arrangements, this met unanimous approval of the STC. However, it was noted that the post had not been advertised in BMFA News or on the website. Whilst it was highly unlikely that another volunteer would come forward the acting Sec agreed to post an advert on the website ASAP so the post could still be ratified at the January Council. Should another candidate come forward, the STC would hold a postal vote by email. **(Action IP)**

11. BMFA Competition Details

- a) The competition fees for 2016 were agreed unchanged as follows:

<u>Centralised events</u> RC £15 or Season Ticket £70 CL £11 FF £3 Indoor £15 registration - no class fee (all may be subject to variable supplement dependent on venue)	<u>Nationals</u> RC £30 Heli £20 CL £16 FF £12 Indoor (FF & RC) £16.50 registration plus £3.50 per class (may be subject to variable supplement dependent on venue)
<u>Team Trials</u> F4C and F4H £20 per class	<u>Juniors (under 18 years)</u> Free for all events

- b) Steve will notify the office of the total certificate requirements once the outline programme for centralised RC events has been agreed. **(Action GK & SK)**

12. Technical Committee Annual Return

The Annual Return was circulated for everyone to check their personal details. Ian would compile the e-copy and send it to Steve for him to enter his personal details and submit it to the office. **(Action IP & SK)**.

13. Safety Review

Safety had been covered in detail at the previous meeting.

14. Technical Committee's Other Agenda Items

- a) **Minutes of the previous meeting.** Covered at Item 3
- b) **Matters Arising.** Covered at item 4.
- c) **Delegate's Report.**

Robin reported briefly on the Technical Council Meeting of 17th October 2015. The only item of particular relevance had been discussion on the legitimacy of an IMAC class at the Nats that had only 1 entry. A similar situation had arisen at the Scale Indoor R/C Nats with only 2 entries in 'scratch-built' but, whilst allowing the result to stand, the CD had withheld the trophy in accordance with General Contest Rule 2.7.5. In discussion it was noted that this rule, which requires 3 competitors to have recorded a score at the Nats, is at odds with Rule 2.3.11, which effectively requires 10 entries. The STC felt that the latter may be a throwback to an earlier era and should be reviewed. **(Action CA)**

d) Treasurers Report

In preparation for handover of the books to Dave, Ian had obtained an up to date statement of accounts which is detailed in Appendix A at the end of these minutes. With just over £4600 in the Team Travel account and the prospect of the next World Championships being in Canada, it was necessary to exercise caution this year. In order to facilitate their planning for Romania, for which final details and entry fees had not yet been released, it was unanimously agreed that we should advise team members that they would be allocated at least £500 each from the TTF. This would be reviewed and the final sum agreed at the next STC meeting (Proposed DK, seconded IP). **(Action: SK & DK)**

e) PRO's Report

Andy had provided a draft newsletter for review. It was agreed that Chris would include a list of rule changes once these had been agreed later in the meeting. The Newsletter could then be published. **(Action CA & AS)**

f) Free Flight

Bill had clarified the background to the Selby and Credgington Trophies, which were to be incorporated into the Scale Contest Rules as STC trophies. **(Action CA)**

g) Indoor

- i. John advised that a full report on the Scale Indoor R/C Nationals held in October would be in the forthcoming newsletter. The entry this year had been very disappointing. It was noted that some regular competitors had been unavailable for various reasons but the time of year, cost and/or location may also have been a factor. Some had suggested a reduction in entry fees but the event is not yet sufficiently self-sustaining to support venue hire at commercial rates. After some discussion it was agreed to keep entry fees the same but research potential locations in a more central location. Ian agreed to enquire about RAF Wyton, where the RAFMAA now held its indoor events **(Action: IP)**
- ii. Discussion with competitors at Shawbury had indicated a majority in favour of extending the flying schedule for RC to include 2 optional manoeuvres. Revised K factors were agreed and Chris would include a note in the Rules that the size and positioning manoeuvres may be adjusted to account for to the available space and location of any obstructions in the venue. **(Action: CA)**
- iii. John questioned whether the RC Model Flyer trophy (for Indoor RC) should be re-named following the closure of the magazine. There was a precedent for retaining the names of original sponsors (eg Radio Modeller) so no change was recommended. However, we were still awaiting details from ADH Publishing of framed Aeromodeller covers as prizes. It was also agreed that, notwithstanding the reference to the 'Autumn Scale event' in the Rule Book, the STC had the discretion to award the Modellers Den Peanut Trophy at any appropriate event. This included the NW Area event in February at the Velodrome if this was attracting the most entries in the class, provided that the event was advertised as such. **(Action: JM)**
- iv. As it's a joint event, the STC had been asked by the Indoor TC if we could provide 'second prizes' for all classes at the Velodrome. It was agreed to allocate spare miniature paintings that were no longer needed as prizes for RC. Ian had some spares and would send them to John. **(Action: IP)**

h) Control Line

Nats report in the Newsletter.

i) Helicopter

Report in the Newsletter

j) Radio Control

Nothing to report.

k) Competition Programme for 2016

Graham had intended to present a draft programme for discussion and endorsement but was unable to attend. John confirmed indoor dates of 13 February at the Velodrome and 1 May for the Scale Indoor FF Nats at Wolverhampton University (Walsall Campus). With these inclusions Graham would be invited to attach a copy of the draft programme to the minutes. **(Action: GK & IP)**

l) BMFA Scale Rule Book for 2016

Chris presented the proposed changes to the rule book and a number of further iterations were discussed and agreed. Chris would circulate a final draft for endorsement by email before the deadline for submission to the Tech Sec for publication. **(Action: CA)**

m) 2016 F4 World Championships

Covered at Items 9 & 10

15. AOB

- a) **Websites:** John had observed that parts of the STC website were well out of date. He would submit updated content for indoor to Ian for publications. **(Action: JM & IP)**
- b) **Event Notices:** Ian had observed that details of Scale competition were rarely published early enough to make the BMFA News and not all were on the BMFA Website calendar either. All members were reminded of the need to submit them to the BMFA calendar as soon as dates were known. **(Action: All to note)**
- c) **STC Meetings:** Steve had advised that the library conference table at Old Warden was now constricted with fixed IT equipment and also that Shuttleworth had increased their prices. It was agreed that Robin would check on availability of Chacksfield House for our preferred dates. Chris also offered use of his mobile home as a meeting room should this be necessary. Robin would liaise with Steve prior to his confirming the booking for the next meeting. **(Action RG & SK)**

16. Date of Meetings for 2016

Steve had provisionally booked the Old Warden library for the following dates for next year:

5 March, 11 June, 8 October and 3 December.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 16.20 pm.

IAN PALLISTER
Acting Secretary

6 December 2015

APPENDICES:

- A. Treasurer's Report
- B. Draft 2016 Contest Programme

Appendix A – Treasurer’s Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MEETING 5th DECEMBER 2015

The only event since the last meeting was the Scale Indoor R/C Nationals at RAF Shawbury for which John had yet to submit expenses. Due to the low entry the event ran at a loss but the costs were affordable. Figures will be reflected in the next quarterly statements.

The balances as of the date of the meeting are as follows:

	Total costs this FY £	Receipts/Allocation £	Increase £	Balance £
STC Costs	778.78	1800.00		1021.22*
Contest Fund	1592.80	2785.50	1192.70	6850.28
Contest Fund – Interscale	Nil			3083.78
Team Travel Fund	Nil			4656.57
Training & Excellence	Nil	1000		1000.00*

* Balance of allocation available annually but retained centrally

Appendix B – Draft 2016 Contest Programme