

MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING **HELD AT BMFA HQ ON 15th OCTOBER 2016**

The meeting commenced at 11:00 am.

Present were: Chris Allen, Ian Pallister, John Minchell, Dave Knott, Robin Gowler, Mike Sollitt, Andy Sephton and Steve Kessel

1. Apologies for absence – none

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for 25th June 2016 were approved subject to amendments to item 14c and Appendix B plus addition of results for CL Scale Nats and Knokke trophy, proposed: John, seconded: Chris.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Item 3b - Plans for hosting an Interscale event are on hold and not likely to resume for 12 months.
- b. Item 3c - Steve gave an update on the negotiations taking place with DHL following our use of their services to transport our team's models to and from the 2016 F4 World Championships in August.
Post Meeting Note: DHL have agreed to issue a credit note for £459.86. This makes the final cost of transporting the models £2256.33. The competitors will pay £430 of this and the balance of £1826.33 will be covered by the Scale Team Travel Fund.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Dave stood down from the STC at the end of this meeting and Andy agreed to be co-opted as Treasurer. Chris asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to Dave for his contribution to the STC over the past 6 years and in particular for his efforts as RC Contest Co-ordinator and Treasurer.
ACTION: Chris to inform the BMFA office of the changes in post.
- b. The BMFA office has requested the bank details for all committee members so that expense claims can be paid by BACS / Faster Payments.
- c. There was a query about whether the STC accounts have been credited with the monies from the FF Scale and RC Scale Nats. *Action: Andy to speak to Sian.*

5. Delegate's Report on the Full Council Meeting of Saturday 10th September 2016

Ian was the STC delegate at this meeting.

- a. There was a presentation on the National Centre which Ian had reported on by email – see Appendix A.
- b. The Annual Accounts were reviewed and have now been published. Budgets have been set for next year and the STC has been allocated £1800 for costs; this compares with an allocation of £2000 for the current year of which £1900 has been spent to date. However, costs have reduced since we started using the BMFA HQ for meetings. The STC budget for Training and Excellence will be £750, £250 less than last year.
- c. There was a ruling that a BMFA Competition is valid ONLY if there are at least two competitors who have flown and recorded an official score.

6. PRO Report and Newsletter

- a. Andy requested reports on the RC Nats and the Smeatharpe competition for the next newsletter.
Action: Chris volunteered to supply both reports.
- b. Andy reported that his 'Simply Scale' articles in the BMFA News have generated interest from some potential competitors. The copy date for the next BMFA News is 30th November.

7. Free Flight

- a. Now that the FF Scale Nats has moved to the FF Nats weekend was made at the last meeting there was discussion as to whether there would be any interest in holding an ad-hoc FF Scale competition at the Power Nats.
- b. No other matters except a review of proposed rule changes – see item 13.

8. Indoor

- a. The 2017 Indoor FF Scale Nats will be held on 23rd April at Wolverhampton.
- b. John reported that the Indoor Scale R/C Nationals event planned for 23rd October had too few entries and judges to be viable. He was bitterly disappointed at the lack of support and reminded us that even with twice as many competitors last year's event made a financial loss. As a result the committee regrettably agreed to cancel the event.

Actions:

John to inform competitors and helpers that the event is cancelled and cancel the booking for the venue.

Andy to comment on the situation in his next BMFA News article.

Post Meeting Note: John has written to all concerned and stated very clearly that:

- i. The 2017 event has been moved to the spring on March 26th at the request of many people. and*
- ii. If that event is not well supported, it is questionable if there will be any more indoor RC Scale Nationals competitions.*

9. Control Line

Nothing to report.

10. Radio Control

- a. August Nationals Review
 - i. Chris reported that RAF Honnington proved to be a very good venue, better in many respects than Barkston Heath. The weather was good and the competition a success. Ian has since sent a letter to thank the commanding officer for the use of his airfield and put a toe in the door for next year. The consensus was that even if it is not needed as a venue for the Nationals it would be an excellent site for a Sunday competition.
 - ii. Chris asked to record a vote of thanks to Ian for his work liaising with the commanding officer to procure the site for our use.
- b. F4 World Championship Report
Chris thanked Steve for his Team Manager's Report. Steve gave a brief review of the championship highlighting the following points:
 - i. Yet again another world championship where there was insufficient provision for models with poor cross-wind capability.
 - ii. Much more prolific use of electronic stabilisation. It was clear that some of the 'old school' who had resisted using such systems were now benefitting from its use.
 - iii. Lack of calibration flights and question mark about the competency of some flight judges.
 - iv. Transport of models by a carrier considered a success despite the cost and administration problems. It was a practical way to attend a distant championship.
 - v. The maturing of F4H as a championship class and the need to promote it domestically as a class worth aiming for in its own right and not a poor cousin of F4C.

Action: Steve to write something on point v for Andy to put in the first Scale Newsletter of 2017.

- c. Contest Calendar for 2017
 - i. Mike circulated a draft list of events for discussion and a list of the last six years competitions for comparison, see Appendix 2. Some clashes with indoor events were identified and it was agreed that, if possible, these should be avoided but not a 'go/no go' factor because the crossover of competitors interested in both classes is not that great. Of more concern might be the availability of judges if two events are running on one day.
 - ii. The draft list included two Saturday events and there was discussion about the possibility of a two day event at the West London MFC (camping is available on site).
 - iii. Ian said that the National Centre is not likely to be in a suitable condition for a scale competition until late spring (flying surface has to be prepared and seeded). When ready the cost of hiring the NC for a one day competition will be about £125 and camping on site will cost £12.
 - iv. It was suggested that the NC could be the venue for the Ripmax Trophy competition in June.

Action: Mike to contact site owners and firm up on dates.

11. Technical Council Agenda for 22nd October 2016

- a. Chris will attend to represent the STC and give a debriefing on our Nationals competitions.
- b. It was agreed that the STC proposals for the CIAM Technical Committee will be:

12. Static Models Display for SAME AGM

It was agreed to ask the following individuals to consider bringing their models for display at the AGM;

- i. Dave Toyer – Tiger Moth
- ii. Mike Smith – Fox Moth
- iii. Bill Dennis – RE8 or Bucker Jungmeister
- iv. Mike Stewart – Curtiss P-6E Hawk

Action: Steve to contact the above and inform BMFA office which models will be displayed.

13. BMFA Scale Rule Book and Judges Guide for 2017

- a. Following the decision at the last STC meeting to allow the use of 'electronic stabilisation devices' in radio control classes it was debated whether or not this change should be accompanied by the introduction of a 'penalty or bonus' system to allow 'standard' and 'electronically stabilised' models to compete in competitions on an equal basis. There was general agreement that a bonus for those not using electronic stabilisation would be better received than a penalty for those using it; however, setting the level of a bonus is not straightforward and bound to be a controversial issue. The idea of having a trial, or several trials, before next season to determine an appropriate bonus was discussed but in the end Chris asked for us to have an exchange of ideas via email before deciding on a course of action. To start this process he said he would send all STC members a copy of the document that he has prepared for the CIAM Scale Sib-committee on this and the wider subject of 'automated flight'.
Action: Chris to initiate an email debate with a view to coming to a consensus about how to proceed at the next STC Meeting.
- b. Review of Annex 6.B.4
It was agreed that there should be no change to the rules concerning the award of the Eric Coates Memorial Trophy and the John David Jones Trophy.
- c. Adoption of a water colour painting of two Gloucester Grebes given to the STC by Brian Downham
It was decided that this painting should be awarded on annually to 'the highest placed model of a jet aircraft in a BMFA National competition' (other detail as per the Handley Page Trophy). It will be called 'The Brian Downham Trophy' and on the reverse there will be a copy of the obituary to the artist, P.E. Norman, which appeared in the 'Aeromodeller' magazine. P.E. Norman was an early experimenter and exponent of ducted fan models, hence the connection with jet aircraft.
Action: Andy to write to Brian Downham to thank him for the trophy and advise him how it will be used.
- d. To consider changes to the free flight scale rules proposed by Bill Dennis
The three suggestions were accepted as proposed, see Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the Meeting Agenda for detail.
- e. To consider a revision of rule 6.4.3.1b proposed by Mike Smith
The revision was accepted as proposed, see Appendix 5 of the Meeting Agenda for detail.
- f. Aeroplane Monthly Trophy – definition of a light aeroplane
The decision was made to use the definition from the book 'British civil light aircraft from the period 1919 to 1939' by ??? *Action: Andy to get the definition from his copy of the book.*

14. CIAM Matters

As well as the discussion document on Automated Flight mentioned in Item 13a, Chris is preparing a complete re-write of the F4 Rules for consideration at the 2018 CIAM Plenary.

15. Technical Secretary Reminder Letter

The content of the letter was noted in preparation for the next meeting.

16. A.O.B.

- a. John raised a query on behalf of Eric Stretton regarding the rules for indoor RC Scale. Eric has built an Arado Bomber which takes off from a dolly. As such it cannot perform the mandatory touch and go manoeuvre. The question is would it be possible to change the rules to allow such types to compete in this class? We agreed that there should be no immediate change but would consider the subject for discussion at a later date.
- b. John asked whether or not a BMFA 'B' Certificate of Achievement was a pre-requisite for competing in BMFA scale competitions. The answer is that it is not except for events such as the Nationals where paying public are present. In addition, Ian pointed out that it is also a pre-requisite for competitions held on RAF airfields because it is stated in our standard risk assessment agreed with the RAF for use of their facilities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for Saturday 3rd December at the Tollemache Arms in Buckminster village, [48 Main Street, Grantham NG33 5SA](#) and will begin with a visit to the BMFA National Centre.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 5:30pm.

Stephen Kessel
Secretary - Scale Technical Committee

28th October 2016

Approved