

MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE BMFA NATIONAL CENTRE ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2018

The meeting opened at 11:00 hrs.

Those present were: Steve Kessel (SK), Andy Sephton (AS), Chris Allen (CA), John Minchell (JM), Robin Gowler (RG), Steve Jackson (SJ) and John Carpenter.

In opening the meeting Steve Kessel reported the passing of Steve Moynihan, former Chairman of the BMFA. A one-minute silence was held in remembrance.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.

RG pointed out that the minutes, at Item 1(c) stated that he was co-opted onto the STC. This was not technically correct as the committee already had its full complement of members. His position was as Ex Officio and by invitation.

Subject to this correction the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2017 were accepted.

2. Matters arising.

All matters arising are dealt with in the following paragraphs, with reference to the relevant paragraphs of the minutes of the previous meeting.

a). (Minutes item 5(a)). List of potential judges. Work was ongoing, noting that compliance with the latest General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) would be required. The forthcoming list would include name, email address, BMFA number, and mobile phone number, and would be available only to the STC. **Action JM**

It was further noted that the BMFA membership database which was to be revamped for the next membership renewal year would also have to comply with the new regulations.

b). (Minutes item 11(2)). The action to advise BMFA HQ regarding travel claims from scale officials had been completed.

c). (Minutes item 11(e)). Certificate requirements. This item was included in the current Agenda.

d). (Minutes item 12)). Technical Committee Annual return. The return had been completed and submitted.

e). (Minutes item 14(d)). Treasurer's Report. A statement of account with regard to team travel to the Scale World Championships was not yet complete. **Action AS**

f). (Minutes item 14(e)1). PRO's Report. Preparation for handover of the role of PRO to Mike Sollit had not taken place. **Secretary's Note:** this matter is further discussed under Item 16 (Any Other Business) of these minutes.

g). (Minutes item 14(e)2)). Actions required in respect of the January issue of the Scale Newsletter had been completed.

h). (Minutes item 14 (f)2). Eddie Riding Event. The NWAC had been informed of the STC conditions for organising future events. These had been accepted.

i). (Minutes item 14(g)). The additions to the banner promoting the FF and Indoor Nationals had been requested.

j). (Minutes item 14 (j)2). Selection of reserve team members. **Secretary's Note.** This item is discussed under Agenda item 10 of these minutes.

k). (Minutes item 14(l)) CA reported that the Scale Rule Book for 2018 had been finalised and published.

3. Delegate's Report.

a). SK reported that he had attended the full Council meeting held on 13th January. A full report on proceedings from his perspective is enclosed at Annex A.

b). It was noted that special arrangements between the company DHL and the FAI had not proven to be advantageous, the carrier having been found to be more expensive than its competitors. It was considered that the deal is suspect and SK undertook to raise the matter with the BMFA delegate to the FAI. **Action SK.**

4. Treasurer's Report

AS provided a statement of accounts for the period 1/10/17 to 31/12/17 covering each of the five accounts. It was noted that the Team Travel Fund balance was some £1980.

5. PRO's Report

a). AS reported that there had been relatively little activity since the last meeting. A newsletter had been issued and a Nationals report for BMFA News had been completed. Action to hand over the role to MS had not taken place due to his unavailability. AS undertook to continue in a caretaker role for the immediate future and would prepare the next newsletter for issue after the next STC meeting in June. **Action AS.**

b). AS reported that the Scale 'flyer' promotional material for the Nationals was in need of updating. He asked for any suggestions for updates or amendments in order that this could be put in hand.

Post Meeting Note: copies of the existing flyers were circulated to all STC members and ex officio members via email asking each to review the poster relevant to their specialisation and advise on any changes proposed. AS would co-ordinate. **Action AS.**

6. Free Flight

a). Preparations for the Eddie Riding event, to be held during the Vintage Nationals on 6,7,and 8 July were well in hand with only the timescales for all the various events to be finalised. There were to be 5 classes of events in total. These were: IC power, Rubber, CO2 /electric, Reaction motors including Rapier, and electric ducted fan, Rules for all these events were in the rule book with the exception of the Eddie Riding event for which rules had been drawn up.

The committee members expressed their appreciation for all the hard work put in by JM to reconstitute the Eddie Riding event.

b). It was noted that entries for the Free Flight Nationals were coming in well. However costs were increasing and the committee needed to be aware of the possibility of affects on the STC.

7. Indoor

RC Scale Indoor Trophy

Although a request had been made that an item be added to the Agenda for the next meeting of Council concerning the formal adoption of Indoor RC Scale, the matter had not reached the Agenda and had not therefore been discussed. Furthermore the search for a suitable trophy had so far been without success. It was believed that RAFMAA had some surplus trophies that might meet the need. JM agreed to continue to progress as well as continuing to seek sponsorship from the model magazines. **Action JM.**

8. Control Line

Nothing to report.

9. Helicopter

Nothing to report.

10. Radio Control

a) Preparation for the World Championships.

The Chairman stated that the agenda item had been overtaken by events in that Jim Reeves, who had been selected as a member of the F4(H) team had withdrawn from the event citing domestic issues. The most important action was now to find a replacement team member. The Scale Team selection process was set out in the BMFA Contest rules Section 6, Annex 6A . However the present situation was unprecedented and whoever could be found willing to join the team would have to have his model subjected to inspection and approval by the STC both from a static and flying perspective.

During further discussion the following points emerged.

1). Whoever might be invited to join the team would need to be experienced in competition flying to a high level and have a model of sufficient quality for F4(H). The name of Mick Henderson was mentioned in this regard.

- 2). Mick Reeves was known to be building a replacement for his model which crashed at the team trials and he could be offered a place subject to inspection approval mentioned above.
- 3). It was within the rules that a competitor could enter both F4(C) and F4(H) although not with the same model. There could be a team member already selected who had the required two models.

It was agreed that the matter be progressed as a matter of urgency, having regard to the points made in discussion above, and ensuring that the Competition Secretary at BMFA is kept informed.
Action: SK, CA.

Post Meeting Note:

Following discussions with the BMFA Competition Secretary regarding the various options to fill the vacant team place it has been decided that either Dave Toyer or Dave Knott will do double duty and fly on both the F4C and F4H teams. The final decision as to which of them will fill the place will be taken at the Druids competition on April 22nd.

JC undertook to seek agreement of the Ramsey club to allowing use of their field at Warboys for static and flight judging, should it be required. **Action: JC.**

Post Meeting Note:

JC has obtained the agreement of the Ramsey Club to allow the use of their field if required.

b) Team Selection – in general

The current situation has highlighted some shortcomings in our procedure for team selection.
Action: JC to put this matter on the agenda for the October STC Meeting.

c). Uniform for WC Team Members.

There was some discussion of the provision of uniforms for this World Championship and future events. It was considered that the most cost effective approach would be that new uniforms should be provisioned that were generic, that is undated, so that at least some parts might serve for more than one event. With eight persons taking part, each would require three T-shirts, one cap and one jacket. It was agreed that the STC would fund the caps and jackets. The allowance from the BMFA will be used to fund T shirts. **Action: SK.**

d). To decide the level of STC funding for WC team members.

It was reported that BMFA will fund each team member to the sum of £680. As per normal practice, the competition entry fees and banquet fees will be paid directly by BMFA (approx 550 Euro). The difference between that sum and the £680 allowance will then be paid to each team member without the need for them to present receipts as it is accepted that their costs will exceed this amount. AS stated that sufficient funds existed within STC accounts to provide each of the team members and the team managers with an additional allowance of £500 to cover reasonable expenses. This was agreed by all those present (JC, SK and JM did not vote as they will be beneficiaries of the funding). Thus Team Members will get a total allowance of £1180 (£680 from BMFA and £500 from STC) and Team Managers will get an allowance of £500 from the STC. However, the BMFA have a policy of paying all reasonable expenses incurred by Team Managers,

so the STC contribution of £500 for each of the two team managers will not be called upon unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

11. Festival of Scale event 2019.

The date for this event was confirmed as 15/16 June 2019.

It was decided that a steering group should be formed to progress the preparations and that an email should be sent to all scale disciplines seeking volunteers. The aim was to have an initial meeting of this group this summer with information provided for the next newsletter. **Action: SK**

12. Scale Website.

It was reported that the integration of the BMFA main and STC standalone websites had not taken place and would not be ready in the immediate future although work was proceeding. RG pointed out that he was due to take over the STC element of the combined website in due course but would need a certain amount of initial guidance once the integration was completed.

13. Competition Programme.

SJ reported that the contest calendar was now largely confirmed. Two events remained subject to confirmation. Flying Only at Halsall on 8th July looked to be unlikely at the moment and Flying Only at RAF Dishforth on 27th May (Calcutta Cup) could conflict with activities by the RAF. It was possible that Castle Kennedy, near Stranraer or Pontefract might be alternatives. SJ would continue to pursue all alternatives. **Action: SJ.**

There was some discussion concerning the administration of competitions and certificate requirements. The following points were made.

- a). Once a competition result has been declared the results should be sent to the BMFA Competition Secretary. They should also be copied to the scale website manager for inclusion on the website.
- b). There was a requirement to provide judges with a guide as to the formal actions they need to take at competitions. CA undertook to prepare a document for discussion. **Action: CA**
- c). Present arrangements for preparation of competition certificates are that the list of recipients arising from a competition are passed to the BMFA Competition Secretary who arranges for the documents to be completed and sent out. In the past Dave Knott had produced the documentation and SJ undertook to see if he had the relevant software and paper. **Action: SJ.**
- d). It was confirmed that payments to clubs in respect of using their facilities for competitions should be made from the entry fees with the balance sent to the Treasurer. Expenses should be claimed separately by judges and the CD.
- e). SJ requested a list of contacts that would need to be informed in case of cancellation of an event. JM undertook to provide. **Action: JM.**

14 BMFA Scale Rule Books and associated documentation.

a). It was reported that the latest Judges Guide (Issue 25) was due to be released to all known and potential scale judges on 1st March before being added to the scale website.

b). There had been complaints that insufficient notice had been given of impending rule changes, there having been some variation in the past. It was agreed that prior notice was a matter for the STC to decide on a case by case basis and, in general, newsletters provided the notice as and when they were issued.

c). Proposed video judges guides.

What was under consideration was a video of what judges actually do, in a series of short clips. For video purposes a story-board was needed, based on a list of the obvious things that judging entailed. Such a list would include items such as; distance from the model, documentation presentation standard, the contestant's declaration etc. CA would put together such a list and pass to JM for further action. **Action: CA.**

15. The Aims and Direction of the Scale Technical Committee

a). Strategic Direction

The general feeling was that there was a need for consideration of what exactly the STC existed to do. Was it mainly to run competitions and develop rules or should the scope be wider, encompassing support and encouragement of scale modelling in all its forms? In further discussion AS noted that he had located a website which might throw more light on the general subject and he invited members to read through the information. The website was at:

<http://www.balancedscorecard.org/BSC-Basics/Strategic-Planning-Basics>

It was agreed that this subject be discussed further at the next meeting. **Action: All to give thought to this subject and JC to put on the agenda for the June STC Meeting.**

b). Proposed Light Scale RC competition class.

The aim of this event was stated to be to encourage those modellers who are put off from entering current scale competitions because of the perceived difficulties in building and transporting the larger models allowed by the 15Kg maximum weight. Furthermore, there is a perception that smaller models are likely to be at a disadvantage in such competitions.

In considering the form that a light scale class might take the following emerged:

1). The aim should be a competition for models of no greater than 5Kg weight using the same general rules being applied to Flying Only. Such events could thus be scheduled to take place at the same event as those competitions.

2). Double entries would not be allowed and it was proposed that no competitor having achieved a podium place in scale competitions in the last 5 years would be permitted to enter.

3). Gyros would be allowed with the same penalties as are applied to the larger scale competitions.

4). It was considered that the best way forward would be to float the idea in the next BMFA news with a view to holding a first event as part of the Flying Only event to be held at the BMFA National Centre on 9th September 2018. AS agreed to make the input to the BMFA News. **Action: AS**

c). Static Judging Training Programme

Presently existing training programme material included the Judges Guides and would be enhanced by the forthcoming video guide presently in preparation. It was considered that another way to provide training would be to invite those who might be interested in learning be invited to alongside the judges at competitions to gain an understanding of what is involved. This could apply to both static and flying perspectives but would necessitate the trainees being aware of the contents of the judges guides due to the differences between static and flying judging.

AS agreed to produce an ‘advertisement’ for this training approach for circulation to members in advance of insertion in the next scale newsletter. **Action: AS**

16. Any Other Business

a). The point was raised that discussion of rules is usually rushed and taken at the end of meetings. It was considered that a better approach would be to have a separate meeting, including representatives from all the disciplines, where rule changes and new rules might be suggested and considered. CA agreed to set a date for such a meeting, invite the individuals and Chair it.

Action: CA

b). RG reported that the Queen’s Cup has been granted to the BMFA to be awarded for Pylon Racing at the Nationals.

c). The date for the next meeting is Saturday 23rd June at BMFA Centre, Buckminster.