

MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING **HELD AT HONILEY ON 12th JUNE 2010**

The meeting commenced at 1:00 pm.

Present were:

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

1. Apologies

Chris Allen

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the meeting of 6th March 2010 were proposed by Gordon, seconded by Dave and accepted unanimously as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Treasurer's Report

Gordon had not received the latest updated figures from Leicester so could not report on balances, however, he did report the following:

The contest fund will benefit from the four events held to date for this season. These, plus the Indoor Nats, have generated a surplus of £177.00.

Gordon is holding £113.00 to pay into the Team Travel Fund, this being the proceeds of the sale of some of Dave Kerswell's modelling goods. He still has one model to dispose of and so far Dave's contribution to the fund has been £422.00. Ian asked that we record a vote of thanks to Dave for his generosity.

5. Report on the BMFA Technical Council meeting of 13th March 2010

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

- 5.1 The 'Perkins Slade Trophy' for the best model flyer of the year; all Technical Committees have to nominate their own candidate for this trophy. *We decided to hold a brief meeting of the STC on the last day of the August Nationals to decide on our nominee for the award.*
- 5.2 The proposal to limit Areas Council Representatives to 1 per Area. *STC support this move.*
- 5.3 The question regarding payment of fees to people who contribute articles to the BMFA News. *STC support the idea that all contributors are remunerated equally.*
- 5.4 The question of where the BMFA Archives should be held.

6. Report on the ASRC Meeting of 17th April 2010 and proposal for a Scale C award

Ian attended the ASRC meeting on behalf of the STC. Regarding the proposal for a Scale C award he reported that ASRC have emphasised that this should be a test of flying competency only and not include any points weighting for the candidate's abilities in scale research and craftsmanship. Current thoughts are that the test could be based around the F4C Flying Schedule with the candidates required to achieve a high percentage of the maximum possible score. STC would be required to provide the ASRC with details of how we judge contest flights in order that they can put together a guide for instructors and examiners. We may also need to offer some training for Chief Examiners. Ian had proposed that setting a minimum weight limit models to be eligible for the Scale C exam would eliminate many of the inappropriate ARTFs. The STC believed that 4.0kg or 5.0kg would be about right. There is still much to debate and decide on this subject but we are now waiting for the ASRC to come back to us with detailed proposals. Ian will keep the STC informed of progress.

7. Scale Free Flight

Competition Rules regarding Engine Capacity and Wing Loading

7.1 Wing Loading

Ian reported that Bill Dennis had undertaken experiments to determine whether or not a maximum limit on wing loading could be used to determine a 'safe size limit' for scale free flight models. Bill's experiments show that wing loading alone is not a good indicator of the 'safety' of a model and recommends that it is not used for this purpose. We agreed to accept his advice on this and do not propose to introduce a maximum limit on wing loading in the competition rules for the 2011 season.

7.2 Engine Capacity

The current rules limit engine capacity to 2.0cc. The background to this is that it was done to eliminate the possibility that someone might choose to use a powerful, highly tuned 2.5cc engine. However, in hindsight this is thought to be highly unlikely and the downside is that it prevents perfectly suitable 2.5cc long stroke engines from being used. Consequently we agreed that the competition rules for the 2011 season should be changed to allow engines up to and including 2.5cc.

8. Indoor Scale Report

8.1 Indoor Scale Nationals

Ian reported on the success of the Indoor Scale Nationals held on 25th April in the Sports hall of Nottingham-Trent University; the last licensed event for this year. Competitors registering prior to the event were down on last year but this was more than made up for by entries on the day (receipts of £537 this year versus £529 last year). Spectator numbers were down with door receipts £80 less than last year. All in all the event made a modest loss of £52. Ian thanked the helpers and judges and praised the efforts of Poppy Gowler who ran a very successful raffle.

It has been decided to keep to the same format for next year but make more of an effort to publicise the event, especially to potential spectators. The University is keen for us to continue using their venue and dates for the next four years have already been reserved, 30 April for the 2011 Nats and 29 April for 2012 (both a week later than normal due to University commitments). Ian agreed to notify the FFTC in order to avoid a clash of events.

There have been no offers from anyone prepared to take over the organisation of the Indoor Scale Nats from Ian. He will continue to perform this task but would welcome the opportunity to stand down if someone else is prepared to take over.

8.2 Other Indoor Events

Ian discussed options for future events at RAF Digby as the licence was due for renewal. Some people had complained that RAF Digby is not central enough but it has been difficult to find other suitable facilities at a comparable cost. A new leisure centre at Birmingham City University had been suggested but this was £64 per hour versus Digby at £28 per hour. This was unaffordable for an all day event with no spectator income. Ian was due to visit RAF Halton shortly and will investigate potential availability of the Tennis Centre there. However he questioned whether it was worth trying to organise an Autumn Indoor Scale Meeting as the Dutch were running an Interscale event at Nijmegen on 6/7 November. An alternative might be to arrange a coach trip to participate in the Nijmegen event. Ian will keep us informed of his plans.

8.3 Formalisation of the Rules for Indoor RC Scale Competitions

Ian suggested that there is now sufficient interest to justify the creation of formal BMFA rules for this class. Up to now contests have been run using simplified F4C rules. The general feeling is that rules should be kept low key. This matter will be put on the agenda for a future STC meeting.

9. Scale Control Line Report

There was nothing to report on Control Line.

10. Scale RC Report

10.1 Team Training

Gordon and Dave reported that the Team Training had been plagued by windy and wet weather. A lot of time was spent in Chris's van putting the world to rights! There was no judges' training this year.

10.2 Preparations for the World Championships

Preparations for the World Championships are now well in hand. Gordon reported that the entry form for the F4C team had been sent and the individual team member entries need to follow soon. Sending of entry forms for F4B and F4G are the responsibility of the individual competitors. Pete McDermott has confirmed that he has sent his forms for both F4C and F4G.

Dave expressed his continuing dissatisfaction with the way that the expenses for a combined Team Manager and Competitor are handled. It was agreed that we need a simpler, more transparent system for dealing with this in the future. If not, team members will be put off from offering to take a dual-hatted role. Gordon will formulate a proposal for Full Council on how to fund a joint competitor/team manager and we will review this at our next meeting.

10.3 Preparations for the Nationals 28th-30th August 2010-06-15

Graham Kennedy will be CD for the Nationals this year. If entries are very high we may have to impose a limit on numbers; this will be publicised through the Scale Newsletter so that all potential competitors are aware. We agreed that after the problems of last year we must ensure that the PA system is up to scratch for the event and that we have a commentator who can speak to the crowd in an authoritative and enlightening way. Ian will approach suitable candidates.

10.4 Team Trials 25th-26th September 2010

The venue will be Elvington Village Hall on Saturday for the static judging and Church Fenton on Sunday for the flying. Gordon will confirm the booking of both venues.

10.5 Merryfield Competition 4th July 2010

Dave reported that we are still short of one judge for this competition. If we cannot find someone Chris will do the static judging alone.

11. Report on CIAM Plenary Meeting of 16th-17th April 2010

11.1 Report by Chris Allen

Chris represented us at this meeting and has prepared a comprehensive report which has been circulated to all STC members before this meeting. We noted Chris' frustration with some aspects of the decision making at the plenary but overall the outcome for the proposals made by the UK was very positive.

11.2 Gyroscopes

As a consequence of the decision by CIAM to lift the ban on the use of gyroscopes for international competitions with effect from 1st January 2011 we debated whether we should lift the ban now for domestic competitions. Our decision was to keep the ban in place until the end of the competition season but allow those taking part in the team trials in September to use gyros for that event if they so wished. This would enable our potential team members to gain some experience of using these devices ahead of competitions next year but not disadvantage others by making a rule change part of the way through the domestic competition season.

11.3 K Factors for Flight Judging

Following the CIAM decision to adopt an amended version of the UK proposal for revising the K Factors for flight judging we debated whether or not to use the K Factors that were adopted by CIAM with immediate effect or continue to use the K Factors in the current BMFA Rules until the end of the year and then adopt the CIAM K Factors in the 2011 BMFA Rules. We decided to do the latter with the exception of the Team Trials in September.

12. Trophy In Memoriam of Mike Golby

We agreed that some of the proceeds of the sale of Mike's aeromodelling goods should be used for the purchase of a memorial trophy. The trophy will be presented to winner of Kit Scale at the Indoor Scale Nationals. The balance of any monies will go to cancer charities.

13. Newsletter

Martin was praised for producing such an excellent publication but there was general consensus that we need to encourage input from all scale disciplines and not just F4C and FO RC.

14. Candidates for the 2011 STC

Gordon will be standing down as a co-opted member of the STC next year. Dave agreed to stay on for a further spell and John said that he would also stand for election (currently a co-opted member). This left one post to fill at the next AGM. We discussed other possible candidates and Ian will approach them to find out if they are interested.

15. A.O.B.

Nothing raised.

16. Provisional Date and Venue for next meeting

The next meeting was arranged for Saturday 2nd October 2010 at Honiley.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4:10pm.

Stephen Kessel
Secretary - Scale Technical Committee

15th June 2010