

**British Top Band DF Association**  
**AGM 2003**  
**23 February 2003**

**Present:**

Brian Bristow  
John Champion  
Alan Simmons  
Chris Plummer  
Peter Lineham  
Steve Stone  
Bill Pechey  
Doreen Pechey  
Colin Merry  
Rosie Merry

**Apologies:**

Geoff Foster  
Graham Phillips  
Roy Emeny  
Mike Hawkins  
Dave Holland

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2002 were agreed without change.

**Matters Arising**

Lynda Gage has donated a trophy, in memory of Trevor, to be awarded to the runner-up in the National Final. It will be presented to Roy Emeny at the Geoff Peck Memorial Trophy event.

**Elections**

Brian proposed that all officers be re-elected. Seconded by John. Agreed nem con.  
As a consequence the officers of the Association for 2003-2004 are as follows:

Chairman – George Whenham  
Secretary – Bill Pechey  
Treasurer – Chris Plummer  
Contest Manager - Mike Hawkins  
Auditors - Alan Simmons and Graham Nicholls

**Chairman's Report**

George presented a verbal report in which he made the following points:

He thanked all those who had organised qualifying rounds in 2002, especially Chris Plummer who ran two events.

The pleasant events of last year had been overshadowed the sad death of Trevor Gage but we now have a national trophy to remind us of him.

Organisers were rather slow last year in publishing results and reports of qualifying rounds. George encouraged organisers to do better this year.

George also gave his thanks to those who have been spreading the word about top-band DF and hoped that we would be able to welcome many new members in the coming year.

**Treasurer's Report**

Chris presented the treasurer's report and accounts. It was approved although the accounts had not yet been audited.

**Subscriptions**

Chris proposed that the subscriptions remain the same. This was seconded by Alan and agreed. The subscriptions for 2003-2004 are therefore £5 for individual members and £10 for clubs.

**Website**

George thanked Bill for finally getting the website (<http://www.TopBandDF.org.uk>) running.

George has been looking for his original files for the DF Handbook but has not yet found them. It is planned to publish the document on the website.

It was suggested that meta-tags be inserted to make it easier for search engines to index the site properly. Keywords such as "ARDF" etc. should be included. Bill agreed to make this change.

More material is needed for website; such material could also be used to produce an updated version of the DF Handbook.

The DF section in the RSGB operating manual, written by Robert Vickers, needs updating. It was suggested that the updated text could be put on the website.

### **Events Calendar for 2003**

The Northampton Radio Club has agreed to organise the September qualifying round.

Brian is trying to locate all the various trophies that are presented at national events.

The Derek Newman trophy will be awarded to Geoff Foster as the winner of last year's national final.

### **Any Other Business**

Brian reported on the lecture given at the Northampton Radio Club. Some interest had been generated and the club had agreed to organise a qualifying round. A local Venture Scout group is interested and arrangements will be made to take some members along on a suitable event. The meeting thanked Bill and Brian for providing the lecture.

Brian said that several of the clocks have poor batteries. He will repair them and charge the association. All the transmitters are in good shape.

Chris has acquired the two transmitters from Ripon. Unfortunately, one was damaged beyond repair. Geoff Foster has the second one.

The meeting thanked John for donating a notebook computer for use at national events.

Brian wants people to take digital photographs at each event so that a permanent record can be made. John agreed to take photographs whenever he can.

Brian has some films and would like to put them on DVD. Bill knows someone who can do this at very reasonable prices. Brian has tried to get the old films made by Eric Mollart from his son, Stephen but, so far, with no success.

There was a discussion about whether the experimental rule agreed last year about who can locate the transmitter should be continued or not. It was eventually agreed to revert to the old rule. The secretary agreed to modify the rules and circulate them for comment.

Chris reported that Mike Hawkins had suggested that the rules could be modified so that anyone taking part in three qualifying rounds should automatically qualify for the final. The aim is to get people to attend more events and to avoid the problem that people can qualify by just taking part in the last event. After much discussion, it was agreed that a better solution to the problem is to get more people to take part. It was agreed to make no change to the rules in this respect.

The document on advice to organisers was last amended in 1992. It was suggested that it might need revision. The secretary agreed to circulate the current text and ask for suggestions. He will then create a new version, if necessary.

We need to look at the current designs for DF receivers and see whether it can be made easier for newcomers to build sets. Existing designs use some parts which are now very difficult to obtain. Offers of help in doing this are welcome.

The meeting thanked Doreen and Bill for their hospitality.