

**British Top Band DF Association
Annual General Meeting
22 Willow Way, Princes Risborough
22 November 2015**

Present: Alan Simmons, Bill Pechey, Doreen Pechey, Colin Merry, Rosie Merry, Steve Stone, Roger Shepherd, Chris Plummer, Roy Emeny.

Apologies for absence

Graham Phillips, Graham Jones, Andy Collett, John Mullins, George Whenham, Geoffrey Foster, Paul Clark, Colin Boyce.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

Matters Arising

Roy believes that we had decided to restrict events to 1900 kHz to 2000 kHz. This is probably not the case but should we do so in the future? This may make it easier to design receivers. Agreed to discuss it outside the meeting.

Election of Officers

The following were appointed *nem con*.

Chairman – Steve Stone
Secretary – Bill Pechey
Treasurer – Rosie Merry
Contest Manager – Colin Merry

Auditors – Tim Parker and Roy Emeny were appointed.

Chairman's Report

Steve thanked organisers especially Torbay who ran the final. Thanks the officers. Looks forward to successful 2016.

Treasurer's Report

The funds diminished this year, largely as a result of the £15 per event contribution to organisers' expenses. A new charger was purchased for the transmitter batteries. Money was spent to courier the equipment to Weston super Mare. Nevertheless, the level of funds is healthy. The treasurer admitted that she could have made more efforts to get people to pay their subscriptions.

The accounts were accepted *nem com*.

The accounts had not yet been audited.

Subscriptions

It was agreed that the subscription should stay at £10. The "on the day" fee will also be unchanged at £2.

Amendment to constitution.

The suggestion is to change:

An Annual General Meeting shall be held every year, in January or February, at a date and time to be decided by the committee...

to

An Annual General Meeting shall be held every year at a date and time to be decided by the committee...

The change was agreed. Bill will amend the constitution and publish the amended document.

Events Calendar

Event	Date	Organiser
Q1	17 April	
Q2	08 May	
Q3	22 May	
Q4	12 June	
Q5	03 July	
Q6	24 July	
Q7	14 August	
Q8	04 September	
Final	25 September	Manchester

Unlikely to get enough people to run eight events so the above list will have to be modified. Several offers to run events have been received but dates are not yet finalised.

AOB

- a) Clarification of rules regarding time of issuing approximate bearings

Bill explained the history of rule changes in the last seven years. It is clear that approximate bearings should be given at 13:35 (13:05 in the final). It was agreed to keep the 13:35 rule but, if no one hears the signal **and no one has left the start**, then the information would be revealed immediately.

Bill pointed out an error in the rules about the Rosebowl scoring which assumes that there are always eight qualifying rounds. It was agreed to correct this and include the currently used Formula 1 scoring.

Bill will make the changes to the rules and publish the new document.

- b) New technology clocks

Roger demonstrated his new clocks based on iButtons. Colin has developed a system aimed at multi events. It was agreed to use Roger's clocks for national events; the older clocks could still be used if appropriate. Roger agreed to donate the three he has already made and provide kits of parts for others to assemble. Chris will make another one from Roger's kit. Chris offered to purchase a new printer if we can find a suitable one.

- c) Possibility of using unmanned stations

Roy explained his proposal: *"That the qualifying event rules are relaxed to allow event organisers to have the option of adding two extra transmitters. In the event that insufficient operators are available these extra transmitters may be unmanned."*

There was a long discussion. Eventually, it was agreed to give it a try. Any event organiser would be able to run four transmitters but this would have to be announced before competitors register for the event. In any case, Roy will run a qualifier along these lines in 2016.

- d) New transmitter designs

Paul Clark's transmitter costs £60 plus an external ATU. Chris has been working with S9+ boards. Roger also has a good design. Agreed that it is too early to decide on a design to replace the old ones. Hardware forum discussion will continue. Agreed to spend money on transmitters if necessary.

- e) Final at a central location?

Steve wondered if the Association should take responsibility for organising the final at a reasonably central location. Further discussion needed.

Date of next year's AGM

20 November 2016 at Alan's once again. (Thanks, Alan!)