

**MINUTES OF THE BMFA SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE BMFA NATIONAL CENTRE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

The meeting opened at 11:05 hrs

**Those present** were: Andy Sephton(AS), John Minchell(JM), Mike Sollitt (MS)(part time), Ian Pallister (IP)(part time), Chris Allen(CA), Steve Kessel(SK), Robin Gowler(RG) and John Carpenter(JC).

There is a set agenda for the first meeting of a new Scale Technical Committee and this formed the first part of the meeting. As the person nominated by the BMFA Acting Chairman to open the meeting Andy Sephton took the Chair and welcomed all present.

**1. Election of Officers, co-options and Acceptance of Specialist Body Representatives.**

- (a) The initial voting strength was 4. (Secretary's note: MS had left the meeting at this point)
- (b) By universal agreement Steve Kessel was voted in as Chairman,
- (c) By universal agreement John Carpenter was co-opted as Secretary and Robin Gowler was co-opted as Ex Officio and mentor. This latter position not having voting rights but by invitation.
- (d) The voting strength of the meeting at this point was 5.
- (e) Steve Kessel was confirmed as Chairman.
- (f) John Carpenter was elected as Secretary.
- (g) Andy Sephton was elected as Treasurer.
- (h) Steve Kessel undertook to be the Council Delegate but pointed out that he would not be able to attend all the meetings. JM undertook to act as stand in if possible and should the need arise. The Members were reminded that the Council Delegate has responsibilities as a Director of SMAE Ltd
- (i) John Minchell was re-confirmed as Indoor representative.
- (j) The final voting strength remained at 5.
- (k) This agenda item completed above (e)
- (l) This agenda item completed above at agenda items (f), (g) and (h).

As there were no contested position the following were elected by unanimous decision.

- (m) PRO: Mike Sollitt. (AS as reserve)
- (n) Safety officer: Chris Allen.
- (o) Rules Officer: Chris Allen
- (p) Results Officer: Robin Gowler in association with Ian Pallister
- (q) Team Travel budget signatory: Andy Sephton.

Additionally Mike Sollitt reported that he had persuaded Steve Jackson to take on the task of Competition Secretary.

## **2. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Mike Sollitt for being unable to attend the remainder of the meeting. However he had made a special effort to attend in order to make some specific points which he believed needed to be addressed by this committee. (Secretary's note: for clarity these points and the ensuing discussion are recorded at Item 15 of these minutes.)

## **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

## **4. Matters Arising.**

All outstanding matters had either been actioned or were for further discussion as part of this meeting

## **5. Miscellaneous appointments.**

(a) JM stated that there was no official list from which domestic scale judges might be extracted, although he did have an outline list of around 200 individuals who had expressed some interest in scale matters. After some discussion it was agreed that this outline list should be enhanced to include more detail such as BMFA number, telephone, and email if possible. Such an updated list could be used to identify those prepared to undertake judging. **ACTION: JM**

(b) The following posts and appointments were annotated:

Contest manager	Steve Jackson	(ex committee)
Free Flight Representative	Bill Dennis	(ex committee)
Control Line Representative	Brian Cordwell	(ex committee)
Helicopter Representative	John Coplestone	(ex committee)
CIAM Representative	Chris Allen	
Newsletter	Andy Sephton	

All ex committee representatives are welcome to attend any STC meetings, when appropriate, in a non-voting capacity.

## **6. Disciplines.**

Disciplines covered by the Scale Technical committee are Scale FF, Scale RC. Scale CL, Scale Helicopter and Scale Indoor.

## **7. Council Agenda.**

The Council Agenda had yet to be issued.

## **8. Nationals De-briefing and Pre-Planning.**

De-briefing had taken place in October and there were presently no pre-planning matters under consideration.

## 9. Teams

The teams for the RC Scale World Championships 2018 are:

### F4(c) Team

Dave Knott	047166
Dave Toyer	075095
Dave Womersley	003244

### F4(h) Team

Jim Reeves	080379
Richard Crapp	052698
John Carpenter	041024

## 10. Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers

SK had applied for Team Manager and JC as assistant. There were also applications from JM and Neil Tidey as Assistant Team Manager. JC withdrew his offer to assist as he had been selected as a competitor. After some discussion it was decided unanimously that SK would manage F4(c) and JM would manage F4(h). There would be no Assistant Team Managers.

## 11. BMFA competition details.

(a) to (d) There was no proposal to change the existing competition fees.

Two administrative points were made:

- 1 Scale Officials at the Nationals should send their claims via AS.
- 2 CA to advise BMFA HQ to ensure travel claims from scale officials at the Nationals are paid, there having been some uncertainty about this. **Action CA.**

(e) Certificate requirements had been prepared in draft form. Finalisation awaited the completion of the contest calendar. This task to be completed on or before the next meeting. The agenda for the meeting to include a reminder that the task is outstanding. **Action:** Competition Sec, JC

## 12. Technical Committee Annual Return.

Copies of the Annual Return were circulated for members to check their details for accuracy. SK to submit once completed. **Action SK.**

## 13. Safety Review

There were no issues of importance to report.

## 14. Technical Committee Other Agenda Items.

### (a). Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were accepted.

(b) **Matters Arising.**

All matters arising are dealt with in the following items.

(c) **Delegates' Reports.**

It was reported that the AGM had been a great success. A £1 increase in fees had been promulgated. Also the post of PRO had been removed from the list of elected posts and a professional employed for the task. A presentation had been given on progress at the BMFA National Centre, which had covered its costs for its first year of operation. Plans and costings had been produced for further improvements including a shelter near the flight line and shower facilities. Bequests had been a significant feature.

(d) **Treasurer's Report.**

AS provided a statement of accounts for the period 1/7/17 – 30/9/17 covering each of the five accounts. A copy of this statement is attached at Annex A. He also undertook to prepare a statement of account with regard to team travel to the Scale World Championships, for the next meeting. **Action: AS**

It was noted that there was no entry covering the F4(c) and F4(h) Team Trials. AS reported that he was presently pursuing the matter. **Action: AS**

(e) **PRO's report**

1. AS reported that material had been added to the BMFA Facebook page and a contribution prepared for BMFA News. Additionally a contribution had been prepared for next year's Free Flight Nationals programme. He undertook to make preparations for handover of the role to MS over the next few months. **Action: AS**

2. The next Scale Newsletter would be issued in January and AS requested any contributions by Christmas. A report on the team trials was awaited from SK and another on the August Nationals from CA. A small photograph and background information on the STC Secretary was also requested. **Actions: SK, CA, JC.**

3. A copy of the last newsletter was requested by IP for addition to the website. AS to provide. **Action: AS**

(f) **.Free Flight.**

1. Scale at the FF Nationals.

On 9th November SK met with Mike Woodhouse (Chairman FFTC) to review the issues that arose from the management of the 2017 FF Nationals and plan the basics for the 2018 FF Nationals which will include three non-championships scale classes.

At the meeting MW suggested that the separate entry forms (one for Scale and one for all other FF classes) that had been used in 2017 resulted in administration problems that would not have arisen if a single entry form had been used. Two entry forms were used in 2017 at the insistence of the BMFA Competition Secretary because the scale championship classes were also being contested at the event. That will not be the case in 2018 and so it was

agreed that a single entry form would be more appropriate. It is hoped that this will be more straightforward for the competitors and the administration.

Scale contest income will cover the cost of the management of the scale contests. Included in those costs will be CD expenses and the appropriate share of the DLA airfield licence.

Medals will be provided by the FFTC for the three scale classes. These will be included in the STC's share of the management costs.

MW agreed that the publicity for the Free Flight Nationals should include details of the free flight scale competitions. This information will be included in the announcement in the BMFA News, the competitors notes and the programme. The STC to provide appropriate copy to the FFTC by 31/12/17. **Action: AS**

**Post Meeting Note:** The only outstanding matter was the fees for the scale non-championship events. Following discussion at the STC meeting and subsequent discussion with Bill Dennis and Mike Woodhouse this has been set at £11 per class.

## 2. Eddie Riding Event.

There was an action from the last meeting for JM to contact David Lloyd Jones (DLJ) regarding the STC taking on this competition. There had been further discussions on the subject. The last STC meeting had confirmed that the STC would wish the competition rules to be brought into line with the current BMFA rules for the various classes of FF Scale encompassed by the competition. The NWAC clearly do not wish to lose control of the event and would prefer it to be held in their area or at the August Nationals. However the event is not a championship event and there are practical difficulties, for example providing time and space for trimming. A good alternative arrangement was considered to be for the competition to be held at the Vintage Nationals, to be held in 2018 at the BMFA National Centre, Buckminster. After some discussion it was agreed that NWAC should be informed that if the STC are to organise future events then the appropriate BMFA scale rules must apply and the event should be held at the Vintage Nationals. **Action: SK.**

### (g) Indoor.

JM reported that he was still trying to obtain a redundant trophy for use as the RC Scale Indoor Flying only event trophy, so far without success.

**Post Meeting Note:** Simon Vaitkevicius (BMFA Records Officer) has informed JM and SK that there is no suitable trophy that can be used for this event. Consequently, JM is approaching possible sponsors to fund the purchase of a new trophy.

Noted that Richard Crossley had agreed to update the banner promoting the FF and Indoor Nationals. It was suggested that he be asked to add 'Spectators Welcome' to the banner as this could boost income. **Action: JM**

A question was raised as to how to formally adopt a trophy to be the BMFA RC Scale Indoor Trophy. It was considered that this would require a submission to Council and therefore an Agenda item for their next meeting. SK undertook to arrange this. Additionally it was noted that a delegate presence would be required at that meeting. **Action: SK**

**(h) Control Line**

Nothing to report

**(i) Helicopter**

Nothing to report

**(j) Radio Control**

1. Selection of Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers.  
This item was dealt with under Agenda Item 10 above.

2. Selection of reserve team members.

There was some discussion about how reserve members might be selected. One possibility was to incorporate selection trials into an existing event early next year. It was noted that given the nature of the event and its location there were few possible candidates. After discussion it was decided that enquiries would be made of all potential candidates to see who might care to be considered as reserves if the need arises. **Action: CA**

**(k) Competition Programme for 2018**

The programme was circulated to members for comment. It was noted that two events, 29<sup>th</sup> April at Pontefract and 24<sup>th</sup> June at Warboys were also annotated as being at Buckminster. This is not correct. The Buckminster allocation arose from a perceived need to reserve dates on the Buckminster diary as it was rapidly filling up and did not include any scale events. Two dates in the Buckminster diary have been reserved, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October.

It was noted that the programme did not include the RC Scale World Championships to be held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July at Meringen, Switzerland.

It had been suggested by the PRO that one method of creating greater interest in scale flying could be to arrange a 'Festival of Scale'. Such an event, including all scale disciplines, would provide an opportunity to give demonstrations, training, encouragement and possibly a scale competition for new entrants looking to take up competition. The event, ideally over two days, could also provide the opportunity for general scale flying for any that wished. Accordingly, a booking was made for a Festival of Scale at Buckminster on 15/16 June 2019. (Secretary's note: this subject to become an Agenda Item for the next meeting of the STC. **Action: JC** )

**(l) BMFA Scale Rule Book for 2018**

The draft amendments to the scale rule book which had been produced by CA were examined in detail. Proposed amendments were discussed. CA proposed to produce a further draft based on the discussions, for final approval before submission to the BMFA technical committee by the end of the year. **Action: CA**

**15 Any Other Business**

**Secretary's Note:** Item 2 above refers .

1. MS stated his concerns about the aims and direction of the STC as it affected the future of the discipline. He expressed his concern in three particular areas.

- (a) He believed there was a lack of strategic direction. In his view scale would not grow and interest would not widen without some form of strategic plan to achieve it.
- (b) He was unconvinced that the proposed light scale class had a future. His own discussions round the bazaars had led him to believe there was no appetite for it.
- (c) He was concerned about the slow pace of developing a static judge training programme which could provide an adequate number of trained individuals to meet the task.

During discussion it became clear that the concerns expressed were deserving of more detailed consideration and discussion. It was therefore agreed that they should appear as Agenda Items for the next meeting. **Action: JC**

- 2. JM reported that concerns had been expressed that some individuals were modifying 3views for Indoor Scale to match photographs. It was pointed out that getting such drawings approved would require more than just a single data source.
- 3. JM mentioned that those preparing proposed video judges guides were lacking some guidance on the particular issues that should be covered and the detail points to be made. It was agreed that this subject should be added to the Agenda for the next meeting. CA also agreed to pursue the matter in advance of that meeting. **Action: JC, CA.**
- 4. On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked Ian Pallister for all his work on the Committee over several years and wished him well in his new position within BMFA.

#### **15. Dates for Future Meetings 2018– All at BMFA Buckminster**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December