

**British Top Band DF Association  
Annual General Meeting  
24 February 2002  
Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**Present**

George Whenham (Chairman)  
Peter Lineham  
Chris Plummer  
John Champion  
Brian Bristow  
Steve Stone  
Geoff Foster  
Graham Phillips  
Alan Simmons  
Bill Pechey  
Doreen Pechey

**Apologies**

Mike Hawkins  
Trevor Gage  
Chris Heys  
Dave Holland  
Roy Emeny

**Minutes**

The minutes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting were approved.

**Matters arising**

Chris Plummer will follow up the proposed purchase of the two transmitters from the Ripon club.

Brian Bristow has not yet obtained the trophy for the runner up in the National Final but will do so soon.

The treasurer will approach the South Manchester Radio Club for the money they owe and the subscriptions.

The secretary announced that the BTBDFA was affiliated to the RSGB in May 2001.

**Election of Officers**

Graham Phillips was not prepared to stand again as treasurer. Chris Plummer volunteered his services. All the other officers were prepared to continue.

All were elected *nem con*. This results in the following officers for 2002:

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

**Chairman's Report**

The report was brief because of the decision taken to cancel the qualifiers after the onset of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. The chairman felt that the decision, although controversial, was a good one. The chairman thanked Brian Bristow for running the fun event at the end of the season.

As an adjunct to his report, the chairman proposed that Colin Merry be presented with the National Final trophy for winning the fun event. After some discussion this course of action was not agreed.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer handed out copies of the accounts, which had not yet been audited. The year's activity has been so little that the accounts are very simple. As agreed last year, the accounts were closed at 31 December 2001. The accounts were accepted subject to a favourable audit report.

## **Subscriptions**

It was agreed, *nem con*, to keep the subscriptions at their 2001 levels of £5 for individual members and £10 for affiliated clubs.

## **Changes to the National Rules**

The secretary agreed to draft new disclaimer text for the signing-in sheet and send the text to Phil Arnold for incorporation into the event management software. The text should cover the situation where people take part who are not members of RSGB, BTBDFA or affiliated societies.

The secretary presented a draft of the amended rules, which take into account the use of clock cards etc. The document was reviewed and a few changes were made. The secretary will publish the new version as soon as possible.

It was agreed that last year's experimental rule about allowing any team member officially to locate the transmitter was a good one and would do a lot to keep newcomers in DF. Trevor Gage suggested in correspondence with the secretary that the rule should be applied to the National Final as well as the qualifying rounds. This was agreed *nem con*.

Brian Bristow suggested that the runner up in the National Final should qualify automatically for the next year's final. This proposal was not agreed.

It was agreed to keep the power limit for hidden transmitters at 9 dBW.

Roy Emeny had asked, in correspondence with the chairman, whether the use of GPS receivers was permitted. It was agreed that they should be permitted and no change to the rules was necessary.

## **Events Calendar for 2002**

We still have no-one prepared to run the National Final nor the two qualifiers scheduled to be held in May 2002. The chairman and Brian Bristow agreed to contact possible organisers so that the calendar could be completed as soon as possible.

Trevor Gage, in correspondence with the secretary, had expressed his dissatisfaction that the organisation was not yet complete. This view found sympathy amongst all present.

Trevor Gage had also suggested that it might help to move the AGM to October to give more time for organising the calendar. It was decided not to make this change but to try to do better next time. It was agreed that the dates for 2003 would be decided before the first 2002 qualifying round and every effort would be made to get agreement from organisers so that the 2003 calendar could be completed as soon as possible.

Geoff Foster suggested that the date of the National Final should be set to avoid a clash with the popular 2-metre event organised by the Basingstoke club in the New Forest. It was agreed to do this for 2003 but it was considered too late to change the date of the 2002 National Final.

## **Any Other Business**

The secretary explained that the liability insurance provided by the RSGB as a part of the affiliation was, in fact, superior to the one that we had planned to take out and £17 cheaper. It was agreed to rely on the RSGB insurance.

Trevor Gage expressed the view, in correspondence to the secretary, that the use of electronic communication, especially email, was very important to the efficient running of Top Band DF and should be encouraged. Those views were endorsed by the meeting and members were asked to help set up email services for those who did not have them already.

Trevor Gage also expressed disappointment in the way the decision about Foot and Mouth disease was handled. He felt that contests could have been held within the M25 where there were never any restrictions. This view did not find any support amongst the members present.

Phil Cunningham had made a similar suggestion, in correspondence to the chairman, saying that if it happened again (heaven forbid!) we should try to hold contests somewhere. This was not agreed. It would be necessary to review the situation at the time.

Chris Plummer reported on the saga of the domain name for the Web site. The registration had now expired and the secretary will re-register the name as soon as it becomes available. This is the most cost-effective way of obtaining the domain name we want. He also reported that the website of the South

Manchester Radio Club (<http://www.SMRC42.freerve.co.uk>) contains a lot of DF-related information and much of the material could be used on our site. The secretary and Chris Plummer will set up the website as soon as possible.

The meeting thanked Graham Phillips for keeping the transmitters going.

On the topic of promotion of Top Band DF, Brian Bristow reported the possibility of getting some TA/Royal Signals people to take part in events. People from the Mid-Thames DF Club are planning to give a lecture to the local unit and encourage them to have a try.

John Champion has donated a notebook computer to the BTBDFa to replace the very old one used for processing the clock logs. The meeting thanked him for his generosity.

Brian Bristow has quite a large collection of old DF equipment and is happy to preserve other material. John Drakely has agreed to pass on any equipment from the Slade Radio Club, which is closing down.

It was agreed that we should collect together a library of archive films and videos on DF. Brian Bristow is trying to build up such a library; anyone who has any archive footage is encouraged to loan it to him so that it can be copied and preserved. It was suggested that conversion to DVD or other digital format would be a good idea.

Peter Lineham reported that he had tried to contact Bill (Derrick Newman's old navigator) only to find that he had passed away in the last year. The meeting expressed its sadness at this news.

Geoff Foster felt that we should publicise DF in the winter by putting together some sort of roadshow kit that could be taken to clubs. This was thought to be a good idea but it would have to be planned and prepared during the summer. During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that many radio clubs have very few members who would be prepared to take part in DF contests; it might be better to seek newcomers from other outdoor activities. It was agreed that it is essential to have a good website.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Graham Phillips for his two years as treasurer.

Doreen Pechey was thanked for providing the lunch and refreshments.