

Annual General Meeting of the British Top-Band DF Association

Manningtree, 25 February 2007

Present:

Roy Emeny, George Whenham, John Champion, Andrew Mead, Philip Cunningham, Alan Simmons, Brian Bristow, Bill Pechey, Tim Parker.

Apologies for absence

Geoffrey Foster, Steve Stone, Rosie Merry, Colin Merry, Roger Shepherd, Andy Collett, Doreen Pechey, Chris Plummer, Phil Arnold, Dave Holland.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 05 February 2006

The minutes were agreed as a true record. This was proposed by Brian and seconded by George.

Matters arising

Not much progress had been made on converting the DF films to DVD. Bill and Brian will try to obtain material from Stephen Mollart and Lynda Gage.

Election of officers

It was suggested that it would help the treasurer if both auditors could be local to him. As a result Philip Cunningham agreed to replace Alan Simmons. This was proposed by Tim and seconded by Alan. The motion was carried *nem con*.

All the other officers were prepared to stand again. John proposed that they be elected *en bloc*, this was seconded by Andrew and carried *nem con*.

The Association's officers for 2007-8 are then as follows:

Chairman	George Whenham
Secretary	Bill Pechey
Treasurer	Tim Parker
Contest manager	Brian Bristow
Auditor 1	Philip Cunningham
Auditor 2	Roy Emeny

Chairman's Report

The chairman gave a brief report of another successful year. He thanked everyone, especially Brian, for their efforts during the year.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer gave his report. The Association had 20 members in 2006 compared with 22 in 2005 and 25 in 2004. There were six payments for "on the day" membership for qualifying rounds. The expenditure was up by £64 largely due to two website hosting invoices appearing in the same year. There was also expenditure on converting the old Dartford Heath cine film to DVD.

Accounts approved.

Subscriptions

The treasurer suggested that, because of the solid state of the accounts, the subscriptions should be reduced. He proposed £5 full, £10 club and £1 per event. After some discussion, these were agreed except that the day fee would stay at £2. Note that only full members may compete in the final.

Possible amendments to rules and guidance

Andy Collett's email was used as the basis for this discussion. Other emails from Rosie Merry, Steve Stone and Geoff Foster were taken into account. There was a very long discussion about when competitors should be allowed to leave the start. It seems that the 1330 time is not, in fact, in the rules and competitors may actually leave at 1326. The discussion boiled down to whether 1326 should remain or be changed to 1320. This point was put to a vote with the result that 1320 received 3 votes and 1326 received 6 votes. It was therefore agreed that the rule should remain unchanged. The main reason put forward by those in favour of the status quo was to avoid problems with stations located close to the start.

Again, there was considerable discussion about the size of teams and what team members may do on site. It was finally agreed that there would be no change to the rules. The essence of this decision is that it is largely a decision of the competitor about the size of the team.

It was generally considered that the current rules about the Rosebowl are unfair to those who would like to switch competitors during the season. It was agreed that team entries would be allowed with a maximum of two different competitors. A team must be registered with the Contest Manager before taking part in any Rosebowl events. It is not necessary for both members to be present but if both elect to compete separately in an event, one must be nominated at the start as the one who will receive any Rosebowl points. Note that these changes apply only to the Rosebowl, the qualification rules are not affected.

Events calendar for 2007

See attachment.

Any other business

Andrew asked about the status of clocks and transmitters. Brian replied that there have been some problems but all will be corrected by the season.

Steve Stone's Windows software will soon be available on the web site. This should make it easier for organisers to provide their own laptop and printers.

Roger Shepherd has been developing a transmitter based on Phil Arnold's design but incorporating a clock-card reader and synthesiser. Several of those present expressed interest in this project.

The chairman thanked Tim for his hospitality and closed the meeting.

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2007 Programme of Events

Date	Event	Organiser
22 Apr	Qualifier No.1	Coventry
13 May	Qualifier No.2	Northampton
03 Jun	Qualifier No.3	Colchester/Chelmsford
24 Jun	Qualifier No.4	Mid-Thames
15 Jul	Qualifier No.5	Manchester
12 Aug	Qualifier No.6	Salisbury
02 Sep	Qualifier No.7	Weston super Mare
16 Sep	Qualifier No.8	Banbury
30 Sep	National Final	Dartford