

British Top Band DF Association
Annual General Meeting
22 Willow Way, Princes Risborough
13 February 2011

Present: George Whenham, Brian Bristow, Geoff Foster, Alan Simmons, Bill Pechey, Doreen Pechey, Colin Merry, Rosie Merry, John Mullins.

Apologies for absence

Tim Parker, Paul Clark, Graham Phillips, Roger Shepherd, Steve Stone, Mark Coventry, Andy Collett, David Ryan, Colin Boyce, Dick Brocks, Peter Lisle, Dave Holland, Roy Emeny, Chris Plummer, John Champion, Graham Jones and Bob England.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

Matters Arising

Roger's transmitter work is going well. The prototype was used on one local event and worked well. Problems with a chirp and modulation quality have now been corrected. The design will be used on events in 2011.

Election of Officers

The following were appointed *nem con*.

Chairman – George Whenham

Secretary – Bill Pechey

Treasurer – Tim Parker

Auditors - Phil Cunningham and Roy Emeny were appointed in their absence.

Brian agreed to be contest manager for this year (he has already arranged all the 2011 events). Brian handed out a sheet detailing the responsibilities of the contest manager.

Chairman's Report

George thanked all the event organisers. Signal levels were much better this year. He also thanked the Northampton club for running the National Final.

George also thanked the committee members, with a special thanks to Brian for picking up the work of contest manager.

Treasurer's Report

There is £1098.22 in the bank, representing an increase of £104.03 over the year. There were 24 members in 2010. There were three "on-the-day" payments.

The accounts were accepted *nem com*.

The auditors were thanked for their work.

Subscriptions

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

Events Calendar

Everything looks good for this year with commitments made from all those organizing events, although there are only six events this year.

AOB

- a) Grand Prix points system for Rosebowl – Geoffrey suggested that giving 10 points to the organiser could help to encourage people to organise events. This was not agreed. Note that the rules already allow for three qualifiers per event if there are six events or fewer per year. Brian thought we should consider using the current F1 points system. It was agreed to try the scheme for one year and then review it after the end of the season.

- b) Approximate bearings – There have some cases (not all in national competitions) where the approximate bearings given at the start have been outside the tolerance in the rules. Geoffrey suggested a plastic template be given to the organiser. Rosie thought that a form could be supplied to organisers that could be filled in with the approximate bearing. The form could also contain the procedure.

- c) Teas – A perennial problem. Competitors should take care to cancel in good time or be responsible for payment.
- d) Transmission timings after 4pm – Some stations have not run sufficient transmissions after 4pm. The rules are quite clear but organisers should be encouraged to be more generous.
- e) Bill reported that Alan Hitchcock, G3ESB, had died in November. He was a great stalwart of DF in the fifties, sixties and seventies and ran many events at the Derby club.
- f) Geoffrey would like to have start details earlier so that hotel rooms could be booked at much better rates.
- g) Geoffrey is planning to retire from work this year and will be available to be contest manager next year. This news was welcomed.
- h) George has been editing the DF handbook. He showed a draft that is much improved over the old one. A vote of thanks was agreed for his excellent work.

The meeting thanked Pam and Alan for their hospitality.

Date of next year's AGM

12 February 2012 at Alan's once again.