



Radio Society of Great Britain
Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee
Minutes of Meeting 19th July 2008
Held At Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

Present

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Iain Philipps	G0RDI	ETCC Vice Chairman
Mike Stott	G0NEE	North East England Regional Manager
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North West England Regional Manager
Dave Dawson	G7UZN	South East England Regional Manager
Colin Dalziel	GM8LBC	Scotland Regional Manager/Proposals Manager
Mark Lewis	GW7KDU	Wales Regional Manager/Secretary
Rod Wilkinson	G3TXA	Ofcom representative
Dave Wilson	M0OBW	RSGB Board Member for Convention, Emerging Technology (ETCC)
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	South & South West England Regional Manager

Apologies

Steve Morton	G8SFR	Internet Gateway Manager
Graham Shirville	G3VZV	TV Repeater Co-ordinator
Jon Lee	G4TSN	East Midlands Regional Manager
Mark Gregory	G4LCH	West Midlands Regional Manager

1: Chairman's opening remarks

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed all present and reported apologies from G8SFR, G3VZV and G4TSN.

2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 26 January 2008 meeting were approved. They have already been published on UKrepeaters.net after circulation around the committee via email.

4: Matters arising

Matters arising – Previous minutes

GB3WJ: Repeater still off air.

Action G4TSN

GM7SVK enquiries about using EchoIRLP to a repeater. NoV has been issued.

Closed

GB3MC: 23cm repeater near Bolton. NoV issued.

Closed

GB3WL: Site owners have finally repaired access to site but increased site rent too. Group chose to move WL and co site it with GB3HL. Application was submitted and cleared. NoV has been issued
Closed

GB3FI: Quasi sync repeaters enquiry: keeper will be asked to submit a proposal.
Action G8DOR

70cm repeater for Basingstoke. (what was the outcome)
Closed

Expression of interest in 10m repeater on IOW has been received. Nothing further heard.
Closed

Matters arising – IARU RI VHF Policy on Digital Voice

No input received.
Closed

Matters arising arising – Insurance for Repeater Equipment

There was a discussion about insurance for repeater equipment. Further details are required.
Action M0OBW

Matters arising arising – Regional Reports

GM7LUN 4m data node; NoV issued
Closed

GB3GX is still not on air. It was cleared 6 months ago. Ofcom are happy to give the keeper more time to get the repeater on air. July meeting update: still pending due to site issues
Action GM8LBC

70cm digital repeater for Notts from Sam Hunt M1FJB: After discussions with the regional manager agreed to submit a proposal for a 6m analogue repeater. This was processed and NoV was granted.
Closed

GB3CO: Group wants to submit an application for a new 2m repeater in the Corby area and use the callsign from a 23cm repeater. Currently there are no frequencies available.

GB3JJ/SJ: Co-sited repeaters (2m and 70cm) on Canvey Island: applications have been withdrawn.
Closed

GB3ES/HF/HE: Site moved completed.
Closed

ERP increase for GB3DE. Nothing further heard.
Closed

GB3NX: Keeper silent key. G4EFO is the new keeper.
Closed

GB3MC: Proposal for a new 23cm repeater from G4YYB. An acceptable frequency pair was found.
Closed

Matters arising arising – AOB

Simplex channels NoV expiry. NoV holders have been notified.

Closed

Applications that are turned down should be marked as Declined rather than Rejected.

The correct method of reporting repeater abuse is to contact the keeper in the first instance.

5: Matters raised by Ofcom

- a) **E5 form:** Following a request for more justification of channel requests it was suggested the e5 form be amended to include detail of the reason and justification for the request.
Action GM8LBC
- b) **GB3PE:** Concern expressed about the repeater being off air. It is expected to be back in service shortly.
- c) **Digital matters:** Approximately 30 NoVs issued for D-Star repeaters to date. There appears to be slow take up on the option of connecting these to the Internet. GORDI suggested that other digital modes should be encouraged. There was some news of homebrewed digital kit based on the Tait 800.
- d) **VoIP and Crossband working:** It is possible achieve crossband operation using facilities on the Internet. It is very hard to control this and we may have to just accept the fact. It is possible that users may not even be aware of what frequencies their original transmission is being re-transmitted on.
- e) **Activities levels on repeaters and gateways:** Concern was expressed on the levels of activity of a large proportion of the 400 repeaters and countless gateways that are currently licensed in UK. It is not possible to decline an application for either type of facility because it is believed the usage will be low.

6: GORDI agenda points

- a) **Migration of analogue repeaters to digital in the London area:** There is pressure from some repeater users who would like to see 2m D-Star repeaters in London. Currently there are no channels available. Abuse levels on the analogue network are increasing and it would be a benefit to have some digital repeaters as these (for the time being) are likely to suffer less abuse. GORDI requested a meeting with Ofcom to discuss the abuse levels and possible solutions.
Action GI4BWM
- b) **Impact and licensing of digital applications on GMSK bearers:** Following a discussion it was decided that ETCC should write to Ofcom re: unattended digital operation.
Action GI4BWM

7: G7UZN agenda points

- a) **Abuse update:** covered above.
- b) **Format of the vetting page:** G7UZN raised some concerns about the formatting of the vetting page on the ukrepeater.net web site. After explaining the background to the current format, GM8LBC agreed to reinstate full vetting dates for both analogue and digital proposals.

8: East/West Midlands frequency issues

In the absence of the two regional midlands managers it was agreed that GM8LBC would study possibilities for some re-planning of 2 Metre allocations from the Midlands towards the South West/South East to increase flexibility, reduce mutual interference and eventually provide scope for digital provision in the South and South East. G8DOR would collaborate with this study taking into account expressions of interest received in providing D-Star coverage in his area of responsibility. They would report via the email reflector before the next meeting. This would also be a topic for discussion at the next meeting.

Action GM8LBC and G8DOR

9: Regional reports

Voice

GB3BC: Repeater on night time curfew in attempt to reduce the abuse suffered.

GB3HW: Repeater has been off air for some. Keeper will be given the usual 6 months to restore it to operation before the NoV will be reviewed.

Action G7UZN

GB3AA and GB3BM: Suffering co-channel interference. Work with groups to resolve the problems.

Action G8DOR and G4LCH

GB3UK and GB3BS: Suffering adjacent-channel interference. One of the repeaters will change CTCSS frequency in an attempt to resolve the problem.

Action G8DOR

GB3EW: Application for 2m repeater in Exeter received and processed.

Expression of interest received from G4RKY for a 2m D-Star repeater to be co-sited with GB3FH. No frequencies are available to present in the area.

GB3WO: Suffering from local QRM. Group will be asked to suggest an alternative frequency.

Action G8DOR

GB3JL: 2m application for Caradon Hill received and processed.

GM7LUN asked about the use of Zetron on-channel devices and further asked about a revised 2 Metre site and channel plan in south-east Scotland. He was advised against the Zetron units based on the experiences from some committee members. Due to non-availability of channels the scope for additional analogue voice repeaters in that area was limited but individual proposals would be judged on their merits.

Isle of Man repeaters: GD4HOZ has proposed solving the problems of access to Snaefell during winter months by building a network of low power internet linked UHF repeaters on sited on lower ground with antenna systems designed to cover the only the island. Detailed proposal will be requested.

Action G3VVT

Expression of interest received from G4YYB for a 6m for Manchester. Full application is awaited.

Action G3VVT

Digital modes

Data/digital voice modes: applications for packet nodes close to zero; there have been 27 D-star repeater applications processed.

NoV issued for GB7MI(C), 2m in Manchester which was expected to replace GB3MI. They are actually time sharing the frequency.

GB3NA and GB3YD also time sharing a frequency in Barnsley.

Applications for the following 70cm repeaters/node passed on to G0RDI; GB7MI(B) Manchester, GB7WP Wirral and GB7DV Cheshire.

GB3CB: Keeper wants to add 4m and 10m simplex links. Full proposal is to be requested.

10: Guide to Repeater Licensing

A new draft version that includes a digital section is now available.

11: AOB

Repeater NoVs are now valid until 31 March 2013 with no automatic renewal. Regional managers are required to monitor.

Committee members are reminded that there should not be any form of commercial involvement with repeater callsigns.

12: Date and time of next meeting

11:00am, 25 October 2008, Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.