



Radio Society of Great Britain
Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee
Minutes of Meeting 29th November 2008
Held At Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

Present

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Iain Philipps	G0RDI	ETCC Vice Chairman
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	South & South West England Regional Manager
Colin Dalziel	GM8LBC	Scotland Regional Manager/Proposals Manager
Dave Dawson	G7UZN	South East England Regional Manager
Mark Lewis	GW7KDU	Wales Regional Manager/Secretary
Steve Morton	G8SFR	Internet Gateway Manager
Graham Shirville	G3VZV	TV Repeater Co-ordinator
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North West England Regional Manager
Rod Wilkinson	G3TXA	Ofcom representative
Dave Wilson	M0OBW	RSGB Board Member for Convention, Emerging Technology (ETCC)
Jon Lee	G4TSN	East Midlands Regional Manager

Apologies

None

1: Chairman's opening remarks

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed all present. The Chairman went on to announce that Mark Gregory, G4LCH and Mike Stott, G0NEE have decided to step down from the ETCC. For the time being the areas covered by other members of the committee. The changes are shown in the table below.

Region and manager	Counties
North England Bob Wilkinson, G3VVT	Cumbria, Lancs, Cheshire, Gtr.Manchester, Merseyside Isle of Man. Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and all Yorkshire.
Wales/Cymru Mark Lewis, GW7KDU	Wales, Salop, Hereford and Worcester
Midlands Jon Lee, G4TSN	West Midlands, Warwicks, Staffs, Lincs, Derby, Notts, Northants, Beds, Leicester
South-East England Dave Dawson, G7UZN	London, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Herts, Cambridgeshire

2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 19th July 2008 meeting were approved. They have already been published on ukrepeaters.net after circulation around the committee via email.

3: Matters arising

Matters arising – Previous minutes

GB3WJ: Repeater still off air.

Action G4TSN

GB3FI: Quasi sync repeaters enquiry: Nothing further heard.

Closed

70cm repeater for Basingstoke.

Closed

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

Closed

Insurance for repeater equipment. Further details are required, on going.

Action M0OBW

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. Still on going.

Action GM8LBC

Matters arising – Matters raised by Ofcom

- a) **E5 form:** Amendments completed

Closed

Matters arising – GORDI agenda points

- a) **Migration of analogue repeaters to digital in the London area:** Meeting held, details will be discussed later in the meeting.

Closed

- b) **Impact and licensing of digital applications on GMSK bearers:**

Closed

Matters arising – East/West Midlands frequency issues

A report has been prepared; it will be discussed later in the meeting.

Closed

Matters arising – Regional reports

Voice repeaters

GB3HW: Back on air.

Closed

GB3AA and GB3BM: To be discussed later in the meeting.

Closed

GB3UK and GB3BS: Nothing further heard.

Closed

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

Action G8DOR

Isle of Man repeaters: Proposal has been submitted.

Closed

Expression of interest received from G4YYB for a 6m analogue repeater for Manchester. Nothing further heard.

Closed

4: 2 Metre frequency issues

The 2 metre band is now very congested in some parts of the country, especially the Midlands and South East England. There are numerous requests to establish GMSK repeaters in these areas and as there is very little spectrum available a policy has been agreed to help deal with situation. This will be published in Radcom and on the ETCC website after the meeting.

Action GI4BWM

GB3BM and GB3CO: These repeaters are suffering co-channel interference. It is recommended that GB3BM change channel to RV57 and that GB3CO reduce its ERP to 5w and has 6dB of attenuation on receive.

Worthing: 2m D-Star proposal received.

GB3OK: Has been issued with an NoV for D-Star operation but this has yet to be implemented.

5: Agenda items raised by Ofcom.

- a) Application process for 70cm repeaters, digital (GMSK) and analogue:

G3TXA on behalf of Ofcom advised the meeting that in recent months there has been some concern and confusion regarding the processing of applications, in particular e5 feasibility requests.

To assist in the rectification of this the following is requested. All e5 feasibility requests that the ETCC wish to submit to the Primary Users of Amateur Bands should be sent from a single point of contact namely the Proposals Manager. At present all applications should still be sent to G3TXA at the Ofcom Licensing Centre (OLC). G3TXA will remain acting as the single point of contact with the Primary Users. However other members of the OLC are becoming more involved with ETCC applications.

Prior to submission Ofcom requests that the ETCC ensures that all the frequencies to be submitted have been agreed as acceptable by ETCC regional manager. The regional manager will have assured this by liaison with the applicant and the Keepers of any nearby repeaters using the same band.

With reference to the application process at the e1 stage Ofcom wishes to remind the ETCC that the process will only commence once the signed Station Clearance Form (SCF) has been received from the Applicant Keeper. The SCF although recognised as part of the e1 remains the official application.

In order to avoid confusion to applicants who are viewing the vetting page on the ETCC website Ofcom would welcome application details to be withheld until the official process

commences. However, it is recognised that some record of progress within the ETCCs' own process is required and the Proposals Manager agreed to review the content of the Vetting Page.

The regional manager for SE England, G7UZN, stated that he considered that a flow diagram is essential in order to appreciate the overall process. G3TXA offered to see if perhaps something could be included in the Repeater Licensing Guide.

b) Communications with keepers and users

G3TXA expressed dissatisfaction with a recent Radcom article that had been published. The originally submitted text had been edited and in the process had lost much of the intended message.

6: Agenda items raised by G0RDI

South Yorkshire D-Star proposals: A request has been made for five additional channels to be made available for 70cm D-Star operation. G0RDI has advised two applicants that this is not possible with the current band plan. G0RDI and G3VVT have proposed that they should meet the people concerned to discuss further.

Action G3VVT and G0RDI

7: Agenda items raised by G7UZN

G7UZN would like a clearer way of reflecting repeater status on the ETCC website and has proposed a traffic light system for On air, Unknown or Off air. He has agreed to maintain the list if the other regional managers can monitor the repeaters in their own and, if possible adjoining areas and pass him any changes in state.

Action All

8: Regional reports

GB3BC: Currently off air.

GB3NL & GB3LV: The keeper G3TZZ sadly has recently become a silent key. The repeaters' technical manger will be asked if he wished to take on the keepership of them.

Action G7UZN

Digital repeater enquiry for London: An enquiry has been received about establishing a digital repeater using a different protocol to D-Star. The frequency/band has not been proposed at this moment. The enquirer will be asked to submit a full application.

Action G7UZN

Crawley group, Ashdown Forest have submitted an application for GB3AF. This unlikely to proceed as it is in close proximity to GB3WS.

Action G7UZN

GB3EL: Current off air, Ofcom and the ETCC are waiting for a response from the keeper to work out a way forward to the repeater returning to service.

Action G7UZN

GB7ML: Moving to Guy's Hospital

GB3FK: Site change within 2km, fast track application

Banstead 4m Store and Forward unit: Proposal received. G0RDI will deal with this.

Action G0RDI

TV Repeaters: Some digital frequencies have been added to the Isle of Wight TV repeater. GB3HV and GB3FT have been closed down permanently

Awaiting further information from Ernie G4YYB regarding GB3MC being brought into service and a final update on the proposal for GB3ML the proposed 6m repeater covering the Manchester area. To date have been unable to raise an answer via email despite repeated attempts.

Action G3VVT

A proposal has been received from David GD4HOZ for two wide spaced UHF repeaters using CTCSS only access. These are to be situated at lower sites to be inward looking into the IOM in addition to the existing GB3IM and be permanently linked via the internet to work as one repeater system. Sites are proposed at Carnane on Douglas Head to cover the south of the IOM and another at Bride near Ramsey to cover the north of the IOM both using the same wide spaced channel RU66.

Action G3VVT

A new proposal has been received to resurrect the defunct UHF repeater GB3MF on RB7 at a new site near Macclesfield. This is currently being vetted by the Proposals Manager. The e1 proposal arrived with some of the data corrupted, though was usable to check the proposal.

Action G3VVT

GB3CO: Situation resolved.

GB3EE: Repeater stolen, application for a site change received.

GB3LC: On air

GB3WJ: Now fully operational. Keeper is requesting a change to wide split.

Action G4TSN

GB3NH: Has been suffering abuse. Keeper is dealing with it.

Keeper of GB3NH is interested in applying for a digital repeater.

GB7DB: Ampthill, Beds, application received and processed.

GB3GJ: New application for a 2m analogue repeater in Jersey received and processed.

Complaint about co-channel interference GB3JL and GB3JB received.

GB3ZB, Bristol 70cm: Application proceeding

GB3WE: On air, dual mode

GB3BW, 23cm Weston-super-Mare: rejected by the Primary user. Attempts to find a suitable frequency pair are proceeding.

Action G8DOR

A draft paper received from G7PFT who is interested in exploring ways for analogue and digital operators to communicate with each other. G0RDI will discuss the proposals further with G7PFT

Action G0RDI

9: Guide to Repeater Licensing

G8SFR has updated section 2 for internet gateways. There is a meeting on 18 December to agree the changes.

10: AOB

None arose.

11: Date and time of next meeting

10:30am, 14 March 2009, Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.