



**Radio Society of Great Britain**  
**Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2009**  
**Held At Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel**

**Present**

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Iain Philipps	G0RDI	ETCC Vice Chairman
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	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
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North England Regional Manager
Rod Wilkinson	G3TXA	Ofcom representative
Dave Wilson	M0OBW	RSGB Board Member for Convention, Emerging Technology (ETCC)
Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager

**Apologies**

Graham Shirville	G3VZV	TV Repeater Co-ordinator
Steve Morton	G8SFR	Internet Gateway Manager

**1: Chairman's opening remarks**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed all present. The Chairman confirmed that the changes announced to some of the regional managers' areas are now permanent.

**2: Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 29 November 2008 meeting were approved. They have already been published on [ukrepeaters.net](http://ukrepeaters.net) after circulation around the committee via email.

**3: Matters arising**

*Matters arising – Previous minutes*

GB3WJ: Back on air, suffering with some local QRM would like to move to wide split but this is not possible at the moment.

**Closed**

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

**Action M0OBW**

GB3GX is still not on air. Ofcom are happy to give the keeper another six months to get the repeater on air but suggest that another site should be found if possible. A second NoV will be issued if the repeater is not in service at the end of six months.

**Action GM8LBC**

GB3WO: Suffering from local QRM. Problem resolved.

**Closed**

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**

### *Matters arising – 2 Metre frequency issues*

The ETCC policy for GMSK repeaters in the Midlands and South East England has been published.

**Closed**

### *Matters arising – Agenda items raised by GORDI*

South Yorkshire D-Star proposals: GORDI was unable to attend the meeting and G7LWT was contacted (independently of the ETCC) by M1ERS and G4LUE to seek advice. The outcome of the discussions with the groups involved means that only one site change and one new 70cm repeater are required. E1 forms have been raised and sent to G3VVT. G3VVT will pass these onto GM8LBC.

**Action G3VVT**

### *Matters arising – Agenda items raised by G7UZN*

Repeater status on ETCC website: G7UZN and GM8LBC have been working together to design a solution for this. Work is still in progress.

**Action G7UZN and GM8LBC**

### *Matters arising – Regional reports*

GB3NL & GB3LV: G4DFB has been agreed to become keeper for these repeaters. He has been asked by Ofcom to complete an e2 form and provide a revised list of shutdown operators. When the form is completed the Proposals Manger GM8LBC will be informed so that the change of keeper can be recorded on the ETCC website.

**Action G7UZN**

Digital repeater enquiry for London:

**Closed**

Crawley group, Ashdown Forest, further discussions have been held. To be covered later as an agenda item.

**Closed**

GB3EL: To be covered later as an agenda item.

**Closed**

Banstead 4m Store and Forward unit: In progress, awaiting frequencies from the primary user.

**Action Ofcom**

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. This is still outstanding despite numerous attempts to contact the keeper.

**Action G3VVT**

UHF repeater GB3MF near Macclesfield. The proposed keeper has not returned the site clearance form and until this is done the proposal can not be sent to Ofcom for clearing.

**Action G3VVT**

GB3WJ: Now fully operational.

**Closed**

GB3BW, 23cm Weston-super-Mare: rejected by the Primary user. G0RDI to advise G8DOR on suitable frequencies to allow the proposal to proceed.

**Action G0RDI AND G8DOR**

G7PFT proposed analogue and digital bridge: Ofcom would be happy to grant an experimental permit once a technically viable proposal has been submitted.

**Action G0RDI**

#### **4: Agenda items raised by Ofcom**

- a) Transfer of NoV system

Issuing NoVs is being migrated on to the main licensing system at Ofcom. This will permit them to be tied to the holders licence. A team of six people are being trained to operate the system. It is proposed that ukrepeater.net will be used to give users an indication of the operation status of the all amateur repeaters. This is already an ongoing project being managed by G7UZN and GM8LBC. With effect from 23rd March 2009 all applications, feasibility requests, NoVs, etc that require processing by Ofcom's Licensing Centre should be emailed to radioamateurNOV@ofcom.org.uk

- b) CTCSS/1750Hz access and remote closedown.

The requirements for CTCSS/1750Hz access and remote closedown were discussed. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 all newly licensed or re-licensed repeaters must have CTCSS access and remote closedown. Access via 1750Hz toneburst is optional for new repeaters. It is not permissible for a repeater to have carrier only access. The new repeater licensing guide will reflect these requirements.

#### **5: Agenda items raised by G0RDI**

- a) Out of area linking to GB3FJ proposal from M0KSP.

M0KSP (QTH Sheffield) would like to link to GB3FJ (Lincolnshire). Is it acceptable for such a long distance link to be established? The committee believes that the repeater keeper is about to change and therefore recommend that M0KSP seeks the permission of the new NoV holder and reapplies. The question of what happens to existing Internet linking permissions when there is a change of keeper for a repeater was also raised. The keeper grants permission for an Internet link, if the new keeper objects what should happen?

**Action G3TXA and G0RDI**

- b) Crawley ARG proposals

The Crawley ARG wish to establish a digital to analogue bridge repeater. It was proposed that they be granted two pairs of 70cm frequencies with a 9MHz split but a full proposal and

detailed technical proposals with timescales will be required by Ofcom before this happens.  
**Action G3TXA and G0RDI**

## **6: Agenda items raised by G3VVT**

- a) Pin access to IRLP repeater.

A complaint has been received from a user of his local repeater GB3PZ that he could no longer access the Internet linking via Echolink and IRLP. He apparently contacted the keeper and was told there must be something wrong with his equipment. Investigation revealed that due to abuse all outgoing connections have to be preceded with a PIN number. The repeater remains open for normal local traffic. Is it permissible to require a PIN to access the linking? The answer was: As the link is provided by a private computer system it is perfectly acceptable for the owner to control who has access to that. Providing the normal repeater functions remain open to all users there is no issue.

- b) GB7YO

G0RDI and G3VVT have received two proposals for new 2m and 70cm nodes to be established at Golcar near Huddersfield from G0PRF. The 2m proposal is despite the statement from the ETCC that no further expansion of DV is being recommended in England and Wales to Ofcom. In any case there are no 2 metre channels available in the area for various technical reasons. The 70cm proposal is only about 4 to 5 km west of GB7HD and it appears that it may cover much the same area as this repeater plus some extra areas in the next valley north across the M62 due to its superior location. It was suggested as the two repeaters were so close that it would be beneficial to relocate GB7HD to the new site. This was more or less rejected by the applicant and nothing substantial offered to justify the extra repeater. There is no evidence of ETCC coverage predictions being raised for the proposal despite these being offered.

The committee decided that both nodes are non starters due to the lack of 2 Metre frequencies and the parallel coverage on 70cms with GB7HD.

## **7: Agenda items raised by GI4BWM**

- a) Worthing 2m GMSK application.

An application has been received for a 2m GMSK repeater in Worthing. There is an embargo on new 2m applications in the South East of England but it was agreed that this application should proceed as firstly it is sufficiently isolated by the South Downs and secondly it was proposed before the embargo was put in place. It was agreed that channel RV52 would be recommended.

- b) Operating procedures for Internet linked repeaters.

Is it permissible for a repeater to be linked 24/7 to the Internet and be unavailable to local users when there is continuous remote traffic active on the link? Internet links should be provided using an additional receiver at the repeater site and priority should be given to local RF traffic.

## **8: Agenda items raised by G7UZN**

- a) GB3EL

Nothing has been heard from the keeper about his intentions with GB3EL. The keeper will be contacted and invited to bring the repeater back into service. If he does not want to do so a

second NoV will be issued.

**Action GI4BWM**

## **9: Regional reports**

### ***From GM8LBC***

GB3GX already mentioned above.

GM0OPS has enquired about a 23cm GMSK repeater for Glasgow. Frequencies are required. G0RDI will advise.

**Action GM8LBC and G0RDI**

### ***From G4TSN***

GB3NM: Suffering QRM from low powered devices. Recommend the repeater be changed to wide spilt, E5 to be raised through GM8LBC.

**Action G4TSN**

New proposal for a 2m repeater in the East Midlands area received. There is no channel available.

**Action G4TSN**

New proposal for a 70cm repeater GB3NP in Northampton received. Group is concerned that they may lose the site for GB3NH. It is recommended that they move GB3NH rather than apply for a new repeater given the problems of primary user permissions on 70cm.

**Action G4TSN**

New proposal from the GB3BM Group for a 70cm GMSK repeater to be co-sited with GB3CB has been received.

**Action G4TSN**

GB3CO is still not on air despite claims that the group were being held up by the lack of NoV.

### ***From G8DOR***

GB3GJ, newly cleared 2m analogue repeater on Jersey has been cleared.

New proposal for a 2m repeater (GB3MU) on Guernsey received.

**Action G8DOR**

GB3WA, closed down without warning, second NoV requested and issued. Group states that co-sited GB3WX has an uncertain future.

**Action G8DOR**

GB3ZB, Bristol, 70cm wide space cleared.

GB3JL, users suffering occasional problems with interference from the International Space Station.

Proposals received for new 70cm GMSK repeaters in Gloucester and Sidmouth.

### ***From GW7KDU***

GB3KD: Suffering abuse. Keeper will be advised to collect as much evidence as possible.

**Action GW7KDU**

GB3BC: Detailed complaint received from GW4HAT about abuse and poor performance of GB3BC. GW4HAT will be responded to by the ETCC chairman GI4BWM and Board Member M0OBW.

**Action GI4BWM and M0OBW**

GB3CW: Complaints about co-channel interference and request to change frequency. Keeper will be asked to quantify the problem.

**Action GW7KDU**

***From G7UZN***

GB3HW on air and working well

GB3LR: switched off and equipment removed from site pending a site change. It is likely to move less than 2km.

**Action G7UZN**

GB7ML: Site survey due to be carried out shortly once permission is granted.

**Action G0RDI and G7UZN**

Banstead 4m Store/Forward: Application progressing, awaiting frequency from the primary user.

***From G3VVT***

The proposal for GB3MF, the resurrection of an earlier UHF repeater sited at Macclesfield expired and was withdrawn when the SCF was failed to be sent to Ofcom.

The proposal for two wide spaced UHF repeaters linked to GB3IM has been cleared by Ofcom on 20 January. No confirmation to date when this would be brought into service.

GB3MC and GB3MY were taken off air for site refurbishment on 9 January. They were due to return to service on 7 March. Awaiting confirmation.

**Action G3VVT**

A proposal from G3VVT for GB7LF a new DV node for Lancaster was starting in January and after frequency clearance from PU1 has been forwarded to Ofcom for clearance from PU2. It is intended to provide linking from the site once the provision of Internet and current developments using a GMSK node adapter with a PMR repeater radio are resolved.

**Action G3VVT**

An enquiry regarding the establishment of a new 2m repeater in S Yorkshire to cover for the loss of GB3NA and GB3YR was received. Nothing officially heard in this respect.

**Action G3VVT**

Another enquiry to establish a new 2m analogue repeater connected to the Internet for the Marske on Sea area of N Yorkshire that is not currently covered from the NoV holder of MB7IMR. GB3CD is shown to already cover most of this area with the exception of a few small villages. Was suggested that the existing 2m Internet gateway was still the ideal system for what is required considering the usage that can be expected in the area.

A complaint has been received on 5 March regarding abuse (music, recording of transmissions, etc.) to GB3YW. The source was traced and was believed to be a schoolboy. Details were passed to the keeper G1XCC for a complaint to be raised with Ofcom, though nothing further seems to have happened and the abuse continues. It was suggested that it is better that the complaint should come from the keeper who has now been contacted by the ETCC regarding the problem. Confirmation has been received from the keeper that the abuse to GB3YW has been raised with Ofcom for investigation.

**Action G3VVT**

***From G0RDI***

The keeper of GB7ZI would like a change of callsign to GB7CC as he believes that it will increase usage of the repeater. As GB7CC is already in use for an AX.25 packet node in Cornwall we cannot

accept this request. The keeper has also been informed that requests of this type are whimsical and are not the best use of Ofcom or Primary User's resources.

GB7NM: Keeper wants a site change to a new location 5 miles from the original.

**Action GORDI**

***From GI4BWM***

A proposal has been received for a new 70cms repeater in Londonderry. The callsign GB3DX has been requested.

***From M0OBW***

The RSGB board have asked the ETCC to identify gaps in repeater coverage and encourage groups to fill these in with new repeaters.

**10: AOB**

***From GW7KDU***

A couple of enhancements to ukrepeaters.net requested.

- a) Could a tag be added to the subject of "contact via ukrepeaters.net" emails to indicate message type e.g. "contact via ukrepeaters.net (all)" or "contact via ukrepeaters.net (Wales)"?

**Action GM8LBC**

- b) Could the clearance date (if available) be shown on the individual repeater pages on ukrepeaters.net?

**Action GM8LBC**

**11: Date and time of next meeting**

10:30am, 18 July 2009, Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.