



Radio Society of Great Britain
Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee
Minutes of Meeting 18th September 2010
Held At Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

Present

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	Vice Chair/South West England Regional Manager
Graham Shirville	G3VZV	TV Repeater Co-ordinator
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
Darren Storer	G7LWT	UKIT Representative
Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager

Via VoIP

Steve Morton	G8SFR	Data Comms Manager
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1: Apologies

Iain Philipps	GORDI	RSGB Board Member.
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2: Chairman's opening remarks

The meeting was opened as usual by the Chairman who welcomed all present. The Chairman extended a special welcome to G3TXA who, due to his imminent retirement was attending for the last time in his capacity as the Ofcom representative.

3: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 17 April 2010 were formally accepted with one error noted. Under matters arising it was stated that GB7TV was on air. The repeater is still awaiting frequency clearance as is GB7HU. The item is an action for G3VVT and Data Comms Group. The minutes have already been published on the UK repeaters website.

Action GW7KDU

4: Matters arising

Matters arising – Previous minutes

GB3BW, 23cm Weston-super-Mare: Still ongoing, awaiting a response from the primary user.

Action G8DOR

23cm GMSK repeater for Glasgow: On going application for a DV pair on 23cm. Awaiting a response from the primary user.

Action GM8LBC

GB7ML: The repeater had come back on air after repair but has subsequently been removed from service.

Closed

Site change for GB3CN. Ongoing, awaiting clearance.

Action G4TSN

GB3TW: Interference with mixing from 603kHz local BBC MW TX. The problem has been resolved.

Closed

GB3AT: Applications have been made for additional inputs and also a change of frequency from 23cm to 13cm. On going, awaiting a response from the primary user.

Action G3VZV

70cm repeater (GB3AC) in the Chepstow/Gloucester area: an E5 has been submitted. This is still on going and awaiting a response from the Primary User.

Action G8DOR

Ofcom: Abuse complaints policy: On going. There is a particular concern about the level of abuse currently being suffered by GB3DY.

Action G3TXA

Ofcom: 23cm frequency clearances: To be discussed later in the meeting.

Scotland: Linking project for GB3GM and GB3NG. Group no longer wish to proceed.

Closed

SE England: Request about the feasibility of a 23cm Parrot box received from G4GBW, still on going, awaiting Primary User.

Action G7UZN

East Midlands: Application from G7AJP for 4m parrot device. Ongoing, awaiting response from Primary User

Action G4TSN

East Midlands: GB3HP New application for 70cm analogue repeater to cover Chapel-en-le-frith. Application has been withdrawn due to licensing irregularities.

Closed

East Midlands: GB7EN New application Node Northampton, ongoing awaiting response from Primary User.

Action G4TSN

East Midlands: GB3CN Northampton site change (23cms), on going ongoing awaiting response from Primary User.

Action G4TSN

East Midlands: GB3EM not operational for a very long time. Attempts to contact the keeper have not been successful. A letter will be sent via Ofcom who will forward to the address that they hold for the keeper.

Action G4TSN & G3TXA

East Midlands: GB7IP not operational. The keeper will be informed that he has 6 months to get the repeater on air. If this does not happen a second NoV will be issued.

Action G4TSN

N England: GB3LP reported as still not operational. A warning letter will be sent informing the keeper

that a second NoV will be issued if normal operations are not restored. If there is no response within one month and a day the second NoV will be issued.

Action G3VVT and G3TXA

N England: GB7SH still not service but group are working to complete the project.

Action G3VVT

N England: Proposal to relocate GB3TW. This has been completed.

Closed

Matters arising –Region Exception reports.

A query was raised about the maximum ERP permitted for a DV gateway on 70cm by G8DOR. The limit is 25watts, but is set on a case by case basis.

Closed

Olympics 2012. To be discussed later in the meeting.

South Yorkshire Repeater Group, application for a 23cm DV repeater. Ongoing, awaiting a response from the Primary User.

Action G7LWT

GB7HX a new proposed repeater/node for the Huddersfield area. Awaiting for E5 to clear before the E1 can be submitted.

**Action G3VVT (for E1)
Action GM8LBC (Processing)**

UKFM Group Western, expression of interest in a DV repeater in Stoke/Stafford area. To be discussed later in the meeting

GB3IT: New 23cms DATV out/FM in application. Awaiting response from Primary user.

Action G3VZV

Application from G0ATW for a gateway to GB3GY, discussed and will be processed.

Closed

Keeper of GB3UO (70cm) has requested a site change. An E5 required.

Closed

GB3LL is still off air. A second NoV will be issued if it is not back on air by June

Closed

GB3SA has been off air more than 6 months 2nd NoV to be requested

Closed

Matters arising – Authorisation of Operation

Authorisation for operation or closedown a station.

Closed

Matters arising – Policy on Dual mode operation in 70cm

Enquiries made about converting GB3NU (analogue 70cm wide split repeater) to dual mode analogue/digital.

Closed

Matters arising – 23cm/13cm difficulties and relationship with Primary Users

A meeting with Primary Users is to be requested via Ofcom. On going.

Action G0RDI

Applicants contacted to inform them that there will not be any progress until later in the year
Closed

G7LWT and G7OCD are to collaborate on papers detailing how bands/modes (TV, Voice, Digital, Analogue, Packet etc) are typically used. On going.

Action G7LWT and G7OCD

Matters arising – Long term non operational repeaters

Letter template to be used for keepers of long term off air repeaters.
Closed

Matters arising – Emerging Technology

GI4BWM's summary of the input from the rest of the committee has been sent to the RSGB board.
Closed

Matters arising – Appointment of Vice Chairman

Update to UK Repeater website for new vice chairman
Closed

Matters arising – Appointment of Data Comms Manager.

Update to UK Repeater website for new data comms manager.
Closed

5: Agenda points from GI4BWM

1. Complaints

The chairman reported a small number of complaints had been received in respect of the late publication of minutes and an allegation, to date unsubstantiated, that a member of the ETCC was acting outside their remit. It was recognised delayed production of minutes had been a problem but was now being addressed and it was intended that the deadline of minutes being sent to HQ within two weeks of a meeting in accordance with the bylaws would be achieved.

As part of one of these complaints a challenge was made to the ETCC policy of not recommending that parallel coverage be provided in an area that already had sufficient coverage. This was in connection with the desire to provide an Internet linked 2M repeater where the Keeper of the existing repeater did not wish to allow linking on his box.

The committee confirmed their policy of not providing parallel coverage on 2 Metres as part of our remit as spectrum managers for both repeaters and Internet Gateways on behalf of the regulator. It was noted that in the area in question no 2 metre channel was available in any case but after discussion a number of solutions were offered:-

- Move an existing analogue Gateway to the proposed repeater site on an initial trial basis to provide enhanced simplex coverage.
- Permit the use of dual mode operation on an existing GMSK installation thus providing analogue repeater linking for those who required it.

- Provide technical assistance to the repeater group who were experiencing difficulties with filtering and duplexing on 70cms. It was the view of committee that these problems were not insurmountable.

2. Primary Users

Ofcom confirmed that they had received no response to requests for clearances in the 9 and 13 cms bands. It was agreed that this left us with no option but to escalate the lack of response via RSGB HQ and the chairman agreed to do this.

Action GI4BWM

3. Report from G8SFR re work on restarting UHF clearances

A lengthy discussion was had about the work taking place to try and break the log jam with clearances on 70cm. The noise floor database has been independently updated by G3PSM and G8SFR and the figures have been cross checked and submitted to Ofcom/PU. These have not yet been accepted. It is hoped that once they have been accepted then applications can once again be resubmitted to Ofcom. Before that happens the regional and data comms managers will contact each applicant to verify if the application is required. Submission of the applications will then be done in batches rather than en-mass. The size of the batches will be determined by discussion with the PU via Ofcom.

Once each batch has been cleared further reassessments of the noise floor will be performed. These will be submitted prior to the further batches.

Further work needs to be done by the committee to identify all 70cm repeaters and nodes that are no long in operation as this will further reduce the current noise floor figures.

Action All

4. G4HPE HF Gateway extension of experiment

A request had been received from G4HPE for an extension of his Emergency Communications HF Gateway experiment to a few selected stations. It was agreed that this would be granted although G4HPE would be asked by the chairman to vet any new applicants as he was in the best position to judge. Once vetted the proposals should go to the Data Communications Manager who would arrange for a modified NoV to be produced for issue by Ofcom instead of the current special permit arrangements.

Action GI4BWM/G8SFR

6: Agenda points from Ofcom

1. Preparation of a D-Star Users Guide

G3TXA has requested that we provide a source of basic information that is relevant to the D-Star network in the UK so that new users have a central source of reference.

Action G7LWT & GM8LBC

7: Agenda points from G7LWT

1. DV coverage of the Potteries and M6

G8DZJ and UK FM Group Western wish to provide DV coverage in the Potteries and M6 corridor. G7LWT has been examining possible frequency pairs but has not yet found a solution. GM8LBC will collaborate with G7LWT to find a suitable method of achieving this.

Action G7LWT & GM8LBC

2. DV Simplex node – need for guidance

Applications for personal simplex nodes have become very popular, these can be operated under the terms of the lifetime license without the need for additional clearance. Whilst the lifetime license allows for personal simplex node use, node operators must ensure that they can only be used by the individual; the lifetime license mentions that steps must be taken (E.g. software locks) to ensure that this is the case.

Applicants seeking an NoV to carry 3rd party traffic should be aware that power levels for simplex nodes are much lower than equivalent repeaters, as simplex nodes are intended to infill local areas and hidden terminal syndrome (HTS) becomes a significant problem over an extended range. On 2m the guideline ERP for a simplex DV node is 7dBW, although this figure maybe reduced to avoid co-channel interference.

8: Agenda points from G3VVT

1. GB3MC/GB3MY

These repeaters have not been returned to service.. The standard second NoV warning letter was sent to the keeper in January but not response was made. The copies of the original letters are to be sent to Ofcom so that they may be forwarded to the keeper at the address that they have on file.

Action G3VVT

9: Agenda points from G7UZN

1. London Olympics 2012

It was suggested that RSGB HQ write to all keepers in the London area asking them to ensure that their repeaters are fully operational for the duration of the games in summer 2012.

GB3EL: Due to return to service but no time scales have been given. It will restore some amateur repeater coverage to London.

G7UZN has a plan to provide a 70cm repeater at Buckhurst Hill to give coverage into the Olympic Village for the duration of the Olympics/Para Olympics Games. Further details will be provided in the near future.

10: Exception reports from the Regions

London & SE England:

GB3MH: On-going discussions about this project. Various options will be offered to the applicant for a way forward.

Action G7UZN

Wales & Marches

Clee Hill: Three applications from G1MAW processed, 10m, 6m and 23cm, all on Clee Hill, Shropshire. The 6m application has cleared and the NoV has been issued. The E1 form for the 10m unit has been submitted for processing. The application for 23cm has had an E5 form raised, but Ofcom have said that they will not be processing the application further due to the proximity of a key site operated by the primary user of the band.

GB3SA: Repeater has been off air for some time, a second NoV has now been issued.

GB3UO: 70cm site change was being held pending a change in the situation with the primary user. An E5 was submitted and this unexpectedly cleared very quickly. The E1 has now been submitted for processing. The reason that the E5 cleared so quickly was that the repeater is to move within the same general area (only 6km) and that there was no change of frequency being applied for.

Scotland

GB3LG still not operational due to site being struck by lightning.

Action GM8LBC

South & SW England

GB3AA (2m) & AK (23cm): requests for dual mode have been received from G4CJZ. These have been processed.

GB3AD: Request for DVU channel dual mode from G4CJZ. This has been rejected.

Proposal from M1DNS for a 70cm DV unit in the St Austell area has been received. This is currently awaiting a response from the primary user. The proposed keeper has complained that the application has not appeared on the vetting page of the UK Repeaters website.

Action G8DOR

GB3GJ: On air.

GB3NQ: Application for 23cm TV RX freq change received.

Action G3VZV

GB3CG: Internet link has been withdrawn.

GB3PL: This repeater has been off air for 6 months. The keeper warned has been warned that a second NoV will be issued shortly unless it is brought back into service.

Action G8DOR

G1BWW – Alderney. 2m/70cm crossband enquiry. More detail requested

Action G8DOR

Midlands

GB7DC: 70cm DV for Derby. Awaiting response from primary user.

GB7CH: 70cm DV for Lincolnshire. Awaiting response from primary user.

GB7IQ and IR not operational since being cleared in April 2008. The keeper will be informed that he has 6 months to get the repeater on air. If this does not happen a second NoV will be issued.

Action G4TSN

North of England

GB3GD & GB3IM-S: It has been reported that repairs to the antenna systems for these are due for action in the near future. A request for an extra dual band antenna mounted at low level on the equipment building for emergency use has been made.

Action G3VVT

GB7SH and GB3WY are still awaited to be brought into operation.

GB3NY: Off air and may not return to service due to loss of site. Will be given the standard six months then a second NoV will be issued after the appropriate warning,

Action G3VVT

GB3HA: squelch problem which should be cleared in the near future.

GB3NA will be closed down at the existing site shared with GB7YD and the callsign will be transferred to replace GB3YR at Rotherham. An e1 proposal is awaited to action this.

Action G3VVT

TV repeaters

ATV report - no activity on the clearance front - Many email and phone requests for status updates have been received from frustrated proposers and potential users since the previous meeting.

Data comms

Since the last meeting 42 new applications have been processed for Simplex Internet Gateways. That represents a fairly typical amount for the time period.

There have been a number of renewals. Simplex Internet Gateway NoV's are only valid for 12 months. Once the 12 months is up the status is changed to Expired. If the NoV is not renewed by the end of the three months then the entry is removed from the database. The expiry date is printed on the NoV and people should be aware to remind themselves if they wish to renew the NoV, neither Ofcom or RSGB send out reminders.

A small number of DV Hotspot applications have also been processed since the last meeting. These seem to be increasing in number and popularity. No feed back yet on how well they are working has been received.

Proposal Manager

There is an outstanding information request for the Herne Bay repeater GB7IC site changes. Keeper has been asked to clarify.

Action GM8LBC

UK Repeater Website

The E1 form has been updated and is has been released as version 52. There have been some minor bug fixes and has had a send button plus checklist added.

Some mapping has been updated and further updates will be made as and when time allows.

Thanks to Dave G7UZN for continuing to update the status information.

11: Any other relevant business

GB3GX: 10m application for Clee Hill. Ofcom had a query whether 10m repeaters were an acceptable use of spectrum. It was agreed that this application should proceed.

12: Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting is to be arranged for early in 2011. The Chairman will contact the rest of the committee with possible dates in due course. The venue is likely to remain the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel but timing is dependent on transport arrangements.

Action GI4BWM