



Radio Society of Great Britain
Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee
Minutes of 5th September 2015 meeting
Held at Hilton Metropole Hotel, Birmingham

Present

John McCullagh	GI4BWM	ETCC Chairman
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
Steve Morton	G8SFR	Data Comms Manager
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	Vice Chair/South West England Regional Manager

Apologies

Stewart Bryant	G3YSX	Board Member
Noel Matthews	G8GTZ	TV Manager
Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager

1: Chairman's opening remarks

GI4BWM opened the meeting by welcoming all to the meeting and thanking G8DOR for deputising while he was away on an extended overseas visit.

2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 18th April 2015 were formally accepted. These are to be published on the UK repeaters website.

Action GW7KDU

3: Matters arising

Matters arising – Previous minutes

GB3LW: Back on air.

Closed

Matters arising – Regional Reports

South East England

GB7JH: Change of keeper has been applied for.

Closed

South West England

GB3PC: Permanently off air, unable to contact the keeper

Action G8DOR

GB7CM: Repeater on air, no further comments received.

Closed

GB3SN: On reduced power. Keeper to be contacted to find out current status.

Action G8DOR

East Midlands

23cm AV repeater for Birmingham received. Ongoing

Action G4TSN

North of England

GB7LB: Proposal currently on hold pending a decision to proceed from the applicant.

Action G3VVT

GB3PZ: Contact the keeper to attempt to progress this application. If no progress is made the application will be removed from vetting.

Action G3VVT

GB7YD-A: Completed

Closed

GB7SR: SR moved to Colour Code 2

Closed

GB3CY: Nothing further heard.

Closed

Scotland

23cm AV repeater in Ayrshire received. Withdrawn application pending further advice on 23cm clearances.

Closed

4: GI4BWM: Combating Repeater Abuse

At the request of RSGB board a discussion was held about methods of combating repeater abuse. A report will be prepared and sent to the board.

Action GI4BWM

5: GW7KDU: 70cms proposals – policy on repeated requests

There have been a number of 9MHz split 70cm digital mode repeaters rejected recently. They have then been reapplied for but to prevent endless applications taking place the following policy has been adopted by the ETCC.

- A first application with a single frequency pair will be accepted and processed by the ETCC if there is spectrum available and is technically correct.
- If the frequency is rejected by the primary user a second application will be accepted, this time four frequency pairs will be specified, two using a 9MHz split and two with a 7.6MHz split.
- If the second application is rejected a third will only be accepted if the applicant requests the ETCC to make enquiries with the primary user via Ofcom for a suitable frequency pair.
- Keepers and repeater groups are discouraged from contacting Ofcom/Primary user directly as this can cause confusion.

A discussion about reversing the RX/TX frequency pairs of some currently unused 70cm repeater channels was held. Further analysis will be done before the next committee meeting.

Action G8DOR, GM8LBC and G8SFR

6: Regional/Specialisation Reports

TV Repeaters – from a report emailed by G8GTZ to GI4BWM

Current status

- 41 repeaters in the list.
- 4 New NoVs issued in early 2015 still not on air, to be followed up
- 3 others currently not in service

Action G8GTZ

Action G8GTZ

Following the majority of licenses being cleared at the beginning of 2015 there are only two applications outstanding:–

GB3EY: Site change, outstanding for nearly 18 months. Currently believed to be at NATS.

GB3ET: New 23cms application for Banbury.

Both of these are for 23cms and will require clearance by the CAA where we need to try and establish contact with the replacement for the previous member of staff that we used to deal with.

All of the 3.4 GHz 2MHz DATV licenses are now on air and performance is reported to be better than 2.3GHz, mainly due to reduced bandwidth over analogue and increased antennae gain from using Sky mini dishes with C band LNBS.

Data

The 70cms gateway sub-bands at 430 and 431 and 434 MHz are still in transition but there are only about 10 stations still to be moved to the new assignments. This is on-going until early next year with renewals. 430.0125-430.075 MHz is the analogue gateway sub-band. 431.075-431.150 MHz is the digital gateway sub-band. At 434 MHz the division is more mixed with 434.475, 434.4875 and 434.5125 MHz all being digital gateway channels, whilst 434.500 and 434.525 MHz are analogue gateway channels.

We have recently moved the 10 metre gateways from RH2 the 10 metre repeater pairing of 29.530 and 29.630 MHz to 29.280 and 29.290 freeing up that 10 metre repeater channel in UK and Europe. This was done in consultation with Filip ON4PC, 10m Repeater Manager for IARU Region One. He maintains an accurate repeater listing at this site:

<http://www.uba.be/en/latest/unmanned-stations>

<http://www.uba.be/sites/default/files/uploads/actual/IARU%20region-1%2010m%20FM-Repeaters%2020150824.pdf>

On the date of the committee meeting there are 265 Gateway NoV's in the system.

South East England

Generally quiet after a busy few months with only one application for GB7AK currently in progress.

South West England

GB3WB: Enquires made about changing to dual-mode DMR. An application for a separate DVU channel was suggested to the group, to avoid digital operation on an RB channel but nothing further has been heard.

Action G8DOR

GB3WE: This is currently licensed as a dual mode D-Star/Analogue repeater but their website states that it is now DMR/Analogue. No application have been made for a change of mode. Attempts to contact the keeper have failed.

Action G8DOR

Wales & Marches

GB7PD-B: An application for a 70cm D-Star repeater for Pembroke Dock has been rejected twice by the primary user. A third attempt will be made but no further ones will be accepted.

North of England

GB7PF: A revised proposal for a new 70cm DMR repeater at Fleckleton, Preston has been submitted after the first one was rejected by the Primary user.

Scotland

GB3GL: This repeater is suffering abuse. Ofcom have to date failed to take any action against perpetrators and the keeper and repeater group are frustrated at the negative influence this is having.

GB3CS: This West Central Scotland repeater is currently off air due to site vandalism. The keeper wishes to apply for a site change and opt for site privacy on the ETCC website.

Action GM8LBC

Two digital mode repeaters, GB7DA-C (D-Star, west central Scotland) and GB7EE (DMR, east central Scotland) have been recently licensed. They are expected to become operational this month.

Activity on all repeaters remains low.

Northern Ireland

GB7LY: This 70cm DMR repeater has recently been submitted for clearance. This is the first DMR proposal for the region.

7: AOB

Service reports from service users

If a service user makes a status report via the ETCC website this should be verified before a status change is made. Reports from the keeper, repeater group member or ETCC committee member do not need to be verified.

Non-contactable Repeater keepers

Details of repeater keepers of off air repeaters that are not contactable are to be passed to the ETCC chairman who will contact Ofcom to find out if a second NoV can be issued to free up spectrum for another group/keeper to replace the off air unit.

Second NoV definition/purpose

It seems that some keepers are unclear of the purpose of Second NoVs. An explanation will be added to the ETCC website.

Guide for repeater licensing

The original document had been withdrawn as it was out of date and being rewritten. It was agreed that it will be made available again pending completion of the new guide. G8SFR had commenced the rewrite and will continue with this as time permits.

Action GM8LBC

Repeater Link renewal dates

It was decided that subject to agreement from Ofcom the renewal dates for Repeater Links will now be the same as the repeater they are linked to.

8: Date of next meeting

The next virtual meeting to be held in November 2015, date to be arranged.