



Radio Society of Great Britain
Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee
Minutes of 25th April 2016 Virtual meeting
Held via Skype

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
Steve Morton	G8SFR	Data Comms Manager
Andrew Barrett	G8DOR	Vice Chair/South West England Regional Manager
Stewart Bryant	G3YSX	Board Member

Apologies

Noel Matthews	G8GTZ	TV Manager
Jon Lee	G4TSN	Midlands Regional Manager (was available for online Q&A)
Bob Wilkinson	G3VVT	North England Regional Manager

1: Chairman's opening remarks

GI4BWM opened the meeting by welcoming all and passing on congratulations to Colin GM8LBC, our Proposals Manager/Regional Manager for Scotland upon being awarded the RSGB Founder's Trophy - for outstanding service to the Society and also The Jock Kyle Memorial Trophy at the recent RSGB AGM held earlier this month in Glasgow.

2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 5th September 2015 were formally accepted. These are to be published on the UK repeaters website.

Action GW7KDU

3: Matters arising

Matters arising – Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were published here <https://ukrepeater.net/documents/mins1504.pdf>

Closed

Matters arising – Previous minutes

GB3PC: Second NoV issued with assistance of Ofcom.

Closed

GB3SN: Now operating as normal.

Closed

23cm AV repeater for Birmingham. No longer required, withdrawn.

Closed

GB7LB: Proposal withdrawn.

Closed

GB3PZ: Ongoing

Action G3VVT

Matters arising – Combating Repeater Abuse

A report was prepared and sent to the RSGB board

Closed

Matters arising – 70cms proposals – policy on repeated requests

Reversal of RX/TX frequency pairs of some currently unused 70cm repeater channels.
Further analysis was completed.

Closed

Matters arising – Regional/Specialisation Reports

TV Repeaters

Off air repeaters mentioned in the previous minutes are to be followed up as part of audit to be discussed later in the meeting.

Action G8GTZ

South West England

GB3WB

Closed

GB3WE

Closed

Scotland

GB3CS: Back on air from a new site.

Closed

Matters arising – AOB

Guide for repeater licensing

Available on the UK Repeater website, here

https://ukrepeater.net/documents/guide_repeater_gateway_licensing.pdf

Marked as under review.

Closed

4: GI4BWM - RSGB/Ofcom forum

A number of agenda point from the recent RSGB/Ofcom forum were discussed.

1. Contact with primary users.

RSGB reported that responses to requests appeared to be delayed from one of the Primary Users, possibly as a result of staff changes. It was agreed that Ofcom would approach the relevant Primary User to see what could be done to improve matters.

2. Outstanding clearances.

There are a number of clearance requests still outstanding. Ofcom will follow these up with Spectrum Licensing.

3. NoV renewals

Ofcom have agreed that the RSGB/ETCC can receive, process and issue routine Beacon, Repeater and Gateway renewals and notify Ofcom that a pre-authorized NoV has been issued.

There is due to be a flood of NoV renewals in March 2017 as the current three year cycle comes to an end. The reason for having a common expiry date was questioned by the ETCC Chairman GI4BWM and whether renewals could be performed on a rolling basis. Ofcom will check the wording of the NoV to see if there is a reason why this would not be possible.

4. Long term off air repeaters with uncontactable keepers.

The ETCC will provide a list of these to Ofcom.

5: GM8LBC – Discussion papers circulated by Colin.

Four discussion papers have been circulated to the committee by GM8LBC.

1. Display of Proposal frequencies on UK Repeater Website.

Currently only the band is given for vetting-in-progress repeaters on the UK repeater website. It was decided that in future that “channel applied for” information will be added with a suitable disclaimer to state that the information is provisional and maybe subject to change.

Action GM8LBC

2. Audit of NoV's non-operational three months from issue.

An audit of repeaters where their status remains at “licenced” for more than three months since their NoVs has been performed. A list is available via the ETCC VMS (Vetting Management System). Regional managers are to contact the keepers concerned to get an update.

Action Regional/Specialist Managers

3. Database updating proposals.

During the last batch renewal of NoVs it was discovered that some of the data for 245 repeaters was missing. A list of repeaters affected is available on VMS and regional managers should contact the keepers in order to obtain the necessary data. The aim is to get the information correct by the end of March 2017 to coincide with the next NoV renewal.

Action Regional/Specialist Managers

4. NoV Renewal reminders.

The process of generating NoV renewal reminders was discussed.

6: G7UZN - Tetra bandwidth and application

An application for a Tetra repeater in the 70cm band has been received. A discussion about the feasibility of the project was held to determine the bandwidth required and to identify a suitable part of the band in which to place it if possible. The bandwidth required is a minimum of 37.5kHz and it is not clear from the application if a simplex channel or a duplex pair is required. At present this proposed repeater cannot be accommodated in the repeater portions of the 70cm band due to spectrum availability and RSGB/IARU band-plans. It was suggested that we could offer some spectrum in the 438-439MHz portion of the band on an experimental basis. Further discussions with the applicant are necessary.

Action G7UZN

7: G3VVT/G8SFR - GB7DJ

The keeper of GB7SJ wishes to apply for a 70cm DMR repeater on the same site at GB7SJ with both repeaters using a 7.6MHz split. The committee feel that this is technically challenging and unlikely to be successful. The consensus was that putting both repeaters on a 9MHz split and limiting operation to digital only is the best option.

Action G3VVT/G8SFR

8: Regional/Specialist reports

Data modes

Nothing to report

Midlands

Nothing to report

South East England

The area is very close to saturation level with very little free spectrum available. A recent Fusion application for 2m was rejected on the basis of spectrum availability and that there was coverage using that mode from a 70cm repeater in the same area.

Some reports of abuse, continued advice is to refer these to AROS.

North of England

See notes about GB3DJ above.

Query regarding GB7DO a new DMR repeater for Doncaster on the Brandmeister system which has been with Ofcom since February 2016.

Northern Ireland

Nothing to report

Scotland

Nothing to report

South West England

Nothing to report

Television

Long delays in gaining approval particularly on 23cm are still being suffered, GB3EY site change has been outstanding for two years and there have been no updates on GB3ET that was submitted nine months ago.

A number of units are still not on air 12 months after NoVs were granted and the keepers will be contacted in the next four weeks as part of the audit discussed earlier in the meeting.

Action G8GTZ

Wales/Marches

Enquiry made about GB3BG changing to a wide split and possible digital operation.

RSGB Board

G3YSX passed on the Board's thanks to the committee for ETCC's work.

9: AOB

Nothing was raised.

10: Date of next meeting

It is expected that a face to face meeting will be held in September 2016 at the Hilton Metropole, NEC, Birmingham. This has not yet been arranged.