

Minutes of Meeting

VATSIM Executive Committee

17th July, 2004 - 2100 UTC

Roll Call

VATAME1	–	Ilan Jonas	Present
VATASIA1	–	Bill Reynolds	not present (apology)
VATCA1	–	David Liberman	Present
VATEUR1	–	Kyprianos Biris	Present
VATNA1	–	Chris McCarthy	not present (apology)
VATOCE1	–	Terry Scanlan	Present (Chair)
VATSA1	–	Paulo Ungar	not present (apology)
VATSIM23	–	Roland Collins	Present (Secretary)

Also Present

VATAME2 – Shadi Abo Ahmad (Observer)

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting started at 21:15 UTC

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2. Welcome to our two new members, David and Ilan
3. Changing the default code in call signs to XX_T_XXX.
4. Controller Ratings: Re-introducing C2 into the Controller ratings.
5. Region Reports
6. Other Business

Note: Initially the required quorum was not present and the meeting proceeded on an informal discussion basis until a required quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1 - Minutes from Previous Meeting

It was noted that these were previously discussed by email at the conclusion of the previous meeting and had been duly accepted and released.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome new member

Terry Scanlan introduced the two new EC Members:

VATAME1 – Ilan Jonas

VATCA1 – David Liberman

.... and welcomed them to the Executive Committee.

A welcome was also given to Shadi Abo Ahmad (VATAME2) who was present as an observer.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Changing the default code in call signs to XX_T_XXX

VP-Regions (Roland) advised that VATSIM simply requires an underscore "_" and on either side there should be a "prefix" that indicates the location of the service, and an approved "suffix" that indicates the type of service. There are no other requirements.

Additional underscores, their use, and their meaning, is entirely a local matter. It should not be "user-random" and should therefore be regulated and controlled by the local jurisdiction.

Roland went on to say that many jurisdictions have already dropped the use of "_V" where it suited them and better facilitated the use of callsigns that were otherwise restricted by the 10-character limit. Example of this included: "_O", "_H", "_L", "_N", "_S", "_T", etc.

In many parts of the world "_T" is being used to indicate "in-Training", or "under-Test", so it is not feasible to now globally implement it to make it mean "text only".

The general consensus of the meeting was that since voice is now so predominant the use of "_V" to indicate a "voice-equipped" controller should no longer be used.

It was further agreed that the presence of a "text-only" controller was adequately catered for in the controller ATIS and the use of "_T" or any other "mid-fix" was a matter for local policy.

All RD's were reminded of the controller requirement outlined in CoC B (5) and asked to ensure that any correspondence regarding these EC proposals must continue to uphold CoC B (5). It must also remain clear that whilst "Text" is no longer the predominant communication method it is still a viable method and indeed the "default" communication means for all users.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - Controller Ratings: Re-introducing C2 into the Controller ratings.

This matter was first raised in "other business" at the previous meeting at a time when a quorum was not present. It has been informally discussed since that time and was again tabled so that a more formal EC position could be realized.

It was generally agreed that the step from Controller to Senior Controller was quite extensive since a Controller rating is the basic entry level to this rating group, and the only other step is that of Senior Controller which is the pinnacle of all ATC ratings.

In discussion it was noted that there are many that have been on a Controller rating for some time but not yet fully progressed to Senior Controller competency. It was also understood that not all members with a Controller rating were likely to attain a Senior

Controller rating and this therefore meant there was no further means to recognize any progress since attaining the Controller rating.

An intermediate rating would allow jurisdictions to provide recognition for these members, and this was considered highly desirable in the current climate of wishing to extend the opportunities to provide recognition of any member progress.

Those present agreed that there was some merit in recouping the old C2 level in a way that would provide an intermediate rating between Controller and Senior Controller. The name "Advanced Controller" was considered, and it was agreed that if implemented then local jurisdictions should set local requirements for the "Advanced Controller rating"

Those present were resolute that recouping the C2 rating should not cause any loss of rating or privileges for any member.

VP – Regions suggested that the following scheme might be achievable:

Controller (L5) - all existing members with a Controller rating.

Advanced Controller (L6) - new rating step available forthwith. Local jurisdictions may award this rating to existing members with a Controller rating where the member has already attained the required local standard.

Senior Controller (L7) - all existing members with a Senior Controller rating.

Action: VP-Regions to approach BOG with request as outlined above.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - Region Reports

RD Oceania. Terry Scanlan reported that there were no significant changes within Oceania. He went on to advise that work associated with hosting the VATSIM 2004 Convention was progressing well.

RD Europe. Kyprianos Biris reported that there was currently no Deputy RD and that he expected to make an appointment soon. The meeting was also advised that there were current steps to revitalize existing staff.

Kyprianos reported that within Europe Division there are some additional countries and these having unofficial status until fully approved.

Kyprianos also reported that EuroBook was undergoing further development so that it could provide a more extensive service to all members. There was comment about the name projecting only a European flavor, and it was suggested that a more universal name such as VatBook might better promote its use.

RD Africa & Middle East. Ilan Jonas reported that AFR/ME has become a little quiet now, except VATIL. Ilan advised that he was still working with VP – Regions in order to develop strategies to address regional issues and also raise interest in this area.

Ilan advised that a region website is almost finished, and agreed to keep EC updated on the progress.

RD Mexico, Central America, Caribbean. David Liberman reported that VATMEX has small numbers but continues to flourish. He is currently looking at some staff appointments to assist in the promotion of Central America.

David advised that Bill Raymond has been appointed as Division Director for VATCAR, and that he is currently working with Bill on strategies to rebuild the activities within the area.

VP-Regions. Roland Collins gave a brief summary of caretaker actions that he has been responsible for in VATAME and VATCA since the last meeting and prior to the recent RD appointments.

On behalf of those present the EC Chairman Terry Scanlan thanked VP–Regions for his contribution in looking after VATAME and VATCA Regions whilst they were without an RD.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - Other Business

6.1 Code 7600

EC Chairman formally advised EC of BOG decision to revoke an earlier decision in relation to auto-disconnect for Code 7600. This announcement was well received by those present.

6.2 Voice for EC meetings

EC Chairman reported that the use of Roger Wilco was no longer acceptable for EC meetings, and hoped that other more suitable voice solutions such as TeamSpeak could be found.

Action: Those present agreed to investigate and report back via email.

6.3 Pilot ratings

This matter was raised by Kyprianos Biris and there followed some general discussion. Those present agreed that pilots make up the bulk of VATSIM membership and their needs must be adequately catered for. It was noted that the current two critical issues in relation to pilot members were the delay in introducing the pilot rating scheme, and the difficulty in connecting to the network.

Action: VP-Regions to liaise with VP-Pilot Training and report back.

6.4 Supervisor appointments

There was some general discussion in relation to the delays in getting new Supervisors appointed. Some RD expressed concern that members put forward 12 months ago were still awaiting appointment.

VP-Regions advised RD's that progress might have been delayed due to the culling of inactive SUPs not yet having taken place. RD's were agreeable to this culling in order to expedite the appointment of more active on-line SUPs.

Action: VP-Regions to liaise with VP-Supervisors and report back.

The meeting adjourned at 2312 UTC on 17th July 2004.