



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF VATSIM

HELD ON TEAMSPEAK ON SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Meeting Opened at 11:15 hours UTC

Present:

- Kyprianos Biris (KB) (VATSIM Europe) - Chair
- Bryan Wollenberg (BW) (VATSIM North America)
- William Woo (WW) (VATSIM Asia)
- Ilan Jonas (IJ) (VATSIM Africa Middle East)
- Wills Damasio (WD) (VATSIM South America)
- Mark Richards (MR) (VATSIM Oceania) - Minutes
- Terry Scanlan (TS) (Vice President – Operations)
- Roland Collins (RC) (Vice President - Regions)

Apologies:

- Nil

Welcome:

Kyp and the EC welcomed Wills Damasio and Mark Richards who have recently been appointed to the Executive Committee as Regional Directors of South America and Oceania respectively. Kyp also thanked Terry for his work as Oceania RD and congratulated him for his appointment to the VATSIM BoG.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

CERT SERVER CHANGES: KB – Work is being progressed and we should see some changes soon especially in respect of Region Transfers. This includes extending the automatic transfer time extending from 48 hours to 7 days, reasons for transfer, comments from RD of the region the member transfers from, EC Chair not receiving the DCRM assignments.

TS – Some of this is already underway and the EC will need to confirm their “wish list” of changes to Roland, copied to Terry so that they can be raised with Mike Evans to be implemented. It is accepted that a “wish list” has been presented in the past but now that Mike is looking after it, changes are happening.

RC – Confirmed that Dave Klain and Mike Evans are committed to these being implemented quickly. Roland apologised for the previous delays and explained that due to the lengthy passage of time it was regrettable but necessary for the items to be revisited to ensure that they are still current before being presented again.

IJ – This is something that is needed and we must press to have this implemented as soon as we can as this has been going for some time now. Ilan wished it recorded that the EC are very unhappy with the delays but welcomes the intentions of the BoG and it is hoped that the changes can be implemented within a short time frame.

GRP2 Update:

KB – Was surprised by the way that the GRP2 was handled by the BOG but can understand the reasons. Three weeks after this was released the BOG have provided comments on each part of the policy that the BOG have concerns with and KB feels that the comments are welcome and in good standing. KB happy with the suggestions for how to communicate the release of the policy to the VATSIM community but voiced his concerns at the BOG comments about the EC communicating poorly about the release of the policy.

TS – Have had the opportunity to be part of the discussions in the formation of the policy when he was part of the EC then as a member of the BoG. He assured the EC that the BoG was instructed not to rewrite the document and to simply read over with fresh eyes. There was never an inference that the BoG didn't trust the EC. The relationship between the BoG and the EC has to improve.

IJ – Concerned that anyone needs to be blamed for the failure of GRP1 and concerned at the dispersions that has been aimed at the EC. Feels that the BoG comments were excellent and add some value to the policy but we will need some time to digest the suggestions.

BW – Feels that the issue with GRP1 was the “loss of control” that some people found because of the ARTCCs feeling they were not able to dictate. Would prefer a forum rather than an email address to answer questions. Bryan doesn't profess to know the world airspace, so can see little value in voting on major airspace. Bryan recommends a compromise with the BoG that the RDs decide on the designated airspace and that the EC monitor and oversee this. Some confusion about how much was being submitted to BoG.

MR – Too favours a forum and that all the EC need to be moderators so that we can lock a message if it gets out of hand. We must all be seen to be unified in our responses.

WW – RDs should decide the on the Major Airports and Airspace and they can be challenged by the other members of the EC if we don't think that an airport should be a major facility.

WD – Agrees with BoG about how to release the GRP2, except for individual emails. EC must have a role in the designation of the major airspace.

RC – Reiterated that private discussions that took place within the EC list were confidential to the EC and he did not pass it on to the BoG. When the EC presented the policy to the BoG the BoG was seeing it for the first time. Roland reported that BoG noticed an inconsistency in 6.1, 7.2 and 7.3 in respect of authority over GRP2. Following lengthy discussion the BoG felt strongly that Major Airports and Special Centers must be approved by the EC as a body and not by individual RD's. Roland reported that BoG doesn't support an open forum as it has the potential to get out of hand. BoG supports a controlled forum to display questions with an answer only from the appointed VATSIM spokesperson for GRP2. Key questions arising from the GRP2 will be carried over into a permanent FAQ.

KB – Recommended that we continue the discussions about getting the next draft of the policy via email so as not to protract the meeting.

KB – Voiced concerns about how long the process will take and impressed the need to avoid further delays.

ACTION: Mark will update the policy document with the suggestions from the BoG and circulate it to the EC.

Other Matters:

Worldflight 2009 – KB - Everyone needs to make sure that they notify their divisions that if no local ATC exists, that the Worldflight ATC centre can provide ATC without the requirement for visiting controller status.

EC Chairman and EC Deputy Chairman – Proposed KB/MR – That Bryan Wollenberg be appointed EC Chairman for the next twelve months. **CARRIED**

Proposed BW/KB – That Mark Richards be appointed Deputy EC Chairman for the next twelve months. **CARRIED**

Yahoo Group Email List - KB will change the ownership of the Yahoo Group to Bryan and Mark.

Thanks – RC on behalf of the BoG thanked Terry and Kyp for their work on the EC and as EC Chair and Deputy Chair

Region Reports:

EUROPE: KB - No division reports due to short notice of this meeting and no issues to report. Kyp and two consultants are working together to assist VATUK get back on their feet. Applications are open for

new staff and a good number are coming in. Announcements of the new staff structure and appointees should be announced this week.

ASIA: WW – Problems with VATSIM Republic of China Division and their website, working to transfer the domain name to get this back up. VATSIM Thailand now established from 5 September 2009. VATSIM Asia trying to promote Flightsim and VATSIM with Air Cadets Corps in Hong Kong to get new pilots. Symposium on 24 October and WW will be presenting to the symposium.

NORTH AMERICA: BW – No division reports due to short notice of this meeting. Lots of good candidates for the VATUSA Division Director position and the appointments panel concept is working really well. BW has requested Mike Evans to look at “active” users as opposed to a full list of users.

MEETING CLOSED at 13:10hours UTC.

VATSIM Europe Region Report

For the period June 2009 – September 2009

www.vateur.org

Kyprianos Biris VATEUR1

director@vateur.org

VATEUD Division report

www.vateud.org

Membership

Total Membership at time of writing is 26,176, with 633 new members since the last meeting on 18th July 09. This is slightly less than the previous quarter owing to the fall in activity often seen over the European summer period. Membership has been busy with the rating transition from S1 to S2, with 425 members being re-aligned in this category alone. To the best of our knowledge the division is fully compliant with GRP Mk II, pending its approval by the BoG.

The Training Department are also receiving 1-2 incoming IVAO transferees per week who are being given the smoothest transitions that we can offer.

Training

Theoretical tests are showing promising statistics, with the S1 pass rate currently at 92.3%, S2 at 82.2% and S3 at 83.3%. This has been part of a longer-term project to raise the previous pass rates which had been consistently low. The C1 test set is a work in progress and should be ready in the near future.

The future of the C3 theoretical test looks shady as there really is little we can test relevantly, certainly with our current infrastructure, however vACCs will be contacted soon in order to specify how they wish to test for "Senior Controllers", their procedure (once approved) will be clearly specified on the EUD-TD website.

The ATC Instructor Course is running well. The vACC Support Team is dormant at the moment, not least because they have done so well previously that we only have two vACCs which are "unofficial", those being Macedonia and Malta yet both have some interest. Slovenia needs an injection of activity, but our resources are mainly being employed with the more developed vACCs, some of which are finding themselves in a bit of a resource trap however generally, we have some very good vACC Management teams in place and divisional intervention has consequently been minimal.

Pilot Training

The first vACC Pilot Training Instructor course started on Tuesday 22nd September with Portugal being one of the main vACCs putting a lot of energy into this. We hope that as more vACCs see the benefits of a greater commitment to pilot training, they will realise the mutual benefits. We also anticipate that it will highlight those who have no interest in doing things properly too and are just violating the CoC, however this is not our motive for commitment here.

Up to now, this team has been led by Gerd Lichtenhäler who has unfortunately had to part company due to real world commitments, but we thank him for his commitment over the last year in the certainty that once this project picks up momentum, his efforts will be fruitful.

The division remains somewhat indignant at the lack of consultation with the new Pilot Rating system that has been put forward. Our Pilot Training Department was pre-warned of a 6-tier system only for this to be changed with little consultation, rendering the efforts they had put into divisional adjustment over the past **year** useless.

vACC Changes

Gian Marco Gallo is the new Director in Italy. A selection process is currently in place for a new Director in Iceland. Turkey is now under the leadership of Hasan Unsac and from 1st October, Germany will be under the leadership of Andreas Fuchs.

Overall, the division continues to see good improvements thanks to the well-placed vACC and divisional staff that we have, to whom Peter and I are very appreciative for their support.

Thomas George

Deputy Director

VATSIM Europe Division

VATUK United Kingdom Division.

www.vatsim-uk.org

No report submitted, the following is by Kyprianos Biris, Europe Region Director :

VATUK Administration is currently under total reform since end of July 2009.

Regional Director along with two directly appointed consultants has formed a process which by the time of these meeting minutes is almost complete.

The two consultants, Chris Barham & Chris Norman, are senior members of VATUK of good standing with no views on future VATUK administration staff positions and fully trusted for their objective views in the recruitment process.

Following VATUK1 and few other member resignations VATEUR1 asked all staff members to resign and for all interested members to apply for the vacancies in all the staff positions except for VATUK1. Then this newly formed staff group will get to choose their own director in the months to come.

This procedure is contrary to the usual one of RD appointing a DD and letting the latter appoint his staff due to the special circumstances that July 2009 events left VATUK at with a remaining staff group in

doubt (of RD) for cohesion in their team spirit , good communication between them and their unforeseen relationship with a new DD if appointed directly by RD. The whole process was announced in the VATUK forum on August 6th 2009 so that members would be up to date of what's coming. BoG was also informed of the process. Then all vatsim registered VATUK members were sent a NOTAM announcing the vacancies on September 19th 2009 and vacancies were opened for applications. A total of 30 members applied (including some current staff when the reform process started) and CV's were separated to the 3 best for each position. Voice interviews are taking place between the consultants the RD and the selected applicants in weeks 40 & 41 of 2009 (time of this report). Within week 42 the new staff group should be appointed and according to the published plan they will choose their director (VATUK1) within the next six months.

VATRUS Russia Division

www.vatrus.net.ru

VATRUS Report July-Sep 2009

Summertime is traditionally not the most active, so:

1. STAFF - no changes
2. TRAINING - all the STU1 approved for TWR operations are processed to STU2, 6 new STU1, 3 STU3, 1 CTR. The revised training programs for GRP2009 are now active.
3. EVENTS - 3 local and 1 international events held.
4. DCRM - reported of no serious cases, just a few minor issues.

Sincerely,
Sergey Butovichev
VATRUS1

vatrus1@gmail.com



Quarterly Report to the VATSIM Executive Committee September 26, 2009

VATNA is pleased to announce the addition of two divisions to the VATNA Region. I look forward to representing the needs of VATCAR and VATMEX, and hope to continue to expand both their ATC coverage and pilot traffic.

VATUSA:

There are some major staffing changes to report. We are currently conducting interviews for the position of VATUSA1, and the search should be concluded within the next couple days. The VATUSA2 position will also need to be filled following the selection of the Division Director. I would like to thank Alex Bailey and Alan Hensley for their dedicated service. They showed the importance of teamwork and involvement of staff at all levels within the Division. Thanks again guys!

There have been many staffing changes at the ARTCC levels as well, and several new control positions have been opened for the enjoyment of the flying public. Southwest Regional Tower at KOTH (North Bend, Oregon), for example is one of the newest facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Pilots, come give their newly-trained controllers a workout!

VATUSA is host to some of VATSIM's biggest events. This quarter has been no exception. From TRACON Tuesdays to Wild West Wednesdays to the always-popular Friday Night Ops, VATUSA has an event to choose from almost every day of the week. Of notable events were the LAX Swarm/\$100 Hamburger Run, in which ZLA teamed up with FSBreak.net to hold a ridiculously massive fly-in consisting of large numbers of both IFR and VFR traffic. Interviews can be found at FSBreak.net. The 9/11 Memorial Fly-in was also a huge success, with pilots and controllers alike remembering the tragic events of September 11, 2001. There was a great turnout of pilots, flying from the east coast to the west. Upcoming major events include the ZAB International Balloon Fiesta Fly-in (don't forget your hot air balloons), ZNY's Visual Madness, ZHU's Contraflow, and of course Cross The Pond: Eastbound, in which hundreds of pilots will depart the United States for popular European destinations.

VATCAN:

Things are going well in VATCAN. With the National Training Unit being in service for several months now, the VATCAN staff is tweaking, polishing, and putting the finishing touches on a great program. The

NTU boasts 120 students (up from the previously-reported 91), and is continuing to train the future of Canada's controller force.

All FIRs and staff positions continue to be filled. Great seeing VATCAN completely staffed!

VATMEX:

Welcome VATMEX and one of the newest additions to the VATNA Region. VATMEX has been hard at work ensuring compliance with the latest round of GRP goodness, as well as training controllers. Staffing is definitely up, and we hope to see some great events come out of Mexico in the very near future. Come experience some of the wonderful scenery and friendly controllers that VATMEX has to offer!

VATCAR:

Also welcome VATCAR as one of the newest additions to the VATNA Region. VATCAR is known for its beautiful scenery and quality laid-back controllers. If you haven't flown in VATCAR's airspace, you are missing out on some of the finest airports and controllers anywhere on VATSIM. Come enjoy the island lifestyle!

VATCAR has 6 of its 8 FIRs fully-staffed and active. They are seeking to attract new controllers in Havana and Port-Au-Prince, specifically. They are continuing to adapt their instruction for new controllers to match the goals of the latest GRP, and are looking forward to increasing their number of quality controllers. Also look for an announcement in the upcoming weeks regarding the opening of VATCAR2.

While there are currently no major events scheduled for the Division, their regularly-scheduled weekly events continue to have a positive impact on the entire Caribbean Division.

Statistical Membership Data

VATUSA

New sign-ups this quarter: 567

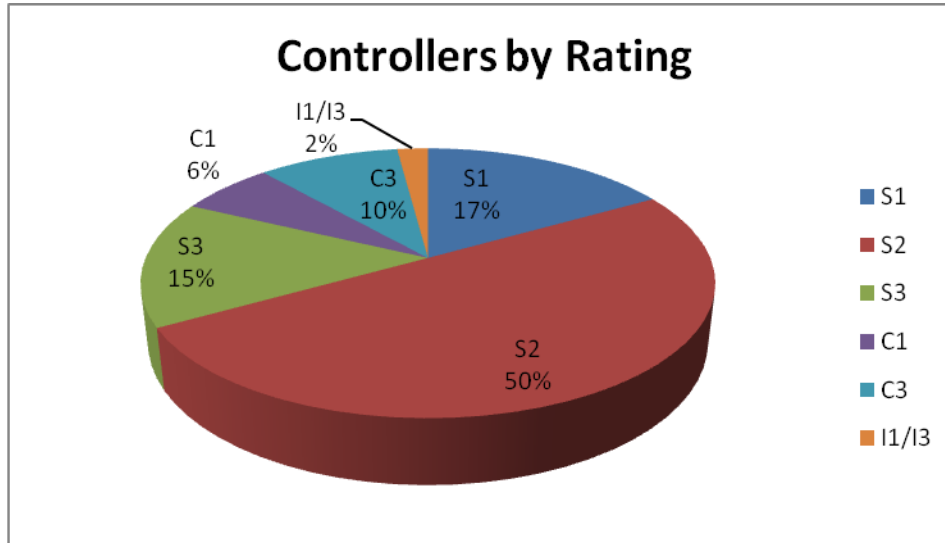
Total Membership

Pilot/OBS: 16,704

S1: 949

S2: 2830
S3: 859
C1: 360
C3: 537
I1/I3: 117
Other: 36

Total Controller Force: 5,688



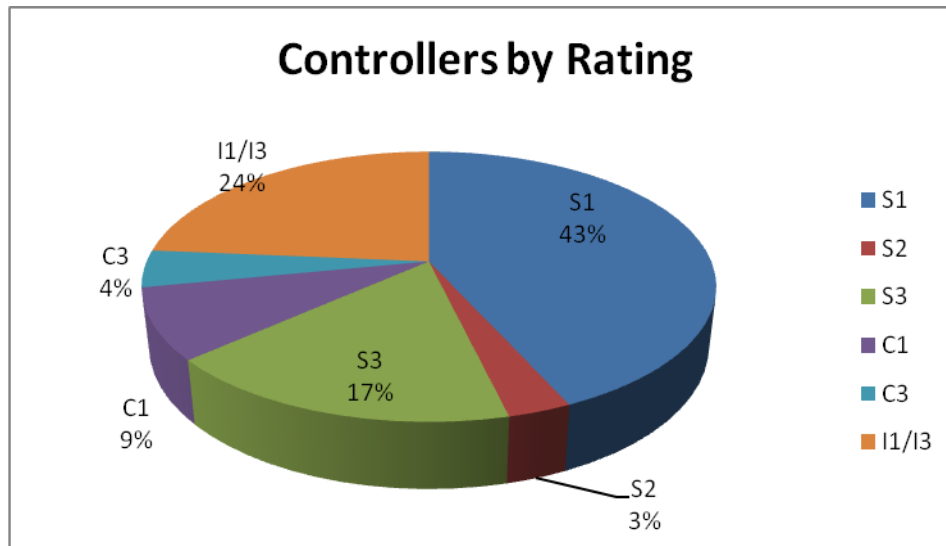
VATCAN

New sign-ups this quarter: 86

Total Membership

Pilot/OBS: 2497
S1: 214
S2: 15
S3: 85
C1: 42
C3: 22
I1/I3: 48
Other: 4

Total controller force: 430



VATMEX

New sign-ups this quarter: 10

Total Membership

Pilot/OBS: 509

S1: 0

S2: 20

S3: 27

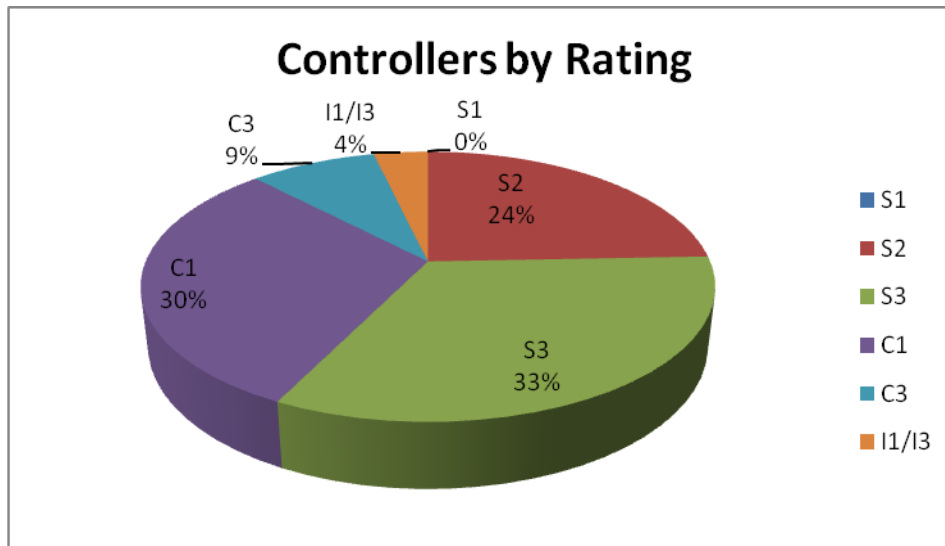
C1: 25

C3: 7

I1/I3: 3

Other: 1

Total Controller Force: 83



VATCAR

New sign-ups this quarter: 11

Total Membership

Pilot/OBS: 578

S1: 54

S2: 13

S3: 32

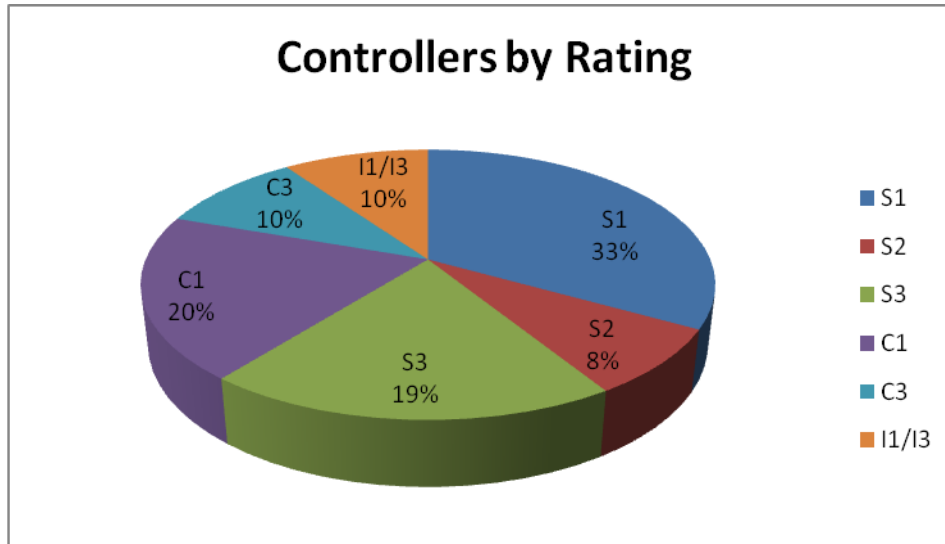
C1: 32

C3: 16

I1/I3: 16

Other: 3

Total Controller Force: 166



Training

All divisions are awaiting the completion of the GRP review. Pertinent information has been passed to the divisions, and all have begun adjusting their training programs and procedures in anticipation of the changes.

Training continues to progress in all divisions. The process of upgrading appropriate members to the S2 rating has been completed in all divisions, with very limited complications. All divisions are now GRP 2.0 compliant, in relation to what has been released and published at this time.

We are continually striving to increase efficiency and effectiveness in moving controllers from the OBS to S1 rating.

Concerns

VATUSA is currently seeking a Division Director and Deputy. These positions will be filled ASAP.

I would like to see an increased number of Instructors in the Mexico Division.

An increased number of Supervisors from VATCAR and VATMEX would be helpful. I'm hoping to see some applications from members of their divisions.

RESOLVED: VATCAN would like to thank Michal Zazula and the EC for addressing the previous concern regarding a lack of Supervisors, specifically from Canada. Available Supervisors have increased dramatically, particularly in the west coast time zones.

RESOLVED: The VATNA website has been re-introduced and redesigned. I would like to thank Andrew Podner for his work on that website. We will continue to keep the information on that site updated.

Airspace and Procedures

Talks have continued regarding the addition and management of the Guam ARTCC within the VATUSA Division.

The joint effort toward staffing and managing the Pacific Oceanic facilities is almost complete. We are currently waiting on the website materials, domain name, etc. to be completed. Expect an announcement shortly.

All divisions have submitted their recommendations and requests for major airspace. The final list will be decided and published by the VATSIM Executive Committee.



No report due to changes in all positions with new Regional Director and two new Division Directors. No issues to report.