

**ESSEX REPEATER GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF THE 2002 AGM**

Date: 17th October 2002, 2000Hrs  
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2001/2002 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC
Jim Batchelor M1GUS	Alan Radley G0TTM
Keith Wainwright G1NHW	

Plus the following ERG members:-

Bob M1DTA, Alex G0IJN, Graham G7JYD, Chris G0IPU, Les G4JDS, Trevor M5AKA  
- and Tony Horsman G0MBA, RMC Area rep, and CARS member Antony M1FDE

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Committee member: Simon G7HCD, Auditor: Tony G6OXQ, and  
Steve 2E1EQY, Phil 2E1GUT, Dennis G0LWL, David G0NJY, Les G0UWQ, Pat G1MVI, Bob G4MDB

### **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by Jim M1GUS, seconded by Alan G0TTM, and passed unanimously.

### **3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

*Firstly let me welcome you all to this AGM and thank you for giving up your time to come to this very important meeting. This year has been somewhat of a busy time for me to get time in on some of the equipment, but I have done my best to keep the Tait unit repeaters on line and running, What with work things happening and now been made Service Manager at W&S. I was the only one who was not at the point of retiring so it fell into my lap, still that's enough of my problems.*

*As you all know the repeaters have been running okay for a long time with the 6m unit doing it's stuff. We designed this as a new generation of repeaters with ADI units. The 6m unit was the pioneer in that field for me and Murray to get our systems up to date with more modern units thanks to Waters & Stanton my Bosses They are much more easy to work on, and we have had very few hiccups considering the move forward we have made. On that basis I have now built a new 2m unit, and recently a 70cms unit, which we will be putting into action at some time in the near future.*

*On the 23cms front I have been trying to get some info from Taiwan on some commercial units but they were not good enough for the job - sprogging all over the place. Hence why the 23cms unit has not been progressing. Murray has been working on the unit construction but I'm sure he can fill you in more on that subject, hence why I carried on with the new generation of units which you can see here tonight in the hall.*

*Last but not least I would like to thank all my officers and committee members for their dedication to the Group. A special thanks to Murray for grass cutting on site not an easy job at any time, Clive for looking after the accounts and all those for supporting us at Rallies by donating equipment and helping out. Last of all you the members for supporting us through the year best wishes to you all.*

Mike especially thanked Les G4JDS for his heavyweight contributions of kit at the Canvey Rally.

#### **4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

*We have had a eventful; year both with the existing repeaters and on newer developments. After a long period of reliability, both DA and ER had to be swapped out for their spares (and in DAs case swapped again) as our old Tait based technology started to show its age. In the first half of the year the new 6m system ran quite well under trials, but sadly in August was damaged by Lightning on Aug-18, and work remains on its logic. In the Spring we were privileged to evaluate a new 23cms transverter unit which would have enabled us to speed up the completion of the 23cms repeater. Unfortunately its performance was awful, saving us and a certain Hockley company an embarrassment, so we are slowly progressing with our original plan.*

*In order to evaluate its effects and raise awareness we took the bold step of running DA in CTCSS-only mode for two weeks in August. We will run DA with toneburst in normal circumstances if we can (or unless the rules change again) It did show benefits in lifts/QRM, but of course impeded use of older radios. As newer repeaters are CTCSS only we would encourage you to note this when buying kit. From 2004 it may be possible to dynamically alter the new DAs access parameters and power during severe lifts. No doubt you can discuss this in AoB when Tony GOMBA our RMC rep is here to update you.*

*Now some other issues for the future*

*The Committee has monitored developments I-Gate etc and in April took part in an RA consultation on Internet linking. We expect news on this in the coming year and we need to have views from the wider members as to whether this would be welcomed, or not, on ER for example.*

*Now we have noticed the gap left by the end of EB in Brentwood for M25 users etc. Next year IF we had the resources, we could use some ER spares to create a 70cms system, but we cannot support it directly. So if you know of a suitable cheap site down there and some committed volunteers, then we might be able to do something like a widespaced CTCSS 70cms system (similar to the new Braintree one)*

*We have been also playing our part to help new M3s along. Clive and I are assisting the Chelmsford Club with teaching, slides and an Introductory talk on Repeaters.*

*Finally Rallies. We have traditionally relied on meeting members at rallies for many sub renewals. Only Colchester and Canvey are left and these need you to attend and support them lest they too disappear. The other event is at W+S where we had a very successful Open Day, and where our new ERG Introductory Guide has been proving popular.*

*Our spare time is limited and we need extra skills on the committee. One member though must be thanked for his efforts and generosity - ZPE*

The Secretary then made a presentation of a bottle of wine to Mike G4ZPE in recognition of his efforts this year and the donation of the new DA transceiver - all present gave him a round of applause.

#### **5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT**

The Honorary Treasurer gave the following report to those present:

*Good Evening. You should all have a copy of the year's statement of accounts.*

*Membership levels have remained stable at around 53. This has been achieved primarily like last year by sending out reminder letters often with SAE's, in far greater numbers than ever before. Our income has as per last year also been boosted by equipment sales.*

*Income has dropped in line with the reduced numbers of local rallies, and the resultant loss of attendees at those rallies. Our renewals/new members and donations from these events have reduced dramatically. Unfortunately the rally situation seems to be going from bad to worse, their survival is a real cause for concern. With very strong rumours that unless things improve we could be seeing the last Canvey rally in February.*

*All administration costs e.g. stamps, envelopes, photocopying, continue to be funded by committee members - even food for these meetings.*

*As stated last year one person donated most of the outlay of the new 6-metre repeater. This year Zpee personally funded the new DA. Even so the accounts also show that we are investing in the new ER.*

*With interest rates going down along with rally renewals, we continue to heavily rely on our equipment sales and donations.*

*Any ideas or volunteers for fund raising activities? We need the ideas, but also people to see them through!*

*Finally I would also like to give special thanks to Tony our Auditor who was very patient and helpful.*

*Thank-you and any questions?*

Only one question was raised, by Alex G0IJN, regarding the overall change in the year (a reduction of £159.99). It was suggested that this be better highlighted in future.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by G0IJN, seconded by Keith G1NHW, and passed unanimously

## **6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE**

The old committee stood down. The new committee was voted in without objection as follows:-

<b>Position</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	G0TTM	M1GUS
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	G4ZPE	G1EUC
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	G6JYB	G7HCD
Ordinary Members	Jim Batchelor M1GUS	G4ZPE	G0TTM
	Alan Radley G0TTM	M1GUS	G4ZPE
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	G7HCD	G0TTM
	Simon Wilton G7HCD	G6JYB	G1EUC

Bob M1DTA had indicated that he would continue to support 6m repeater activity and agreed to continue his co-opted role for this.

Clive invited Anthony M1FDE to the next Committee meeting to see if he was able to assist with engineering work

## **7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR**

Prior to the meeting Tony Day G6OXQ had indicated his willingness to continue as auditor.

This was proposed by Clive G1EUC, seconded by Les G4JDS, and accepted unanimously

## **8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2001/2002**

Clive G1EUC, Hon Treasurer, made the following proposal:-

*In committee we have carefully reviewed the declining trend in rallies, and the changes that are happening to the license classes. Likewise interest income and insurance expenses are not going to improve.*

*Last year we raised the main rate to £9, but with discounts for all other licenses, SWLs and U-16s. With the advent of the Foundation License, and the raise in privileges for Intermediates I believe it would be appropriate to realign this, whilst still maintaining an incentive for new M3 and youngsters. We are also conscious that a £10 main sub may act as a disincentive*

*Thus my proposal to the meeting is the main rate is held at £9 at least for this year, but we alter the discounted class so it is U-18s (ie an extra 2 yrs), M3s and SWLs only. If there are license changes during next year we will review this again. I see the rate for M3s as an introductory offer which I believe will need to be revisited in 2003/2004*

*I realise this may cause a few 2Es some discomfort, but I believe its fairer over all, bearing in mid the original reduction was made with at the outset their limited power and mode allocation.*

Some debate regarding the discount system ensued. Murray stated that at present ERG had three M3s and four 2Es as members (all others being full licenses). Trevor M5AKA made a modified proposal that no discrimination occur amongst the license classes, and the discount purely be for Under-18s and SWLs. This was seconded by Chris G0IPU and Clive agreed with this. The modified proposal was passed unanimously:

Subscription rates for 2002/3 are thus £9 for all, except £5 for U-18s & SWLs

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mike G4ZPE expressed the desire that future AGMs be made more open to visitors/guests. This would help raise interest and get fresh ideas - though of course only members would have voting rights.

Mike asked G0IJN to come forward. He presented a special trophy from the Dengie Club for ERG's past efforts at their quiz night, which was warmly received.

Tony G0MBA, RMC regional rep, gave a short address to clarify a few matters. He explained that the RA effectively fund the RMC not the RSGB. The RMC coordinates all the paperwork on applications prior to RA submission. Repeater Groups are able to remove toneburst access with RMC agreement on 2m and 70cms (as ERG had tried in August). On Internet Linking he noted that usage on GB3CL in Clacton had shot up from 2% to 60%, but this can cause friction with local users. Current thinking is that what may be more attractive is repeater-repeater linking rather than the Igate-anyone - the RMC have advertised a vacancy for such matters.

Tony also remarked that the Romford/Harold Wood 70cms repeater was looking for a new keeper, and wondered whether ERG was able to take this on. Finally he thanked ERG and W&S for their advert in the catalogue in support of repeaters.

In response to questions, Tony said that GB3BZ the new CTCSS-only 70cms Braintree system was expected on before Xmas; that Beacons were being held up by the CAA, and by the MoD on 10GHz (eg GB3CMS); and that new 70cms applications should again be on commercial sites (to avoid residential car alarm issues).

Murray asked if those present would have a look at the surplus kit and make offers as proceeds would help ERG. He concluded by saying that he next AGM had been booked for Oct-16 2003

Meeting closed at 9:30pm