

**ESSEX REPEATER GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF THE 2010 AGM**



Date: 14th October 2010, 20:00hrs  
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2009/2010 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC

Plus the following ERG members:-

Dick House G0ULU, John Slade G0IJN, Laurie White G0JAO, Alan Radley G0TTM, Norman Crampton M0FZW, Leslie Radley G4JDS, Peter Franklin G1FOA, Patrick Higham G8JLM, Graham Leggett G7JYD

Prior to formal business Chairman Mike G4ZPE and Norman Crampton M0FZW spoke of Peter Hale G4OAD who had passed away, the meeting thus opened with a minutes silence Peter who was a former ERG Committee member

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Tony Day G6OXQ, John Passfield G1JJJ, Simon Wilton G7HCD, Mark Sanderson M0IEO and Committee members Bob Cheverall M0DTA & Roy Knight 2E0KWG

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

Acceptance of the 2009 AGM minutes was proposed by Norman M0FZW, seconded by Clive G1EUC and passed unanimously.

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

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

*I would like to thank you all for attending this AGM and coming out on a cold night to sit in a hall and listen to a load of waffle but it does show your support is very much thought of. Here we are another year over and a lot of work has been done on behalf of the repeater group. I will speak mainly about 6m whilst Murray will say more about the other units. I first had the 6metre antenna down and replacing it with the spare, it seems the weak spot on it is the trap area which I now have an idea to put right, The problem is the trap is in the middle of the antenna. With the antenna being about 18 foot in length it tends to whip at the trap point and this then breaks. I have now given up the old idea of revamping the original antenna and in the throws of designing a new one to my design which will withstand the strong winds. I have drawn up a new coil for the trap giving it more support to the antenna as a whole. Like the old one it will still be a 5/8 over 5/8 type scheme as that gave us a very good coverage while it was working.*

*One other discovery was a surprise though. On closer inspection of our Heliac Feeder I found out that we have had a person or persons doing us no favours by shooting air slugs at our feeder and we found a puncture in the the outer casing shorting it to the Centre feed of the Heliac. We have now repaired the Heliac and that is now looking good, ready for the new 'Zipy Design' antenna when it is ready within the next few weeks if all goes well.*

*The problem is we are all volunteers on this Repeater Group and could do with some more people who are into designing and helping out on the engineering side of things as myself and Murray get very busy at times. At this point I would like to thank Bob and his wife Lynn for looking after me while I was up on site. They look after me with copious amounts of food and coffee.*

*My 23cms G4ZPE personal voice beacon is still running from my home QTH after 6 years beaconing out every 15 minutes running 10 watts into a vertical co-linear, getting a few reports at various times. These have been from as far as Ipswich, Basildon, Southend, and Colchester, but nothing from the Braintree or London areas. Reports are very welcome even if they are weak ones.*

*I would like to thank all those members who have supported us over the years and helped us at Rally's. Without the dedicated committee members who have given me their support over many years none of this would have been possible without them so thank you once again and would like to take this opportunity to thank Murray, Clive and Bob on the hill for all there support over the year in more ways than one. Last but not least I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and happy new prosperous new year.*

Mike Wheaton G4ZPE, Chairman

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

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

*Good evening and Thank you Mike.*

*Whilst Mike has been focussed and at times frustrated with our 6m antennas, we have also gradually been making progress on other fronts. One piece of expenditure arose on the GB7ZP DStar unit when its original aerial failed and a new Diamond was purchased from W&S. Its site has also been seeing a series of qth and computing upgrades and after a long search we finally acquired a special spec 1U PSU upgrade for its gateway. However we need to resolve some receive sensitivity issues and recently have been given a good steer on this regarding cabling and cavities. The plan is to get these basics sorted before we then go for the hi-tech part with the gateway*

*Its worth realising that quite a bit of current work on this and Mike's new 6m antenna are where we have been spending but the expenses haven't yet hit the accounts - so you will see that on next years balance sheet*

*In between things we have done some refurb and preparation work on the 10GHz beacon which we have been told to speed up.*

*So there is still a lot going on and, as has been said, speed is limited by spare time and volunteers. Fortunately GB3DA&ER have been running okay, otherwise we would get really stretched*

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

#### **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 accounts.*

*Paid up Membership levels have drifted down from 38 to 34 and continues to be a concern. We were pleased to receive a good number of renewals at the last AGM and at Canvey Rally. We realise that meeting some people at rallies or chasing them can be difficult so we would appreciate your views on paying online if we were to add a Paypal facility onto the website*

*Unlike 2009 we did attend Colchester Rally this year. We got no subs but did get a few sales. Canvey was poorer than last year for sales, though reasonable for renewals. The W&S Open day proved to be useful and we are most grateful to them for what is effectively an extra regular event*

*We also occasionally pick up a few new members from CARS training courses, where both Murray and myself are tutors; and repeaters are part of the Foundation Course syllabus*

*One feature that is not obvious in this year's accounts is that quite bit outlay has occurred for the 6m and D-Star repeaters, and these delayed costs will feature in the 2011 accounts. One other change this year has been the end of interest on our current account and the fall in interest income on our other account – no doubt like some of your own.*

*Looking forward to the coming year we expect to have at least two main local events:*

- **Canvey Rally on 6 February:** *We have already booked our table and will do our best to attract potential and existing members to the stand.*
- **Waters & Stanton's Open Day in May:** *In the past this has proved to be a good event in many ways and we await confirmation that it will be on again in 2011.*

*We haven't made a decision regarding Colchester yet*

*The accounts continue to benefit from low administration costs e.g. stamps, envelopes, printing etc, continue to be heavily subsidised by committee members - even the food and the raffle for this meetings.*

*This year has been a particular strain with free time being short to keep accounts and banking in a timely fashion, as well as ongoing technical issues on two repeaters. We would greatly appreciate willing and able bodies to bolster the committee – and ideally succeed us!*

*Finally I would also like to give special thanks to Tony our Auditor who as always was very patient and helpful and audited the accounts this year at very short notice.*

*Thank you - any questions?*

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Peter G1FOA, seconded by Alan G0TTM and passed unanimously.

**6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE**

The old committee stood down. Despite calling for extra volunteers from the floor, none came forward and the new committee as per the calling notice was eventually voted in a series of unanimous votes as follows:-

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	Bob M0DTA	Murray G6JYB
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	Murray Niman G6JYB	Clive G1EUC	Roy 2E0KWG
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	Clive Ward G1EUC	Murray G6JYB	Mike G4ZPE
<b>Ordinary Members</b>	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Murray G6JYB	Clive G1EUC
	Roy Knight M3KWG	Mike G4ZPE	Bob M0DTA

**7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR**

Although absent, Tony Day G6OXQ had indicated his willingness to continue as auditor. The meeting expressed their thanks for Tony's long service in the post. Dick G0ULU proposed Tony's election for another year. This was approved unanimously by all present.

**8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2010/11**

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

*Once again we don't think anything is to be gained by raising the subscription rate. At present we feel it remains counter-productive compared to us all taking action to drive the numbers up. We do need your help though – especially if you start to regularly hear new callsigns on the repeaters*

*Our other income source is sales. We are always on the lookout for donations of kit for sale – particularly for the Canvey rally?*

*So, my proposal to the meeting is the main rate is held at £9.*

The subscriptions level was approved and passed unanimously.

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Peter G1FOA referred to the earlier suggestions regarding Paypal. He recommended that a specific 'Donate' button be added to ERG home page (in addition to a separate membership page subscription facility). Murray thanked him for this as he had recently been able to implement Paypal on another website and that this seemed a good way to go about it

Meeting closed at 9:25pm, followed by socialising and Refreshments.

**Next AGM is on Thu Oct-13 2011 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.**