

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2012 AGM



Date: 18th October 2012, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2011/2012 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:
Hon. Secretary: Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer: Clive Ward G1EUC
Peter Franklin G1FOA Norman Crampton M0FZW

Plus:-

Terry Lee 2E0KIL, Dick House G0ULU, Laurie White G0JAO, Alan Radley G0TTM, Peter Sipple M0PSX, Tom Humphries 2E0TNC, Leslie Radley G4JDS, John Passfield G1JIJ, James Beatwell 2E1GUA., David Ingrey M0HBV, Martyn Medcalf G1EFL, Andrew Tyler G1GKN, Geoff Mills G3EDM, John Bowen G8DET, Terry Lee 2E0KIL, Jole Alderman G0URK, Steve Hedgecock M0SHQ, Dick House G0ULU, Myra Davis M0MYR, David Davis G3SVI, Jim Johnson M6BPK, Glynis Johnson M6GEJ, Luke Halsey M6LNT, Santana Chuck M6TTR, Rob Hutton M6KDP

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mark Sanderson M0IEO, Tony Day G6OXQ, Justin Johnson G0KSC, Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the 2011 AGM minutes were available for review and were subsequently approved for placement on the ERG website

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Chairman, Clive thanked Mark for stepping in following the sad loss of Mike G4ZPE. However pressures of work and amateur commitments were proving significant and Mark had decide to step back to reduce workload

The opportunity was taken to give an overview of the state of play:-

GB3DB: This continues to be off air following the loss/damage to a number of antennas. The latest plan is based on the recent acquisition of a second-hand but identical Diamond model to the original design. Progress had been slow as resources were being split between Training and other clubs.

GB3DA: The squelch had been lifted over the latter part of the summer - see later discussion under AoB re moving to full CTCSS, which is the preferred approach for countering this.

GB3ER: Running okay at present, but it had exhibited the PA overheat issue for a while – but not serious enough for a full failure that would be easy to trace. Meanwhile the spare unit had been tested by Andy G1GKN just in case.

GB7ZP: In the run up to the Olympics a major effort had resulted in its D-Star Gateway being enabled with the assistance of Darren Storer G7LWT (RSGB-ETCC). The software and networking is currently being monitored. In the longer term there was may be some potential to improve the aerial height and use a lower loss heliax feeder.

GB3CMS: The 10GHz beacon was continuing to run at low power on test to age the crystal. In due course the PA will be installed and the RF head put back up.

There were comments from those present that traffic on GB3DA was being boosted by CARS and by Peter Sipple M0PSX nets for newer licensees. It is possible that the creation of the new Thames Amateur Radio Group may sustain activity as well.

Clive G1EUC *pp*, Mark Sanderson M0IEO, Chairman

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you. It would seem from the good turn out that electronic based AGM notification is quite effective and we can cut an expensive postal bill. I will keep this brief and just expand on a few things

GB3CMS: Our 10GHz beacon continues to run on low power. However it's certainly desirable that a new more precision source is sought, as the crystal can drift and is not fully up to modern GPS-locked expectations

GB7ZP: Darren did a lot of the integration work by remote control. The gateway uses the Icom-G2 scheme and is Linux based – the build and integration certainly proved to be very educational!

The delays on a robust GB3DB antenna solution are just one symptom of a year that has kept us really busy and we have been falling behind on some things, so look forward to extra help

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

The Honorary Treasurer gave the following report to those present:

Good Evening. Apologies for not presenting a full set of audited/detailed accounts. We will catch up!

Our main issue this year was the loss subscriptions due to the severe snow, which led to us not being able to attend Canvey Rally. Consequently our membership subs fell from 35 to down to the twenties. However we did attend W&S twice and are grateful for generous donations by CARS and Martyn Medcalf G1EFL.

As many know ARIS ceased to exist this year so as a replacement wasn't clear, a mitigation for other matters we took was to take an equipment insurance holiday, although we paid our liability insurance as usual. This resulted in a cash surplus overall for the past year. The key thing is to broaden our membership and volunteer base.

A discussion commented on the reduction in rallies but had no definitive conclusions

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. A call for extra volunteers from the floor, resulted in a nomination for Glynis as Treasurer and a number of additional members so the net result based on these and the original AGM calling notice was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	*Clive Ward G1EUC	Peter G1FOA	Norman M0FZW
Hon. Secretary	*Murray Niman G6JYB	Bob M0DTA	Clive G1EUC
Hon. Treasurer	Glynis Johnson M6GEJ	Peter G1FOA	Terry Lee 2E0KIL
Ordinary Members	*Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Roy 2E0KWG	Clive G1EUC
	*Norman Crampton M0FZW	Mark M0IEO	Peter G1FOA
	*Peter Franklin G1FOA	Clive G1EUC	Murray G6JYB
	*Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Peter G1FOA	Bob M0DTA
	Joel Alderman G0URK		
	James Beatwell 2E1GUA		
	Tom Humphries 2E0TNC		
	Andrew Tyler G1GKN		

* = As per AGM Calling notice

It was suggested that new Committee would meet on Wednesday November-14

NB: Joel is the keeper for MB6CE a D-Star simplex node in Chelmsford on 144.875MHz

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Although absent, Tony Day G6OXQ was re-nominated (subject to acceptance)

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2012/13

Clive G1EUC, Hon Treasurer, made the following proposal based on a prior committee meeting that after many years the time had come to address the subscription rate which had been held at £9 (though some members do donate more)

He initially proposed that increasing to £10 would at least signal change but not be too high that it may deter recruitment. Dick G0ULU commented that given that many donate the extra £1 that it would not make a significant impact to the finances. Therefore after some discussion a change to £12 was proposed and agreed by all members present.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GB3DA Toneburst/Squelch: Murray explained how the use of both Toneburst and CTCSS undermined the ability of the Logic to handle noisy or lift conditions. The latter causes us particular problems, as we are co-frequency with two or three other repeaters including GB3SN in Hampshire and GB3LM at Lincoln

Given that by 2014 FM Repeaters have to drop toneburst access as part of IARU guidelines, the meeting approved the early move to CTCSS-only at the earliest convenience on GB3DA and at some later point for GB3ER (which will retain its current settings for now)

Norman gave an introduction to TARG – the Thames Amateur Radio Group <http://www.thamesarg.org.uk/> – a new Essex club aimed at stimulating amateur activity that had been set up over the summer. It meets in Jubilee Hall on Canvey Island and has its own shack and welcomes new licenses

Other topics raised included daytime outings or social events, but nothing firm was concluded (nor volunteers for organising them)

Meeting closed, followed by socialising and Refreshments. (and £43.80 raised in the raffle)

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-17 2013 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.