

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP **MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM**

Date: 26th October 2023, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall



1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG, Keith G3WGE, Dorothy M0LMR & Richard G7OED

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the draft 2022 AGM minutes was proposed and were approved for placement on the ERG website

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by David M1DOZ

Good evening Hams and Friends of Hams. This is only my third Chair's report in five years.

Firstly, we have a year whereby for the most part DA and ER have functioned without any real problems. (Maybe a couple of re-sets but generally the investment in the Yaesu DR-2XEs (a repeater in a box) has proven a successful move forward for DA and ER. As you are aware the DR-2XE's can operate in analog and digital mode (fusion). We have considered paying for an internet connection so that ER could operate globally / worldwide. The two main reasons we have not proceeded with the phone line / internet connection at the Danbury site is primarily the cost and we would need a fixed IP address. We have explored neighbours nearby with connections and other 'through the air connections available', but all are expensive when you assess how many locals / members might actually use the connection. ER is not used very much, and we know the range on 70cms is not great – but we are just not sure that a fusion link would encourage the use needed to justify the connection costs.

Simplex Gateways - I have operated a fusion link MB6IMD on 433.66250 in the Maldon area for 3 years and it is generally accessed by the same 3 or 4 regulars in the area only. My personal feeling is that fusion is like the beta max recording system and dstar is the way forward. (Icom is winning over Yaesu). On that subject - Kris M0SSK is the keeper for MB6ZZ based in Basildon and offers Dstar on 144.8125 simplex – again the service is being offered for free to the local hams.

Digital - As you know GB7ZP offers D-Star on 439,4875 out / 430.4875 rx – this was moved to the Beaulieu Park area (Joels house) because of having to re-locate from Murray's place of work. The ZP unit offers D-Star from Icom in the Chelmsford area – we have had a couple of minor faults, but Icom have been very helpful – Icom has fixed quickly after losing power (both times). It was shipped to Icom in Kent, repaired quickly and returned. ZP is reliable but I would like the unlinking feature removed because amateurs listen on the frequency and think the link is broken or switched off because they hear nothing. (It requires someone to connect it a reflector every day!!) ZP continues to be supported and used sufficiently to justify its existence. Moving on to MB7IDA, our Echo link Gateway operating on 145.3375 – over last year has worked well and is reasonably active. The PC may need upgrading in the future but otherwise the Gateway is still reliable and active.

GB3DB - Not sure I can say the say that 6 metre repeater, GB3DB the six metre repeater is definitely not active. The 6-metre repeater at Bobs – GB3DB on 50.770 is largely an ornament – we did replace the Antennae, but the signal is still weak once you get beyond Chelmsford, and it requires 50watts to open it from Basildon area – lets move on unless anyone has any suggestions for DB. (Bob is now not planning to move and we may be able to link GB3DB using Bob's internet.

Sad note – Terry M0TPM recently passed away. Terry was often heard on 550 or he was on 20 metres talking to Australians. He will be missed and whilst not everyone's favourite he was most definitely a local character and I will miss him.

Going back to equipment, we have spares for DA and ER and spares for everything else - maybe we should consider selling some of the older equipment so-as-to increase club funds. Maybe we can sell the older equipment at the tabletop sale at the Canvey Rally – this is scheduled for 4th February 2024 from 10am to 4pm. – or we can advertise the old equipment to members on the website, however some of the equipment is probably 30 years old!!.

Of course, every year we state the obvious - we need members / new members, and we need volunteers for the committee.

We see no reason to change things with current equipment – everything is working well touch wood. We have funds but not enough to start major new projects and at the end of the day I am not sure we can offer a system that amateurs really want – we have too many distractions like digital modes FT8 etc and I am not sure Amateurs want a 4 metre or a 23cms repeater or even a beacon – most do not have the equipment but everyone has a laptop or computer for digital modes.

I will ask the membership again via email if anyone is willing to offer donations specifically so that we can put an internet connection in place for ER at Danbury – it probably will cost £300 a year – would members then be willing to pay an extra contribution towards the cost of a phone line being installed at Danbury – it likely will have to be a business line because we need a fixed IP address?

Whist DA and ER are both working well, we still want to upgrade the old coax tails / patch leads, tails etc that have been in place for more than 25 years. (It may be best to purchase readymade professional patch leads).

The committee as you know does need help and we certainly needs a person with technical expertise and some fresh ideas. We are not looking to increase annual fees, but we are seeking volunteers who can assist.

It just leaves me to say a very big thank-you to the current committee for the continued hard work.

David M1DOZ, Chairman

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Thanks for everyone attending. Dave has given a good overview. Regarding a few other matters, we first thank Roy and Bob for their previous committee service – as you can see we are keen on volunteers

I can also say we have been pleased to book Canvey early so we will be there in Feb-2024

Having had a very busy year myself, I unfortunately have not progressed some new things as far as I would like inc GB3CMS, but did respond quickly to reset a couple of GB3ER hang ups.

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

As you are aware we still have a vacancy for the important post of Treasurer. I hope those present find the summary accounts of our income, expenses and balances fairly straightforward. We had 27 subs online via PayPal as well as those in person at the last AGM and Canvey Rally.

The main outlays were on the GB7ZP repair and website hosting. We will though need to restart liability insurance cover and look at mitigating bank charges. The latter are unhelpful, but we were cautious re moving to Metro Bank from HSBC as we had been concerned with viability and any changeover disruption. Some of the monthly charges are covered by improved interest rates.

On this occasion therefore we have presented a simpler summary of our accounts over 3yrs

Our current running costs within that are higher than shown in the 2021-2022 change due to late insurance and rising to £300-400 /pa, not helped by new HSBC bank charges of £5/month

Should anyone wish to view the Accounts (or volunteer to be Treasurer!) please ask and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Murray G6JYB, Acting Treasurer

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. Murray first asked for any other nominations. No-one stepped forwards, so for expediency it was decided to go for a block vote as per the AGM notice; which was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	David Sampson M1DOZ	Kristian M0SSK	Murray G6JYB
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Joel G0URK	Kristian M0SSK
Hon. Treasurer	? - vacancy	-	-
Ordinary Members	Joel Alderman G0URK	David M1DOZ	Bob M0DTA
	Kristian Baker M0SSK	Murray G6JYB	David M1DOZ
	? - vacancy	-	-
	? - vacancy	-	-

All as per AGM Calling notice

7 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2023/24

The Acting Treasurer proposed that following last years increases, subs were to remain unchanged

Membership and online Paypal forms are currently:-

- Membership £15
- Membership & Donation £20
- Minimum online donation £8

8 DISCUSSION / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting closed, followed by an enjoyable raffle, socialising and refreshments.



L-to-R: Chair Dave M1DOZ, Simon G7HCD/VA, Graham G7JYD, Aubrey M7SDA, Kristian M0SSK

Next AGM planned for October 2024 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.