

DANBURY REPEATER
10th Jan 1975 7:30pm
Held at Chelmsford Public Library

<The formation of ERG, minutes transcribed 10-Feb-2002>

ACTING CHAIRMAN Bill Pechey G4CUE, assisted by Ted Jewell G8ELM

ACTING SECRETARY Barry Tew G3WFF

Bill made an opening statement and handed over to Ted G8ELM

G8ELM made brief rundown of previous two small meetings

Generally stated that purpose of meeting was to ask for the views of the meeting as to what they would require of a repeater. First part to be general and second part to be factual.

G8ELM asked what was the activity on the bands in the Chelmsford area

Geoff G8GNZ gave rundown of 2 metre activity, quite a lot. Said repeater should be FM and preferably on 70cm.

Question:- Had a transponder (linear) been considered. It was thought that this would not be on

G3UUS asked if anybody knew if a 70cm repeater would be allowed

Statement made that RSGB would encourage 70cm repeater later confirmed by G2BVN

G3VKQ said that in view of Martlesham repeater problems 70cm probably be easier. He also illustrated the various problems of a linear repeater.

The general feeling of the meeting was that repeaters were for mobile, portable and badly sited fixed station use on either 70cm or 2 metres.

Question asked what was situation re 70cm repeaters. Sheet detailing Dunstable Downs proposal was circulated.

Representative from LO was asked what was the situation. He said that there were a lot of problems with misuse and that was why LO was off the air at the moment.

G3LVP asked how many people were using repeaters - Majority of meeting
He then asked how many people were satisfied.

There was then a great controversy as to whether repeater coverage areas would fringe or overlap each other.

G3LVP said that amateurs who did not concentrate on 2 metres would be involved in unnecessary expenditure for crystals to cover all repeater channels

G2BVN was asked by Chairman which band would be preferred by RSGB, replied without hesitation 70cm.

G3LVP said if we were going for 70cm why not 23cms? G3VKQ defended 70cm

G3LVP said that we should think about what we were starting!

G3EDM asked whether it would not be advisable to see what we could manufacture first. And also why not 70cm to 2m repeater - this was immediately shot down.

G2BVN said a common European band plan for 70cm was soon to be thrashed out.

Question:- How many people are on 70cm ? - approx 5
How many would be ? - Majority

Question from Chair:- How many in favour of a 70cm repeater - Majority
How many in favour of 2m repeater - 3

Coverage: Dave G8CVI said that from a commercial repeater at Widford he could get out between Rayleigh and Southend using a starphone. Decided that coverage would be 35-40 miles.

Geoff G8GNZ said that from calculations 20W erp would give 20 miles coverage for 1uV ? Mistake ?

Graham UUS sad that the only way to check coverage was to try it. Graham also said would be that workable using a pocket phone.

G2BVN said that the main Home Office requirement would be the ability to shutdown the station within 20 minutes..

Dave G8CVI said that we ought to make sure we had a site ie. Marconi's would play ball.

TECHNICAL

Greg said that although we would be having an FM repeater it would be better to have a linear design so that it could be changed.

G3VKQ said that main problems were engineering aerials, filters, making aerials stay up. Greg Trice said that diplexers would have to be used. Greg thought that interdigital filters would solve some of the problems and he already had a complete set of programmes.

G3WCO John Rollason said we really ought to construct a repeater out of standard bits and not go in for innovation. However it was thought that in the 18months it would take to get the license approved there would be plenty of time to get the equipment organised.

AERIALS

G3UUS said that they had used J-Beam antennas. However if we had the expertise we ought to design it ourselves. However it was said that their design would take valuable time.

INSURANCE

G2BVN said that insurance was no problem, it could be added to GB2LO insurance at no extra expense.

CONTROL

Discussion re pips vs 'K'. Bill asked if it would need complicated controls. Surely it was only necessary to do just enough to get a license. G3WCO said he could see no point having an access tone so carefully controlled as that necessary to access PI.

FREQUENCY

Frequency would be allocated by RSGB. Ipswich repeater application has just been made, frequency input 431.15, out 2MHz away, callsign GB3IH

FINANCE

Bill G4CUE said that it was not thought that it would be very expensive. General opinion was that it was hoped the Marconi Company would at least donate a site. It was stated that there was no wish to restrict activity to Marconi. It was affirmed that there is no Marconi Radio Club, only a Chelmsford Radio Club.

Cost for LO £300 (no help)

PO £50-£100

For PO xtals and aerials main cost

For LO mostly purchased aerials, coax very little, hardware, xtals, transportation and aerial riggers.

Dave G8CVI said that there should be no problem with riggers. Politically advisable to offer to pay for electricity.

G3UUS said that their subs were £1 a year.

Before we finalised anything G2BVN said that it would be advisable to set up a small committee to work out a spec and send it in to the Home Office, then get on with the final details.

Nominations were then asked for, so that a committee could be formed.

COMMITTEE

G3WCO John Rollason , G3VKQ Colin McEwen, G8EAO Dave Cawley, G8DAV Greg Trice, G8GNZ Geoff Blake, G4CUE Bill Pechey

A contribution of 10p from each person was asked for to cover postage. A vote of thanks was proposed thanking the Chelmsford Club for organising the meeting.

Meeting Closed at 10 o'clock