

**ESSEX REPEATER GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF THE 2000 AGM**

Date: 19th October 2000, 2000Hrs  
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 1999/2000 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Richard Merrell G4GUJ
Hon. Treasurer:	Chrissy Merrell G8OIV
Bob Cheverall M1DTA	Murray Niman G6JYB
Clive Ward G1EUC	

Plus the following ordinary members

2E1EAR, G0IJN, G0JAO, G0TTM, G0ULU, G1JIJ, G1NHW, G4JDS, M1ECC, M5AKA

In addition, the local RMC Regional Representative Tony Horsman G0MBA, and Chelmsford Club (CARS) Chairman John Bowen G8DET were present

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Committee Members Simon Wilton G7HCD and Brian Lewis-Hill G1EOV, plus 2E1EQY, G0RSW, G6OXQ, and Jeff and Peter at W&S

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

The previous minutes were accepted without comment.

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

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

*Every year I stand up here and give you a report from the Chairman's point of view, Well that's what I'm allowed to do so I'm told. So I will make it as brief as possible.*

*Firstly may I thank all you members who have supported us over the year - it has been noticed.*

*Secondly, Murray for getting the minutes out and slogging away on the 6-mtr shack with Bob, getting it ready for the new repeater to come on line soon, "What a mansion that is".*

*Now to some sad news. As you may or may not know Chrissy has decided to stand down from Treasurer this year due to home business commitments. So we are sorry to see you go Chrissy after doing a brilliant job for us over the years you been in office. Thank you Chrissy. (applause)*

*Also more sad news but not so bad, Dick has had to stand down as Hon Sec due to his work commitments. However he has offered to help out as an ordinary member when he is able, so I thank him for that - applause please - many thanks again Dick.*

*Murray has offered to be put forward for the Hon Sec post as he has been doing it most of the year with Dicks guidance, and doing a grand job as well.*

*Clive has also offered to be put forward for the post of Hon Treasurer and taking over from Chrissy if voted in.*

*Simon has been grafting away on the 23cm modules at home assembling them and having a great time.*

*And myself. Well I've been busy building the two power supplies and two logics for both units, and also building 23cms units into the cabinet in my workshop, time permitting nowadays. This brings me onto something very urgent now. We could do with some people with technical help on 6mtrs and 23cms as my time is getting very sparse like Dicks and we have to be up and running soon.*

*That's all folks. Over to you Mr Secretary.*

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

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

*As Secretary of the ERG this year I have been primarily in an overview mode only, with 99% of the work being done by various members of the Committee on my behalf.*

*Murray has been doing a sterling job with the recording of the discussions in the committee meetings which has been a big help.*

*We have had a good year with the existing repeaters, which has been mainly due to the solid reliability that the equipment has now achieved. It is hoped that will continue. The spares have been regularly checked and are kept in a state of readiness should anything untoward happen in the future.*

*Now that we are in a stable condition, the committee has decided to go for the introduction of two new repeaters in Essex on the 23cm and 6m bands. We have already got approval for the 23cms unit (in double quick time) which has caught us out a little and we are currently in the stage of constructing the microwave units required. The 6m unit is now in the NFAP stage and we are already at the stage of constructing the units. A lot of work is still required to get these units built. If there are any members who wish to help us with this then please come forward. The requirement is urgent.*

*It may not have escaped your notice, but the efforts of the RSGB in their negotiations with the RA have successfully resolved the abuse problem we were suffering. The final result was published in Rad Com last month.*

*Tony G0MBA is a member of the RMC, and will be able to answer questions on repeater matters during AoB.*

*Because of my current work commitments, I am no longer in a position to justify my continuance with the Committee of the ERG. Murray has agreed to be considered for the position and, if accepted by those present, I will give him what support I can during the changeover period.*

*I have enjoyed my association with the Group over the past 5 years and have done my best to get repeaters on the air that are both reliable and dependable. The loss of the original site and the finding of a new site was the greatest challenge. I wish to thank all those who have helped me over the period and extend my best wishes to the new Committee for the years ahead.*

*When the new Committee is being formed, please, if you feel that you can assist in any way, come forward and offer your services. The need for new blood is urgently required if this group is to survive.*

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

The Honorary Treasurer gave the following report to those present:

*Good evening to all of you, I hope once again everyone has a copy of this years statement of accounts.*

*As you can see from the accounts sheet our income has been boosted by the sale of equipment we have done this year at Canvey and Colchester rallies. This has been possible as we have continued to be helped by one member of the Committee with various items of surplus test equipment. In addition, the considerable proceeds from last years sales have enabled him to make large donations in kind for the new repeaters. e.g. cavities at over £1000 each*

*We have also managed to recruit a few new members at the rallies, but with our all time high of 120 members we still have a long way to go, as we stand at present with 60 paid up members, which is less than last year.*

*We have fortunately not had to have any expenditure on the current operational repeaters as they have given us good service this year. However you will notice that we have been acquiring equipment for the 23cms and 6m repeaters and are in the process of building them.*

*Finally. I would like to finish my term of office on a good note, with a thank you to all those who have helped me over the past 5 years. I hope my successor, Clive G1EUC, if he is elected will have as much pleasure of being your Treasurer as I have.*

*I hope you will find this statement acceptable and I welcome any comments*

*Over to you Mr. Chairman.*

No questions were raised. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by G1JIJ, seconded by G0TTM, 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>Seconder</b>
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	G4GUJ	M1DTA
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	M1DTA	G1EUC
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	G8OIV	G6JYB
Ordinary Members	Robert Cheverall M1DTA	G4ZPE	G4GUJ
	Simon Wilton G7HCD	G6JYB	G4ZPE
	Alan Radley G0TTM	G4GUJ	G6JYB
	David Wright M1ECC	G1EUC	G1NHW
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	G1EUC	G4GUJ

Alan, David and Keith were welcomed as new additions to the committee. It was also noted that Mike G4ZPE had held the Chairman's post for seventeen years!

## **7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR**

Although absent, Tony Day G6OHQ had indicated his willingness to continue as auditor. This was proposed by Dick G4GUJ, seconded by Dick House G0ULU, and accepted unanimously

## **8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2000/2001**

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

*We have reviewed our finances for the following year and I believe the group has a fairly healthy reserve of funds for any expense that may be needed to either renew or maintain any equipment. These balances are largely due to the free time, effort and donations given by the committee and other members of the group.*

*Our one problem is as usual lack of members which gives us a tighter budget than we would like but I hope this year we can do better on recruitment.*

*Therefore with careful consideration I propose that we should maintain the current rate of £8 per full member with £5 for novices and SWL's*

Clive also drew attention to the proportion of income from sales of equipment and donations, without which we would run at a loss and not be building new systems. Offers of surplus equipment would be most welcome.

The Hon.Treasurers proposal was proposed by G0ULU, seconded by G1JIJ and accepted by all present

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The new Hon Sec. Murray G6JYB gave a short speech introducing himself and outlined some of the reasoning behind the 23cm and 6m systems - GB3ZP and GB3DB respectively. The former should encourage experimentation and be a safe haven relative to the increasing pressure on the 70cms band. In contrast 6m should provide broad general county coverage. The early approval of 23cms means that emphasis will be given to its construction. Once both the new systems are up and running consideration will be given to the future of GB3DA/ER/CMS

Tony G0MBA was invited to speak on behalf of the RMC. Tony had a previous 5yr stint as area rep and after a break was back again - "its fun". He explained that there are currently 245 repeaters and that his main function as an area rep was to save groups the need to directly deal with the RA. The latter was keen to develop the hobby, and are now licensing repeater internet links, and have a more relaxed view on overlapping coverage.

A question from the audience was asked regarding EB, the defunct Brentwood 70cm system. Tony replied that this was meant to have been a local (5 mile range) repeater, and had been shutdown following complaints about alleged interference. As it has been off air for so long its permit has expired and a new application would need to be submitted. Committee members commented that ERG had originally offered to assist but were now no longer interested - it would need a dedicated local group.

Tony was thanked for coming, and Murray thanked him for the very informative RMC website.

Alan G0TTM asked about the coverage for 23cms and 6m. Murray replied that software predictions and tests indicated that both systems should be pretty good. Maps are on the ERG and RMC websites. He was confident that 6m would have wide propagation across Essex, although antennas dont give much gain. The 23cms system is relatively short range (and fairly line-of-sight) but it had the advantage of much higher gain aerials, and Mike had encouraging tests in the Basildon and Southend area.

The Chairman of Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS), John Bowen G8DET, indicated that he was at ERG's foundation meeting 25 years ago. CARS supports ERG, and like us had an interest in local clubs establishing better links to attract youngsters, and prevent the decline of the hobby.

Finally the audience was asked their opinion of the refreshments that had been provided by Bob M1DTA and MurrayG6JYB. This was greatly appreciated and will be considered again for next year.

Meeting closed at 9:17pm