

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2001 AGM

Date: 18th October 2001, 2000Hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2000/2001 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC
Bob Cheverall M1DTA	Alan Radley G0TTM
Keith Wainwright G1NHW	Simon Wilton G7HCD

Plus the following ordinary members

G0IJN, G0PJZ, G0JAO, G0ULU, G1JIJ, G4JDS, G6OXQ, G7JYD, M1GUS, M5AKA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2E1EQY, 2E1GUT, G0KOM, G0LWL, G0NJY, G0RSW, G0UWQ, G4GUJ, G4MDB, Jeff Stanton G6XYU, RMC Rep Tony Horsman G0MBA

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by G0ULU, seconded by G0PJZ and accepted unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

Well here we are again, another year gone by. I just do not seem to know where it's gone, and my time just seems to be even less now. I must be honest that I've not been able to spend as much of time on the 6m and 23cms units as I would like. Murray has held the fort in the Hon Sec job for me, and I must thank him for all the effort put in over the year. Clive has also been working hard in the background chasing membership money and that's not an easy thing, believe me folks. Now onto the committee members who are still with us. I must thank them for their support through the year at the few rally's we have had. Without their support we would be lost, so thank you all again.

Now onto the 6m unit. Well it's been up and running but seems to lack range, so we need to get the unit on the bench at work and find out what the problem is. Carrier seems to be okay so only a small thing to correct and with the very limited team we have doing all the work it may be a while before we get it 100 per cent, I'm afraid, but we will do it but it will take time.

The 23cms is in progress as well but we decided to put a hold on it till we get the 6m done and working. The PA module has been built and looks very robust and well heatsinked and is being tested at Murray's dept I think. I'm sure Murray will have more info for you on that.

The logic's were worked on and matched to both units by Mike M1EMF. After some head scratching he got there and did us proud at Clive's house where I'm sure a lot of midnight oil was burnt by him. So thank you Mike M1EMF for your help - it was of great help to the group.

Just a small note for everybody. As you all know by now, I've been asked by my doctor to slow down as the old ticker is not getting any better and I've had several warnings from him to back off. So please bear with me as I cannot do as much as I want to now and it does get to me sometimes so I must slow down or else. Sorry to finish on this note but I thought it was necessary to point this out so we can get some more help on the committee with the working and organising.

Over to you Mr Secretary.

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Although I have served the committee for several years, this has been my first year as ERG Secretary. The early part of the year saw the transfer of licenses and banking authorities to myself and Clive, as the new Committee got settled in.

We have had a good year with the existing repeaters, which have shown good reliability and have only cost us £22 worth of weedkiller. It is this reliability standard we are working for on the new systems, so we are not doing a rush and bodge job. In many cases we have used quality engineering - ProCom Cavities, underground Heliac, Aerials etc. We have also assembled two new sets of CUL Logic. As Bob can tell you, B+Q has helped a lot on refurbishing the 6m site.

The committee has worked hard on both new repeaters and has been helped by others such as Mike M1EMF on logic units. In recent months all available effort has gone into the 6m system which has been running on air tests. Only when we resolve the remaining performance issues will we NoV it for operational service. After this we will return to finishing 23cms. Although it may not be long range, we do have confidence that the 23cms transmitter will be impressive, but we have plenty of work to do on its receiver.

Although we have been most concerned with new engineering, we have managed to make some headway on our PR. Some of our PR plans hinge on bringing the new systems on air, but we have not been idle. During the winter and spring we ran Committee nets on DA and ER for people to hear about developments and ask questions - ably anchored by Bob M1DTA. We have attended events at Canvey, Colchester, W+S and Martlesham, attended the Dengie Quizzes (and won twice!) and gave talks at Vange and Chelmsford Clubs. We now have very good links with Chelmsford Club who gave us £35 in donations.

We have also started to use group callsign G7GAN as a packet info node. Simon G7HCD has done a lot of as yet unseen work on our website, and we hope to bring the updated version of this and G7GAN on line soon

In addition to the two repeaters we are actively working on, you may not be aware, but we have made a donation of logic circuits to the Braintree club who, with Malcolm, are planning a widespaced 70cms repeater for North Essex. We are also establishing links with the new regional RSGB structure, and will review the impact of the new RA licensing structure in due course.

The current Committee has worked hard on your behalf and as Clive will describe often at its own expense so I hope you give it your vote of confidence at election. However our spare time is limited and we are still short handed and anyone with rf/microwave skills would be particularly welcome.

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

The Honorary Treasurer gave the following report to those present:

Good Evening. You should all have a copy of the years statement of accounts. You will see that for the first time, we have also included last years figures for comparison.

Although our income has previously been boosted by equipment sales, we have received much smaller sums from this source this year.

Membership levels have been stabilised at 57. This has been achieved primarily by sending out reminder letters often with SAE's, in far greater numbers than ever before.

As already stated equipment sales are down and our supply seems to have dried up. Any suggestions for sources of equipment for sale are welcome.

Income has dropped in line with the reduced numbers of local rallies, and the number of attendees at those rallies. Our renewals/new members and donations from these events has reduced dramatically.

Virtually all administration costs e.g. stamps, envelopes, photocopying, have been funded by committee members - even food for these meetings.

Despite this drop in income, we have installed by request of our members a 6 metre repeater and have completed a good deal of the work required to install a 23cms one.

The funding for this has been provided by one individual, in fact 97% of it. It would not be fair to mention who this individual is by name, but suffice to say, he is sitting at this table and has been put forward as secretary again. We have also been helped with donations of equipment, by one of our members Jeff Stanton of W & S who always gives us a good stand at their open day. At the appropriate time in the meeting perhaps we should consider his status as an honorary member.

We will I think have to consider raising the subscriptions by a small amount. A point for discussion after the elections.

Any ideas or volunteers for fund raising activities? We need the ideas, but also people to see them through!

Finally I would also like to give special thanks to Tony our Auditor who was very patient and helpful.

Thank-you and any questions?

No questions were raised. Acceptance of the accounts was passed unanimously

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. Bob M1DTA indicated that he no longer wished to serve on the full committee, but was fully supportive of the 6m project and agreed to be co-opted for this. The new committee was voted in without objection as follows:-

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	G6JYB	G1JIJ
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	G1EUC	G4ZPE
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	G6JYB	G7HCD
Ordinary Members	Jim Batchelor M1GUS	G4ZPE	G1EUC
	Alan Radley G0TTM	G1EUC	G6JYB
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	M1DTA	G7HCD
	Simon Wilton G7HCD	G6JYB	G4ZPE
Co-opted Member for 6m	Bob Cheverall M1DTA	G6JYB	G4ZPE

Bob was thanked for his two years of committee service and Jim was welcomed as a new addition.

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Tony Day G6OXQ indicated his willingness to continue as auditor. This was proposed by Simon G7HCD, seconded by Bob M1DTA, and accepted unanimously

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2001/2002

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

Our finances depend heavily on equipment sales and rally subs/donations all of which are declining. Insurance costs are also rising and this year we need to include cover for the new repeater equipment. Therefore I hope you will favourably consider raising the main subscription rate from £8 to £9 a year. The discount rate (£5 for Novices, SWLs and under 16s) only applies to a small number of members and will be maintained until we can review the full impact of the new M2 et al licence changes.

Our auditor Tony G6OXQ pointed out that with the current membership level, this increase would only raise income by £50 and ideally more was needed.

The Hon.Treasurers proposal was seconded by Alan G0TTM and accepted unanimously

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Clive G1EUC again referred to how helpful W&S had been - 6m radios, Power Supplies and Open Day facilities. He therefore proposed that Jeff Stanton be made an Honorary Member. Mike G4ZPE seconded this, adding that such a gesture would be greatly appreciated. The motion was passed unanimously.

Clive and Murray indicated that they were prepared to do talks on repeaters etc at local societies.

Simon G7HCD asked those present to do their bit for membership levels and persuade other amateurs they know to join the group.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm