

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2003 AGM

Date: 16th October 2003, 2000Hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2002/2003 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC
Jim Batchelor M1GUS	Alan Radley G0TTM
Simon Wilton G7HCD	

Plus the following ERG members:-

Anthony M1FDE, Dave G7GVK, Colin G0UCH, Les G4JDS, Gary M3EXE, Laurie G0JAO, Jeremy M3AEV, Bob M1DTA, John G0IJN, Trevor M5AKA, Patrick 2E0XAP, Dick G0ULU, Ron G0PJZ, Mark M3DJQ,
- and CARS member Colin Page G0TRM

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Committee member: Keith Wainwright G1NHW, Auditor: Tony G6OXQ, Tony Horsman G0MBA, RMC Area rep Steve 2E1EQY, Les G0UWQ, Chris G0IPU, Graham G7JYD

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by Alan G0TTM, seconded by Simon G7HCD, and passed unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

Firstly let me welcome you all to this AGM and thank you for giving up your time to come to this very important meeting. This year has been somewhat of a busy time for me to get time in on some of the equipment, but I have done my best to keep the Tait unit repeaters on line and running, What with work things happening and now being Service Manager at W&S, it takes a lot of my time. Still that's enough of my problems.

As you know the repeaters have been running okay for a long time. The 6m unit is off air due to getting the old Tait remote radio unit to operate for some reason, but its on the bench being worked on. We designed the new generation of repeaters with ADI/Alinco units and the 6m unit was the pioneer in that field for me and Murray to get our systems uptodate with more modern units courtesy of W&S. We have had relatively few hiccups considering the move forward. On that basis I have built two 2m and two 70cms units which we will be putting into action at some time in the near future, after we have married them up to new remote units. Remotes are a stipulation for all repeaters. The old Tait units are getting so old it was a decision to change over to ADI units as well for this purpose. This meant a new interface unit to join the two together and setting the levels right is not easy, but we are getting there slowly.

Last but not least I would like to thank all my officers and committee members for their dedication to the Group. A special thanks to Murray and Bob for grass cutting on site - not an easy job at any time, Clive for looking after the accounts and all those for supporting us at Rallies by donating equipment and helping out. Last of all you the members for supporting us through the year and a welcome to the new M3s from Chelmsford Club. Best wishes to you all.

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

One thing I would like to stress this year is that whilst many members haven't seen much apparent change or progress things have been happening, but its important to bear in mind that spare time is in limited supply

We have been present at the rallies, worked hard on retaining members and also worked hard with CARS on courses to attract new entrants into the hobby and thus to ERG – a major success for us this year. Rallies do concern us. We have made a special effort with this AGM , but Colchester was very poor. Fortunately M3 courses, the website and ERG leaflets at W&S have made up for it so far.

The 6m project has proven to be frustrating as we recovered from the lightning strike to find that the next stage (the remote control) was not at all in a good state when we used our spare from DA/ER and we are all working hard to come up with a fresh solution for not only 6m but for ZP and a future DA/ER.

Much of the work on replacement PSUs, logic, remote and so on also applies to 23cms (and the new DA) so we hope to make up speed on that once 6m is complete.

I would remind you all that 2004 starts a new era for repeaters in that toneburst access ceases to be mandatory. I encourage you all to use CTCSS. (as per 6m and GB3BZ). It remains to be seen what's happening on 70cms, but as you know there are severe restrictions, currently no prospect of replacing EB and a deviation/bandwidth change may need to occur there as well.

One final point – I need contributions from a wider number of members for the Newsletter!

Jeremy M3AEV asked about the 6m situation. Murray explained that it is the remote control that is the heart of the issue and that work would pick up pace in the run-up to Xmas.

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

The Honorary Treasurer gave the following report to those present:

Good Evening. You should all have a copy of the year's statement of accounts.

Membership levels have increased slightly and remain at just above last year's number of 53. This has been primarily achieved like the last couple of years by sending out reminder letters often with SAE's, in far greater numbers than ever before and the M3's coming on stream. The reminders have also been reworded in an attempt to put the message over more clearly, as to why we need to keep our existing members as well as gaining new ones. Our income has as per last year, also been boosted by equipment sales. But access to this type of equipment is gradually declining.

Income has dropped in line with the reduced numbers of local rallies, and the resultant loss of attendees at those rallies. Our renewals/new members and donations from these events have reduced dramatically. Unfortunately the rally situation seems to be going from bad to worse, their survival is a real cause for concern. Although for the past couple of years there have been rumours of the demise of the Canvey Rally, it still continues as we have already booked some tables for this February.

All administration costs e.g. stamps, envelopes, photocopying, continue to be heavily subsidised by committee members - even the food and the raffle for this meetings.

As stated previously one person donated most of the outlay of the new 6-metre repeater and last year Zpeee personally funded the new DA. This year we have been lucky and have had no outlay for equipment that has come out of repeater funds.

With interest rates low along with rally renewals, we continue to heavily rely on our equipment sales, donations and your good selves.

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 as always was very patient and helpful.

Thankyou - any questions?

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Laurie G0JAO, seconded by Dick G0ULU, and passed unanimously

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. The new committee was voted in without objection as follows:-

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	G7HCD	G0TTM
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	G1EUC	G4ZPE
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	G4ZPE	G6JYB
Ordinary Members	Jim Batchelor M1GUS	G7HCD	G0TTM
	Alan Radley G0TTM	G4ZPE	M1GUS
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	M1GUS	G0TTM
	Simon Wilton G7HCD	G1EUC	G6JYB
	Mark Barnaby, M3DJQ	G4ZPE	G6JYB
	Gary Lucas, M3EXE	G4ZPE	G6JYB

Bob M1DTA indicated that he would continue to support 6m repeater activity and agreed to continue his co-opted role for this.

Mike G4ZPE welcomed Mark M3DJQ and Gary M3EXE to the committee

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Prior to the meeting Tony Day G6OXQ had indicated his willingness to continue as auditor.

This was proposed by Mike G4ZPE, seconded by Clive G1EUC, and accepted unanimously

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2003/2004

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

In committee we have carefully reviewed the declining trend in rallies and the changes that are happening to the license classes. Likewise interest income and insurance expenses are not going to improve.

Two years ago we raised the main rate to £9 and last year limited any discounted subscriptions to SWL's.

We don't think anything is to be gained by raising the subscription rate; in fact it could be self defeating if we did and reduce membership levels.

My proposal to the meeting is the main rate is held at £9, and £5 for SWL's and under-18s.

Acceptance of the proposal was proposed by Ron G0PJZ, seconded by Dave G7GVK and passed unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bob M1DTA indicated that GB3DA had an activity session on 8-10pm on Sunday evenings and that everyone was welcome on air.

Anthony M1FDE asked about GB3EB at Brentwood and 23cms radios. Murray replied that EB had lapsed and any application would be refused at present. Co-operation with W&S on 23cms occurs and when GB3ZP is finished it would encourage both construction and imports.

After the questions, Jim M1GUS ran the raffle which helped make the evening more enjoyable

Meeting closed at 9:30pm. Next AGM is on Thu Oct-21 2004 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.