

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2004 AGM

Date: 21st October 2004, 2000Hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2003/2004 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC
Jim Batchelor M1GUS	Gary Lucas M3EXE
Alan Radley G0TTM	Keith Wainwright G1NHW
Simon Wilton G7HCD	

Plus the following ERG members:-

Jeremy 2E0AWH, Brian 2E0BRK, Robin 2E0RNE+SWL, David 2E0TRF, Laurie G0JAO, John G0IJN, Dick G0ULU, John G1JIJ, Pat G1MVI, Paul G4IJE, Alan G6CSK, Dave G7GVK Graham G7JYD, Steve G7RGG, Bob M0DTA, Trevor M0TDA, Anthony M1FDE, Gary M3EXE, Roy M3KWW, Auditor: Tony G6OXQ and CARS Vice-Chairman John Bowen G8DET

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Committee member: Mark Barnaby 2E0DJQ, Tony Horsman G0MBA, RMC Area rep.
Members: Steve 2E0COL, Patrick 2E0XAP, Chris G0IPU, Les G0UWQ, Don M0DKS, Trevor M5AKA

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by Jim M1GUS, seconded by Alan G0TTM, and passed unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

Here we are another year over and a lot of work still to do for the group, However we have got the 6 mtr unit up and running despite a hiccup last week, and it seems to be doing very well with good coverage around the area, we are still taking reports from stations. We would also welcome reports on noise sources on our 6m frequencies as well

Once we are fully happy with the operation of the 6mtr unit we will carry on with the 23cms unit which I might add is partly built and the PA stage is well on the way and only needs a good testing and has a very efficient heat sinking unit with fans to keep it cool, We already have the cavity's installed into the cabinet and the antenna in position as well, both logic's are built and power supplies are working okay. You can bet the New Year will bring on the 23cms system, "slow" but it will happen so watch this space folk. Work on a spare 6m radio unit and repairs to the GB3CMS microwave beacon are also on the agenda.

I would like to thank all those club members who have supported us over the years and helped us with work also the dedicated committee members who have given me there support over many years none of this would have been possible without them so thank you once again

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Just like last year we have been present at the rallies, worked hard on membership renewals and many of us contribute to the Chelmsford Club courses. I would like to record my gratitude to all those who have helped us at these events with time, transport and donations. The CARS courses, website and our links with W&S have also helped maintain membership at a time when the number of public events is under pressure.

We now co-ordinate our rally presence with Chelmsford Club, RSGB Training and RNARS and have already booked in for the Canvey Rally - remember 6-Feb-2005!

As most of you know we have finally made progress with the 6m project. Its not 100% there but at least people can interact with it. Do remember its behaves a little like HF and some simple vertical aerals wont have much gain, or have a high takeoff angle

We have a larger programme than ever of technical work as we

- a) Need to repair/refurbish GB3CMS which recently failed (after 7yrs at Clive's and 12yrs since its last electronics refit)*
- b) Need to close out 6m engineering and the lightning/spares situation*
- c) Restart 23cms, probably starting with the transmitter side*
- d) Interface and run-up the first of the new DA/ER generation*
- e) Enhance our remote control abilities*
- f) - and would appreciate some help so it doesn't take years to do it all!*

As ever I encourage you all to use CTCSS. (as per 6m and GB3BZ). I can envisage the day when toneburst may no longer be accepted in the rules. It also remains to be seen what's happening on 70cms, but restrictions are likely to stay and the former GB3EB NoV has been revoked. We will also monitor the site situation as we know that NTL, home for DA/ER is selling its transmission and tower business.

Finally my thanks to all of you who have come tonight, and to those who have donated refreshments and raffle prizes for this evening

One other point – Contributions for the newsletter please !

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, in far greater numbers than ever before and as last year more 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 slightly by equipment sales, but not to the extent of previous years as 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. Though this year the subscriptions taken at events has increased slightly.

Looking forward to 2005 we have three main local events:

- i.) **Canvey Rally in February:** At this popular event we will incur a large hike in the hire charges for the rally premises, as we no longer can acquire a complimentary table. So we will now be paying quite a bit more to attend the rally.*
- ii.) **Waters & Stanton Open Day in May:** Fortunately we are not charged here so we have no outgoings for this event, and all subs taken count as income.*
- iii.) **Colchester Rally in July:** The usual venue for this is no longer available. Colchester club are looking for a new site and so there is uncertainty on venues and hire costs. No doubt our outgoings will rise commensurately*

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. With interest rates rising we have also made a little more on our bank account.

We would appreciate it if we had regular renewals instead of in a lot of cases are having to chase people. Have you any thoughts on standing orders/paypal?

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

I think also the most special thanks we have ever given, should be to Murray. There is no need to tell anyone of his exceptional skills, without him there would be no repeater group.

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

Thank you - any questions?

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Clive G1EUC and seconded by Simon G7HCD, and passed unanimously.

A discussion on use of Standing Orders and Paypal ensued and then deferred to AoB

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

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

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	G0TTM	M1GUS
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	G4ZPE	G1EUC
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	G7RGG	M0DTA
Ordinary Members	Jim Batchelor M1GUS	G4ZPE	G0TTM
	Alan Radley G0TTM	M1GUS	G4ZPE
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	G7HCD	G0TTM
	Simon Wilton G7HCD	G6JYB	G1EUC
	Anthony Martin M1FDE	G1EUC	G4ZPE
	Trevor M0TDA	G4ZPE	G6JYB

Bob M0DTA had indicated that he would continue to support 6m repeater activity and agreed to continue his associated (co-opted) role for this.

Mike G4ZPE welcomed Anthony M1FDE and Trevor M0TDA to the committee

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Prior to the meeting Tony Day G6OXQ had indicated his willingness to continue as auditor. He commented that ERG had presented a nice set of records as usual

Mike G4ZPE congratulated Tony for his loyal service in the auditor role. Tony was re-elected with out objection

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2004/5

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

In committee we have carefully reviewed the pressure on rallies and the changes that are happening to the license classes. Likewise insurance expenses are not going to improve.

Three 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 Clive G1EUC and seconded by Dave G7GVK and passed unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bob M0DTA indicated that the activity evening on GB3DA was now 9-10pm on Sunday evenings and that everyone was welcome on air.

Dick G0ULU indicated that the contents of a former TV/Radio shop in Dengie was available for collection, otherwise it would be skipped shortly. It would need a good size van and he would liase with Mike G4ZPE and Keith G1NHW.

On the topic of Standing Orders and Paypal, Simon G7HCD explained how the latter had grown from eBay to be a general online deposit service which is free to payers, although ERG would incur a modest commission charge. Approximately 6-8 people in the audience indicated their willingness to use paypal, and a noticeably higher number indicated their willingness to set up a regular standing order. A general motion was proposed by Robin 2E0RNE and seconded by Dick G0ULU endorsing any ERG move to new payment methods for subscriptions.

Mike G4ZPE thanked Dengie and CARS members. He also expressed appreciation at the effort on club websites and their cross-linking, which helps all Essex clubs.

Clive G1EUC appealed for candidates for the next CARS foundation and intermediate courses.

Murray G6JYB mentioned that the 30th anniversary of ERG was coming up and thanked CARS for the association

On a question on Repeater Abuse, Mike G4ZPE replied that some occasional incidents had been monitored and the pattern is analysed.

Steve G7RGG suggested greater email use. Murray replied that this does occur, but the group does not have a 100% reliable listing of addresses. In the constitution, AGM notices have to be in writing.

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

Meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-20 2005 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.