

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2005 AGM

Date: 20th October 2005, 2000Hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2004/2005 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	
Jim Batchelor M1GUS	Trevor Downey M0TDA
Anthony Martin M1FDE	Alan Radley G0TTM
Keith Wainwright G1NHW	

Plus the following ERG members:-

Trevor M5AKA, Mark 2E0DJQ, Anthony M3KPQ, Derek 2E0JMV, Tony 2E0TXC, David G7GVK, Roy M3KWG, Don M0DKS, Patrick M0XAP, John G0IJN, Graham G7JYD, Dick G0ULU, Les G4JDS, Tony G6OXQ, Jeremy M0DUT, Laurie G0JAO, Pat G1MVI, John G1JIJ

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Committee members: Clive Ward G1EUC, Simon Wilton G7HCD
Members: Les G0UWQ, James G4GHH, Derek G1SNU

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the previous minutes was passed unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

We have made some progress on the 6m unit and its now back on air, but not upto full spec at this moment due to labour time to get onto site and do some adjustments.

Meanwhile 2m and 70cms are still going strong and I have been building new units based on a new breed of ADI radios in my shack when time permits. They should come online round about Summer-2006 with full CTCSS-only and no 1750 tone. This should give us far better audio and sensitivity and also stop breakthrough from other repeaters when there is a lift on as just recently.

I would at this point like to thank all those committee members who gave us support at rallies this year manning the stands. It is very important to our survival to attend these rallies for funds, so we can keep the cost of membership down to a minimum. Thanks to all members who pay their subs on time as it all helps to balance things out in the long run.

The other thing is that from Summer 2006 we aim to go to full CTCSS-only. We have been friendly to the members, giving them at least four years to change over. So be warned now folks! Most rigs have got these facilities now anyway. Lastly but not least we could do with a logic expert on our team for matching interface to radios and logic to help me out. I would also like to thank Alan G0TTM and Simon G7HCD for all their help and wish them the best as they are standing down from the committee.

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

This year has seen some ups and downs on Repeater Administration for which I am the NoV holder

In January, as part of a wider purge which eliminated 30 repeaters around the country we were asked to reapply for the 6m and 23cms licences as the systems had not been on air. It was pleasing to see that roughly as expected GB3DB had its clearance refreshed to a far more stringent standard than ever before for emissions and shutdown procedures, and we were relieved to switch it on at 3pm on Saturday August-20. As you know we have seen noticed a noisy de-sense issue which is currently under investigation, before we can celebrate the feat. I would like to thank Mike for his superb effort in building a complete spare 6m radio unit during this period which we hadn't had before. Once we have the de-sense issue sorted we will finish building a new GB3ER with better CTCSS/Audio Quality.

It is pleasing to record that throughout the year we receive enquiries on cavities, logic and radio design from other groups around the country, impressed by the standard we build ERG systems to.

Having worked with them for years, I would like to say my own thanks to Alan GOTTM and Simon G7HCD who are stepping down from the committee. We are keen this year to recruit a few people who can enthusiastically help out with events and fund raising – and take the pressure of myself and Mike who still have technical work to do – Of course you can volunteer to take our jobs too!

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 – Xmas is coming ! - Contributions for the newsletter please !

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

As Clive, the Honorary Treasurer was away, Mike 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 decreased slightly and remain at just below last year's number of 59. The membership level has been maintained primarily as with the past couple of years by sending out reminder letters often with SAE's, in far greater numbers than ever before and as last year more M3's coming on stream. Though a lot of the M3's now have their Intermediate and have or are taking their Advanced. Particularly those who have passed or are taking their Advanced, should be proud of their achievement; it's a very tough course. The reminders have also been re-reworded in an attempt to put the message over more clearly and in as friendly a manner as possible. Our income though has fallen significantly this year, by £218.

Compared to last year we have suffered from falls in the number of rally attendees, which in turn has significantly affected the number of donations/subs we receive. Alongside this is the lack of quality equipment and goods for re-sale at Rallies. This year has been worse; Colchester in particular was very poorly attended.

Looking forward to 2006 we have two main local events, the third is as yet not definite:

- a) **Canvey Rally in February:** *At this popular event we have incurred a large hike in the hire charges for the rally premises and we no longer are entitled to a complimentary table. So are now paying a substantial amount to attend. This year the sub taken there were down significantly.*
- b) **Waters & Stantons Open Day in May:** *Fortunately we are not charged here so we have no outgoings for this event, so all subs count as profit.*
- c) **Colchester Rally in July:** *After this years rallies poor attendance and the date it's programmed to be held next year, it has not yet been decided whether or not we will attend. The advertised date for the rally will conflict, with a good number of other regular Amateur events so may not be a viable proposition. We only took one new sub this year.*

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.

We would appreciate it if we had regular renewals instead of in a lot of cases are having to chase people.

As mentioned last year 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!

We are looking at other income sources; one possibility is an alternative rally!

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 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	Secunder
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*	Murray G6JYB	Mike G4ZPE
	Trevor Downey M0TDA*	Alan G0TTM	Jim M1GUS
	Anthony Martin M1FDE*	Clive G1EUC	Murray G6JYB
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW*	Simon G7HCD	Alan G0TTM
	Tony Cooper 2E0TXC		
	Roy Knight M3KWG		

Bob M0DTA had indicated that he would continue to support the GB3DB 6m repeater activity and agreed to continue his associated (co-opted) role for this.

Mike G4ZPE welcomed Roy and Tony 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 2005/6

On behalf of Clive G1EUC, Hon Treasurer, Mike 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.

A few years ago we raised the main rate to £9 and 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 passed unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jim M1GUS queried the CTCSS-only move as it would render old radios incompatible. Mike replied that toneburst was holding us back. There are circuits for tone generators or a well known local company would only be too pleased to update him!

After the questions, Trevor M0TDA and Mike ran the raffle which helped make the evening more enjoyable

Meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-19 2006 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.