

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2009 AGM



Date: 15th October 2009, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2008/2009 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC
Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Trevor Downey M0TDA
Roy Knight 2E0KWG	

Plus the following ERG members:-

Dick House G0ULU, Andy Beaumont M0TIU, Clive King M0GHH, Selim Alpuvan 2E0KPF, Richard Stevens 2E0XRS, John Slade G0IJN, Laurie White G0JAO, Peter Hale G4OAD, Norman Crampton M0FZW, Tony Day G6OXQ, John Bowen G8DET (CARS), Leslie Radley G4JDS, Trevor Hawkins M5AKA, Martyn Medcalf G1EFL

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Patrick Xavier M0XAP, Alan Radley G0TTM, Simon Wilton G7HCD and Committee member Keith Wainwright G1NHW

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the 2008 AGM minutes was proposed and passed unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

Welcome everybody to this AGM meeting and trust you all had a good journey here. Firstly let me say it's been a very busy year again with work carried out on the 6 metre repeater antenna problems. I think we have beaten the problem of wind on site on the antenna by re-designing the whole antenna construction which will now be called the 'Zipy-special' design. I will forward photos to Murray in due course after I have finished the construction of it; it is based on the original antenna which worked very well in the early days.

Now I must at this point thank all those people who through the year supported us at rallies and in the background by helping out on stands and selling gear donated to the group. This all helps with the expenditure as you will see from the accounts which Clive our Treasurer has put together for you all to see. You will notice that hardly any of the money has gone to any member but has been spent on updating equipment and of course now our new baby the GB7ZP Digital Repeater which we now have the full gear and which Murray is working on when he is free. He will give you more information in a minute on the progress of it.

As you must all be aware we are only volunteers and cannot always jump onto the problems which arise on odd occasions, but we do our best.

My last thing is to thank Murray, Clive, Tony, Bob, and his good lady for spoiling us when we visit his house on odd occasions for repeater work or committee meetings. And finally to thank all you out there for supporting us through the year in keeping the repeaters on air by your support of membership fees.

I wish you all a safe journey home after the meeting - G4ZPE De Zipy.

Mike Wheaton G4ZPE, Chairman

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you Mike.

As Mike mentioned, the D-Star repeater is a pretty new venture for us and unlike the other equipment we have, is a off-the-shelf Icom system. At present it is just running as a conventional standalone repeater. However in July we started to acquire the kit to build our own internet gateway which I have with me tonight for you to take a look at later on. Our

intention is to do a professional job on the gateway and on the rest of the local installation first before we internet it all up. I can assure you its none trivial getting the right Linux installation on it for the Icom software.

We have quite a backlog of work including the D-star and 6m issues, and we need to get these sorted before we turn our attention to other work such as the beacon or other new ideas as there are only a few of us and like Zipy I have had a busy year. It's a good thing touch-wood that GB3DA and GB3ER continue to work well

Anyway do take a look at the new Gateway as well our raffle and sale items afterwards - Thank you

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

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.

Paid up Membership levels have fallen back from 52-38. We were though pleased to receive a good number of renewals at the last AGM and additional ones trickled in over the following two weeks or so. As mentioned at the last AGM the 2008 Colchester Rally was so bad we just about recovered the payment for our sales table. So bearing in mind the poor attendance at the rally this year (Jul-2009), I believe we were justified in our decision not to have a stand there.

Canvey was good for sales and just reasonable for renewals. Zpee's raffle was very successful. Ironically Yana who is a Russian Israeli, picked out the winner, who was also a native Russian. The W&S open day was down on subs this year, but it is free and is a good investment with regards to our meeting new potential members and some previous ones.

We pick up a reasonable number of new members from CARS training courses, where both Murray and myself are tutors. Repeaters are part of the Foundation Course syllabus, so after Murray has given an excellent presentation on the subject, I follow with a moderated selling pitch. It's not fair to put pressure on, as the exam is the following week!

Our income from donations increased slightly, which has been helpful. We expect to have a good deal of expenditure over the coming year mainly for the D-Star repeater gateway, the beacon and any costs required for the 6-metre repeater. Our main cost this year has been time; with the refurbishment of the beacon and sorting out the 6 metre repeaters aerial.

The current year has been with regards to repeater equipment purchase much lower than past years most our purchases have been made by the committee and will be claimed back when our finances are better. We need money in the account for emergencies; low interest hasn't helped our bank balance – the interest we get which used to be upto £20/quarter is now down to just 18p.

Looking forward to 2010 we expect to have two main local events:

- **Canvey Rally on 7 February:** *We will do our best to attract potential and existing members to the stand.*
- **Waters & Stanton's Open Day in May:** *In the past this has proved to be a good event in many ways and we await confirmation that it will be on again in 2010.*

As the accounts show (or don't!), 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.

This year has been a particular strain with free time being short to keep accounts in a timely fashion, as well as repeater repairs. Is there anyone willing to consider joining the committee to help with the accounts or the technical requirements?

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 Peter Hale G4OAD, seconded by Laurie White G0JAO and passed unanimously.

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. The new committee as per the calling notice was proposed by Peter Hale G4OAD and seconded by Norman Cryer M0FZW. It was voted in en-bloc without objection as follows:-

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	Keith G1NHW	Bob M0DTA
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Clive G1EUC	Trevor M0TDA
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	Murray G6JYB	Mike G4ZPE
Ordinary Members	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Mike G4ZPE	Clive G1EUC
	Trevor Downey M0TDA	Bob M0DTA	Roy 2E0KWG
	Roy Knight M3KWG	Murray G6JYB	Keith G1NHW
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	Roy 2E0KWG	Murray G6JYB

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Tony Day G6OXQ indicated his willingness to continue as auditor. Clive proposed and thanked him for his help and patience - often given at quite short notice before an AGM. This was approved unanimously by all present.

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2009/10

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

Once again we don't think anything is to be gained by raising the subscription rate from £9 as we nearly always get £10! It could be counter-productive if we did increase the rate, so our intention is to take affirmative action to drive the numbers up.

Any ideas? For a start has anyone anything saleable (equipment etc) they could donate for the next rally?

So, my proposal to the meeting is the main rate is held at £9.

The subscriptions level was seconded by Martyn Medcalf G1EFL and passed unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Murray and Mike highlighted that the next local event would be the W&S Xmas Sale on Saturday Dec-19 where we hope to have a table

Selim 2E0EKF asked if ERG was willing to host a 4m node. He explained it would essentially be a simplex parrot as the band cannot support a full duplex repeater. In response Murray thanked him for the suggestion and offer of a suitable radio. He was aware of a few other such systems (MB7FM and MB7NS) but indicated that at present getting both free time and an unattended NoV on a spare frequency was quite challenging until the current backlog was sorted. However he was aware of the need to support 4m activity. Other discussion occurred regarding 6m when GB3DB is restored to full performance as well as the design of the new Gateway Linux PC

Meeting closed at 9:10pm, followed by the Raffle and Refreshments.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-14 2010 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.