

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2011 AGM



Date: 8th December 2011, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2010/2011 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mark Sanderson M0IEO
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC

Plus eleven other ERG members:-

Terry Lee 2E0KIL, Dick House G0ULU, Clive King M0GHH, Peter Franklin G1FOA, Norman Crampton M0FZW, Laurie White G0JAO, Alan Radley G0TTM, Peter Sipple 2E0PSL, Tom Humphries M6BCK, Graham Leggett G7JYD, Leslie Radley G4JDS

Mike G4ZPE Silent Key

Prior to formal business Interim Chairman Mark asked for a 1-minute silence for our dear departed former Chairman Mike Wheaton G4ZPE who became a silent Key on 13 March 2011. Clive also gave a speech reminding everyone of the amazing time and contributions that Mike had given ERG and his help to many members over the years

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Tony Day G6OXQ, John Passfield G1JIJ, Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG, Carl G3PEM

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the 2010 AGM minutes was proposed by Dick G0ULU and Clive M0GHH and passed unanimously. (and will be placed on the ERG website)

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mark gave a brief introduction about himself and how he had stepped in as interim Chairman following Mike's sad passing earlier in the year.

Mark had passed through the CARS training system to then go onto to contribute his time to support Essex Clubs as RSGB DRM and most recently as Region-12 Manager. That, work, and CARS training courses kept him rather busy!

Current Issues of note were:-

GB3DB: The 5/8+5/8 6m antenna ideally required continued to be mechanically very challenging. Mike G4ZPE had tried to develop his own version. The intention was to address this in Spring 2012

GB3ER: Generally running ok about from the PA showing some intermittency during the peak of the summer. A spare unit is on load test in case the current unit fails

23cm: Zipy's personal beacon has been dismantled – a legacy of the former GB3ZP system

For 2012 Mark was keen to see the Internet Gateway on GB7ZP, our 70cm D-Star system, get installed and integrated, though it does require expertise and reliable networking

Finally Mark reminded the audience that ERG was a volunteer group - and we needed more volunteers!

Mark Sanderson M0IEO, Chairman

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you Mark.

It is of course a sad occasion not to have Mike with us after so many years. However I must thank Mark for stepping in along with a number of others. Whilst general correspondence has been low the one area of note has been the assistance of Norman M0FZW in identifying current users and assisting with renewals and persuading new members to join.

On the technical side, GB3CMS our 10GHz beacon was rebuilt on the bench and continues to run on low power to age-in its new crystal source

It is fortunate that GB3DA&ER have been running largely okay; otherwise we would get really stretched

As Mark mentions we also plan to tackle the ZP gateway integration. This is far from trivial but the basic Centos-Linux sever is now complete ready for it.

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 accounts.

Paid up Membership levels have drifted but at present we are on 35 – up one from last year – but it continues to be a concern. We were pleased to receive a good number of renewals at the last AGM and at Canvey Rally.

In the past year we did quite well at Canvey but didn't attend Colchester Rally (which is now no more). We do now feature regularly at the W&S Summer and Winter days and also occasionally gain members as a result of the CARS courses.

The accounts are presented unaudited, but we believe are consistent and are based on the nominal financial year rather than this delayed AGM date. One thing to note is that the outlay on repeater parts is largely for 6m and ZP work which overflowed from the previous year. We continue to try and invest, but we are dependent on you for subs, donations etc – because we certainly are not getting anything useful due to low interest rates as we all know nowadays. Notable donations in the year came from CARS and Martyn G1EFL who we particularly appreciate for their support.

The accounts continue to benefit from low administration costs e.g. stamps, envelopes, printing etc, continue to be heavily subsidised by committee members - even the food and the raffle for this meetings.

This year has been a particular strain with free time being short to keep accounts and banking in a timely fashion, as well as ongoing technical issues on two repeaters. We would greatly appreciate willing and able bodies to bolster the committee – and ideally succeed us!

Thank you - any questions?

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Peter G1FOA, seconded by Alan G0TTM and passed unanimously.

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. Despite calling for extra volunteers from the floor, none came forward and the new committee as per the calling notice was voted unanimously en bloc

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Mark Sanderson M0IEO	Murray G6JYB	Norman M0FZW
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Bob M0DTA	Roy 2E0KWG
Hon. Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	Norman M0FZW	Mark M0IEO
Ordinary Members	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Roy 2E0KWG	Clive G1EUC
	Norman Crampton M0FZW	Mark M0IEO	Peter G1FOA
	Peter Franklin G1FOA	Clive G1EUC	Murray G6JYB
	Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Peter G1FOA	Bob M0DTA

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Although absent, Tony Day G6OXQ was re-nominated (subject to acceptance)

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2011/12

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

Once again we don't think anything is to be gained by raising the subscription rate. At present we feel it remains counter-productive compared to us all taking action to drive the numbers up. We do need your help though – especially if you start to regularly hear new callsigns on the repeaters

Our other income source is sales. We are always on the lookout for donations of kit for sale – particularly for the Canvey rally?

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

Dick G0ULU proposed, Norman M0FZW seconded which was passed unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion on heliax and connectors for upgrading GB7ZP (to lower losses for more sensitivity)

Meeting closed, followed by socialising and Refreshments. (and £28 raised in the raffle)

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-18 2012 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.