

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2013 AGM



Date: 17th October 2013, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG, Simon Wilton G7HCD, Glynis Johnson 2E0CUQ, James Johnson M6BPK, Michael Byrne M0MMB

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the 2012 AGM minutes were available for review and were subsequently approved for placement on the ERG website

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Clive G1EUC requested that we should have a minute's silence for Dick G0ULU who died earlier on this year and was sitting amongst you this time last year. John G0JIJ added that Dick was a 'gentle giant' and will be sadly missed

Clive continued - Like Zipy who died some three years ago, Dick was a much-loved character; I'd known him for many years and am very sad that we have lost him. He was an incredibly generous support of ERG each year and many of us paid our respects at his funeral

I think it's fair to say that this year has also seen an enormous team effort, even if at times that not always in public view. I would like to thank everyone involved, especially as we have also had a few changes during the year

We have also had a few changes. During the year Glynis 2E0CUQ our Treasurer decided to step down – but we do sincerely 'Thank-you' for your valuable contribution! Also Peter G1FOA who did a really helpful job as Committee Minutes Secretary.

So that brings me to welcoming Ann Tyler M6INE who has come forward to take on the Treasurer role and also to congratulate her on an excellent performance in her recent CARS Foundation Exam.

And of course the rest of the committee who have devoted a good deal of time to keeping the repeaters on the air, helping at rallies etc.

I would now like to give an update on the state of our Repeaters/Beacon:-

GB3DB: This came back on the air earlier this year. We have experimented with the second-hand Diamond Antenna mentioned at last year's meeting and we are currently experimenting with a new aerial that Justin G0KSC has very kindly donated. We still have coax problems and possibly an equipment sensitivity issue. So as yet, the repeater is not working as well as we would like. Our next steps are to go back on site to test equipment and eventually we will replace the damaged Heliac, as at present we are using a lower grade cable.

GB3DA: As I am sure you are well aware some of the squelch/noise thresholds we mentioned last year did deteriorate further. However since then we have lifted the squelch slightly and removed the 1750 toneburst. The CTCSS-only access contributes significantly to it being more consistent, and the repeater itself is working a lot better

GB3ER: Whilst we were doing work on DA we also able to replace ER with a standby unit. This was mainly due the PA becoming intermittent. The new unit seems to be working at spec and like DA we have raised its squelch level slightly too

GB7ZP: Our D-Star system has continued in service without any hardware changes, although at some point we would like to improve a few things. Earlier in the year we took it off one of the Internet reflectors as the traffic levels were becoming too high. We also monitor its networking so that any occasional Gateway outage is kept to a minimum

GB3CMS: The 10GHz beacon has continued to run at low power on test at Murray's qth to age the crystal. However the RSGB and others are keen to see this back in full service, so we now have activity in hand to sort out its new PA and install the unit back in Danbury

So as you hopefully can appreciate we have had a busy year on all fronts with more planned or in hand. None of this would have happened without a full team effort – many thanks to them all again

Clive G1EUC, Chairman

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you. This is the second AGM where we have used email for calling notices. Thanks for turning up and do bear in mind that you must inform ERG if you do change your email. We cannot rely on QRZ or read-across from other clubs (which is prevented by the Data Protection)

Clive has given you a good rundown on the repeaters so there isn't much to add other than to thank you for last year's AGM approval of the CTCSS migration which has played a key role on GB3DA when that was changed during the summer. We do intend further work across the range and have already got some expenditure planned for the GB3DB 6m repeater

We have been also busy on a few other things.

At one point during the year we had to transfer the ERG website to new provider and that is behind the higher admin charge in the accounts – My thanks to Simon Wilton G7HCD who provided the resource free-of-charge for many years but who now lives/works out in Canada. The benefits are not all obvious yet (outside of the committee) but will play a role in the new PayPal option we have been testing

My other thanks go to the rest of the team who have taken on various burdens during a what has been a busy year

And finally a few more items:

Firstly we are already booked in for 2014s Canvey Rally. We have a large amount of spare coax and are open to offers beforehand. ERG also feature in the new 2014 RSGB Callbook. On the topic of callsigns the Groups calls have all been subject to Ofcom NoV extensions. As G7GAN was a club-call this included a manual renewal by Ofcom until 2018. There are a lot of license changes imminent so do watch out and ensure you revalidate yours on the Ofcom website.

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

Firstly I just would like to say that I am quite new to the ERG Treasurer's position, so no awkward questions please!

Likewise our apologies for not presenting fully signed-off audited accounts, but it does match our bank account – honest! Don't worry we will catch up!

So, compared to the previous financial year where we had an income and membership drop made worse by a snowed-out Canvey Rally, we have done rather better as you can see

Last year's AGM was very well supported and along with Canvey and W&S Open Day. This contributed to a rise in income to one of our best figures in recent years. In all we had 46 paid-up members during the year

The expense of re-hosting the ERG website (which will allow us to run PayPal in future) is reflected in the higher admin costs. Like last year we have not yet replaced ARIS for equipment insurance, although we paid our liability insurance as usual.

SO.... overall the cash balances have risen to a healthier position, though interest rates for that are minimal. Any Questions?

Ann M6INE, Hon Treasurer

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. A call for extra volunteers from the floor, resulted in a nomination for Glynis as Treasurer and a number of additional members so the net result based on these and the original AGM calling notice was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Clive Ward G1EUC	Andy G1GKN	Bob M0DTA
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Clive G1EUC	James 2E1GUA
Hon. Treasurer	Ann Tyler M6INE	Murray G6JYB	Tom 2E0TNC
Ordinary Members	Joel Alderman G0URK	Roy 2E0KWG	Murray G6JYB
	James Beatwell 2E1GUA	Bob M0DTA	Norman M0FZW
	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	James 2E1GUA	Roy 2E0KWG
	Norman Crampton M0FZW	Clive G1EUC	Andy G1GKN
	Tom Humphries 2E0TNC	Norman M0FZW	Clive G1EUC
	Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Bob M0DTA	Joel G0URK
	Andrew Tyler G1GKN	Joel G0URK	Murray G6JYB

All as per AGM Calling notice

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Although absent, Tony Day G6OXQ was re-nominated

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2013/14

The Treasurer commented that having raised the subscription rate last year from £9 to £12, that a further increase would be counter-productive, as opposed to keeping a broad membership base, and making it easier to pay

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 £12, but of course additional donations are always welcome.

This was proposed by Alan G0TTM, seconded by 2E0KIL and agreed by all members present.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Honorary membership – Bob Cheverall M0DTA was proposed for this, given that he kindly provides the site for the 6m repeater - approved unanimously

PayPal – Murray asked those present if any were already PayPal users – some were interested in ERG adopting this

Meeting closed, followed by socialising and Refreshments.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-16 2014 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.