

**ESSEX REPEATER GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM**



Date: 16th October 2014, 20:00hrs  
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG, Carl Thomson G3PEM, Patrick Xavier M0XAP, Geoff Mills G3EDM, Joel Alderman G0URK and David Ingrey M0HBV

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

Acceptance of the draft 2013 AGM minutes was proposed by John G1JIJ and were approved for placement on the ERG website

**3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This year as in previous years there has been a tremendous team effort, from the ERG committee. I would like to thank everyone involved, those staying on the committee and the ones whom are leaving the team. One of which is Ann the treasurer who has unfortunately decided to step down. Thank you Ann! - which as you see leaves us in need of a treasurer...

I would like to thank Andy and Murray for the more in depth repeater and beacon technical work. They both have full time jobs plus and also other responsibilities within the radio world; so we do appreciate their time and effort.

We are also trying to make the committee more effective, in that every member will have a role or a specific expertise. We hope this will help to keep the repeaters/beacon on air and working to spec.

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

**GB3DB:** We are still experimenting with a new aerial that Justin G0KSC very kindly donated. Unfortunately this was badly damaged in high winds and we have yet to install the new strengthened version that Justin has recently supplied us. We still have a system sensitivity issue (which may actually be a de-sense problem – not the radios), alongside the damaged Heliac. We know the basic radios are ok after some off-site tests by Andy. When we have the required test equipment to hand, it is our intention to go on site, re-install the aerial and equipment and attempt to eliminate the sensitivity issues.

**GB3DA:** Hopefully you are all now familiar with its CTCSS-only access. It contributes significantly to it being more consistent, and the repeater itself continues to work ok

**GB3ER:** ER is running on the very original unit we had as a standby, following its younger cousin becoming intermittent. We have a plan in hand to move onto newer equipment. When we do that it will mean ER also becoming CTCSS-only (like DA) - so do be prepared for that.

**GB7ZP:** Our D-Star system has continued in service without any hardware issues. We have done quite a few Gateway software updates during the year and arranged a registration facility by W&S. We also monitor its networking as so that any occasional outage is kept to a minimum

**GB3CMS:** The 10GHz beacon has continued to run at low power on test at Murray's qth. Work to reconfigure it is nearly complete and tests/repairs on its PA have been undertaken this year – so we also hope to see this back in full service in due course at Danbury too

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. Thanks for turning up and do bear in mind that you must inform ERG if you do change your email address so that calling notices reach you.

Clive has given you a good rundown on the status of our various systems so there isn't much to add on the technical side apart from my own thank you to Andy.

This year has seen a national effort on NoV renewals by Ofcom – all repeaters and the beacon are on updated NoV terms. Don't forget to keep your own licence valid and watch out for the new licence terms! - it is not long to the deadline for Ofcom's amateur licence consultation which is 5pm on Monday

This year we have made progress with other technology. The website has had a few tweaks and after some careful setup we are I think the first Essex Radio Society to introduce PayPal for subs/donations. We have tried to keep it simple and it has certainly been convenient for both ourselves and the handful of users so far. During the year we also have added an EssexERG Twitter Feed so you can also follow the occasional news items/events we have (my thanks to Tom 2E0TNC for initialising that), and it been carefully integrated into the site home and news pages.

As Clive mentioned we have also done some software/network upgrades to our D-Star system GB7ZP. In addition we have taken a look at both DMR and the new Yaesu digital voice modes as well. From figures we have, we can see regular D-Star usage and an upturn in registrations at W&S (and our website has links and guides for that).

Looking ahead we certainly plan to be at the W&S Open Days and the 2015 Canvey Rally. I am not sure if you are aware but it will be both the 30th Rally there and it will also be the occasion of ERGs 40th Birthday.

*Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary*

#### **5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT**

As last year, please accept the committee's apologies for not presenting fully signed-off audited accounts, but it does match our bank account.

At last year's AGM we announced our intention to start collecting subs by PayPal. This is now fully working but as usual we are still happy to accept cheques and cash, here or at the other events we are attending during the year, or even by post. Paypal payments are held in a separate account at the moment.

Last year's AGM was well supported and along with Canvey and W&S Open Day. In all we had 46 paid-up members during the year, this was the same number as the previous year.

Like last year we have not yet replaced ARIS for equipment insurance, this is in line with many other repeater groups, although we did pay our liability insurance as usual.

SO.... overall the cash balances have risen to a healthier position this years income being increased by £800.00 due to sales, though interest rates for that are minimal.

Any Questions?

*Ann M6INE, Hon Treasurer*

#### **6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE**

The old committee stood down. Murray first asked for any other nominations for Chairman. There being none, Clive was re-elected as Chairman. Popular demand from the floor led to Ann being re-proposed for Treasurer, which she kindly agreed to.

Following this a block vote was then for the rest of the new committee as per the original AGM calling notice was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Clive Ward G1EUC	Joel G0URK	Bob M0DTA
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Kristian 2E0SSX	Clive G1EUC
Hon. Treasurer	Ann Tyler M6INE	all	-
Ordinary Members	Joel Alderman G0URK	Tom 2E0TNC	Kristian 2E0SSX
	Kristian Baker 2E0SSX	Clive G1EUC	Murray G6JYB
	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Andy G1GKN	Roy 2E0KWG
	Norman Crampton M0FZW	Roy 2E0KWG	Andy G1GKN
	Tom Humphries 2E0TNC	Norman M0FZW	Joel G0URK
	Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Bob M0DTA	Clive G1EUC
	Andrew Tyler, G1GKN	Murray G6JYB	Norman M0FZW

## **7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR**

Although absent, Tony Day G6OXQ was re-nominated

## **8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2014/15**

The Treasurer commented that a rise in the subscription from £12, was more likely to be counter-productive, as opposed to keeping a broad membership base, and making it easier to pay, such as via PayPal.

We do need your help though – including recruiting such as 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, the proposal to the meeting is the main rate is held at £12, but of course additional donations are always welcome! - *approved en masse*

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A brief discussion on 6m repeaters occurred. With antenna gain in short supply at the user-end, large cavities and higher noise levels, it was appreciated that they are harder to implement.

Meeting closed, followed by socialising and Refreshments.

The raffle proved popular, aided by a new Baofeng BF-888 70cm handheld being the top prize

**Next AGM is on Thu Oct-15 2015 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.**