

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM



Date: 15th October 2015, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG, Paul Gledhill G7BHE

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the draft 2014 AGM minutes was proposed and were approved for placement on the ERG website

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Andy G1GKN

Hello for those of you who don't know me my name is Andy G1GKN and I have been an ERG committee member for the last 2 years. Following the sad and sudden loss of Clive G1EUC, a few weeks ago I was asked by the committee to take over the role as acting Chairman and to stand as your Chairman for 2015 / 2016 this I have agreed, providing you will have me.

Acting Chairman's Report

For me this year has been a year of highs and lows. The highs being the replacement of GB3ER with a more modern box and finally getting GB3DB back on air after some years of poor or no coverage. DB still requires some further work and this is ongoing.

The low was the passing of our good friend and Chairman Clive; this was completely unexpected and has left us all with heavy hearts.

But things move on and the ERG team now has a tremendous amount of work to do to relocate the equipment that Clive kindly housed for us, namely GB7ZP the 70cm D Star, MB7IDA the 2m Echolink, which has kindly been donated by Clive's family to ERG, and GB3CMS the 10GHz propagation beacon.

For this reason it is proposed that two new members join the committee, Graham Leggett G7JYD and Paul Gledhill G7BHE – I'm sure their skills will complement the current committee.

It just leaves me now to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work over the last 12 months and to hand over to Norman M0FZW who wishes to give a tribute....

EULOGY for CLIVE WARD by Norman M0FZW

Clive Ward, G1EUC, became a Silent Key on the night of 4th Sept 2014, aged 69.

I first met Clive on the CARS 5th Intermediate Course in May 2006 but I had known of him much earlier as we both had careers firstly in GPO Telecomms and then BT. Clive was then a One Man Installer and I was a Technical Officer in a large outgoing London trunk repeater station. Whereas I was content trouble-shooting system faults Clive chose promotion and secured a management role in BT's Investigation Branch dealing with employees who fiddled or stole from the company.

There was always a black market for the latest 700 type telephones, Trim phones and Key and Lamp switchboards. Callbox coin slot telephone engineers were often tempted to pocket coins that had passed through the mechanism but missed the cash box. These thieves were easily caught out as coins coated with a fine dust, that was only visible under ultra violet light, were set as traps.

As a fitter Clive would have rubbed shoulders with these thieves, known about their fiddles and knew how to catch them. His experience in this field would be useful during his last years when he regularly sat on a Youth Offenders panel.

Later Clive changed jobs taking a more senior post in BT Business Systems, responsible for installing and maintaining high value datacomms and video conferencing. Ever looking for a new technical challenge I had moved to this division in 1984 so Clive briefly became my level-3 manager before taking early retirement by 1998, when BT shed hundreds of middle managers.

Clive's enthusiasm for Amateur Radio was boundless. His first callsign, G1EUC, would have been issued as a Class B license around 1984. So he was licensed for around 30 years. Prior to that Bob, M0DTA, who provides a home for GB3DB, our 6M repeater, remembers chatting to him on the CB radio.

Clive first became an ERG committee member on 26 Oct 1995 when ERG was involved with GB7EP on packet and at the time of the site move from the old Marconi tower.

Five years later he became ERG Treasurer on 19th Oct 2000, succeeding Chris Merrell G8OIV.

Chelmsford ARS held their first Foundation Training Course in Jan/Feb 2002. It was run by Chris, G0IPU and Carl, G3PEM with 9 students, 8 of whom passed. Following this success both Clive and Murray joined the Training Team. Clive took on the role of Training Manager and Murray G6JYB created a presentation slide set for Foundation Course-2 in May 2002. A photograph of the instructors/invigilators on CARS web site shows Carl G3PEM, Murray G6JYB, Clive M0SIX, Chris G0IPU, Martyn G1EFL & David M0BQC. <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/photos/p-foundation.htm>

In 2007 the team went to Edinburgh to be presented with the RSGB Kenwood Trophy. This award is given to those who have made a significant contribution to Amateur Radio Training and Development. Now those who knew Clive well will know that he was not known for wearing a tie, even at such a prestigious event but there was an instance when some of the Training Team, including Clive attended the RSGB AGM Dinner and were photographed with Guest of Honour Trevor Baylis, of wind-up radio fame, and Sylvia Manco of RSGB showing him in a white shirt and sporting a kipper tie with a Windsor knot.

The picture was published in Monitoring Monthly magazine. There is a copy on CARS web site. <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/photos/kenwood.htm>

On Friday 11th March 2011 I was working late at Waters & Stanton and met Mike Wheaton, G4ZPE (Zippy to his friends) leaving by the back door in his motorcycle leathers. He looked stressed and was in a hurry. I bade him good night and a happy weekend. I would be the last person in the shop to speak to him as he died in his sleep early on that Sunday morning. W&S had lost its most experienced radio service engineer, amateur radio had lost a great friend and ERG had lost an excellent long standing Chairman.

Following this the ERG Committee meetings were held at Clive's house with him as acting Chairman. At the ERG AGM, 18th Oct 2012, he was duly elected to the post and ERG bi-monthly meetings continued to be held at his house.

On arrival, having discarded our shoes in the hall he would lead us into the kitchen and offer us tea or coffee. If he knew that we had dashed to the meeting straight from work, and thought perhaps we were hungry, he offered a jacket potato and baked beans. I never accepted his kind offer as those beans do not agree with my digestive system!

Like me Clive was brought up in a very religious Baptist family. His father, a senior BT manager, wrote numerous pamphlets and booklets about Christianity. We both hated injustice. We were always prepared to listen to other's opinions and frequently willing to give someone the benefit of doubt if we considered they had been treated unjustly. Sometimes he found his trust was misguided when those he tried to help turned against him. However he was quick to own up to defeat on those occasions and admit that he had gone against better advice to leave well alone.

On 20th & 21st July 2013 CARS had been given unique use of the RSGB Centenary callsign, G100RSGB. While CARS operated HF at Sandford Mill on Saturday and Bae Systems on Sunday Clive decided to operate using that callsign on 2 metre and 6 metre bands from his home QTH. Equipped with both 2m & 6M "Innovantenna" high gain beams, atop a 40ft mast and a 400 watt linear amplifier we made many contacts into Europe. If we heard them we worked them.

The Saturday was relatively quiet but when we fired up the station on Sunday morning we had a 3 hour pile-up. We took turns operating this SSB station and logging with Logger 32, aided by QRZ.com for the Maidenhead Locators, allowing us to swing the beam onto the station we were working.

The linear amplifier was at the end of the bench pumping exhaust air onto the wall. By the time the pile-up was over, when Europe went off to have Sunday Lunch, the wall was so hot that it could not be touched for more than a few seconds without being burned. It was a wonder that the paint had not blistered. This was a very memorable two man team effort that ran as smooth as silk. We were very pleased with ourselves.

Many at this AGM will remember the problems caused by regular dead keying of GB3DA, in 2013/2014, especially when mobile stations relied on the repeater or evening networks were using it. The ERG team rallied to log all events of repeater misuse and DF the culprits.

Those with a previous history of repeater jamming were systematically eliminated so a new shortlist of possible culprits was made. As the jamming was from the CM postcode area it did not take long to eliminate Bob Marley and the Wailers and whittle the list down to one. There then followed months of intelligence work, data gathering and recording to confirm our suspicions beyond all reasonable doubt. Slowly, slowly catch a monkey!

When the time came in Sept 2014 Clive did not hesitate to confront that person with the evidence we had gathered about their persistent and shameful behaviour and that it would be passed to the highest authority unless jamming of ERG repeaters cease forthwith.

Clive's direct approach had the desired effect. From that day forward the 2014/2015 ERG Committee would resume its proper role of repeater maintenance. GB3DA, GB3ER and GB3DB have now been overhauled and modified to CTCSS only operation.

GB3DB is back on the air following extensive testing and expensive lightening damage repair by Procom to 3 of its 6 cavity filters. Work to upgrade its lightening conductor protection remains to be completed before its' antenna will be raised to full height for maximum coverage.

At the 5th Aug 2015 ERG Committee Meeting it was considered that we had, thanks to Andy, G1GKN's skills and hard work finally made significant progress in upgrading ERG services. We discussed plans to get the GB3CMS 10GHz microwave beacon back into service. Just as soon as frequency stability issues could be addressed the antenna would be mounted on Clive's chimney.

Alas Clive passed away unexpectedly on the evening of Friday 4th Sept. On Sat 5th Sept four of the ERG Committee were at a Thames Amateur Radio Group public event, GB2CVF, at Canewdon Village Fete.

I was operating the radio when Andy, G1GKN, tapped me on the shoulder from behind. As I lifted off the headset he said to me, "I have got bad news". Whilst turning to look at him I was expecting a wise-crack such as, "The ERG jammer has had his push bike nicked!" Instead he said, "I've just had a telephone call from Murray to say that Clive was dead." I was dumbfounded, as were the rest of the team. There were no more QSOs that day.

Clive was his own man. He did not follow the crowd. He was generous, honest and direct. He was nobody's fool. He only voiced his opinions after due consideration. He told it like it was, short and to the point.

He made an excellent Training Manager, putting students' interests before any club issues or politics. He frequently gave 'one to one' tutoring to both students and the newly licensed if he thought he could help. He also frequently loaned equipment to those who needed help or extra tuition.

Although reluctant to be chairman the ERG Committee warmed to his humour and hospitality. Clive was a good friend, a chum, and a fine role model. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

Norman, M0FZW.

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening. Many thanks for turning up. Please remember that as we increasingly work by modern/virtual means, it is important to let us know if your details or email addresses change etc. Our membership secretary Norman is always grateful for such news to keep the database uptodate. You can also follow our updates via our Twitter address @EssexERG, which is often expanded on our website news page. This evening though you are in for something new as we have been busy in our 40th year. We started with the birthday cake at Canvey Rally, followed by filming for TX Factor, but sadly finished the year with the passing of our Chairman Clive G1EUC

Normally the Chairman gives a rundown of all the systems and their state. As Andy is potentially very new in post that would be a tad unfair. Having said that, he has been a major contributor to engineering work throughout the year, which I will cover it in my presentation. The short summary though is:-

- **GB3DA** has been working well in CTCSS-only mode, though we are looking to complete a more modern DA-3 unit
- **GB3ER** saw a major change on 21st June when its ancient Tait radio system was replaced and it also went to CTCSS-only. Its audio is superior and like DA is now far less prone to occasional interference
- **GB3DB** had a major team effort on antennas and cavities and is back on air. We are grateful to Procom for being able to repair the lighting damage (and Norman for the transport) as otherwise we might have written off the system. We still have some more left though.
- **GB3CMS** our microwave beacon has recently been on the bench where we diagnosed a new low-output fault in its 10GHz multiplier. Hopefully we can clear that, update some other hardware and a new site has been identified for it.
- **GB7ZP** ran quite well until its recent removal from Clives qth. When we switched off, its user list was at record levels (more than ER). We are keen to find an optimum site for this as 70cms does require a good height/take-off. Meanwhile I am pleased to say that some long overdue maintenance on its gateway has just been completed and is back on line from my qth, so you can use some of it again (DV dongles etc)

And of course we come to Clive...

As Secretary and along time friend and fellow CARS trainer, this was quite a shock to say the least. As some know I have been acting as family liaison and ended up with a great deal of correspondence. The task is still very busy/ongoing and am grateful to both ERG/CARS volunteers for helping. We have removed aerials, disassembled his shack, removed ZP/CMS etc. We have been asked to ensure he is not forgotten and so ERG is taking his Echolink system MB71DA under our wing (assisted by RSGB-ETCC). For this we think we have a couple of options for restoring service as 2m is easier to re-site

The above was complemented by some PowerPoint slides which Murray showed with photos of the recent activities

Looking ahead we certainly plan to be at the W&S Open Days and the 2016 Canvey Rally as well as getting on with the re-siting challenge.

You can see that we have a lot on our plate so my thanks to a great team.

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

Evening! Here we are again, another year gone and a few changes with the Essex Repeater Group some positive, some very sad.

You should have a copy of this year's statement of accounts on your chair if not please share with your neighbour. As you see most is self-explanatory however I will itemise a few of the larger figures for clarification.

Relating to expenditure

As you see this year has incurred some long awaited repair costs to GB3DB/ 6 metre repeater namely some of the Cavities totalling £468.00 plus £14.95 for FETs to replace the damaged ones in GB3CMS, the 10 GHz Beacon x4multiplier as you see giving a combined cost of £482.95

Sundries costs are considerably higher this year due to transportation costs - this was fuel & Dartford tolls by Norm to and from PROCOM which is based in Herne Bay, Kent who carried out the Cavity repairs. Outlay also included:-

- This evenings Raffle Prizes
- Canvey Rally Table
- Website fees
- ERG 40th Anniversary cake
- Various screws to replace missing/ damaged ones on ER,DB,DA

Relating to Income

Subs paid at the 2014 AGM were down on the previous year due to poor attendance however subs have come in during the course of the year including PayPal payments.

Donations have also been fewer this year but we appreciate any contribution so - thank you!

I think that concludes my report for this year
If there are any questions please feel free to ask

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, Andy was elected. Following this a block vote was then taken for the new committee as per the original AGM calling notice. This was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Andrew Tyler G1GKN	Murray G6JYB	Bob M0DTA
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Kristian 2E0SSX	Andy G1GKN
Hon. Treasurer	Ann Tyler	Joel G0URK	Norman M0FZW
Ordinary Members	Joel Alderman G0URK	Tom 2E0TNC	Kristian 2E0SSX
	Kristian Baker 2E0SSX	Roy 2E0KWG	Murray G6JYB
	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Andy G1GKN	Roy 2E0KWG
	Norman Crampton M0FZW	Roy 2E0KWG	Ann M6INE
	Tom Humphries 2E0TNC	Norman M0FZW	Joel G0URK
	Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Bob M0DTA	Tom 2E0TNC
	Graham Leggett G7JYD	Tom 2E0TNC	Bob M0DTA

All as per AGM Calling notice

In addition Paul Gledhill G7BHE, although absent on the night, had also volunteered the previous day (Oct-14th) as an ordinary member of the committee. This was approved as well.

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Although absent, Tony Day G6OXQ was re-nominated

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2015/16

The Treasurer commented that the current £12 subscription rate (with a default option of £15 if donations are added) was proving successful and that increases might be counter-productive. Thus the proposal was to maintain the current level of £12pa

This was warmly welcomed by all present and passed unanimously

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting closed, followed by raffle, socialising and refreshments.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-13 2016 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.