

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM

Date: 17th October 2019, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall



1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bob Cheverall M0DTA, Roy Knight 2E0KWG,

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the draft 2017 AGM minutes was proposed and were approved for placement on the ERG website

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by David M1DOZ

Good evening to you all and thanks for coming to the AGM.

Without members support we would not have an Essex Repeater Group and of course no repeater(s) in and around the A12 corridor.

This is my first Chairman's report. I am probably the first Chairman who cannot solder, fix or repair a radio. We have an excellent committee, all of whom are very busy, so finding time to service and respond to the needs of the ERG Group is often a difficult balancing act.

We experienced an over-heating problem of GB3DA resulting in a Transistor SD1012 failing. Luckily the old GB3DA was available as a spare after bench testing and being repaired. As a result we can now order the SD1012 Transistor and have the original GB3DA repaired.

Meantime we have researched the option of adding Fusion or C4FM mode (the Yaesu's answer to Icom's D-Star. Yaesu have upgraded their black box repeater system from the DR-1 that had teething problems and now Yaesu have released the DR-2XE Fusion Repeater.



Yaesu DE-2XE Repeater

ERG has purchased the Yaesu DR-2XE which can be seen at the back. This will soon be installed and we are about to bring some of our equipment into the 21st century. (plus we will always have a back-up should we suffer another equipment failure). Whilst we have also purchased the Wires-X box our biggest problem is that the Danbury site has no internet connection. We have explored options to secure an Internet link and the cost at this time is just too high for ERG to consider. We do have neighbours on the site that may be able to assist in the future.

Other planned repairs/upgrades including replacing the old coax tails with double screened coax leads to the radios.

The committee does need help and we certainly need a person with technical expertise! We also need to increase membership so that we can invest in new equipment. We still have problems with finding suitable locations for future plans and we need our member what would you like ERG to offer – do we swap 6metres for 23cms or ?? (and we also recognise that the interference on the 6metre repeater is very puzzling).

So I think we are making progress, we have the Yaesu DR-2XE which will replace GB3DA and we will then have a spare unit.

What about the future?

We need to consider what else do Amateurs in Essex need.is, the new DA will become the standard for a ER replacement. The current ER needs to be repaired as the transmitter has a drift issue. ZP's antenna needs replacing (we have the new antenna) and CMS requires a radome for the antenna and a PA for the box.

It just leaves me to say a very big thankyou to the current committee for this year's hard work and hand you over to our Hon Secretary Murray.

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you. Many thanks for attending and supporting the group

Firstly my thanks to David for stepping in as our new Chair last year. His connections and practical experience have been valuable as we look towards upgrades and future systems. Also I can report we were pleased to be at Canvey really again back in February.

My own activity has been on ongoing work for the controller that run MB7IDA and our GB7ZP D-Star system. I have also started to look at IMRS which is the new Yaesu networking/linking standard for the DR-2X / SystemFusion.

In July a completely new gateway server let us upgrade to the Icom G3 software for GB7ZP. Whilst that has succeeded we have had to also add a few extra housekeeping mitigations and overnight regular resets to keep it stable, but at least the local internet connection has been convenient.

Plenty more to do in future, and please do take a look at the Fusion repeater, but remember there is only so much we can manage in volunteer's time and ERG funds

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

As you are aware we have a vacancy for the important post of Treasurer. Nonetheless you should have a copy of this year's statement of accounts on your chair if not please share with your neighbour.

As you can see from this yearly statement the books closing figures are down on last year's closing balance, but this was largely due to the outlay on new/replacement repeater parts

Subscriptions from both the AGM and Canvey Rally have declined somewhat whilst subs and donations via our online PayPal portal picked up slightly

Should anyone wish to view the Accounts (or volunteer to be Treasurer) please ask and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. This concludes my report for this past year.

Murray G6JYB, Acting Treasurer

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. Murray first asked for any other nominations for Chairman or other volunteers. Keith Law G3WGE, volunteered and was thanked for stepping forward. A block vote was then taken for the new committee based on the AGM calling notice. This was unanimously approved as follows:-

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	David Sampson	Murray G6JYB	Kristian M0SSK
Hon. Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Kristian M0SSK	Bob M0DTA
Hon. Treasurer	vacancy	-	-
Ordinary Members	Joel Alderman G0URK	David M1DOZ	Murray G6JYB
	Kristian Baker M0SSK	Murray G6JYB	Roy 2E0KWG
	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Kristian M0SSK	
	Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Bob M0DTA	Joel G0URK
	Keith Law G3WGE	Murray G6JYB	David M1DOZ

All as per AGM Calling notice

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

It was again proposed that formal auditing was longer necessary

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2019/20

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

This was welcomed by all present and passed unanimously

9 DISCUSSION / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Whilst no volunteers came forward for officer's posts, there was a discussion regarding the resources available and future direction. Amongst other points made:-

- More discussion on GB3DA / Yaesu Fusion occurred as the new machine was present
- It was likely to be setup in FM-out mode to be compatible with ordinary receivers. If successful, we would then aim at a GB3ER refresh as well, once funds permit

The meeting closed, followed by raffle, socialising and refreshments.

Next AGM planned for October 2020 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.

PMN – Cancelled/postponed due Covid