

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM

Date: 20th October 2022, 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 2019 AGM minutes (the last previous meeting due to Covid) was proposed and were approved for placement on the ERG website

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by David M1DOZ

Good evening Hams and Friends of Hams

This is only my second Chair's report in four years and hopefully Covid is behind us. Certainly, before Covid nobody had ever heard of Zoom calls and Webinars.

Some of you will recall we had problems with our two older Tait-based versions of GB3DA which were unreliable and prone to breakdown.

We have not disposed of these two older units – they have been repaired by Ed Payne G6HNW (thank you Ed), so we now have spare units for both DA and ER.

Because GB3DA and GB3ER were very old and unreliable, we made the decision to firstly replace GB3DA, and then GB3ER, with modern and reliable equipment.

Yaesu had upgraded their 'Repeater in a box' to DR-2, so we made the decision to first purchase one DR-2XE Fusion Repeater, and this was put into service in early 2020. Touch wood the new DA unit has been reasonably stable (even though it does not have a K). Once the new GB3DA unit had been tested for a few weeks, we then felt it necessary to also upgrade GB3ER with the purchase of a second DR-2XE unit. This unit is now in place, and we also have back-up units for GB3DA and GB3ER. *Photo of DA+ER – Apr-2022 >>*



Whilst both units offer Fusion or C4FM, as well as analogue capabilities, we feel that GB3DA should not be linked or offer Fusion at this time. GB3DA is used by many clubs most days of the week for club nets and has the full coverage of almost all of Essex and parts of North Kent.

We see no reason to change something that is working well for all. We originally had planned to make GB3ER a complete Fusion/C4FM repeater with connections to servers round the world. In order to link GB3ER we need Internet at the Danbury location. We have looked at various phone company packages and none are particularly cheap (and many do not offer a fixed IP address) and then the question is 'would GB3ER get used (anymore) if we had it linked worldwide, using a wires X Box on Fusion? And then the question is – would members then be willing to pay an extra contribution towards the cost of a phone line being installed at Danbury??

There are a few members that may utilise GB3ER more if GB3ER was linked round the world, but I suspect most would not; an example of usage vs need is the 6-metre repeater which has been operational at Bobs house for many years, and I suspect 90% of the membership have never even opened the 6-metre repeater.

Whilst DA and ER are both working reasonably well, we still want to upgrade the old coax tails / patch leads that have been in place for more than 25 years.

The committee as you know does need help and we certainly need a person with technical expertise and some fresh ideas. We also need to increase membership so that we can offer a better service – we are seeking volunteers who might host an operating repeater at their home.

Can the ERG members let the committee know as to what equipment we should consider operating in the future? It just leaves me to say a very big thankyou to the current committee for this year's hard work

David M1DOZ, Chairman

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Thanks for every one attending. Dave has given a good overview on the DA/ER upgrades. Regarding a few other matters, we first thank Keith Law G3WGE who joined at 2019 AGM Oct 17th, but stepped down on 4-Oct-2021.

Keepership of our D-Star repeater GB7ZP is now with Joel as part of its site move to north Chelmsford, whilst our other NoVs remain with me as Secretary.

A useful summary of our systems changes is:-

- GB3DA Dec-2019 upgrade to Yaesu DR-2XE
- GB3DB Summer 2020 repairs
- GB3ER July-2021 upgrade to Yaesu DR-2XE
- GB7ZP Repaired by Icom and moved site in Winter 2021/2, including adding new EdgeRouter
- GB3CMS started but plenty to do

Past expenses and donations have included new Controllers for ZP and IDA and in due course we are probably due another change for MB7IDA.

You can see we have roughly managed one project a year but still have plenty to do

We have just received an invite for Canvey Rally so look forwards to being more normal next year

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

As you are aware we still have a vacancy for the important post of Treasurer. On this occasion therefore we have presented a simpler summary of our accounts over 3yrs

Our current running costs within that are higher than shown in the 2021-2022 change due to late insurance and rising to £300-400 /pa, not helped by new HSBC bank charges of £5/month

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.

Murray G6JYB, Acting Treasurer

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. Murray first asked for any other nominations. No-one stepped forwards, so for expediency it was decided to go for a block vote as per the AGM notice; which was unanimously approved as follows:-

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

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 2022/23

The Acting Treasurer introduced a couple of proposals:-

- 1) Potential change of bank (to Metro) – to mitigate the £5/month service charges we now incur from HSBC
- 2) Given inflation and a long running rate of £12/pa, to consider a subscription increase to £15/pa

Item-1 re the potential banking change was unanimous vote, with majority approval also for the subs increase

PMN: Membership and online Paypal forms were updated to:-

- *Membership £15*
- *Membership & Donation £20*
- *Minimum online donation £8*

9 DISCUSSION / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary thanked those who had kindly provided the refreshments

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

Raffle Photos at: <http://www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk/?agm-2022.htm>

Next AGM planned for October 2023 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.