



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

President: Commodore Paul Sutermeister DL RN

Chairman: David Firth 2E0GLL

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8QR

MINUTES

RNARS 58TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 13th October 2018 14.00

Held in the WO&SRs Mess, HMS Collingwood

Present (in order of signing in)

Hans-Juergen, DK9OS, Maren, DK9MOS, Uly, HB9ASX, John, M0HTE, Dianne, Visitor, Paul, G3VCN, Paul, M0CVR, Mick, G3LIK, Ray, G3KOJ, Les, G4CNH, Doug, G0LDJ, John, , Paul, M0LRE, Kevin, G4BUW, Marc, G0TOC, Cdre Paul Sutermeister, , Joe, G3ZDF, David, 2E0GLL, Alan, M6LFM, Tony, M5AGB, Steve, M6WVV, Mike, M6POY, Clive, M0COA

The Meeting opened at 14.04.

1. Chairman's introduction

Chairman welcomed everyone to this 58th AGM of the RNARS.

2. Greetings (read out by Secretary)

- - Best greetings from the sister society MF-Runde to the RNARS AGM:

In the name of all the MF-Runde wishes a good success for the hard work to the society.

Paul DL4BCG Chairman MF 571

- Best greetings from the MFCA (Naval Radio amateur Club Austria):

The committee of MFCA wishes all the best to all AGM participants with good success.

Werner OE6NFK Chairman RN4582

3. Apologies for absence

Name	Call	Number
Ken Lown*	G4PTE	2008
Iain Hill*	ZL2BJC	0972
Danny Sharpe	G3ZUN	0459
Sandy Cleland*	MM0DUC	4800
Stephen Palmer	GM0EQS/VP8CIL	2436

Name	Call	Number
Jürgen Timcke	HB9ANE	3493
Wally Walker	G4DIU	0391
Peter Hackett	VK6PK	0658
Andy Levy	M5ALG	4869
Dick Hardy	G3TIX	0298
Peter Hardy	G3VNH	0292
John Deamer	G4SJY	2648
Glenn Loake	G0GBI	3481
Bob Johnson	G0MAT	4090
Phil Manning	G1LKJ	2954
Ian Pitkin	G4KJD	1708
Doug Bowen*	G0MIU	3605
Peter Lewry	G4TNN	4501

4. President's report

As a northerner, I feel envious of the climate along our southern coast and do feel a bit like I am visiting the Mediterranean when I come down here. Unfortunately there is an element of vindictive satisfaction when very occasionally I hear of bad weather in the south. However when you have an interest down here like the RNARS and its vulnerable kit, any vindictiveness or satisfaction disappears and apprehension sets in.

I gather that we did have some aerial problems around the shack, not completely due to the weather, but all systems are now up and running. Well done to those involved in identifying and ironing out the problems.

I understand that the Society has been represented at a number of amateur radio functions around the country and the COLLINGWOOD's Summer Show was a great success for the Society.

Our Newsletter continues to be published despite not having an editor and I think that it is as good as it ever was. There are some articles which are over my head, but then there have been articles over my head since I joined the Society. Well done to those involved in the production.

You will have seen in the Autumn Newsletter an appeal for volunteers to join the Committee and I repeat that appeal. We need Committee Members to keep the Society alive and running, so please do not hold back. You will also have seen that after this AGM there will be an EGM to ratify proposed changes to update

our Constitution.

I give my thanks to the members of the Committee who have worked on running the show since our last AGM, as I am sure you do.

That Mr Chairman concludes my report and over to you and the Office holders to give the detailed reports.

5. Minutes of the last AGM

Proposed by Paul G3VCN, seconded by Doug G0LDJ and agreed unanimously.

6. Chairman's Report

a. Welcome

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, Members of the RNARS welcome to the 58th AGM of the Society and thank you all for attending. *Herr Praisident, meiner damen und herren willkommen zu unserer acht und funfsich AGM von der Society. Fur unserer freunden, Ich mochte euch heir in Fareham begrusson.*

b. Silent Keys

Before continuing with the proceedings I sadly draw your attention to our members who have crossed over the bar over the past year, and ask you to stand and join me for one minute's silence as a mark of respect for our silent keys.

Membership Number	Callsign	First Name	Surname	Silent Key Date
0092	G0CWF/ZS1WA	Mickey	WARR	13/11/2016
0150	GI3OBO	David	WAUGH	Jan 2018
0437	9M6XRO	John	PLENDERLEITH	05/12/2017
0615	VK6DV	Chris	DODD	05/10/2018
0767	G4DJN	John	KERR	04/12/2017
0930	G3ZIN	Stan	SPENCER	Dec 2017
1136	G2IV	Fred	JONES	31/03/2018
1561	VK4CU	Colin	WHALE	08/12/2017
1657	G8CJM	Alan	CROFT	28/02/2018
2241	GM4VUG	John	GREEN	07/10/2018
2249	G4ZQJ	Tony	MAYES	Oct 2017
2726	MW0CLU	Les	CROMPTON	March 2018
2799	G3NCB	Harold	BOURNER	03/04/2018
2881	G4UJI	Edgar	COWPERTHWAIT	08/05/2018
2935	G0FEO	Tony	QUY	16/07/2017
2999	PA3EBA	Jan	STAPPENBELT	19/06/2018
3567	ZL4QO	Don	LAWSON	Feb 2018
3980	G4XJU	Laurie	HARVEY	2017

Membership Number	Callsign	First Name	Surname	Silent Key Date
4001	G0UMI	Ted	LATTER	04/03/2018
4188	MW1AXV	David	FLEMINGTON	26/01/2018
4337	G0TEL	Roger	BELLENOT	31/05/2018
4536	M0BTY	Peter	FINCHAM	20/02/2018
4583	DF7QN	Herman	Meiss	17/07/2018
4633	G2FSH	Brian	WEEDEN	25/06/2018
4778	M0PSW	Paul	Godfrey	01/04/2018

- c. **In The past twelve months** we have been through a time of uncertainty over our future in HMS Collingwood but the word is out that the RNARS may still have a future here. Also, the HQ building, has been unsupported by the establishment for several years, as managed by the main contractual stakeholder. Who, as we all know, has been stripped of its contract which means that we may have a little more freedom to address a few long standing problems regarding the decor and the heating -in the latter case we now have a brand new boiler to keep ourselves warm in winter. However, nobody knows who has the key to the boiler room! We hope that painting and decorating will start very soon, and that maybe some of our ladies will advise us regarding nice curtains and carpeting, and so on...

d. **Membership**

My predecessor's policy (Doug Hotchkiss) of widening the qualifications for membership to increase recruitment is showing signs of achieving that goal with quite a few new faces here in the HQ shack, and elsewhere. However, we must balance this against the facts that this year our numbers are down as a consequence of the unexpected rise in silent keys. This serves to give us greater impetus to get out there among the youth of the Navy and to find new recruits for the Society. In this regard we are mindful that at present we are the caretakers of the Society until we can encourage the young men and women in uniform to join us.

e. **Training**

Last year I mentioned the perceived need to acquire up-to-date radio equipment which would facilitate the recruiting and training of our technically very savvy target personnel in the Royal Navy. In the mean time two of our latest civilian members have availed themselves of the Training Facility here and passed their Foundation Licence exams: Mike M6POY and Alan M6UIT, with one other, Mark, in the pipeline. We now

own an ICOM-7300 HF Transmitter-receiver which has been used to help them practice radio operations and procedures. The advantage of this equipment is that it is an SDR radio using modern techniques and tuning aids such as the waterfall screen. However, the world of radio is rapidly changing to the extent that SDR radios could be losing ground to the new 'crazes' of mobile digital radio and network radio systems -basically, turning handheld radios into something akin to a mobile phone from which one can contact any other radio amateur user anywhere around the world. All of a sudden our world has turned inside out as radio equipment can be turned into an active WiFi hotspot providing high speed communications. The cost does not look too steep, so we must investigate this as a possible training route as the difference between mobile phones and radios becomes ever narrow.

f. **Recruiting**

In June we spent a morning in the Chaplaincy across the road, where we set up a couple of tables to display some of our equipment, and gave out leaflets. Every Tuesday there is a 'bacon butty' event where anyone can turn up and for just £1 buy one and a mug of tea or coffee. We had a few enquiries and I think it was evident to those of us who were there that we need to do this kind of publicity more often. You can't do overmuch in the time span allotted for morning standeas. Having said that we are very much aware that building T5 -the mess hall is not too far away and we need to make an organised presence.

g. **Open Day**

On the 2nd of June this annual event went well being blessed with good weather. As last year we had a crew of operators in-house demonstrating different modes; Morse, RTTY, PSK, WX systems including fax and augmentation of radio data via live satellite imagery. Our visitor numbers were quite reasonable with a late afternoon rush as tired parents and children sought the shade of our building. There was also a large pergola outside where members spent the day demonstrating a variety of scanners and digital radios. We also had a visit from our old friends in the ATV group who went walk about with their cameras to capture media sound and vision which they displayed on their large screen. To all of those who took part and who supported us I say thank you and well done!

h. **Radio Operations**

Last year I mentioned that deteriorating sun-spot conditions had been making HF communications rather hard. Our Tuesday Net -GB3RN, LSB seemed to start well, but after a while it became impossible to establish a link with anyone. While on the side, we still have a growing number of people successfully working WSPR and FT8 or JT8 which are all low power modes (relatively speaking) with WSPR having quite a lot of success with just 250mWatts of power permitted. We have been given a digital system by one of our keen service members who is rapidly becoming our man in all things digital.

i. **Maintenance and Refurbishment**

We have also had a few maintenance issues with some of our aerials necessitating the lowering of our masts and remedial action. At this moment in time we have a new G5RV that isn't performing very well, but we hope to get that problem sorted out very soon.

The aerial system in the shack has been improved with the installation of patch boxes and trunking at the back of the bays on the shelving. This has removed the need for those large and unsightly coils of aerial cabling on and under the operating bays. From a technical and operating standpoint this is much better with a permanent link between the patch boxes so that any radio bay can be connected to any aerial. It has improved safety by removing trip hazards and the likelihood of damaging equipment. The new aerial system will hopefully allow for improved management. All that is left to do is to install filtering in the bays to allow more than one radio to work safely on different bands.

j. **The RNARS Newsletter**

You might have noticed some changes to the editorial style with a splash of colour alongside. The Newsletter would not happen without the many articles sent in by members. So keep those articles coming because we need to fill the gaps... Incidentally, we have increased circulation to include all ships libraries ashore with a view to making ourselves known over a wider field.

k. **EGM**

You may have noticed that we have an Extraordinary General Meeting immediately at the conclusion of this AGM. As you know we have EGMs

to discuss proposed amendments to the constitution, and so on.

Participation is open to all members of the Society, and may I respectfully remind you that this AGM is quite distinctly for the purposes of reporting to the membership the general status of the Society's affairs over the last twelve months.

In closing I would like to thank all of the Committee for their unstinting support of the RNARS. They work quietly in the background as a team who keep the society running smoothly, and are committed to the tasks they have volunteered to take on, and then some more. My personal thanks to you all

7. Secretary's Report

- a. Welcome everyone back to our 'natural' home in HMS Collingwood.
- b. As reported elsewhere we have just about held our own on membership. However, we are not attracting any new serving members. The offer of free membership to under-25s brought 1 new serving member who would have joined anyway. I am sure that when we get our displays going in T5 – the Junior Rates block, we will get some more members.

- c. Earlier this year the Committee agreed to send copies of our Newsletter to the library on all the shore establishments in an effort to make the Society better known. The Autumn Newsletter was the first one sent and we will continue to send each issue for the foreseeable future.

Ray G3KOJ reminded us to include the Royal Marine Signals School.

- d. We have been running a number of talks in the HQ Shack about contests, SDR radios and how to make best use of them.
- e. The DStar repeater continues to run but we have been looking at personal hot spots in the Shack where for a fairly modest cost you can set up your own repeater with a range of different digital voice options. At this point I would like to thank David Woodhouse G6ORL for continuing to maintain the repeater.
- f. A new talk group has been set up on Brandmeister by Ian 2E0IHH for UK military personnel and veterans. Identity is TG23527.
- g. We also have a WSPR QRP TX running from time to time which gives us some idea of the performance of the different aerials. The TX runs at 250 mW.

- h. We had an approach by the Warsash sea cadets unit to help them run their comms courses. We made clear that while we could tell them about the Foundation syllabus we did not have qualified staff to instruct them for their cadet CIS qualifications.
- i. We were approached during the year by the ATV group to set up an ATV repeater. At present we do not have any members in Collingwood who operate ATV or who could maintain the repeater. Not wanting to find ourselves in the same position as we did with the DStar repeater we suggested starting with a basic ATV configuration that anyone in the HQ Shack could use.
- j. During the year we were offered equipment by the families of silent key members. In one case we passed the gear directly to the HMS Cavalier club. In another we had a mini club sale of the equipment which raised nearly £250 and which was deposited in its entirety with the RNRM Charity. We are also in the throes of trying to dispose of the equipment of Fred Jones G2JV. So, if you are thinking of leaving any of your equipment to the Society in your will I would ask you to think again. We have as much equipment as we need in the HQ Shack and anything else would either sit unused in the cupboard or leave us with the chore of disposing of the gear.
- k. Sad to report that our Australian Branch closed down. There were insufficient active members to make it viable. The club funds were donated to R.S.L. Legacy League.
- l. Since the last AGM a sub-committee was convened to look at the complaint by Dave Lacey and Colin Topping that Phil Manning had behaved in a way that meant he should be expelled from the RNARS. The sub-committee consisting of Doug Hotchkiss, Doug Bowen and myself examined all the evidence and came to the conclusion that Phil Manning did not have any case to answer. The main Committee accepted our conclusions.
- m. At the last AGM we reported on our difficulties with the maintenance of the HQ Shack due to Carillion's insistence on their being solely responsible. That has now changed and we are in the process of getting the Shack redecorated,

- n. As the Chairman has mentioned we are still looking for an editor for our Newsletter. Notwithstanding, we need content for the next issue so please if you have any dits, articles, technical or otherwise please let us have them. We just ask for them in any text format (not PDF). We can return any photos or images sent to us.
- o. We ran a number of Foundation exams during the year with 100% pass rate.
- p. We had a meeting with a member of FOST staff with a view to helping them out. To date nothing has come of this meeting.
- q. Finally, this will be my last year as secretary. After 10 years in the job I feel it is time to hand over the reins to someone else. Ideally, I would prefer to hand over gradually throughout the year so if you would like to take on the job please let me know.

Joe G3ZDF

8. Membership Secretary's report

- a. There have been 17 new members (5037-5053), a small increase on last year's 15. New member 5054 has sent a cheque, but I'm not yet in receipt of his membership application form, so he will be included in next year's figures. The new members include a few serving RN personel, brought in through Foundation Licence training courses run here at HMS Collingwood by the Society.
- b. There have been 21 SKs, most recently John Green GM4VUG. 15 lapsed members re-joined. 6 members have resigned or have at least infomed me that they will not be re-subscribing next year. If anybody is interested, details of these can be provided by seeing me after the AGM.
- c. There are currently 599 (563, 2017) members listed on the database of which 91 (98, 2017) are Life Members.
- d. As reported last year, multiple subs payments from a number of members continue to be received, as do anonymous payments, underpayments, overpayments, payments from Life Members and from from the estates of silent keys. Several overpayers have accepted the offer of extended membership, as opposed to receiving refunds, and a number of members have kindly made donations of their overpayments.
- e. I'll therefore take this opportunity to remind all members that, regardless of the month they joined the RNARS, all subscriptions become due on 1st

April each year. And, that subscription rates are £15 for the printed Newsletter or £5 for the electronic version and for affiliated clubs and societies. Please also ensure that you only have one bank standing order or one PayPal recurring payment running.

- f. Enquiries and notifications come in mostly via e-mail and since the last AGM I have purchased a new internet domain “rnars.info”. E-mails sent to membership@rnars.info are directed to me and since June, also to Joe. Joe was added to enable him to field e-mails and if necessary, reply on my behalf while I was in hospital in June and July. And, if you point your web browser to www.rnars.info you will find that it re-directs to the Society’s main website.
- g. As you will be aware, the new General Data Protection Regulation act came into force in May and although this hasn’t greatly impacted my role as Mem. Sec., I believe that we are in compliance with the guidelines regarding the secure storage and non-dissemination of information stored on the Society’s database. There are, however, a number of DP points that I need to clarify with the committee.
- h. Finally, I am in the process of creating a new fillable PDF membership application form, which will be downloadable from the Society’s website. Applicants will then be able to either print it and fill it in by hand, or complete it on their PCs and then print and sent it to me.

73, Marc Litchman – G0TOC

9. Treasurer’s report

Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society - 2017/2018

<u>Balance Carried forward 1/4/2017</u>		£49,994.95
Unpresented cheques 2016/17		£112.00
<u>Sub Total</u>		<u>£49,882.95</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	4,382.15	
Awards	0.00	
Rally Income	20.00	
Commodities	505.00	
Interest	357.56	
Sundry	0.00	
Sale of Surplus Kit	0.00	
	<u>£5,264.71</u>	<u>£5,264.71</u>
<u>Total Income</u>		<u>£55,147.66</u>

Expenditure

Expenses	348.73	
Rallies	59.00	
Newsletter	2,327.85	
Broadband	500.91	
AGM	469.47	
Ins	350.35	
Refund Subs	0.00	
Equipment & Repairs	1,180.39	
Commodities	464.35	
Sundry	118.50	
RSGB	47.00	
	<u>£5,866.55</u>	<u>£5,866.55</u>

Sub Total

£49,281.11

Unpresented Cheques as at 31/3/2018

£0.00

Balance of Accounts as at 31/3/2018

£49,281.11

10. Announcement and presentation of RNARS Awards

Merit (G3WNJ) Award	Judith & Doug Bowen	For their work printing, enveloping and despatching the Newsletter over a number of years.
Certificates of Merit	Alan Campbell M6LFM	For his work in the HQ Shack
	Tony Koeller M5AGB	For organising and arranging crystal set kits for building on Collingwood Open Day
	Ian Pitkin G4KJD	For his work as Awards Manager
Certificate of Appreciation	Sara Knowles	For her assistance to the RNARS
Robert Sharpe (G3AWY) Award	Jürgen Timcke HB9ANE	For his regular and interesting technical contributions to the RNARS Newsletter throughout the year

11. Managers' reports

a. Shack Manager (Steve M6WVV) reported that:

- We were in a better than last year with more improvements to come.
- We had some antenna problems due to lack of maintenance.
- As I am based in Collingwood I can check the shack and the aerials after extreme weather events. The masts have been lowered a few times and the cables tidied with some removed. The beam was taken down for maintenance and some parts replaced. We still have problems with the G5RV.
- Carillion Amey have not been particularly helpful with any repairs. Within Collingwood some of the infrastructure has been failing, no hot water, no heating and no cooling but when sub-contractors were used we got a much better service.
- We plan to redecorate the Shack and hope it will encourage more members to come in.
- The new rig – the IC-7300 will hopefully be attractive to some of the youngsters in the establishment and encourage them to join us. The youngsters all have smartphones and wonder why we need expensive rigs to communicate with others. The magic of communication is sometimes lost on them. We need to work out how to encourage them to make use of and get involved in, amateur radio. One possible way to get them started might be through network radio which is used by radio amateurs. RAFARS and RSARS both have regular skeds on there.

b. QSL Manager (Marc G0TOC)

All I have to report on is the ongoing decline in the number of QSL cards processed by the bureau. The only cards received by me this year were a small batch from Glenn G0GBI, a few of which I have brought here with me today, for onward distribution. While the lack of sun spot activity is attributed by some for the decline in QSOs and subsequent QSLs, the root cause must really be put down to the now many electronic methods of QSLing.

Earlier this year I posted out every card in the bureau destined for UK members, some of whom had perhaps even lapsed. Some cards were sent using recycled SK envelopes. A small number of cards were also sent to overseas members. This left a total of 13 cards in the bureau, 11 which are for overseas members who have never made any provision to collect them

and 2 were for members who have stated that they don't want cards. However, with Glenn's recent contribution, the bureau now holds 40 cards, inclusive of those that I have with me today.

73, Marc Litchman – G0TOC

c. **Web Site Manager (Joe G3ZDF)**

Firstly we are grateful to Phil MØVSE and Wayne G6NGV Taylor of Shine Systems for hosting our web site free of charge.

The site continues to be updated on an irregular basis with snippets of news about the RN, amateur radio or both and with copies of Society documents. We have a small but steady stream of visitors.

Suggestions, content or criticism always welcome.

Joe G3ZDF

d. **Area Rep Co-ordinator (G4DIU)**

Now that it is October it is time to send you in my regrets for not being able to attend this years AGM. Sorry because I would have liked to put in an appearance, mainly because if the Hospital keeps their word - I will be in for further investigations during the latter weeks of October, or so they have mentioned to me.

I am unable to provide my Proxy voting form as I not sure who will vote as I wish and not as they want in the matters which concern me.

I am able to say that I am prepared to stand for Committee membership should I be accepted - mainly because I think that I can keep an eye on things better by remaining on the Committee.

Finally, thank you for letting me have copies of the letters from David Barlow G3PLE and Doug Cansfield G0LDJ, both members of long standing, regarding the Updates.

It would be interesting to find out how many other points have been raised on these matters.

I think, once again, that there must be a lot of other members who are too shy to make their thoughts known along those same lines.

That is all I have regarding the AGM,

All for now,

Wally G4DIU RNARS 0391.

e. **Newsletter Editor (2E0GLL)**

Covered in David's Chairman's report.

f. **Awards Manager (G4KJD)**

Herewith the list of claims for the period in question.

Yet another poor year I'm afraid.

The awards issued have been as follows:-

World Wide Award – No Applications.

International Navy Award – No Applications.

Mercury Award – No Applications.

Kaleidoscope Award – No Applications.

Hampshire County Award – No Applications.

BITs Award – No Applications.

73

Ian Pitkin/G4KJD/ RNARS 1708

12. Election of officers. The following offer themselves for re-election:

- a. Chairman – David Firth 2E0GLL
- b. Treasurer - Adrian Mori 2E0JVM
- c. Secretary – Joe Kirk G3ZDF (final year)
- d. Membership Secretary –Marc Litchman G0TOC

All were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously

13. Election of new Committee for 2018/2019.

The following committee members have indicated their willingness to remain as members of the Committee and offer themselves for re-election

- a. Doug Bowen G0MIU
- b. Wally Walker G4DIU
- c. Marc Litchman G0TOC
- d. Steve Legg M6WVV

All were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously

14. Election of Auditors

The current auditor was agreed unanimously.

15. Date of next AGM

12th October 2019 at 14.00 in the WO & SRs Mess, HMS Collingwood.

The Meeting closed at 15.33.