



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
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MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 11th July 2019

HMS Collingwood

Present:

Mick Puttick	G3LIK	Hon. Vice President	
Joe Kirk	G3ZDF	Secretary	
Wally Walker	G4DIU	Area Rep Coordinator	By Skype
Martin Longbottom	M0EHL		
Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	Treasurer	
Steve Legg	M6WVV	Shack Manager	
Mike Moore	M6POY	Commodities Manager	

Apologies:

Doug Bowen	G0MIU	
David Firth	2E0GLL	Chairman

Tasks to be completed are underlined

1. **Chairman's opening remarks**
 - a. As the Chairman was not present the Secretary chaired the meeting.
The meeting started at 19.11. He welcomed everyone to the Meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence**
 - a. As above.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting**
 - a. Proposed by Steve M6WVV and seconded by Mike M6POY and agreed unanimously.
4. **Matters arising**
 - a. Doug to send branded commodities to F5VWR in thanks for his assistance, lanyard, badge and other small items for example
ONGOING, Mike will confirm with Doug whether the items have been sent.
 - b. Membership Secretary to send Rosie Dodd an Application Form.
Martin needs a letter to deliver to Rosie. Secretary to draft the letter.
DONE but Acting Membership Sec (Joe) needs to have a copy in order to set her up on our database. Martin reported that Rosie had been quite touched at being made an Honorary Member. Martin to ask Rosie to send a copy of her application form to Joe.
 - c. Secretary to write to the EBay seller who was using our logo reminding him that the logo was our copyright
DONE First response from the seller was not very cooperative but on being reminded that we could blacklist him on EBay and being sent a 'cease and desist' letter he relented and sent a much more conciliatory response agreeing not to use our logo.
 - d. Secretary to contact the other services to see if they have anything planned for the anniversary
DONE. RAF had a special call at an air station in Wales that had a

role during DDay. Royal Signals did not have an NOV. Most prominent NOV for DDay was the one used by HMS Belfast (London) Group GB75DDAY.

5. Chairman's report

- a. We have several different projects on the go which is nice to see.:
 - i. The DMR project may be modified after discussions, concerning the use of an aerial diplexer, and power outputs may need adjusting.
 - ii. The satellite project (ATV et al) is moving towards a small transmission system that will allow us to send as well as receive.
 - iii. I am concerned that the work on the aerial patch boxes has stalled since Ian our constructor, is currently on Killick's Course and we need to keep this going so that the bays can be reconnected via the patch boxes to the aerials. Any volunteers in the group?
 - iv. As a result of various activities it is becoming obvious that members are not clearing up in the interim, but leaving out tools and equipment on the tables and in the bays. Can we get the message across to the members that we do not know who will visit the shack, but that it has a negative impact when they see an untidy clutter lying about everywhere. I think this also includes the necessity to consider a washing up rota. Several members have complained that both the shack and the kitchen have been found to be untidy, and dirty mugs and cutlery have been left piled in the sink -if not in the shack, with discarded wrappers and crumbs on the table(s). (Shack Manager please)
- b. The 9m mast is imminently due for repair -a matter of days, with a firming up of date and time with the welder. In simple terms we have managed to defray the somewhat oppressive cost that Amey offered by declaring that we would repair the damage ourselves. The upshot of this is that we do the paperwork and the repair and they will lift the critical fault notice on completion. This action will give us time to consider our options concerning the lesser notice referring to flaking paint and area of rust.
- c. I am aware that further action has been taken regarding phoney RNARS items on eBay. My thanks to Joe our Secretary who managed to drill down to the operator's address.
- d. The Establishment SHIPHAZO contacted us through Ian and it is apparent that the information passed to the Executive last summer did not make its way down the feeding chain. It is my intention to furnish them with a complete operations and equipment profile. This may result in some kind of SHIPHAZ actions on our part after they have drawn their own conclusions.
- e. Open Day was blessed with fine weather and attendance seemed reasonable. Various ideas have come to light from the feedback which Joe will be talking about shortly. But an acknowledgement is due to our caterers who provided provender for the early risers and who kept things going. Well done to both Martin and Ian! More discussion later among the Committee.
- f. Significantly we were presented with an offer by a visiting member of the Yaesu UK Team and ultimately the company donated an FT991A

HF Tx/Rx to the HQ Shack; as noted in the summer edition of our newsletter. A big thank you to Yaesu!

6. Secretary's Report

- a. At the request of G4MZL (SK)'s family his radio gear was collected from Bridport and brought to the HQ. Now available for sale. All funds raised will be donated to the RNRM Charity.
- b. MFJ Patch panels returned to Nevada and the cost was refunded in full even though we had had them for over 18 months. New ones being constructed. Need to be fitted ASAP.
- c. Cease and desist letter sent to trader on EBay who was advertising commodities with our logo.
- d. We have a new ex-officio, WO1 Darren 'Daz' Holmes.
- e. We are in discussions with our ex-officio about a visit to the Shack being a regular part of the communicators' training. It will give them the opportunity to see and perhaps operate under supervision, modern HF communications equipment. We may also get some new members in the process.
- f. We have been given an ex-demo Yaesu FT991A by Yaesu UK. The rig has been tested on FT8 and Fusion by Ian.
- g. Congratulations to David M0SLL and Ian M0LIH on passing their advanced exams.
- h. We have been given a 2m band pass filter by Kevin G4BUW.
- i. I have had a request from a new member for details of other members in his vicinity. This raises the question of whether we should have a members' only register of members.
There was agreement from the Committee for a Register of Members that would have Membership Number, Callsign, Name and County. Members who had asked for their details not to be published would be excluded. It would be available on our website but would have its own separate password. The aim would be to update it on a regular basis.
Membership Secretary to create a draft of register and circulate to the Committee for comment.
- j. We need to re-introduce a Shack Loans Register to record when a member borrows a piece of equipment.
Steve to trace the existing Loans Book or that not being possible to create a new one.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

- a. Marc has resigned as both Membership Secretary and QSL Manager for health reasons. We wish him well and good luck with his future treatment. Unfortunately I have not been able to get in touch with Marc. A number of people on Facebook have also been asking about him but without success. I have therefore taken over as acting Membership Secretary.
- b. I have had a query from the Horndean Club saying the cheque they sent for their subs at the start of the year has not been cashed and asking what has happened. I fear there may be a few other similar examples of this.
- c. I have processed all the PayPal and Bank payments made around the start of the year.
- d. Welcome packs sent to all new members signed at and since Kempton Park Rally. (Details below)
- e. Summer Newsletter, 377 labels for printed NL prepared and 233 for the electronic version. Problem with the initial send of the electronic

version, MailChimp did not send test emails to allow me to check layout and links. Resend worked without a problem.

Type Of Membership	Membership status			
	Current	Free	Under25	Life
Affiliate	13	5		
Associate	121			13
Corporate	383	3	1	76
Duplicate				
Family	8			
Honorary	1	1		
	526	9	1	89
	625			

f. Membership changes table for Autumn Newsletter (current position)

New Members		
Warsash Sea Cadets	SWL -	5066
John Allan	G4LTH	5068
Thomas Kenney	G1FAD	5067
Jack Hunt	SWL	5069
Edwin Daniels	2E0LLD	5070
Neil Archer	SWL	5071
Ben Taylor	M3ZVP	5072
Re-joiners		
Prof. Gary Heald	G0VLJ	4396
Changes		
Lt Cdr Simon Murray (callsign change)	MM0XME	5065
Resigned		
Vernon Elliott (no longer operating due to age)	G0IGB	4057
Silent Keys		
Brian Walters	G0OAK	4811
Jack Goodman	G4PIJ	3532

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. State of our accounts
Current £1253.12
Deposit £12, 590.16
Fixed £35,587.86
- b. Shack insurance renewed. Small increase of £1 in premium.
- c. Steve asked if he could have a copy of the insurance schedule. Adrian to send Steve a copy of the Insurance Schedule.
- d. Adrian was asked if our insurance covered replacement of the masts and towers. Adrian to advise the Committee whether our insurance covered replacement of the masts and towers.

9. Review of Open Day (report attached)

Joe thanked everybody who took part and hoped they enjoyed it. For next year's Open Day we should try to ensure we could park in the small car park outside the Shack. We should also try to ensure we were represented on the organising committee.

10. Arrangements for AGM on 12 October including awards (Joe)

- a. The arrangements will be the same as last year but without the EGM. I have booked the WO & SRs Mess.
 - b. A hot meal and pudding will be provided for all who attend and will be funded by the Society.
 - c. The bar will be open from 12.00.
 - d. Mick already has the prizes bought for the raffle.
 - e. Suggestions for recipients of the Society's awards were discussed.
- 11. Pricing of and postage charges for commodities (Mike)**
- a. Prices as currently published do not reflect costs and we have been losing revenue on some of the commodities we sell.
 - b. Commodity and postage prices will therefore have to be revised.
 - c. The existing body-warmer/gilet will be discontinued and a new style has already been found.
 - d. Mike has been able to find a source of baseball caps with the Society logo on the front and name and callsign on the side. Adding name and callsign to one side will cost £7 to the cost of the cap.
 - e. A new style of coffee mug with the new-ish logo and with personal messages will also be available.
 - f. Photos of all the new items will be posted on our website as soon as possible.
 - g. Mike suggested we accept an ad from Nevada in return for the discount they give to RNARS members.
- 12. Managers' Reports**
- a. **Commodities Manager**
As above
 - b. **Shack Manager**
Steve reported that:
The new blinds have all been fitted and the new chairs are in place in the Shack.
We need to complete all the work in the Shack before making a start on cleaning or replacing the carpet.
Work should have started on repairing the mast yesterday but had to be delayed due to Amey awkwardness. Steve overcoming the obstacles.
Antenna Maintenance Day 10 August. (Subsequently postponed due to forecast of inclement weather.)
 - c. **QSL Manager**
No manager at present as Marc resigned for health reasons. The new QSL Manager for Belfast Group is John Allan G4LTH.
 - d. **Web site manager**
Nothing to report.
 - e. **Area Rep Coordinator**
Wally was given a round of applause when he thanked everybody for his 50 years membership award.
- 13. Date of next Meeting**
12th September 2019 at 19.00
The Meeting closed at 20.32.

Lessons from Open Day 2019

The things I remember being told earlier were:

- a rota for washing up so no one person is left with the job
- a second Morse testing station
- reduction in the ambient noise level in the shack
- make sure we are one of the stopping points for the Trump cards
- start testing a month before the next Open Day
- we proved the streaming TV from the parade ground works, now we need to improve the quality of the signals
- we can receive the ES'hail-2 signal, now we need to be able to transmit to it

Joe G3ZDF

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- Actual field station out the front so people passing can see us operate
 - Fox-Hunt DF practical
 - Induction Loops for members with hearing aids
 - Earlier Liaison with Collingwood staff
 - Power Switches on TV TX devices so we can set them up the night before
 - Bigger Lunchboxes? ☹
 - Also I think breakfast went quite well, although we may be having a fry-up on Tuesday still with all the meat that is left over.

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Ian M0LIH

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- Although a lot of us are CW fanatics, it'd be great if we could get some SSB activity on 80/40 (and others if they're open!) so the junior (and other) visitors can get on the mic under supervision (as per Jamboree on the Air stations).
 - Bandpass filters were flagged to me as a 'must' for the station at the end of the session; I've got an unused 2M 150W one that I'm happy to donate.

Kevin G4BUW

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- Have a record of Bob's "speil" for next year's handover doc. It sounded very good and it certainly engaged the youth!
 - Some feedback from a client of last year's Crystal Set Challenge. They wanted to visit "The Radio Place" this year! They had rigged it up in the garden and Mum said they had lots of fun tuning in to BBC.

- We could do with a better design and cheaper. Maybe a club competition?
- Walking up from the VIP car park direction the shack presents a long blank wall which needed a banner.
- Average age of Clients seemed a bit low. We didn't attract those who were receptive to our technology.
- Possibly they had stayed home playing DMC
- The catering was super.
- The outside tent attracted attention but no-one seemed to know what to do with it. We could capitalise on that with a field day station?
- Alan's muddy Land Rover could have been a centre piece for a RayNet display.
- The cars parked out front covered in antenna (twigs as someone called them) would attract attention and justify parking arrangements.
- The tent/stall seemed to be well placed to be the gateway to the shack.
- Someone mentioned QSL cards but we had none on display. Maybe a big world map with some strategically placed cards. (And member locations)
- Bunting on the masts
- The operating cubicles are not conducive to displays. The ATV was hidden and lost.
- Viewing the TV screens we had available did not work well outdoors
- Could we fly a tethered drone with an up/down link? Too noisy? Security? Battery life?
- Start implementing plans earlier with more coordination and contingency plans.
- Martin and Ian did sterling work.

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Tony M5AGB

https://www.sarcnet.org/projects/project_rotator.html

- Yes overall it did appear a better event than last year. A good steady flow of young people to do CW. Maybe next year have one of the CW tables outside so passers by see the youngsters doing CW, maybe their name to get a small prize then go into the shack to do a short sentence and get something bigger?
- The noise thing came up a few times, if you want just a special event station then we cannot have people in and out of the shack, if we want to show what the hobby is about we either have to tolerate visitors and members talking, and

other radio and equipment on, or, move the operating event station, maybe temp locate at a bench in repeater/ workshop room, separate from other activities, a few times I heard disgruntled operator(s) and displays turned off because of noise issues. An open day of this nature is more a rally entertainment for visitors than a club day to run a special event. Perhaps we should organise club members only event days, purely to operate bands, but have strict operating rules so we are not interfering with other users by using excessive power or having volume set loud when headphones could be used.

- We had some very interested people in today though I again like last year noted we also had some visitors who looked in, got no immediate response and walked out, some of us were busy with visitors others did not get involved with the public at all.
- Overall the plus's far out way the negatives today, hard work from many showed.
- The victualling hospitality made the event a true club experience.
- I also agree with items in Joe's email.

Thanks to all. Steve