



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
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MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 22nd November 2018

HMS Collingwood

Present:	David Firth	2E0GLL	Chairman	
	Mick Puttick	G3LIK	Hon. Vice President	
	Joe Kirk	G3ZDF	Secretary	
	Wally Walker	G4DIU	Area Rep Coordinator	By Skype
	Doug Bowen	G0MIU	Commodities Manager	
	Steve Legg	M6WVW	Shack Manager	
	Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	Treasurer	
Apologies:	Marc Litchman	G0TOC	Membership Manager	
	Martin Longbottom	M6LRE		

Tasks to be completed are underlined

The Meeting started at 19.13.

1. **Chairman's opening remarks**
 - a. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence**
 - a. As above.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting**
 - a. Proposed by Doug G0MIU and seconded by Adrian 2E0JVM and agreed unanimously.
4. **Matters arising**
 - a. Steve was asked to put forward his proposals for redecorating/refurbishing the HQ Shack which members will have the opportunity to comment on before we proceed. ONGOING
Steve reported that the Shack had been decorated during the first week in November. The Shack now looked a lot better and the opportunity was taken to remove some of the wall decorations and old cupboards. The follow up is to:
Select and fit new blinds (Steve)
Arrange for the carpet to be cleaned to check if it would be better than fitting new carpet (Steve)
Replace the baize on the main table (Steve)
Look at replacement armchairs (Steve)
Replace one of the fluorescent tube with an LED fitting to see what the effect was and to check if it caused any QRM (Steve)
Chairman commented that all of these measures would demonstrate to the authorities that we were taking care of the building.
 - b. Chairman to approach Alan M6LFM and Ian 2E0IHH to see if they would be willing to participate in the Redecorating Sub-Committee.
ONGOING
Now merged with (a)

- c. Steve to investigate a suitable continuity tester for checking all the aerals. ONGOING
Steve reported that the MiniVNA was working satisfactorily. However, we still needed a continuity tester similar to a “wee megger”.
- d. Suggestions from all committee members for the redesign of the commodities page and publicity.
We should have more pictures of the items for sale. Pictures should be sent to Chairman (or whoever was editing the Newsletter).
Doug was asked if he would write a short story about the commodities.
Joe to check the images on the website
Joe to look at providing an order form on the website.

5. **Chairman’s report**

- a. Chairman thanked the Committee and helpers for making the AGM a success. All went off without a hitch.
- b. The Field Day trial run on the green outside the Shack was very useful and gave some pointers to future activities.
- c. He thanked everyone involved with the shack redecoration and said it had made quite a difference to the place.

6. **Secretary’s report**

- a. During a regular inspection some corrosion was found on the feet of the mast at the MWC end of our building and it was sectioned off. The ex-officio reported that “*Carillion are raising the relevant paperwork to conduct corrective work to overcome the defects*”.
- b. RSARS/RAFARS have been advised about DMR TG 23527.
- c. A letter of complaint about the operation, build quality and performance of the MFJ patch panels sent to Nevada.
- d. Joe proposed that we install a DMR repeater on one of our masts. Ian 2E0IHH had got hold of some redundant taxi VHF sets and the control would be based on a RaspberryPi. He said the DMR operation would complement the D-Star repeater but it was of a later generation. He suggested that digital voice handsets were more likely to interest younger members than traditional HF rigs. The repeater could be installed in the cabinet in the workshop. The Committee agreed unanimously to authorise up to £350 be spent on setting up the repeater.
Steve told of his experiences using VOIP and said there were a number of amateur radio groups on that mode including some RNARS members.
- e. There was some discussion about running a ‘Foxhunt’ in the New Year. The mechanics of how to organise it within the Establishment without compromising security whilst still providing for the challenge of finding the ‘Fox’ were considered. It was decided to investigate further.
- f. Permission to hold the 2019 AGM in the WO&SRs mess had been requested from the Mess President but Joe had not heard anything back. Mick was asked to raise the matter with the Mess President next time he was in the Mess.
- g. Joe reported that a Health Fair similar to last year’s NavyFit will be held in NCHQ at the end of January. It was agreed we should have a presence. Secretary to confirm our presence at the Health Fair.
- h. The Notice Board where members can post sticky notes has been closed down due to abusive messages being posted on there.

- i. Joe said he would like to organise a visit to the Radar & Radio Museum in Collingwood. He asked how many would be interested and for names to be sent to him.
- j. I would like to propose that the HQ Net on the 1st Tuesday in every month goes Digital. We could use anything from SSTV, PSK, CW, FT8 etc. The mode selected and frequency to be used would be promulgated through the Twitter feed which also appears on the home page of our website.
- k. A surplus MFJ ATU was sold to Bob G0BSJ.
This prompted a discussion about the value of storing equipment in the shack which would seldom be used. It was agreed that after we had enough standby equipment for shack operations we should offer what was left to members.
- l. We had received a request from the RSGB asking for suggestions about what they could do for their affiliated societies such as ourselves. Suggestions to the Secretary.
- m. Letter of Thanks received from Ian G4KJD our Awards Manager for the award he received at the AGM.
- n. Email of thanks received from First Sea Lord for the RNARS engraved paperweight we sent him.

Dear Mr Kirk,

I am writing on behalf of the First Sea Lord to thank you for the paperweight that he received through the post. He commented:
"Please thank Joe for this; I will display it proudly."

Regards

James Dean

Captain James Dean OBE Royal Navy | Executive Assistant | First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff

- o. Email thanks from Kevin G4BUW
Thank you and the others on the committee for a super AGM.
A lot of hard work from you all – much appreciated.
Some very constructive and thought provoking stuff, especially from Steve Legg regarding attracting more uniformed and young members. I'd like to keep in touch with Steve but don't have his email address; perhaps you could advise.
Also, the meeting prompted me to finish an article I had started writing for the newsletter – so hoping to get that across soon.
I felt very privileged to be at HMS Collingwood, especially as my Dad trained there in 1942.
What an incredible place; I was bowled over by the radio station and the mess/bar/lunch/meeting room/garden etc. □
Looking forward to getting back there in the not too distant future.
Kev, G4BUW
- p. I would like to propose that we co-opt Doug Cansfield G0LDJ on to the Committee. He can attend by Skype. I have already confirmed with Doug that he would like to join the Committee.
Agreed unanimously
Secretary to advise Doug G0LDJ.
- q. Field Day was blessed with good weather. We had 4 stations running with moderate success. We managed to join the DX Net in the afternoon and QSO'ed with the Net Controller W1USN.

7. Membership Secretary's report

- a. No report

8. **Treasurer's report**
 - a. Current account £2,348.07
 - b. Deposit account £13055.00
 - c. Fixed term account £35,270.43
 - d. Adrian reminded us that the fixed term account would mature before the next Committee. After discussion about alternatives it was agreed to continue with the existing arrangements.
9. **Review and follow up of AGM**
 - a. Most follow-up covered previously but the Constitution needs to be updated to reflect the decisions taken at the EGM and then published(David).
10. **Managers' reports**
 - a. **Commodities Manager**

Doug reported that he was pleased to be able to make his report at the start of the managers' reports rather than at the end.
There was nothing to report.
 - b. **Shack Manager**

As reported previously the decoration of the Shack is finished.
Furnishings, carpet, blinds and lighting will be addressed over the next 6 months.
The mast has been looked at and the feed to the beam replaced.
The bays need to be rationalised so operation in all of them is the same and surplus equipment stowed away.
He suggested we need to encourage more open days for Collingwood staff and students to visit the Shack.
Steve
 - c. **QSL Manager**

No report
 - d. **Web Site**

Joe reported that the photo albums on our site are hosted on Flickr which was recently sold to a new company. Flickr has introduced a 1,000 photos restriction – we have in excess of 1250 so need to find an alternative free service or pay the \$49/pa fee to Flickr. Currently exploring alternatives that will mean a trouble-free transfer.
 - e. **Area Rep Coordinator**

Wally reported that he had travelled to the HamFest in Newark.
Unfortunately, he was taken ill and had to return home prematurely.
He did propose that we should have a presence at next year's HamFest as it was the premier amateur radio event in the country. The Committee discussed this proposal without coming to a conclusion.
Wally G4DIU RNARS 0391
Joe asked if anyone would be representing the Society at the Harwell Rally. Currently no volunteers.
11. **Date of next Meeting**

7th February 2019 at 19.00
The Meeting closed at 21.09.