



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8QR
g3zdf@btinternet.com

MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 7th February 2019

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
	Steve Legg	M6WVV	Shack Manager	
	Marc Litchman	G0TOC	Membership Manager	By phone
	Bob New	G0BSJ		
Apologies:	Doug Bowen	G0MIU	Commodities Manager	
	Martin Longbottom	M0EHL		
	Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	Treasurer	

Tasks to be completed are underlined

Due to problems with Skype 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. Steve to investigate a suitable continuity tester for checking all the aerials. ONGOING
Steve reported that the MiniVNA was working satisfactorily.

Secretary reported that we had purchased an aerial continuity tester or as the description said “*UNI-T UT501A 1000V Insulation Resistance Meter Ground Tester MegOhmmeter Volt Meterr with LCD Backlight*”. The cost was £50.27. Chairman had checked it out and found it gave satisfactory readings.

- c. Suggestions from all committee members for the redesign of the commodities page and publicity.
No suggestions had been received.
Joe to check the images on the website DONE but new photos needed
Joe to look at providing an order form on the website. DONE with Marc's help
- d. Confirm with the Mess President that we can hold the AGM in the WO & SRs Mess (Mick).
Mick confirmed that we had received clearance from the Mess President to hold our AGM in the WO&SR's Mess.
- e. Confirm our presence at the Health Fair(Secretary).
Due to a range of circumstance we did not have a presence at the Fair.
- f. Advise Doug G0LDJ that he has been co-opted on to the Committee.(Seretary)
DONE
- g. Constitution to be updated to reflect the decisions taken at the EGM and then published(Chairman). DONE
2018 Constitution amended and published

5. Chairman's report

- a. Captain's Rounds 5/2/2019
Went well. He was looking at the material state of the building and looking for defects to our part of the estate. We've made contact and he seems interested in us as an investment in the Collingwood community. We appreciate that next time Captain's Rounds will be most likely focused on normal factors such as the cleanliness and tidiness, etc.
- b. . Continuing Programme of Shack improvements
 - i. Technology Update - DMR and window display advertising
I am pleased to announce that the RNARS HQ shack now has a working DMR repeater providing a service to the local military communities. The new call-sign is GBTCO and is registered with the unique address (TalkGroup) of 23527. Additionally, we have created a second TalkGroup -TG235272 which is also listed in the Brandmeister TalkGroup Listing. This has been the brainchild of ET(CIS) Ian Hutchinson who has worked unstintingly to build, integrate, and install the entire system into our shack's infrastructure. This is a nice project that represents a step change in the way we can communicate and brings us into range of new radio systems that can attract younger technically savvy recruits. Not being content with this achievement, we have a small advertising feature that can be remotely switched on and off that is sitting in the window adjacent to the entrance to the shack. Again, all down to Ian's ability to produce useful 'tools' that would meet with our desire to advertise our presence in HMS Collingwood. I recommend that we give due thought and consideration towards giving Ian appropriate recognition for his service to the RNARS Shack.

At this point it was proposed and agreed unanimously that we should give Ian Hutchinson free membership of the Society.

ii. Shack Premises

In the wake of redecorating the building and of the Christmas and New Year celebrations we are looking for updating furnishings, fittings and fixtures such as armchairs, blinds for the windows, shelving, etc. More on that from Steve our shack manager and Joe our Secretary.

c. Constitution

The constitution has been amended as agreed at the AGM and has been updated on the RNARS website under the Members Only tab.

d. Harwell Rally

Joe Kirk will be taking the RNARS stand to the rally on Sunday 10th of February

e. Canvey Island

Marc Litchman took the stand to the rally on Sunday, 3rd February 2019, with David Coles M0IDF and John Glover M0JGR both of whom are London Group members and reports a good level of attendance at the venue and at the RNARS stand with 5 members signing the visitors book - one new member, Stella GOEKP, (RNARS 5060) was signed-up who has been a member of the LG for several years, in fact she is the regular Thursday GB2RN CW op... More on this in the Newsletter.

f. Kempton Park

14th April Joe Kirk will be attending with the RNARS stand.

g. Requests for future field events in 2019

Resulting from a few conversations we have suggestions for (a) A fox hunt (b) A field event, (c) A summits on the air competition. We need to get out and about and to be seen and these activities are good for getting our members involved and for advertising the RNARS. We should also consider regular visits to T5 as recruitment activities.

h. Secretary

I would respectfully remind the committee that our secretary Joe Kirk has given his intention to stand down at the next AGM, so we need to think about a suitable recruit.

6. **Secretary's report**

a. Bob G0BSJ has agreed to help out with the role of Secretary and will therefore be co-opted on to the Committee.

b. Captains' Rounds went as reported earlier

c. External WiFi on our BT Router switched off because of concerns of CO of MWC.

d. We should carry out a revision of RNARS awards and I have asked our Awards Manager for his thoughts.

Ian G4KJD replied:

As regards the awards.....well, in my opinion if the conditions/rules were relaxed more would they (awards) be worth applying for?

Sadly we have to accept that interest in Amateur Radio is at an all time low. It's easy to blame band conditions but it's amazing (!) how things improve (?) when there is a contest in progress.

The take up, or lack of, the applications for the RNARS Awards and also the dwindling numbers appearing on the various nets, I think, says it all.

There are now so many other comms mediums open to all these

days that making a contact with VK courtesy of a 100W TX and a bit of wire just doesn't have the attraction that it once did.

What the criteria is/are relating to the various awards is of course "not my part of ship". But speaking from a purely personal perspective I would say that so as not to devalue their worth (the awards) we would be best to simply ride out the storm and see what the future brings.

In view of Ian's comments I suggest we leave the rules as they are.

- e. Consider having an Open Week where we invite heads of departments and instructors for a coffee and a look around.
- f. DMR Repeater controller bought. Based on a RaspberryPi. No construction needed. GB7CO applied for. Will be UHF. ETCC suggested DVU39 as the channel and we have agreed with them TX 439.4875 RX 430.4875. Repeater sanctioned by Ofcom and released on 23-1-19. Repeater now operational using the 'white stick' aerials on the mast outside the front door.

Our thanks to Ian 2E0IHH for all the hard work he did in building the repeater, testing it and sourcing a pair of Motorola GM360 transceivers at a very good price.

Request permission to send branded commodities to F5VWR who has been extremely helpful in setting up the repeater, lanyard, badge and other small items for example. This was agreed unanimously by the Committee.

Doug to send branded commodities to F5VWR in thanks for his assistance, lanyard, badge and other small items for example.

- g. Sales of Fred's G2IV donated equipment raised £421 which was donated to the RNRM Charity. Thanks to Eric Bray M0HFF for all his work organising the collection, storage and sale of the equipment. Later – an extra £200.00 was raised from the sale of Fred's 736.
- h. I have booked a table for Harwell Rally on Feb 10.
- i. I have also booked a table for Kempton Park on April 14.
- j. Megohmmeter bought for aerial checking.
- k. Major Paterson OC CIS Trg Coy & 2IC Spec Wing RM signals scheduled to visit HQ for discussions about the use of Amateur Radio in his area.
- l. I suggest we have a standard item on Committee Agenda in future to confirm membership applications. There was some discussion about the mechanics of this and whether we should have to keep applicants waiting until a Committee meeting had been held before confirming their membership. (Subsequent to the Meeting in a discussion between the Secretary and the Membership Secretary it was agreed that Marc would advise the whole committee of new applications for membership and if no objections were received within 7 days the application would be accepted.)

7. Membership Secretary's report

- a. Marc reported that he had redesigned the Application Form and would convert it into a PDF form with fields that could be completed electronically. He would send the form for comment to all Committee members.

8. Treasurer's report

- a. Current account £1,038.38
- b. Deposit account £13,056.38
- c. Fixed term account £35,587.86

9. Proposal to grant Honorary Membership to Rosie Dodd (ex-Ex-Officio) (Martin M0EHL)

Rosie was a much-respected and well-liked Ex-Officio who had helped the Society in a variety of ways. Although she is now retired from the RN she continues to have an interest in the RNARS.

The Proposal was agreed unanimously.

Membership Secretary to send Rosie Dodd an Application Form.

10. Managers' reports

a. Commodities Manager

Joe reported that he had added an order Form to the Commodities page on the website

b. Shack Manager

- i. First an apology for being unable to attend the Shack as often as I would like to and should as the Shack Manager. I have recently taken on a small promotion at work which will eventually (Hopefully) allow me slightly more flexibility regarding time to attend on Tuesday afternoons.
- ii. I will always still try to attend any planned weekend works, continue to do exterior Shack inspections after any windy conditions, report and chase repairs through the Carillion reporting system and try and source items to improve/update the shack.
- iii. The Non-Flushing Ladies Toilet: Back in October I reported this through the Navy/Carillion reporting system, a job number was issued and a twenty-day window to investigate issued. After some weeks and no sign of a repair I chased the reported job and was told that access had been sought by the contractor three times (i.e they had phoned me on my two numbers) but unable to contact me. During this period, I have not received "One" missed call, neither any messages were left at the office number given? As such Carillion automatically cancelled the job.

I then re-raised the job and added that the toilet was now also leaking onto the floor. They again issued a job number and a twenty-day window to investigate, even though it was clearly stated it was a leak. Contact details were confirmed as correct but as we approach the twenty-day deadline I have heard no news

In the meantime, I have called into the Shack on a couple of occasions to mop up any water.

Mega: This has now been agreed upon and purchased for use.

- iv. Carpet Cleaning: Trying to source a "Vax" type carpet cleaner to borrow, this will save hiring one, I am awaiting feed back from the contract cleaning division to see if we can have the loan of one. I am happy to do the cleaning and if we can improve the carpets appearance then that will save a lot of work and costs to replace it.
- v. Armchairs: Originally requested to look into replacing the two old tired ones currently residing in the Shack. To purchase good chairs will cost in the region of £400+. We could go down the route of recovering at a reduced price but would need the assistance of a good Seamstress, though going down this route we could also get matching Blinds, Table covers and chair

covers made? Examples below of some chairs I have looked into:



- vi.
- vii. Table coverings: Required for both the small and large tables. Prices vary tremendously, at the higher end £200 would purchase a large cover with the RNARS Logo printed on it. Or if going down the make it ourselves route this would be a lot cheaper.
- viii. Blinds: As above.
Moving onto Shack Operations
- ix. DMR: A very big well done to all those who have set up and got running a truly brilliant DMR repeater. Though still some fine tuning to be undertaken it is operational and getting out across a large area of the Solent and beyond, also being DMR and linked into the Brandmeister network and DMR user, any RNARS Member with a dmr capable radio can call directly into the system giving greater access for all.
- x. At the West side of the Shack the lattice mast remains cordoned off after an inspection found corrosion in one of its legs, the mast is still deemed safe though restrictions on anyone going aloft it are in place. We await further news on repair.
- xi. We have received news that Official Captains Rounds are to take place at the Shack this month, the Shack will need an early Spring clean and a general tidy “Stowing” away of items, especially the storeroom. I know many have already said they will assist in this, so thanks in advance to those actioning. The Captain should be pleased that the RNARS is “self helping” in the upkeep of the RN’s ARS Headquarters, funding the repair of the heating, internal decorations, external maintenance and continuing to offer its resources to current serving, ex. Military and civilian persons. It helps promote the RN and its activities during open days and is fully supported by an enthusiastic team of volunteers.
- xii. How many active Amateur Radio users do we have in the local vicinity? Can we invite/encourage more to attend, would the committee encourage the Shack to be open at other times to allow resources to be used efficiently (As long as all safety and security requirements are met), the Shack is not only a place to “Play” Radio but a hub for many members to socialise and gather. Members have problems away from the Shack, some with caring responsibilities, others with health restrictions or they just live alone, the Shack can become a lifeline to help support these members giving that “priceless” break to reality or just a friendly chat with likeminded company. The RN puts a lot of focus on support and welfare of its team and I believe this would be looked upon very favourably by the RN that we “The RNARS” devote such attention and care to our members as

well. Facilities exist to make a light snack or a pot of coffee in our Shack kitchen as well as the onsite facilities that are available for Members (Pass holders) to use, Hair Dressers, Hail Building Galley, The Chaplaincy comfy area with TV, Pool table, tea, coffee and relaxed seating (Situated across the rd from the Shack). There is also a very good Library in Ramsay building for all things Naval related.

- xiii. As well as the new DMR setup active users have also set up a display in the window running a video loop of Amateur radio activities to attract the eye of passers-by. Again a big thank you to all concerned.
 - xiv. We have only just started into the New Year but the Summer Open day will soon be upon us, what ideas do the committee or members have for this year opening? Is there anything we can do different other than just a “come in and look” approach which has improved over the recent years but still not drawing in the numbers that are out there and just walking by? Do we need to have a presence outside on the hard-standing side of the Shack, maybe run some stall tombola event (Link it to radio somehow) or could we bring back the “Radio Rally” from the past and integrate it into the Summer event? Invite local clubs and promote it nationally? Maybe too big a wish for this year but maybe next?
 - xv. The Engraving Department has moved into the Rooms opposite the Shack.
 - xvi. That concludes this report, anything I have overlooked can be asked at the meeting.
Regards Stephen Legg
Shack Manager
- c. QSL Manager
 - i. Some QSL cards received.
 - d. Web manager
 - i. Nothing to report
 - e. Area Rep Coordinator
 - i. Wally reported that Ken Randall would be attending the Blackpool Rally.

11. Date of next Meeting

11th April 2019 at 19.00

The Meeting closed at 21.09.