



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
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MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 5th April 2018

HMS Collingwood

Present:	David Firth	2E0GLL	Chairman	
	Joe Kirk	G3ZDF	Secretary	
	Wally Walker	G4DIU	Area Rep Coordinator	By Skype
	Mick Puttick	G3LIK	Hon. Vice President	
	Doug Bowen	G0MIU	Commodities Manager	
Apologies:	Marc Litchman	G0TOC	Membership Manager	
	Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	Treasurer	
	Martin Longbottom			
	Steve Legg	M6WVV	Shack Manager	

Tasks to be completed are underlined

Due to technical difficulties with Skype the Meeting did not start until 19.15.

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 Mick G3LIK 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 he had found a decorator who would be prepared to give us an estimate. He felt this would be quicker than getting members to do the decorating.
We need to make sure that the decorator takes on any risk associated with the work and that the Society is not responsible.
 - b. Chairman to approach Alan M6LFM and Ian 2E0IHH to see if they would be willing to participate in the Redecorating Sub-Committee. ONGOING
Chairman reported that Alan had been working on the patch panels and was tidying up the cables.
There was a discussion about what colour to decorate the Shack. Joe suggested it should be somewhere between cream and yellow to make the room feel cheerful and bright. Magnolia was a colour mentioned. Joe also suggested we should replace the existing dull curtains with some vertical blinds similar to the ones in the toilets.
 - c. Job specifications for each member of the Committee to be updated with the suggestion that they not be made too specific. (Chairman &

Secretary) DONE

There was unanimous agreement that job descriptions should not be too specific particularly in view of the difficulty in attracting new committee members.

- d. Secretary to write to Donald Napier G1LEV (Yahoo RNARS-2017) and David Corney G4UPT (Facebook RNARS) DONE

Secretary said he had contacted Donald and David with the question: *We are looking at the Society's social media presence and have come to the conclusion that any RNARS groups should comply with our social media policy. There are copies of what has been agreed so far on the [Policies](#) page on our website.*

I just wanted to confirm that you are both happy to continue operating your respective group under those terms.

Both had replied affirmatively.

Donald G1LEV RNARS-2017 group, Yes I agree with the terms.

Warm regards, 73s Don de G1LEV

David G4UPT RNARS Facebook Group - Sorry for the tardy response.

I have been travelling, and am at a conference this week.

I did read through the documents you linked to. A lot of the content appears to be guidance on good practices, and I didn't see anything that made me go "I can't do that".

Be assured that I will uphold the reputation of the RNARS at all times, including the Facebook presence. Phil and I are diligent about who is allowed to access the group, on the understanding that the Facebook group is for current RNARS members. That is a policy we may want to review in the future, as the RNARS's online presence evolves.

If at some time in the future it is felt that another administrator should be appointed it will be done in an orderly manner.

Regards,

David Corney

- e. Steve to arrange to have a small display in the Chaplaincy in Collingwood to attract attention DONE

Steve has made arrangements to be in the Chaplaincy on a Tuesday morning between 9.15 and 10.00 sometime after Open Day when students arrive for their bacon rolls. Display would be similar to Open Day.

- f. Shack Manager to investigate fitting a dummy load to the VHF rig and testing it. DONE

Steve said we would use the dummy load in the cabinet.

He also noted a new DStar/DMR repeater in Gosport, GB7SO.

- g. Martin to liaise with Steve and identify which charities we could approach for funding to replace the coax on all the aerials. ONGOING

- h. Steve to investigate obtaining and fitting a lockable cabinet for the 7300. ONGOING

Steve has found a supplier for a security cabinet for the IC7300.

- i. Secretary to inform the member who resigned last year and who had applied to rejoin that his application to rejoin had not been accepted. DONE

- j. Secretary to investigate use of GoCardless payment method and report back to the Committee. DONE report attached with a recommendation to retain our existing payment methods but keep a watching brief on GoCardless and other new payment methods. The recommendation was endorsed by the Treasurer "*I have read through your findings on*

the proposed payment system and I whole heartedly agree with your recommendations - our membership have not really 'embraced' Pay Pal so I cannot see there will be a significant uptake in the new system, and as you say all extra admin."

- k. Secretary to send a Letter of Thanks to Robert thanking him for all the work he had put into maintaining the Branch. The Chairman asked that his appreciation be included. DONE
- l. Secretary to contact each Unit to determine the best place to send the newsletters to as not all Units had a central library ONGOING
There was some discussion about whether the unit libraries would be the best place to display our Newsletter.
- m. Steve to investigate a suitable continuity tester for checking all the aerials. Chairman said identifying a continuity tester was in hand.

5. Chairman's report

- a. GDPR is now in force and our website contains the various data protection policies and Ts & Cs. A GDPR summary of key points has been published in the RNARS Newsletter, so we have made every attempt to inform our members of its requirements upon us.
As a matter of some tidying up, the data protection policies/Ts &Cs recently added to the RNARS website earlier in the year have since been agreed upon by the Committee (last meeting), and now need to be dated as such. (Action to update cover sheets; Chairman).
This leaves the compiling of suitable references to our GDPR and Data Protection Policies for inclusion into the constitution.
- b. The Open Day appears to have gone well in spite of a slow start, but visits to the shack perked up by mid afternoon. Some ideas to improve our activities and establish an external pitch next year have been mooted already. Please give as much feedback as you can.
- c. The 2018 Summer edition of the Newsletter has been published. Still hunting for a volunteer to take on the editor's position. Chairman added that he would prepare the Autumn issue were we still 'editorless' then.
- d. The aerial patch box on the left hand side of the bays is almost finished with just the G5RV needing to be routed into it. The hope is that there will be space left in the trunking to accommodate the aerial download. This leaves the aerial patch box on the right of the bays to be fitted with the aerial downloads from the T2FD, Beam, and one other(?)
David 2E0GLL

6. Secretary's report

- a. Letter of thanks received from the XYL of Les Crompton (SK) with a copy of the Order of Service for his funeral which had the RNARS logo on the front.
- b. Bill G3TZM has asked that we correct the Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 16 November to reflect the reason why he resigned from the RNARS. Item 5(b) stated *Dave G4JBE, Colin GM6HGW and Bill G3TZM had resigned from the RNARS because they were not happy with how the proposal to expel GILKJ had been handled.* Since the Minutes have already been approved I need your approval to change this item to read *Dave G4JBE and Colin GM6HGW had resigned from the RNARS because they were not happy with how the proposal to expel GILKJ had been handled. Bill G3TZM also resigned from the RNARS.*

The Committee agreed unanimously to leave the Minutes of 16 November 2017 Committee Meeting unchanged.

- c. Shack broadband upgraded to fibre at cost of delivery of a new router (£9.99) when contract renewed. There is already a noticeable improvement in the upload speed – 6Mbs to 26Mbs.
- d. G8CJM Allan Croft SK donated his equipment to RNARS and asked that it be used on board HMS Cavalier. I have put the executor put in touch with Brian Lucas G0TAR one of our members operating on board Cavalier.
- e. Proposals for AGM awards should be sent to me.
- f. Fred Jones G2IV SK donated his equipment to the RNARS. I asked Eric M0HFF who lives nearby if he would check out Fred's equipment. He not only produced a list but has stored it until we can dispose of it. The equipment is shown on our For Sale or Wanted web page.
- g. Open Day report attached including feedback from some of the volunteers on the day.
A copy of the booklet we handed out to the 'Magic Radio' / crystal set constructors can be downloaded from our [Introduction to Amateur Radio](#) webpage
Joe G3ZDF

7. **Membership Secretary's Report**

- a. Joe reported that he was holding the fort while Marc was in hospital. The Committee wished Marc well and best wishes for a speedy recovery.
- b. Joe reported that the breakdown between printed and electronic versions of the Newsletter based on the current issue was:
380 printed
201 electronic.

8. **Treasurer's Report**

- a. I have nothing to report at present except the balances of our accounts which are;
C/A £2,250.11
D/A £14,551.46
FTD £35,270.43
Adrian 2E0JVM

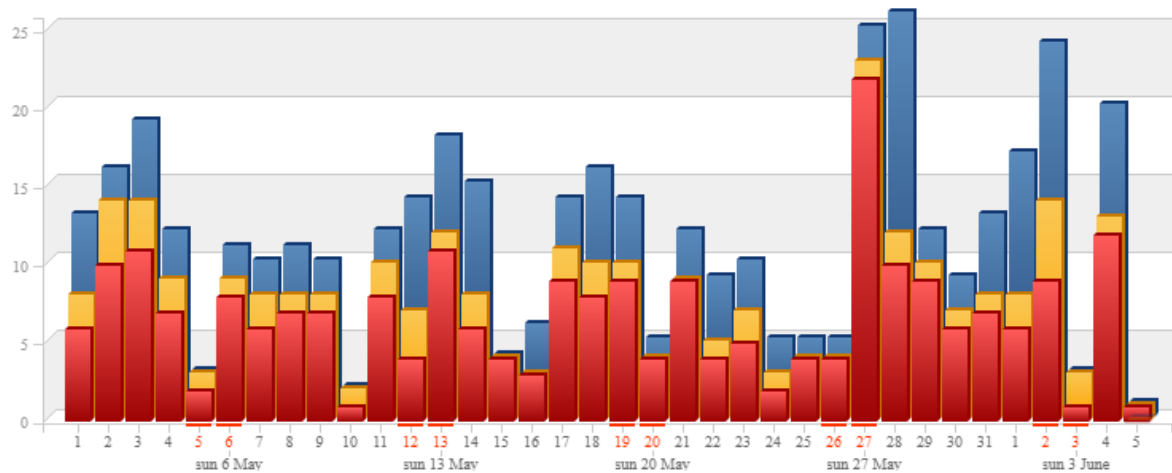
9. Request to site ATV repeater and associated equipment on one of our masts (Report from Dave Williams G8PUO attached).

- a. The Chairman said the ATV group has made an approach to return to the HQ Shack with the intention to set up an Amateur Television Repeater. There needs to be appropriate thought about terms and conditions for the nature of any ATV installation in the shack initiated by a group external to the RNARS, i.e. do we really need a repeater or perhaps we would be better off with just another mode of operation that can be as simple as a turnkey ATV system. Issues include feasibility, falling under the umbrella of the RNARS, ownership of equipment, maintainability / servicing / updating, knowledge base, RNARS as the principal identity/brand image, etc, etc. These are some of the things we must look into. Of primary importance is our responsibility to keep any such venture a part of the RNARS bearing in mind our Patron and President are both serving as Senior Officers and would not take it kindly if we allowed an external (non-RN) group to move in and take over a corner of the RNARS.

- b. Secretary said his main points were
 - i. All equipment installed must belong to the RNARS.
 - ii. The installation could not be linked in any way with SCART as we were operating as guests on MOD property.
 - iii. The operation of the repeater would have to be sanctioned by HMS Collingwood as it would operate above 70cms.
 - iv. The equipment must be available for use by RNARS members.
 - v. One member of the ATV Group would have to be co-opted on to the Committee so they could answer any related questions and keep the Committee informed.
- c. After some discussion and a review of our previous experiences of the ATV repeater the Committee agreed that we should start with an ATV installation, but not with a repeater. The installation of a repeater could be considered at a future point.

10. Managers' reports

- a. Shack Manager
 - i. In addition to Steve's comments above he thanked everyone who helped with the aerial maintenance and with Open Day.
 - ii. He asked whether we should promote the use of the IoW UHF repeater GB7IW as it is now connected to Echolink so that members worldwide could contact the HQ Shack on Tuesdays (and any other days we are in).
- b. QSL Manager
 - i. No report
- c. Website Manager
 - i. Nothing new to report.
 - ii. Traffic peaked at the end of May.



- iii. Suggestions, brickbats and comments always welcome.
Joe G3ZDF
- d. Area Rep Coordinator
 - i. Wally has had difficulty contacting Area Reps and has not got responses to his emails.
Joe suggested sending them post cards in an effort to get a response.
Wally will let Joe have the names he wants to contact.
- e. Commodities Manager
 - i. Doug reported that he had sold 1 of the new style caps as a result of the article / advertisement in the current newsletter.

11. Date of next Meeting

6th September 2018 at 19.00

The Meeting closed at 20.28.

GoCardless

Payments received since 1 January 2018.

Method of payment	Number of payments	%
Bank	280	74.67%
Cash	13	3.47%
Cheque	3	0.80%
PayPal	79	21.07%
TOTAL	375	

Bank charges ?

PayPal charges vary from 3.4% to 1.9% + 20p per transaction depending on sales volumes but based on downloaded transactions we are charged:

Payment	Commission / charge	%
£5.00	40p	8%
£10.00	54p	5.4%
£15.00	71p	4.7%

GoCardless Standard Pricing Plan is:

- 1% per transaction with a maximum of £2 and a minimum of 20p and no monthly fee.

Customer setup & payments

- Invite customers to sign up online via email or web link
- Secure online payment pages co-branded with your logo
- Flexible payments; collect on any day of the month
- Take one off payments, setup plans or subscriptions

It is also BACS approved and can integrate with a range of accounting systems.

Observations

GoCardless seems very useful for varying and frequent payments. Our subscriptions are fixed and annual.

Were we to adopt GoCardless it would be an additional layer of administration over and above the payment methods we already have. As GoCardless payments would go into our bank account I do not think there would not be any reduction in our bank charges.

It has taken us some 5 years to get PayPal payments to 20%. Our membership is pretty heterogeneous not to mention many of them getting on a bit so introducing another payment method may fall foul of the law of diminishing returns.

Recommendation

I recommend that:

1. We continue to use the existing payment methods
2. We do not offer any new payment methods for the moment
3. We continue to monitor newer payment methods such as GoCardless to see if they can improve the service to members

Joe Kirk G3ZDF

COLLINGWOOD OPEN DAY 2018 REVIEW

The Open Day went very well thanks to all the volunteers who came in on the day. The good weather helped too.

As on previous years we were limited by being out of the normal routes between the main attractions. However, thanks to Alan's canvassing, the two ratings we had assigned handing out leaflets and the rest of us waylaying those who passed by our front door we were kept busy most of the time. For a while in the early afternoon it seemed as if Tony might have 8 crystal radio kits left on his hands but by the end of the day they were all built and gone.

Comments received

Joe

- make sure we are marked on the map in the Open Day programme
- have a stall on the parade ground/car park where we can show some of the stuff we have in the Shack but more importantly direct people to the Shack
- make the Shack a stamping station for trump cards (you'll have to look at the programme to interpret that one)
- make sure we have a large banner on the gable end under the delta loop
- investigate the possibility of getting sponsorship from the local radio emporium

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Neil

I thought the coverage of the range of amateur activities was extremely good but not so much to tell punters what each facet was about, so a pictorial backdrop display of some sort describing the specific activity and what there is to see/do. If there is a VDU screen 'on' a description of what is it supposed to show. Also even if there was no one immediately available at a demonstration they could read about it.

As suggested a banner higher up but easily visible especially the main thoroughfare or the other side of the building, or even those flag things at the end of the lane - not everyone homes in on the antennas! As far what I was doing, I would plan to have an oscillator with more than one key and headphone socket. Some of the young ones I think could actually try sending

to the amateur or to one another! I still have an oscillator from the old DTI/RSGB morse test days that I can supply for that if required.

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Tony

- Thoughts at Random (a village in Kent that was bombed repeatedly in WW2, according to the BBC "Heavy bombing at random in Kent")
- Posters with QR code, Read by smart phones leading to website with promo material.(Commercials?)
- Trying to answer the question "What is Amateur Radio". or "What do you do here" has too wide an answer, it needs demos.
- SIGs each have a "stall" *outside*.along our frontage (more gazebos)--- 6 visitors filled the shack!
- Hard Core Ham Radio still inside shack
- Live feed TV on Twitch. (Watch your self on your mobile phone)
- Maybe a live roving reporter doing Vox Pops with Radio link back to shack.
- The flight Simulator had a long queue. Is there an Amateur Radio Simulator?
- 2 or3 Dongle RX setups "What can YOU find"
- Satellite Tracker
- Radio Telescope, SETI
- "Moon" Bounce off reflector "Can you hit the target and get the signal back?"
- Radio controlled something (emphasis on Radio)
- Car on out and back track with FTD Leader board
- Radio controlled battery powered train (Dead Rail)
- Morse code Treasure Hunt. Find the cards, Translate the code, Read the message, Get a sweetie
- Mod to Morse Send your Name: Have a machine reader and SEE what you sent..
- The demographic seemed to be parents out entertaining the kids.
- So offering the kids entertainment gratifies the parents and maybe gets the parents interested as well.
- A tactile token of achievement is appreciated, but not always required. Some of my clients would have left without

- From a very small sample ...Mums were in attendance, but Dads wanted to take over and do it themselves.
- The kit was too complex, feet,
- Earp ice probably redundant, as people accepted the amplifier.
- The wiring was OK adding, 3/4 components was enough
- Sorting the parts had good "involvement" Reading the colours ,was a bit difficult and they really all did just look the same
- The connecting was two handed, It would be better if both hands were theirs!.
- But maybe the "co-operative" was appreciated? (They inserted the lead,I tightened the screw)
- I doubt that any set will be altered.
- Tuning was THE pleasure
- The reading material was good but will probably only read by the parent.
- There should have been more A4 Visios available, my bad.
- Next time, Maybe Double sided, with RNARS logo on the front....laminated?
- Next, Our own PCB? no PCB? Wago type spring terminals?

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Steve

Firstly from what I observed it was a big improvement on last year's event. With ushering of families, thanks to the efforts of Alan, we had a lot of activity and interest in Tony's "build a crystal set". This could be expanded and possibly relocated onto the new "Stall" if we go down the route of getting onto the car park. Whilst the building of radios takes place the RNARS can be promoted to the older family members.

I have been on some local radio nets since Saturday and interesting comments were being made by many on them about the Collingwood event. Some positive and some negative.

Many local Amateurs were very disappointed that they could not call in to the special event callsign other than by using Morse. Operators were trying throughout the day to hear the station on air and waiting to engage in conversation but they were never called. One attempt internally was made to speak on the IW repeater using our 70cms radio, but this was quickly nipped

in the bud when another operator told him to turn it down as it was too loud and interfering with his Morse. At the time Amateurs were queuing on the repeater to get through to the event, especially as this repeater is linked worldwide through Echolink.

We should encourage ALL MODES to be used in moderation. Perhaps in hindsight time slots should have been strictly applied I.e. 1 hr Morse, 1hr USB HF, 1 hr 2m and 70cms FM, 1 hr Digital modes and incorporate the local amateurs more in the activities, that way they may be more interested in attending and assisting in Society activities. There was some fairly strong discussions going on within the local nets that Morse was the only mode used.

It was good that we had a selection of radio interests on show to demonstrate, I had a few really keen guys ask about ROIP and they enjoyed seeing your satellite setup and data decode inside. I did not hear much feedback on the ATV but not sure not being inside were they just filming/recording or getting involved with the public.

We somehow need to encourage younger members, maybe cadets or students as I did over hear some +Teenage members of the public after they went into the shack come out and say the reason they have not joined a club is because of the age of the members!!! I many interested youngsters out there but they are put off by the lack of similar aged members. That's a hard one to address.

Listening and using ROIP and other Digital modes there are literally hundreds of users registering and using the relatively new modes, new and well established radio amateurs alike, its alive and people are chatting worldwide making friends and spreading the word of Amateur radio. Perhaps we need to get more active on these channels and start running a RNARS ROIP or other dedicated channel.

To finish the show was as I said better than last year but we can improve and have a year for new ideas to be implemented

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Joe G3ZDF

ATV REPEATER PROPOSAL

Dear Joe,

Following on from the demise of the original ATV repeater (GB3IV), at Collingwood, we would like to further discuss the opportunities to re-instate the repeater and ATV club station, back in the Collingwood Radio Club room, in order to provide:

- Collingwood Radio Club ATV station and repeater
- 23cm ATV within Portsmouth area
- Revive project / construction building, using current technologies such as excellent MiniToune receiver, or Portsdown transmitter
- Inspire new, and return of past, members to the club
- Low cost of 23cm receiver and how brew antenna building / experimenting
- Introduce 5 GHz for learning and experimenting. This is spreading within ATV and lots of fun and cheap! Drone inputs too.
- Possibility to add an additional shack day for ATV work and project building?

Phase 1: Get on Air

The original repeater, had a station with the club room and repeater rack. This provided a great deal of feature flexibility but used older larger technologies. A proposal would be to compress the new setup:

- Mount a single 23cm Angled slot antenna on the top of the tower
- Mount the primary ATV 23cm analogue receiver and filters, in a water proof box close to the antenna as possible
- Mount the primary ATV 23cm digital transmitter, PA and filters, in a water proof at base of tower
- A small amount of new repeater logic and ATV control then taken to a bay in the shack. Power would be require (TBD)
- ATV station setup in the bay to promote ATV
- Setup ATV stream to BATC and promote Collingwood
- Initial setup could be TX only on video test loop

Main RX/TX on mast would reduce the feeder loss (& cost), as much as possible and only power and video/audio are then taken into the shack.

Phase 2: Introduce 23cm Beam

- Make good the rotator if possible
- Mount a 23cm beam on the tower
- Add antenna switching to the receiver and transmitters, on the tower
- Take rotator control back to the shack and build remote control

Phase 3: Introduce 5 GHz

The 5 GHz band is a fast growing ATV band due to very low cost transmitters and receivers, based on FPV Radio Control. For example a cheap complete transmitter, or receiver, can be purchased for around £10-15

- Mount a single 5GHz slot antenna on the top of the tower
- Mount the ATV 5GHz digital receiver and filters, in a water proof box base of antenna
- Power and video/audio taken to a bay in the shack.
- 5GHz used an additional repeater input for experimentation
- A mutual drone and ATV channel would be used

- Could be used for next year's Collingwood Open Day

In parallel:

Would be good to add a talkback 2M input, or one from IW even..

The remote GB3IV receiver on Portsdown is already being worked on, under the SCART group. The solar panels, wind generator, rack and batteries are already installed. We are awaiting a 5GHz internet bridge in order to stream the signal out. Due to the excellent coverage this will provide, this can then be used as an additional input on the GB3IV repeater, via the stream.

Hopefully we would be able to move forwards on this and regenerate interest in another mode of communication, at Collingwood.

References:

Cheap 23cm Receiver examples: Can be used to receiver the repeater, without any modification!

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/1080P-DVB-S2-HD-Digital-Satellite-TV-BOX-Receiver-USB-WIFI-W-Remote-Control/142560721403>

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/UK-FREE-SAT-V7-1080P-HD-DVB-S2-Digital-TV-Receiver-Set-Top-Box-Video-Broadcast/173104630718>

Home brew antenna examples

http://www.dl5neg.de/23cm_ant/23cm_ant.htm

<http://zakifani.mbnet.fi/biquad/>

<http://www.m0dts.co.uk/gb3km/how-to.htm>

https://www.w6pql.com/23cm_double_quad.htm

Cheap ready built 23cm antenna

https://www.banggood.com/1_2G-14dbi-High-Gain-Directional-RX-FPV-Antenna-p-1164453.html?stayold=1&cur_warehouse=CN

23cm Preamp example (kit)

<http://www.minikits.com.au/23cm-RX-Preamplifier>

MinitiouneReceiver Project

5GHz transmitter examples. Lots on eBay, Bang-good etc.

TX https://hobbyking.com/en_us/skyzone-ts58400-5-8ghz-32ch-a-v-400mw-mini-fpv-transmitter.html

PA <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/5-8GHz-3W-4-5W-Wireless-AV-Transmitter-Signal-Booster-Amplifier-TS832-Part-/192438410635>

<https://batc.org.uk/contests/5-6ghz-users-map/>

Just found more on the 5 GHz side, if of interest

https://wiki.batc.org.uk/5.6_GHz

Kind Regards

Dave G8PUO