



# Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary LS Martin Longbottom

-% RNARS HQ Shack, Building 512, HMS Collingwood, Newgate Lane, Fareham, Hants, PO14 1AS

## MINUTES

### Committee Meeting Thursday 04 February 2021 - 19:00, held via Zoom VTC [Covid-19 pandemic - Shack remains closed. ]

#### 1. Chairman's opening remarks

Meeting declared open at 1920hrs, the Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Present :

David Firth, M0SLL (Chair)	[DF]
Joe Kirk, G3ZDF(memb. sec.)	[JK]
Kevin Lamb, G4BUW	[KL]
Martin Longbottom, M0EHL (Sec)	[ML]
Adrian Mori, 2E0JVM (Tres)	[AM]
Mike Moore, M6POY	[MM]
Pete Milsom, G4GSA	[PM] - Managed to join in during the meeting.
Mick Puttick, G3LIK	[MP]
Wally Walker, G4DIU	[WW]

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Stephen Legg, M6WVV  
Bob New, G0BSJ

#### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The previous meeting minutes have been circulated, the chair asked if anyone had any comments.

There being none it was proposed to accept the minutes.

Proposed KL

Seconded JK

#### 4. Matters arising.

We need to look into the Questionnaire that was put forward at the AGM and see if the proposer, who agreed to look into it, has made any progress.

#### 5. Secretary's report

The last period has been a quiet one and I have not had much emails or activities so I haven't much to report.

I have been able to visit to do security checks on a few occasions. For awareness the key signature list has been updated with the result that anyone who has not got access to establishment has been removed. This is standard procedure, so I can only forewarn about this.

Rounds are due to happen this week, and due to my lack of ability to attend, Dale the building manager, has agreed to show the rounds party in. I will make myself available on the phone should there be any urgent questions raised. With any luck I shall be able to point out that the requirement for maintenance is growing.

## 6. Membership Secretary's report

Membership statistics are included at Annex A

JK explained that he had received enquiries from the guard room regarding access to building maintenance. He passed on Dale's details to them.

Membership changes, new members are coming in which is good.

We have had several reports of members who have passed away, in particular Dick Hardy, G3TIX who was 93 was one of our oldest members and was registered blind.

## 7. Treasurer's report

Not much to report, pretty quiet, odd expense request and the newsletter

Only thing of concern looking over the last few years, our expenditure is reasonably high. Our current finances are on an increasing trend year on year. It may be something to look at if at some point we may need to access our savings as the deposit is the lowest it has been. I don't expect any major expenses but it is something to be aware of. The fixed term deposit can only be accessed in December 2022 on maturity.

### Balances

Current a/c £1117.89

Deposit £7064.26

FTD £36322.18

### Following the Treasurer's Report:

A discussion was had on the longer term issues that this has raised and ultimately the biggest cost is the printing and distribution of the newsletter. Postage rates in particular have gone up over the last few years. There was a consensus that the newsletter is an important part of the society's identity and we should aim to continue to make it available in both electronic and printed forms. However there may be a case to review the subscription levels, particularly where costs are higher, so that such costs are attributed appropriately and fairly. There is also a wider issue of sustainability and having sufficient funds for contingencies.

We need to look some points:

Aim to continue to recruit new members

Ensure that we do things in the right way which means evolving the society to keep up with the times - and hopefully continue to also retain existing members.

Look to address costs - we have a ~12 month period in order to conduct a review on this.

Overseas members, who cost the society more than their subscription to send them newsletters was one example. Though the review may identify others. (pros and cons)

Sustainability of levels of subscriptions - a natural tendency for newer members (potentially), to choose the e-newsletter tier means that eventually all members could eventually be paying £5/yr. So a review would need to take this trend into consideration and see if this remains viable over the next few years.

Some of the funds in the accounts are part of the costs contributed by those who are life members. (Their life member fee they paid at the time)

The chairman concluded the discussion, he requested that committee members should start thinking about the matter in order to bring detailed views back into committee later. Any questionnaire that may be done could be used to inform the process, along with any views which may be expressed to committee members by the wider membership.

## 8. Managers's Reports

### a. Shack Manager

Nothing to report - No further updates on the shack.

### b. QSL Manager

Nothing to report - No further updates for the present.

### c. Web Site

The revamp of the website has been completed and the site looks much better as well as being more suitable for mobiles and tablets.

### d. Area Rep Coordinator

Even the RSGB aren't committed to their own events this year yet, so not much to add. The Covid situation is still affecting things. Will be writing to the area reps to try and keep in touch.

e. Commodities Manager

Commodities remain suspended due to no shack access and the supplier being unable to deal with anything during the Covid situation.

9. Proposal for a Zoom account - requested by Michael Rioux, W1USN - One of the RNARS DX net Managers

A request was received by the Secretary and Chairman to consider supporting some of the HF nets, of which RNARS members either run or participate in, with a premium zoom account. This is because the HF conditions are poor at present and the net members would like the chance to be able to have a pre-net chat on the internet, or act as a substitute net when conditions preclude the net from being established. For the full proposal see Annex B

The committee contemplated in some detail the proposal, and the reasons for and against. Whilst there were perceived to be some advantages to a premium account, namely the removal of the 40minute time limit on meetings, Zoom is nonetheless available to be used free of charge. Given that the present membership is a mere £5/year (£15 including the printed newsletter), the committee felt it was a big ask to provide this facility for the proposed nets to be able to operate on the internet. A few key points were noted:

- There are internet connected radio modes which may be a better, and free to use, option for a ham radio net such as DMR, DSTAR or Echolink. These would be closer to the ham ecosystem than Zoom for this purpose and may be better suited for a fallback or pre net when HF may not be viable due to conditions. Even if this isn't what DX net participants may desire.
- Amateur radio as a hobby, whilst having many freedoms, isn't free of cost. Buying a rig and the equipment to get on air generally costs money, so if net members wish to make use of premium facilities they could divide the cost between themselves.
- Funding such an item begs the question that if this is made available to one member then all members may rightly feel entitled to the same, something the society couldn't viably do.
- The proposal suggests that one premium account could be shared amongst the net controllers, it is possible that this may violate terms for keeping credentials secured. In addition, once such details have been shared amongst multiple individuals then the society would have no ability to control who had access to an account in the society's name.
- VAT would need to be added on to the cost

With the above points noted the item was formally proposed to the committee for the purchase of a premium zoom account as detailed above.

Proposed - ML

Secunder - None

The committee voted unanimously to reject the proposal

10. New logo produced

An Updated logo has been produced, slightly amending the current one to bring in the antenna within the background crest. This was produced courtesy of Ian Hutchinson, M0LIH.

Proposed to update the society's logo with this amended one.

Prop: DF

Sec: ML

11. Date of next meeting

Agreed on 25 Mar 21 1900.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 2055 hrs**

**ANNEX A****MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT****Membership Secretary's Report Committee 04 Feb 2021****Membership Changes since Winter Newsletter**

<b>New Members</b>		
Paul Whittaker	2E1FLD	5117
Jack Turner	GI4LZR	5118
James Hale	MM7WWM	5119
Steve Harvey	G0NVW	5120
Rob Darby	MOVBD	5121
Les Sidebottom	VK2CPC	5122
Rev. Thomas Cundy	M7SHF	5123
Tom Johnstone	G2NV	5124
Paul Daly	MM7PWO	5125
Dave Thomas	GW4XUE	5126
<b>Re-joiners</b>		
Bill Owens	G8UTC	1542
<b>Changes</b>		
<b>Resigned</b>		
<b>Silent Keys</b>		
Fred Robins (was lapsed)	G3GVM	4381
Michael Prince (life member)	GW7EUL	0890
Andy Levy	M5AL	4869
Dick Hardy (life member)	G3TIX	0290

## ANNEX B

### Zoom Proposal

My name is Michael Rioux, W1USN, RNARS #3889 and I am writing to you to propose that the Society provide a ZOOM conferencing account for the use of its members.

I have been one of the net managers for the RNARS DX net on 14.329 on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays for many years. Propagation has been very poor for many of those years and the nets have become sparsely attended. As a result of the poor propagation and with the added handicap of the worldwide pandemic, it was suggested that we meet once a week on ZOOM to maintain contact. The response has been great! We have, on average, nine RNARS members participating in the meetings. ZOOM offers free one-hour conferences and we have been using that service. However, we find that we often have more to discuss than the one-hour limit provides to us. Members re-log onto ZOOM for an additional hour. During the past holiday season, ZOOM offered unlimited time for conferences and we took full advantage of the offer and one 'net' lasted three hours!

Many of our members live in situations that do not allow for the optimal radio station and antennas and are thus out of contact with their RNARS shipmates. In addition, due to COVID they are restricted to home and unable to partake in normal social activities. RNARS nets provide this needed social contact and are especially meaningful to these members.

The RNARS 20-meter DX ZOOM net currently meets at 1330Z on Thursdays just prior to the 1430Z 14.329 net. I can provide you with the meeting number and password if you would like to join us to see how this works. We have regular attendance by members from Australia, the United States, and United Kingdom.

I ask that the Society procure a ZOOM account (about \$150/year or GBP 120/year) and distribute the login information to all of the RNARS net managers to use when conditions warrant.

I welcome your response and comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Rioux, W1USN, RNARS #3889