



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary LS Martin Longbottom (Pro-tem)

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

***** PRE-RELEASE DRAFT *****

MINUTES

60th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held via Zoom VTC

[Covid-19 pandemic - COLLINGWOOD is closed for social and amenity functions.]

1. Chairman's Introduction

The present chairman, David Firth, M0SLL opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Present :

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Joe Kirk, G3ZDF | Andrew Levy, M5ALG | Glen Loake, G0GBI | Paul Digs, M0PPD |
| Kevin Lamb G4BUW | Stephen Palmer, GM0EQS | Doug Bowen, G0MIU | Henry Ehm, M0ZAE |
| Martin Longbottom, M0EHL | Maren Lorenz, DK9MOS | Mike Hannan, G4FVG | Mick Puttick, G3LIK |
| | Hans-Juergen Kempe, DK9OS | Graeme Morgan, VK5GG | Michael Rioux, W1USN |
| Bob New, G0BSJ | Bert Matthies, DM1BM | Jo Van Laarschott, PA0VLA | Phil Manning, G1LKJ |
| Wally Walker, G4DIU | Edwin Lloyd, 2E0LLD | Paul. Joosten, PA5UL | Stephen Legg, M6WVV |
| Paul Sutermeister – (Pres) | Steve Lacey, 2E0WDR | Mike Moore, M6POY | Wally Walker, G4DIU |

2. Apologies

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Peter Rudwick, G3RDR | Danny Sharpe, G3ZUN | Tom Waters, G0GQJ/N8WHF | Fred Pilling, G4HWK |
| Peter Saunders, VK6APW | Steve Legg, M6WVV | Cathy Lacey, M0WVL | Ian Hutchinson, M0LIH |
| Chris Brown, SWL | Tony Koeller, M5AGB | Pete Milsom, G4GSA | John Pengilly, M6JYS |
| Adrian Mori, 2E0JVM | | | |

3. President's report

The President also welcomed everyone to the meeting

As some of you may have noticed I was unable to be at last years AGM owing to being in Australia. The chair sent a report of the meeting and the aspirations for this year, it all looked very positive and bright. That was not to be; the coronavirus has been a real disaster. And although the RNARS must be one of the best organisations to stay in real time contact and keep an eye on members' welfare, the usual social contact that we enjoy has not been possible. One particular point of concern has been the shack. We are all well aware equipment needs regular maintenance and use. HMS COLLINGWOOD's shutdown has prevented access to the shack,

equipment, aerials and slops [RNARS stores] . I do feel that the society's outlook, supported by various managers' reports, is positive and raring to go. I commend our various managers and I'm grateful for their efforts over this difficult year to keep things running. I do not want to mention individuals, however there are two in particular I feel I must; Our previous chairman, Doug Hotchkiss, is leaving the shack vicinity and moving to Wales. Doug is unusual in that he is a master mariner, a ship driver, a salvage and mooring expert with every finger a marlin spike. But he has no communication background and is completely self taught in his very extensive radio expertise. During his time as chairman he put the society on a very firm basis, and on a personal side, he was an excellent support and a mentor to me when I was invited to be your president. I'm sure we wish him well, and look forward to his sage advice in filling the airwaves. I would mention one other person; when Joe Kirk retired as secretary we all knew he was a difficult act to follow. I'm grateful to Martin Longbottom moving in as he says pro tem, but he seems to be doing well in his initiation by fire in organising this AGM, so thank you Martin.

That concludes what I have to say, thank you all for your continuing support to society.

4. Minutes of the last AGM

Proposed by Wally G4DIU

Seconded by Paul MOPPD

5. Chairman's report - including Silent Keys

It has been a very quiet year, everything we hoped for didn't materialise. And that was also the case not just in RNARS, but also around the world and country. In the shack we have achieved several milestones, we have got rid of the dreadful decor and appallingly old curtains. New royal naval blue vertical blinds have been fitted along with newer more comfortable chairs. A four drawer filing cabinet has also been obtained.

We have done some decorating of our own, and following from that we have obtained a storage facility nearby. The reason being is that the mezzanine above the toilet was causing some concern from various authorities with regard to heavy equipment stored there for outside events. We will be taking equipment down as and when we can and be moving it to the store over the road. We have had changes to some of the galley equipment, there was a hob in this area and this was also causing some concern with a fire risk without a separate switch. This has been changed and as a result this is a lot safer.

On a personal note, I would like to point out that there are a number of people who work hard and very quietly behind the scenes to keep the shack and galley equipment cleaned and tidied, along with bringing in the donuts on a regular basis!

In terms of operations and equipment, we did make some repairs to aerials systems. Some of them were quite spectacular when disconnecting aerial connectors inside the shack, as Alan found out when water came gushing out of a feeder. So we had to replace some feeders and re-arrange things. Everything else seems to be working well following repairs to the feeders, however some aspects still need our attention. Our 9m mast was successfully welded and passed muster on the recommended standards. This meant we had to bring in an outside contractor to ensure compliance. We didn't get the chance to coat the 9m with paint, so it is quietly oxidising away. I'm working behind the scenes to get access under the banner of general maintenance before it becomes a critical issue.

In terms of operations, as most of you will know from the newsletter; due to the sterling work of Ian Hutchinson, and also to Martin who assisted him from time to time, we have a satellite communication facility. This went live during the summer months operated by the serving guys who could gain access to the shack. There was live two way traffic between the shack and other amateurs via satellite for a period. Our DMR radio, which is also worldwide. I know many have one on most the day. I have seen the initial excitement has shrunk a little bit, but this is often the case with amateurs who are focussing on operating at their preferred time of day. Other activities, such as the open days at Collingwood and Sultan were cancelled. This has left us high and dry along with the similar effect it has had on rallies. I'm hoping once restrictions can be lifted we can look to get back together for an RNARS BBQ social and field day of our own.

The other aspect of this lockdown is that people have been very quick together as a team and thinking up ways of maintaining communication with other amateurs, not just within the UK, but around the world. Not least with things such as Zoom, along with zoom. We have been able to have several pub quiz nights which did keep us going and achieved the aim of maintaining morale. It worked very well, with people keen to participate and come up with these ideas. So well done to everyone for that.

Membership - We are continuing to push for new members and promoting the society. There is an advert in RADCOM, we hope to do the same in Navy News. Kevin Lamb and Stephen Palmer, have adopted G3CRS/A at their homes in Hampshire and Aberdeen to keep RNARS frequencies listed in our newsletter active, along with the rest of the bands - including even 70MHz. I really want to thank you for this activity which has resulted in several member renewals and new enquiries for joining the society. This is crucial in keeping the society active and seeking out a newer generation of members.

Training documents weren't ready before they were released and so since last year people have been chasing training material. But the RSGB seems to have now managed to get a grip on this, and they are now providing online training, along with online exams and invigilation. Perhaps one other aspect of that is provision of readers for the those who have dyslexia.

Alan Rackett is to be commended in particular, he spent a long time studying had for his intermediate. So well done to him.

Finally, COLLINGWOOD is celebrating it's 80th anniversary this year. We actually managed to steal an early march on this as we had a special event station running in the shack last year during December 19 till 1715 on new years eve. As part of the 80th celebrations a team at COLLINGWOOD are producing a book. This seemed to be well received by the PR team who are dealing with this so this will also help to promote the society as well.

So thank you as well Paul for your ongoing support as our President along with everyone who make the RNARS what it is.

A minute silence was held in remembrance for our departed members. RIP.

Silent Key List for 2020

| RNARS No | Name and Callsign | RNARS No | Name and Callsign |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 129 | Ken Taylor, G3LME | 2228 | Derek Andrews, G4EEZ |
| 433 | Dave Clemens, G3VXM | 2254 | Nina Webster, GM4RXW |
| 480 | Peter Bowen, G3TZL | 2834 | Alex Thompson, GM3AHR |
| 1042 | Sid Simmons, G4GJY | 3561 | Martin D. Howard-Dudley, G4SMU |
| 1209 | Frank Beech, VK7BC | 3638 | Gordon Thorne, G0JJD |
| 1404 | Brad Bradshaw, G4SKS | 3890 | Neale Imrie, VK2CNI |
| 1962 | Ernie Sweetman, G3UAZ | 4042 | Brian Coyne, G3DCO |
| 2008 | Ken Lown, G4PTE | 4134 | Bill Cooper, G0KDL |
| 2011 | Ronald Hamstead, G4RTH | 4147 | Dave White, WB4REW |
| 2049 | Stan Ellis, GD3LSF | 4876 | Marc Litchman, G0TOC |
| 2176 | Johan Bregman, PA3CIB | 4902 | Robin Woodbridge, M0GMI |

6. Secretary's report

Having only been in the position of secretary, so I'd like to thank those who have supported me in taking on the role. It was a dawning reality that when I in to the shack that I had started taking on liaison and admin activities in the shack as one of the few members who is in a position to get in to COLLINGWOOD, to carry the safety checks along with the shack manager. The other thing becoming clear was that holding any AGM in COLLINGWOOD was not going to be feasible. The command took the decision to suspend, indefinitely access by amenity pass holders. The establishment priority was to ensure it maintained it's core training output. The suspension affected sports and mess facilities as well, so we weren't the only ones. This is likely to continue until next year.

As the Chairman has already alluded to with the shack, I will also mention again that the society is staying alive and well by a number of dedicated individuals who are often running nets, carrying out repeater maintenance, and being on air for the society. We have remained alive as a society and I'm grateful for that. I would like to remind you all that I am a working member of the RN, and please bear in mind my responses to you may be late or take a few days if need to get in touch with me. I would please recommend that members make the most of the rest of the committee as well, such as the area reps, who can feed in ideas and feedback to the committee, and are only too willing to help. Then hopefully we don't become too centred on the HQ shack. I hope to have an introduction from myself in the near future in the next newsletter when I can get something from our newsletter editor.

7. Membership Secretary report

1. We've had quite a few new members during the year but unfortunately quite a few members have not renewed their subscriptions and were therefore lapsed. I contacted those that had email addresses and a number of members responded and paid their subscriptions.
2. The recent series of ads in Radio User and RadCom were very successful and were what persuaded most of the newer members to join and for some lapsed members to rejoin.
3. We have had 24 joiners (38 last year), 7 re-joiners (8 last year) and 22 SK.
4. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of all the silent keys who passed away in the last year. As shown on the full silent keylist we only found out about some of our members years after they went SK.
5. Where we were advised of someone's ill-health we sent a 'Thinking of You' card.

6. Could I ask for members to confirm their email addresses please, not just those who receive the Newsletter electronically? Contacting members is a lot easier (and cheaper) by email rather than having to write and post a letter. Just drop me an email, it doesn't have to say much, just who you are.

7. We send a printed copy of the Newsletter to the Library of all the RN and RM shore establishments and to the other Service radio organisations. We are also in the process of finding out where to send copies to catch the attention of Merchant Navy trainee electronic engineers.

8. A few facts and figures about the most recent Newsletter

a. 60% of members had the printed/paper newsletter and 40% the electronic version.

b. 85% of the printed copies were posted to the UK, just under 10% went to Europe and the remaining 5% went world-wide

| Membership Totals | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Type Of Membership | Current | | Free | | Life | | Under25 | | Total | |
| | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
| Affiliate | 14 | 13 | 5 | 5 | | 0 | | | 19 | 18 |
| Associate | 117 | 127 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 13 | | | 131 | 140 |
| Corporate | 352 | 385 | 3 | 3 | 67 | 74 | 1 | | 423 | 463 |
| Family | 8 | 8 | | 0 | | 0 | | | 8 | 8 |
| Honorary | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 0 | | | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 492 | 535 | 10 | 9 | 80 | 87 | 1 | | 583 | 632 |

8. Treasurer's report

The treasurer was not able to be present at the meeting. A report was presented to the membership. Some of the outstanding issues relate to commodities which the chairman explained was due to the suspension of trading of the supplier.

A few questions were raised regarding balancing income vs expenditure.

Without the treasure being present the chairman confirmed that the likely reason was due two reasons, firstly bigger maintenance costs in this year relating to mast maintenance, and secondly improving our newsletter which is also distributed to messes, naval and marine establishments libraries free of cost in order to promote the society.

A few other questions were raised regarding the newsletter being produced as an audio book version which the chairman answered that a serving member had investigated the possible production of this, along with stating that Blind Veterans UK get a copy from us as they are affiliated members.

Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society - 2019/2020

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance Carried forward 1/4/2019 | | £48,674.61 |
| Unpresented cheques 2018/19 | | £0.00 |
| Sub Total | | £48,674.61 |
| Income | | |
| Subscriptions | £4,723.22 | |
| Awards | £0.00 | |
| Rally Income | £10.00 | |
| Commodities | £441.00 | |
| Interest | £361.18 | |
| Sundry | £307.90 | |
| Sale of Surplus Kit | £230.00 | |
| | £6,073.30 | £6,073.30 |
| Total Income | | £54,747.91 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Expenses | £681.81 | |
| Rallies | £0.00 | |
| Newsletter | £4,449.06 | |
| Broadband | £517.92 | |
| AGM | £637.88 | |
| Ins | £351.85 | |
| Refund Subs | £45.00 | |
| Equipment & Repairs | £2,407.14 | |
| Commodities | £845.40 | |
| Sundry | £415.45 | |
| RSGB | £47.00 | |
| | £10,398.51 | £10,398.51 |
| Sub Total | | £44,349.40 |
| Unpresented Cheques as at 31/3/2020 | | £0.00 |
| Balance of Accounts as at 31/3/2020 | | £44,349.40 |

I have examined the books and documents presented to me and in my opinion the annual accounts

give a true and accurate reflection of the RNARS state of affairs as at 31st March 2020

Signed.....


9. Announcement and presentation of RNARS Awards

Awards were announced and a virtual presentation was conducted.

Certificates of Merit

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|-------|--|
| 2020/1 | Steve Legg | M6WVV | For his work as Shack Manager |
| 2020/2 | Alan Campbell | M6LFM | For his work in the HQ Shack |
| 2020/3 | Kevin Lamb | G4BUW | For activating and running G3CRS/A during and after the lockdown |
| 2020/4 | Mick Puttick | G3LIK | For running the Sunday morning News Net week in, week out. |

Merit Award

| | | | |
|------|----------------|-------|---|
| 2020 | Ian Hutchinson | M0LIH | For his work in activating GB3RN on the Oscar-100/Es'hail2 satellite. |
|------|----------------|-------|---|

Robert Sharpe, G3AWY, Award

| | | | |
|------|------------------|--------|--|
| 2020 | Jürgen H. Timcke | HB9ANE | |
|------|------------------|--------|--|

10. Manager's reports

a. Shack Manager

Welcome to all RNARS members, committee members, visitors and guests, it has been a testing year and it is unfortunate that we continue to be unable to open the RNARS Shack in HMS Collingwood to members. Constraints placed upon us, and rightly so for the right reasons, has meant the shack has been closed for the majority of the year and continues to do so, even though national lockdown measures were lifted for a while and again are now tightened. This has meant the ability for members to gather and socialise has been limited though hopefully we have all made use of the airwaves, the RNARS Website and media to stay in touch. Much of the planned works in and around the shack as you can appreciate are on temporary hold, regular checks on the shack are still conducted for security and safety, masts/antennas are visually inspected weekly and after any energetic weather. We wish to continue to drive forward in making the Shack a comfortable and friendly place to meet, ragchew, socialise and who knows even use radio, because the shack is more than just a radio shack, for many it is a weekly release, a sanctuary, a place to forget daily worries, commitments and to chat with like minded members. In the future when restrictions lift the shack is ready with hand gels, biological wipes available, we will encourage anyone who is feeling unwell not to attend for the sake of others and also those who attend to maintain 2m distancing at all times. The shack has ample space if common sense is applied to spread out around the large table and the radio bays, equipment should be wiped clean before and after each use and good ventilation maintained even if this means bringing a jumper along. This way we will all stay safe and reclaim some sense of normality from these recent trying times. If anyone has any ideas how they wish to see the shack in the future, maybe some new radio equipment, antennas, new furnishing, appliances, please forward your suggestions as this is your, the members shack for all to enjoy.

Thank You, Stay Safe 73s

Stephen Legg

Shack Manager

There were a few questions regarding the activation of GB3RN and nets from the members. This focussed mostly on pre-pandemic activity.

The answers related to personnel availability to operate the station and nets, particularly some seagoing members.

b. QSL Manager

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen my name is Pete Milsom G4GSA and RNARS Number 524.

I recently took over the position of QSL Manager for the RNARS and had a large box of qsl cards and envelopes delivered to me which is ready to be processed during this month. So we will be up and running shortly.

All my contact details will be in the next newsletter and my address is correct on qrz.com. If you wish to contact me via e-mail my address is pete.milsom@virgin.net or phone 01454 882465.

I will introduce myself to the membership in the next newsletter and by then I should be getting cards in and out of the bureau. I am looking forward to serving the membership as QSL Manager and any queries please contact me.

73 de Pete

c. Web Site Manager

1. Firstly I would like to thank Shine Systems for hosting our website free of charge.

2. Looking at the statistics on visitors to our site I don't think we are putting too much of a load on their servers.

3. Over the year I have continued to update the rolling news on the site with links to a mixture of topics on the RN, amateur radio or both. Minutes and copies of the Newsletter are also uploaded for members to view.

4. I have started to update the site to what I think is a more modern look and one which I believe will be suitable for viewing on smart phones and tablets.

5. As with all publishing vehicles a website can only be as good as the material supplied so if you have any suggestions on what to add, change or remove I would be very happy to get the details from you.

6. Finally, if there's an aspiring Tim Berners-Lee who would like to take on the running and updating of the website please get in touch.

Joe G3ZDF

d. Area Rep Coordinator

There is not much to be able to report. I have managed to ring round the various volunteers and the consensus seems to be that we won't see much activity at rallies until summer 2021 at the earliest. I will send out my usual letter to canvas who will continue to represent the society over the coming year, with some replies already, notably Ken G3RFH who intends to carry on attending the Blackpool Rally.

Wally G4DIU

e. Newsletter Editor

The newsletter seems to be having some success, and judging by the compliments and congratulations being received, seems to be well received. It does also allow us to promote the society and includes a number of technical articles. We continue to get a good and reasonable service from our printers. We produce approximately 400 copies which take about a month and a half to prepare. The additional copies are supplied to messes and ships' libraries around the RN as well as being available for handing out.

Of note really is that the navy, and the merchant navy are a family and it is important to keep in touch. I have been very fortunate that I have the right kind of material from maritime affairs and radio. This includes members.

The president voiced his compliments on the newsletter's production and mentioned that it helps to keep him in touch and was very professionally produced.

f. Award Manager

The awards issued have been as follows:-

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| World Wide Award – No Applications. | International Navy Award – No Applications. | Mercury Award – No Applications. |
| Kaleidoscope Award – No Applications. | Hampshire County Award – No Applications. | BITs Award – No Applications. |

I suppose this is simply a reflection of the current lack of activity on the bands in general.

Best regards 73

Ian Pitkin/G4KJD

RNARS 1708

The chair commented that the big crushing thing affecting this is likely to be Covid.

Martin M0EHL announced that the committee was considering a youth award in memory of Marc Litchman G0TOC following his considerable involvement over his life in youth organisations, the RSGB, his home amateur radio society (LEFARS) and GB2RN.

Joe mentioned that he had written to Marc's widow in order to request her approval.

It was suggested that it could be one of a series of awards and this was noted.

g, Commodities Manager

It has been an absolute disaster this year. We had 1 or 2 orders which we had be unable to fulfil, I gather that the lady who does our printing has been taken ill. Other than that covid has stopped us completely, so I'd be grateful if people held off their orders for the moment and we'll be back up and running as soon as possible.

Mike, M6POY

A question was raised about epaulettes might be something that could be of interest. This is something Mike agreed to investigate if he could be emailed with the details and question to follow up.

11. Election of Officers

- a. Treasurer - Adrian Mori 2E0JVM
- b. Web Site Manager - Joe Kirk G3ZDF
- c. Newsletter Editor - David Firth M0SLL
- d. Awards Manager -
- e. Commodities Manager - Mike Moore, M6POY

The motion for election of officers as per above was passed

NB: The election of Chair was amended as it was pointed out that the Chair is elected by the committee members at their first meeting following the AGM therefore David Firth stands for election as a committee member.

12. Election of new committee members

David Firth, M0SLL
Kevin Lamb, G4BWU
Wally Walker, G4DIU
Steve Legg, M6WVV
Bob New, G0BSJ
Michael Moore, M6POY

The motion for election of members to serve on the committee was passed

13. Election of Auditors

The auditor was proposed by Wally, G4DIU and seconded by Doug, G0LDJ

The motion to re-appoint our auditors was passed.

14. Votes of Thanks

Net controllers

Rally stand volunteers

It was highlighted that nets do work and Glen G0GBI was keen to encourage people to join the nets.

Jo PA0VLA - Is there any idea about starting RNARS activity contests?

Joe, G3ZDF answered that it was probably cancelled due to lack of participation with low numbers making it unviable.

A group for international naval contesting is available on facebook.

A discussion was held regarding celebrations, or rather the lack of, for the 60th anniversary of the RNARS. This didn't really happen due to covid and a possible consideration of a celebration for our 65th

15. Survey

A survey of members was being proposed by Henry, M0ZAE following consideration on the nets such as the bubbly and discussion was had regarding how this might be carried out. There were some points raised that members may be active that others are missing, such as different modes, bands, hours for activity etc. Surveying members may get an idea of the balance of who people are, age ranges, when are they active and other (maybe linked) interests.

Henry agreed to look into creating a template.

David said he could pop something like this into the newsletter and publish it once Henry can produce a template form.

Joe reminded that the last survey was held in 2013, and we still have the results.

16. Attracting more diversity

Henry, M0ZAE wanted to suggest that we ought to be looking at increasing our diversity and addressing underrepresented groups within the society, and the wider hobby. This is particularly the case for attracting women into amateur radio. We need to generate interest and try to increase membership in many of these areas.

A discussion was had on this matter with a few notable comments, including;

that there has to be a general interest in amateur radio to address first in underrepresented groups,
a reminder that WRNS as a distinct service no longer exists, with all service members joining the RN,
understanding those with special needs
coming up with ideas to look at what we can actually offer

17. Date of next AGM

Proposed Paul PA5UL

Seconded Paul, M0PPD

Agreed for the 09 October 2021 (2nd Saturday of the month)

The meeting was closed at 1705 hrs

