



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

President: Commodore Paul Sutermeister DL RN

Chairman: Lt Cdr Doug Hotchkiss QCB MBE RN G4BEQ
Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk BSc G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8QR

MINUTES

- RNARS 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 10th October 2015 14.00

The AGM was preceded by a presentation on the origins and operation of D-Star by Don Turner G4TKR of ICOM(UK).

Present (in order of signing in) M6UBI, G0LFI, G0IEY, G0IUY, G0MIU, G8PUO, DK9MOS, DK9OS, G4BEQ, M0EHL, G3TZM, G3RDR, G3KOJ, President, M5ALG, M3AGI, G4JBE, M0LRE, G4GSA, M0KTT, **G4TNN**, G4PZV, 2E0JVM, M1AFM, G4TNN, G4TKR (visitor), G4PIJ, M3VLB, G3ZDF

The Meeting opened at 14.04.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Mr President, ladies and fellow members welcome to the 55th RNARS AGM and thank you for attending. I would like to thank Captain Jordon for permitting us to hold this AGM within the Establishment and WO1 Rea for the facilities here in the mess.

Willkommen Hans und Maron und danke ihnen fur ihr kommen.

Vielen Dank Maren fur Die Gerurtstags Uberraschung.

Many of you know Hans and Maren our two German Members who regularly come over for the Easter activities on HMS Belfast. Hans was unaware that he was attending this AGM as Maren had arranged it as a Birthday surprise for him. He was told to pack his bag and hammock at the last minute.

2. Apologies for Absence

Alan, G8CJM, 1657, Danny Sharpe, G3ZUN, 0459, Peter Saunders, HZ1PS/VK6APW, 1440, Glenn, G0GBI, 3481, Ron, G4RTH, 2011, Ivor, M0IMJ, 1532, Phil, G1LKJ, 2954, Paul Joosten, PA5UL, 3302, Iain Hill, ZL2BJC, 0972, Tom Taylor, G0PSE, 4831, Doug, G0LDJ, 3686, Jo, PA0VLA, 0944, Jeremy, M0VIY, 4919, Henry, M0ZAE, 4955, Eric, M0HFF, 4834, Wally, G4DIU, 0391, John, G0JSC, 1702, Dave, G4ZMP, 2616, Brian, G4CJY, 0176, Jim, N8NAV,

3913, Glenn, G0GBI, 3481, Ken, G3RFH, 0175, Des, G3LCS, 0038, Paul, G3VCN, 0327, Nigel M0NAF, Marc G0TOC

3. President's Report

Ladies and gentlemen good afternoon and welcome to the 55th AGM of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society.

Thank you to Don Turner and ICOM for their enlightening presentation on D Star prior to this meeting.

You may recall that our Chairman had planned to retire at the last AGM, but agreed to extend his Chairmanship to this year. Well, I am delighted to hear that he will extend his Chairmanship for one more year - delighted not only because I think that he is doing a good job, but also because, selfishly I find him a very easy person with whom to work - providing he does not go heavily into technicalities. This year's details of the Association will be covered in detail by the various Office holders and Managers; however there are two things which I wish to mention. The Association has an Almoner - and as you all know, an Almoner is an official distributor of Alms for the Association. I was laid low recently with an inflammation in my hip and was delighted and amazed to receive one of our official get well and offer of help card from our Almoner - the system works - and thank you Julia.

My final message is one of very sad news and that is that our Patron Admiral Sir Peter Abbott died at the end of September of cancer. Although I knew him fairly well, I was unaware that he was ill. For those of you who may not have known him, I give you a very brief résumé of his career.

He joined the Navy after completing a degree course at Queens College Cambridge and after a number of general service appointments did the Long Communications Course at HMS MERCURY in 1970-71, followed by an appointment to HMS LONDON as her her SCO. He commanded HMS CHAWTON, was SNOWI's Flag Lieutenant and Operations Officer, Commanded HMS AMBUSCADE, was the Commander of HMS BULWARK and the Commander of HMS DRAKE, the Barracks in Plymouth. As a Captain he commanded HMS AJAX and was Captain F , Director of Naval Plans and as a Rear Admiral was Flag Officer Second Flotilla, Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff, as a Vice Admiral was Deputy to the Supreme Allied Commander (SACLANT) in Norfolk Virginia and then as an Admiral, Commander in Chief Fleet (CinC Fleet). We lesser men all thought that he was then going to be First Sea Lord, but instead

he became Vice Chief of the Defence Staff as his last serving appointment. In semi retirement he was Chairman of the Royal Naval Museum, President of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets and Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

This was quite a career for a very clever, intelligent and charming person - and our Patron.

4. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

Proposed by Julia G0IUUY and seconded by Dave G4JBE and agreed unanimously

5. Chairman's Report

This year out of the many members who have crossed the bar, the President has already mention our Patron, I was very sad to hear of the passing of Diana G4RNO. It has not been my usual practice to mention particular individuals but in Diana's case I am sure her passing will be felt by many. Last year we made a special presentation to her for her many years of loyal service and dedication. Her call was as well known worldwide due to her activities running the RNARS Data Comms. Woe betides anyone who stepped out of line using that mode whilst she was in charge. A lovely lady.

In the time honoured tradition I would therefore ask you to stand and join me in a one minute mark of respect.

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Patron | Admiral Sir Peter | Abbott, GBE KCB, MA | 28/09/2015 |
| 0023 | G3ENI | John PEGLER | 12/09/2015 |
| 3926 | G0RNO | Diana PROTHERO | 13/09/2015. |
| 0332 | G6PMT | Peter TOWNSEND | 20/01/2015 |
| 0382 | G3BHK | Les MITCHELL | 06/10/2014. |
| 0431 | G3MXZ | Ray WESSON | 12/11/2014. |
| 0883 | GMFIB | Bill WILSON | 12/11/2014 |
| 0897 | G4BMR | Derek RIDDLE | No details given |
| 0900 | G4CNW | Roger Bold | 03/11/2014. |
| 0937 | G4FRN | Bill HALL | No details |
| 1230 | G3MLY | Ian DODD | 11/04/2015. |
| 1353 | G0EDM | Ed DENNETT | 23/05/2015 |
| 1420 | G4PRG | Mike SMITH | 05/10/2015. |
| 2014 | G4LIH | Don JONES | 07/01/2015. |
| 2545 | G4JSW | Harry BUTLER | No Details. |
| 2917 | G0DID | Anna LAST | 22/06/2015 |
| 3382 | GOAEC | Esde TYLER | Was retired. |
| 3521 | PA3CTK | Harm VOS | 28/10/2014. |
| 3526 | G0IEC | Bill JENNINGS | 02/06/2015. |
| 3652 | G4ZSJ | Geoff PRITCHARD | 27/07/2015. |
| 3674 | G0WNT | Norman KENT | /12/2013. |

| | | | |
|------|--------|---------------------|----------------|
| 3833 | G3ADR | Roy Threadingham | Aug 2015 |
| 4094 | G3LNK | John BOURNE | /05/2015 |
| 4197 | M5SST | Doug RANDS | 12/02/2015 |
| 4221 | G0KXN | Les Bailey | |
| 4224 | DL4CBJ | Hans-Juergen Frebel | 27/08/2015 |
| 4529 | M0BVE | Dave HAMILTON | 22/04/2015 |
| 4530 | G3DXY | Brian LEACH | January 2015 |
| 4677 | G0TBD | Terry BARCLAY | 10/08/2015 |
| 4655 | G0VFE | W.I. Vernon-Jones | 26/07/2015 |
| 4745 | MI0XMN | Bill SAUNDERS | No date given. |

The year has passed very quickly for those of us who are responsible for the running of the society. This year has been more pressurised than in the past due to the many changes within HMS Collingwood especially with respect to security. Unfortunately because of security threats to this country the military have had to act accordingly and as we are privileged to have our HQ within a military establishment it is essential we do not cause problems. I have had many meetings which can be very exhausting especially when you are in your late 80's but because we have such a superb secretary in Joe, who takes on all the paper work, I have managed to cope. With luck things should be more settled in the coming year.

Collingwood Open Day, our opportunity to prove our worth to the powers to be, went well. However for those of us who were involved in making it so it was very hard work indeed. Because of the lack of support from the membership, even though we put out many appeals, it was left to the committee plus 2 to bear the brunt, meaning we had no time to spare for such mundane things as having a meal or short break. As you may be aware our show piece is sending live TV via the internet which is well received worldwide. To maintain full day coverage this involves 6 people constantly filming, monitoring, editing and ensuring 100% transmission.

This left Joe and I to man VHF/HF, PSK, Telephone, Skype, as well as attending to visitors to the shack and other minor functions.

Later in the day it was only Joe as I had to leave to care for my disabled wife. Unless we keep ourselves to the forefront within the establishment our chances of remaining here will rapidly diminish. Should that happen then I would predict the RNARS could quickly fold. Obtaining a suitable alternative to all the facilities we have here would be quite expensive to say nothing of how or who would take on the responsibility to run it.

Many rallies have had an RNARS presence across the country thanks to a

dedicated few members, but unfortunately we did not set up the usual stand at the Newark Rally due to the mounting costs. Wally G4DIU has been the mainstay in keeping us to the fore at this major event over the years but it means he travels from Nottingham to do so. This means finding accommodation as due to his health deteriorating he no longer drives which adds to the cost. What is needed is someone who is fitter and more able and possibly local to take over next year and re-establish our presence there. Alternatively someone who lives local and can offer a bed to Wally and transport to the show would be ideal.

It is up to the membership to put more effort into supporting the society and not to expect that the few, very few, willing hands will continue to keep the ship afloat.

A lot of time and effort has also been put in getting the D Star repeater operating fully. With hind sight I think I would have vetoed the project when I view the many problems that had to be resolved to get it finally up and running. Had it not been for the many hours that Joe G3ZDF and Dave G8PUO put it in would have never happened. Dave has been a tower of strength. When you consider he lives in Eastbourne and at a drop of the hat he drives over to solve the latest problem with the equipment, at no cost to the society I might add, it makes one ponder over the lack of interest shown in supporting the society in its activities by those who live within striking distance of the HQ shack.

Finally I would like to thank the committee and in particular Joe, our secretary for all their hard work and support they have given me over the past year as well of all those other active members who keep the RNARS to the fore at rallies, on the nets and other events, not forgetting our superb editor and the QSL manager as well as the awards manager who is always keen to receive more applicants for the many awards we have, and much to my surprise have all agreed to continue under the present demanding, sometimes dictatorial, chair should he be re elected. More on that later.

Thanks to the efforts of Wally and other members of the Committee the latest version of The Short History of the RNARS is now available. Copies will be available after the AGM.

Doug G4BEQ

6. Secretary's Report

- a.** *50 year Membership Awards were confirmed for 0004, G3LIK , 0023, G3EN(now SK)I, 0038 , G3LCS , 0139, G3NXV, 0142, VE6BF, 0091, G0CWF*

/ ZS1WA, 0200, ZL2TX, 0241, G3RDR and certificates and blazer badges despatched.

- b. *In December 2014 we ran a Special Event Station GB6BFI to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Falkland Islands. Dave G1OCN, Doug G0LDJ, Nigel M0NAF and myself were the operators. We kept having to explain to those we contacted that it was the 100th anniversary we were commemorating.*
- c. *Late last year the Committee agreed to install a 2m D-Star repeater GB7RN. The repeater itself was supplied free of charge by Icom(UK) and the Society purchased the filters and PC controller. Without the help of Dave G8PUO it is unlikely we would have got it live.*
- d. *Early this year in a drive to recruit new members and to encourage lapsed members to rejoin I contacted some 40 members of the former Submarine Amateur Radio Club. We had just one rejoinder.*

Joe G3ZDF

7. Membership Secretary's Report

- a. *Rally Attendances have continued mentored by the Stalwart few, as always reports can be read in the relevant News Letters.*
- b. *Silent keys:- There have been 32 members who have crossed the bar this year or who death was notified to us during the year.*
- c. *Membership continues slowly to increase but we could do with a good few younger applicants to boost the numbers.*
- d. *A number of Members are still paying their subscriptions on the anniversary of their joining Dates and not, as per the rules, on the first day of the current financial year. (April First)*

Wally G4DIU

8. Treasurer's Report – Accounts for 2014/15

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance Carried forward 1/4/2014 | | £49,972.24 |
| Unpresented cheques 2013/14 | | |
| Sub Total | | £49,972.24 |
| Income | | |
| Subscriptions | £6,072.51 | |
| Commodities | £952.70 | |
| Interest | £343.88 | |
| Sundry | £1,184.70 | |
| Sale of Surplus Kit | £1,459.00 | |
| | £10,012.79 | £10,012.79 |
| Total Income | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | £59,985.03 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Expenses | £1,783.98 | |
| Rallies | £799.47 | |
| Newsletter | £3,152.57 | |
| Broadband | £405.37 | |
| AGM | £380.55 | |
| Ins | £299.13 | |
| Refund Subs | £5.00 | |
| Equipment & Repairs | £3,138.89 | |
| Commodities | £889.00 | |
| Sundry | £667.17 | |
| RSGB | £47.00 | |
| | £11,568.13 | £11,568.13 |
| Sub Total | | £48,416.90 |
| Unpresented Cheques as at 31/3/2015 | | |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Balance of Accounts as at 31/3/2014 | £48,416.90 |
|--|-------------------|

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 2015

Signed: T Machin

Adrian reported that Lloyds Bank had processed a cheque incorrectly and instead of debiting a member's account for £5.50 for commodities they had actually taken £550.

This took some time to resolve with the bank.

Adrian 2E0JVM

9. Announcement and presentation of RNARS Awards

a. G3WNJ Trophy RNARS Merit Award:

- Dave G8PUO for his help and guidance in setting up GB7RN.

b. Certificate of Merit to:

- Simon G0IEY for his work in improving the power circuits in the HQ Shack.
- Roy 2E1RAF for his contributions to the Society Newsletter and for acting as an interface between RNARS and RAFARS

c. Robert Sharpe G3AWY Award:

- Jürgen HB9ANE For his article on High Voltage Power Supply for Experimental Work in the Spring 2015 Newsletter

d. Certificates of Appreciation –

- Net Controllers

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Glenn | g0gbi |
| Ken | g3rfh |
| Bill | wa1hmw |
| Peter | hz1ps |
| Mike | g0vix |
| Mick | g3lik |
| John | gm4vug |
| John | g4kgt |

10. Manager's Reports – Shack Manager

- a.** . There has been a steady flow of work done in the shack over the past 12 months. The D-star repeater is up and running and a big thank you must go to Dave Williams and Joe Kirk for all the help in this. A UPS has now been obtained and this will be fitted as there have been numerous interruptions in the power supply. It is not known if this is due to the base supply, or a case of cleaner gerfingerpoken! The cost to the Association of the D-star was nil, as the cost was more than covered by the sale of surplus equipment.
- b.** The cable on the HF mast has been replaced as it was rusty and considered unsafe. A new VHF/UHF. Set has been fitted and a D-star hand held has been bought to enable both VHF and D-star to be used simultaneously.
- c.** A decent set of tools is slowly being put together, including a decent temperature controlled soldering iron.
- d.** ATV has continued to improve in capability and quality, and this was obvious in the quality of this years Open Day. Next year, of course, will be even better!
- e.** Sadly the work has fallen off since May due to ill health, and for this I apologise. Hopefully work will resume soon with the carpentry and electrical work in the shack.

Thank you

Nigel Auckland. M0NAF

11. Manager's Report – QSL Manager

(Sec. Note: Marc was taken ill at the last moment and was unable to deliver his report in person.)

12. Manager's Report – Data Comms

- a. *This year marks two important events. First, and sadly, we lost Diana GORNO our long time Data Comms Manager. Secondly the Yahoo group is now 10 years old!*
- b. *There have been no notable changes during the transitional period when I took over from Diana for the day to day running of the Yahoo group.*
- c. *The main difference anyone would have seen, I now compose the weekly news instead.*
- d. *The group continues to slowly grow, we now have 150+ members. The monthly average for messages is approximately 200.*
- e. *Weekly News will continue as they always have, also any “Stop Press” items will be issued as and where necessary in between News bulletins.*
- f. *Any member of the group can send in items for possible inclusion in a News bulletin, it should be relevant to the RNARS, the Service or the hobby. Please include the URL source for the information if possible.*
- g. *Membership of the RNARS Yahoo Group “reflector” is limited to those who are current and paid up members. Lapsed or resigned members will be removed from group membership.
They can of course re-subscribe upon becoming “current” members once more.*
- h. *Like all Yahoo Groups, we too can occasionally be troubled with “spam” messages, please DO NOT click on and spread it around, if you don't trust the source DELETE IT.
With regard to “spam” if you are requested to change your password(s), please comply as soon as you can. This action is proven to stop most problem mails.*
- i. *Another source for up-to-date news is of course the Society's Website, maintained by Joe G3ZDF the RNARS webmaster.*
- j. *Finally: Many thanks to fellow RNARS Managers and Committee for their input to the Society, and to those that take time to send in updates and information.*
- k. *Last but not least, to Diana who has been my “mentor” for the past 7 years!*

Dave Lacey. G4JBE # 0434

13. Manager’s Report – Webmaster

- a. *On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Bob Jennings, G3NXV for continuing to provide free hosting facilities for the Society's website www.rnars.org.uk.*
- b. *The website continues to evolve.*
- c. *I am trying to make it a repository for all the historical information we have regarding the Society but there are only so many hours in the day available to scan magazines and documents. If anyone has electronic versions of our Newsletter prior to Colin taking over I would welcome them. It doesn't matter what the format is,*
- d. *Last AGM I mentioned that one of the copies of The Communicator I scanned and uploaded had enabled someone to find their father. Since then a book has been published about his search for his father. It is an interesting and informative description of the steps that people have to go through in searches such as this. Originally it was going to be called 'Looking for Mike' but that subsequently changed to 'Tracing Mike' and the author is Ro Hancock-Child. If anyone would like to borrow a copy just let me know.*
Joe G3ZDF

14. Manager's Report - Area Rep Co-ordinator

- a. (Covered in Item 7 above)
Wally G4DIU

15. Manager's Report – Newsletter Editor

- a. *Good afternoon President, Chair and members all. Sorry I can't be with you to enjoy the convivial social atmosphere.*
- b. *With so many members receiving their Newsletter by e-mail, it is now possible to now run to four editions per year starting from 2016. However, it will require more effort and contributions from members. Short articles are especially welcomed as I have a number of longer articles which need to be spread over a number of issues. As I've said so many times before, no articles equals no Newsletter!*
- c. *If you wish to subscribe to receiving your Newsletter by e-mail, please follow the simple instructions in each and every editorial. Wally, Joe, Doug Bowen and I are NOT mind readers. Additionally, to e-mail me, again instructions are in the Newsletter. The filters on my e-mail system are there to protect my computers and the membership e-mail distribution list. Judging by the very high number of phishing e-mails that are blocked by my filters that*

originate from RNARS members, if you are on my list, the filters have protected your details many times.

- d. *My sincere thanks to the committee for their support and help from Wally, Joe, Doug B and of course Doug H, as well as those who send in items.*
- e. *Regards to all,* Colin Topping (GM6HGW), RNARS Number 1870,
Editor

16. Manager's Reports – Awards Manager



The Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Awards Manager

Clover Cottage,
Kenny,
Ashill,
Nr Ilminster,
Somerset TA19 9NH.

23 Sep 15

CLAIMS FOR RNARS AWARDS – SEP 14 TO SEP 15

Dear Joe,

Herewith the list of claims for the period in question.

As you can see there's been a little bit more interest this year – although we could always do with more!

The awards issued have been as follows:-

World Wide Award – W1USN.

International Navy Award – DK9MOS, G3PEM and DK9OS.

Mercury Award – DK9MOS and DK9OS.

Kaleidoscope Award – No Applications.

Hampshire County Award – No Applications.

BITs Award – No Applications.

Best regards,

73

Ian Pitkin/G4KJD
RNARS 1708

17. Election of officers.

The following were elected unanimously and unopposed:

- a. Chairman - Doug Hotchkiss G4BEQ

- b. Treasurer - Adrian Mori 2E0JVM
- c. Secretary – Joe Kirk G3ZDF
- d. Membership Secretary – Wally Walker G4DIU

18. Election of new Committee for 2015/2016.

The following were elected unanimously and unopposed as members of the Committee

Dave Lacey G4JBE

Doug Bowen G0MIU

Marc Litchman G0TOC

Nigel Auckland M0NAF

Al Terry G4PZV

Colin Topping GM6HGW.

19. Election of Auditors

It was agreed that we would continue to use the services of our existing auditor.

20. Date of next AGM

8th October 2016

The Meeting closed at 15.30.