



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

President: Commodore Paul Sutermeister DL RN

Chairman: David Firth 2E0GLL

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

MINUTES

RNARS 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 12th October 2019 14.00

Held in the WO&SRs Mess, HMS Collingwood

The Meeting was chaired by the Honorary Vice-President Mick G3LIK

Present

Hans-Juergen, DK9OS, Maren, DK9MOS, Mick, G3LIK, Ray, G3KOJ, Doug, G0LDJ, Paul, M0LRE, Joe, G3ZDF, David, 2E0GLL, Alan, M6LFM, Mike, M6POY, Ian, M0IHH, Les, G4CNH, Bob, G0BSJ, Peter, G3RDR, Edwin, 2E0LLD, John, M6JYS, Paul, M0PPD, Doug, G4BEQ, Doug, G0LUH, Martin, M0EHL

The Meeting opened at 14.02.

1. Chairman's introduction

Chairman welcomed everyone to this 59th AGM of the RNARS.

2. Apologies for absence

Name	Call	Number
Cdre Paul Sutermeister*		
Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	4875
Marc Litchman	G0TOC	4876
Wally Walker	G4DIU	0391
John Taylor	M0HTE	4957
Nik Sifferlinger	OE8NIK	4198
Henry	m0zae	4955
John	G0JSC	1702
Iain Hill	ZL2BJC	0972
Peter Saunders	VK6APW	1440
Paul Joosten	PA5UL	3302
Dave Butler	G4ZMP	2616
Paul	G3VCN	0327
Dan	M0CVR	4626

Name	Call	Number
Peter Lewry	G4TNN	4501
Simon Tribe	G0IEY	2662
Julia Tribe	G0IUY	4908
Kevin Lamb	G4BUW	2053
Phil Manning	G1LKJ	2954
Steve Legg	M6WVV	5019

3. President's report

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am very disappointed not to be with you this afternoon, especially having had a years warning of the date, but I am in Australia. Pressure was on me and unfortunately our grandchildren in Australia's half term holidays clashes with today.

As I have said before, the details of our operations for the past year will be given to you by the Committee members, but I have been kept in the picture. It is good that we have members who will represent the Association at outside events which have been Harwell Rally at Didcot, Kempton Park Rally, Canvey Island Rally and of course HMS COLLINGWOOD's Open Day; at which I understand our displays were very popular attractions.

I was invited to attend HMS BELFAST Group's AGM in April, together with our Chairman, David Firth and Secretary Joe Kirk. It was a very comprehensive meeting in an iconic setting and I am grateful to the Group for my invitation and their extremely generous hospitality.

Maren and Hans-Juergen were also at the meeting and I was informed of the good news of their marriage, which made the meeting even more memorable. I am sure you will join me in giving them our warmest congratulations.

I continue to enjoy the RNARs Newsletter and find its presentation bright and attractive and the contents informative and easy reading although, I have to admit that some of the technical articles are a little above me. That said, I think that the interim editor is doing a commendable job and congratulate him.

In closing I would like to thank all our Committee members for their work and support for the Association over the year. The Association could not survive without a dedicated Committee and indeed many associations are folding not because of a lack of members but because of members unwilling to join their committees.

That concludes my report and again, I apologise for not being with you this afternoon, and I look forward to being with you again next year, half term holidays or not.

4. Minutes of the last AGM

Proposed by Mike M6POY, seconded by Doug G0LDJ and agreed unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report

Welcome

Mr Vice President, ladies and gentlemen, Members of the RNARS welcome to the 59th AGM of the Society and thank you all for attending. *Herr Praisident, meiner damen und herren willkommen zu unserer acht und funfsich AGM von der Society. Fur unserer freunden, Ich mochte euch heir in Fareham begrusson.*

Silent Keys

Before continuing with the proceedings I sadly draw your attention to our members who have crossed over the bar over the past year, and ask you to stand and join me for one minute's silence as a mark of respect for our silent keys.

Nr.	Callsign	First Name	Surname	Silent Key Date
0038	G3LCS	Des	SHEPHERD	13/01/2019
0111	G3NIR	George	MILES	16/9/2019
0121	VP9V	Tom	LOGAN	Oct 2019
0483	G4WZI	Dick	HILTON	8/2/2019
1404	G4SKS	Brad	BRADSHAW	11/02/2006
1892	G4MXU	John	JULEFF	22/3/2019
1923	G4MZL	Eddie	AILSBY	26/03/2019
2194	G4XZS	Robin	WESTON	??
2241	GM4VUG	John	GREEN	07/10/2018
2638	DK5VC	Ray	SCHULZ	Nov 2018
2761	G4EZF	Dave	LOGAN	??
3191	G0ITS	Roy	WELLS	12/11/2018
3532	G4PIJ	Jack	GOODMAN	26/03/2019
4295	M1AFM	Tony	Mori	26/05/2019
4675	OE3OLC	Sepp	Langer	22/7/2019
4718	2E0BYC	Mick	MATTHEWS	21/07/2019
4811	G0OAK	Brian	WALTERS	12/06/2019
4888	EA5AVL	Les	Lawbuary	July 2019

Domestics

In the past twelve months we have seen our boiler repaired and the heating turned on after a break of almost two years. Our grateful thanks to the XO for his assistance in getting this done. Among other things concern the shack, some of you will have noticed that we have redecorated the Radio Room and finally -I say finally, got rid of those awful brown curtains by replacing them with modern blinds of an appropriate colour. Not forgetting a couple of comfy armchairs, a new water boiler in the kitchen, and I think I can say with an upturn in enthusiasm as a consequence of improving our environment. My thanks to all those who helped to get things done -and to those who regularly bring in the doughnuts!

OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT

Last year we began making small improvements to the aerial system feeding the radio bays which included maintenance to the aerials and to the feeders. This year there were a number of technical failures in manufactured items that set us back in terms of completing the work. We managed to recover the cost of the items that failed, and recently began to remedy the sub-standard patch panels with rugged steel boxes and fittings that actually look better than the original items. The purpose of the patch panels is to formalise aerial termination in a more orderly fashion which, it is hoped, will prevent the prospect of the damage and mayhem caused by unfamiliar use.

Further on until recently, we have experienced aerial problems due to ageing components, water ingress and storm damage. Some aerial cable runs have been renewed in the process. Our 9 metre mast was condemned by an establishment test which we have since repaired, but unfortunately, the company concerned (Carillion-Amey now sacked by the MOD) has moved the goalposts and require further testing which is not called for under normal circumstances.

Our Operations

-have expanded to include a DMR repeater GBTCO allowing members from around the world to keep in touch. It appears to be working well after a few minor tweaks after installation. This arrangement includes a new Talkgroup on the Brandmeister system :TG23527 - UK Military & Veterans. We may change our initial Wednesday 17:00 net to a day and time that is more convenient. The DMR installation represents a technology-shift when compared to our DStar system GB7RN. Furthermore, we have test-bedded a miniature ATV system and ran a successful demonstration on

Open Day with the transmission of the field gun competition from the field by a local wireless link to our shack. Finally, two dishes have appeared above the roof as our enthusiasts integrate several small modules as a receive/send ground station linked to the E S'Hail geostationary satellite over the Middle-East. Early trials have established two-way communications with the satellite; well done to those involved with that. Additionally, through the generosity of Yaesu (UK), whose Sales Director, Carl visited us on Open Day last June, we received an FT991A rig as a generous donation to the RNARS.

Among our activities this year a small team took part in the National Field Event on the weekend of 7th and 8th September. The venue was in a field near Lymington and judging by the banter everyone had a thoroughly good time. The RSGB is still working out the results, but nonetheless, it has been a good learning curve for those who have not taken part in competitions before.

Membership & Recruiting

Last year looked a bit glum with a higher than expected number of silent keys. However, I am glad to hear that our membership is now picking up to a figure somewhere in excess of 600. Well one and thank you to those who recruited them! Furthermore, I cannot miss the opportunity to thank our Membership Secretary, Marc Litchman for his sterling work in that role. Marc has had to retire due to ill-health and we wish him well and a speedy recovery. Thank you!

Training

The new course dockets are out for the licence exams, and the old ones are now obsolete. It may be worth hanging on to the old one because there is still a lot of information in them that can help candidates appreciate other matters and hone their knowledge on amateur radio topics.

Open Day

This annual event in June went well being graced once again with good weather; with a number of in-house demonstrations taking place with different modes; Morse, RTTY, PSK, WX systems and via satellite imagery over the internet. As mentioned earlier we also demonstrated an ATV system and a prototype satellite receiver system -as an ongoing project. Our visitor numbers were good with a steady stream of visitors over the day. Outside, using a large canvas tent, a stall, and one of our members off-road vehicle festooned with aerials, other members spent the day demonstrating a variety of scanners and encouraging the public at large to enter into our domain. To all of those who took part and who supported us I say thank you and

well done!

Radio Operations

Last year I mentioned that deteriorating sun-spot conditions had been making HF communications rather hard. Our Tuesday Net -GB3RN, has been as difficult as last year becoming impossible to establish a link with anyone. We may have turned the corner at the bottom of the sunspot cycle and may see some improvements by this time next year -fingers crossed.

Refurbishment

With the exception of our 9 metre mast we passed muster this year. The mast having been welded as an urgent requirement it has to pass additional testing before we can carry out further maintenance to the upper sections and ground stays which are beginning to rust.

The RNARS Newsletter

We have increased circulation last year to include all ships libraries ashore with a view to making ourselves known over a wider field. There has been positive feedback from near to far, so it would appear the new image is beginning to work for us. This year it is hoped to encourage our young ladies (YLS) to join if they have not thought about it before, and to encourage them to write about their stories as Communicators. The Editor has written to BYLARA asking them to encourage any of their former RN members to consider joining us.

I should also mention in passing that a complimentary article about the Society was published recently in *Radio User*.

In closing I would like to thank all of the Committee for their unstinting support of the RNARS. They work quietly in the background as a team who keep the society running smoothly, and are committed to the tasks they have volunteered to take on, and then some more.

My thanks to all the members who turn up on Tuesday afternoons and who keep the place full of laughter and who also lend a hand in getting things done when needed. My personal thanks to you all.

6. Secretary's Report

This is my valedictory report as Secretary.

I have been in this position since 2009 and I think it is time to hand over the reins to someone else. Two years ago I said I would be giving up but then continued for another year. This time I mean it. I have enjoyed my time as Secretary but now I'm looking forward to contributing to the Minutes rather than having to write and

distribute them. I have served with three different Chairmen and acted briefly as Chairman during an inter-regnum. My thanks to all three Chairmen who are here today.

Most of the significant events over that time have been reported by others. I've just tried to make sure they appeared in the Minutes, the Newsletter, on the website or sometimes all three.

I won't be disappearing completely. Subject to ratification by this AGM I will continue as Membership Manager, Website Manager and Exam Secretary. However, if anyone would like to take on any or all of those positions I will be very happy to pass them over.

Thank you to everybody and in my case, here's to another 10 years.

Joe G3ZDF

7. Membership Secretary's report

Firstly I would like to thank Marc G0TOC for all the work he did as Membership Secretary when he was not well. We wish him well and hope to see him soon. Membership during the year has been increasing slowly; we have had more new members and re-joiners than we lost.

TypeOfMembership	Current	Free	Life	Under25	Total
Affiliate	13	5	0	0	18
Associate	127	0	13	0	140
Corporate	385	3	74	1	463
Family	8	0	0	0	8
Honorary	2	1	0	0	3
TOTAL	535	9	87	1	632

We have had 38 joiners, 8 re-joiners and 17 SK. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of all the silent keys.

Distribution of the autumn 2019 Newsletter was 373 printed and posted and 244 sent by email. Of the 373 35 went to Europe, 23 world-wide and 315 to the UK.

Joe G3ZDF

8. Treasurer's report

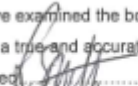
Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society - 2018/2019

Balance Carried forward 1/4/2018 £49,281.11

Unpresented cheques 2016/17

Sub Total £49,281.11

<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	6778.85	
Awards	0.00	
Rally Income	20.00	
Commodities	477.00	
Interest	324.06	
Sundry	468.90	
Sale of Surplus Kit	219.76	
	<u>£8,288.57</u>	<u>£8,288.57</u>
<u>Total Income</u>		<u>£57,569.68</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Expenses	426.33	
Rallies	100.00	
Newsletter	4497.61	
Broadband	526.91	
AGM	858.80	
Ins	350.35	
Refund Subs	0.00	
Equipment & Repairs	519.70	
Commodities	429.47	
Sundry	1138.90	
RSGB	47.00	
	<u>£8,895.07</u>	<u>£8,895.07</u>
<u>Sub Total</u>		<u>£48,674.61</u>
Unpresented Cheques as at 31/3/2019		<u>£0.00</u>
Balance of Accounts as at 31/3/2019		<u>£48,674.61</u>

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 2019
 Signed: 

9. Announcement and presentation of RNARS Awards

Merit (G3WNJ) Award	Ian Hutchinson M0LIH	For encouraging the Society to get involved in a number of new areas of amateur radio and then making them happen
Certificates of Merit	Marc Litchman G0TOC	For his work as Membership and QSL Manager under trying conditions

	Martin Longbottom MOEHL	For supporting the Society in a variety of activities
	Steve Legg M6WVV	For his work as Shack Manager
	Joe Kirk G3ZDF	For his work as Secretary since 2009

10. Managers' reports

(a) Shack Manager (Steve M6WVV) reported that:

It's been another busy but productive year at the RNARS HQ. We have had some frustrations, like the mast repair but on the whole its been very good. First for those who attended last year hopefully will notice some cosmetic changes around the shack? Paint work has been completed, internal blinds are in place and a pair of comfortable chairs are now in residence. We are still sourcing good strong replacement covers for the tables as modern metric sizes are all too small to fit correctly.

Attendance of the Tuesday afternoon shack openings are increasingly popular, people enjoy attending, for the social gathering, to conduct peer to peer learning from fellow amateurs and to get involved in projects.

The Shack has also hosted Royal Navy (RN) Classes who are here at HMS Collingwood on training courses and visiting cadet forces, both utilising and sharing our facilities, this is good practice and continues to foster good relationships with the RN.

Our open day that was part of the HMS Collingwood Summer field gun event was a big success compared to previous years. Lessons learned from other years were taken on-board, new layouts tried and a mix of show and tell and things to do attracted all ages. We look to continue to build on this year's success.

The event also made us new friends. A team member from Yaesu HQ visited, he was impressed by our setup, this resulted in the donation of a modern Yaesu Transceiver for use in the shack. We are very grateful for the contribution.

During an inspection late last year the shack mast located at the west end of the building was deemed unsafe for climbing up, a no climb order was placed upon it and repairs were needed to restore the base of one of the legs where corrosion due to salting of a nearby path had corroded a leg.

Some discussions followed between us, Defence estates and the MoD repair contractors Carillion as to who actually was responsible for the mast. Carillion had decided that as part of some estate wide demolitions/removals of redundant/dangerous structures that our mast would be added to that list. Eventually the mast was not added and it was accepted that the mast was the responsibility of the RNARS. A professional welder was sourced who had conducted works within HMS Collingwood before, this assisted in the paperwork for security clearance, after jumping through all the hoops of risk assessment, hot-work permits etc the welder came and made a sturdy repair.

All appeared well until we asked for job to be confirmed as complete and the no climb order be removed, the authorities then stated we needed a weld inspection certificate, some non destructive test or letter that the weld would take full responsibility for the work and any subsequent damage if the weld failed. The welder said this type of repair did not require such a test and if he deemed it had would not have taken on the work.

Further discussions are to be had on the mast, the mast though in a fair state does show signs that further repairs in the near future would be required, thus, we are considering replacing the entire mast with something more usable as one solution and this is to be resolved shortly.

Project have been undertaken at the shack, enthusiastic individuals have played a key part in moving the capability of the shack ahead, HF bays, 2m/70cm, DMR, D-Star. The latest exploration is into the Amateur Geostationary world of es'Hail with the RNAR having its first QSO just last week. Further upgrades are planned and developing daily.

Sometimes the Shack goes outside, recently a field weekend was held in the New Forest, many camped out and took part in a 24hr contest listing nearly a 100 contacts.

I would like to formally thank ALL those who have partaken in activities, events, maintenance days and given their time and expertise in the best interest of the society.

The year ahead brings exciting times and who knows what new challenges and exciting times are ahead. We are always open to suggestions, new ideas are welcomed. This is your club so if there is anything you would like to be considered then please get in touch.

73's

Stephen Legg RNARS Shack Manager

(b) QSL Manager (Marc G0TOC)

No report received

(c) Web Site Manager (Joe G3ZDF)

Firstly we are grateful to Phil MØVSE and Wayne G6NGV Taylor of Shine Systems for hosting our web site free of charge.

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.

The library of all the published copies of *The Communicator* prompts the occasional email of thanks from people who were searching for their own name or the name of relatives.

I think the site is starting to look a bit dated and is not ideal for mobile devices. Therefore, I believe it could do with a re-design with all the existing content but presented in a slightly different and more user-friendly way. If someone would like to take on the role of website manager I would be very happy to relinquish it and pass it over.

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.

(d) Area Rep Co-ordinator (Wally G4DIU RNARS 0391)

I have no report for the Area Reps Co-ordinator – I am thinking of resigning from that position as no one writes to me these days.

(e) Newsletter Editor (David M0SLL)

David said he was always looking for content from members for the Newsletter. As well as member submitted content his current sources include the UK Defence Journal and RN and manufacturers' press releases. His aim is to make the content of the Newsletter entertaining.

He had experimented with using shiny paper (100gsm) for one issue and the colour photographs had come out particularly well. However, the better quality paper increased the postage weight to over 100 gms which put it into a higher postage band.

David paid tribute to all the work that Doug G0MIU and his XYL Judy put into getting the Newsletter printed, enveloped and posted.

Doug G0LDJ proposed a Vote of Thanks to David for his hard work as Editor and this was passed unanimously.

(f) Awards Manager (Ian G4KJD)

Herewith the list of claims for the period in question.

Yet another quiet/dead year I'm afraid.

The awards issued have been as follows:-

World Wide Award – No Applications.

International Navy Award – OK1ARO.

Mercury Award – No Applications.

Kaleidoscope Award – No Applications.

Hampshire County Award – No Applications.

BITs Award – No Applications.

73

Ian Pitkin/G4KJD/ RNARS 1708

(g) Commodities Manager (Mike M6POY)

I became the commodities manager a few months ago.

I have spent some time reviewing the Items we have for purchase. I found that we were somewhat undervalued in as much the prices needed to be addressed although the object is to be non-profit-making we were losing money so things had to change and now we have a new pricing. The postage and packing has had to be reviewed which is now in operation. We have also added some new items, a mug with logo and callsign, lanyard in blue or white with call sign, a body warmer with logo and callsign. The baseball cap can now have callsign added either one or both sides, sweatshirt, polo shirt, both with call sign and logo, lapel badges.

We are also looking at other items which will be added as time passes. Please go to the website for the pricing and P&P

We are pleased to accept you orders and payment but there is a 6-8 week delay as the lady who does our embroidery is having a knee replacement and will need a little recovery time. Thanks for your patience

73s M6POY

11. Election of officers. The following offer themselves for re-election:

- a. Chairman – David Firth 2E0GLL
- b. Treasurer - Adrian Mori 2E0JVM
- c. Secretary – Vacant
- d. Membership Secretary –Joe Kirk G3ZDF

- e. QSL Manager - Vacant
- f. All were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously

12. Election of new Committee for 2018/2019.

The following committee members have indicated their willingness to remain as members of the Committee and offer themselves for re-election

- a. Doug Bowen G0MIU
- b. Wally Walker G4DIU
- c. Steve Legg M6WVV

The following members who were co-opted on to the Committee during the year offer themselves for election:

- a. Martin Longbottom M0EHL
- b. Bob New G0BSJ
- c. Kevin Lamb G4BUW
- d. Mike Moore M6POY
- e. All were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously

13. Election of Auditors

The current auditor was agreed unanimously.

14. Date of next AGM

10th October 2020 at 14.00 in the WO & SRs Mess, HMS Collingwood.

The Meeting closed at 15.33.