



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
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MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 20th April 2017

HMS Collingwood

Present:	David Firth	2E0GLL	Chairman	
	Joe Kirk	G3ZDF	Secretary	
	Dave Lacey	G4JBE		By Skype
	Wally Walker	G4DIU		By Skype
	Doug Bowen	G0MIU		
	Mick Puttick	G3LIK	Hon. Vice President	
Apologies:	Steve Legg		Shack Manager	
	Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	Treasurer	
	Al Terry	G4PJV		

Tasks to be completed are underlined

The Meeting started at 19.05

1. Chairman's opening remarks

- a. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He introduced the new Shack Manager Steve Legg M6WVV who is a civilian instructor in Collingwood.

2. Apologies for absence

- a. As above.

3. Minutes of the last two meetings

- a. Proposed by Mick and seconded by Doug and agreed unanimously.

4. Matters arising

- a. 10(a) As soon as the date of Collingwood Open Day is confirmed or changed the Secretary will promulgate the date through all the usual channels. DONE confirmed as 3-June-17
- b. 10(b) As last Open Day Secretary will contact members within 20 miles to ask for volunteers for the shack. PENDING
 - i. Subsequent to the Committee Meeting 29 members were contacted by post and 61 by email. Those members who were unable to travel into Collingwood were invited to contact GB6COD so that HQ was not left simply calling CQ.
- c. 10(c) Secretary to prepare some paragraphs for the Open Day programme so that visitors are aware of who we are, what we do, where we are and most importantly how they can join (attached) DONE
- d. 10(d) Secretary to apply for NOV for GB6COD DONE & NOV received
- e. 12(d) Steps to get our message across to the Training Staff in Collingwood.

- i. The timing and method of informing the Training Staff in Collingwood about Amateur Radio in general and the RNARS in particular was discussed. The Chairman will advise of the best time to invite them to the HQ Shack and perhaps provide refreshments.
- ii. Steve said that many organisations make presentations in the foyer of Hale building (aka T5) over the lunch time period. It was agreed that we would establish a presence there with a suitable selection of equipment. Secretary to get clearance from ex-Officio for making presentations in T5.
- f. 14(g) Secretary to arrange for a bouquet of flowers to be sent to Mrs J Bowen for her work in distributing the printed newsletter DONE
- g. 14(h) Secretary to send a Letter of Thanks to Julia G0IUY for her work as Almoner DONE
- h. 14(i) Secretary to send a Letter of Thanks to Simon G0IEY for his work as Technical Manager DONE

5. Chairman's Report

- a. David said that valuable work was being done in the Shack in preparation for Open Day.
- b. He said we had received a questionnaire from our ex-officio asking for details of buildings, staff and equipment which was all part of the planned assimilation or amalgamation of Sultan into Collingwood. This had been sent to every section and club in Collingwood. The questionnaire had been completed and returned to Stan Matthews.
- c. He said we were doing everything we could to ensure our continued presence in Collingwood.

6. Secretary's report

- a. Letters of thanks and appreciation sent to Simon G0IEY and Julia G0IUY
- b. Renewed GB7RN repeater NOV
- c. Renewed NO-IP service to handle dynamic IP address for GB7RN
- d. I have received a batch of documents relating to G10URN (Ulster Royal Navy) and they are being reviewed.
- e. Pot plant sent to Mrs Judy Bowen. She preferred this to a bouquet.
- f. Some time ago we loaned a Barrett HF transceiver to Marc G0TOC for use by his sea cadet unit. The unit would now like to buy an IC7300 and wondered if they could sell the Barrett and put the funds towards the 7300.
Secretary to advise Marc that the Committee agreed to the sale of the Barrett rig and the funds to be put towards purchase of an IC7300 provided the role of the RNARS in the purchase was recognised in any press releases or publicity.
- g. I have asked our ex-officio how we go about getting an official quote for the repair of the boiler in our building.
- h. I have advised our ex-officio that we have made our own arrangements and purchased a ramp for the front door thanks to G4BEQ.
The Committee authorised the payment of £60 to Doug G4BEQ who purchased the ramp originally.

- i. We held a local members get-together in Hardys in Haslar Marina, Gosport but attendance was not high.
- j. Martin M0EHL has suggested we might like to sponsor/become a supporter of YOTA activity. He says "As mentioned the YOTA team leader, Milo Noblet, 2E0ILO has had a CCF background and I think it would be extremely valuable exposure for the RNARS to visibly contribute to this event when the UK hosts it if we can."
Committee agreed to a donation of £50 towards this event. Secretary to arrange with the Treasurer.
Joe G3ZDF

7. Membership Secretary's report

- a. Secretary to contact Marc to get Membership Reports for the Committee Meetings.

8. Treasurer's report

- a. Dad has been in hospital for a week or so after a bad fall and a couple of days on the floor at home – I was away and he managed to lock his mobile phone! To add insult to injury the clutch went on my car last night on the way to visit him and it does not look likely I will get it back today.

By way of a report - I have started the accounts following the end of our financial year at the end of March – everything else has been very quiet the balances of the accounts are as follows;

Current account £5,209.47 (includes April 1st Subs)

Deposit account £13,163.66

Fixed Term Deposit remains £34,919.33

Adrian 2E0JVM

- b. Shack Manager was asked to get estimates for the refurbishment and decoration of the Shack
- c. Secretary to establish if we could get sponsorship for some or all of the cost of the refurbishment from a charity or from one of the suppliers

9. Preparation for Collingwood Open Day.

- a. Joe reported that he had advised our ex-officio that the reduction in the power rating of the link to building might cause problems on Open Day if BFBS wanted to use our sockets as they had done in previous years.
- b. Chairman suggested that a small sub-committee consisting of himself, Secretary and Shack Manager be set up to manage Open Day and this was agreed.
- c. The problem of how to attract passersby into the Shack was discussed and it was suggested that we have a speaker outside the shack linked to one of the rigs inside.

- 10.** Item submitted by G0LDH *"To ensure compliance in all respects with the Amateur Radio Licence requirements and the goodwill of the Society; the use of pseudonyms or anonymity for identity purposes, be forbidden in any form of communication entered into or on behalf of the RNARS."*

See attached letter from Dave G4JBE

The Editor of the Newsletter resigned because of personal criticisms made about him on the Yahoo Group (See report from the Editor below) but he had offered to continue until a replacement could be found.

The Chairman undertook to publish a statement about the kind of behaviour that was expected from all members.

11. AGM 2017

a. Venue

Last year's AGM in Collingwood had been a success. Secretary to write to the Mess Manager and confirm arrangements.

b. Raffle (G3LIK)

The Committee authorised the Treasurer to provide Mick with £100 in order to buy prizes. Mick reported that the 2016 raffle had made a profit.

c. Catering

Secretary to arrange the lunch with Mess Manager similar to last year.

12. Managers' reports

a. **Shack Manager**

Steve thanked all those who had worked in the shack particularly Alan M6LFM and Joe M6VLL to install the conduit and tidy up the cables. He said it was now much safer as well as looking more professional. He plans to lower the mast, check the cables, identify any redundancy, carry out any necessary maintenance, identify all the cables and label them both inside and outside the Shack. He said the work would need to be done at a weekend. He will prepare a plan for the work.
(Subsequent to the meeting it was agreed to carry out the work on Saturday 20th May.)

Steve will also update the asset register.

He suggested we approach the flag store in Collingwood to see if they had bunting or pennants we could use as decoration in the Shack.

Secretary to contact ex-officio.

b. **QSL Manager**

No report.

c. **Data Comms**

Data Comms Report for 20 April 2017

The Yahoo Group continues to grow slowly, currently we have 142 members.

The uptake from new members is not as fast as I would like, you cannot force people to join the group.

Negativity on the group recently has caused at least one member to drop out.

Despite my best efforts to diffuse the situation it seems that one particular individual has taken it upon himself to conduct a relentless and pointless course of vindictivity toward Colin GM6HGW, and ultimately the Society.

Other than this incident, the group continues to operate smoothly.

Dave

G4JBE # 0434 RNARS Yahoo Group

d. **Web Site**

Bob Jennings G3NXV #0139 who provided free hosting services for our website is SK. He died in March . The company which provided services for him have offered to provide us with a free hosting service and I have accepted. I have changed the credits line on the website to reflect this.

Joe G3ZDF

e. **Area Rep Co-ordinator**

Nothing to report.

Wally G4DIU

f. **Newsletter Editor**

Newsletter Editor Report

As many of you will know, I have tendered my resignation as editor and from the society. I wrote to my bank to cancel the standing order for my subscription, however the letter was received by the bank after payment had been made.

After nine years as editor I would have been happy to continue had it not been for a number of recent matters. I have always said in my editorials that if anyone has a complaint, please contact me directly in the first instance. Following two letters in recent Newsletters, one member elected to voice his opinion openly via the Yahoo E-mail reflector, I replied directly to the member concerned.

The reply was not helpful in resolving the issue and forced me to think about my future as editor and I decided to stand down and informed the relevant committee members. Some of the comments amounted to character assassination.

David (Chair) and I had a lengthy telephone conversation after which I agreed to remain as editor and continue my membership. After everything quietened down, I received a couple of vindictive letters and an e-mail, all in the same tone as the comments made via the Yahoo reflector. The comments were of similar wording and with the same three grammatical errors making me wonder if someone in the background was assisting and encouraging others to complain and had prepared a proforma. This was confirmed in a telephone call from a member enquiring about a separate matter who did not associate me as editor. He asked if I was going to join the calls for the editor to be forced out at the AGM.

Other comments reflected on my previous status as a class B licence holder with no knowledge of CW and suggested that I shouldn't be a member of the RNARS or have access to the HF bands. It is also very apparent that when calling into certain RNARS nets, I am now being ignored.

Doug's (GØLDH) comments for the next committee meeting leaves me confused; has there been a major revamp to the terms and

conditions to the amateur licence; “To ensure compliance in all respects with the Amateur Radio Licence requirements and the goodwill of the Society; the use of pseudonyms or anonymity for identity purposes, be forbidden in any form of communication entered into or on behalf of the RNARS”. To the best of my knowledge, identification by callsign is only required when transmitting. I can see no reference in the licencing regulations as to written communications requiring the use of a callsign or other identification. In any case, how would a listener with no callsign identify themselves?

In addition to the above, others have taken issue with my competence as editor over the years with several comments made through the Yahoo system; contests dates and results are just some examples. Date and results are passed to me by Mick Puttick who like us all is human and a volunteer. On the very few occasions there has been a minor mistake, I have received very bitter ignorant e-mails and comments, some through the Yahoo system. Noticeably David Lacey no longer promulgates contest dates in the Sunday e-news, as he has also received angry comments. However, I consider it a requirement of the Newsletter to intimate contest dates and result.

It is worth noting that the previous editor resigned and left the society for similar reasons as to the ones I have, character assassination, persecution and general ignorance by a few who want to steer the ship from the bilges, not the bridge. May I suggest that in the first instance the role of editor be offered to my dissenters, clearly they feel they can do a better job.

I can see no way around this impasse or any reason to remain a member. Over the years I have made several friendships, particularly with members who are now in nursing homes and can no longer operate on the HF bands. The Newsletter is their only contact with the society and have made known their gratitude many times.

I am prepared to continue as editor until a replacement is found and a hand-over carried out. I shall not be attending the committee meeting as I fear I may say something that I later regret which might be recorded.

I apologise to David for this unfortunate series of circumstances after only recently taking over as Chair; but I have just had enough and clearly, I do not have the confidence of some of the membership.

Colin GM6HGW Newsletter Editor

g. **Commodities Manager.**

Slow sales at the moment.

Doug G0MIU

Joe said he had been asked by 2 members if we could provide caps with name and callsign. Doug will investigate cost and availability of personalised and branded caps.

13. Date of next Meeting

8th June 2017

The Meeting closed at 20.50.

Reports

Open Day Publicity

About the RNARS

The Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society or RNARS was set up to foster radio amateur activity within the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. When it was set up the main modes of communication were Morse code and voice on short wave also known as HF or high frequency and on VHF. These days the modes of communication are so many and so diverse it is sometimes hard to keep up with them. Amateur Radio enthusiasts occasionally known as radio hams bounce signals off the moon, have a range of satellites in orbit at any one time, communicate with astronauts in the International Space Station, have their own TV stations and sometimes use a PC to interpret and generate signals on their equipment. And yes, some still use Morse code.

The hobby appeals to all ages as there are so many different aspects to get involved with. Some people like to build equipment, others prefer to operate, some like to take part in contests where the idea is to contact as many other amateurs as possible within a given time, others prefer to 'ragchew' or just chat to friends, often across many continents.

The HQ of the RNARS is here in HMS Collingwood. Our 'shack' is the building at the edge of the car park with the 2 large masts where we meet regularly, run training courses, hold exams for Amateur Radio licences and perhaps most importantly operate a variety of equipment.

Membership is no longer confined to just members of the RN and RM. We are open to a wide range of other organisations such as MOD civilians, Sea Cadets, Merchant Navy and many others. Full details on our website www.rnars.org.uk

Item 10

In response to Item 10 in the Agenda.

As a Committee for the RNARS we must share equal responsibility for this event happening, why?

Each copy of the Newsletter is mailed out to members of the committee to proof-read prior to final publication, this amounts to vetting the contents.

I for one DID read those letters, and did not in any shape or form find them to be of an inflammatory nature, and therefore made no comment to Colin.

Now Colin will attest that I do read the Newsletter prior to publication, as I frequently point to minor errors that might be better corrected before going to print.

Colin as editor made the call to publish those letters, and did so in good faith as to their source and integrity of content. As far as I am aware (source Colin) there were no complaints or otherwise made before going to print.

For that very reason we should ALL back Colin to the hilt for his actions.

It was not his fault that One member in particular (who was NOT named) should take it upon himself to publicly vilify not only a fellow Amateur but a voluntary member of the committee, and then proceed on a course of action to encourage other members to back his campaign to have Colin removed from not only his position as Editor, but from the Society as well.

It is my firm belief in this instance, we should be looking closely at the RNARS Constitution, under Membership, the wording after para g.

And ask this member to explain the reason for such behaviour to the committee in writing.

Colin is not the only person to have taken “flak” over this issue, as the Moderator of the Yahoo Group, I too have received mail from disgruntled members, to which I have replied off-group. As a direct result also we have lost (to my certain knowledge) one member, so this issue has had an impact on the Group as well.

Whilst Colin (in some eyes) may not be the easiest of persons to engage with, he has done an outstanding job under difficult circumstances in keeping the News-letter going for the Society, and we should therefore encourage him to reconsider leaving the Society.

Dave G4JBE