



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary Joe Kirk G3ZDF 111 Stockbridge Road
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MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 7th September 2017

HMS Collingwood

Present:	David Firth	2E0GLL	Chairman	
	Joe Kirk	G3ZDF	Secretary	
	Dave Lacey	G4JBE	Data Comms Manager	By Skype
	Wally Walker	G4DIU	Area Rep Coordinator	By Skype
	Colin Topping	GM6HGW	Newsletter Editor	By Skype
	Adrian Mori	2E0JVM	Treasurer	
	Mick Puttick	G3LIK	Hon. Vice President	
	Doug Bowen	G0MIU	Commodities Manager	
	Marc Litchman	G0TOC	Membership Manager	By Skype
	Steve Legg	M6WVV	Shack Manager	
	Martin Longbottom	M0EHL	Co-opted serving member	
Apologies:	Al Terry	G4PJV		

Tasks to be completed are underlined

The Meeting started at 19.00

1. Chairman's opening remarks

- a. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting including Martin M0EHL who has been co-opted onto the Committee as long as he is serving in the Portsmouth area.

2. Apologies for absence

- a. As above.

3. Minutes of the last two meetings

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

4. Matters arising

- a. Steps to get our message across to the Training Staff in Collingwood.
 - i. The Chairman will advise of the best time to invite them to the HQ Shack and perhaps provide refreshments. In Hand – see Chairman's report below
- b. Secretary to contact Marc to get Membership Reports for the Committee Meetings. DONE
Marc was checking his list of those who had not paid with Joe so that non-payers could be lapsed. A suggestion that we offer a prompt payment discount was not supported. Dave 'JBE reiterated that everyone joining should be offered a Banker's Order and encouraged to set up a standing order.
- c. Shack Manager was asked to get estimates for the refurbishment and decoration of the Shack IN HAND
Steve said that he was finding out what we could or were allowed to do. The Committee agreed that we should work on the basis that we

would remain in Collingwood for a number of years. There was a consensus that Carillion-Amey the company responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all the buildings within Collingwood had in the past been particularly unhelpful.

There was a suggestion that we should approach the Gosport Men's Shed to see if we could enlist their help and we would need to discuss with them what the terms of any engagement with them should be

- d. Secretary was asked to contact the ex-officio to confirm we could go ahead with the redecorating and to see if there was a source of volunteers we could call on. OUTSTANDING

Victory Squadron was suggested as one possible way of getting the Shack redecorated. However, as Carillion-Amey had previously pointed out that they were responsible for the building it was agreed that we should contact them to see where the Shack featured in their redecorating schedule for Collingwood. It appeared it had not been decorated since the Society moved in during 1993.

Martin reported that some work in Temeraire had been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- e. 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
IN HAND

Await the outcome of the previous item.

- f. Shack Manager to check both aerials with an antenna analyser.
Steve reported that the analysers we have currently are giving conflicting results. He was looking at alternatives.
- g. Shack Manager to establish maintenance records for both masts and for all the aerials.

Steve reported that the previous maintenance records he had found stopped in 2011.

He updated them to reflect current safety guidance and said that inspections would be carried out every 6 and 12 months.

- h. Secretary to contact member Paul G0VEP who does clothing embroidery to see if he has the facilities for embroidering caps. DONE
Paul was contacted but he does not offer cap embroidering facilities.
- i. Secretary to purchase 2 feather banners with the Society's logo and name. DONE
- j. Secretary to contact Andy 2E0REE to see if he would demonstrate the set up and usage of the Icom VHF rig. DONE
Chairman said he would also speak to Andy when next he saw him.
- k. Secretary to progress visit to NRC. DONE
Members of RSGB can claim a voucher for free entry to NRC in Bletchley, everyone else has to pay for entry.
- l. Secretary to contact Sea Cadet Instructor to offer them the use of the HQ Shack for regular meetings subject to some minor restrictions.
DONE
Stewart Challis M0HSU is member 5002. He is also the Southern Area Staff Officer for Sea Cadets. When contacted he said he would advise all units about our offer and encourage them to visit.
- m. Secretary to contact Treasurer to make the arrangements for Marc to have online read-only access to our bank account. DONE
Adrian has sent all the emails to Marc but suggested he register directly on the Lloyds Bank website as a business user.

- n. Membership Secretary to distribute the list of lapsed members in the next 2 weeks. OUTSTANDING See item 4(b) above.
 - o. All Committee members to review the comments and suggestions arising from Collingwood Open Day and give recommendations at the next Committee Meeting. DONE
- No reports received.

5. Chairman's Report

- a. David said that some trunking had been installed in the Shack to tidy up the cables at the back of the operating bays. The work was done by Alan M6LFM and Joe M6VLL and thanks were paid to them.
 - b. He met our new ex-officio, WO1 Dave 'Ronnie' Knight who has succeeded Stan Matthews.
 - c. Referring to item 4(a) above Ronnie Knight said that the best time to meet the Training Staff would be Wednesday lunchtimes while the new entrants were having PE/Sports.
 - d. David said that one of the regular Tuesday attendees Kevin G4JOA was SK. Kevin had been active in the HMS Affray commemoration group as his father was one of those lost in the disaster.
 - e. He asked for approval to proceed with the purchase of a new transceiver for the Shack, an Icom IC-7300. This was agreed unanimously.
- David 2E0GLL

6. Secretary's Report

- a. Letter of thanks sent to David G6ORL for his continuing oversight of GB7RN.
 - b. Sympathy card sent to family of SK Len Evans G3RSP
 - c. Sympathy card sent to the family of SK Harry Myers G4PTN
 - d. 50 years membership Certificate, blazer badge and paperweight sent to Bill G3TQM.
 - e. New feather banners purchased.
 - f. The family of the late G7NEG Roger Smith donated his equipment to the Society. Ian 2E0IHH very kindly transported the contents of Roger's shack to HQ. £217.50 was raised from the disposal of the equipment and this was donated to the RN & RM Charity.
(Subsequently – this increased by another £20.00 for donations for other items.
 - g. Opinions and advice being canvassed for a re-design of the HQ Shack to facilitate easy sharing of aerials between the different bays and to enable multiple bays to operate simultaneously on HF. As well as the Yahoo Group the RSGB was contacted. Mike G3SED was approached but because he was on holidays in Spain he passed me on to the well known dxpeditioner Don G3XTT who also passed the request around his friends. All suggested that filters would be necessary. Some useful information and guidance given. 2 aerial patch panels purchased from Nevada.
 - h. Preparations for the AGM in hand.
 - i. At the request of a member the possibility of linking GB7RN to Echolink being investigated.
- Joe G3ZDF

7. Membership Secretary

- a. Marc asked if a list of local accommodation was available so he could attend the AGM. Dave 'JBE said he would send a copy.

- b. He said that some Belfast Group members got confused when paying their subscriptions and pay them to the RNARS instead of Belfast. Adrian said he would arrange to refund any subs paid inadvertently to us.
- c. Marc said had a list of some 118 members who had not paid their subscriptions. Quite a few were from VK-land so he would arrange to contact Robert Dew.
- d. He reported that he was looking at online form completion for new members.

Marc G0TOC

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. Balance of the Accounts;
C/A £3,834.55
D/A £13,164.18
FTD £34,919.33
- b. At the request of a late member's family Adrian had tried to trace the source of standing orders from a silent key but the bank were being particularly unhelpful.
- c. Insurance on all equipment renewed. We need to review whether any the value of any individual items went over the valuation threshold.
- d. The Insurance Act 2015 means that there is now an obligation on members of the Committee to make a statement confirming the details of what is covered. In the first instance only the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary will be obliged to sign
- e. Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to sign the necessary insurance forms.

Adrian

9. Proposed change to RNARS Constitution for discussion before AGM.

'New members under the age of 25 will be offered free membership until they reach their 25th birthday. Existing members under the age of 25 will not be entitled to any refunds of subscriptions but will be entitled to free membership until they reach their 25th birthday' (G3ZDF)

- a. Joe reported that our membership was in slow decline and that we needed to recruit new members, ideally younger members. This is just one approach to try to halt the decline and ensure the long-term survival of the Society. This change is proposed to try and recruit younger members. Although there could be quite a fall-off when they reached 25 years old if we could retain even a proportion of them it would be of value to the Society.
- b. These new members would only receive the Newsletter by email. If they wanted the printed version they would have to pay the full subscription.
- c. Anyone joining the Committee will need to be a fully paid up member.
- d. It was agreed unanimously that the proposal should go to the AGM.

10. In view of a certain very offensive remark recently posted by Phil Manning on the RNARS Yahoo Group and e-mail reflector, I ask that the following is added to the agenda of the next committee meeting for consideration under section 3 (Membership) of the RNARS constitution

The Committee shall have power to expel any member whose conduct, in the opinion of at least three-quarters of the full Committee, renders that person unfit to be a member of the Society. No Member shall be expelled without first having been given an opportunity to appear before the Committee.
(GM3HGW)

- a. The Chairman outlined the background to this item. One member on the Yahoo Group had been posting extended messages most of which were not related to the RNARS. The Moderator of the Yahoo Group Dave G4JBE had asked for these messages to be removed and for no further similar ones to be posted. The member who posted the messages had complained and some of his complaints were echoed by Phil G1LKJ who suggested there were at least '2 mini Hitlers' around.
- b. Colin GM6HGW said it was not the first time that Phil has caused trouble and quite often he does not respond to emails. There had been previous occasions when Phil had published comments online which should have been sent as private emails. He said he had asked Phil to name the two people to whom the 'mini Hitler' term referred but Phil had not responded.
- c. Dave G4JBE said that Phil was not a fit and proper person to be in the RNARS. He said that the Facebook RNARS group was taking members away from the Yahoo Group. (It was pointed out that the home page of the group says it is not an official RNARS group.) He said that in the past when members have given cause they have been contacted directly, told what's what and been rebuked.
- d. Colin, Dave and Wally G4DIU felt that Phil should not be a member of the RNARS and should have the opportunity to put his side of the case before a final decision.
- e. The Chairman said that the Committee needed to investigate whether there was a case for Phil to answer before he was called before any Committee. He would therefore suggest setting up a small sub-committee to investigate Colin's proposal and report back. This was agreed by the majority.

11. Managers' Reports

- a. Shack Manager
Steve reported that the G5RV was US and needed to be fixed or replaced.
Steve M6WVV
- b. QSL Manager
Given the low level of activity and the availability of electronic bureaux such as EQsl and LOTW there was a question of whether we needed a QSL Bureau at all. But that was not resolved.
Marc G0TOC
- c. Data Comms
Since the last meeting and report the Group has gained a couple of members, at the same time we have also lost a couple! Net result stands at 146 members.
There has recently been another incident whereby inappropriate comments have been made on the Group by certain members. This has resulted in the banning of one member and another being kept on moderation. When will they learn that if you have a gripe with another member for any reason...you take it up with that person and NOT publicly on the Group.
Message count is currently low, the group is not being used as well or as often as it could.
Dave, G4JBE # 0434
RNARS Yahoo Group
Joe said that 2 groups to which he belongs had moved from Yahoo to groups.io.

d. Web Site

Joe said there was little new to report but as always he would welcome suggestions or comments about the site

Joe G3ZDF

e. Area Rep Co-ordinator

Wally reported on the difficulty of finding Area Reps to attend the various rallies throughout the country.

Joe said he would be running a stand as usual at Kempton Park on 5th November.

f. Newsletter Editor

Colin reported that the Autumn issue would be ready at the end of September and that he was planning the second week of December for the Winter issue.

g. Commodities Manager

Nothing to report

Doug G0MIU

12. Date of next Meeting

16th November 2017 at 19.00

The Meeting closed at 21.46.