

24th Nov 2024 Committee Meeting on Zoom at 18.30



Present: Steve Cownley (M0RQD) – Chairman
Mark Mearns (M0LXQ) - Treasurer
Roger Wilkins (G8NHG) – Secretary
Rod Angel (G4ZUP)
Damiano Cirelli (M1NCR)
Mike Reaney (M0IES)
Chris Flux (G7IVF)

Onlookers: Bob Koscinski (KO4DXQ), George Powell (2E0IYO)

- Minutes of the last meeting; previously circulated, approved as true.
- Matters arising: none

Managers' Reports:-

Treasurer's report – Mark Mearns

MM reported that there have been no big changes to our finances and we have £2388.74 in the Santander current account plus £661.00 held from the sale of the Receiver and Friday 22nd Nov subs..

The situation with Santander remains unhelpful, however the plan to open an account at Lloyds has changed due to the account no longer being free. Consequently, the decision was taken to resurrect the move to NatWest.

It was noted that Jolyon Menhinick and Jan Kelly, both previous serving officers of the Club remain signatories of our Santander current account. JM stood down as Chairman at the AGM in April 2023 and JK stood down as Treasurer at the AGM in April 2024. Santander to be contacted, again, to remove both JM and JK from the account signatories list.

[RW reported after the meeting that the current membership stands at 60, up 2.]

Webmaster's report – Steve Cownley

SC took the Committee through the website stats that remain fairly static. The average dwell time is now 2m 17secs, down from last months 2m 33secs.

Communications – unfilled role.

There was nothing that required the Committee's action/attention.

Training – Mike Reaney

MR reported that there are 3 people currently training for the Intermediate exam with the prospect of taking the exam in late January.

Compliance – Rod Angel

Nothing to report.

Events – Chris Flux

The list of events for consideration by the Committee is now on the website. SC reported a conversation with the Lizard Radio Club who are organising a special events activity marking the 150th anniversary of Marconi's first radio link between Alum Bay and The Lizard (23rd Jan 2026). Further discussions with the Lizard Club to be held. CF updated the Committee on the Club's current position on the RSGB 80m contest - we are 23rd out of 37. CF then introduced Parks-on-the-Air that runs continuously, the objective being to contact as many stations set up in parks around the World. Whilst we could operate from several parks on the Island, we could also go hunting from the Club on Friday evenings, which might be attractive to Club Members. The Committee agreed to launch our POTA effort on Friday 29th Nov.

Facilities – Damiano Cirelli

DC reported that he has sold the receiver for £650 and there is an AOR SDU5600 available to be sold. RA has progressed a solution for clearing and prep'ing the ground for the shed using Community Service people through the Island's Probation Service. A site visit took place and RA is waiting for a costing for materials the Club needs to supply, labour being at no-cost. It is possible that the base could be done within 2 weeks. The actual shed was identified from Wayfair (8ft by 6ft), delivery within a week. Total cost looks like about £300 to be paid out of the money coming from the receiver sale. SC has been offered a TR2000 TRX from G3YEG that has an issue with its HF PLL. The Committee agreed to accept the gift. A new Member Mark Dunsford (M7OIW) has donated a spectrum analyser to the Club - the Committee expressed its thanks. DC has measured the VSWR of the HF vertical together with its makeshift ground plane and showed the results to the Committee. As expected, it looks encouraging above 10MHz and tunable with an ATU down to 80m. RA is fabricating two support brackets for the ATU, to be installed on the 29th, weather permitting.

AOB:-

AOB carried over - *Haylands* - a recent email (19th Sept) from Jo Freeman, the Accounts Officer at Haylands has changed our understanding of our tenure. We pay for one meeting in the Club shack and get the free use of the main hall. Any further meetings at the shack must be paid for. Our occasional presence beyond Friday evenings does not constitute a meeting, but that leaves a grey area. SC still to further clarify.

AOB carried over - *e-qsl cards*; RW has created a design. SC to help load the design onto the eQSL platform.

AOB carried over - *There has been a proposal to run a monthly Saturday HF net to replace the previous poorly attended Wednesday shack night. No interest from the Members.* This action to be removed from the minutes until a suitable champion can be found.

AOB carried over - *RW suggested that articles published by Members in recognised journals should be featured on the website.*

AOB carried over - *The Committee had agreed to start a Club project that would build and operate a station capable of using the QO-100 geostationary satellite. After a live downlink demonstration from RA, an equipment list has been drawn up and the Committee agreed for DC to purchase the items. Fred Dawson to be contacted regarding him giving the Club a talk in the New Year on his QO-100 station.*

AOB carried over - *the Heckington Initiative - published in the Nov 2024 RadCom, it describes how the Heckington & District Radio Group successfully met the challenge of attracting younger members. It was agreed the we should give positive consideration to adopting the Heckligton methods via an ad-hoc Committee Meeting still to be arranged.*

AOB carried over - *the Christmas lunch at The Bargeman's Rest has been booked for 23 on Saturday 14th Dec. The balance of the deposit paid for estimated 28 people and the 23 actually booked will go behind the bar.*

AOB carried over - *the recent JOTA at Corf Camp reminded the Committee of an earlier plan to permanently install aerals at Corf Camp. John Earley (M7EJI) to be approached regarding the proposal.*

AOB carried over - *additional financial support for the GB3IOW Group was previously agreed in recognition of the Sandown Repeater extension. MM to pay.*

Date of the next formal Committee meeting – Monday 6th January at 18:30 via Zoom.

Roger Wilkins, Secretary 25th Nov 2024