

4th May 2025 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)
Chris Flux (G7IVF)

Onlookers: John Navin (2E0OPD), Bob Koscinski, part time (KO4DXQ).

Apologies: Mike Reaney (M0IES)

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

Managers' Reports:-

Treasurer's report – Mark Mearns

MM and SC met with the Accountant who recommended several changes to the way we have been recording our accounts - these are being adopted.

The re-presented accounts, once audited will be made available to the Membership.

DC will be transferring £385.56, the balance of cash from the sale of the AOR Spectrum Display and the costs of the geosat project, into the Club account.

Once again, we will approach Santander to get Jan Kelly, the previous treasurer, off the Club account. Failing that, a new account will be sought. Jan Kelly is also a signatory to the Bucks Building Society account and they will be approached to replace her with MM.

[RW subsequently reported that the current membership stands at 62.]

Webmaster's report – Steve Cownley

SC took the Committee through the website stats showing a small rise in activity over the April stats.

The average dwell time is now 2m 10secs, down slightly from March's 2m 15secs. However there has been an increase in the number of searches and views, particularly to the home and nets pages.

The cost of the shop app now exceeds the profits made on sales, so we need to find an alternative - further consideration. Also, some additional consideration to be given to opening up the Club merchandise pages to the public.

Communications – unfilled role.

Bill Kenway (2E0WGK) has volunteered to provide some communication services for the Club, although not as part of the Committee. The Committee

are delighted. He has already made a start with arranging for SC to appear on Solent TV to talk about the hobby, the Club and Marconi Day. There has also been a follow up after Marconi Day.

SC has been invited back onto Vectis Radio to co-host a show on May 6th at 12:00, with the possibility of something more regular.

Training – Mike Reaney

MR reported via an email that the Training Team has 3 candidates in foundation/intermediate training plus 2 more preparing to join. In addition, 1 Member is progressing in his quest for a full licence.

SC added that 2 more foundation candidates should be joining by the end of the month.

Compliance – Rod Angel

Nothing to report.

Events – Chris Flux

The recent part of the RSGB 80m SSB contest was supported by Pete Badham (G0WXJ) from his home QTH. As a result of his efforts, the Club's position has risen to 23rd out of 39. The Committee noted that Pete Badhem was the sole participant from the Club and expressed their thanks for his dedication.

The next part of the contest is on May 12th.

Marconi Day took place at the Needles on Saturday 26th April. SC, DC and Mark Dunsford (2E0OIW) supported the all-day event.

Bembridge Fort open day, Saturday May 10th. There was considerable discussion about how this event would be supported. It looks like RA (G4ZUP), Tom Evans (2E0WWJ), Mark Dunsford (2E0OIW), Pete Wade (2E1PHW) and RW (G8NHG) will be there on the day with previous setup work being carried out by RA and RW.

The associated risk assessment was considered as being met by our base risk with the exception of rigging the hf aerial - to be assessed on the day.

In general, there is little support from the Membership for events and maybe the events should be scaled back if its always the same participants.

Facilities – Damiano Cirelli

DC has been given a faulty R&S signal generator. This is now fixed and available for use by Members. The Committee thanked DC for his efforts in delivering such a quality instrument.

The shack electrics were discussed, specifically the need for an emergency mains kill switch and as a separate issue, the inclusion of a surge arrester in the mains distribution box. The Committee agreed to install both upgrades to our electrical system. The Committee thanked John Navin (2E0OPD) for donating a large red emergency switch off button. RA to source and install the surge arrester.

It was noted that the petrol generator turned itself off after a few hours service at the recent Marconi Day. It was operational when tested a few days later - overheating on the day was suspected. The Committee agreed to purchase a battery to act as a big capacitor on the generator output to cope with the intermittent high demands of the radio equipment.

The geosat project is making progress - the receive side is now operational. A transmit PA has been sourced and tested. We now need the dish antenna feed modifications to accommodate the transmit path.

AOB:-

Nothing raised.

Date of the next Committee meeting – Sunday 1st June3 at 18:30 via Zoom.

Roger Wilkins, Secretary 7th Apr 2025