

Minutes of the IOWRS AGM held on the evening of April 24th, 2026 at Haylands.



Present: Steve Cownley (M0RQD) - Chairman & Webmaster via Zoom
Mark Mearns (M0LXQ) - Treasurer
Roger Wilkins (G8NHG) - Secretary
Rod Angel (G4ZUP) - Governance & Compliance
Mark Dunsford (G4DOT) - Training
Chris Flux (G7IVF) - Events

A total of 21 Members attended the meeting that opened at 19:30.

Apologies for absence

Alan Ash (G3PZB), Tim Fallick (G4FYI), Richard Yarrow (2E0AAA), Trevor Parker (M0TVR).

Minutes of the previous AGM

These had been previously sent to all Full Members by email. There being no comments the Minutes were accepted by the meeting as accurate.

Chairman's report - Steve Cownley

The Chairman gave his report (attached) to the meeting. Overall, the Club has prospered during the year with the shack facilities expanded and more contests and events. This being the Chairman's outgoing report, he thanked the Committee for supporting his aspirations.

Treasurer's report – Mark Mearns

The Treasurer's provisional* report (attached) was made available to the Members just prior to the meeting. In summary; income was £3,680.08 compared to the previous year (£3770.73)

Expenditure was £3433.69, down by £2272.51.

Cash was £5019.27, up by £246.39 and the estimated asset value was £11,500.00, up by £500.00.

The total value of the Club is £16,519.27, up by £746.39.

The provisional accounts were approved by the meeting.

The Treasurer advised the meeting that the Club now banks with Lloyds and the Santander account is to be closed as soon as possible. Also, Haylands have increased our rent to £150 per month. He then recommended no change to the annual membership fees, but an increase to the Friday night fee up to £2.

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2026/27.

There being no questions, comments or observations from the meeting regarding the finances, the proposals were adopted.

Jan Kelly, the previous Treasurer and Jolyon Menhinick, the previous Chairman are both still listed as signatories on the Club's Santander account. The meeting was reminded that the previous AGM voted that these roles are now filled by Mark Mearns and Stephen Cownley respectively. This AGM's attendees confirmed that Jan Kelly and Jolyon Menhinick were no longer Committee Officers and consequently they should be removed as signatories on our Santander account.

Last years accounts together with this years accounts were successfully audited by Simon Ball (G2CNN).

Secretary's report - Roger Wilkins (G8NHG)

The Secretary reported on membership numbers, up 5 to 67.

There were 20 attendees at the meeting plus Steve Cownley via Zoom.

One set of keys to Haylands was handed over from Pete Wade (2E1PHW) to Roger Wilkins (G8NHG),

The Secretary advised the meeting that a series of talk has re-started, each one being recorded and onwardly produced by John Navin (M9OPD). They will be made available through our website.

Voting for the Chairman and Secretary posts that were up for renewal, and the Treasurer, Events, Communications, Training and Facilities posts that had become vacant:-

54 voting papers were sent out to full and honourary Members of which 15 were returned, i.e. a 28% response.

Mike Reaney (M0IES) kindly agreed to scrutinise the votes and reported the results as follows:-

Chairman, Roger Wilkins (G8NHG),	14 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions
Treasurer, Simon Ball (G2CNN),	13 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions
Secretary, Trevor McLoughlin (G4RFM),	14 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions
Events, John Navin, (M9OPD),	14 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions
Communications, Mark Mearns (M0LXQ),	14 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions
Training, Mark Dunsford. (G4DOT),	14 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions
Facilities - no candidate	
One spoilt paper.	

Steve Cownley (WebMaster) and Rod Angel (Governance and Compliance) continue in post because their tenure has not expired.

AOB

None

There being no further business, the Chairman thanks all those who attended and closed the meeting at 20:07

Roger Wilkins, Chairman, G8NHG,
27th April 2026

The Chairman's Report:-

And so another year comes to an end and the beginnings of a new era at the club. There have been quite a few outings this year, notably the 125-year anniversary of Marconis transmission which, in conjunction with the Lizard, was a successful couple of days. Albeit with some terrible band conditions and some HF interference from somewhere a successful CW contact was made with the lizard, thanks to Rod. The second day was terrible weather but despite that a fun day was had and many contacts were made.

A second HF antenna, this time a vertical, and tuner have now been installed giving more flexibility with the radios and the QO-100 receiver is now built and functioning and ready to transmit and we are just waiting on the transmit antenna for the dish to make this ready so that we can start to talk over a really wide area when band conditions are not good as its not affected in the same way. A big thanks to Roger who has spend a considerable time and effort to get this built and thanks to Mark G4DOT for his assistance in its testing and commissioning.

The club has now the ability to transmit on all bands and many modes with SSTV next on the agenda.

The contesting for the year has been successful with the club coming 3rd in the 80m SSB only part of the club competition last season and a good start has been made again this year. Thanks go to John M9OPD, Mark G4DOT, Pete G0WXJ for their participation from home and for Simon G2CNN, Roger G8NHG and Chris G7IVF who came to the club to participate.

The club also had a go at the 160M contest with Pete G0WXJ setting up a full size dipole in a field for his go, and John M9OPD who setup in the car park on the sea front at Yaverland with a half size dipole and both put in some respectable scores. Simon G2CNN and Roger G8NHG and myself tried from the club house but were unable to maintain a solid tune and as such were not able to take part.

This has been traced to RF ingress into the shack and so steps are being taken to address this and strengthen the grounding of the radios/tuners etc. but once completed will be tested so that we can try again next contest.

We have started the talks again and have had some great volunteers for talks and have had a couple of very interesting and entertaining ones already. This year, we hope to have a full and interesting range of talks, some live and some via Zoom where the presenter is not on the island but willing to give us a talk.

There will be more opportunities to go and operate out and about this year as the club now has all the equipment necessary for us to operate like this, from the antennas, poles and tuners and the radios which can be used for every situation and I encourage you all to come and enjoy these days out and operate in an environment which in many cases has a zero noise level making distant communications easy and assuming that you have voted John M9OPD into the role of events manager, a man with more mobile experience of all types of amateur radio than most of us...and with a nice warm van to sit in, there will be more of these to come. I would like to thank Chris G7IVF for his work on the events over his term on the committee and for the great contacts which he has now made available to the club to make his successors job that much easier.

I would also like to thank Mark M0LXQ for his work as the treasurer and Roger G8NHG for his work as Secretary and to all the committee for their continued work. The goal of the committee is always to try and make the club the best that it can be and offer the most activities and things to do for its members and I welcome all of you, to join the meetings which we hold on Zoom each month so that you can also put your points across and ask questions.

My term as the chair is now up and I hand the baton onto, hopefully Roger, to continue as the chair and I thank all the committee for their help and assistance over the last 3 years and welcome to those members who have put themselves forward to join the committee and fill the vacancies which have now come up. And finally can we please minute that Jan and Jolly are no longer part of the committee so that we can finally get the nightmare that is Santander to remove them from the account so that it can be closed!

The Treasurer's Report:-

2025/26 has seen much less expenditure for the club compared to last year which was of course dominated by the building of the shed. That said, we have still spent money on enhancing the club's facilities with the QO100 geostationary station project which is coming along nicely now. We have ended the year with around a £250 surplus which again leaves the club in a strong position.

I am grateful to Simon Ball, G2CNN for his efforts in auditing the accounts for the last two years. Last year, I stood here and told you that the accounts were yet to be audited as our chosen auditor was away. I would like to explain what has happened since then.

The auditor was Steve's sister-in-law, a retired accountant with a wealth of experience but very limited availability. She kindly set up a Zoom meeting with Steve and I to discuss the accounts I had submitted. It transpired that the method in which I had recorded the accounts was not a standard way, and she explained what would normally be expected. As such, I have produced the 2025/26 accounts in this way. Whilst I stand by the accounts I produced for last year, I accept that they aren't as clear as they could have been, but I can assure all members that there are no irregularities and indeed, Simon G2CNN agrees in his audit report that everything is in order for both years.

Moving on to our equipment the club was very fortunate to receive a quantity of donations from Damiano M1NCR's company when they closed down their UK operations last year. The committee took the decision to "quarantine" these donations for a period of at least 12 months should there be an eventuality where they needed them back. As such, the value of these has not been included in the estimated assets this year, and no attempt has been made to realise the value of any of this for the club's funds. Naturally that will be a decision for the next committee as to what happens with the equipment that is considered surplus to requirement.

I mentioned last year that we had been having difficulties changing the names on the club's current account with Santander. What seemed like it should have been an easy task just continued to have barriers put in place by the bank. For example, at one point they asked for the minutes of the AGM, but insisted that they were within the last three months.

Unfortunately, the nature of an ANNUAL general meeting meant that they were over 3 months old when they requested them at that time. Therefore, we have moved our account to Lloyds given that Steve and I both have community accounts with them and have had good experiences – Steve with the repeater, and myself for my works' social fund. Adding and removing persons from the account should be much easier, although the proof will be in the pudding.

It is worth noting that those who pay their subs by bank transfer will need to update any saved bank details as the account number and sort code has, of course, changed. You will be notified in due course of the new details when renewals are due.

You may have noticed a new line in the balance sheet for bank charges. Unfortunately, the days of free bank accounts for clubs and associations have gone and all banks now make a monthly charge. Lloyds charge us £4.25 a month (which is less than Santander's £4.99) and I can assure you this is money I am very reluctant to spend. However, the club absolutely needs a bank account, and I am confident that this is one of the best value accounts that meets our needs.

We have also been notified of a rent increase by Haylands Farm. Our monthly rent has increased from £120 to £150 as of 1st April. Now, whilst this represents a 25% increase, it should be noted that there has been no such increase since 2018. According to the Bank of England Inflation Calculator, the rate of inflation from 2018 to February 2026 has been 32.1%, so although this seems like a big increase to swallow, we have had 7 years with no increase at all and this clearly represents a far below inflation rise.

Based on that, the committee has met along with the candidates standing for election to build a budget for the coming year that ensures the next year's aspirations can be met as well as ensuring financial security for the club given the rent increase.

This slide shows the budget agreed for 2026/27. We have planned for similar events such as another tabletop sale which was well attended last year, as well as a club barbecue in the summer for the IOTA weekend. We have budgeted for general repairs and unexpected liabilities and also discussed the need for improving the security of the shack and its lighting.

Insurance of the shack was discussed – we benefit from public liability insurance with our RSGB club membership, but this does not extend to coverage of the club's property. It was decided that this is something that the new committee may wish to investigate in the coming months.

We discussed how to raise the additional funds required to cover the rent increase while maintaining the club's positive financial position and also our obligation to members to keep costs as low as possible. With this in mind, the decision was made to again keep the subscription fees at the same level as last year, which represents no increase for three years, but propose to increase the weekly tea fund collection from £1 to £2. This means that the members visiting and using the facilities that the rent pays for will contribute more towards them than those who visit the club less often and seems by far the fairest way to cover the rent increase which might otherwise need to be in the region of an additional £10 per member.

Looking to the future, and as you probably already know, I have chosen to stand down from the role of treasurer today. When I was first approached to see if I would consider standing as treasurer, I explained that I might not be able to see the full 3 year term through. I would like to be clear that this is an entirely personal decision and have had no pressure from the committee or indeed been asked to stand down. My own circumstances are changing, and in the next 12 months, I may leave the Island and do not want to put the club in a position where we have to transition from one treasurer to another part way through the year. I have very much enjoyed being a part of the committee, and this is why I have offered to stand for the position of communications officer, a post which has been vacant for the vast majority of my time with the club, and one which would cause a lot less upheaval if I were to leave the Island part way through my term.

Thank you all for being a part of the club this year, and I look forward in handing over to the new treasurer so they can continue working to make our club what it is.

I would be happy to answer any questions.



Isle of Wight Radio Society			
Receipts	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Weekly Collections	£925.79	£724.36	£747.17
Subscriptions	£1,761.62	£1,493.50	£1,758.99
Donations	£3.00	£12.00	£32.50
Sales	£3,205.57	£1,419.61	£755.56
Merchandise	£227.38	(note 1)	£251.36
Interest	£77.22	£121.26	£0.00
Other Income	-	-	£134.50
<i>Total</i>	£6,200.58	£3,770.73	£3,680.08
Payments			
Miscellaneous	£642.66	£796.41	£558.90
RSGB	£61.00	£68.00	£74.00
Rent	£1,850.00	£1,800.00	£1,500.00
Equipment	£1,128.63	£2,813.75	£845.78
Merchandise	£105.40	(note 2)	£110.50
Website	£147.17	£71.86	£138.18
Zoom	£143.88	£155.88	£155.88
Bank Charges	-	-	£50.45
Xfer to savings	£1,500.00	-	-
<i>Total</i>	£5,578.74	£5,705.90	£3,433.69
<i>Balance</i>	£621.84	-£1,935.17	£246.39
Opening Balance	£1,777.25	£2,997.92	£1,062.75
Closing Balance	£2,399.09	£1,062.75	£1,309.14
Santander a/c	£2,997.92	£1,062.75	£6.04
Lloyds a/c	-	-	£1,303.10
Cash in hand	-	-	-
Bucks B/Soc a/c	£3,588.87	£3,710.13	£3,710.13
TOTAL	£6,586.79	£4,772.88	£5,019.27
Estimated assets	£9,225.00	£11,000.00	£11,500.00
Grand Total	£15,811.79	£15,772.88	£16,519.27

Note 1: Merchandise income was included with sales in this period.

Note 2: Merchandise expenditure was included with equipment in this period.