

# **Minutes of the South Anglia Repeater Group AGM**

## **Held at Wethringsett Village Hall**

### **At 2pm on 12th May 2024**

The start of the meeting was delayed until 1420 in the hope that more people would turn up. It was agreed that G0OZS would take notes and prepare minutes. As a copy of the constitution was not available it was agreed to proceed and if necessary to schedule a new AGM if the meeting was found to be inquorate. [ Secretary's note: The 2011 constitution since obtained does not specify a quorum. As it would not be proper to make major decisions at such a small meeting an EGM has been scheduled for 27th June to confirm the elections and to revise the constitution so as to specify a sensible quorum and update spending limits ]

#### **Present**

G0OZS G8XOR M1NIZ 2E0TDN

#### **Apologies**

G7CIY M0JSA G6PDE G7DWN 2E0DIQ G1YFF

#### **Minutes of the Previous AGM held on 25th April 2023**

All present had read the minutes and agreed them to be a full and correct record.

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes and not on the Agenda**

There were no matters that would not be covered by agenda items.

#### **Chairman's Report:**

G8XOR reported as follows: "Despite a number of setbacks due to unforeseen problems good progress has now been made with the upgrade of GB3PO. I thank you for your patience.

We now have the agreement of the Hospital facilities management team who have accepted our Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) to allow us to carry out the required work on the roof of the maternity block to replace the "Green Stick" aerial with a new Diamond X50 dual band antenna.

All work to build, box and write the firmware for the control board of the new GB3PO has been completed and the whole unit now resides in the rack housing our equipment in the plant room on the 10th floor of the Maternity Block.

The hosting and development of the SARG web site has been transferred to James Colderwood M0ZAH.

While we have access to the roof of the Maternity Block we intend to check all the external coax cables feeding the group's aerials for damage and that all joints are watertight. Lightning

protection will be added to the scaffold poles supporting our aerials as up until now there has been no earthing of these aerials to the hospital lightning protection.

Within the plant room on the 10th floor an antenna patch panel will be fitted to allow easy access to the feeders to carry out future testing and we will tidy up the routing of the cables into the racks which as it stands is a bit of a rat's nest.

For GB3EF further work is also needed at Mendlesham by the BT riggers to replace the faulty feeder between the site sharing hut and the base of the tower and the vertical run up the tower requires further work to check the integrity of the cable. For this reason the repeater is still on reduced power. This work is not within our control and we are dependent on the BT riggers to fit this work in whenever they can. Our grateful thanks to them for the work they have done so far. In December 2023 GB3EF's aerial was replaced by one of similar type. This should extend the life by several decades. At the same time an inline joint was replaced due to water ingress. Jake G1YFF proposes to change the frequency shift from 500KHz to 1MHz to improve the TX/RX isolation, this should reduce the intermodulation and de-sense issues. When this change is implemented the repeater will be off air for approximately a month.

Many thanks to anybody who has helped in any way with keeping the repeaters going and who has dedicated time and effort to building and maintaining our repeaters.

Dave Sparrow G8XOR

Chair SARG"

It was also noted that GB7PP had closed down permanently during 2023.

## Repeater Updates from Keepers

**GB7AL** - 2E0TDN reported that it was working well but under-used. He planned some technical changes during 2024.

**GB3EA and GB3EZ** - It was noted that Jake G1YFF had sent a message with his apologies. A copy is attached. Jake intends to relocate the repeaters to a site where he has access when needed at which point the repeaters will leave the Group so EA and EZ will come off our insurance.

**GB3EF** - The antenna was replaced 15th December 2023 with initially good results. The horizontal coax from the hut to the mast was found to be lossy and have a high SWR when terminated at the joint between the horizontal and vertical runs so will need replacing before the repeater returns to high power. There have also been ongoing desense issues which could not be diagnosed in multiple late evening site visits. G0OZS and G1YFF have applied to change to 1MHz split and intend to take the repeater off air for 4 to 6 weeks for retuning and refurbishment when Jake is available to do the work. In the longer term we are looking at other hardware options to replace the Tait T300. The next BT rigger annual inspection at Mendlesham should be due in September which is most likely the first opportunity to get the coax replaced.

**GB3IH** - This is the old 25KHz base station and is still covered by Keith's NOV. Jake and Iain have proposed changing to wide split when relicensed so as to avoid growing low power device noise

between 433 and 434 MHz and to remove issues between MK and IH. This will need a new PROM and a re-tune of the diplexer. It was suggested that in the longer term a DR3000 (like MK) of which G0OZS and 2E0TDN have spares, or an ICOM could be used to replace the existing Tait hardware. It was noted that G7CIY wished to step down as keeper.

**GB7MK** - There has been no feedback on MK/IH issues since it was reported by John M7GSK. Internet was off for a week after the remote end of the microwave link changed ISP. PLT modules from M1NIZ stock were used to restore connectivity to the relocated home router. The Bridge has changed from Phoenix to DV-Scotland management. Their DVSPH app and website have been working well.

**GB3PO** - The new unit has been completed and after testing by G0OZS and G7CIY is in the GB3PO rack at the Maternity Block waiting for the antenna work before it can be switched on. This is waiting confirmation of an access request for 16th May. It is planned to replace the old green stick with an X50 and fit a patch panel to allow the coax connections to be made safe and tidy. We will also reterminate and label the heliax cables fitted but never used for the proposed GB3IT so they are available for future use. It is intended to retain the refurbished Tait as an on site spare once the ICOM is in service.

***ACTION AP2024/1 - M1NIZ to consider becoming keeper of PO and IH***

***ACTION AP2024/2 - M1NIZ to approach Chris Dzundra about becoming keeper as he works on site***

***ACTION AP2024/3 - Test remote key shutdown for MK, IH and PO when on site for antenna work.***

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

M1NIZ presented the summary accounts.

There was a net loss of £514.90 mainly because the GB3PO cheque cleared after the end of the 2022/2023 financial year. It was noted that there was £10 of interest on the premium account.

In discussion it was agreed the group could afford £1K for a replacement GB3IH repeater.

With regard to assets there was some discussion of redeploying SARG owned kit at Wickhambrook. This needs to be discussed between G8XOR and G1YFF.

***ACTION AP2024/4 - G8XOR to discuss assets at Wickhambrook with G1YFF***

It was noted that web hosting and insurance should cost less next year due to the change of web provider and having two repeaters less to insure.

It was noted that the group needs another signatory with a Barclay's account to enable online payments, that we may need to move banks to get better interest and that we should consider whether keeping two accounts is worthwhile given the small amount of interest.

***ACTION AP2024/5 - M1NIZ to discuss Barclays online banking options with 2E0TDN***

## ACCOUNTS SUMMARY FOR THE SOUTH ANGLIA REPEATER GROUP

Year ending 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Current Account	£3215.15
Premium Account	£824.40
Cash In Hand	£39.30

**TOTAL**                    **£3326.02**

**Profit/Loss**            **£435.40**

### 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Current Account	£2700.55
Premium Account	£832.25
Cash In Hand	£0

**TOTAL**                    **£3532.80**

### Income

Subscriptions	£850.35
Interest	£
<b>Total</b>	<b>£850.35</b>

### Expenditure

Website Hosting	£100
Repeater Insurance	£84
New Icom box (GB3PO)	£875
Car Stickers	£165
Rack mount (GB3PO)	£82.50
New PSU (GB3PO)	£58.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1365.25</b>

**Profit/Loss**            **-£514.90**

## AUDITORS REPORT

M1NIZ reported that the accounts had been examined by G7DWN who found no issues, but did observe that the interest is not shown separately in the account summary. It is apparent in the balances.

## **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

The following people were elected unopposed

Chairman	G8XOR	Proposed G0OZS Seconded M1NIZ
Secretary	G0OZS	Proposed G8XOR Seconded M1NIZ
Treasurer	M1NIZ	Proposed G0OZS Seconded 2E0TDN
Auditor	G7DWN	Proposed M1NIZ Seconded G8XOR

It was noted that Jim M0ZAH would continue ex officio as web site admin as would the keepers. The group needs to appoint a new web editor for routine updates.

It was noted that M1NIZ intended this to be his final year and that it would be necessary to find a new treasurer to take over at the year end or before if willing.

There was discussion of the Constitution and 2E0TDN said he had access to a copy to determine if the meeting was quorate and the elections were valid.

***ACTION AP2024/6 - 2E0TDN to find and share constitution***

***ACTION AP2024/7 – G0OZS and G8XOR to discuss and agree next steps based on constitution***

There was discussion as to why the meeting was poorly attended and the consensus was that it had only been advertised via the web site.

There was discussion of the Whatsapp group and it was agreed to create a new one for the 2024 committee

***ACTION AP2024/8 - G0OZS to create new Whatsapp group***

## **SARG WEB SITE**

It was noted that the "donate" button didn't work when the Bury club tried to donate.

***ACTION AP2024/9 - M1NIZ to talk to Bury club re donation***

It was noted that some people are still finding the old site created by Andy Proctor

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

NONE

Meeting Closed at 16:00

## **Summary of Actions:**

ACTION AP2024/1 - M1NIZ to consider becoming keeper of PO and IH

ACTION AP2024/2 - M1NIZ to approach Chris Dzundra about becoming keeper as he works on site

ACTION AP2024/3 - Test remote key shutdown for MK, IH and PO when on site for antenna work.

ACTION AP2024/4 - G8XOR to discuss assets at Wickhambrook with G1YFF

ACTION AP2024/5 - M1NIZ to discuss Barclays online banking options with 2E0TDN

ACTION AP2024/6 - 2E0TDN to find and share constitution

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