

Minutes of the AGM of the South Anglia Repeater Group
Held at Woodbridge Community Hall
On 12th May 2026 at 7pm

Attendance:

The meeting was attended by

Anne Keen	G7DWN
Andre Edmonds	2E0DWU
Steve Friend	2E0TDN
Brian Marston	M8BCM
Chris Irish	G6PDE
Keith Gaunt	G7CIY
Robert Needs	M7JCN
Wayne Broyd	G7SMW
Dave Sparrow	G8XOR
Chris Cates	G0CPC
Andrew Stirton	M0OTV
Iain Moffat	G0OZS

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Tony Chamberlain G0AKC, Chris Barber 2E0UCB, Jay Stedman M0JAJ, Julian Mamo M7NBM, Phil Gell G0NIK, Nigel Smith M7NES and Vince Prank G8VOC.

2. Minutes of previous AGM:

The previous minutes (at <https://sargroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Minutes-of-the-Annual-General-Meeting-29-APRIL-2025-Issue-1.pdf>) were read by G8XOR.

3. Matters Arising:

G7CIY asked about the ownership of the assets at Wickhambrook. G8XOR advised that the antennas were obtained by SARG, the feeders were owned by BT and the repeaters themselves were built and owned by G1YFF. As a BT rigger team is required to recover the antennas it is unlikely to happen soon.

Approval was proposed by G7CIY, Seconded by G0CPC and a vote was taken with none opposed.

4. Chairman's Report:

G8XOR presented the following report: "Since the last AGM the Team have been kept on their toes by various problems and failures especially during the second half of 2025.

The feeder between the Site Sharing Hut and the base of the tower was replaced and tested by Iain G0OZS, a BT employee with a high Climber certificate and myself ready for the re-install of GB3EF after a frequency change giving a 1Mhz split between TX & RX frequencies.
More on this later in my report.

Just before Christmas 2025 users of GB3PO started to complain that coverage of the repeater was not up to its usual standard. Due to the proximity of the Christmas and New Year it was decided to leave any fault finding until after the festive period. ICR (Ipswich Community Radio) also complained that their VSWR which they monitor continuously had risen. A meeting on the 26/01/2026 was set-up with ICR Staff to investigate both problems which was at first believed to be due the installation of a new cell site on the North corner of the Matty Block.

On investigation it was found that the problem was down to a faulty X50 dual band colinear which was showing very high VSWR on PO's transmit frequency. This was temporary fixed by swapping the aerial in use for TX on our aerial patch panel. The problem with ICR equipment turned out to be due to misreading the VSWR reading on their display.

Towards the end of January Iain G0OZS gave me the equipment to build the shelf to house the PSU and control logic for the new 9Mhz split GB3IH. This was duly completed and the DR3000 PSU/Control shelf and filtering integrated into one working unit.

Arrangements were made to visit the Matty Block with Iain and Keith G7CIY to install and commission the new GB3IH on 27/04/2026. The install went as planned and with the help of people who were monitoring the new frequency testing was carried out. It soon became apparent that there was a rogue carrier effecting GB3IH input frequency every second causing the receiver squelch to close. It was then decided to revert back to the old IH having not being able to locate or identify the source of the interference. We had also intended to replace the faulty X50 aerial on this visit but this was abandoned. One the following day Iain and myself meet at Chris G6PDE home QTH various pieces of test equipment to try and locate the source of the interference. It was discovered that the cause of the problem was a pulse of frequencies approx. 200Khz wide sweeping from 431 down to 430Mhz every second. Further tracking from the park close to Chris' QTH and Woodbridge Road indicates that the source is coming from the general direction of the hospital. Further work is required to locate the source. I have emailed the Estates Team at Ipswich Hospital asking for permission to enter the site to see if it is coming from the Hospital site. I am still waiting for a reply from the Estates office as of 09/05/2026.

As I hinted at the start of my report, we have had some problems regarding the status of GB3EF. At the end of November 2025 reports were being received that the output level was dropping output power during overs. After testing with no indication that this was happening it was decided that the equipment would be recovered as a new frequency split had been allocated of 1Mhz and new crystals had been ordered. The crystals arrived from the Supplier at the end of November after a delay caused by an equipment failure at the Suppliers.

The repeater and crystals were taken to James M0ZAH who had offered to re-align the equipment after fitting the new crystals. Iain and myself have both tried to contact James by mobile phone, email and via registered letter starting from the 12/03/2026 for an update on the progress of GB3EF and offering to collect the equipment so that either Iain or myself could modify the repeater but with no success. Since then, we have had no contact except a brief exchange on the day we installed the new GB3IH. Sadly, we are no further forward in finding the current status of our repeater. Hopefully we will make contact and recover the repeater and finally put GB3EF back on the air."

5. Repeater Keepers' Reports:

GB3PO

G6PDE Reported "Has been working well. I've received no reports of any technical problems. In February there was a spate of calls being made by an apparently unlicensed operator. I'm pleased to say that I heard no one acknowledge or reply to him. I don't believe the caller was malicious and within a few weeks he was not heard again."

2E0TDN noted that the repeater was cutting off the first ½ second of audio and that callsign transmissions mute the through audio. G0OZS advised that these were known issues and a consequence of ICOM design issues with the most recent generation of their PMR repeaters that G1YFF could not work round when building it.

GB3IH

G6PDE Reported “During the last year G8XOR, G0OZS and M0ZAH have been building, integrating and testing the various components of the new repeater with wide split.

In April G8XOR, G0OZS and G7CIY installed the new repeater on site only to hear a regular bust of noise every second. This could only be heard when a carrier was being transmitted and therefore was suspected to be a mixing artifact but following further investigation the following week using sophisticated test kit it became apparent that the interference could be heard directly using an AM receiver. Further tests showed it was possible to hear in a Quansheng handheld with modified firmware in AM mode providing a portable solution. The noise can be heard throughout the day at my home. Further attempts to locate the source are planned. If the source of the interference can be found and stopped the repeater will be deployed on the planned frequencies. If the interference cannot be stopped then alternative frequencies will be explored.

Big thanks to G8XOR, G0OZS, M0ZAH, G7CIY and others who contribute their expertise and time to build and maintain the repeaters for all amateurs to use.”

It was noted that M1NIZ as keeper of MK was not present to discuss alternative frequencies. G8XOR noted that MK was initially added to the installation at Ipswich Hospital on the understanding that IH would take precedence in case of mutual interference.

ACTION 2026-05-12/01: G7CIY to locate minutes from when installation of MK was agreed.

2E0TDN noted that coverage of GB3IH is currently better than PO. G8XOR advised that it is planned to replace the north mast and antenna to resolve the issues noted since December 2025.

Secretary's note: *GB3IH subsequently went live on a new frequency pair 430.725/439.725MHz which is not subject to interference.*

GB3EF

G0OZS Reported: “For most of the year GB3EF continued to operate on low power since, although the antenna had been replaced the SWR remained high. This was suspected to be down to the horizontal run of feeder from the hut to the bottom of the mast and this was proved correct when the BT riggers attended to enable Dave and I to replace it in August.

We also ordered the Crystals to allow a 1MHz split between TX and RX frequencies (by changing the repeater input/uplink from 51.220 to 51.720MHz) for which a frequency coordination certificate was obtained. This was done from a Netherlands based supplier recommended to us at a price of Eur 110 (£99.50 at the exchange rate on the day). Owing to problems at the manufacturer these were eventually delivered in mid November.

Unfortunately the repeater was reported to lose power after a few minutes use in September and October and although I went to site on two occasions when I monitored power with a Bird wattmeter inline and saw no drop in transmitter output and no increase in reflected power while I was there the issue continued to be reported as a drop in RF signal strength by multiple stations in different directions and in the end Jim (then M0ZAH now G5AFL) as ETCC representative asked me to take it off air and offered that if I delivered it to him he would do the 1MHz split conversion and look at the transmitter on the bench. I delivered the repeater to him on the 6th of November (when I also collected the new GB3IH logic) and the crystals for the 1MHz conversion were dropped off in his letterbox on 27th November. I have since found it very difficult to make contact with James and cannot give any further update. I understand from a recent exchange of messages with Jake G1YFF that Jake may have been asked to look at it.

I have since tested the antennas by doing a RAYNET net on the output frequency using a Wouxun transceiver connected to the TX cable on the diplexer and no problems with signal strength or QSB were reported. So I am reasonably sure that the issue is with electronics and not the cavities, feeder or antenna.

I have sourced a 3rd party controller at my own expense and am prepared to combine this with two Alinco DR-M06 radios (which I own and for which I have the necessary CTCSS module) so we have the components for a new GB3EF electronics package if necessary, although Dave feels we should be able to repair and use what we already own without paying for it.

In my defence I never received a full documentation package when I became keeper so have had limited ability to repair it or understand the differences from a factory Tait 300 series repeater. We believe that it has been fitted with a 3rd party PA module since there is a SMA socket on the back of the PA with a cable to a separate PA brick that provides the TX output to the antenna. I was therefore cautious about disturbing what worked without any certainty of being able to improve it.

I am conscious that my reputation with ETCC is not good, first due to the two years EF was on low power waiting for BT and then due to the power drop issues after the antenna should have been fixed and the failed replacement of GB3IH in April. I believe it may be best for the group to have a fresh start with ETCC and find a new keeper and technical officer.”

GB7AL

2E0 TDN reported: “All working OK, but not many users. Closedown arrangements are OK as it is an attended site. It is hoped to make changes with a new antenna after the Suffolk Show.”

GB7MK

No report was received.

General Discussion

Steve 2E0TDN noted that a new and younger group of repeater keepers and engineers needed to be trained up. M7JCN, M0OTV, 2E0TDN and M8BCM all expressed interest.

6. Hon Treasurer's Report

Draft accounts were tabled.

The balance was down on the year due to the expenses of building the new GB3IH and donations being £150 less than in 2024-2025.

The bank mandate has not been accepted by Barclays possibly because they called G8XOR unexpectedly in a way that seemed like a scam call to him and was dealt with accordingly. The signatories are therefore still M1NIZ and G8XOR. It was proposed to open a new account and Virgin Money was suggested as a possible alternative.

Creation of a new bank account was proposed by G0CPC, seconded by G0OZS and approved with one abstention (2E0TDN) and none against. The number of signatories were discussed and the consensus was that it should be four.

ACTION 2026-05-12/02: G0CPC to open new bank account.

7. Auditor's Report

The accounts still need to be audited and this will be done by G7DWN. It was proposed that the audited accounts should be approved by the new Committee to avoid the expense of an AGM.

This was proposed by G0OZS seconded by M0OTV and approved with all in favour.

8. Elections

The following officers were elected for 2026-27

Chair	Dave Sparrow G8XOR Proposed G0CPC	Seconded 2E0TDN	Approved nem con.
Secretary	Iain Moffat G0OZS Proposed 2E0DWU	Seconded M8BCM	Approved nem con.
Treasurer	Chris Cates G0CPC Proposed G8XOR	Seconded M0OTV	Approved nem con.
Technical	Chris Irish G6PDE Proposed 2E0TDN	Seconded G7DWN	Approved nem con.
Auditor	Anne Keen G7DWN Proposed G7CIY	Seconded M0OTV	Approved Nem Con

The new committee members now being known a vote was taken to appoint signatories for the new bank account. Keith Gaunt G7CIY proposed and Steve Friend 2E0TDN seconded that Chris Cates G0CPC, Dave Sparrow G8XOR, Iain Moffat G0OZS and Chris Irish G6PDE be appointed as signatories on any new bank account and this was approved by all with no abstentions.

9. SARG Web Site:

It was noted that there had been security issues with the SARG wordpress going back some time. It was believed that these had been addressed by password and configuration changes.

There were comments that the AGM notice at the bottom of the page had not been widely seen.

ACTION 2026-05-12/03: G0OZS to place future announcements at the top.

Rob M7JCN offered to host the web site for free using the same infrastructure as the 1st Woodbridge scouts web site.

G7CIY proposed that the group take up M7JCNs offer at the earliest opportunity which was seconded by 2E0TDN and approved nem con. G8XOR proposed a vote of thanks to Rob seconded by G7CIY and approved nem con.

10. Any Other Business

G7CIY proposed and G0OZS seconded a vote of thanks to Anne G7DWN for arranging the room and refreshments which was approved nem con.