

**Minutes from the 2007 SARG AGM Held 19:30 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008**  
**at the Red Cross Centre – Woodbridge**  
**Web Site - <http://gb3ea.blogspot.com/>**

**Present:** - Dave Sparrow – G8XOR (Chairman); Keith Gaunt – G7CIY (Secretary); Pat Marks – G8VZZ (Treasurer); Alan Dorling – G8CJL (Repeater Keeper); Russell Keen – G7OOW (Auditor); Anne Keen – G7DWN (Hospitality); Paul Whiting – G4YQC; Herbie Shemming – M1DGY; David Lockwood – M3PUY; John Brand – G0MGN; Brian Marston – 2E0BCM; Jake Bevan – G1YFF; Simon Batley – M0SUF; David Burling – M0TOW; Norman Keen – G7OPO; Julian Harvey – M3BDQ; Jay Stedman – M0JAJ; Mark Hickford – M0MJH; Mark Wright; M1NIZ; Shona Weston – M3SMY; Keith Weston – M3KGJ; Leigh Weston – M3ULW; Steve Knock – M3BDL; Keith Handscombe – G7DNT; Bob (MUD) – M0MUD; Steve Piper – G1YRE; Michael Tyler – 2E0TYL; Keith Hotchkiss – G0FEA

**Apologies:** Tash – M3SAD; Peter Best – G8BLS; James Crawford – M1TES; Karl Saagi – G0NQU; Chris – 2E0EBO; Ian Bevan – G0YAP and John Lockwood – G3XLL

**Welcome and Introductions:** Dave opened the meeting at 19:30, thanked everybody for coming, noting it was very nice to see a large turnout for the support of the SARG  
Keith – G7CIY apologised for the lack of parking and said that this would be rectified next year with a different venue (see AOB and closing notes). He also went through the domestic arrangements for the building.

**Minutes and Matters arising from the last meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007:** The minutes of last years AGM had been emailed out to all those who attended last years meeting and copies were also made available on the night. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were agreed as an accurate record of events. The outstanding Action Points were discussed as follows: The minutes themselves were approved as an accurate record of events carried by all present.

Internet Linking – After some discussion, it was generally agreed that we should pursue this on a trial basis using GB3IH. Keith – G7DNT was nominated as the Project Lead on this and would liaise closely with Alan and Dave - Ongoing

“Static build-up” on GB3PO – This problem which was noted last year seems to have disappeared so for the moment, this action is closed but obviously if it becomes an issue again we will investigate. - Closed

New Antennas for GB3EA, GB3EZ and GB3EF. These have all been purchased and installed on site. - Closed

GB3PO Antenna – Although it was noted that this had been in place for sometime, it didn't seem to be causing a problem. - Closed

Keith – G0FEA to seek extra approval for GB3WB via the resilience line via his employment - Closed

Russell to seek extra approval for GB3WB via the resilience line via RAYNET – Closed

Norman to find contact details for a possible SARG donation to Ipswich Hospital Radio

Ongoing – this could be any worthwhile charity at the Hospital. Still Ongoing, Norman apologised that he hadn't done this but agreed that he would make some enquiries very soon.

## Chairman's Report:

The past twelve months have been extremely busy with the approval finally received for the establishment of GB3EA at Wickhambrook. Sincere thanks must go to Jake G1YFF without his intervention and pushing, the Repeater Management Group (now the Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee -ETCC) would not have approved the application and we would not be in the current position of having a NoV issued for this repeater.

Thank you to all who sent in emails or letters to Jake and Keith G7CIY supporting the establishing of these repeaters. Without this support the approval would not have been forthcoming.

Aerials for both the new 2m and 70cms repeaters at Wickhambrook were erected by the BT Riggers on 08/04/2008 and tests have proved that their coverage is as expected or better. Thanks must go to the BT Riggers and their manager for doing this work on our behalf. Keith G7CIY has written to the manager on behalf of the Group expressing our thanks and some form of liquid refreshment will be heading their way.

Alan G8CJL has finished the modifications to the radio unit which will form the basis of GB3EA. He has spent considerable time and effort achieving the required technical parameters for use as a repeater. My grateful thanks to him for this effort. The duplexer has been constructed by Jake G1YFF and tested to ensure that it meets the isolation required between the TX and RX ports.

An aerial move on GB3EF from the north side to the south side of the tower at Mendlesham did not resolve the problem of the tower causing the coverage to be asymmetric. The newer of the aerials was recovered to Martlesham by Martin Goodrum G3ZQU as its resonant frequency was measured at 46Mhz. Martin and myself spent several lunchtimes cutting the radiating element to the correct length so that it was resonant on the output frequency of GB3EF. A new aerial was purchased from Jaybeam and the two aerials re-installed on opposite sides of the pyramid section at the top of the tower using a phasing harness already to hand. This has resulted in a near omni coverage pattern. Work by Jake to modify a commercial low band base-station to work on 6 metres is still in hand. This will be used to replace the two existing TS60's which currently form the repeater. This should improve the isolation between the TX and Rx reducing the blocking thereby allowing the sensitivity on the RX to be increased and making it more reciprocal in terms of power required to get into the repeater.

All the work undertaken so far this year has cost the Group a significant sum of money in the purchasing of aerials and components to achieve our goals. I ask that you are as generous as possible with donations to the Group this time and that the word is communicated to those who regularly use GB3PO; GB3IH; GB3EF and very soon GB3EA and GB3EZ that it does cost money to setup and maintain these repeaters for them to use.

As mentioned above work is still in-hand to improve the performance of GB3EF and to finally obtain approval for GB3EZ at Wickhambrook.

As you will all be aware GB3EA was commissioned on Saturday 26/04/2008 and initial reports are positive. However it must be said that this repeater has been engineered to cover the west of the county and provide service for mobiles and portable stations in the area shown on the predicted coverage map. It is not intended for general use of base-stations in the east of the county to talk to each other. The Key Message is Please be sensible regarding the power levels

being used to access the repeater. Levels in excess of 25W ERP should not be required and people should be questioning whether they are in the service area.

I extend my grateful thanks to all who have assisted with the many aspects of maintaining the repeaters and the numerous behind the scenes tasks that ensure their smooth operation. Special thanks must go to the BT Riggers, Alan G8CJL, Jake G1YFF, Martin G3ZQU, Keith G7CIY and G0FEA who set up the blog site. If I have missed anybody off the list please accept my apologies.

**Dave Sparrow – G8XOR**  
**Chair - South Anglia Repeater Group**

### **Treasurers Report**

Balance sheet as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Bank Statements	<u>28<sup>th</sup> February 2007</u>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> February 2008</u>
Current Account	£437-54	<b>-£226-89</b>
Premium Account	£1041-79	£1056-78
Cash in treasurers hands	£00-00	£60-00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£1479.33</u></b>	<b><u>£889-89</u></b>

### **Income**

Subscriptions (See separate list)	£434-00	£190-00
Bank interest	£8-80	£14-99
<b>Total</b>	<b>£442-80</b>	<b>£204-99</b>

### **Expenditure to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

#### **Cheque**

100129: Refreshments and hall rent for AGM	£32.99
100130: Insurance	£32.53
100132: Antenna for GB3EF	£155.69
100133: Logic board parts	£61.56
100134: Antennas and parts for Wickhambrook Repeater	£485.86

**Total** **£768.63**

**Profit /Loss** **-£563.64**

Accounts prepared by and signed by Pat Marks G8VZZ  
 The accounts were proposed by M0MUD, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M3SMY and carried by all.

### **Auditor's statement**

I have checked the accounts and find that they represent a true picture of the funds held by South Anglia Repeater Group. They show an operating a large operating loss for the year but this is due large one off costs for the new repeaters at Wickhambrook. They also show that the current account is in the red due to money not being transferred from the investment account. The treasurer has paid his own money into the account to minimize overdraft charges. These will show on next years accounts .The number of donations are much lower this year and I urge everyone to encourage all the users of the repeaters to donate this year.

**Signed Russell Keen G7OWW**

### **Election of Officers:**

The current officers were willing to stand so the officers for 2008 and were elected on block.  
Proposed – G4YQC, 2<sup>nd</sup> G1YRE and carried by all

Chairman – Dave Sparrow – G8XOR  
Secretary – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY  
Treasurer – Pat Marks – G8VZZ  
Auditor – Russell Keen – G7OOW  
Repeater Keeper – Alan Dorling – G8CJL

In addition to the above:

Technical Consultant and GB3EA/EZ Project Lead	Jake Bevan – G1YFF
Web Site (BLOG)	Keith Hotchkiss – G0FEA
MB7IIP and Internet Linking Technical Support	Keith Handscombe – G7DNT

All the Committee members were given a round of applause for the work put in throughout the year.

### **AOB and Date of Next Meeting:**

**GB3EZ** – The majority of the work for this repeater has been done but we still have some issues in obtaining the license. G1YFF asked those present if they still felt the need for another 70cms repeater and there was a resounding YES from all.

**Web Sites** – It must be recorded in these minutes that the Web Site run by Catherine – M1CVF was an excellent site and was only let down by the SARG for not providing information. We are very grateful to what Catherine has done for us in the past and apologise for any mis-handling that may have occurred. There is currently an active Blog Site – (see top of minutes) run by G0FEA. M1DGY pointed out that our current Web Presence was very poor and the Committee agreed to address this.

**MB7IIP** – This is a simplex Echolink/IRLP station (145.3375 110.9) channel run by Keith – G7DNT. This is a very professionally set-up station that up till now has had no financial support. G7CIY proposed that this be included under the SARG umbrella and therefore funds and benefits be entitled to it. This was accepted by all present.

**A new 10m Repeater?** – M0MUD asked what the feeling of the SARG would be for a 10m repeater. Obviously, there is still ongoing work with GB3EA, GB3EZ and GB3EF but the idea seemed to be quite a good one and is something that had already been discussed. Bob was given the task of Project Lead to do a feasibility study and find out what information he could and report back.

**Low Audio** on GB3PO – M0JAJ said that he felt that the received audio from PO was quiet and much lower than other repeaters. Both G1YFF and G7CIY agreed that this was the case. Dave replied that the repeater was set to specification but said that he would look into it and see what could be done.

**GB3PO/IH Move** – M1NIZ said that he heard that the hospital site might be closing and wondered what would happen to the repeaters. Dave replied that although this was not in the immediate future he was aware of the issue and was actively looking for other potential sites.

The masts at Foxhall Road were mentioned – G8VZZ and G8XOR to investigate and progress.

Also, the mast at Police HQ – G1YFF and G8XOR to investigate.

**GB3EA “Night Mode”** – It was noted that GB3EA seemed to lose sensitivity at night time. At present, the cause of this was unknown but G1YFF and G8XOR would investigate very soon.

**GB3EA Use** – MOTOW openly put his hand up and apologized for his lack of decorum on one occasion whilst using GB3EA but wanted it to be known why the incident occurred. Apparently he was using GB3EA to talk to a station when another amateur told him that he was not allowed to use the repeater and that he should “go back to CB”. No one from the SARG has said that any particular station cannot use any specific repeater. All we want to make clear is that repeater use should be sensible - give priority to Mobile Operators and be aware of your output power. Home-base stations within simplex range of each other should move off a repeater to a simplex channel.

Dave thanked everyone for coming and thanked Anne – G7DWN for arranging the room and providing the teas and coffees for which there was another round of applause. G0FEA took a few photos for the web site (including a good one for the caption competition!) and Jake gave some explanation of the new GB3EZ repeater (which was on view on the night) to some people. The meeting was closed at 21:10. The date of the next AGM will be April next year but the date will be announced nearer the time. Due to the parking issues experienced this evening and in an effort to centralize a bit more, it was agreed that next year's venue will be at the St John Centre in Bramford with the kind offer of G0FEA.

*Keith Gaunt*

SARG Secretary

1<sup>st</sup> May 2008

## **Summary of Action Points as at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

Internet Linking – After some discussion, it was generally agreed that we should pursue this on a trial basis using GB3IH. Keith – G7DNT was nominated as the Project Lead on this and would liaise closely with Alan and Dave - Ongoing

Norman to find contact details for a possible SARG donation to Ipswich Hospital Radio

Ongoing – this could be any worthwhile charity at the Hospital. Still Ongoing, Norman apologised that he hadn't done this but agreed that he would make some enquiries very soon.

SARG to continue to progress GB3EZ application following on from the full support at the AGM

G7CIY to write to Catherine expressing our gratitude for the work she has done on our web site up till now

SARG to discuss its future plans for our Web Presence ASAP

M0MUD to act as Project Lead for a feasibility study into the possibility of a 10m Repeater

SARG to look into the reports of Low Audio on GB3PO

G8XOR and G8VZZ to investigate the Foxhall Road site for possible Repeater Move

G8XOR and G1YFF to investigate Police HQ for a possible Repeater Move

SARG to investigate night time de-sense at GB3EA

G7CIY and G0FEA to arrange new venue for next years AGM