



GB3PO – 145.650; GB3IH – 433.100; GB3EF – 50.720;  
GB3EA – 145.6875; GB3EZ – 430.975

Web Site: <http://www.sargroup.co.uk/>

Chairman – Dave Sparrow G8XOR

Secretary – Keith Gaunt G7CIY

## Minutes from the 2012 SARG AGM – held 26<sup>th</sup> April at St John, Bramford

**Present:** - G7CIY, G7SMW, 2EOTYL, G1ZAF, G0FEA, G8RHQ, M1TES, G4ICP, G1YFF, G7RVS, M6MBN, M0JAJ, M1NIZ, G4AQV, G4LRB, G8BHC, G7DWN, G8BLS, M6TNG, 2EOBCM, C. Butler, G7OOW, G7OPO, M6OWK, G8VZZ, M3FDQ, G7SDC, 2E1FZH, M0MUD, G8CJL, G3XOK, G8XOR

**Apologies:** - G4YQC, M3EXE, G7OCD, M3VDO, G1YRE, M6JBG, M0MJH, G3XLL, M5AEH, G1VGI, M0BCT, M0SDY, M3KIT, M3LDC, M3EBZ, 2E0EVE, G4BAV, G0TMX, M0SRS, G4GGC, M1ACB, M6BAT, M0HKC, G7UQV, M3PBK, G6PDE, G7LNU

### Welcome and Introductions:-

Dave – G8XOR opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed everybody and G0FEA went through the domestic arrangements for the building. It was very pleasing to see the group so well supported. G8XOR thanked G0FEA and St John for the facilities.

### Minutes and Matters arising from the last meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011:-

The outstanding actions from last year were read out. As there were no corrections or amendments, these were duly accepted as a true record of events.

Proposed by M3FDQ, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G8BLS and carried by all.

The outstanding actions from last year were:

- AP01/10 SARG to follow up and provide a charitable donation to Ipswich Hospital Radio  
Completed. £50.00 was donated and we received a nice letter acknowledging our donation
- AP01/11 SARG to re-confirm that G0TMX is happy to remain a representative for the Western Area  
Closed
- AP02/11 G7DNT to lead the project on providing audio streaming to the SARG web site (from a link on his own web site) and to work with the SARG to link the Group's repeaters together.  
Closed After much discussion, it was decided by this meeting that we will now NOT pursue this. There were nine people against the idea and three in favour – the rest of the meeting had no view one way or the other.
- AP03/11 Steve – M1ACB to see what he can do to “oil the wheels” re: the license application approval for GB3IT (Amateur TV) and report back to the SARG via G6PDE  
Closed – M1ACB provided information from the RSGB about delays – see later for full info.

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

The report this year will be short as no major developments have taken place.

Overall it has been another successful year for the Group with all the repeaters working with few, if any significant unplanned outages.

We are always open to comments from users on how we can improve the repeaters so if you have any thoughts on minor adjustments that need to be made please let one of the committee members know.

As and when time allows further work is envisaged to improve the aerial filtering on GB3PO as the new unit has better isolation than the previous equipment.

May I extend my thanks to all who have supported the Group over the past year especially Keith G7CIY, Keith G0FEA and Juliet G7RVS, who have worked in the background to keep the paperwork, Website and finances up to date.

Grateful thanks to those who have made contributions of time, money or equipment to support the projects so far. Our site rentals are very low and we are very fortunate that the site owners see this as supporting technology in the wider community but we still need financial support to continue to keep the repeaters managed by the Group running.

Jake has over the past year made a number of improvements to the duplexer on GB3EA which has resulted in an improvement in the isolation between TX and RX.

Work has yet to start on the replacement to GB3IH. Equipment is at hand to convert it to TAIT bringing it in line with all the other repeaters managed by the Group. Time and other commitments have so far prevented any start being made but will begin as soon as time allows.

Thank you to all who use the repeaters. To hear that they are being used makes the time and effort of maintaining them worthwhile. It is no good putting one on the air if it does not get used.

Dave Sparrow  
G8XOR

Chair SARG

## Treasurers Report - Accounts prepared by and signed by Juliet Bevan G7RVS

Balance Sheet as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012

	<b>28<sup>th</sup> February 2011</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b>
Bank Statements		
Current Account	£1,023.10	£1,245.10
Premium Account	£817.06	£817.46
Cash in Treasurers Hand	£0.00	£7.24
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£1,840.16</b>	<b>£2,069.80</b>
Un-presented Cheque		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,840.16</b>	<b>£2,069.80</b>

### Income

Subscriptions/Donations (see separate sheet)	£376.00	£232.00
Bank Interest	£0.40	£0.40
Sale of Radio	£108.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£484.40</b>	<b>£232.40</b>

### Expenditure to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Cheque	£0.00
Cash – Postage stamps	£2.76

**Total Expenditure** **£2.76**

**Profit / Loss** **£229.64**

### Auditor's statement

Emma has audited the accounts and finds them to be a true representation of the accounts and so duly signed them.

## Nominations and Election of Officers:-

All the outgoing officers indicated a willingness to stand for another year. There were no other propositions from the floor so the officers below were voted on block.

Proposed by M6MBN, Seconded by 2E0BCM and carried by all

Chairman – Dave Sparrow – G8XOR	<a href="mailto:david.sparrow5@btinternet.com">david.sparrow5@btinternet.com</a>
Secretary – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY	<a href="mailto:g7ciy@raynet-uk.net">g7ciy@raynet-uk.net</a>
Treasurer – Juliet Bevan – G7RVS	<a href="mailto:g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk">g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Auditor – Emma Penfold	

## Additional positions within SARG are:

**President** – Alan Dorling – G8CJL

<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB3PO, GB3IH & GB3EF	– Keith Gaunt – G7CIY	<a href="mailto:g7ciy@raynet-uk.net">g7ciy@raynet-uk.net</a>
<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB3EA & GB3EZ	– Jake Bevan – G1YFF	<a href="mailto:g1yff@hotmail.co.uk">g1yff@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Technical Officer</b>	– Jake Bevan – G1YFF	<a href="mailto:g1yff@hotmail.co.uk">g1yff@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Western Area Representative</b>	– Terry Beddington – G0TMX	<a href="mailto:g0tmx@btinternet.com">g0tmx@btinternet.com</a>
<b>TV Repeater</b>	– Chris Irish – G6PDE	<a href="mailto:cjirish@btinternet.com">cjirish@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Internet and Repeater Linking</b>	– Keith Handscombe – G7DNT	<a href="mailto:keith@g7dnt.co.uk">keith@g7dnt.co.uk</a>
<b>Web Master</b>	TBA	

## Repeater News and Updates:

G1YFF took the floor and gave some updates on all the repeaters.

GB3PO is performing well with better sensitivity and coverage noted by several users. Some minor adjustments to the timing and logic will be made when time allows.

GB3IH still has issues where the frequency drifts from time to time and occasional interference problems. This repeater is using the oldest of our radios and is the next project that we will be working on. The aim will to be replace with Tait equipment over this year.

GB3EA is still causing some issues – the main one being the antenna.

GB3EF is working well and coverage seems to be quite good, but it was noted that it is much underused.

GB3EZ is probably the best repeater in our group and its performance is outstanding. G1YFF believes with some minor tweaks that this can still be further improved!

Repeater linking was mentioned and it was felt that a trial could be run between GB3EF and GB3EZ.

We didn't believe any of our repeaters would be affected by the Olympics.

G6PDE was not able to attend but G7CIY provided the following information at the meeting with regards to the ATV Repeater application.

You might remember that I took an action at the last South Anglia Repeater Group AGM to see if there was anything that could be done with the RSGB ETCC to expedite the vetting and approval of GB3IT.

I have made occasional enquiries since the AGM but I think the statement published by the RSGB today summarises the latest situation with the outstanding applications. I will continue to take an active interest in any further information which I see and will highlight the application for GB3IT whenever I can.

Steve, M1ACB  
RSGB Deputy Regional Manager - Suffolk

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<http://www.rsgb.org/news/articlelinks.php?id=0325>

Update on the current position on Repeater and Beacon NoVs (Notices of Variation) The RSGB is aware that Repeater and Beacon Keepers are frustrated by the lack of progress on the issuing of a number of NoVs. We are therefore providing this background brief on the current situation.

Applications for NoVs going back several years remain outstanding. It appears that some delays have been due to changes in staff in the Licensing Centre and the RSGB has worked with Ofcom to help overcome these problems and offer advice as necessary. As a result NoVs for repeaters in Primary Amateur bands such as 2 Metres are now being issued with little delay. This is also the situation with Internet Gateways and datacomms where, following considerable efforts by the ETCC, delays have now been resolved. Frequency clearances in those bands where the Amateur Service is secondary have been subject to considerable delay and these delays are likely to continue. Revised and updated lists of outstanding frequency clearance requests for repeaters and beacons in secondary allocations such as 70cms were provided to Ofcom in October 2011 and have just been updated and submitted again. The October 2011 submission achieved some progress with one repeater being cleared to cover the main Olympics area in London. The Society continues to press for action on this list and is working with Ofcom to try to resolve all outstanding issues.

In respect of 23cms which has additional Primary Use by long range aeronautical radars, a new band plan was devised to largely avoid those blocks of spectrum, and also make provision for new amateur technologies. This plan was agreed by the Spectrum Forum last November, and should enable us to make progress with the Primary Users in this part of the spectrum.

We continue to work with Ofcom on all of the outstanding issues and also to find ways of streamlining the issue of all NoVs. Further information will be available in due course.

Repeater insurance – this is ongoing. There have been some recent changes in the company providing insurance to amateur radio related projects. The following from Don Beattie is included for information:

G7DNT was also not at the meeting but the Internet Linked simplex frequencies continue to work well thanks to Keith's expertise. Further information can be found at <http://g7dnt.co.uk/mb7iip-ipswich.html>

Insurance was not discussed at the meeting, but the following information is provided for the minutes.

#### **a) Individual insurance arrangements formerly through Bluefin:**

Following the previous announcements about the withdrawal of Bluefin from the amateur radio insurance on the 31st March 2012 (for new policies and renewals), the Society is pleased to announce that two brokers are now offering insurance cover for radio amateurs. Whilst we do not and cannot recommend or endorse insurance companies, we can confirm the details as follows:

##### ***South West Broking Ltd***

This company is offering insurance that has been negotiated specifically for amateur radio enthusiasts. They have gained the commitment of an insurer within Lloyd's of London who offer cover for both radio equipment and third party liability insurance. Cover is available to both individual members and clubs. Contact: Julian Dent of South West Broking Ltd. On 01454 806503 or by email at:

[Julian@southwestbroking.co.uk](mailto:Julian@southwestbroking.co.uk) and they will be pleased to provide further information.

##### ***Quotedesk***

A specialist insurance cover is also now available from a company Quotedesk. They are offering an all risk cover for your Amateur radio equipment along with Public Liability cover.

Contact: Phone +44 (0) 845 073 7137 or visit [www.quotedesk.co.uk](http://www.quotedesk.co.uk)

This news was due to appear on the RSGB website yesterday but personally I have been unable to locate it ! If not there already it will be prominent on Monday.

#### **b) Public liability Insurance for beacons and repeaters.**

This policy expires today. Earlier this week we were told that the insurer (AXA) wanted to decommit from the business. They were embarrassed that, despite the renewal having been under discussion for weeks, they bounced this on us. They have now agreed to extend existing cover for a 14 day period and we have a proposal with them now which I hope will solve the problem.

### **c) NoVs for beacons**

A large number of NoVs for beacons expire 31 March. We have agreed with Ofcom a process for extending existing NoVs until 31 December 2012, to allow an orderly issuing of new NoVs. Sadly the extension NoV wording has been delayed in Ofcom, and we now expect it next week. As soon as it is available we will go live with a portal on the RSGB website which will be similar to the NoVs for GQ and GO calls, which will allow beacon keepers to extend their NoVs through a webform.

The subject of repeater abuse was mentioned. Please do not respond to any station that is causing an issue. If possible, write down the times that the interference occurred and the signal strength (input) if you can receive it.

### **Web Site News and feedback:**

G7CIY explained that G0FEA was no longer able to run the web site due to work and time constraints. There was some discussion and it was agreed that the Committee would take this away to provide a resolution. M3FDQ offered to help as he is currently involved in building web sites professionally. The current site will remain active for the time being (address at the top of the minutes). Thanks were noted to G0FEA for running the site up to this point.

### **AOB:**

ESWR will be held Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Orwell Truck Stop. Please tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you there. <http://www.eswr.org.uk/>

### **Date and venue of next meeting:-**

There being no other business, the meeting was formally closed at 21:45. Subscriptions were then gratefully received by G7RVS. Next years meeting will be held hopefully the same location on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Keith Gaunt – G7CIY  
SARG Secretary  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2012