



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

Chairman – Dave Sparrow G8XOR

Secretary – Keith Gaunt G7CIY

Minutes from the 2021 SARG AGM – held Friday 23rd April via Zoom

Present: - G4AQV, G6PDE, G4PAG, G3XVL, M0XTF, M6VLH, G7SMW, G3UJB, M1NIZ, M1TES, M0JSA, 2E0TDN, G7RMQ, G7CIY, M0VLK, 2E0ICX, G7DWN, G8XOR, M5BOP, M0AAO.

Apologies: - G0NIK, G1YFF, 2E0ISJ, G0EBQ

Welcome and Introductions:-

The meeting at 7:30pm and the Committee introduced themselves. Due to COVID, we were unable to hold a meeting in 2020 and this year's meeting had to be held online. Thanks were noted to M0VLK and the LARC for the use of their ZOOM account.

Minutes and Matters arising from the last years AGM

G7CIY read through the minutes of the 2019 meeting and they were accepted as an accurate record of events, and will be signed by G8XOR at a later date.

Chairman's Report:-

This report covers the period from April 2019 to the present day due to the deferment of the AGM in 2020 as of the result of the lockdowns and Government restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period all of the repeaters have continued to work but not necessarily to their maximum efficiency.

The receiver from the main GB3PO repeater was removed from site just prior to the first lockdown. The unit has been tested and returned a performance figure 2dB better than the manufacturer's specification. Due to lockdown restrictions it has not been possible to return it to site with a view to re-installing the main PO repeater to service. This is a point I need to speak to Christian M0MFO about regarding possible access to carry out this work.

Complaints are still outstanding regarding interference to GB7MK from GB3IH. Since my last report I am told that the tester I need to borrow to investigate the setting up of a suitable filter has been repaired and with the co-operation of Aaron M6WUB he has agreed to meet me at Woodbridge on a day to be arranged to use the tester. This is reliant on COVID restrictions being lifted to the extent it is safe to meet on-site. It may be possible to reduce the interference simply by moving either or both MK or IH aerials to increase the isolation of the two repeaters. This will need the co-operation of the Hospital authorities to allow access to the roof to perform this work. If anybody has a suitable tester they can loan me for a length of time to allow me to make/modify a filter then this would be much appreciated.

Work has been carried out at Wickhambrook to replace the unapproved aerial mounts to fully approved mounts which allow the aerials to be swung into the faces of the tower for maintenance. This work has been carried out at the expense of the site owner for which we are extremely grateful. Considerable appreciation is due to the Rigging team and Aaron for their help and assistance in achieving a satisfactory outcome. There have been a number of reports that during periods of wet and windy weather GB3EF suffers from very poor performance. It is suggested that this may be due to the aerial being faulty. Martin G3ZQU has been monitoring the situation and when we have the next period of foul weather we intend to visit site to run the

Sitemaster of the feeder and aerial. In the meantime I will be obtaining a quote with the view to replacing the aerial.

Thank you to all the people involved with the move of SARG website from its original hosting site to a new hosting site. Special thanks to Andy M3FDQ, Jay M0JAJ and Adam Bowler for the extremely smooth operation to move the website and get it up and running in its new home. We now need a Webmaster to improve the site and keep it updated with the latest news. Any offers gratefully received.

Also a big thank you to Vaughn M0VLK for allowing the Group to use the LARC ZOOM account to host this event this year.

Dave Sparrow G8XOR - Chair SARG

Treasurers Report -

For Year ending 28th February 2020

28th February 2019

Current account £1844.38
Premium Account £821.25
Cash In Hand £0.00

Total £2665.63

Profit/Loss 179.04

28th February 2020

Current account £2009.49
Premium Account £822.89
Cash In Hand £11.00

Total £2843.38

Income

Subscriptions £182.5
Interest £1.64
Total £184.14

Expenditure

Repeater Insurance £80
Teas/coffee £7.39
Total £87.39

Profit/Loss £96.75

Mark stated that we have a few ongoing commitments now with insurance and web site. With the potential purchase of a new antenna for GB3EF we should be mindful on expenditure and consider raising funds. 2E0TDN volunteered to be a fund raiser for the Group and the new Committee will consider co-opting him for this role.

The accounts were proposed by G8XOR and 2nd by G3UJB – carried by all.

Auditor's statement

Anne – G7DWN has checked the accounts and has duly signed them off as being a true representation of our current status.

Nominations and Election of Officers:-

G7CIY handed control of the meeting into the hands of G4AQV for the purpose of election of officers. The Chairman, Secretary and auditor indicated their willingness to stand for a further year. There were no other proposals.

Chairman G8XOR
Secretary G7CIY
Treasurer M1NIZ
Auditor G7DWN

Additional positions within SARG are:

Repeater Keeper GB3PO, GB3IH – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY
Repeater Keeper GB3EF – Vacant
Repeater Keeper GB3EA, GB3EZ – Jake Bevan – G1YFF
Repeater Keeper GB7MK, GB7AL – Mark Austin – M1NIZ
Repeater Keeper GB7PP – Keith Hotchkiss – G0FEA
Technical Officer – Vacant
Web Site – Vacant

Repeater News and Updates:

GB3EF

Needs a new Keeper who is keen, local and technically savvy. I'm 1 hour 15 mins from the site and no longer have the opportunity to drop in and check the repeater as part of my work travels as in the past.

I've had several reports of poor performance these mostly seem to be after high winds but as of yet we've not been able to attend site when the issue is present.

Dave has said that we need a replacement antenna for EF at a cost of about £400.00. There was some discussion whether we should continue to support a 6m repeater as it is much underused.

G7CIY proposed asking G0OZS who lives nearby to be the new keeper.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that for this year we would try and get it running properly and hopefully generate more interest.

GB3EA/EZ

BT have re-engineered all three of the aerials on site to comply with the latest BT rigging requirements at NO Cost to the group many thanks to all the Team at BT. As a result the service of both repeaters has been effected mostly for the better. Unfortunately a few have noticed a reduction in performance apologies for that - there was no choice if we wanted stay on site, the offer of many £000's of work at no cost was too good an offer to turn down. At the same time the BT team identified a faulty cable on the tower, which Dave XOR made a replacement on site - this looks to have resolved a long standing intermittent issue on site.

EZ is now running on the main (Tait T800) repeater repairs having been made finally in February. As has been noted before when EZ was off air late 2020 early 2021 only 2 stations took the time to comment, IF the repeater isn't on and it's over 24 hours PLEASE make contact with the group we may well not know.....

EA carries on and is now back on the main aerial.

For some time now access to the site has been difficult to arrange, we now have a better arrangement this will allow for further development / maintenance of the repeaters to take place in a timely manner.

We should consider asking Aaron for the position of Technical Officer for the Group. He is licensed and well known to both G8XOR and G7CIY.

2E0TDN and G4AQV asked whether we should consider releasing EA and EZ from the Group. No body from the West of the county appears to attend the AGMs and we are not sure how much financial support we get from that area. After some useful discussion, it was agreed that we should keep them as part of our group. We should be more proactive in the area – maybe people like the Bury radio club are not aware of us?

GB3PO

Unfortunately, PO is still running on the old MX290 backup repeater. Due to COVID restrictions we have not been able to swap the units back over. G4AQV reported some serious issues such as lack of sensitivity, noise on transmit and varying output. The new committee will have to address this as a priority and G4AQV offered his assistance in fault tracing.

GB3IH

IH generally works very well. The only ongoing issue which Dave is aware of is the CTCSS. Hopefully when we get to the site this can be addressed as Dave said this is an easy fix.

It was noted that there is a wide band pulsing noise that affects much of the UHF band locally. Do we know what it is and is there anything we can do about it?

GB7MK

Generally has been working well. We still have the ongoing issue of GB3IH output de-sensing the input stops weaker stations accessing it. This requires investigation possibly a stub filter as previously discussed. There are also the Phoenix/network issues which are outside of our control.

Access to the hospital has been greatly enhanced through Christian who works on the maintenance side. We should definitely maintain this relationship; however, G7DWN said that Graham Haynes (known by the Secretary) also works at the hospital. This could be a useful backup.

GB7AL

New aerial has been installed at Steve's expense and output power has been set to the correct level – all to improve coverage.

GB7PP

No information, but it has been reported that people have had difficulty accessing this. The committee should ask G0FEA the current situation.

All the repeaters are covered by insurance again for this year.

Web Site News and feedback:

After nearly two years, we've finally managed to get the web site moved to new hosting company. The Group would like to thank Jay – M0JAJ and Andy – M3FDQ for the painless transfer and the new host Adam Bowler. It still has the same address, so as far as everyone else is concerned nothing has changed.

We are in desperate need for someone to take on the role of web master to update our site and make it more dynamic. M5BOP asked whether we had photos and information to start populating and suggested that G8BHC may be interested. G7CIY will contact M5BOP to find out more.

M0JSA suggested that we need some sort of publicity/press release to let people know what's going on with the group. Also when donations are made, we should be more proactive in acknowledging them. The new web site should have a form for people to use to comply with GDPR so that a "Supporters Page" can be created.

G7SMW asked about a mailing list saying that he has passed his email address on but heard nothing. The old mailing list was held by the previous web site owner and we have no access to this. An online form as above should address this for the future.

Date and venue of next meeting:-

TBA

Keith Gaunt – G7CIY
SARG Secretary
24th April 2021

Summary of actions from this meeting

- 01/21 G8XOR to liaise with MOMFO, G4AQV and G7CIY as a matter of priority to address the performance issues experienced with GB3PO.
- 02/21 G8XOR to liaise with M6WUB to get test gear in order to fix the IH/MK de-sense issue.
- 03/21 All SARG supporters to ask around for someone to become web master of the SARG site.
- 04/21 SARG Committee to consider co-opting 2EOTDN to become fund raiser/publicity officer for the Group.
- 05/21 G7CIY to speak to G0OZS about becoming the new keeper for GB3EF
- 06/21 G8XOR to arrange purchase of new antenna for GB3EF at a cost of about £400 as purchase was approved at the AGM.
- 07/21 SARG Committee to coordinate efforts to get GB3EF working properly.
- 08/21 SARG Committee to consider co-opting Aaron – M6WUB as Technical Officer for the Group.
- 09/21 SARG Committee to be more proactive in the West of the County to obtain support and funding.
- 10/21 G8XOR to fix the CTCSS issue with GB3IH
- 11/21 SARG Committee to speak to G0FEA to get the latest update on GB7PP
- 12/21 G7CIY to speak to M5BOP and G8BHC with regards to Web Master
- 13/21 G7CIY to provide photos etc. for the new web site.
- 14/21 G7CIY to make these and past minutes available on the web site.
- 15/21 New web master to design an online form for donations/supporters page and mailing list in compliance with GDPR practices.