

# South Anglia Repeater Group

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

**Chairman** – Dave Sparrow G8XOR

**Secretary** – Keith Gaunt G7CIY

## Minutes from the 2022 SARG AGM – held Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at St. Audrys Social Club

**Present:** - M7CBX, M0JAJ, 2E0GNA, M7CYI, G0OZS, G7RMQ, G8XOR, M1NIZ, G7CIY, G8VOC, 2E0TDN, 2E0TNG, M0IID, G7DWN, M3FDQ

**Apologies:** - M0JSA, G0NIK, G7SMW, G4AQV, G0CFB, M7NES, M3PBK, G3YRZ, 2E0DIQ, M0MFO, M1ADV & G3XOK

### **Welcome and Introductions:-**

The meeting started at 7:30pm and the Committee introduced themselves. Dave then went through the domestic arrangements for the venue and also mentioned that Steve had a table at the back of the room with equipment for donations to RAYNET and SARG.

### **Minutes and Matters arising from the last years AGM**

G7CIY read through the outstanding actions from the 2021 meeting (see below) and they were accepted as an accurate record of events, and were duly signed by G8XOR.

Proposed by 2E0TDN, 2<sup>nd</sup> by 2E0GNA and carried by all

01/21 G8XOR to liaise with M0MFO, G4AQV and G7CIY as a matter of priority to address the performance issues experienced with GB3PO.

**Ongoing/in hand (agenda item for 2022 AGM)**

02/21 G8XOR to liaise with M6WUB to get test gear in order to fix the IH/MK de-sense issue.

**We have still to get round to doing this. There was some discussion, although the problem still exists, it wasn't causing too much of an issue as it only affects weak stations into MK and only when IH is in operation.**

03/21 All SARG supporters to ask around for someone to become web master of the SARG site.

**Closed – Chris Barber M7CBX is now web master**

04/21 SARG Committee to consider co-opting 2E0TDN to become fund raiser/publicity officer for the Group.

**Closed – Steve has been co-opted.**

05/21 G7CIY to speak to G0OZS about becoming the new keeper for GB3EF

**Closed – Iain has very kindly taken this on**

06/21 G8XOR to arrange purchase of new antenna for GB3EF at a cost of about £400 as purchase was approved at the AGM.

**Closed – Dave has the new antenna and is awaiting Aaron and BT riggers for installation**

07/21 SARG Committee to coordinate efforts to get GB3EF working properly.

**Ongoing, I guess – subject to new aerial. Update from G0OZS?**

08/21 SARG Committee to consider co-opting Aaron – M6WUB as Technical Officer for the Group.

**We have not formally asked Aaron as yet, but he will always help when he can. We have however, co-opted Karl – G4AQV to the position of Technical Officer.**

09/21 SARG Committee to be more proactive in the West of the County to obtain support and funding.

**Closed as such – Steve is still working on this now that we have a publicity officer.**

10/21 G8XOR to fix the CTCSS issue with GB3IH

**Not completed**

11/21 SARG Committee to speak to G0FEA to get the latest update on GB7PP

**Closed – See below**

12/21 G7CIY to speak to M5BOP and G8BHC with regards to Web Master

**Closed – see 03/21**

13/21 G7CIY to provide photos etc. for the new web site.

**Completed – photos sent over to Chris – however, we do need more current photos to go online.**

14/21 G7CIY to make these and past minutes available on the web site.

**Completed – but needs to be on new web site**

15/21 New web master to design an online form for donations/supporters page and mailing list in compliance with GDPR practices.

**Closed – All in hand and was available working at the AGM**

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

This year has been a frustrating year with regards to problems with GB3PO. It has suffered from continued poor performance due to a very intermittent fault which I have found to be caused by the exciter module. This fault manifests itself as causing the output to come up to maximum power very slowly and in a number of steps. This does not appear to be temperature related as the module has been temperature cycled a significant number of times.

Further investigation will be carried out but it has arrived at the point that members need to discuss at this AGM the question as to replacing the whole unit with a modern unit this will be an agenda item at this AGM.

The current aerial is testing to specification, it is resonant at 146Mhz with an acceptable VSWR/ Return Loss at PO's transmit frequency. However it has been in place for many years, it was not new when fitted and consideration should be given to its replacement to prevent future problems if the members agree it is time to replace PO's hardware.

We now have an agreed process to obtain access to maintain our equipment which is working well and gives us relatively free access.

The problem of not being able to switch off GB3PO from the key switches on the wall by the plant room door has been fixed with the installation of a new 12V power supply in the control shelf. This means we no longer need to disturb the Facilities Team or the Boiler House Staff on-site to simply to turn off our repeaters if directed by OFCOM.

Over the last few weeks Chris Barber with assistance from Mark and others have significantly improved the Group's website. It now has a new, modern look and additional content which is, in my opinion the best site we have ever had. Please let Chris know of any ideas as to what further content that could be added to further enhance the site. Many thanks to Chris for his work.

This year's payment to the Hosting Company for the SARG website has been made.

GB3IH has been working well with a number of nets using the repeater. This is welcomed as it regularly ensures it is performing well.

GB3EF still needs the aerial changed but due to restrictions of access and people to do the work progress has been slow. It is hoped that this will be resolved during the course of this summer.

I have not received any reports of major problems with any of the other repeaters supported by Group but I stand to be corrected if this is not the case.

Thank you all for the continued support you all give the Group.

**Dave Sparrow G8XOR - Chair SARG**

## Treasurers Report -

### For Year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Current account	£2491.49
Premium Account	£823.53
Cash In Hand	£11.00

**Total**                    **£3326.02**

**Profit/Loss**            **£482.64**

### 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Current account	£2809.14
Premium Account	£823.61
Cash In Hand	£11.00

**Total**                    **£3643.75**

#### Income

Subscriptions	£929.50
Interest	£0.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>£929.58</b>

#### Expenditure

Web Site Hosting	£100.00
Repeater Insurance	£80
New aerial (GB3EF)	£390.30

**Total**                    **£611.85**

**Profit/Loss**            **£317.73**

Mark stated that we are currently in a good state financially, but with expected expenditure we would appreciate as many donations as possible.

The accounts were proposed by G0OZS and 2<sup>nd</sup> by 2E0TDN – 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:-

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and auditor indicated their willingness to stand for a further year and there were no other proposals so they were proposed on block by 2E0TDN, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M3FDQ and carried by all.

Chairman	G8XOR
Secretary	G7CIY
Treasurer	M1NIZ
Auditor	G7DWN

### Additional positions within SARG are:

<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB3PO, GB3IH	– Keith Gaunt – G7CIY
<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB3EF	– Iain Moffat – G0OZS
<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB3EA, GB3EZ	– Jake Bevan – G1YFF
<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB7MK, GB7AL	– Mark Austin – M1NIZ
<b>Repeater Keeper</b> GB7PP	– Keith Hotchkiss – G0FEA
<b>Technical Officer</b>	– Karl Saagi – G4AQV
<b>Web Site</b>	– Chris Barber – M7CBX
<b>Publicity/Fund Raiser</b>	– Steve Friend – 2E0TDN

## Repeater News and Updates:

### GB3PO

As Dave mentioned in his Chairman's report and as most of the local amateurs are aware, GB3PO has been giving us problems for a year or two now. We replaced the old Pye MX294 with an updated Tait unit. Unfortunately, this has given us intermittent problems that we have not been able to resolve.

To this end, G7CIY put forward the proposal that we replace the repeater with a brand new off the shelf box at cost of around £1200.00. We should also consider replacing the antenna as no one really knows how old it is.

After some general discussion in support of the proposal, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by 2E0GNA and carried with one abstention.

M0JAY had provided some information on a possible replacement. The Committee will action this as soon as possible. G7CIY thanked the meeting for their support. Timescales – hopefully this year.

### GB3EA/EZ

No update was available, and as far as we know there have been no reports of issues.

### GB3IH

GB3IH continues to run well. We still have the CTCSS issue.

### 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.

M0JSA had emailed a number of questions relating to Talk Groups used on AL and MK. M1NIZ is investigating all of the questions asked and will report back.

### GB7AL

No reported issues

### GB3EF

As reported, we have the new antenna but we seem to be struggling to get it on site. G0OZS reported that he had a good QSO mobile with 2E0DIQ on the way to the AGM.

### GB7PP

“GB7PP continues to function as a multimode digital voice repeater on 70cm. It accepts access on DMR, D-star and C4FM. Activity is poor with virtually no traffic seen through local RF. The repeater operates with no cost, except for insurance, to SARG and will continue to do so.”

It was noted at the meeting that GB7PP was possibly down, and G0OZS who lives very close has not been able to use the repeater.

## Web Site News and feedback:

Our new website is up and running on the same URL as previous. Chris has done a lot of work to get us to this point and we are extremely grateful for his efforts. Please take a few moments to check it out.

We have a new mailing list of supporters which will be kept and maintained by Chris following GDPR guidelines. You can sign up using a form on our web site.

Suggestions for additions and/or alterations are always welcome, but please bear in mind that Chris is doing this in his spare time.

## **AOB**

2E0TDN put forward an idea that we could get some car stickers to support the Group. There were a few present who were unsure about this, but generally we thought that this might be a nice idea. Whether we sell them or give them as freebies has yet to be decided. Steve will look into this for prices and the Committee will try and come up with a suitable design.

G7CIY mentioned that James – M1TES was looking for some LDF450 connectors. Dave said that he had some but would have to ask some money for them. G8XOR and M1TES to liaise further.

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

There was some discussion again that we are too East of the County focussed and would there be a possibility of a more central location. G7CIY did mention that we had similar comments in previous years so we had meetings in Stowupland. However, unfortunately we didn't get any new people or amateurs from the West of the County. We will for next year though find a more central venue.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:05.

The date of the next meeting will be around the end of April 2023, date to be advised.

Keith Gaunt – G7CIY  
SARG Secretary  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

## Summary of outstanding actions from this meeting

- 02/21 G8XOR to liaise with M6WUB to get test gear in order to fix the IH/MK de-sense issue.
- 07/21 G0OZS to coordinate efforts to get GB3EF working properly.
- 10/21 G8XOR to fix the CTCSS issue with GB3IH
- 01/22 SARG Committee to arrange purchase of New VHF repeater to replace GB3PO
- 02/22 SARG Committee to arrange purchase of New VHF antenna to replace old current aerial
- 03/22 G8XOR to test and check cavity filters and all co-ax for an end to end confidence test.
- 04/22 SARG Committee to find suitable use for Tait VHF repeater when it's replaced. We will keep the old MX294 as backup.
- 05/22 M1NIZ to follow up on M0JSA request about Talk Groups and report back – also update the web site with all relevant DMR information for both MK and AL
- 06/22 G0OZS to liaise with G0FEA to assist/check GB7PP performance
- 07/22 SARG Committee to assist M7CBX with our web site
- 08/22 2E0TDN to investigate the possibility of car stickers and report back
- 09/22 G8XOR to liaise with M1TES with regards to LDF450 connectors
- 10/22 G7CIY to arrange next AGM for a more central location
- 11/22 G7CIY to check and arrange repeater insurance for this year