

B&DARC Newsletter.

Welcome to the first edition of 2021.

I would like to say that I have been asked by the committee to continue with these newsletters, and have been co-opted on to the committee, with no voting rights.

I will welcome any contributions in order to make these newsletters interesting and informative.

Firstly, we have the draft minutes of the recent club committee meeting.

Please note that these are a draft and will be ratified at the next committee meeting, but the committee feel that the members should see what is happening behind the scenes.

Please address any comments on these to John G8SH, as club secretary.

Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club

Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday 4th January 2021.

The meeting was held via Zoom at 20.00hrs.

1/. Members:

Terry Stack, Roy Adams, Peter Wilkins, Barrie Palin, Brian Capewell, John Storey.

Zoom invites had also been sent to: Pete Coates, Mark Mearns & Nigel Mann.

2/. Apologies:

Pete Coates, It must be noted that Nigel Mann has advised me that he had attempted to join the group, without success.

3/. The John Harvey (G4IVJ) Memorial Trophy, it was noted that this award has not been able to be issued this year. Committee have asked for further details as to how & why it is awarded. This will be an 'on going minute'.

4/. Club Members Annual Subscription, in accordance with our current Constitution, Section 4,g, and based on the Treasurers findings, the Committee has agreed to waive the membership fees, for existing members, for the period May 2021 to April 2022.

Treasurers Report: our current banked funds are: £7,245.00.

Estimated Expenditure for the current year:

Shack Rent £900

Electricity £200

RSGB £ 47

Insurance £300

Website £ 50

Total £1,500.

The Treasurer feels that we can fully afford these costs at this time.

Committee unanimously supported this action.

5/. Club Constitution, as members have not been able to meet to discuss this item, it too will be an 'on going minute' for Committee to take recommendations from members, before a Draft Revised Club Constitution can be considered.

Members are reminded that to ratify any new Constitution that the Club will need to hold an EGM to consider & either accept or reject the proposals.

6/. Regular visits to club shack, Roy Adams has agreed to take on this role, ensuring that the Treasurer has up to date electric meter readings, setting up & using equipment.

7/. It was agreed to Co-opt Alan Kelly G4LVK, to the committee, as a none voting member, Constitution Section 6,f, as we already have two Co-opted voting committee members. Should Alan choose to stand for committee in the future (at an AGM) he would qualify for voting rights.

8/. Club Net On The Air will continue on Monday, Wednesday & Friday nights, Starting around 19.30 on 145.400 +/-

9/. Club Secretary to investigate restarting all club member Zoom meeting on Friday nights. This will require further investigation as Committee would prefer that the instigation of or setting up of a Zoom club meeting not be restricted to just one person. It is understood that MARS operate a system like this and they have their own Face Book site (for their members & invited Persons) to broadcast club information to and from members, thereby keeping members in touch during these difficult times, MARS hold their Zoom meetings on a Wednesday evening, access via their Face Book page and 'all are welcome'.

10/. Any Other Business.

a/. The Treasurer has asked that if any club members wish to make donations' towards club funds, that he is willing to accept them.

To support this, committee were advised that the club has a Trio TS-120v, which is surplus to requirement.

Brian Capewell expressed an interest & the radio will be passed to him for assessment, on a sale or return basis.

b/. Members are reminded that although the club is currently 'mothballed' from Avoncroft, that we are still in existence & all are welcome to contribute, either to committee members or to Alan Kelly for inclusion in the Newsletter.

c/. The treasurer has asked that an evaluation of our website be considered.

We may also need to set up our own Face Book page to maintain a better contact with members.

11/. Date of next Zoom Committee meeting: Monday 1st February 2021.

Meeting Closed at 20.55hrs.

John Storey, G8SH.
B&DARC Secretary.
07759370544.

Next is an article from Geoff G4LXI.

French Follies

As some of you will know, in more normal times I go off to Le Continent for extended holidays in my motorhome usually twice a year. For about three years I have been spending some weeks at my daughters "chateau" well down in the south of France. In reality it is a field of about an acre with a small cabin on it. There are plenty of trees some 50 or 60 foot tall and I have 160w of solar power feeding a two 100ah gel batteries. So on the face of it an ideal set up for some F/ operation on HF. The nice thing is that the field is "in the sticks" and the QRM is almost non existant, noise is S1 or 2 across the bands. The local village is a bike ride away and has a bar/restaurant, bakery, and some small shops, so all my needs are catered for!

The first problem is getting some sort of antenna up and over the trees, I have tried the rubber ball on a string, catapult with a nut and string, casting using a long fishing pole and nylon monofilament and so on. None of these methods have been totally successful so when I can get over there again I am taking a long "bungee" and pole and making a long powerful catapult. This is an idea I saw on one of the Attenborough programs where the rigging crew shot a line up and over 100 foot trees in Brazil. Should be interesting!

If the sun is shining (and it usually is in Southern France) I can transmit 100w from my IC 706 for hours on end. The generator in the shed is there if I need it and it came in useful when the starter battery failed without warning!

It is interesting how different the countries that can be worked are from those we hear in the UK. Africa, Near and Far East, and of course Spain and all the other EU stations are very strong. I am looking forward to hearing the difference the improvement in conditions will make, I am hoping for great things.

I intend to try a long wire up a tall tree as a "sloper" tuned against ground/counterpoise. This will make suspension of the antenna easier and quicker to deploy. In a noisy situation this would be less than ideal but as mentioned previously, the noise level is very low.

Once we get the Covid out of the way I hope to get over to France, I will be looking for contacts back in Blighty and hope to hear a pile up when I get on air. I will even use SSB as an incentive□.

Geoff G4LXI

As always, please let me have any articles for the next edition.

Kind regards,
Alan G4LVK