

Bromsgrove & District Amateur Radio Club.

Newsletter.

B&DARC Friday z00m Notes for 23rd April 2021.

Members attending: Graeme, John G8SH, Janet, Andy, Brian, Barrie, Roy, Terry,
Apologies: Alan G4LVK,

Concerns were raised regarding Geoff 2, G0WIS, who is back in Worcester Royal Hospital, All members wished to send him their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Last week seems to have flown by & has been very hot on occasions, but also bitter cold to start with. Barrie has experienced this whilst out helping a friend fishing starting in the early mornings.

Various plants have been purchased by members who are warned to take care of 'delicates' by not putting them out yet!

John reported on his visit to Stratford on Avon last Saturday, whilst it was busy it was not crowded. He had a very nice M&S sandwich lunch with his wife (Janet) by the river, he also visited Janet brother at his 'park home'! on the Rayford Caravan park, right by the river. Conversations then went on to discuss if they were not actually Park homes, Mobile homes or just big, static caravans! It was also explained that Roy had a towable caravan which was considered just to be a 'little one!!' Much humour about this ensued!!

Graeme reported a large expenditure in that he has had his hair cut & a beard trim. It was noted that gentlemen's barbers, being closed during lockdown, had had no income, they are now booking appointments via mobile phones, laptops & pc's.

Noted that booking appointments for ladies hairdressers had been standard practise for many years! Men's barbering usually only took 20-30 minutes, where as ladies styling definitely took longer, often involving, washing, cutting, styling, hi-lites & drying. Janet wondered how these comments will be reported in John's weekly 'report'! Much fun comments & banter ensued.....

Weekly input, Brian has been assisting a neighbour to fit a kitchen, he commented on the large amounts of rubbish which always seems to be removed in these jobs!!

It seems that many of the participants noted unstable wifi at their homes, Janet in particular seemed to be regularly 'freezing' & buffering.

It was suggested that members undertake WiFi speed checks as various mobile phone apps & via pc or laptop searches WiFi speed checkers could be found. Janet had fun just trying to find an internet speed checker, just for fun. It was however felt that there was likely to be a high demand on providers internet services which could lead to the problems seen tonight. Terry joined, he had had PC issues.

Speeds seemed to vary from one location to another & if the system was either via the home wifi or was plugged in direct to the home hub via Ethernet cables.

Terry reported that he was in Hawaii & that his hub was 'very quick!'

John gave details of an email he had received from Ed Burrell (an RSGB rep thing) who has advised John that he & his wife have recently moved into a 'supported living' accommodation in Evesham & was having to down size his radio equipment as aerials were not permitted. He has however retained his Yaesu FT-817 for swl use as well as some portable activity.

Graeme reported that he had seen Terry out & about, various comments ensued resulting in great banter with beard envy included.

Nigel suggested that on 31st October for Halloween that instead of purchasing new costumes, that we should all just take off our makes J

2nd meeting started:

With Graeme, John, Barrie, Andy, Nigel returning.

Barrie reported that he had 'low' stats on broadband.

He has often reported that he has had high QRM breakthrough which he had identified as coming from his next door neighbours dwelling.

She seems to for had a fall resulting in her going to hospital & all of her electrical 'systems' having been switch off whilst she was away.

During this time he reports 'no QRM'!!

Neighbour has now returned & it seems that she has had a change of systems in her house which has allowed him much better hf reception. It seems that the neighbours router or its power supply could, previously been the issue.

His neighbour is now back home but no more breakthrough. J

Current RadCom & its piece on EMF was up for discussion. A suggestion to fit 'Wallie Lights' as seen on CB antennas of the 90's, to warn people that they are near to a 'transmitting' station.

Barrie gave details of new loop tuning & balancing system using 'stubs' of coax cut for each band to be used. Whilst this was not fully automatic, requiring a physical change of stub with each band change, it ment that the tuning capacitor could now be used for fine tuning the 'band spread' not just for band tuning.

He is looking into this system for Nigel to use in his static caravan, oops, park home hi hi.

It was asked why the stubs could not just be switched in & out using an antenna coax switch, Barrie explained that with the high voltages at that point that it was not a safe nor satisfactory method of changing.

John had to leave at this point.

Graeme will again be setting up for next Friday 30th but John will be away from his pc, so will not be able to share the log in details.

But they could be the same as before as this is a 'recurrent meeting' according to z00m..

Proposed 2021 AGM Date.

It is proposed to hold the AGM this year on our first Friday out of Lockdown, 25th June At 20.00hrs.

Agenda and minutes to be circulated once date is confirmed.

B&DARC Committee Meeting Minutes for Monday 5th April 2021.

1/. Members Present: Barrie Palin, John Storey, Peter Wilkins, Roy Adams, Brian Capewell.

2/. Apologies: Alan Kelly.

3/. Minutes of last meeting:

Proposed: Brian,

Seconded: Roy.

4/. Matters Arising, (not already Agenda Items):

a/. It was agreed that, via the Clubs Newsletter, that details of the John Harvey, G4IVJ Memorial Trophy & how to submit recommendations, is to be circulated on a regular basis. Peter Wilkins will investigate the costs of a shield, to be awarded annually & a framed certificate to be given to each winner.

(See Peter's follow up email circulated after the meeting).

5/. The John Harvey G4IVJ Memorial Trophy.

This minute to be considered closed, but can be reinstated in future to discuss & consider candidates.

6/. Treasurers Report:

Funds held by Club at end of year: £6,985.67p.

Details of Clubs Annual Accounts to follow.

a/. Discussion of Club Subs for this year (2021-2022) has met with positive feedback, although these are strictly on a voluntary basis.

b/. Club Insurance is due to be paid, Committee unanimously agreed that this be paid.

c/. Peter has completed the annual accounts, which he will submit to the Auditors, Barrie Palin & Terry Stack for them to check & if approved to sign.

7/. Club Revised Constitution: Update on ongoing minute:

The main issue seems to be members concerns regarding discipline within the club & committee.

It has also been mentioned about committee members not being present at (Zoom) committee meetings (for more than 3 meetings) but who have not offered their apologies. It was felt that this could be added to a future Constitution.

8/. Shack Visits:

a/. List of Shack Keys held: Currently Roy has one full set & Barrie has two sets but one is incomplete. Other sets of shack keys may be with ex-members.

b/. It should be considered that the Yale barrel be changed together with the cupboard padlock.

c/. The shack has been visited by Roy & Brian, Brian has returned the Trio TS-120v to the club. Roy will convey this together with the TYT dmr radio to Alan Kelly, who has offered to purchase both of these radios.

d/. SES radio equipment, currently stored with Alan, will be returned to the shack & locked in the safe.

e/. Graeme Coultas has advised that prior to lockdown he has left a Kenwood microphone & a small PSU at the club. Roy will check & advise. Follow up: both found & stored securely.

9/. Club Net:

This is still a regular feature of the clubs evening on air, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 145.400 +/-.

Alan has reported that the net is often well supported by various members.

10/. Zoom Club Meetings on Fridays:

Up until recently John G8SH has been organising these 'events', however, Graeme Coultas has stepped up & has taken over (very successfully) the organising & running of these nights, much to John's relief!!

11/. Any Other Business:

a/. Alan has suggested that the club have a B-B-Q in the summer when we can all meet together, if there are no other volunteers he would be willing to organise it.

b/. Once we are all able to meet together it has been suggested that the club run a monthly raffle as a regular fund raiser.

c/. Avoncroft Shack will need to be checked & assessed for its EMF compliance under the new, revised, license conditions. Each radio, with its 'matched' aerial will have to have asset of completed forms to show 'compliance'. With this in mind & that the general public do have access around the Garden Room, that we will always now be restricted to running the radios (at maximum) at their own power output levels & no higher. It is doubtful if the use of 'Linears' at HF would fall within the EMF compliance requirements, so they may be banned, unless the operator can provide their own set of EMF compliance calculations & that the clubs aerials are fully capable of handling the proposed output power.

d/. The Clubs Annual General Meeting is usually held in May of each year, the Secretary has proposed that the 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting, be delayed until June or July, when we can all meet together. The club should be advised of this proposal via the Newsletter & Club members be asked to put their names forward for Committee. The EGM to consider the revised Constitution would then be held later in the year.

e/. It was raised that there is no section within the current Constitution regarding 'Non Attendance' of Committee meetings, without any contact or Apologies. It is proposed that: If any committee Member does not attend nor offers an explanation or apologies for 3 missed committee meetings that they are automatically removed from the present committee. This is likely to be added to the revised Constitution for club members to consider.

Additionally, it should also be considered that the 'Co-opted' onto committee Rule should allow all to be 'voting members' especially if they are replacing a 'Non Attending' member of committee.

f/. Barrie has reported that Geoff G4LXI has the Swan HF Linear amplifier (club sale) working on all bands.

Proposed Date of next B&DARC Committee Meeting:

Monday 10th May 2021 @ 19.30hrs on Zoom.

Go green and recycle.

A couple of website suggestions from Peter G4LRL.

<https://www.replacebase.co.uk>

<https://www.ifixit.com/>

As always, news and articles to me for the next newsletter.

Have a great holiday weekend,

Alan G4LVK.