

Avalon Amateur Radio Club AGM 17 Jan 2020 Minutes Glastonbury Scout Hut 19:10



Present

Matt 2E0FNT Chairman
Mike 2E0RWW Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Chaz G6UVO Vice-Chairman/Training Officer
Richard G7LEE Secretary
Martin G5FM Press/Examinations Secretary
Callum M7AJ0
Richard G4JJP
Petra M7PAH
Gary

Chairman's Report

It has been a great opportunity to be honoured with the role of Club chairman. I would like to thank all members for their support throughout the last year.

The Isle of Avalon Amateur Radio Club has grown rapidly in this period in both numbers and ambition. We have become an accredited venue for the Amateur Radio examinations, and have had 100% success getting our trainees through Foundation and Intermediate exams. We had great success with the three Exercise Blue Ham contests, as of the 1st February 2020 we are an Affiliated Club with the RSGB. This means we have public liability insurance so we can now go out and show the public all about amateur radio at various events across the area.

My aim for the year ahead will be to show off amateur radio to the public and draw in more interested people to the hobby. It would be also a great opportunity to take part in more on air contesting and carry on recruiting members. I would like to get a schedule in place with events arranged with committee members to plan over the year ahead. I would also like to make more use at site 2 during summer for club meetings and radio experiments.

Once again I thank you all for your support.

Matt 2E0FNT Club Chairman

Secretary's Report

We have had a successful year, one of the highlights was getting [pole position on the last Exercise Blue Ham](#). This year we have completed the prerequisites to become a RSGB Affiliated Society, and become an accredited examination centre for training. IoAARC has taken Callum M7AJ0 and Petra M7PAH through Foundation and Matt 2E0FNT and Mike 2E0RWW through Intermediate.

We will become an RSGB affiliated club as of 1 February 2020, which means members can enter RSGB contests as part of an Affiliated Society; we get public liability insurance and a discount on publications such as training books. We can also add/publicise our club under [RSGB club finder](#) and post events to their [events planner](#) page.

Outreach to the wider amateur community

Our Examination Secretary Martin G5FM and Club Secretary Richard G7LEE have joined [RSGB-tutors](#) mailing lists and Chairman Matt 2E0FNT and Secretary G7LEE have joined the [RSGB Region 11 list](#)

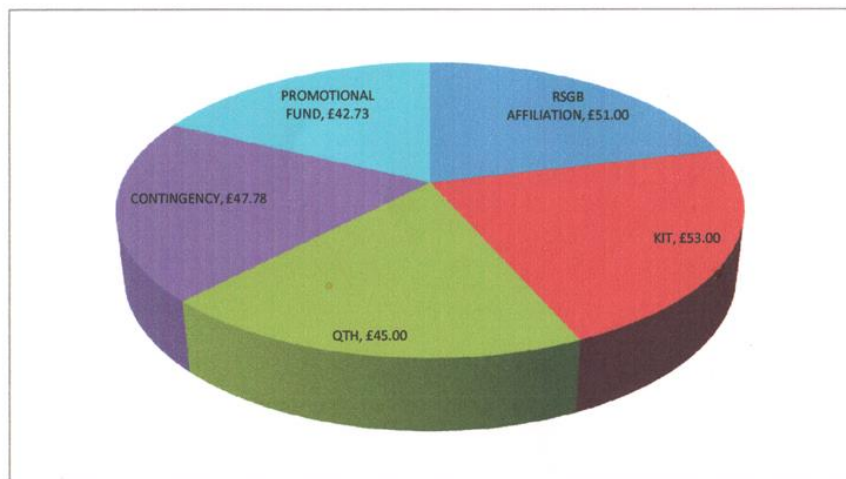
We maintain a website at <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/>, a [mailing list at Groups.io](#) and a Facebook Group. Our aim is to show something happening at least every month, a combination of events like Blue Ham, technical articles (so far authored by G7LEE, contributions welcome.)

Treasurer's Report

2E0RWW presented the following statement of account:

Isle Of Avaon Amateur Radio Club - Bank Account Break Down -

RSGB AFFILIATION	£51.00
KIT	£53.00
QTH	£45.00
CONTINGENCY	£47.78
PROMOTIONAL FUND	£42.73
TOTAL IN ACCOUNT	£239.51



Election of Committee

No nominations had been received, the committee stood down and acting Chairman Callum M7AJ0 held the re-election of the Committee which was unanimously carried by a show of hands. We thanked Matt for his hard work over the year! Roles remain as shown at the head of these minutes.

A.O.B.

Amendments to the Constitution

Prospective members should have a chance to see what we are about so amendment was made so they should have attended two meetings before joining. A second amendment is that prospective Committee members need to have been members for two years so they can gain domain knowledge. Both were carried unanimously by show of hands.

Callum M7AJ0 asked what would happen if there were not enough people who satisfy this requirement. In that case an EGM could be called, where this can be changed. Procedurally enacting this change would have needed an EGM too. Since most Club members were present and this was carried unanimously I propose we allow that lapse of protocol to pass.

You can find a copy of the Constitution on our website at

https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/assets/pdf/20200117_IoAARC_Constitution_Issue3.pdf

Schedule of events for 2020

Matt 2E0FNT is keen to get a schedule of events planned, he will call a meeting for the details. AP 2E0FNT to propose events/collect ideas and call meeting to discuss. Events we already know about are [Exercise Blue Ham](#) 7th to 8th March 2020

What do we want to do with radio in 2020?

G7LEE had collected a long list of ideas that had been raised over the last year, this was an opportunity to prioritise these. I have identified a proposed champion for each of these topics – that is for someone with interest/domain knowledge to scope out possible activities in this space and propose them to the other club members, preferably to feed into the Schedule of Events meeting described above, which is probably sometime mid February at a guess?

Blue Ham 7,8 March

Definitely interested to continue. Next one is March. G5FM made the observation that it would be a good idea for operators to have their own headset and CAIRO adapter prepared and tested with the rig.

Matt proposed setting up the rig in the Scout Hut kitchen to address the noise/acoustic echo problem, and perhaps using the main hall for an audit of the Club equipment which has become a bit scattered in storage, and just to know what we do have.

Contesting

There is interest from 2E0RWW, G7LEE, M7AJ0, 2E0FNT. There are specific contests for RSGB affiliated societies. An easy introduction would be the [2m FM Activity contests](#) to and [70cm FMACs](#) to dip a toe in the water. Our intrepid Blue Ham operator Mike 2E0RWW volunteered as our VHF/UHF contest manager. Steve 2E0OSS has experience of contesting on HF so looked like a good champion for HF contesting. Link to RSGB [VHF Contest Calendar](#) and [HF Contest Calendar](#)

It seems to be possible for us to work contests individually but for the score to be aggregated for the club. It would be good to get to the bottom of how this works, and scores are aggregated over the year, so this time of year is a good time to start.

Callum M7AJ0 has a connection with Mendip Raceways which would be a good place for a VHF contest, or VHF [National Field Day](#)

HEMA, SOTA, Worked All Britain

G6UVO proposed as champion for HEMA,SOTA 2E0RWW for WAB?

HEMA and SOTA are both individual challenges but other members of the club can help being chasers. Glastonbury Tor is a HEMA site and Beacon Batch is the nearest SOTA peak.

Worked All Britain tends to be on 80m, which is tough /P. G4JJP is working on a fibreglass pole 80m vertical, and G7LEE has constructed an [80m spiral loop](#). G4JJP has a remarkable sounding lifting kite with the ambition of using this for a vertical!

G6UVO, 2E0RWW and G7LEE have most interest here

Increasing the number of modes/frequencies used on nets

2E0FNT proposed using more frequencies on nets, but we also need to be mindful that newcomers to the hobby may have only FM capability. A good way forward would be to start the nets on 2m FM as usual, but the second late-night shift (starting about 10-10:30 pm on Weds) could agree to move to a different frequency/mode/band depending on who is on and what capability they have in common.

Schools outreach, ISS etc

Callum M7AJ0 offered to champion this way of attracting newcomers to the hobby.

G5FM observed he had not had much response a few years ago, but personnel may change over that sort of timescale.

Resilience

Chaz G6UVO proposed as champion

Two main threads to this.

12V standby power supplies, both for a grid-independent community role but also for things like Field Day. This fits well with site 2's requirements; this is an island site with no mains power, and also fits well with the requirements of contesting favours remote sites either to reduce HF noise levels or to get elevation for VHF.

2m coverage survey from Scout Hut or Site 2. This could be achieved via APRS, particularly as several members now have the APRS enabled Anytone DMR handheld. We would need to define the terms of reference for such a survey, but coverage from relatively modern handheld to a good base station seems to be a good place to start. My APRS IS gateway is a baofeng handheld connected to a Diamond X510 collinear so it would approximate a good base station from the antenna point of view, though the Baofengs aren't particularly sensitive and are susceptible to IMD.

There was a suggestion to add being carbon-neutral but this was not taken up as being more political than engineering.

Digital modes setup/training

2E0FNT as champion here, G6UVO and G4JJP expressed an interest. Scope to be defined by Matt.

Topics dropped

We decided to drop the topics Moonbounce and e'sHail/Oscar100. This was largely the grounds of costs and the specialised nature of the kit.

End of meeting minutes.

Appendix 1: Items missed at the meeting

The following items from the circulated AOB proposals were missed at the meeting but are perhaps worth considering at the next Committee meeting

Balance of Training and radio activity

Training can occupy a lot of club members' time, it is worth taking a moment to see if there are limitations on how much training activity we can do in a given time? We have track record of managing four at a time OK, but more might be a stretch.

Currently identified Trainees

The trainees I am aware of for the near future are:

Gary – Foundation

Dave M3MYM – Intermediate

Callum M7AJO – Intermediate

Petra M7PAH – Intermediate

We should allocate our trainees a Registered Assessor who will issue a CPAR form after discussing with the trainee their expected schedule for the exam (a CPAR is valid for only one year)

Training Equipment

The MX010A Club station can be used for F10A1, F10A2 and we have enough handhelds for F10A3

We do not have a club AMU for F10A5. I (G7LEE) have a PA0FRI homebrew ATU though it is slightly atypical in that it doesn't have the switchable inductor of the classic T-match

We currently have a 80m VFO for the VFO stability, harmonics, calibration (I10C5, I10C6, I10C8) practical and a 2m dipole with balun using telescopic aerials to do the adjustable aerial length/SWR (F10A4) practical. I have a QRP 80m low-pass filter which would serve for I10C7 but we have no spectrum analyser, though a SDR gizmo would probably show the attenuation in harmonics.

G6UVO's soldering course will address I10B2, I10B3, I10B4 and I10B6

A solderless breadboard and various resistors can address I10C2, I10C3,

We do not currently have a crystal oscillator for I10C4, this is not an overly challenging constructional project

Textbooks

To take advantage of the RSGB's bulk rate 2E0RWW will order using the Club card on the Club RSGB account. Books required are

Foundation 6 (G. Ford, G6UVO, 2E0RWW, 2E0FNT, G7LEE, Club)

Intermediate 4 (G6UVO, 2E0FNT, G7LEE, Club)

Full 3 (G6UVO, 2E0RWW, Club)