

Avalon Amateur Radio Club AGM 30 April 2021 Minutes Glastonbury Site 2 19:00



Present

Matt 2E0FNT Chairman
Mike 2E0RWW Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Richard G7LEE Secretary
Via S19/145.475MHz FM Martin G5FM Press/Examinations
Secretary
Callum M7AJ0
Karen (Trainee)

Apologies: G6UVO

This meeting was held outside at Site 2 due to the coronavirus restrictions, within the rule of six physically present. G5FM was virtually present taking advantage of the social distancing features of 2m FM from home.

Minutes of the previous AGM - unanimously accepted

https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/assets/pdf/200117_IOAARC_AGM_minutes.pdf

Chairman's Report

Many thanks for attending this evening. It has been a long-time since we been all able to get together and I feel now is a good time to set the ball rolling and to attend to club duties. Over the last year or so it has been a difficult time for everyone and now as a club we can look forward in planning ahead.

During the last year I have very been busy planning things regarding amateur radio. I have also been planning a permanent station set up in the local area.

So here it is almost completed The New Site 2 Radio Centre. This will allow us as a club to use. It would be a case of unlock and go as it was with no need to dismantle after every use. So this can allow us to experiment more with radio and save time on setting up each time. We will then also have a solution in place for a permanent HQ for the Club When Complete we will be the only club in the region to have an amateur radio club that is permanently set up.

Matt 2E0FNT Club Chairman

Secretary's Report

Highlights of the year

We had a great Exercise Blue Ham in March, with 72 contacts

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/03-07-exercise-blue-ham-weekend.html>

We learned a fair amount about digital modes and propagation as IoAARC was a lead in trialling digimodes for Wessex ham. The results of this experimentation are summarised here.

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/12-17-datamodes.html>

Congratulations to Matt for keeping the ship steady through what has been a trying year, and for taking the club forward with the new facilities that you can hopefully see around you if we aren't rained off!

We have kept a reasonably [steady stream of updates to our website](#) to keep the tumbleweed out.

lowlights

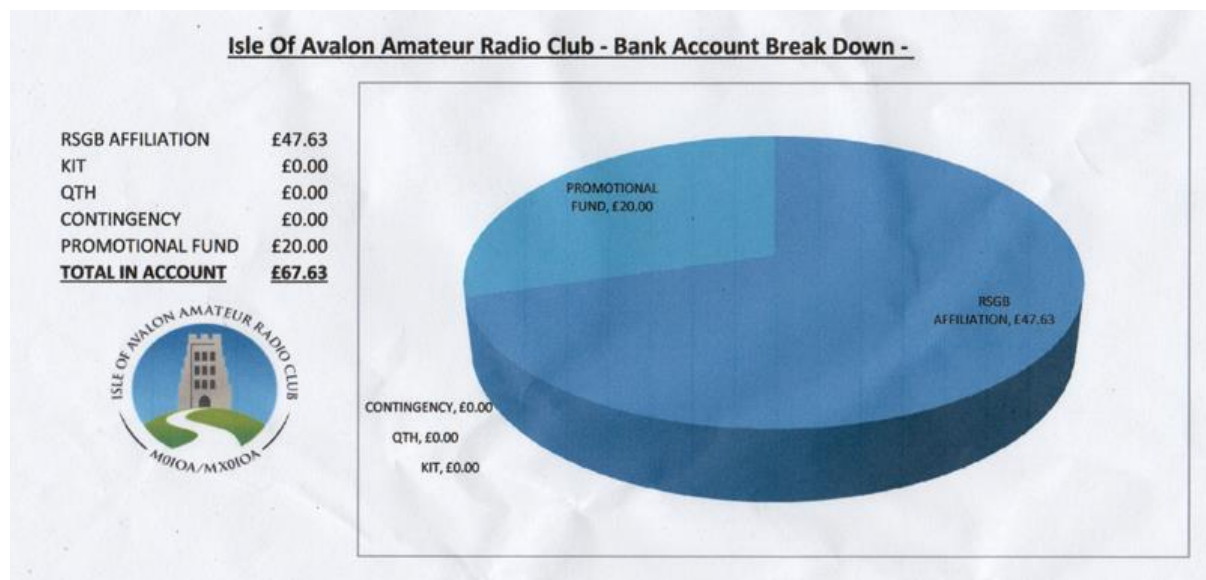
It's been a tough year for everyone, with three lockdowns and means that we have had to put most Amateur Radio activities on ice after the summer. Thanks to Mike for picking things up with the training programme and with Zoom, across what has been a tough winter for many people

We have let the RSGB club membership lapse as of February, largely because we don't have any income (there were no membership fees this year due to the coronavirus pandemic).

The [Wessex Ham](#) initiative championed by G4JJP has been closed because funding was not forthcoming. Details <https://wessexham.co.uk/>

Treasurer's Report

2EORWW presented the following statement of account:



Election of Committee

No nominations had been received, the committee stood down and the re-election of the Committee which was unanimously carried by all present. We thanked Matt for his hard work over this challenging year! Roles remain as shown at the head of these minutes.

A.O.B.

Reopening the Club Meetings in person

Matt proposed reopening on Friday 21st May 7pm at Site 2 within the government covid rules which are planned to be outdoor meetings of up to 30 on 17th May, subject to confirmation. That limitation is comfortably above the number of people in the club. This motion was carried unanimously by all present. It is, of course, subject to the vagaries of the British weather and the Covid restrictions in force at the time. Members can call in on 2m or contact Mike, our Membership secretary

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/contact/>

to check the status at the time.

Membership Fees Suspended

Matt proposed suspending club membership fees for this year, due to the uncertainty. We are fortunate in not having significant running costs. We propose donations to cover this year's hopefully modest out goings.

RSGB Affiliation

G7LEE kicked this off with a donation to cover the cost for RSGB affiliation, which gives us third party liability cover. Mike 2EORWW made the valid point that there does need to be some record of membership to know who is covered. It also incidentally means members can take part in some RSGB contests as members of an affiliated society (AFS)

AP 2EORWW to redraft membership form reflecting current status. G7LEE will put a copy of this on the website for people to download, and we can have paper copies at meetings to fill

Resume club training and paper exams if required for trainees

There was some previous discussion of this on the Zoom call with G5FM and some recent trainees. It is of course subject to continued usage of the Scout Hall, although the Scouts will probably only start again in September we may be able to arrange usage before then. Although many people will prefer online, there are some advantages to the paper exam, you can find out which questions you did not get right, where with the online this is only broken down into the topic areas. We are keen to retain this capability, at least until the shape of the post-Covid exams are known.

This is a moot point at the moment because the RSGB do not offer paper exams at the moment due to Covid.

Club Nets

This generated some debate. Resuming in person meetings probably overtakes the Friday night nets, where attendance has been sporadic. We usually monitor the frequency (currently 145.475MHz) on club meetings anyway.

The proposal at this meeting is to revert to Wednesday evenings. We have to accept that some of us are early-ish birds and some night owls, so if we aim for the early session starting at 19:00 local time and the late session at 21:00 local time that gives best coverage.

That is our best guess from those present, which includes most of the Committee. However, people's lives will have changed over the last year, if there is a strong favour for a different day/time we will review it.

We will drop all other nets/frequencies for the time being, again subject to review. The club Zoom meeting on Thursday evenings will stay where it is (20:30-22:00).

Club Net Frequency change to 145.375

Our Chairman 2E0FNT experiences serious QRM on the current frequency, 145.475 MHz, from other conversations. Some of this is good news – there have been many new licensees and 145.475 is only one standard channel way from the calling frequency 145.500. So there is simply a lot more activity on the frequency, which is an easy choice for moving from the calling frequency.

We considered using 12.5kHz channels and the use of CTCSS, but both complicate setup for new users. 2E0FNT and G7LEE monitored 145.375 MHz for a while and there seemed less activity, so at the meeting we proposed changing the club 2m frequency to

145.375MHz (S15/V30) no CTCSS with effect from Sunday 2nd May 2021

The discussion moved on to the list of topics from last year listed by G7LEE

Blue Ham TBD (info not currently on alphacharlie website)

Definitely interested to continue. Next one is most likely June, from [the pattern last year](#). 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.

Need to find out how to use the generator to keep up with the TX demands over a period. Most of the rest of the setup will be easier, subject to the weather/Covid restrictions. Last year the second Blue Ham event took place in June. Will be a good exercise to test our readiness to operate from a remote site for a Field day/Contest sort of operation.

An issue we may have is fielding enough Full Licensees given the Covid restrictions, Blue Ham's use of the 60m band means a Full Licensee needs to be present to run MX0IOA

Contesting

Interest in principle, particularly where we can set up easier. Perhaps we should cut our teeth on the activity contests, we aren't likely to be at the top of the leaderboard, but we can learn some of the art and see if this is something we can pursue, Again, being able to establish a station without having to decommission the antenna system overnight is good.

Site 2 is probably a better HF site than VHF/UHF – for the latter height is what matters, Mendips rather than Somerset Levels. However, Site 2 appears to have a lower ambient noise level at HF than in town.

HEMA, SOTA, Worked All Britain

2E0RWW will get a WAB book for MX0IOA. And explain how WAB works one day for those of us confused by the official description!

End of meeting minutes.