

Avalon Amateur Radio Club Committee Meeting 22 Feb 2019 Minutes Glastonbury Scout Hut 19:30 to 20:30

Present

Matt M3MMZ Chairman
Mike M6FCT Vice-Chairman*
Chaz G6UVO Treasurer*
Richard G7LEE Secretary

Roles * interchanged as a result of this meeting

Apologies

Martin G5FM Press/Examinations Secretary

Informal Committee Meeting

Bank Account

Chaz G6UVO is concerned he may not have the right ID for background checks, so he proposed swapping roles with Mike M6FCT. This was mutually agreeable and supported by Matt M3MMZ and Richard G7LEE, as a result the Committee roles are

Matt M3MMZ Chairman
Mike M6FCT Treasurer (changed)
Chaz G6UVO Vice-Chairman (changed)
Martin G5FM Press/Examinations Secretary
Richard G7LEE Secretary

With effect as of this meeting

Initial funding was discussed and a generous offer was made from our Chairman to prime the account

This change transfers the opening of the bank account with signatories present

190215 AP1 Chaz G6UVO to arrange this – all signatories have to be present in Bridgwater Barclays on the mutually agreed Thursday, with documentation (TBD as per Barclay paperwork)

From Chaz G6UVO to Mike M6FCT, to arrange a mutually agreeable Thursday with all the signatories and open the account

Website

There has been some discussion regarding using Wordpress.com as a free host for the website and blog. Chaz feels this may not be the right way to do this in the light of reservations expressed by G5FM. Richard G7LEE raised the question as to what do we actually **want** of a website. For instance how important is a blog to us? Matt M3MMZ suggested the main role for the website is information

about the club, ie a static page or pages, updated at most once a month. It would describe the club, the location, skeds etc. He did not feel a blog was necessary, and the others present concurred. At the EGM we established <https://avalonarc.home.blog/> but although the static page content was circulated it appears there are serious reservations in some quarters about aspects of this and the process of change control.

Proposal:

Richard G7LEE proposed – registering the name avalonarc.org (I have checked and this is currently available as of 2/02/2019 23:00) The question was asked should this be a .org or a .org.uk and the balance of opinion was for .org (M3MMZ, G6UVO and M6FCT for, G7LEE neutral).

I (G7LEE) am happy to front the cost of registering this for one year (USD 24.50 incl whois privacy) as either:

Static website as discussed

host it as a static website on a shared virtual host I use for other websites. After this we can review and move if so desired.

I will use the static page generator Jekyll and the theme Minimal Mistakes, because I have experience of both. A static page is much less hackable, and the theme Minimal Mistakes is responsive enough to look acceptable on a mobile phone.

Jekyll <https://jekyllrb.com/>

Minimal Mistakes theme <https://mmistakes.github.io/minimal-mistakes/about/>

The output of Jekyll is static HTML files. Static pages preclude a lot of typical Web 2.0 services – blogs¹, comments and multiple authors aren't easy. Even a contact form is not straightforward, though that is not necessarily a problem - the [existing contact page on Groups.io](#) is not a form either

Wordpress is very good at blogs, comments and multiple authors, but I personally am not prepared to take on the security issues of administering a standalone WP instance

Change control would be circulated via email or discussed at meetings, since comments are not possible using such a system. We don't anticipate a lot of changes, but personnel and contact numbers will change each year, for example. I propose to use the content and structure Chaz circulated via email, with the possible incorporation of some of the Groups.io wiki.

I would suggest we move the [Groups.io wiki](#) content to the web pages and link from the wiki to there. At the very least we should harmonise the content on the web pages and the [Groups.io wiki](#), but having two copies of the same content is needless complication of change control.

¹ While people can and do run blogs using Jekyll, running a comment system on a static website is difficult, and Jekyll really is single author by design. The most common commenting solutions for static websites are Disqus and Facebook comments, which require commenters to register with Facebook or with Disqus. There is reluctance to use social media in some quarters of the Committee. Wordpress really is the way for multiple authors, blogging and commenting unattached to Facebook etc.

Alternative: Wordpress domain

If there are strong feelings that we want a wordpress website and blog I (G7LEE) am equally happy to register avalonarc.org via Wordpress as a [Personal account \(£36\)](#) which includes a free domain for a year (which would be avalonarc.org) and would then be [£15 p.a. in future years](#) (at current prices) i.e. taking this route commits the club to a future annual spend of £51 p.a. rather than free. If we favour that approach we should have the debate about whether having our own domain name is worth £51 a year in future, compared with trying to fix the avalonarc.home.blog. The functionality would be the same, except we would have our own domain name and not be carrying WP ads at times.

Request for comment/alternatives

The reason for going for static Jekyll pages is for security, but there is a functionality cost. If we do want a blog, then wordpress is the way to go if for some reason Wordpress.com's <https://avalonarc.home.blog/> is not acceptable. Martin G5FM has experience with self-hosted Wordpress. Since he wasn't at the meeting we can't speak for Martin, but he is welcome to propose alternatives.

AP1 – ALL – Please submit comments on this topic for consideration at the next meeting (March 1 2019) by Thursday 28 Feb 2019 by email or bring the comments to the meeting in person. It is important that if there are issues or reservations they be aired and resolved before a lot of effort is committed to any one solution.

At this meeting we felt we did not need a blog, just a set of static pages, **without** a comment facility. Change control would be done by circulation among the committee. If there are no counterproposals by that meeting then we will investigate commentless static solutions; one of:

- Fixing the avalonarc.home.blog with perhaps a more professional primary author name and no comments enabled on pages and no blog at this stage
- A static Jekyll-compiled static site on avalonarc.org

Website Colophon/publisher details

One particular issue with the previous approach seemed to be the colophon. This was raised by G5FM, as follows: *absolute confirmation, in legal terms, of WHO is the publisher of this information; and exactly WHO it is being published for ?* .

Although I am aware this is a requirement for German Websites, eg <https://www.funkamateure.de/> where you look under the link [impressum](#) I was unable to find similar for either www.gov.uk or the [British Library](#). I do not believe there is such a requirement for British websites. However, we can adopt the German approach of linking to a publisher page from the footer.

AP2 – Martin G5FM to suggest appropriate wording, and perhaps a title for this section which would be a separate page, linked from the footer of other pages,

Upcoming activities/opportunities

Exercise Blue Ham 19 (16-17 March 2019 08:00-18:00 UTC)

Martin proposed this at the EGM 8 Feb and we all concur this is an excellent opportunity for the Club. Details are on the [RAF Air Cadets website](#).

G5FM has updated the files on Groups.io please consult [BlueHam19.pdf](#) for operating details

We confirmed with Martin G5FM by the radio that MX0IOA operated by Foundation & Intermediate ops is OK provided there is a Full Licensee present (as would be to run the Club station normally). We have established a rig that can do 60m and the folded G5RV antenna in the Scout hut should cover this frequency. We will therefore use the Club Call MX0IOA

Chaz had got the impression possibly from G5FM this is a CW event. I (G7LEE) was unable to substantiate this, the only mode specified is PSK31 on 5.363MHz and the others seem to imply voice. Looking at [Youtube station MRE41](#) is clearly running SSB.

AP3 – Martin G5FM to clarify re BlueHam CW requirements. If Morse is to be used, I believe G5FM is our only Morse Code operator.

If the weather is good, let us rig an aerial outside for 60m

We need to organise when to operate and have a Full Licensee present, though they do not have to operate. Blue Ham is a weekend, but given the need to coordinate the requirements of : keyholder; Full Licensee; enough people to rig the aerial we need a systematic approach to roster this. As a start, I have created a spreadsheet capture availability; this is reproduced at the end of these notes.

Some idea of what is the best time to operate would be good to maximise our chances – we could go for the 10 contacts certificate [as described here](#).

Social

Was discussed - Matt proposed at Matt's field with some radio – proposed July/August time

SOTA

There is interest in this, Beacon Batch is the nearest site, could be an interesting day out, those of us who don't fancy the climb can chase from home. Chaz has investigated LiFePo cells. Richard has tried three 18650 Lilon cells on his shack in a box rig and observed the 12V voltage fall to 9V on TX @ 20W so is some way behind.

Administrative issues

MX0IOA Club callsign

This was raised last time by G5FM– should one of the three signatories be changed to a more active member of the club for resilience? G5FM is already one of the signatories. There is an outstanding action point **190215 AP5** on Matt to raise this at the EGM or Aims and goals meeting, we can leave this for then.

QRZ page

There is a page for MX0IOA on QRZ.com linked via G5FM, Matt M3MMZ asked if there is a way to change that and/or add club contacts to the log. Richard G7LEE asked if it might not be a good place for a website, but it appears you have to be logged into QRZ.com to see it, so probably not. MX0IOA doesn't appear on [QRZ's clubs page](#), though that page does seem very heavily US-centric.

AP4: Matt M3MMZ and Martin G5FM to explore how to take club presence further on QRZ

AvalonARC Logo

Matt M3MMZ has got a graphic designer to outline three example logos for the club, this was viewed on the Club computer (they are currently screenshots of a computer screen) and there was a general preference for one version of the three and that these were an improvement on what we have at the moment.

Update: the preferred version was this one



Training

Mike M6FCT said he has some cadets (?) keen to start Foundation, so G5FM's hard work in getting us examination-ready may be called upon sooner rather than later. The thorny question of DBS checks and safeguarding was raised, Mike proposes to insist that parents are present. This is currently at an early stage, needs scoping as to timescale and indeed our capacity to deliver.

At the moment we have a page on Groups.io which talks about training. I am not sure that this reflects current reality, and in my (G7LEE) view we do not strike the right tone on [the Foundation page](#) in the last paragraph. This would be reviewed under the website revamp.

Document History

Date	Author	Description
23 Feb 2019	Richard G7LEE	Draft A
28 Feb 2019	Richard G7LEE	Issue 1

Appendix 1 Exercise Blue Ham rostering spreadsheet

This is a proposal by G7LEE for rostering this event. If anyone has a better idea for how to do this, please, circulate it. For instance, [Doodle](#) or indeed Google Calendar is a good way to share availability online, but some members may have concerns using Web 2.0 services or run on idiosyncratic systems or simply tend toward paranoia like me. Paper is lo-tech but good.

Each **operating** slot needs at least one Full Licensee (G* call in our case) present. **Access** to the Scout hut requires a keyholder (Matt M3MMz or Mike M6FCT). What this means is to operate we need **one** person from the first two people columns **AND** one person from people columns 3 to 5 inclusive

An entry in Row 08:00 means available from 08:00 to 09:00 etc. I have listed myself as *maybe* for a lot of this because I have good availability on this weekend. I don't necessarily want to spend most of both days of the weekend on this, but I am happy to contribute flexibility for other people.

Headings are merely people I could think of and aren't meant to be exclusive, more columns are easily added.

AP5 Mike M6FCT to get OK from Scouts for us to use their facilities and to let me know if there are time blocks we can't use

AP6 All – to look at availability for that weekend and enter Y for available and M for maybe, so we can find common availability and operating slots, for initial review next week (1 Mar 2019) if possible. By all means suggest counterproposals for rostering the event and how to circulate to other Club members.

Exercise Blue Ham 19 (Sat 16th March 2019 and Sun 17th March 2019) Rostering spreadsheet

Sat 16th March	Activity	Matt M3MMZ	Mike M6FCT	Martin G5FM	Chaz G6UVO	Richard G7LEE	Steve 2E0OSS
08:00							
09:00							
10:00							
11:00						M	
12:00						M	
13:00						M	
14:00						M	
15:00						M	
16:00						M	
17:00						M	
18:00							
Sun 17th March							
08:00							
09:00							
10:00						M	
11:00						M	
12:00						M	
13:00						M	
14:00						M	
15:00							
16:00							
17:00							
18:00							

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