

# Avalon Amateur Radio Club Committee Meeting Agenda

Proposed by Club Chairman Matt 2E0FNT



## Date and Time:

3rd August 2021 19:00-20:30

Site 2

Present

Matt 2E0FNT Chairman

Mike 2E0RWW Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Richard G7LEE Secretary

Via S19/145.475MHz FM Martin G5FM Press/Examinations Secretary

Chaz G6UVO Vice-Chairman

Petra M7PAH

## Minutes

### 1 Training

It has become clear that 2E0RWW and G6UVO though both successful as trainers differ in their approach and technique (primarily, that the former appears to be better with classes and the latter with coaching individuals) Let us accept this difference and use it to our trainees' benefit : Gary, Steve, Nick?

Proposal is for 2E0RWW to join us at site 2 and then after a little while take trainees to the Scout Hut for classroom training, with G6UVO for individual assistance. Mike's availability is from the 20<sup>th</sup> Aug, so can start then, subject to consulting with trainees.

### 3 Unlicensed operation

As per our [website](#)

***And that includes CBers, PMR446 aficionados – anyone with an interest in the legal use of radio.***

We discourage operation on Amateur bands by non-licensees, which is not a legal use of radio, while encouraging the latter to take Foundation, but value operation on unlicensed bands (CB, PMR446). In the section on nets we consider how to assist non-licensees get involved and perhaps familiarise themselves with nets.

The use of callsigns on unlicensed bands is a matter of culture, the general sentiment at the meeting was not to use callsigns or use different calls/handles on unlicensed bands (CB, PMR446)

### 4 QM Stores

G6UVO and 2E0RWW to sort. Powerpoles were suggested as a good stores item to resell, most amateurs only need a small amount of these. Matt has a filing cabinet of small drawers for the smaller parts. Proposed listing on noticeboard.

Some discussion of a method to request the use of tools such as crimp tools which other members may have. A bit like the book library index G6UVO is in charge of but for gear.

## 5 Outstanding technical work

Proposed to set up a physical project noticeboard at Site 2 on which the status, progress and requirements of projects can be made clear to Members and visitors

G6UVO, M7PAH to sort. **G6UVO to call separate technical meeting.**

## 6 Insurance

Requires inventory, **G6UVO and 2E0RWW to sort using laptop supplied by Matt.** Proposal to list/record who attended meetings for this purpose too

## 7 Club computer facilities

Matt 2E0FNT may be able to supply, **2E0RWW to take charge as Membership sec**

## 8 Nets

Much discussion on this, salient points were:

Acknowledge life is different between summer and winter, and consider changing start times earlier when the clocks go back in October and later in Spring. The current 9pm slot seems to work OK in summer

G6UVO observed the 2m net (Wednesdays, 21:00) is between fixed stations, Matt proposed QSYing from 145.475 to CB ch 37(27/81?) after 10pm, which enable non-licensed stations to participate. This addresses G6UVO's point

*However not all Members have licences at all and so rather than doing 10m it might be better to have nets on PR27GB and/or PMR446 to provide these Members with regular comms with the Club.*

G7LEE pushed back on using PMR446, unless we seriously raise our game on the net control station. To support this I cite the [results of a survey](#) I undertook with PMR446<sup>1</sup> and the [miserable results relative to 70cm](#) which is a similar frequency<sup>2</sup>. PMR446 has very restrictive type approval conditions and a non-demountable antenna requirement. Back in the day, one proposal I have seen is to mount the rig in a 3" drainpipe to get the rig as high as possible and protected from rain and run power and a remote mic/speaker using the existing connectors provided, thus not breaching the unmodified type-approve equipment requirement. The Floureon rigs G7LEE, G5FM and G6UVO have lend themselves to this. [Connector pinout is on our website](#)<sup>3</sup> and the more recent versions of these have a USB socket for power.

Matt thought he didn't have gear to use PMR446 legally, but he was pointed at the row of small PMR446 handhelds on the bench at Site 2 that the Club has been given, possibly via 2E0RWW or G7MJT ;-)

**Propose a 70cm net (433.475 U278?) on Tuesdays at 8pm, Chaz and Matt to sort net control** initially, Chaz would like this one to favour mobile use, addressing his second point

*so it would be appropriate to encourage a 70cm net to make full use of mobiles and handhelds, which would also provide useful propagation / coverage data.*

We have had trouble sustaining nets in the past, let us see how this goes before promoting wider.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/09-19-pmr446-coverage-experimentation.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/09-18-friday-night-net-coverage-experimentation.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/09-27-floureon-pmr446-connector.html>

## 9 Site 2

Discussed, OK to say where it is,

The Paddock, Common Moor Drove BA6 9AF

incl on website, but no signage permitted.

## 10 RSGB Affiliation status

Mike reported this is now in the post

## 11 12V Site 2 status monitoring and protection of batteries

We have enough funds to get this isolator. **G7LEE to purchase** and **G7LEE 2E0FNT will fit** by the 1<sup>st</sup> October (when solar panels will be giving less top-up). Generator can be used to top up but the battery isolator will flag it is necessary.

Appears about 2l petrol evaporated in the fuel can over July. This is not a good sign, as petrol vapour can explode. **Chaz to investigate correct fuel storage cans** suitable for storage in a shipping container that can get warm in the sun. Generator doesn't need cap leaving off because [the cap](#) has a breather mechanism. G7LEE found this out on the farm the hard way when a generator would conk out because this mechanism got blocked, so the vacuum created as fuel was used starved the engine. Solution in the first place was to leave the cap loose, and the fix was to replace it.

I used [fuel stabiliser](#) because cleaning/changing the carburettor is a PITA and this is not used as often as a car.

## 11 Finance?

We don't have clarity on how to raise finance for the projects, but it seems to work OK by whip-round/donations. Propose to return to subscriptions from April 2022 (2E0RWW).

For the record, in the case of bits and bobs I (Richard G7LEE) have contributed (mainly the 12V system), I assign ownership all of these to Matt and relinquish all title, with the exception of

- 1) 12V Honda petrol generator which has a label with my callsign on in, which is loaned to the Matt/the Club to keep the batteries charged and for radio activities. Basically it's loaned if it has a label with my callsign G7LEE and donated otherwise.

I (G7LEE) will collect the (now empty) green petrol can sometime, as this is unsuitable for Site 2 (see section 10). This labelling and statement may be used for other loan gear if it comes up, see QM stores (4) and insurance/inventory (6)

## 12 Radio activity centres of interest

We identified the following heading:

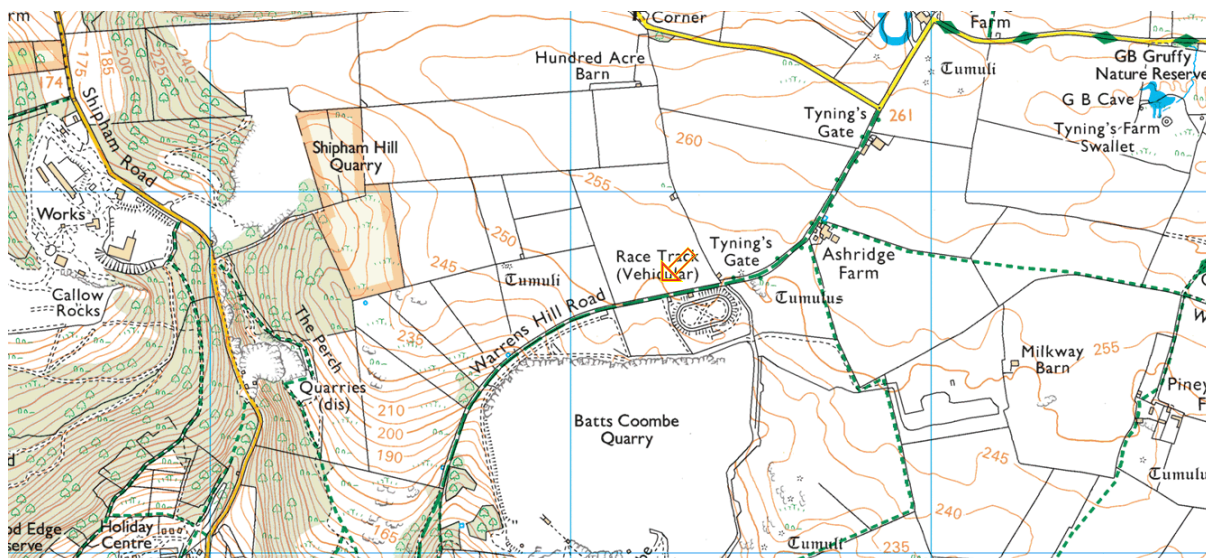
- HF/DX
- Contests
- Awards (SOTA,HEMA,WAB)
- QRP
- License-free (CB,PMR446)
- QRP

Maybe we want to circulate this list for people to add their names/calls, if only to find like minds. Or use Chaz's new (physical) noticeboard at Site 2

## A.O.B.

### Contest site

Callum has good connections with Mendip Raceways, which would be a good contest site (about 250m ASL, ST463559). [Map](#)



### Go Box

G5FM proposed - *can club think about gradually setting up commonly needed portable equipment (e.g. portable power supplies) for emergency loan out to members?*

Which sort of merges with 2E0RWW's idea for the contest group of getting a go box ready for use at places like Mendip Raceways. One of the problems with portable power supplies is LiFePo batteries don't tolerate excessive discharge, which is bad for communal kit

### Website technical articles

Chaz observed he had a hard time finding the [technical articles](#) on the website. They are linked in this document, but they are slotted in under the [Blog heading](#). Technical items specifically are also listed at

<https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/categories/#technical>

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