

Avalon Amateur Radio Club Committee Meeting Agenda

Proposed by Club Treasurer Mike 2E0RWW

Date and Time:

3 May 2022

Matt's 19:00-20:30

Present: Chaz G6UVO, Matt 2E0FNT, Richard G7LEE, Mike 2E0RWW, Petra M7PAH, Karen



Background

At the last Friday club night at Site 2 on the 29th of April Mike had presented to the assembled people the new year's subscription forms. A technical error meant the second page which described payment monthly or quarterly was missed off.

The Coronavirus pandemic means we did not collect subscriptions for the year 2020 or 2021, since the Government guidance meant that meetings were in abeyance and planning was not possible. Nevertheless the Club managed to continue, largely due to the kindness of Chairman Matt 2E0FNT and his sister Karen, who own the field Ivor's Paddock, formerly known as Site 2 on the outskirts of town.

The club has met there regularly, and we have achieved some good results – for instance a [high-score in Exercise Blue Ham](#)¹ in March this year, [datamode experimentation](#)² and some other projects. Over the pandemic it became clear that we would probably either have to pay to use the Scout Hut or move from there, so the use of Site 2 has been essential to keeping the Club running.

Site 2 is an island site not on the grid, so power is from batteries and solar panels or a generator, in practice a generator is needed particularly in the winter months but also to run HF, because the battery wiring is not enough for 100W.

We operated on a donations basis, G7LEE queried if Matt had ended up out of pocket with the fuel but Matt confirmed this was not the case. Fuel usage will vary across the year, but at a rough guess is 5l each Friday.

Issues

The subscriptions form generated controversy from one party, which led to a lively exchange of views on the club whatsapp group. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the subscription model. We have not collected subscriptions for the last two years because of the coronavirus pandemic. The level of subscriptions (£52 p.a.) is the same as it was in 2019.

¹ <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2022/03-27-operation-blue-ham-result.html>

² <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/2020/12-17-datamodes.html>

Financial position high level

Income

There are 11 members eligible to pay subs, so that would result in an annual income of £572

Outgoings

RSGB affiliation³ - this gives us third party protection as well as contest eligibility, cost £52p.a

Bank Account Fees

Maintenance and development of site grounds and assets (eg antennas etc)

Procurement of equipment to replace that loaned by members

Procurement of equipment needed for projects, both already underway and future projects

The residual roughly £500 is not enough to buy a replacement rig

Comparison with other clubs in the area

Mike put together the following:

| Club | Basic Charge pa | Additional Charge | Basic plus Additional | % on our subs |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| IoAARC | £52 | | | |
| ----- | | | | |
| Wirral Park Bowls | £70 | | | 35% Increase |
| Victoria Club Social | £25 | | | 52% Decrease |
| V C Indoor Bowls | | £45 | £70 | 35% Increase |
| V C Outdoor Bowls | | £70 | £95 | 83% Increase |
| V C Squash | | £50 | £75 | 44% Increase |
| V C Tennis | | £145 | £170 | 227% Increase |
| Street and Walton Men's Shed (based on £2 per session) | £104 | (For Materials) | | 100% Increase |
| ----- | | | | |
| Cadet Forces (average) | £120 | | | 131% Increase |
| ----- | | | | |
| Scouts | £90 | Uniform, Camps, other Activities | | 73% Increase |

Fig 1. Comparative list of clubs in our local area

Discussion

Several topics were discussed.

Social membership

Some clubs have a social membership, at a lower rate. G6UVO demurred, saying this was open to being abused. The proposal was declined.

³ <https://rsgb.org/main/clubs/club-affiliation/>

A per-meeting charge

An alternative to the annual membership could be a charge (presumably a little bit more than the pro-rata £1) for attendance to meetings, this could help people who do not attend each week. This was also felt open to misuse. The proposal was declined.

A lower rate for young people.

G7LEE raised the issue of the young lad who attended with his dad and had his first HF contact on the 22nd April. These are the future of the hobby. However, Mike pointed out the Constitution defines we cannot sign up under 18s, so we have to sign up his dad, making this hard to implement since we can only have adult members. The proposal was declined.

Transparency and cash handling

The donations system using a jam jar worked fine, and for the record there is no suspicion any of this went missing, and it covered fuel adequately. While being OK for a donations basis, it isn't good enough for a subscription model. So Mike will procure a lockable cash box, so switching to a subscription basis will also make income and outgoings recorded, so that people know on what their subscriptions was spent. This summary tends to be in the treasurer's report presented at the AGM. You can see an example in the [minutes of the last AGM](#)⁴. That did not have an income/accounts receivable line because there were no subscriptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

AP1. Mike 2EORWW to procure a lockable cash box and a cash book.

AP2. Mike to redraft/reprint membership form to make it clear that monthly/quarterly subscription payments are also possible, and to list amounts/due dates as required.

AGM

We propose having an AGM on Friday 27th May at 7 pm at Site 2, a normal club day.

AP3 G7LEE to post the AGM to groups.io. Agenda is [here](#)⁵

Nets

Chaz G6UVO highlighted that we only list the Wednesday 2m net, and also list Zoom/Skype on Thursday which we have ceased. We agreed that we will continue to list the 2m net because most people have 2m even if new to the hobby.

AP4. G7LEE to change the website⁶ to continue listing the 2m net , remove reference to video meetings, and state that other nets may be found in the [calendar](#)⁷ extracted from groups.io.

Site works

Matt observed the paint on the roof of the portakabin is deteriorating. Chaz said this could be sandblasted. He will look into what is required.

End of Document

⁴ https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/members/pdf/210430_IOAARC_AGM_minutes.pdf

⁵ https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/assets/pdf/220527_IOAARC_AGM_Agenda_iss1.pdf

⁶ <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/nets/>

⁷ <https://www.avalonarc.org.uk/calendar/>