Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club

MINUTES

of the Annual General Meeting held at
The Coleridge Community College, Radegund Road, Cambridge CB1 3RJ
on Friday 22nd January 2016 at 8:00pm

Agenda Item

The meeting opened at 8:00pm.

1. **Chairman's Introduction**
   Peter M0DCV welcomed all those present to the meeting before handing over to David M0ZEB.

2. **Apologies for Absence**
   Steve Platt G4WSZ, Martin Cranage G8OFA, Colin Tuckley G8TMV, John Bailey M0MTW, Amanda M6BJD and Henry Ehm M0ZAE, Mike Newport G8VCN, Alex Popple M0SND, Ian Alexander G4AKD.

3. **Confirmation of Quorum**
   Sixteen Full Members were present and the meeting was deemed quorate.
   See Appendix A.

4. **Approval of Minutes of 2015 AGM**
   The Minutes were approved unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report**
   The Treasurer, Steve Blunt, made a report on the club's accounts for the year.
   See Appendix B.

6. **Secretary's Report**
   The Secretary, David Featherby, reported on the club's activities over the year.
   See Appendix C.

7. **Proposal to Amend the Constitution**
   The committee proposed an amendment to create the new office of 'Events Organiser'.
   See Appendix D.
   The proposal was adopted unanimously.

8. **Appointment of Two Electoral Officers**
   A number of proposals for election to the committee had been made prior to the meeting and no further proposals were forthcoming. Since there was no more than one proposal for each position open, there was no need to appoint Electoral Officers.

9. **Election of New Committee**
   Only one proposal was received for each of six positions on the committee and these candidates were each elected unanimously (by show of hands, when the candidate had left the room).
   See Appendix E.

The new committee comprises:
Chairman: Peter Howell M0DCV
Secretary: David Tegerdine G0LRD
Treasurer: Steve Blunt G8CRB
Training Co-ordinator: Peter Howell M0DCV
Publicity Officer: Ian Cooke M0HTA
Events Organiser: John Bailey M0MTW
Ordinary Member: Dave King G6KWA
Ordinary Member: David Featherby M0ZEB

10. **Setting of Membership fees for 2016**
At present the membership fee for Full Members is £20 (Family members pay 25%, Country members 50% and Junior members nothing). The subject of the fee was thrown open to the floor for discussion. It was proposed that the current fees be retained and the proposal put to the vote. The members voted unanimously to accept it.

11. **Election of Auditors for 2016**
It was proposed that Richard Parker and Tony Harding serve as auditors which they kindly agreed to do. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

12. **Any other business**

(a) Richard Fusniak suggested that the club should subscribe to wireless periodicals and books. During discussion from the floor it was pointed out by some of the longer serving members that periodicals had been tried unsuccessfully in the past. The club does not meet frequently enough for monthly magazines to circulate quickly. Any suggestions for book (or other) purchases by the club may be submitted (preferably to the Secretary by e-mail) at any time when they will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next committee meeting.

(b) Ron Huntsman kindly thanked the outgoing Secretary David Featherby for his service to the club.

Closure
There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:05pm

David Featherby
Previously Secretary to CDARC
23th January 2016

Attendance at AGM

Those who signed the attendance record at the meeting:

Name	Callsign	QTH	Member	Guest
David	M0ZEB	Sutton-in-the-Isle	✓	
David	G0LRD	Fowlmere	✓	
Mike	2E0PWL	Cambourne	✓	
John	G0GKP	Cottenham	✓	
Bob	G0GVZ	Cambridge	✓	
Steve	G8CRB	Milton	✓	
David	G6KWA	Haslingfield	✓	
Ian	M0HTA	Chatteris		
Lin	-	Chatteris		✓
Peter	M0DCV	Foxton	✓	
Tony	G3RGQ	Willingham	✓	
David	G8IKV	Cambridge	✓	
Chris	M0WEF	Cambridge	✓	
Ken	G0BBM	Lakenheath	✓	
Richard	G4AWP	Willingham	✓	
Robert	M1DUO	Cambridge		✓
Richard	G3TFX	Cambridge	✓	
Ron	G3KBR	Cambridge	✓	

Treasurer's Report – Steve Blunt

Steve went through the accounts with reference to the figures shown below:

OPENING BALANCES at 01/01/2015					
Cash Box	10.55				
Lloyds TSB Current Account	9,231.84				
Total Cash		9,242.39			
Club Assets (Insurance Value)		3,659.75			
Total Asset Value				12,902.14	
INCOME					
Membership 2015	857.50				
CDARC Bring and buy @ 2015 CRG Rally	87.50				
Foundation Courses	523.50				
Intermediate Courses	300.00				
Sale of club assets	1,010.05				
TOTAL INCOME	2,778.55				
Cheques issued in 2014 but taken from bank account in 2015			84.00	56.00	28.00
Cheques issued in 2015 but not yet taken from bank account			87.00	60.00	
EXPENDITURE					
Room Hire		646.00			
SouthWestBroking.co.uk (Insurance)		197.48			
RSGB Affiliation		47.00			
Unpaid cheques		90.00			
Asset Acquisitions: Equipment for shack upgrade		1,383.44			
Expenses – Committee		500.66			
Foundation Courses		433.00			
Intermediate Courses		147.00			
Donations & Gratuities		298.50			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				3,743.08	
TRANSFERS Not counted as income or expenditure.					
From cash box to Lloyds	915.00				
To cashbox	911.50				
Payments from cash box	-				
Paid In to Lloyds according to Bank Statement:		2,782.05			
Paid Out according to Bank Statement:		3,764.08			
CLOSING BALANCES at 31/12/15					
Cash Box		7.05			
Lloyds TSB Current Account (Calculated)		8,249.81			
Total Cash			8,256.86		
Club Assets (Insurance Value)			4,034.55		
Total Asset Value					12,291.41
Bank statement at year end:	8,249.81				
Loss for Year 2015		964.53			

The accounts had been checked and signed off by the auditors, Mike Addlesee and Tony Harding.
Club membership remained steady at 52 during the year.
At current membership levels the membership subscriptions remain sufficient to cover the running costs of the club, taking into account that no major capital expense is anticipated so Steve concluded with a recommendation that the membership subscriptions and concessions for the coming year should remain as they are.

Secretary's Report - David Featherby

At the risk of repeating the beginning of last year's report, I'm going to tell you that we've had another successful year. We've maintained the increased membership at just over fifty and we've continued or expanded upon the several activities for which the club is, by now, well known.

To borrow an expression from the footballing fraternity – "It's a funny old game, Amateur Radio". I think it's fair to say that, with most hobbies, newcomers can dip a toe into the water and see if it's to their liking before committing themselves and making any great outlay in time or cash. But getting into amateur radio properly isn't quite so easy. Despite the fact that, in our club, all instruction is done by unpaid volunteers - and very good they are too - in order to really participate new starters need to lay out substantial sums for training courses and exams, not to mention days or weeks of tutoring and self-study before they can get their ticket and finally purchase their first rig – for perhaps £500 to £1000 – enabling them to truly join the hobby.

Almost without exception, all CDARC members are licensed amateurs, the majority holding a Full licence, so it is clear that just about everyone in this club has shown enormous commitment to the hobby by virtue of the trouble and expense you have gone to to get your license.

For an active Radio Amateur there can be few better places in the United Kingdom to be situated than Cambridge. This is scarcely surprising as, historically, this city has been a hub of wireless technology and expertise since broadcast and amateur radio really took off almost one hundred years ago. Many of those who work in the realm of communications and allied technologies extend their interest in their leisure hours and enjoy ham radio. In Cambridge itself there are three entirely independent ham radio clubs – there's ourselves, the University Wireless Society and the Cambridgeshire Repeater Group which includes their operating faction CambHams. If none of these is to your liking you can always try Huntingdon or Peterborough. It's worth mentioning that, although they are run independently, many amateurs belong to more than one of these clubs and there is considerable interaction and co-operation between them, for which we can all be very grateful. There's also some friendly, almost unspoken, rivalry when it comes to contests! This co-operation manifests itself in many but rather subtle ways. We may have an examination candidate keen to get their license but who has to wait for more people to make the exercise economical so, if CUWS is running an exam, we'll send him to them, or vice-versa. Members of both CUWS and CRG regularly gives us the benefit of their knowledge of all sorts of subjects by putting on presentations at our meetings. People who normally compete on behalf of other clubs will give us their contest points when their club is not taking part, and so on.

Month	Date	Day	Title	Radcom	Presenter	Guest
January	9	Friday	'Tx Factor:2' Video, Shack and Social Evening	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
	23	Friday	Annual General Meeting	Yes		
February	13	Friday	Surplus Sale	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
	27	Friday	Thermal Imaging - Technology and Application	Yes	David T. G0LRD	
March	13	Friday	A Dip in the RSGB Archive - 100 Years of Amateur Aerials	Yes	Colin G8TMV	
	27	Friday	Foundation Shack Evening + Tx Factor 3 Video	Yes	Peter M0DCV / David F.	
April	10	Friday	The Inner Solar System	Yes	Peter M0DCV	
	24	Friday	Constructors' Evening	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
May	8	Friday	Summer Quiz and Hidden Messages	Yes	David M0ZEB	
	22	Friday	"Chatteris Weather" - the website	Yes	Ian M0HTA	
June	12	Friday	Rig Checks - Tx spurious and Rx sensitivity measurements	Yes	Andrew G6ALB	
	26	Friday	How Radio Amateurs foiled the Kaiser	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
July	10	Friday	2m Foxhunt at Foxton Village Hall	Yes	Mike M0BLP	
	24	Friday	Surplus Sale	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
August	14	Friday	Outdoor Practical - Building and Testing a Moxon Aerial	Yes	Dave K. G6KWA	
	28	Friday	QRSS - What it is and how to use it	Yes	John M0MTW	
September	11	Friday	Tips for the RSGB 80m and VHF/UHF UKAC Contests	Yes	Martin G3ZAY & Steve	
	25	Friday	Foundation Shack Evening + Tx Factor 4 Video	Yes	Peter M0DCV / David F.	
October	9	Friday	Getting started with HF antenna modelling using EZNEC	Yes	David T. G0LRD	
	23	Friday	Constructors' Evening	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
November	13	Friday	Radio Surveys in the 21st Century	Yes	Jenny G0VQH	Yes
	27	Friday	British Antarctic Survey	Yes	Chris Hindley	Yes
December	11	Friday	Christmas Social	Yes	David F. M0ZEB	
	25	Friday	XMAS - NO MEETING	Yes	N/A	

Figure 1 – Programme of Events for 2015

But, while the other organisations in this area are, without exaggeration, nationally significant in their chosen speciality – operating in contests – I think it is fair to say that CDARC is unique in providing a balanced amateur radio diet. By which I mean we are active in many different areas of ham radio.

On Fridays we've had a regular programme of presentations *(Figure 1)* – in 2015 we had 23 which attracted an average audience of 21.5
For these we have to thank:

Jenny Bailey, Chris Hindley, Dave K., Steve, Martin, Colin, David T., Peter, Ian, John, Andrew, Bernie and Bob.

You'll be pleased to know that the Events programme for the coming year is already over half-filled with more entertaining and informative talks.

Mike, innovating to renew our interest, put on a very good fox-hunt, we had a couple of well supported Surplus Sales and I would like to thank all of you who continued to support the Constructors' Evenings by contributing your gadgets and anecdotes. These continue to make for a light-hearted but interesting evening.

Finally, at the year's end Christmas Social thanks are due to Tony, Ian and John for not only generously supplying but also serving the refreshments.

Very quietly, almost unnoticed, Peter and his dedicated team continued to introduce enthusiastic newcomers into the hobby by running their regular and highly regarded two-day Foundation courses, as well as the rather more involved Intermediate course which not only involves several days of tutorials but an entire weekend of practical assessments. An enormous workload carried out several times every year. Thanks and very well done to all who assist in the training activity: Peter, Dave K., John B., Colin and Mike.

As an adjunct to licence training, Bob G. is to be thanked for continuing to offer morse practice sessions in the interval preceding the Friday meetings, on an 'as requested' basis.

Now, the area in which the club has once more become active after some years of absence. Last year we were already having considerable success in national contests and this year we've extended these activities to the point where they now need their own web page.

Credit for this increased activity is due to Dave K. and David T. who have together put in hours and hours of work. Firstly, to complement the new HF and VHF rigs in the shack, they spent three full days re-furbishing the antenna system. It was hard work out in the weather but has given us an aerial facility covering all the major bands of which any club could be proud.

As a result, the shack is now in regular use on Tuesday evenings by a small band taking part in contests on VHF or just having a rag-chew on HF. Those who have supported this activity over the year by regularly turning out on Tuesdays include: Dave K., David T., Bob G., Richard and Chris.

Apart from shack evenings, the two Davids have set up a regular programme of contesting either from home, on field weekends at Barrington or sessions on Thurfield heights. Barrington field days have been regularly supported by:

Mike, both Johns, both Steves, Dave K., David T., Ian, Martin, Chris, Richard, Bob G., Peter and Hamish - with apologies for any omissions.

Contest/Activity	Dates	Local Time	Callsign	Location
RSGB 80m Club Championship	various - see rsgbcc.org	20:00-21:30	personal	home shack
RSGB 144MHz UK Activity Contest	1st Tuesday in month	20:00-22:30	G2XV	College
RSGB 432MHz UK Activity Contest	2nd Tuesday in month	20:00-22:30	G2XV	College
RSGB 1.3GHz UK Activity Contest	3rd Tuesday in month	20:00-22:30	G2XV/P	Field
RSGB 50MHz UK Activity Contest	4th Tuesday in month	20:00-22:30	G2XV	College
RSGB 432MHz Affil. Soc. Contest	Sunday 8th February	09:00-13:00	G2XV/P	Field
144/432MHz	Sat/Sunday 7 & 8th March	14:00-14:00	G2XV/P	Field
RSGB 432MHz Trophy Contest	Sat/Sunday 2nd & 3rd May	14:00-14:00	G2XV/pers	Coll/home
Mills on the Air (MOTA)	Sat/Sunday 9 & 10th May	11:00-17:00	GB0CMW	Willingham
PW 144MHz QRP Contest	Sunday 14th June	10:00-17:00	G2XV/P	Field
RSGB 50MHz Trophy Contest	Saturday 20th June	14:00-20:00	G2XV/P	Field
Museums on the Air	Sat/Sunday 20 & 21st June	10:00-17:00	GB1CMT	Cambridge
RSGB VHF National Field Day	Sat/Sunday 4 & 5th July	15:00-15:00	G2XV/P	Field
RSGB 70MHz Trophy Contest	Sunday 19th July	11:00-17:00	G2XV/P	Field
RSGB 144MHz Trophy Contest	Sat/Sunday 5 & 6th September	15:00-15:00	G2XV/P	Field
RSGB SSB Field Day	Sat/Sunday 5 & 6th September	14:00-14:00	G2XV/P	Field

Figure 2 – Contest/Activity Programme for 2015

The programme of entries as shown on the web page *(Figure 2*) impressive as it is, does not reflect the true number of contests as several of those shown are repeated regularly. For example, the 80m Club Championship runs 3 times a month from February to August. We owe the two Davids an enormous debt of gratitude for all the time and personal expense they have taken to make this possible. The regular placings in the results sheet provide excellent publicity for the club which can only build our reputation and swell the interest among prospective members.

Of course, there have been other outside events as well. John B., our president, arranged our regular visit to Willingham Mill for Mills On The Air in May, which I would nominate for the most relaxed and enjoyable of all our social gatherings, and, a new venture, we set up a Museums OTA station, efficiently organised with excellent catering by Ian and John at the Museum of Technology which was very well supported by CDARC members and visitors to the museum. This is an ongoing association and we shall be running more, similar activities at the Museum in the course of this year.

So, that is our CDARC. A club at the centre of UK communications activity which provides opportunities to participate in almost every aspect of the ham radio hobby to a membership of over fifty which has a demonstrated commitment to amateur radio.

Long may it remain so.

Proposal to Amend the Constitution – David Featherby

This proposal, if adopted, will add an officer to the committee with the title "Events Organiser". The Events Organiser will carry out jointly with the Public Relations Officer all the tasks currently attributed to the PRO.

For several years now we have been unable to recruit a PRO to the committee as the job is perceived as difficult and suitable only for a long-time member who knows all about the club and is acquainted with all the notable radio people in the area.

About five years ago, we had our last elected PRO who, unfortunately, we did not see from one year's end to the other and, as a result, there were no presentations and the club very nearly folded. It was only through the timely intervention of Ron Huntsman that some impromptu talks were arranged and we managed to stagger through that low point. Ron continued as the voluntary, unelected PRO, because no-one else would take it on, but eventually even he found it too much.

At that point there were still no offers to stand for PRO so I carried it on, also unelected, and have done it for the last couple of years. Recently, I decided that I too needed to reduce my workload and the club could do with a fresh approach and I am tonight standing down as Secretary and consequently also relinquishing this unofficial position of PRO. I shall, however, continue to maintain the website while the committee wants me to and, for that purpose will be standing, this evening, for election as an Ordinary Member.

While I still have the opportunity, I would like to say how very much I appreciate the support and help I've been given while acting as PRO particularly by the rest of the committee but also by other club members who have unhesitatingly come forward with offers of talks both by themselves and by their friends and colleagues. Preparing and presenting a satisfactory talk requires a great deal of time and work and all those who have served the club in this respect, and hopefully will continue to do so, are owed a great deal.

So, in recent months the committee has given long consideration to the PRO problem and believes that the answer is to split the job between two people. One of these will hold the existing position of PRO and we propose the creation of a new office of "Events Organiser". These positions will, effectively, be identical and the tasks will be shared equally between them. Since the make-up of the committee is laid down in the Constitution, the creation of this additional position requires a change to the Constitution and I shall shortly be asking you to vote on this proposal.

Should the membership agree to the adoption of this solution to the 'Events' problem I am happy to tell you that we have also been fortunate in finding two members who are willing to stand for election as PRO and Events Organiser. Ian and John do not come unprepared to the committee. They have been co-optees of that august body for the past year and therefore already know very well how it works – if that is the appropriate term!

Committee Election – Proposal Forms Received

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Peter Howell	Tony Harding	Ian Cooke
Secretary	David Tegerdine	Alex Popple	Mirek Sutty
Treasurer	Stephen Blunt	John Bailey	Mike Mynn
Training Co-ordinator	Peter Howell	Mike Mynn	John Bailey
Publicity Officer	Ian Cooke	Mirek Sutty	Steve Platt
Events Organiser	John Bailey	Mirek Sutty	Steve Platt
Ordinary Member	Dave King	Ron Huntsman	Alex Popple
Ordinary Member	David Featherby	Ron Huntsman	Alex Popple