

# Reading & District Amateur Radio Club AGM Annual Report 2022

- 1) Minutes of the 2021 AGM
  - 2) Chairman's Report
  - 3) Treasurer's Report
  - 4) Secretary's Report
  - 5) Training Courses Report
  - 6) Contest Report
  - 7) McMichael Rally Report
  - 8) Awards and Trophies
- 
- 1) Appendix 1 RADARC Constitution
  - 2) Appendix 2 2022 Accounts Summary

## RADARC Virtual AGM Minutes 9th December 2021

Meeting commenced 8pm

Held using meeting application 'Zoom'.

RADARC Committee

Publicity Tom Fanning – M0LTE

Treasurer Barry Scott – M0SQZ

Secretary John Gumb – G4RDC

Chair Simon Watson – M0ZSU

Co-opted members

Web Chloe Monahan - 2E0JPM

Apologies

None

Chairman opened the meeting at 20:01 GMT. Meeting is quorate, 25 attendees on zoom at 20:01.

Instead of the customary jokes to break up the evening, Simon will be showing interesting, offbeat radio related pictures (see video). These are included in the minutes as a useful synchronisation mechanism with the video recording. Some timings included in square brackets but these should be regarded as approximate.

*- Note pictures are not included here for brevity, they are in the original minutes file which can be provided if requested.*

Proposed acceptance of last year's minutes. 20 out of 25 accept the minutes, no objections.

Chairman's report.

Please see the AGM annual report for 2021 for full details.

Simon recalled the very sad passing of Andy M5ALG. Andy was instrumental in the success of the McMichael rally for over 15 years. He remembered enjoying a post-rally drink with him and is fondly recalled as a larger-than-life character. Condolences to Maureen M3AGI. Graham G3XYX noted his great patience particularly with some rally attendees. 3 cheers for Andy.

Mike G4CDF asked about payments to the Culham club regarding the clearance of their premises in Oxford. Simon noted these would be finalised soon. The total is currently around £100.

As indoor meeting became feasible with the relaxing of covid restrictions, we had some “hybrid” meetings at 2nd Woodley Scout Hut.

Crucially, tea and biscuits became possible again. Brett 2E0HFW queries “does it tune”?

The club was stunned by the sudden loss of Bill G4WJS. Simon made a moment to remember Bill by playing some of his favourite music (Finlandia, Sibelius). Many recalled Bill with his tireless support for the WSJT-X software and his patience supporting users. Bill was well known worldwide but was also a hugely enthusiastic member of the club. 3 cheers for Bill.

Members at a very healthy 99.

Nick G0LGG - gives thanks to the committee for keeping the club going in such good shape for over the last 12 months.

Graham G3XYX noted his appreciation for all chats on GB3BN. Very grateful. Prevented issues caused by isolation during lockdowns etc.

Treasurer’s report

[20:39] Please see the AGM annual report for 2021 for full details.

Expenditure highlights:

- RSGB affiliation a £2 more than last year
- Larger bill for webhosting as it covers last year and this year. (0 last, 250 this)
- Club insurance about the same
  - Barry apologised for not paying the TVRG (Thames Valley Repeater Group) donation due to an oversight.
- Trailer box purchased for scam mast
- Room booking fees (scout hut)
- 4G data cost about same
- Refreshment costs down
- Speaker expenses about the same

- Equipment purchased for meetings
- Components purchased for scouts building FM radios.
- Spent less in expenses than last year.

Nick G0LGG queried the cost of the 2nd Woodley scout hut vs Woodford Park Leisure Centre. Barry noted the costs are similar, but the scout hut offers much better value for money.

Income highlights:

- A lot of donations
  - prepping PMRs (VHF/UHF mobile FM radios) for Sale. Barry thanks members involved with that.
- £620 from junk sales
- Finances holding up well despite no rally
- £1000 approximately from membership fees. Some cost incurred for electronic payment.
  - Barry notes that multiplying the number of members by the appropriate membership fee won't necessarily work as when payments are taken electronically, small fees are often involved.

Membership up by 19 people compared to last year.

Chris G4CCC thanks Barry for his comments about donations. They will provide timely support for GB3AW. Chris queried how the discrepancy in the accounts would be resolved. Barry responded that monies will be squared off subject to membership approval in part 2 of the meeting (when the new committee is elected).

Barry notes £159.31 profit: the finances are in good shape with approximately £13000 in bank, about £170 up on last year.

Tom M0LTE checked the accounts. Thanks to Tom.

Nick G0LGG queries: given the £159.31 income, should the revenue have gone up by that amount? i.e. last year's revenue was £12285. Should this year's revenue not be £159.31 more? Barry can't quite remember why but Nick notes this is of no consequence as the amounts involved are pennies.

Nick then asks, "does the constitution allow for a member to approve the accounts?" and adds "we need to be bulletproof in case anyone comes and looks at us". Barry notes we are

not answerable to external bodies (eg. the Charities Commission). We are only answerable to the membership.

Jim G0LHZ and Barry go off hunting for a copy of the constitution to try to answer Nick's question.

Nick requested a copy of the constitution. There was agreement from the committee that this will be made publicly available via the website.

Loz G2DD thanks Barry for his hard work. Barry says he is paid back in being a member. Michael M0MPPM seconds this.

### Training

No training courses given this year. The trends now are online particularly in the light of the pandemic. RADARC is still supporting students at foundation and intermediate level via online media such as discord. It is club policy to direct anyone seeking training to the RSBG website. Simon notes we could support candidates in gaining practical experience. Graham G3XYX notes that the practical aspect of foundation has been removed and notes that this is absolutely vital.

Barry notes there is no need for accounts to be checked according to the constitution confirmed by Jim G0LHZ. Vin G4JTR remembers that the accounts in the past have been checked by Judith, Harry G3NGX's wife. Michael M0MPPM asks whether we should amend the constitution. He notes he has seen problems in other establishments. Barry agrees that formalising what we do for review is indeed best practice. No objections, Simon notes the change to the constitution should be made.

### Contesting

Please see the AGM annual report for 2021 for full details.

Simon notes it was a pleasure to meet new member Brian (present at this meeting) at SSB field day.

### Website

Thanks to Tom and Chloe. Simon notes that all members are welcome to contribute to it.

Chris G4CCC notes there are a number of videos on the RADARC YouTube channel which are not referenced from the website. Simon notes that we should add such a link.

Graham G3XYX particularly liked this one. [*comical picture*]

#### Other groups and Organisations

Thanks to Raynet and TVRG (Thames Valley Repeater Group) for all the facilities they provide.

#### Awards

[21:05]

This year we did manage to engrave the awards, unlike last year. The awards could not be presented in person so Simon does this virtually via zoom.

G5KV award goes to Mike G4CDF for input to club, encouraging activity on the bands (particularly 23cm), mast system and his work regarding new EMC requirements (noted by G2DD eg. TEM cell entry to construction contest). John notes Mike is a key contributor to club meetings.

Round of applause for Mike!

A1 Award services to club goes to Denis G4KWT for his work with zoom, audio at junk sales etc. PA system at Reading Rugby Football Club (RRFC) and 3D printing work supporting sale of PMR radios (microphone plug).

Round of applause for Denis!

A1 NOVICE goes to Guy Carter 2E0GDC for activity on 4m, getting involved with club activities and nets (eg. getting a slim jim antenna working at an RRFC meeting) and his work supporting 2nd Woodley Scout Hut.

Round of applause to Guy!

1st Constructor cup goes to Jim G0LHZ for his design of an APRS system using a PIC processor. (presented in 2000 to the club by Peter G4JNU SK)

Round of applause for Jim!

2nd constructors cup goes to Loz G2DD for his beautiful replica paraset project . (Also presented in 2000 to the club by Peter G4JNU)

Simon at this point gets his headset tangled up in his vice.

G2FZI Contest Cup awarded to the winner of the club ladder also goes to Jim G0LHZ

Round of applause for Jim!

The Bingham Shield goes to Gareth M7GRB for his active involvement in the club and the design and sharing of open source hardware projects:

Including one for power distribution and power protection which will be used to protect the club Icom IC7300 radio. Gareth is also a regular attendee at construction evenings and a major contributor to Discord. And plying us with homebrew alcohol!

Pete Milton Cup consisting of two cups, the larger being kept for the year and the smaller one being kept by the winner went to Chris G0JTN in 2020. Due to COVID restrictions the smaller cup was not physically given to him. Simon notes he will get it to Chris.

The 2021 award is to John G4RDC. Simon notes John is a 4 metres enthusiast, has helped other members onto the bands with Motorola mc micros, helping with slim jim antennas, activity on club forums and helping with other peoples' projects.

Round of applause for John!

Brett 2E0HFW queries whether the G5KV key is operational. Tom M0LTE confirms that it is.

### Construction Contest

The Construction Contest went ahead as a 'hybrid' meeting this year with entries from Jim G0LHZ, Mike G4CDF and two from Loz G2DD at the scout hut. Thanks to Loz G2DD for running this and to all those who took part. Loz appealed for more participants in 2022.

### Stand down of Committee

[21:22] Handover to Vin G4JTR to commence proceedings. No nominations contesting any posts. Vin declares Simon, John, Barry and Tom are voted into their existing posts. No requirement to vote in co-opted committee members. Vin says he can't think of a better group of people to continue running the club and adds it has been a very difficult year for a lot of clubs. We have mastered the technology with regard to online meetings and notes he is proud to be a member of RADARC.

Simon - Thanks to all of the members for getting involved.

New Committee Business: Donations, Equipment Purchase approval

- Donation of £100 to RSGB RCF (Radio Communications Foundation) approved unanimously

- Two donations of £150 approved to TVRG (one of them to cover £150 omitted by mistake this year) approved unanimously

- Purchase of PA (public address) gear up to £400 to support meetings. Many thanks to Denis G4KWT for allowing the club to use his personal equipment so far. GOLGG queries whether this will be a permanent installation in the scout hut. Simon responds that the equipment is portable. Nick also asks whether it will be possible for members to borrow the equipment. Graham G3XYX suggests fitting some speaker leads to the scout hut to ease setting up/teardown. Purchase approved unanimously.

#### New Committee Business: Constitution Changes

Barry proposed new wording for section 5 of the constitution "Finance" with the substantive change being the dropping the requirement for two signatures on cheques over £200 and inclusion of the possibility of electronic banking and credit card payments.

Old wording:

"5. Finance

All money received by the Society shall be promptly deposited in the Club's bank account. Withdrawals from the bank of up to £200 require only the signature of the Chairman or Treasurer or Secretary. Withdrawals of more than £200 require the signature of any two of the authorised committee members of the Club."

New, proposed wording:

"5. Finance

The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary shall control the Club's bank accounts.

The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary may set up electronic banking services, including facilities to make and receive electronic payments and credit card payments.

All money received by the Club, except petty cash required for activities such as taking membership and operating junk sales, shall be promptly deposited in the Club's bank account."

- Much discussion ensued regarding the liabilities incurred taking on a credit card. Barry noted that he would have to stand personal surety against it to get one.

- George M0GXB noted these liabilities may extend beyond the treasurer to the committee and further to club members "as the committee are only acting on behalf of club members". Since the club is not a legal entity, the legal position here is not clear. Barry noted that expert legal advice would be necessary to clarify this costing significant sums of money.

- Nick GOLGG and others did not feel comfortable with Barry having to take on such liabilities with the credit card. He was, however, happy with the wording change regarding electronic banking.

- Barry noted the £200 limit provides no realistic protection against abuse of funds by the committee as multiple, lower value cheques could be easily written.

- Mike G4CDF asks what the advantages of a credit card over a debit card are. Barry responds that credit cards provide protection with purchases.



- Barry noted that the wording change around how we handle cash to reflect how we handle cash acknowledges that we need some cash for common club activities but that generally it should be banked as soon as practical.

- Min G0JMS noted that the treasurer has always held chequebook.

- Jim G0LHZ suggests use of a debit card to avoid the issues with a credit card and liabilities therein.

- Simon notes we are approaching quorum limit. Simon proposes dropping trying to get a club credit card. All agree this is the way forward.

- Proposed new, amended wording:

“5. Finance

The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary shall control the Club’s bank accounts.

The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary may set up electronic banking services, including facilities to make and receive electronic payments.

All money received by the Club, except petty cash required for activities such as taking membership and operating junk sales, shall be promptly deposited in the Club’s bank account.”

- Two other changes proposed to the constitution:

1. Barry removed the requirement to produce a club newsletter as we now have the website and other communication mechanisms such as google groups and discord.

2. ‘Society’ also to be replaced with ‘Club’ throughout. Vin notes the club name many years ago included ‘society’.

\_\_ • Change approved unanimously.

[22:07] Simon realises he forgot to cue in John for the Secretary’s report.

Secretary’s report

Please see the AGM annual report for 2021 for full details.

Thanks to all who have contributed meetings ideas. More of the same next year. Thanks to Michael M0MPM for the Togo DxPedition talk – particularly poignant given Bill G4WJS’s loss as his expertise enabled the success of the DxPedition.

John echoes Simon’s earlier comments regarding helping out the committee.

John notes that an area where we could do better is in capturing what we have done at meetings particularly on the social media and website front. He requests assistance from the membership.

John requested approval to open up meetings to other clubs besides Newbury. This should not dilute the value of club membership. No objections.

Finally, John notes he is devastated by Bill sudden loss.

AOB

- George M0GXB notes a Club credit card might be possible if we insured against the liability.

- Loz G2DD asks whether the RSGB provides guidance on such insurance matters etc.

- Barry thanks George M0GXB for his input regarding possible jeopardy to the club.

Meeting closed at 22:21

73

John

G4RDC

RADARC Secretary

With thanks to Chloe 2E0JPM and Brett 2E0HFW in compiling the minutes.

## 2. Chairman's Report

The **2022 RADARC committee** was as follows -

**Chair** Simon Watson – M0ZSU

**Secretary** John Gumb – G4RDC

**Treasurer** Barry Scott – M0SQZ

**Ordinary committee members**

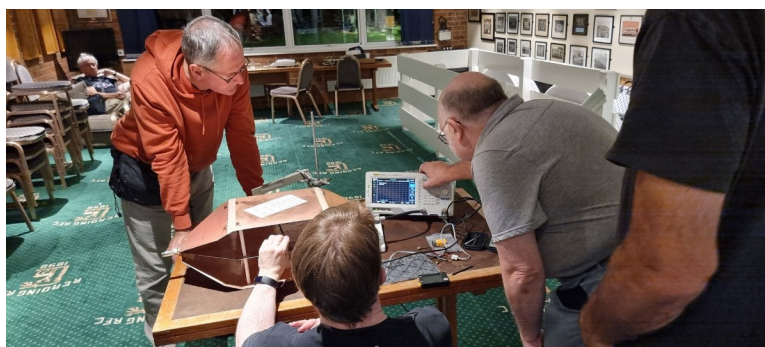
**Publicity** Tom Fanning - MOLTE

### **Co-opted members**

**Web** Chloe Monahan - 2E0JPM

2022 kicked off with an informal Zoom chat, the situation with Covid at the time meaning that we were still not running physical meetings, it was nice to catch up with people. The next meeting was a very interesting one by Bob Heil entitled "The science of audio", he ended by playing music on a large organ, which is fantastic. In February, due to a late cancellation by a scheduled speaker, Jim Carter kindly stepped in with an informative talk about hydrogen fuel cells and the associated economy, this was to be the first 'hybrid' (physical meeting at the scout hut also on Zoom) of the year. Thankfully we were able to continue with this type of meeting for the rest of the year, the number of physical attendees slowly increasing as the year went on, largely due to the availability of jammy dodgers and chocolate digestives I expect! On a more serious note it was nice to hear the usual buzz of people socialising after the talk in the room, the exchange of bits of kit and components etc. The hybrid aspect of the meeting is quite challenging technically, but thanks to hard work and expertise from Denis G4KWT and Tom MOLTE it all seemed to work well. Over the year, RADARC has purchased it's own PA amplifier with wireless microphones, a new projector screen and a modern laptop with high resolution web cam, so that these meetings can work well without reliance on member's personal equipment. I am sure John will write more on the meetings in the Secretary's report, so I will not duplicate here, many thanks to John G4RDC and all members who have helped with providing suggestions and indeed talks, I think it was another great year at RADARC.

Physical 'construction group' meetings at the Rugby Club were back in action this year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, with much interesting experimentation going on.



On the construction front Tom MOLTE also the club project ‘pi-transceiver’, a project to build a SDR 2m transceiver based on the Raspberry Pi, the idea being to create an affordable and customisable all mode radio for 2m. The project encompasses not only hardware design and construction, but software design for the radio, using c# and GNU radio as a platform. A group of members have taken interest in this, and the project is developing well. The GitHub address is <https://github.com/MOLTE/pi-transceiver> for those interested. One of the members helping with this project is Richard Ibbotson MOSKP, who has helped teach numerous people using his professional PCB design skills. I have learnt a great deal from this project, and I know others have too. Thank you to all involved, and if you have any interest, you would be very welcome to join us.

November saw the ‘Great RADARC Construction Contest’, which certainly lived up to its name.

| Entry | Name           | Callsign | Entry Description                                       |
|-------|----------------|----------|---|
| 1     | Chris Smith    | G0JTN    | SINAD meter   |
| 2     | Jim Carter     | G0LHZ    | PIC Based USB Morse Beacon                              |
| 3     | Vin Robinson   | G4JTR    | Antenna system, constructed over more than 4 decades.   |
| 4     | Mike Dunstan   | G8GYW    | HF QRP Power & SWR Meter                                |
| 5     | Denis Pibworth | G4KWT    | Portable in-band 70cms Repeater for RayNet              |
| 6     | Denis Pibworth | G4KWT    | Battery powered PoE adapter (part of 5GHz Mesh network) |
| 7     | Chris Smith    | G0JTN    | Probe for the Booton RF voltmeter                       |
| 8     | Mike Naylor    | G4CDF    | Spectrum analyser/ VNA frequency extension unit         |

As you can see, not only were there lots of entries, but the quality of all the entries was very high. It was almost impossible to choose a winner.



Many thanks go to Loz G2DD shown in action above on the right who organised and hosted the construction contest. As always I was very proud to be a member of a club with so much expertise and so many people wanting to share this expertise.

Thankfully this year the McMichael Rally went ahead and was very successful, more about the Rally later.

Over the summer, meetings at the Rugby Club were back in action, people got together for a chat and a drink outside in the sun, and various pieces of equipment turning up for experimentation and testing.



This year all 3 field day contests took place, that is CW field day, VHF field day and SSB field day. There were enjoyable events. The VHF field day was the first time for this event at RADARC for a few years with a new site at Checkendon. We were down on operators due to the dreaded 'testing positive', but with help from members we were able to raise a 2m and 70cm beam which worked quite well. There was an attempt at 23cms, but we need to do more work there. Thank you to all who helped and especially David Honey MODHO who puts in a great deal of effort and time to RADARC contesting, also to Nick MONPK who has taken over custody of the large SCAM mast, and hauled it to each event for us.



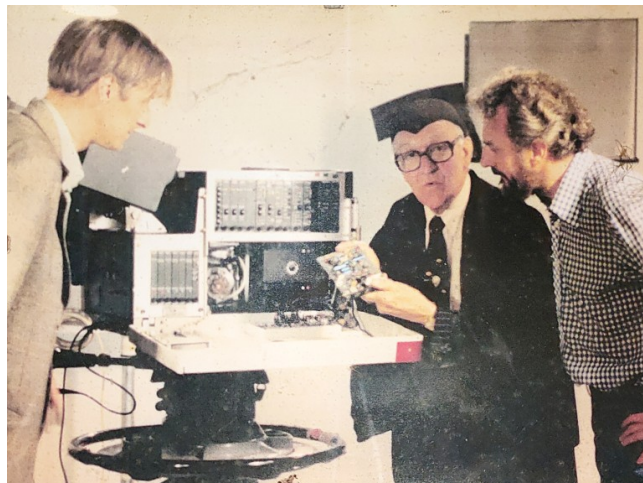


Junk sales again this year were very successful, a great deal of junk arriving each time! Thanks to all those who took part and members who took on the challenging task of being an auctioneer.



Thanks also to all who helped with keeping track of the auction and collecting money afterwards. I would also like to thank Chris M1CYE who provided the useful service of scrapping unwanted items at the end.

In the early summer we learned that the much loved and very active member of the club, Graham Bedwell G3XYX was in bad health and had been admitted to hospital. Sadly Graham passed away on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Graham will know he was a great character with a wealth of fascinating stories, often from his time at the BBC. He was also a very active and helpful member of the club, providing PA and sound services for many years. He would also always help with erecting the mast at club field day events. He was an active participant of club nets especially the Tuesday evening 4m net, and was frequently heard on GB3BN, often on his 'morning constitutionals'. He had a great wit and knowledge and I have learned from him. He will be greatly missed. In a very kind posthumous gesture he left his shack equipment to RADARC. Some of this has been kept for club use, and other items were auctioned to club members by Denis G4KWT. This raised £1402.50 for the club, thank you to Graham and his family. We hope to use some of this money to continue RADARC's work with encouraging newcomers and events with the scouts to foster interest in radio and electronics.



Indeed, again the club helped with two events to allow local scout groups to build FM radio kits, try some Morse or have an HF QSO. The events were JOTA (Scouts Jamboree on the air) in October and a Scouts evening at Woodley in November. Both went very well. Thanks to David Honey M0DHO, Ray Brown G3SCZ, Chris Catt M1CYE and Denis Pibworth G4KWT. We look forward to running more events like this next year.

Towards the end of the year, Tom M0LTE set up an experimental web SDR based at the Rugby Club. This uses the club V2000 antenna we have there, and is on 2m, 4m and 6m (<http://sdr.radarc.org:8073>). This is a useful asset to the amateur community.

Thanks go to the brilliant committee members for all their behind the scenes work, keeping things working and moving forward.

I would also like to thank members for joining in with the various events as after all, it is you which make it all happen.

I am very aware that we need some 'new blood' on the committee. Joining the committee does not mean you have to dedicate a large amount of time to it, even if you only attend a couple of committee meetings a year, your input could provide new ideas to improve how we do things. If you have an interest at all in getting involved, please do talk to us!

Thank you all for another great year at RADARC.

73

Simon M0ZSU RADARC

## Membership

Membership continues to be excellent with a total of 94 members by late 2022, a slight increase since last year.

## RADARC Finance

| <b>Item</b>             | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>         | 4710.72     | 2356.32     |
| <b>Income</b>           | 4635.70     | 2515.63     |
| <b>Surplus</b>          | -75.02      | 159.31      |
| <b>Total funds held</b> | 13626.73    | 13238.58    |

The treasurer's financial report is attached (separate PDF), which indicates club finances all in order. A big thank you must go to Barry MOSQZ who runs the club accounts very efficiently.



### [RADARC Net, News net](#)

**The Reading Area 4 Metre Net**, held on Tuesday evenings on 70.425MHz FM at 20.30 local time continues to run. If you have not tried this net it is highly recommended and you would be very welcome, again most participants if not all are RADARC members.

Although not a technically club net, usually most if not all of the participants of the after news net (at around 9:25am Sunday mornings after the RSGB news reading at 9am) are RADARC members. The news can be heard on 6m, 4m, 70cm, 3cm and streamed internet video due to the continued amazing work of Dr.Alison Johnston G8ROG, also a RADARC member. Thanks go to Alison for continuing to provide this work despite being busy with her church duties as well.

There is also usually a Thursday night net on RD with RADARC members, when we are doing the committee meeting.

### [RADARC Web Site](#)

The club site continues to work reliably and the club also hosts the QSL card system created by Michael Meerman M0MPPM. Anyone else who would like to contribute to the web site in any way would be very welcome. We also have a club YouTube video page with recordings of previous talks (where permission was allowed).

### [The Training Courses.](#)

We haven't resuming any training courses yet, but do offer mentoring , advice and help with those wishing to study online. See section 6, training report.

### Club Shack

Whilst we don't have an actual club shack, we do now have component storage drawers at the scout hut and also a locking tall cupboard in the storage area. Apart from housing the club PA and laptop, it also contains other club equipment and the radio building kits and tools.

Looking forward, there may be a possibility of erecting a wire antenna at the scout hut.

As mentioned in the chairman's report we now also have an experimental web SDR at the Rugby club too.

### Club Equipment

The club has a varied and useful library of equipment, most of which can be loaned to members.

The list of equipment is available on the RADARC web site.

The club now has its own PA and laptop for use at meetings. Also this year the guy ropes for the SCAM mast were replaced with safety in mind.

## Other club activities

There are always other club activities which I am not involved with myself but would like to acknowledge where I know a lot of RADARC members team up with Raynet and help support. This is excellent work which illustrates how radio is a very practical tool as well as a bit of fun.

So once again, thank you very much for being part of the club, and I hope you have enjoyed it.

Good DX and 73s

**Simon Watson M0ZSU, Chairman**

## 4. Treasurers Report

**See appendix 2, as separate pdf attachment from Barry Scott, M0SQZ**

## 5. Secretary's Report 2022

John Gumb G4RDC

### Highlights

Having Don Beattie G3BJ along for the first meeting in September was a privilege. He admirably demonstrated why he is such a credit to amateur radio. Despite having reached the highest levels internationally with IARU he is still thinking about how to involve newcomers and is still active in contesting. A friendlier or more thoughtful and generous person you could not hope to meet.

### Cooperation between clubs

Many thanks to Hereford and District ARS and Bracknell ARS in particular for supporting us with talks this year.

### Ad-hoc 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday events

- a 29MHZ FM net prompted some experimentation by Chris G0JTN in mobile operation
- The G4JTR top band net was enjoyed by many and presented a great opportunity for experimentation. Thank you Vin. We'll do this or something similar soon.

### "Hybrid Meetings"

We continue to improve our "hybrid" meetings. Mixing a live audience in the scout hut with zoom does present challenges around interaction with the guest speaker but ensuring any questions are taken with a microphone in the audience is helping. In particular, I think the construction contest this year was one of the best we've done. The "roving camera" delivered the goods here. A huge thankyou to Denis G4KWT and Tom MOLTE for the sound, video and zoom aspects of our meetings.

At the time of writing, it is now quite often an even split between numbers of "in person" and online attendees on talk evenings at around 15 to 20 in each category.

### Maintaining the human aspect

We've been through an astonishing couple of years with Covid where there was necessarily a reliance on meetings technology. It's easy to lose sight of the fact people just want to meet up and have a natter sometimes. A few people have mentioned 'zoom fatigue'. There are many upsides to hybrid meetings but it's just a question of maintaining a balance without necessarily wishing to turn the clock back.

### Making Meetings Happen

Thanks to all who helped out. This ranges from ideas and suggestions to arranging or running entire meetings. In particular thanks to Brett 2E0HFW for helping me with liaison with Bracknell ARC.

It is important for RADARC to have a few members willing to do talks/presentations etc. to other clubs as these are useful bargaining chips when speakers from other clubs kindly offer to provide talks for us. I am continually astounded by the generosity of our guest speakers. Thank you Michael MOMPM for helping out here.

The more we can involve everyone on the meetings front, the more vibrant and varied our events will be. Being able to spread the knowledge/load of organising meetings puts the club in a much stronger position. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more.

If I don't get back to you within a few days please don't hesitate to send me a reminder. I do have a lot of "incoming" and it's possible I missed your message.

Thank you to all who have contributed on this front – not least to Jim GOLHZ who stepped in at the last minute with his talk on the "Hydrogen Economy".

#### Equipment/hardware

I am delighted the club sees fit to ensure we have appropriate equipment with which to conduct meetings. Part of the reason for this is to avoid drawing on members' own equipment. There are two drivers behind this. Firstly, the obvious one of possible damage and wear and tear. Secondly, it removes the requirement of equipment holders to physically be around for a meeting and spreads the knowledge of how to use it. Purchases this year include:

- 2m x 2m projector screen to match our Epson EB990-U projector
- zoom account
- RADARC meetings laptop
- Full HD USB camera
- Other bits of supporting hardware to de-risk meetings where we are reliant on the guest speakers' PC/tablet (wired ethernet adapter etc.)

#### Scout hut meetings – the mechanics

There's quite a bit of setup and teardown now at scout hut meetings. Thanks to all who assist here but in particular to Peter G4JVD and Guy 2E0GDC. And of course Simon M0ZSU who does a tremendous amount for meetings from opening up, setup, running the meeting, cleanup and teardown!

#### Summer RRFC meetings

RRFC (Reading Rugby Football Club) continues to support RADARC by allowing us to hold meetings there both indoors and outdoors with access to a licensed bar. It provides an informal setting for summer social meet ups. Some on air operation is possible but is mainly restricted to VHF/UHF using our Diamond V2000 there as the pitches are often in use and safely deploying antennas would be a challenge. The scout hut nicely fills this gap. The RRFC upstairs room continues to provide a venue for construction evenings and occasional summer meetings.

#### Looking forward to 2023

We already have quite a few entries in the calendar:

- An introduction to DMR by Colin 2E0XCA
- RADARC member Ian G8MWK's tales of deploying a commercial DMR network
- Restoring old Ham Radio Gear by Steve G3ZPS
- Update on the Euclid space telescope by Chris Brockley-Blatt from Mullard Space Science Labs
- The Meteor Beacon Project by Brian G4NNS (as seen in RADCOM recently)

73

John

G4RDC

Meetings Summary 2022

|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> January  | Zoom Chat  |  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> January  | Bob Heil K9EID on "The Science of Audio"                               | Via zoom from Bob's home                                     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> February | Hydrogen Fuel Cells and the Hydrogen Economy by Jim G0LHZ              | Thankyou Jim!! Emergency talk covering scheduled ECMWF talk. |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> February | "HF + No PTT" by Dave Porter G4OYX                                     | Hereford and District ARS via zoom                           |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> March    | "The Arrival of the Transistor in Amateur Radio" by Duncan James M0OTG | Hereford and District ARS via zoom                           |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March    | Spring Junk Sale   |  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March    | 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 10m FM net                                    | Followed up with a mobile 10m FM experiment by Chris G0JTN   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April    | "Not the construction contest"   |  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> April    | ECMWF and atmospheric science by Marcus Koehler                        | Marcus will be back in 2023.                                 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May      | Radio Astronomy and the UK   | To be followed up next year by                               |

|                            |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
|                            | Radio Astronomy association by Paul Hearn  | Brian Coleman G4NNS with a talk on the meteor beacon project.  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May       | informal on air/practical/RF assessment evening at the scout hut   | Thanks to Mike G4CDF for bringing noise measuring equipment along and Denis G4KWT for a VHF/UHF FM comms setup.    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June       | The discovery encrypted radio signals, Enigma, Lorenz and the development of Colossus by Charles Coultas | A great "in person" meeting at the scout hut by Charles  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June      | On air / informal session at scout hut   |  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday: VHF field day prep and social at RRFC  |  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> July      | McMichael rally prep & social  |  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> July      | RRFC informal evening  |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> August    | "A big signal on top band - with a little bit of controversy!" by Robert M0RZF                           |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> August    | natter night at RRFC   |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> September  | A Window on the IARU by Don Beattie G3BJ   | Don is one of the foremost people in amateur radio and delivered a fascinating talk. We were honoured to have him. |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> September | Elecraft by Eric Swartz WA6HHQ   |  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> September | 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday G4JTR top band net  | Thankyou Vin!  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> October   | Alignment/Deviation lecture by Alison G8ROG  | Thankyou Alison!!  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> October   | Autumn junk sale   |  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November  | The Great Construction Contest   |  |

|                           |   |                                      |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November | KW Vanguard restoration by<br>Martin 2E0XBZ | Bracknell ARC & Brett –<br>thankyou! |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December  | AGM   |                                      |



## 6.Training Report

No specific training ran this year, but online mentoring and assistance seems to be going well. If anyone has an interest in taking responsibility for organising club training the committee would be very happy to support you and provide club resources accordingly. Please speak to any member of the committee if you are interested.

## 7. Contest report 2022

David Honey MODHO

### Club Championships

The RSGB club championships are a series of mini-contests of 90 minutes duration, with three legs (SSB, CW, Data) each month from February to July inclusive. They are intended to encourage club members to try contests. Every club member who takes part and makes QSOs contributes to RADARC's club score, no matter how many or how few QSOs were made. This year we had contributions from G0LHZ Jim, G4RGK Dave, M0NPK Nick, M6N Nick (SCC owned by M0NPK), G6AWF Dave, M0MPPM Michael, 2E0HFW Brett, and G4AAO Geoff.

RADARC's came 23rd in the local clubs section (down 1 place from 22nd in 2021). The first three places for 2022 were as follows:

1st G0LHZ Jim with 4,893 points

2nd G4RGK Dave with 3,201 points

3rd M0NPK+M6N Nick with 2,662 points

Congratulations to Jim on winning this year's club ladder (again!).

### National Field Day

National Field Day is one of the regular contests in which RADARC competes each year and takes place on the first full weekend of June. RADARC entered in the QRP Unassisted Portable section (5W maximum power).

Many club members generously gave their time to help with set-up. This is the most important part, and the station was ready well before the start of the contest at 16:00 local. My thanks to all who helped this year. We also had our usual club BBQ on Saturday evening. It's pity we didn't have more people join us for the BBQ.

We used the usual combination of an Elecraft K3 + P3 panadapter, and Jim's auto-switching dipole (QRP use only). Everything seemed fine until, in the late evening, we tried 160m. Sadly, the ATU would not match, and we were not putting out much of a signal. The combination of unmatched low feedpoint impedance and the lower quality (RG58) cable, meant that feeder losses were excessive. What started as 5W might have radiated only 1W or less. This cost us dearly in both points and additional multipliers. We ended with 134,936 points which earned us 2nd place. First place was won by M0RYB/P with 136,612 points. The issue on 160m lost us 1st place.

Late in August, Nick M0NPK hosted an antenna testing session at his farm. Jim used a remote Bluetooth connection with a RigExpert antenna analyser in place at the top of the mast. This was used to measure the impedance on all bands, and also with a 4:1 balun for 160m, and then test that the LDG auto ATU would match it – it did. Jim will modify the design to automatically switch the balun in for 160m. In future, we will also use RG213 or better. This should address both aspects of the problem we faced this year when we try again in 2023.

## VHF Field Day

Many years ago, RADARC used to be a regular entrant in VHF field day. This year, a modest setup was used as a trial return to the contest. I cannot comment on the setup because I was away with the Windmill Contest Group (G0FBB/P) at their site in Kent.

Overall results for the restricted section: RADARC came 12 th (of 13 entrants), with 105 QSOs on 50MHz, 5 QSOs on 70MHz, 26 QSOs on 144MHz, and 42 QSOs on 432MHz. We were not QRV on 1.2GHz.

## SSB Field Day

SSB field day is the another regular contest in which RADARC participates each year. As usual, we had a single station in the low power unassisted section. We used our usual setup of an Elecraft K3 + panadapter, a switchable doublet, and the club's SGC auto ATU at the top of the mast. Conditions were dry for setup and the BBQ. However, there was heavy rain overnight, and some light rain during Sunday, including tear-down.

Conditions on HF seemed poor over that weekend. RADARC came 4th in the low power unassisted section with 101,574 points. This is down from 2nd place and 104,742 points in 2021.

Sadly, I came down with COVID late Saturday through Sunday, and spent much of Sunday lying down in the back of the car feeling rather unwell. Fortunately, no one else seemed to get it from me over the weekend. It knocked me out for some days after I got back home. A weekend to remember for all the wrong reasons.

## 8. McMichael Rally 2022

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the McMichael Rally took place once again, and was well attended considering it was in the middle of the 2022 heat wave which did deter some. It was nice to see people meeting up and chatting and a good amount of items were being bought and sold. The RADARC club table did brilliantly, selling over £900 on behalf of the club (some of this going to the Culham club who originally provided a large part of the goods). Thanks to Loz G2DD and Mike MODYD and all their helpers. RADARC and Burham Beeches ARC currently run the rally and we are hoping to join forces with the Bracknell club in 2023.



Marking out the field on a very hot July day.

## 9. Awards and Trophies

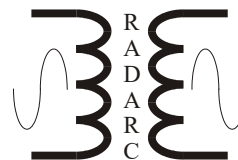
- 1. G5KV Award** Morse Key For significant services to RADARC This is the premier RADARC (commemorates Bill Leonard G5KV) Award.
- 2. A1 Award** Shield To any member for commitment Presented by J. Linford to the club or an achievement, eg G3WGV 1993 winning a contest, gaining full Licence, Outstanding Club Talk.
- 3. A1 Novice Award** Shield To a young or novice member for Presented by J. Linford achievement, G3WGV 1993
- 4. Constructors Cup** Cup To the winner of the construction Presented by Peter Smith contest. G4JNU 2006 (Larger)
- 5. Constructors Cup** Cup To the runner-up of the Presented by Peter Smith construction contest. G4JNU 2000 (Smaller)
- 6. Fox Hunt Cup** Cup 2m DF. Not currently awarded.
- 7. G2FZI Cup**, (1964) Cup Highest contest scorer of the year.
- 8. Bingham Shield** shield To a member, services to the Club.
- 9. The G3AKF Shield** (2009) shield For Morse Code Achievement Award in Memory of Bryan Taylor, G3AKF
- 10. The Pete Milton Cup** (2016) For either outstanding achievement in helping someone in a specific area of Amateur Radio, or help and encouragement to people new to Amateur Radio



The Pete Milton Cup

| <b>Award</b>                | <b>First Award</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b>   | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>G5KV</b>                 | c1989              | TVRG        | G3SCZ       | MOLTE       | G4RDC       | G0JMS         | M0NPK       | G4CDF       |
| <b>A1</b>                   | 1993               | M0UDA       | M0XMS       | G8ROG       | M0MPM       | G6IZA         | M7GRB       | G4KWT       |
| <b>A1 Novice</b>            | 1993               | 2E0FNX      | 2E0JPM      | -           | M0PIK       | M7GRA         | M7RDG       | 2E0GDC      |
| <b>Constructors 1st</b>     | 2006               | M0MPM       | G4EEE       | MOLTE       | G0LHZ       | G6CJB         | M0ZSU       | G0LHZ       |
| <b>Constructors 2nd</b>     | 2006               | G4BOO       | M0POQ       | G2DD        | G4RDC       | G0LHZ<br>G2DD | G4IWS       | G2DD        |
| <b>AKF Shield (CW)</b>      | 2009               | G2NF        | -           | -           | -           | -             | -           | -           |
| <b>G2FZI Cup (contests)</b> | 1964               | G0LHZ       | G0VQR       | G3XTT       | G0LHZ       | G0LHZ         | G0LHZ       | G0LHZ       |
| <b>Bingham shield</b>       | 1964               | G8XML       | M0DYD       | 2E0JPM      | G4JNU       | MOLTE         | G4CDF       | M7GRB       |
| <b>Pete Milton Cup</b>      | 2016               | -           | G3XZJ       | G3SCZ       | G4YFB       | G0JMS         | G0JTN       | G4RDC       |

## 10. Appendix 1 RADARC 2021 Constitution



## Reading and District Amateur Radio Club

### R.A.D.A.R.C.

#### **Club Constitution**

This is the revised Constitution, as amended by the AGM held on the 9th December 2021.

#### **1. Name**

The Club shall be known as the Reading and District Amateur Radio Club. (RADARC)

#### **2. Aims**

The aims of the Club shall be to further the interests of its members in all aspects of amateur radio and directly associated activities.

#### **3. Membership**

Membership shall be open, subject to the discretion of the committee, to all persons interested in the aims of the Club.

Members will pay the full subscription unless they are unwaged entitling them to a 50% reduction or under 16 in which case membership is free.

Life Membership may be obtained by any person who pays a one-off fee of 12½ times the then-prevailing full subscription. On receipt of this payment, the person will be treated as if they had paid the full membership fee for the remainder of their life in respect of all voting rights and privileges.

Honorary Life Membership may be granted to any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered outstanding service to the Club, either directly or indirectly. Such membership shall carry the rights of full membership but shall be free from subscriptions.

The committee may award complimentary membership to candidates who pass any examination organised by the Club. This complimentary membership shall cease after the next AGM. Complimentary members shall not have voting rights.

Members may invite guests to meeting free of charge. No guest may attend more than three meetings in each year.

All members shall abide by the Constitution of the Club. The Committee shall have the power to refuse the membership renewal of any person whose conduct, in the opinion of at least two thirds of the full Committee, renders them unfit to be a member of the Club.

#### **4. Subscriptions.**

The annual subscriptions for membership shall be set by the Committee and agreed by the AGM.

All subscriptions shall be due and payable at the beginning of the financial year. Members in arrears have no voting rights.

The financial year shall run from the 1st of January to 31st of December each year.

The Committee shall have the power to waive or reduce the subscription in special circumstances for a period not exceeding one year at a time.

The committee shall have the powers to extend membership for a limited period into a new financial year in extraordinary circumstances. This period will not exceed two calendar months and such powers if invoked will apply universally to all members.

#### **5. Finance**

The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary shall control the Club's bank accounts.



The Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary may setup electronic banking services, including facilities to make and receive electronic payments.

All money received by the Club, except petty cash required for activities such as taking membership and operating junk sales, shall be promptly deposited in the Club's bank account.

#### 5.1 The G3AKF Fund

The Club also manages the RADARC G3AKF FUND. This Fund was generated by the sale of equipment from a bequest by the late Bryan Taylor, G3AKF, in December 2008. The operating rules for this fund are as follows:

1. The fund shall be called, The RADARC G3AKF Fund.
2. The purpose of the fund is to support RADARC and, at the discretion of the RADARC Committee and with agreement of the membership, to support Amateur Radio in the widest possible sense.
3. The Fund is specifically not to be used for the day to day running of the Club for which there are substantial other funds maintained by member's subscriptions and many Club activities.
4. The fund is initially set up with £4000 derived from the G3AKF bequest.
5. The sum of money within the fund is ring fenced for uses as defined by the Fund's purpose in 2 above.
6. Money can be added to the Fund in the future or it can be wound up on completion of expenditure.

#### 5.2 Charitable Donations

- i. RADARC recognises that charitable organisations rely heavily on donations and RADARC wishes to donate to those that are pertinent to the interests of the radio Club.
- ii. RADARC will not contribute to religious or political groups.
- iii. The committee of RADARC are able, at their discretion and without having to get approval from the membership, to make such donations to the total value of £100 per annum in excess of those approved at the AGM or an EGM.
- iv. Charitable donation(s) by the committee may be made to any charitable organisations that meet the requirements specified in i) and ii) of this section.
- v. Any donation to a charitable organisation that does not meet the requirements i) and ii) of this section it must be approved by the membership at an AGM or an EGM.

### **6. Committee Membership**

The Club's affairs shall be administered by a Committee elected at the AGM. The members will elect individuals to specific offices. The Committee, in whom the Club's property shall be vested, shall consist of:

**A Chairman** who will preside at all meetings at which he is present.

**A Secretary who will be responsible for:**

- i) Arranging all meetings of the Club throughout the year.
- ii) Ensure all correspondence is correctly handled.
- iii) Keep the minutes of all Committee meetings of the Club.
- iv) Acting as the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
- v) Publicising the Club meetings in the amateur radio press and media
- vi) Keeping the RSGB services such as RadCom, GB2RS etc informed of all Club activities
- vii) Arranging local publicity
- viii) Entering candidates to sit the RCE or NRCE at appropriate examination centres.

**A Treasurer who will be responsible for:**

- i) keeping the Club's accounts including the RADARC G3AKF Fund.
- ii) advising the Committee on all financial matters.

iii) preparing the accounts, having the accounts reviewed independently and presenting them at the AGM.

iv) maintaining a list of members.

A minimum of one and a maximum of three Ordinary Members, the number of who shall be decided at or before the AGM, and whose duties shall be determined from time to time.

The committee shall have the powers to delegate any of their duties to other members of the Club with the agreement of that member, for example production of the newsletter, RCE/NRCE entries and librarian. Such delegation will terminate at the end of each year at which time it may be renewed by the incoming committee.

The Committee, at its discretion, may co-opt members to the committee. If these members are additional to the normal Committee strength they will have no Committee voting rights.

If a full committee member resigns, or leaves the Committee within the second half of the year, the Committee may co-opt a member to fill the post without calling an EGM or an election. In this case the co-opted member will have full voting rights.

### **7. Committee Standing Orders**

The quorum for the Committee shall be four people, or if the committee is comprised of only four people, then the quorum shall be three people. In the absence of a quorum business may be dealt with, but any decisions taken only become valid after ratification at the next meeting at which a quorum exists.

Committee meeting may be called by the Chairman or any three members of the committee.

The Chairman may vote. In the event of a tie the Chairman has a second casting vote.

### **8. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held at the first Club meeting in December each year. At least 21 Days notice shall be given to members in writing. If the AGM cannot be held during December it shall be held in the following January, and the Committee shall have the powers to extend the membership and voting rights to include the AGM.

The quorum for the AGM shall be 20% of the membership.

#### **The agenda of the meeting shall be:**

- i) Apologies for absence.
- ii) Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous AGM.
- iii) Chairman's report.
- iv) Secretary's report.
- v) Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts.
- vi) Election of the new Committee
- vii) Any Other Business.

Items i to v on the agenda shall be chaired by the retiring Chairman, item vi by an acting chairman who is not standing for election to office, the remaining business by the newly elected Chairman.

A member is eligible for election to Committee if nominated by two members, and agreed in writing by the nominee, prior to the closing date for nominations. If there are Committee posts for which eligible nominations have not been received, nominations and agreements in writing may be requested at the AGM.

Agenda items to be raised by members under Any Other Business must be notified in writing not less than 7 days before the AGM.

### **9. Extraordinary General Meeting**

An EGM may be called by the Committee or by not less than 10 members of the Club. The committee shall call an EGM within 28 days of receiving a valid request. NO other business may be transacted at the EGM.

The quorum for an EGM shall be one third of the membership.

At least 14 days notice shall be given to all members who were not party to the EGM being called. This notice shall be given in writing.

#### **10. Amendments to the Constitution**

The Constitution may only be amended at an EGM called for that purpose.

#### **11. Winding up of the Club**

The decision to wind up the Club may only be taken at and EGM or AGM.

In the absence of a quorum at such a meeting a motion signed by 10 members shall constitute the same decision.

**The funds of the Club shall, after the sale of assets and the payment of all outstanding debts, be disposed of as directed by the members at the final EGM, or as agreed by the members present when the motion in this section was signed.**