

Minutes of CUWS AGM 2006

Date : Monday 22nd May 2006 *Location* : Finella House, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

Meeting Commenced at 20:06

1 Present

Christian Schreiber, David Holburn, Dom Smith, Hugo Scott Whittle, Martin Atherton, Michael Wells, Stavros Tsiakkouris, Stuart Bennett, Tim Grant, Tom Heritage, Tom Wootten

2 Apologies for Absence

John Crowder

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed Tim, Unan.

4 Constitution

Two amendments to the constitution were suggested by Tim :

1. It was proposed that the first sentence of article 8.1 be changed from “A valid Annual General Meeting shall be held each year in the Easter Term at a time and place convenient to Members” to “A valid Annual General Meeting shall be held each year in either the Easter Term or the Lent Term at a time and place convenient to Members”. Proposed Martin, seconded Michael. Unan.
2. It was proposed that all references in the constitution to “Anglia Polytechnic University” and “APU” be replaced with “Anglia Ruskin University” and “ARU” respectively. This change was proposed in light of the recent name change of the university. Proposed Tim, seconded Christian. Unan.

5 Secretary’s Report

Attached.

6 Treasurer’s Report

Stuart reported that it had been a stable year with a small profit being made. He commented that the society had done much better this year with membership subscriptions, enabling the society to pay its own way with regard to some costs e.g. electricity to the shack. Notable entries in the accounts were due to the Societies Syndicate grant and the CUWS Dinner.

Dom asked what equipment had been sold (as recorded in the accounts). Martin explained the details of the radio equipment that had been sold to Daniel Schlieper earlier in the year. Dom proposed a vote of thanks to Martin for his donations. Seconded by Tim.

Stuart reported that a membership database had been established, providing information on who owes membership subscriptions.

The accounts were approved. Proposed Tim, seconded Hugo. Unan.

7 Matters Arising

7.1 *Vote of Thanks to Martin Atherton G3ZAY*

Tim proposed a vote of thanks to Martin for all his contributions to the society in the form of support, financial assistance, energy and enthusiasm etc. Seconded by Dom.

7.2 *Society Website*

Tom W commented that the society's website is out of date. Tom W asked who is responsible for the website.

Tim answered that he had been responsible, but that Stuart now has the ability to change the access rights. Tim asked for a volunteer to be responsible for the website. Tom W offered to be Webmaster for the coming year, and followed by asking a series of technical questions.

7.3 *Societies' Fair*

It was noted that a stand would need to be booked for the CUSU Societies' Fair in Michaelmas 2006 and that volunteers would be needed to man it.

7.4 *QSL Manager*

Dom is happy to continue as QSL manager for G6UW, as long as he receives computerised logs! In particular, he is keen to receive contest logs.

Dom explained that currently M0BLF is given as the QSL route for all club contacts. Some envelopes are lodged with the G6 QSL manager but there are no envelopes with any other managers. Dom asked whether we should allow people to QSL to G6UW via the bureau rather than going via M0BLF. He also asked whether it would actually make any difference. It was commented that the only difference would be that giving out QSL details on the air would be simpler under the proposed change. Michael suggested that the change be made. It was decided that people wanting to confirm a contact with G6UW should QSL via G6UW. For all other calls (M4A etc.) QSLs could be sent to G6UW or M0BLF.

7.5 *Virginia Tech Link*

Martin and Dom met a large group of Virginia Tech students at the Dayton Hamvention who seemed to be quite keen on keeping in touch (perhaps with regular HF skeds). It was suggested that the new committee should decide on what action to take.

7.6 *GB7CDX*

Michael explained that CUWS has taken responsibility for the DX Cluster node GB7CDX. He went on to say that while neither the location of the station nor the NoV have been modified, CUWS provide the system operators. Hugo and Michael are able to log in using VNC, and they are managing the system. Michael is likely to be added to the list of key holders on the NoV for the station. Michael added that the beam still needs to be turned around to point in the direction of the CUWS shack.

8 Election of Committee

8.1 *Chairman*

Tom Heritage, M0TJH. Proposed Tim, seconded Christian. Elected unopposed.

8.2 Secretary

Hugo Scott Whittle, M0HSW. Proposed Christian, seconded Dom. Elected unopposed.

8.3 Treasurer

Stuart Bennett, M0NKI. Proposed Tim, seconded Michael. Elected unopposed.

9 Co-opted Positions

9.1 QSL Manager

Dom Smith, M0BLF (subject to receiving computerised logs!).

9.2 Transmitting Secretary

Michael Wells, G7VJR.

Meeting adjourned at 20:36

Secretary's Report for the Year 2005-2006

The year began with our annual major dxpedition which, this year, went to Iceland. Few contacts were made on the mainland due to the lack of a reliable power supply. The trip culminated in an entry to the IOTA contest from the Westmann Islands. Again, few contact were made due to conditions but the trip was enjoyed by all. Another expedition to the Hebrides was made later in the summer that provided many more QSOs. For the first time in a few years, we managed to have a permanently manned stall within the societies fair. From the number of people who signed up for more information we managed to recruit 10 new members, most of whom have managed to pass all three examination levels with us and now have their M0 calls. Several other candidates from both in and out of the university have taken exams at various levels with us. Serious entries to contests have been slightly down this year due to lack of availability of members during the major contests and before to help setting up. Entries have still been made though a full entry with three stations was made in the AFS SSB contest and a reasonably competitive score was achieved. Our dinner at Caius College was a success with 13 members enjoying excellent food and company. Tom, M0TJH, again masterminded a successful national science week program with visits to two schools. Finally, our informal meetings have continued in town with good attendances on a regular basis.

Visits

July 2005

M0TJH, M0BLF, M0TDG and G3ZAY went on the annual expedition to Iceland and took part in the IOTA contest.

August 2005

G7VJR, G3ZAY and M0GMT visited the Hebrides and activated several SOTAs.

October 2005

G3ZAY, M0TJH and M0TDG joined several other CUWS members at the RSGB HF Convention near Gatwick.

February 2006

Several members went on the long planned visit to the Baldock monitoring station.

March 2006

National Science week visits to two schools in Cambridge.

March 2006

G3ZAY and G7VJR visited the Aran Islands and activated them for IOTA.

April 2006

M0HSW, M0TJH and G3ZAY visited the Visalia DX Convention in California.

May 2006

M0BLF, G7VJR and G3ZAY visited the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio where M0BLF gave a presentation on WWYC.

Contests Participation

A lot of the activity at G6UW continues to centre around contesting. Sadly, we have not been as able to provide a full multi-op team for some contests as in previous years but we have still put in teams for the major contests to give our newer members experience of major contests and experiment with different antenna configurations. Notably, we were still able to make a three station entry to the RSGB AFS phone competition this year and post a reasonably competitive score. Members continue to operate in many smaller contests under their own call signs.

Newsletters

Three newsletters were published this year, one in each term.

Memberships

RSGB – RadCom magazine is available to all our members and can be found in the shack.

ARRL – We have taken up our membership with the ARRL again. This gives us an annual compilation of QST on CD and access to the members only section of the website.

Radio Licence Exams

CUWS has continued to hold examinations at all levels. We have had numerous passes at all three levels. Particularly, we have had 8 people who recently passed the full licence exam who have passed the exam at all three levels with us.

Science Week

As last year, CUWS made visits to Cambridge primary schools during science Week 2006, to promote science and technology through Amateur Radio. Thanks to the RSGB's DVD and a series of hands-on activities, about 200 pupils had fun learning about Amateur Radio. On the Thursday of Science Week (16th March), CUWS visited St Philip's Primary, followed by St Matthew's Primary on the Friday. In both cases three Year 5/6 classes were involved. We were particularly pleased to return to St Matthew's

after the success of our visit last year, and many of the children were delighted to see us again! It was encouraging to see what an impression we had made. A new APRS-based activity was introduced this year, which proved very popular. One of our members was dispatched with a GPS receiver and a handheld, configured to transmit his position automatically every few seconds. This signal was picked up back in the (warm!) classroom, where the children tracked his progress on a satellite image displayed on a laptop. At the same time they could talk to him on VHF, sending greetings messages and giving him directions, as well as requests that he run rather than walk because he was moving too slowly on the map! Another activity involved speaking into a microphone and sending words in Morse, using an oscilloscope to look at how the two types of signals differ. We were also able to set up an antenna in both schools (which the pupils immediately pointed out was just a fishing pole!) and although in the first school a technical issue was experienced with the rig (caused by a loose screw rattling around inside), this was fixed by the next day and we made a number of contacts as G6UW/P. We were particularly pleased to contact a school in Scotland which was also hosting an Amateur Radio demonstration as part of Science Week, allowing pupils at both ends to pass messages to each other. We presented a set of Amateur Radio books to St Philip's (St Matthew's having received a set last year) and left posters and leaflets at both schools as a reminder of our visit. The pupils were all genuinely fascinated by the demonstrations and many were very keen to get involved in the hobby; it would be great to see them working towards the foundation licence in the future. CUWS would like to thank the RSGB for the brilliant resources they provided, the staff at both schools for all their help, and all the pupils who participated for making it such fun! Participating from CUWS were Tom M0TJH, Andrew M0EAP, Curon 2E0AZX and Hugo M0HSW.