

Minutes of CUWS AGM, 2008

19 May 2008

Meeting commenced 20:05

1. Present

Hugo Scott Whittle, Martin Atherton, Rui Lima Matos, Ralf Baechle, Jordan Skittrall, Will Cowell, Christian Mikkelsen, Caroline Blackmun, Martyn Johnson, Simon Hill, Markian Samborsky, James Freeman, Tom Heritage.

2. Apologies for absence

Michael Wells, Dominic Smith, John Crowder.

3. AGM minutes

The minutes of the last year's AGM were proposed by Hugo. Caroline Blackmun requested that they be amended with her last name corrected. They were seconded by Tom, and adopted unanimously.

4. Secretary's report

As the tradition has been for the last few years, the secretary's report was written and presented by the chairman, however, with a little help from the secretary. It was proposed by Caroline, seconded by Tom, and accepted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report

Christian Schreiber had stepped down effective an hour before the AGM. In his stead, the committee had co-opted Jordan Skittrall to present the accounts. Tom asked about the donation of £100 from Alliance & Leicester. Martin explained that this was the result of a 7 month long process of trying to open a ring-fenced account for donations towards the new shack. The account has yet to be opened but following a lengthy complaints procedure the bank had donated the money. Tom also proposed that the excess from the CUWS anniversary dinner be paid into the ring-fenced account.

The report and accounts were proposed by Hugo and seconded by Tom, and adopted unanimously.

Jordan proposed that the AGM formally thank Don Field, Robert Barnes, David Wright, Martin and Michael for their donations to the shack.

Martin volunteered to tell the story of how Robert Barnes, a former member, donated £1000 to the shack project.

6. Election of committee

Chairman: Hugo was proposed by Martin, seconded by Tom, and unanimously elected.

Secretary: Christian Mikkelsen stepped down. Steven Begley was proposed by Hugo, seconded by Will, and elected unanimously.

Junior treasurer: Christian Schreiber was proposed by Tom, seconded by Jordan, and elected unanimously.

President: Martin continues.

Transmitting secretary: Michael continues.

QSL manager: Dominic continues on the condition that he will continue to receive computerized logs.

7. Any other business

Tom asked if the accounts had been approved by the senior treasurer. Hugo said that they had been approved but not signed, and that they would have to be submitted to the junior proctor before the end of the calendar year. There had been a problem with last year's accounts in so far as they were submitted after 1 January 2008. [Ed.: As it turns out, this is not correct. The accounts were late the year before.]

Ralf asked if there are still problems with the power for the DX cluster. If so, Ralf has a powerful UPS, we might use.

Martin announced that the expedition to ZD8, Ascension Island, will be from 2-8 January, 2009. The cost will exceed £1000 per person, unless one is employed by the RAF in which case the flight is £5.

Will was interested in knowing about the US licence exams. Christian explained that with some paper work we should be able to give exams.

Will asked about the proposed shack subscription. Hugo said that this had not been discussed further.

Tom thanked the committee for its work.

Will offered to give a talk about the PIC-a-star project. Martin suggested that Will and Hugo reserve a date in the new academic year.

Jordan proposed that the constitution be put on the website. Hugo promised to do that immediately.

The meeting ended 20:41.

Cambridge University Wireless Society

Amateur Radio Station G6UW



“Secretary’s” Report – AGM 2008

The past year has been a particularly active one for CUWS, not least because it saw the celebration of the 75th anniversary of G6UW, as well as the usual seemingly endless stream of trips, talks and DXpeditions.

Last May, a new link was forged between CUWS and the Cambridgeshire Repeater Group, thanks to Neil Whiteside and Gavin Nesbitt, which culminated in the Radio Loan Scheme, allowing licensed student members to borrow a VHF handheld for the duration of their time in Cambridge. Gavin has since provided valuable technical assistance at the shack on various occasions, and CUWS members are always welcome at the Camb-Hams monthly meetings.

The new website now has a permanent home at www.g6uw.org, and has recently acquired a new image gallery, up-to-date articles and past editions of the newsletter. Only one newsletter has been published so far this year, but rest assured that another will be in print very soon!

The summer saw an enormous number of expeditions to locations of DX, IOTA or SOTA significance. Destinations included:

- The Lake District (early April)
- The Peak District (early June)
- The Irish islands of Inishbofin and Inishmore (late June)
- Svalbard (mid July)
- The Hebrides and St Kilda (mid August)
- Les Minquiers (early September)
- The Lake District (late September)

The trip to Les Minquiers reef was of particular note, and credit must go to Michael for the organisation of this ambitious expedition. More than 3500 QSOs were logged in 48 hours of operation.

Somewhat closer to home, no fewer than nine CUWS members visited the RSGB’s HF Convention at Wyboston Lakes, where the highlight was the presentation of the G5RP Trophy for ‘Greatest Progress in the DX Field’ to Michael. He will add his name to the trophy’s base alongside Dominic, who received the award in 2001. A successful return visit to Bletchley Park was also organised, after the popularity of last year’s trip.

We were pleased to receive the results of CQWW SSB 2006 last summer, which placed us 3rd in our category in England (an improvement of one place on the previous year); the AFS 2007 results were similarly positive with the ‘A’ team finishing 3rd out of 102. Unfortunately a change of rules meant that we were unable to enter this year’s AFS, but members made an enthusiastic effort in CQWW last October, keeping two stations on the air for the full 48 hours. Despite difficult conditions, our final score was a slight improvement on the previous year. Members have also taken part in the WPX CW contest late last May, and the RSGB Club Calls in early November, where we also finished 3rd of all club stations.

Licensing has always been one of CUWS’ strengths and this year saw candidates achieve no fewer than 15 successes in the UK exams. Even more significant was the first US licence exam, organised by Christian Mikkelsen, which took place at the beginning of March. A team of experienced volunteer examiners



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www.g6uw.org

generously gave up their time to come to Cambridge, giving Michael, Ralf and Christian the opportunity to gain their American extra-class licences. CUWS now has sufficient licensees to be able to run its own US exam sessions in the future. In addition to this, the Morse classes run by Michael have continued this year, and several members have made their first CW QSOs thanks to his hard work. Unfortunately, it has been rather problematic to find suitable days for the classes, but we definitely intend that they continue next year, with several new members having shown an interest.

Attracting people to a hobby as involved and varied as Amateur Radio is always difficult, and CUWS relies on the CUSU Societies Fair for the recruitment of most of its members. I therefore decided last October that we should attempt to run a live station on the air outside the fair, in addition to our usual stand inside, to demonstrate what Amateur Radio is really about. I am very grateful to Tom Wooten, Tom Heritage, Martin, Christian Schreiber and Daryl Burchell for their help with this. Unfortunately (and rather surprisingly) it attracted almost no interest from passers-by, although it did give the CUWS members manning the main stand a welcome break from the mayhem inside! In total, thirty-six people signed up as 'interested', five of whom, along with various others, have become involved with the society since.

Three fascinating talks took place over the last year: the first given by Christian Mikkelsen on the subject of 'Vertical Antennas', the second by Michael on 'Amateur Satellites and the G6UW Satellite Station' and the third, most prestigious talk, by Dr Ranvir Dhillon of the University of Leicester on the SPEAR radar system in Svalbard and its application to ionospheric physics. This talk was well-attended by members of both the Wireless Society and other local radio clubs, as well as students and staff from across the University. CUWS also gave its own very successful morning of presentations and demonstrations on the subject of 'Field Communications' for the Cambridge branch of *Engineers Without Borders* last term.

In addition to all of this, of course, last November saw the 75th anniversary of the callsign G6UW. A dinner was held in Caius College to mark this momentous occasion, attended by more than forty past and present members and guests. We were honoured to have among these Sir Maurice Wilkes, one of the first holders of the G6UW licence. Dinner attendees were treated to a series talks about CUWS over the years and a fine display of club archive material. To ensure that the event did not pass unnoticed, a special callsign, GB75UW, was issued to us for use throughout December, with which 1700 QSOs were made. All contacts received a specially printed full-colour QSL card.

Looking to the future, the society has recently signed a new five-year agreement with Bidwells for use of the land at Moor Barns Farm, in preparation for the installation of the new shack. Martin has begun work on the planning application, and the new deposit account is almost ready to use, just seven months after we began setting it up! Of course further donations towards the project will be most gratefully received.

I would like to thank all those who have helped out with club events, operated in contests, been on expeditions or supported the club in any other way over the year. Thanks particularly to those who've stepped in to help me out on numerous occasions, and have accommodated my last-minute panics and late-night emails! We must not forget the work of David Holburn in arranging such excellent venues at Caius for our events, or James Keeler, for ensuring that the official side of the club's business is always in order. My thanks also to Christian Schreiber and Christian Mikkelsen for their support, especially in organising the US licence exams and the special-event callsign; Dominic, for continuing to process our QSL cards so efficiently; and Michael, for bringing so much to the rôle of Transmitting Secretary. Finally, as always, the society is indebted to Martin for his unfailing enthusiasm, energy and determination.

Hugo Scott Whittle MOHSW, CUWS Chairman 2007-2008. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
