

Minutes of the CUWS AGM, 2009

04 June 2009, Corpus Christi College
Meeting commenced 19:21

1 Present

Michael Wells, Phil Wise, Martin Atherton, Oliver Snowdon, Sarah Lalor, Caroline Blackmun, Martyn Johnson, Jordan Skittrall, Hugo Scott Whittle, Tim Gale, Ralf Baechle, Christian Schreiber, Rui Lima Matos (from 19:29)

2 Apologies for absence

Kurt Morgan, Derek Smart, Martin Phillips, Tim Grant, Tom Heritage, Dominic Smith, John Crowder, Robert Chipperfield, Alan Bain, David Holburn

3 AGM minutes

The minutes of last year's AGM were adopted unanimously.

4 Secretary's report

As the tradition has been for the last few years, the secretary's report which is attached was written and presented by the chairman. It was adopted unanimously.

5 Treasurer's report

The accounts were presented by Christian Schreiber. It was pointed out that a large part of the society's assets is dedicated for the shack project and will need to be returned if that project should be cancelled. Additionally, it was stressed that the society heavily relies on donations. The accounts were adopted unanimously.

6 Election of committee

QSL manager: Dom Smith continues as QSL manager, subject to receiving computerised logs.

Transmitting secretary: Michael Wells continues.

President: Martin Atherton continues.

Junior Treasurer: Oliver Snowdon was proposed by Hugo Scott Whittle, seconded by Christian Schreiber and elected unanimously.

Secretary: Stephen Begley was proposed by Christian Schreiber, seconded by Hugo Scott Whittle and elected unanimously.

Chairman: Jordan Skittrall was proposed by Michael Wells, seconded by Martin Atherton and elected unanimously.

7 Any other business

Christian Schreiber proposed a formal motion of thanks to Martin Atherton for his continued support of the Cambridge University Wireless Society. This proposal was seconded by Hugo Scott Whittle. Michael Wells suggested that the motion should be adapted to include a note of thanks to the outgoing committee, with a special mention of Hugo Scott Whittle for his unfaltering enthusiasm for the society. The motion was carried unanimously.

Michael Wells suggested enquiring at the surveyors' office next to the shack about broadband internet access at the shack, noting that he had had an encouraging discussion with them on this matter.

Martin Atherton will follow up on the process of obtaining planning permission for the new shack and explained that the Lawful Development Certificate for which we had previously applied was not expected to be refused, based on a discussion with a planning officer about the evidence submitted as part of the application.

The meeting adjourned at 19:38.

Cambridge University Wireless Society

Amateur Radio Station G6UW



“Secretary’s” Report – AGM 2009

This has been another successful year for CUWS, and our members have been as busy as ever with a combination of DXpeditions, contests, talks, trips and licence exams.

Since our last AGM, CUWS has taken amateur radio to numerous destinations around the world, with the usual focus on the Islands and Summits on the Air programmes. These include:

- Jan Mayen (late June / early July)
- Iceland (early August)
- The Scottish highlands and Outer Hebrides (late August)
- Ilha da Barreta in Portugal (late September)
- Ben Nevis (mid October)
- Guernsey (late October / early November)
- Ascension Island (early January)
- El Salvador (mid May)

The Ascension Island expedition was particularly notable, with nearly 18,000 QSOs made over nine days by a team of six operators, using the callsign ZD8UW. A return visit to Barreta and a trip to St Pierre et Miquelon are already in the planning for the coming summer. Closer to home, another successful trip was organized to Bletchley Park, the famous World War II code-breaking centre, at the beginning of March. A small CUWS delegation attended the RSGB’s HF Convention last October, with four of our members chairing sessions or presenting talks. Two also visited the Visalia DX Convention in California in April.

The annual international radio contests are always important dates in the Society’s calendar, and this year was no exception. I reported at the last AGM on the slight improvement in claimed score in the CQWW SSB 2007 contest, despite the conditions, and over the summer we learnt that our official score had indeed exceeded the previous year’s result; we finished in second place in England in the multi-single category. A very impressive effort in the same contest in 2008 saw 13 operators keeping both stations on the air for the full 48 hours. This hard work paid off with a final claimed score of 4.2 million, head and shoulders above the 2.7 million claimed in 2007. We await the official results with excitement. Several members also took part in CQWW WPX SSB 2009, with a claimed score which places M4A 4th in the UK in the multi-single category. Last July, the Society took part in both the IARU HF World Championship, where we achieved 3rd place in zone 27, and the IOTA Contest, where we finished 3rd in our category in the UK.

CUWS continues to offer all three levels of licence exam both to members of the University and to the general public. This year has seen some 21 exam successes, with four new members each passing all three levels over the past seven months. The successful CW classes organized by Michael G7VJR have continued to run this year, and the Cambridge Repeater Group’s very generous Loan Radio Scheme is still available exclusively to licensed CUWS student members. It would be good to see more people taking advantage of this offer.



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As in previous years, CUWS held a stall at the annual CUSU Societies Fair at the beginning of Michaelmas in an attempt to attract new student members to the Society. Although 39 people signed up as being interested in the society, only three or four of these became involved over the year. Nonetheless, the membership figures are healthy, and we have one more student member and two more non-student members than last year.

Only one Society lecture took place this year, but it did represent the first collaboration between CUWS and Caius Engineering Society. In the fascinating talk, entitled "Supersonics, RF Harmonics, Digital Electronics and Teddy Bears", Henry M0HMH, Ed M0TEK and Fergus M0NBL gave an overview of the wireless technology involved in the various CU Spaceflight projects.

The summer CUWS punting trip is now becoming something of a tradition, and four members spent another very pleasant evening on the river at the end of the last Easter term. An ambitious attempt was made to run an HF station on the punt, but sadly no QSOs were logged! Half a dozen members also enjoyed a CUWS Formal Hall at Corpus in February.

There have been various administrative developments over the past year. The society archives, which were previously split between the Central Science Library and the University Library, have recently been consolidated and catalogued in the University Archives, and a full list of their contents is now available on the *Janus* website. In response to a suggestion at last year's AGM, the Society's constitution is now available on our website.

The original planning application to replace the CUWS shack, Woop Woop II, was refused last October, on the grounds that the new building was inappropriate use of green-belt land. Because the existing structure has been in place for so long, however, we were entitled to apply for a Lawful Development Certificate which, if granted, would allow the council's planning department to reconsider the application without regard for the green-belt constraint. The LDC application has recently been submitted, and we are currently waiting to hear whether it has been successful.

Several generous donations have been received towards the new shack project; however, the final target of £4700 has yet to be reached. In an attempt to make up the shortfall, an application for funding was submitted last month to the University Societies Syndicate and should have been considered at the meeting of the Technical Committee last Tuesday. We are optimistically awaiting their decision. Regardless of the result, however, further donations from members will still be most gratefully received, as sundry costs will inevitably be incurred which fall outside the original budget.

I'd like to finish by thanking everybody who has been involved with the society over the past year, including those who have taken part in contests or DXpeditions, given or attended talks or helped with the running of the Societies Fair, licence exams or practicals. Special thanks are due to David Holburn for his tireless work behind the scenes and to James Keeler for ensuring that our finances are kept in check. I'm grateful also to my fellow committee members, Stephen and Christian, for their assistance throughout the year, particularly in preparing the Societies Syndicate application. Michael's enthusiasm as Transmitting Secretary has been unfaltering, and Dominic's hard work for our contest entries, as well as his processing of our QSL cards, has been as meticulous as ever. My thanks to them both. Finally, as always, the Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Martin, without whom many of us would surely not be sitting here as CUWS members today. Thank you, Martin.

Hugo Scott Whittle MOHSW, CUWS Chairman 2008–2009. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
