

Cambridge University Wireless Society

Annual General Meeting 2022

19th May 2022

Moderation: Nikolas Thatte M0IPY (Chair)

Minutes taker: Daniel Carter M0TKU (Secretary)

Others present:

- Brian Zhao 2E0FJG (Junior Treasurer)
- Martin Atherton G3ZAY (President)
- Edwin Bahrami Balani M0RNN
- Caroline Blackmun M3ZCB
- Robert Chipperfield M0VFC
- Stephen De Bank M0UXP
- David Holburn G3XZP
- Martyn Johnson M1MAJ
- Charlie Jonas M0ZCJ
- Arnav Koshy M7ORS
- Dan McGraw M0WUT
- Richard Parker G4AWP
- Dominic Smith M0BLF

Location of the meeting: Hosted online

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from William Cowell G0OPL and Michael Wells G7VJR.

Michael G7VJR additionally sent a note of thanks and appreciation to the committee and organisers of the CUWS Dinner at Gonville and Caius College.

2 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted unanimously with no corrections to be made.

Proposed: G3ZAY

Seconded: M0VFC

3 Secretary's Report

The report was distributed in the meeting agenda, and accepted unanimously with no changes to be made.

A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

Proposed: G4AWP
Seconded: M0WUT

4 Junior Treasurer's Report

The report was distributed in the meeting agenda, and accepted unanimously with no changes to be made.

A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

Proposed: M0VFC
Seconded: M0BLF

5 Election of Officers

The following were put forward for election as members of the CUWS Committee for 2022–23:

Chair: Nikolas Thatte M0IPY (continuing)

Secretary: Arnav Koshy M7ORS

Junior Treasurer: Stephen De Bank M0UXP

Proposed: M0ZCJ
Seconded: M0RNN

The proposed officers were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

6 Any Other Business

There being none, the meeting was concluded after 3 minutes and 18 seconds.

Secretary's Report

2021–22 has seen something of a return to normal after a much reduced year of events in 2020–21, with many more events able to run this year than last year.

May and July 2021 saw two rounds of the YOTA contest, with a club entry made to the first round and a number of CUWS members submitting individual entries from the shack in the second round. We were also able to hold a barbecue at the shack to coincide with the May contest, with thanks to Rob M0VFC.

Also in July, a group completed several maintenance tasks on the shack and antennas including replacing the steel cables on the telescoping towers and the co-ax on the 40m rotating dipole. Many thanks to all those who assisted.

Later in the summer, several CUWS members took part in the Camb Hams Field Day events from Worts Causeway (HF CW NFD, VHF NFD, SSB Field Day and 144MHz Trophy Contest). Although not specifically CUWS events, these (and all other Camb Hams events) are open to CUWS members.

The new academic year began with the first in-person Freshers Fair for two years. We received 124 sign-ups over the two days, and have welcomed a number of these to the shack across the year (with particular thanks to Charlie M0ZCJ, Dan M0WUT and Martin G3ZAY for facilitating these visits). Three CUWS members have passed the Foundation licence exam so far this year, with exam books on loan to several other members.

As usual, CUWS made a club entry into the “multi-one” category of the CQWW SSB contest in October 2021. We had sufficient interest to keep both “run” and “mult” stations occupied throughout the 48 hours, and finished the contest second in the UK in our category. Thanks go to the University Farm for allowing us to use their grass field by the shack for the LF antennas.

Our programme of talks continued (admittedly only online rather than in-person) with Dom M0BLF presenting a session on the technical operations of Cambridge 105 Radio in November 2021. Martin G3ZAY then gave a talk to the Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club (CDARC) later in November on the topic of sunspots, at which CUWS members were also present. Dan M0WUT also presented a talk to CDARC, on soldering, in February 2022.

The GB21YOTA callsign was activated at the shack in December 2021, with four students and several others making contacts across two days.

In April 2022 we were finally able to hold the CUWS 100th Anniversary Dinner (which had been delayed from October 2020) at Gonville and Caius College. Many alumni were able to return for this, although we are exploring the possibility of another dinner next academic year since several members were unable to attend.

Charlie M0ZCJ has organised entries into mid-week VHF/UHF contests throughout the year, with others joining on some occasions. We have also attempted to re-start CUWS meetings at the Maypole with some success, although we have not been able to run them as frequently as pre-2020.

Daniel Carter (Secretary)

Junior Treasurer's Report

The CUWS financial year used to run from April-March with accounts approved at the AGM in April or May, but the Junior Proctor decided several years ago that all C.U. Societies should adopt the academic year as the standard. All Society accounts now run from October 1st to September 30th. They must be signed off by the Senior Treasurer and filed with the Proctors by December 31st. This means that it is no longer possible formally to approve the accounts at an AGM in April/May and it is not possible to hold an AGM in the Michaelmas Term as key committee post-holders will have graduated.

The accounts are attached in the required Proctorial format and show the 2021/22 full year picture as well as the current year to date. The 2021/22 figures were approved by the Senior Treasurer, Dr Keeler, in the autumn and have been filed with the Proctor.

As always there is little of interest to note. Our income is derived from membership subscriptions which are typically about £100 per annum, and from donations from alumni or frequent shack users which balance the expenditure. Our outgoings are mainly for RSGB affiliation and shack electricity. A charge for the Freshers Fair stand will only appear if it is claimed by whoever pays it. The financial position is stable and we have a balance in the bank account of around £2000.

At present we do not have full on-line access to the bank account but this will be addressed shortly.

The main change in the last year was a switch of electricity supplier from Eon to Octopus. The standing charge dropped from 44p per day to 26.3p per day. The average unit price dropped from 22p to 17p. On top of that we received a £100 credit for switching. Electricity prices in the current year will be significantly less than before but in line with the market we can expect a very substantial increase in August 2022 when our fixed price tariff expires. At that point it will be very important that everyone using the shack heating makes an appropriate contribution to the cost via the honesty box on the bench.

Because of the lack of online access to our Lloyds account (to verify in real time who has paid), the finances for the CUWS Dinner were handled by our President G3ZAY and he reports that there may be a small surplus (less than £100) which can be donated to the Society.

Brian Zhao (Junior Treasurer)