



# STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
**Meeting started at 20.25 and closed at 21.00**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: 25 members signed**

## Minutes

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Joe Barnes, Gary Pugh, Dai Davis, Howard Russell, Robin Millar

### 2. Introduction of President

Nick Barnes gave the apologise of the Society's President, Robin Millar.

*Postscript: It is with great sadness that the club records the passing of Robin who died on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April after a short illness.*

### 3. Minutes of previous year's AGM

The minutes of our last AGM were proposed and seconded as a true record.

**Proposed by: C Ewing**

**Seconded by: J Withington**

Unanimous show of hands confirmed minutes approved.

### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

### 5. Officers Reports

#### a. Chairman's report

Nick Barnes reported as follows:

Well, I've a little more to report this year than last, thankfully, since we've been able to meet regularly without major spikes in Covid numbers or lockdowns. I suspect the numbers attending meetings have been a little thin due to a degree of understandable 'Covid anxiety', but we've had a fair turnout each week throughout the year.

I mentioned at last year's AGM that we were then sourcing the parts to build Ian White's mains filter and that proved to be quite a successful build. While on the subject of project building, a number of members, including me, have been completing the G4NVH power meter that we were starting when the pandemic kicked off. There are still one or two yet to be completed and calibrated. The most recent project build has been the 40dB sampling tap, which about 15 of us have now built, and hopefully there will be demonstrations and further projects which will put it to use. We've got ideas for a few interesting construction projects yet to come...

We've enjoyed a few presentations this year- John did talks on online and offline contact logging and demonstrated AllStar to us, and Dan gave us a talk and demonstration of Wires X towards the end of last year. I attempted to

## **STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

explain the 40dB sampling tap and demonstrate some of its potential uses last October.

I mentioned the passing of Rob Clarke in my monologue last year and following on from that Steve has organised several auctions of Rob's equipment raising around £1500 for his family.

While on the subject of members who have left us, sadly Ron Owen passed away shortly before Christmas. He will be missed.

We held another summer camp up at Billington last year which, at Graeme's suggestion, has been named the 'Mucky Boots' camp in memory of Rob. That camp included an evening during which a group of scouts and their leaders came along to 'play radio' and work towards their communications badges. There are plans to repeat that camp this summer, provisionally 14th to 21st July- keep an eye on the website.

The club had a visit from Leigh Preece in October. Leigh is the RSGB rep for this region and is very keen to help the club in the future if he can.

The organisation called 'Tree of Life' visited the club last summer wanting to learn about the practicalities of using radios. John and Nigel paid them a return visit in August to show them the ropes.

The Club acquired its first SDR transceiver an Icom 7300 last summer and John gave us an introduction to using it in August.

John has been busy this past year- he has managed to regain control of the club's eQSL and QRZ accounts. He also helped Tony and Dan to install the collinear aerial as a permanent feature on the end of the building.

What feels like a major achievement this year has been the opening of a new bank account. For the last year the club has been unable to access our Barclays account which in large part explains why some of you have not received refunds for subs which you are owed due to the pandemic shutdown. The new Lloyds account is now up and running and the plan is that these refunds will be paid ASAP. I also want to insist that any payments made to the club from this point on are made into the new Lloyds account. The Barclays account will be closed as soon as we are able to. There are slips with the new account details to take away tonight. Please change any direct debits and standing orders from Barclays to Lloyds as soon as you can. Pay no more money to Barclays! Peter will no doubt have more to say about this in a moment.

So, we've had quite a fruitful year, all told. All the achievements I've mentioned didn't happen by accident- they are the result of hard work by those involved, so on behalf the whole club membership I want to thank all those who have made things happen.

As Chair, I want to express a thank you to all the members of the committee for their efforts in keeping things ticking along during the last year, and if you will indulge me I would like thank John and Nigel personally for their help and support in my role as chairman, -they have helped me enormously.

Let's hope next year will continue to see the club flourish.

### ***b. Treasurer's report:***

Peter Wilkes reported as follow.

#### **Barclays Community Account**

## STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	from 07/03/2022 (2021 - 2022 AGM)	£ 4,639.11
INCOME	Membership subscriptions 2021 - 2022	£ 5.00
	Membership subscriptions 2022 - 2023	£ 1,390.00
	Sale of club components	£ 10.00
	Rob Clarke - SK Auction	£ 1,296.00
	Telford Rally sales (after fees)	£ 17.00
	Tea Fund	£ 110.00
	Donations	£ 35.00
	Club stock - Coax	£ 4.00
	Project - Power Meter	£ 41.00
TOTAL		£ 2,908.00
EXPENDITURE	None	£ -
TOTAL		£ -
CLOSING BALANCE	as of 07/02/2023	£ 7,547.11
<b>Lloyds Treasurer's Account</b>		
BROUGHT FORWARD	New account Opened	£ -
INCOME	Loan from Nick Barnes	£ 1,000.00
	TOTAL	£ 1,000.00
EXPENDITURE	None	£ -
	TOTAL	£ -
CLOSING BALANCE	as of 07/02/2023	£ 1,000.00
	TOTAL	£ 8,547.11

### Auditors

- Nick Barnes
- Graham Reay

Auditors confirm that the accounts submitted reflect a true state of affairs.

### **c. Membership Secretary's Report:**

Graham Reay reported as follows:

This year (2022/2023) has been an uninterrupted year for the Society. We have met on all meeting nights for members to attend. Since the Pandemic our members have stayed loyal, and this allows me to produce the following membership details. We have 31 Full members, 5 Retired members and 2 Student members a total of 38 Members. At this stage I must mention losing

## **STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

one of our loyal members who has been with us since 2010, and that is Ronald Owen who sadly passed four of months ago.

As on previous reports I have to mention that we are encountering difficulty obtaining membership subscriptions from a few, but some of that may be our fault. So please do not be offended if I have a quiet word with those members. Due to the Pandemic some of the membership is entitled to a refund for the period between April 2020 and August 2022 when the Society were not able to meet. A list of those members has been given to the Treasurer to issue refunds.

May I take this opportunity in thanking you for your continued support and hope you continue in the future.

### ***d. Training Officer's report:***

Steve Collins reported as follows.

A limited amount to report this year. Since Covid most training has been completed online, also exams are also being completed online. The club will be willing to arrange training courses should the need arise but a minimum of 4 -5 people to make such courses viable.

It is noted that as there is no practical elements to any of the examination levels now the need to run such courses although these could be arranged if sufficient people were interested.

### ***e. Equipment Officer's report:***

Daniel Cadden reported as follows.

The inventory review of the club's equipment is well advanced with a plan to make a catalogue available for members to understand what is available. A new loan form is being developed which describes what is expected of members borrowing equipment.

A second cupboard is planned to be procured to make the storage of items more orderly and ease to access.

### ***f. Address by Robin Millar, President***

Nick Barnes gave the address from Robin, in his absence.

I was wondering when everyone was looking out for the latest comet, passing by the earth, whether it had an impact on Radio signals?

I read that sunspot activity on the sun provides the amateur radio operators all over the world with several good to excellent signal propagation conditions. But you must watch the sun's activity really closely to make the most of it. This article went on to say the detrimental effects the slowly weakening sunspot has on propagation over the coming years will be compensated by the much-improved performance of Software Defined Radios SDRs together with efficient antennas.

I guess the attractiveness of amateur Radio is that the technology of radio communications, and digital communications over radio, are well within the grasp of many. They say that amateur radio has always been as "high-tech"

# **STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

as the operator wants it to be, often way ahead of mass market technology!

Talking of High Tech my nephew up in Scotland sent me a bit of Low Tech to teach the grandchildren how a radio works. A Retro Radio in a cardboard box, it takes you through the stages of checking out the amplifier and enhancements and the components don't need soldering they push into a matrix of connections. Now I am proud to say it works and to prove it .....all in a cardboard box.

Looking at the website the Wednesday Club Net sounds like a great idea to maximise involvement of all members where possible. Don't quite understand why a stick coloured white will act as an antenna.....what do I know ?

Also, the club visits to external venues is now quite viable with the run-down of COVID. The museum in Liverpool & Jodrell are both interesting together with the Museum of Great Britain.

I think we should show our appreciation for the standing committee for leading the club throughout the year, a year when you could approach normal operation.

## **6. Election of Society Officers for 2021/2022**

The current committee stood down and Graeme Boull invited the membership to elect new committee members for the forthcoming year. The following people were elected to the committee:

**Chairperson**                                 **Nick Barnes**  
**Proposed by:**                                 **G Boull**  
**Seconded by:**                                **V Baille**  
**Voting:**   **Unanimous by show of hands**

**Vice Chair**                                     **John Withington**  
**Proposed by:**                                 **G Boull**  
**Seconded by:**                                **V Baille**  
**Voting:**   **Unanimous by show of hands**

**Secretary:**                                    **Nigel Moorby**  
**Proposed by:**                                 **G Boull**  
**Seconded by:**                                **V Baille**  
**Voting:**   **Unanimous by show of hands**

**Treasurer:**                                   **Peter Wilkes**  
**Proposed by**                                   **G Boull**  
**Seconded by:**                                **V Baille**  
**Voting:**   **Unanimous by show of hands**

**Equipment Officer:**                       **Daniel Cadden**  
**Proposed by:**                                 **G Boull**  
**Seconded by:**                                **V Baille**

# STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Voting: Unanimous by show of hands

Membership Secretary: Graham Reay

Proposed by: G Boull

Seconded by: V Baille

Voting: Unanimous by show of hands

Training Officer: Steve Collins

Proposed by: G Boull

Seconded by: V Baille

Voting: Unanimous by show of hands

General Member: Chris Ewing

Proposed by: G Boull

Seconded by: V Baille

Voting: Unanimous by show of hands

General Member: Paul Clark

Proposed by: G Boull

Seconded by: V Baille

General Member: Andrew Shaw

Proposed by: G Boull

Seconded by: V Baille

Voting: Unanimous by show of hands

## 7. Motions

### a. *Confirmation of Bank Account signatories*

The following signatories were confirmed at the meeting,

**Nick Barnes**

**Peter Wilkes**

**Graham Reay**

**Steve Collins**

**Nigel Moorby**

### b. *Tea fund:*

Chris Ewing gave a verbal report on the club tea fund:

£298.37 already passed over to the treasurer with the balance of £200.00 passed over at the meeting.

### c. *Summer camp*

Nick Barnes proposed a summer camp on his field starting on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July for a week. There was a general agreement by the members that this was a good idea and would be supported. The name of the camp would be Mucky Boots Summer Camp to recognise the support given to the club by Rob who passed away recently.

### d. *Visit to Radio Museum, Derby*

Members are reminded that the club have planned a visit to the radio museum in Derby on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. If you wish to join the visit please add you name to the form on the sign in table.

# **STAFFORD & DISTRICTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

## **8. Presentations**

There were no presentations

**The next AGM is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**