



FIVE AND NINE PLUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
APPLEDORE AND DISTRICT
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club Callsigns: G2FKO and GX2FKO
Web Site : www.adarc.co.uk

CLUB'S OFFICERS

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------|--|
| President | John Jeffers | G0UNB | |
| Chairman | Terry Adams | G4CHD | |
| Vice Chairman | Dave Lawrence | G0PGK | |
| Secretary | Alan Fisher | M6CCH | 01237 422833 Email: fisheralan@btinternet.com |
| Treasurer | Laurence Soutter | G4XHK | |
| Committee | Mike Hammond | G3PGA | |
| | John Lovell | M0JKL | |
| | Graham Bailey | G1ZTJ | |
| QSL Manager | John Lovell | M0JKL | |
| Web Master | John Lovell | M0JKL | |
| Editor | Terry Adams | G4CHD | |

April, 2013

EDITORIAL

Last month's Meeting was of course the Club AGM and full details of your new Committee and to whom the Jim McFee Cup was awarded are given later in this Newsletter. An EGM was held after the AGM and all proposed changes to the Club Constitution were passed - details again later in this Newsletter. By the time you read this, the G100RSGB 2 day activity by our Club will have taken place and a report on how things went will be given in next month's Newsletter. What with Easter and family visits etc your Committee has not yet had an opportunity to meet and plan this year's events/talks calendar. However, it is hoped to rectify this before the next Newsletter. Therefore, if you have a topic for a talk or any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact any Committee member asap. This month's talk by Steve (G6SQX) is another interesting subject - '101 things to do with a tin can and a Raspberry Pi' - and with Steve's abundant energy and enthusiasm for the subject, the talk promises to be a 'one not to be missed' evening. It is always exciting to start a new Club year and with new members joining us and the Club now having a good working station, it should be yet another great year. So, enjoy the Newsletter, and as soon as details are known about future Club Meetings, I will circulate the information by e mail. Enjoy the read



Terry (G4CHD)

CLUB MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, Meetings are held at the Appledore Football Social Club starting at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Visitors are always welcome. For further information, contact Alan (M6CCH)

- Apl 10/11 G100RSGB Special Event Station at Laurence (G4XHK) qth
- Apl 15th 101 things to do with a tin can and a Raspberry pi by Steve (G6SQX)

LOCAL SKEDS

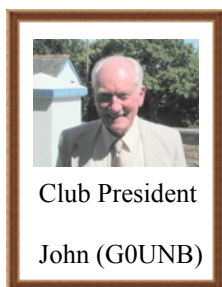
- Zepp Net:** Mon, Tues, Thurs : 145.450 MHz
Wed : via GB3DN 1600 local time
- 6m Net:** Wednesday, 8pm, 51.5MHz FM
- HF Net:** Friday at 1600 local time
7.185 MHz ± qrm
- Slow Morse:** This net run by Dave (G3YGJ) **has been suspended. Please contact Dave if you require Morse practice.**
- 70cm Net:** Sunday, via GB3ND, 1100 - noon local time

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING

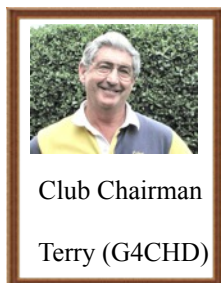
CLUB ANNUAL AGM and EGM

There was a very good attendance for our AGM which commenced by the reading of the Chairman's, Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports. A copy of the Club Financial Accounts is attached to members' copies of this Newsletter for your reference.

This year, Brian (M0BRB) was stepping down from the role of Secretary and indicated that he also wished to retire from the Committee. Brian's contribution to the Club over many years has been too great to itemise briefly here but suffice to say that the Club is extremely grateful for all his hard work and enthusiasm over the years and his presence and guiding hand on the Committee will be sorely missed. Dave (G3YGJ) was also stepping down from his position on the Committee after giving many years of support and hard work for which the Club is also extremely grateful. The election of officers and Committee members then took place and the Club is very grateful to Alan (M6CCH) for stepping in and taking over the role of Secretary. Graham (G1ZTJ) was voted from being a co opted to a full elected member of the Committee. The new Committee is shown below :-



Club President
John (G0UNB)



Club Chairman
Terry (G4CHD)



Club
Vice Chairman
Dave (G0PGK)



Club Secretary
Alan (M6CCH)



Club Treasurer
Laurence
(G4XHK)



Club Committee
Mike (G3PGA)



Club Committee
John (M0JKL)



Club Committee
Graham (G1ZTJ)



Alan (M6CCH) takes over the role of Secretary from Brian (M0BRB)

As has been mentioned in previous Newsletters, the decision as to whom the Jim McFee Cup should be awarded this time was a hard one for the Committee to make with the Club extremely fortunate to have so many members who have given their time and energy for the benefit of the Club. However, taking all factors into account, it was decided to award the Cup this year to a very deserving member, namely Brian (M0BRB). This was for all the hard work and time given by Brian over and above his Secretarial duties, to running the Zepp Nets, organising examinations, and many other activities that Brian is too modest to mention. The Cup was presented by John (G0UNB), our Club President.



Having completed the AGM, an EGM was held in order to alter the Club Constitution with regards to co opting non voting Committee members and to address the Club's responsibilities to Minors and vulnerable adults. Details of the proposed amendments were given in last month's Newsletter and all amendments were passed unanimously. A copy of the amended Constitution is attached to this Newsletter.

With all the official matters completed, the Meeting left some time for members to socialise.

Many thanks to all those members who were able to attend at make the evening so successful and we now look forward to yet another successful Club year.

Terry (G4CHD)

SUDOKU PUZZLE

The aim is to enter a number into each cell so that **any column, or any row, or any block of cells contains all numbers from 1 to 9**. This month's puzzle is categorised as **Advanced** difficulty.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | | | 7 | 9 | 2 | | |
| | 2 | | | 6 | | | | 4 |
| | | | | 8 | 3 | | | |
| | 1 | 3 | | | | 9 | | |
| 7 | | | | | | 6 | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | 3 | 2 |
| | | | 8 | 2 | | | | |
| | 8 | | | 1 | | | | 6 |
| 9 | | | 3 | 4 | | | | 7 |

Terry (G4CHD)

CROSSWORD

This month's Crossword by Stuart (M1FWD).
The answers will be published in the next month's Newsletter. Good luck!

Clues Across

- 1) Sound or the reproduction of sound (5)
- 6) 5 Victor land (4)
- 6) Sierra Tango land (5)
- 8) A sweet made from sugar or honey, nuts and egg white (6)
- 10) Anagram for a native of Tango 5 land (6)
- 12) Heron (5)
- 13) Leader of prayers in a mosque (4)
- 14) A form of diode in which a certain reverse voltage produces a sudden increase in reverse current (5)

Clues Down

- 1) Victor Kilo land (9)
- 2) Echo Papa land (4)
- 3) Tango November land (5)
- 4) Instrument for measuring an electric charge (9)
- 7) A loud or unpleasant or undesired sound (5)
- 9) A cylinder of tobacco rolled in tobacco leaves (5)
- 11) An S-shaped line or moulding (4)

Last month's answers :-

Across 1) limiter 6) air 7) Germany 8) oche 9) beat
12) Eritrea 14) out 15) Andorra

Down 1) log 2) March 3) trap 4) ray 5) drift 8) Ofcom
10) error 11) sild 12) eta 13) Aga

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|----|----|----|--|---|
| 1 | | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 |
| | | | | 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | | 7 | | | |
| | | | 8 | | | | |
| | | 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | 11 | | |
| | | | | 12 | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | |
| | | | 14 | | | | |

Stuart (M1FWD)

LOCAL REPEATERS

70cm Handy Cross Repeater/Echolink (#221334)

Gateway (GB3ND)

User: Listen 433.35MHz– Transmit 434.95MHz
Access 1750Hz Tone (Timeout 4.25 mins)/ 77Hz CTCSS
Repeater keeper is Jeff (G4SOF)

2m Stibb Cross Repeater (GB3DN)

<http://www.g0rql.co.uk/gb3dn.htm>

User: Listen 145.6375MHz - Transmit 145.0375 MHz.
Access 1750 Hz Tone or 77 Hz CTCSS Repeater keeper is Tony (G1BHM).
Yahoo users group for general chat and banter at :-
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GB3DN/>

LATEST INFORMATION ON G100RSGB

The 4 stations for G100RSGB are fully tested and ready for operation on the 10/11 April. Stations are for: 40m band SSB 400watts - using club FT450 and linear, Alfa Delta antenna; 20/15/10m bands PSK31 50watts - using FT857, Signalink, laptop and vertical antenna; 80/40m bands CW/SSB 400watts - using K3, linear and 80m offcentre dipole; 2m FM/SSB/CW 25watts - using TS751E and vertical antenna. Logging is Logger32 and hard copy. Station operation is from 1000 - 1700 local; other periods possible dependent on conditions/ operator availability. G3PGA holds a list of volunteers so far; contact by e-mail if not yet on the list.

With 4 stations available there should be an opportunity for Club members, not yet involved, to 'have a go' operating/ logging (or making the tea!) on the day, after a short familiarisation with equipment/ logging/ kettle. (Foundation/ Intermediate licence holders will need a full licencee present to use higher powers) Those who have already notified Mike will have priority!"

Laurence (G4XHK)

MY FIRST SHIP (Part 17) - by Brian (M0BRB)

Leaving Cape Town, rounding the Cape the sea very rough for a time until we were able to set our course North for home, then we had a following sea to help us get up to full speed ahead and homeward bound revolutions, the Chief kept asking if all well down below, the reply always “running like a dream Chief”. The Navigating Man told me we were about 100 miles off the coast of West Africa and doing our 10 to 11 knots. Going down below at 1900 hrs to start my watch, there was only Dan the 6th Engineer and the Arab Greaser on the lower platform with my 7th Engineer watch mate behind me on the last ladder down, I ask Danny “where the 2nd was”? He said “gone fishing”, and when I ask him what for? He said “shark”. Well, I knew that the old 2nd would be drunk, so I sent both Engineers to find him, and get him back to his Cabin, before the Chief found out, when my engineer came back down he said that they had found him back at the stern of the ship, with about 10 fathom of rope and a very large hook at the end baited with meat, so they cut the rope and let it all go, to sink behind the ship.

Crossing the Bay of Biscay, flat calm, but a little rolling motion, received our orders for the UK, had to wait for which port, now keeping a sharp eye on the Fireman, to make sure when cleaning Burner Nozzles, that it did not take to much time, and not lose steam pressure keeping the knots to nearly 11 or five minute to travel one mile, homeward bound RPM.

Orders received for Glasgow, so now on a course to take the ship outside of the West Coast of Ireland and then to the Clyde, every one excited to get near to home. The Chief now checking, who was coming back for the next trip. Myself, leaving to get a longer stay at home with my family. The 3rd intending to rejoin after a few days at home, the 5th leaving and both the 6th and 7th rejoining the 6th Engineer Danny getting promoted to the 4th Engineer to replace me. The old 2nd Engineer being retired, and the best news of all, old Chief Willi rejoining his ship.

Now ship slowed down to nine knots, so to arrive on Sunday morning to ensure that we would be paid for Sunday at sea. All the Officers rejoining allowed to leave first. Myself staying to wait for the new 4th to rejoin, the old Chief rejoined Sunday night and was around to my cabin, as soon as he could, wanting to know what had been going on in his Engine Room.

I thought this a bit strange, and that he should have checked with the Chief that was leaving, when I told him I was leaving, he did his very best to talk me into staying. No, I was going home to Mary.

So I left the Orient City, the following Friday on my way home.

I never sailed on the Orient again, my first ship.

Four months later. I joined the Madras City. sister ship to the Orient, tho' she was never the same as the first ship, I joined her in Liverpool.

The Chief was the one that had been on the Orient the last trip and the Captain was the same Master that was on her when I first joined, and the 3rd Engineer was the 4th Engineer of the Orient when I first joined her, so just like one big family.

In 1961, I saw both the Orient and the Madras City alongside each other, in the centre of the Cardiff Dock,

waiting to go to the Scrap Yards.

I felt very sad. Since then, I felt very privileged to have served on the last of type of ship that helped build our maritime trade from 1930s to the end of 1950, including through the convoy system of the 2nd world war, that helped our country to win. M0BRB. Nautical Node. Ends.

Brian (M0BRB)

I think that was the last episode from Brian to whom goes a big thank you for keeping us so enthralled with his travels.

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS590S, mint condition, double boxed with manual, microphone and power lead. £890

For further information, contact John on either **01237 478410** or email at john@webclever.co.uk

John (M0JKL)

TECHNICAL TEASER FROM DAVE (M0JAP)

Last month, Dave (M0JAP) set a technical teaser which I'm sure has got many of us thinking and maybe like me, scratching your head or delving into text books.

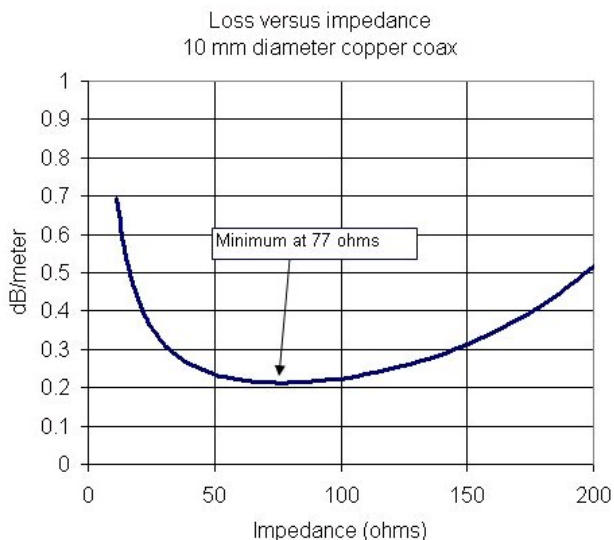
“Why is it that it's commonly arranged to use a 50 Ω impedance level with transmitter outputs but often a 75 Ω level for receiver front-ends? No, it's not just a matter of antenna impedances, it's more fundamental and originates from the earliest days of radio engineering and use of coax. cable”.

However, to put us all at rest, this is the definitive answer from Dave :-

There's some confusion in the literature about exactly what was decided and when, for in the early days proper standards were often of least concern commercially and at best de facto only standards developed. Without providing all the maths, which is not that difficult but takes space here, we provide a brief summary of the considerations which led to the two most common characteristic impedance values used for coaxial transmission line. As we all know, the propagation mode we use at all normal frequencies in coax is TEM rather than a waveguide one, so conductor losses need careful consideration, and that is part of the story.

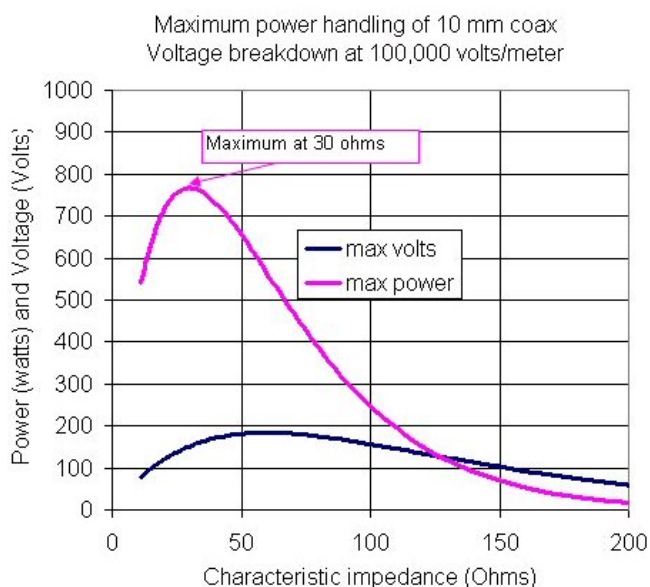
To go back to the earliest days of radio and to the physical basics, let us consider a few useful basic antenna configurations. If we take a $\lambda/2$ dipole antenna this has an antenna impedance (radiation resistance) of 73Ω (idealised, in free space and assuming thin, lossless wires). Actually the antenna impedance is more like $73 + j43 \Omega$, but if we trim the length back a little to 0.48λ we can easily show that this becomes a “clean” 70Ω . And if we now consider a $\lambda/4$ monopole over an infinite ground plane (or practically, adequate radial counterpoises) we can see that this impedance is now just half that of the $\lambda/2$ dipole, since we have just one half now of the pair of $\lambda/4$ length images making up the $\lambda/2$ dipole we had before. That is, we now have $36.5 + j21.5 \Omega$ for the $\lambda/4$ monopole impedance and

similarly can eliminate the reactance part by adjusting the length slightly. So perhaps nom. 70 Ω and 35 Ω values might be appropriate ? No, that's not the correct story – nor many others of this ilk ! Let's look more closely at two key issues for the cable, that is losses and power handling. After all, we can always use baluns for matching antennas. If we make a few reasonable, simplifying assumptions, we can derive a plot for coax loss/length which exhibits the following form:



The y-axis scale depends on the coax. diameter, with the example shown above having a 1 cm outer dia. So this shows that an optimum for lowest (conductive) losses is around 77 Ω, taken commonly as 75 Ω nom. This characteristic impedance is often slightly illogically termed 'VHF' or 'video' or 'CATV' to reflect the need in these situations to minimise losses (and as if to imply that other systems have never seen the need for low losses !).

We consider now peak power handling, and making reasonable assumptions over breakdown levels (100 kV/m between parallel plates), the maths. then leads us to a different graph for these same parameters:-

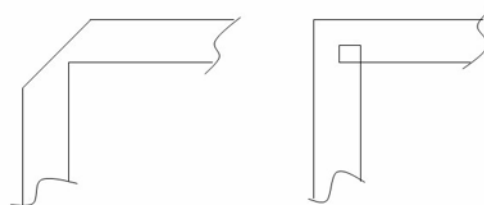


So we see that for max. power handling a Z_0 around 30 Ω is best, and for best voltage handling a Z_0 nearer 50 Ω is best (Note the dual y-axis scaling above).

All this is for air spacing, so in practice we commonly fill the space with dielectric to some extent, usually PTFE. This effects flexibility with adequate stability, and enables the voltage and power rating to be increased greatly as the critical breakdown voltage can be an order of magnitude higher. But against this the dielectric losses can start to increase for more filling. But the basic message here is that increasingly over the decades since WWII, the dominant Z_0 used has been taken to be 50 Ω, a decent compromise between 30 Ω and 77 Ω (for power handling and losses resp.) And nom. 75 Ω cabling is still used for lower loss situations. Fortunately in fact, if we fill the coax completely with PTFE (semi-rigid coax.) the optimum for min. loss (not power handling) slides down from the 77 Ω figure explained above, to around 52 Ω, too! (The optimum for min. loss with foam filling is more like 64 Ω)

So the above outlines the origin of the common rule of thumb: "50 Ω for transmission, 75 Ω for reception". But in fact filling fully with PTFE pulls the Z_0 optimum for lowest loss down nearer 50 Ω anyway – and to 64 Ω for foam filling.. Of course life is not always quite so simple, but it is interesting to note that even for microwave low-noise systems the 50 Ω level still dominates. And if the circuit is in stripline (triplane) or microstrip, it works out that 50 Ω is still a reasonable Z_0 to employ. "It's the magic of 50 Ω. " !

This leads nicely to next month's Technical Teaser. How might the bend in the 50 SHF microstrip on the right work just as well as the one on the left ? No maths. is necessary.



The two pictures show the metal top track, with the small square on the right one 'missing'. The clue: the word 'quasistatic' - even though the operating frequency can be well into the microwave region. (If you are still struggling, consider a discontinued inner (open end) within a longer coax line: where is the true open circuit ? At the same plane as the end of the inner ?)

73 de Dave (M0JAP)

NUMERICAL PROBLEM FROM DAVE (M0JAP) !!

Q Why do white sheep eat more than black sheep ?

A Because there are more of them.!!

‘Dave the Stars’

Well, that’s how Mike (G3PGA) refers to Dave (M0JAP) ! If you went to Dave’s talk last October, you’ll know that after building his amateur optical observatory Dave set about building up a set of amateur measurement facilities locally for both radio astronomy and geophysics. Although all this is loosely radio/microwave or lower frequency electronics, the second area (geophysics) is perhaps of greater interest to ADARC members as it covers H-field and propagation measurements that relate to solar flares, the solar wind and such parameters as the Kp-index. Recently Terry sent out an e-mail to members informing them that a small, informal new group might soon be set up. Since then this new group has indeed been formed, the Devon Astro and Geophysics Group (DAGG). DAGG members recently visited the Herschel Museum in Bath and later heard the Annual Herschel Society lecture on the Higgs Boson and Galaxies Formation by Prof Longair. Under a blanket arrangement with Exeter University, DAGG has also recently been able to attend three post-graduate level internal lectures/seminars at Exeter (on planetary gaseous flows and on galaxy formation modelling). DAGG will also help Dave with setting up and running Dave’s equipment (so these folk can now be unkindly referred to by Laurence as Dave’s staff ...J). Dave’s optical astronomy and radio astronomy/geophysics facilities are on two separate sites, at home and a more rural one. If you have an interest, and especially if you might like to help some time, contact Dave at dave@greenover.net or keep on eye on these two new fledgling web sites: www.haroldclayton.org and <http://sites.google.com/site/devonastrogeo/> (You’ll need a password to get beyond the home pages).

The final pages of this Newsletter include a copy of the Club’s final accounts (for members’ Newsletters) and a copy of the now amended Club Constitution.

If any member has an article that they feel would be of interest to Club members, please send it in to me and it will make your Club Newsletter all the more interesting.

Enjoy the read

Terry (G4CHD)

Accounts available to members

Accounts available to members

APPLEDORE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CONSTITUTION
(as amended March 18th 2013)

1. NAME

The society shall be known as the Appledore and District Amateur Radio Club.

2. AIMS

The aim of the Club shall be to further the interests of its members in all aspects of Amateur Radio and associated activities.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open, subject to the discretion of the Committee, to all persons interested in the aims of the Club.

(a) Full Members

Full Members must be 16 years of age or over, OR must hold the permission of any competent authority to install and operate an amateur radio station.

(b) Student Members

Student Members must be in full time education, and under 25 years of age.

(c) Honorary Members

Honorary Membership may be granted to any person, who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered outstanding service to the Club, either directly or indirectly.
Such membership shall carry the rights of full membership but shall be free of subscription.

(d) Guests

Members may invite guests to meetings. No visitor may attend more than three meetings in each year.

All members shall abide by the Constitution of the Club. The Committee shall have the power to expel any member whose conduct, in the opinion of at least three-quarters of the full Committee, or a General Meeting, renders that person unfit to be a member of the Club. No member shall be expelled without first being given an opportunity to appear before the Committee. The Club is committed to the protection of minors and vulnerable adults and fully adopts the recommendation from the RSGB entitled "Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults" which is appended to this Constitution.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) The Annual Subscriptions for membership shall be set by the Committee, but ratified at a General Meeting.

(b) All subscriptions shall be due and payable at the beginning of the financial year. Members more than one month in arrears shall have no voting rights.

(c) The financial year shall run from 16th February to 15th February.

(d) A member shall be considered to have resigned from the Club, if by the following May 31st the subscription remains unpaid.

(e) The Committee shall have the power to waive or reduce the subscription in special circumstances for a period not exceeding one year at a time.

5. FINANCE

All money received by the Club shall be promptly deposited in the Club's Bank account. Withdrawals need the signature of the Club's Treasurer and one other nominated officer of the Club.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Club's affairs shall be administered by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee, in whom the Club's property shall be vested, shall consist of :-

- (a) A Chairman, who will preside at all meetings at which he is present.
- (b) A Vice-Chairman, who will act as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
- (c) A Secretary, who will be responsible for:-
 - (i) Keeping the Minutes of all meetings of the Club.
 - (ii) Ensuring that all correspondence is correctly handled.
 - (iii) Maintaining a master roll of Members and Honorary Members.
 - (iv) Maintaining a register of Club equipment.
- (d) A Treasurer, who will be responsible for:-
 - (i) Keeping the Club's accounts.
 - (ii) Advising the Committee on all financial matters.
 - (iii) Preparing the accounts for audit, and presenting them at the AGM
- (e) Three Ordinary Committee Members.
- (f) Not more than two co opted members who have full voting rights
- (g) The Committee shall have the right to appoint Members to various Club Roles as and when the need arises. Such appointments shall automatically include eligibility to be co opted in a non voting capacity onto the Committee.

7. COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS

- (a) The Quorum for the Committee shall be four.
In the absence of a Quorum, business may be dealt with, but any decisions taken only become valid after ratification at the next meeting at which a Quorum exists.
- (b) Committee Meetings may be called by the Chairman, the Secretary, or any three Full Members of the Committee.
- (c) The Chairman may vote; in the event of a tie he has a second casting vote.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held on the third Monday of MARCH each year.
At least 21 days notice shall be given to each member in writing.
- (b) The Quorum for the meeting shall be twelve.
- (c) The Agenda of the meeting shall be:-
 - (i) Apologies for absence.
 - (ii) Minutes of the previous AGM.
 - (iii) Chairman's Report.
 - (iv) Secretary's Report.
 - (v) Treasurer's Report.
 - (vi) Election of the new Committee.
 - (vii) Election of Auditors.
 - (viii) Other Business.
- (d) Items (i) to (v) shall be chaired by the out-going Chairman; item (vi) by an acting Chairman who is not standing for election to office; the remaining business by the newly elected Chairman.
- (e) Nominations for Committee Members will be valid only if confirmed by the nominee, or previously in writing.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- (a) Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Committee, or not less than 8 members of the club; the date of this next meeting being the earliest convenient as decided by the Committee.
At least 28 days notice in writing must be given to the Secretary, who in turn, shall give members at least 14 days notice in writing of the Agenda.
- (b) The Quorum for the EGM shall be half the Club membership.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended only at an EGM called for that purpose.

11. WINDING UP OF THE CLUB

- (a) The decision to wind up the Club may be taken only at an EGM.
- (b) The funds of the Club shall, after the sale of all assets and the payment of all outstanding debts, be disposed of as directed by Members at the final EGM.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

1. Introduction

1.1 The whole area of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is currently subject to much change and we need to keep abreast of those changes. All clubs are reminded of their responsibility to take all reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults when they are engaged in club activity and/or on club premises.

1.2 A child is someone under the age of 18.

1.3 A vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or over:

- who is, or may be, in need of community services due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability and
- who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation (Department of Health 2002).

Where this note refers to children, similar considerations apply throughout to vulnerable adults.

1.4 A scheme was set up following the enactment of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 to vet individuals who had access to children or vulnerable adults through their work or voluntary activities. As far as the RSGB was concerned, compliance with the Act entailed carrying out CRB checks on what were then known as Registered Instructors .

1.5 In 2010 the government announced that the scheme would be scaled back in a “common sense and proportionate” way and, as a result, new legislation (The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) will be enacted this month (September 2012).

1.6 Around the same time, the RSGB and the RCF recognised that there was no requirement for Instructors to be registered with the RSGB; in reality, anyone could deliver training, including self-training by exam candidates. The policy was therefore changed so that only those individuals that carry out Practical Assessments need to be registered with the RSGB and were then subject to CRB clearance. These are official roles carried out on behalf of the RSGB/RCF, with the responsibility of saying that candidates are competent in specific activities prior to being allowed to sit the appropriate examination. In reality, most Assessors are also Instructors, but that is not a requirement.

1.7 This note advises of changes to RSGB policy regarding CRB checks, provides advice to clubs and independent training providers on their position and recommends good practice.

1.8 Further legislative changes are planned later in the year and further guidance will be issued if required.

2.0 Discussion

2.1 The Society has the responsibility for ensuring compliance with the regulations as far as its staff and volunteers are concerned. In practice this affects Registered Assessors (i.e. those who carry out practical assessments prior to Foundation and Intermediate examinations).

- 2.2 Clubs and independent training providers have the responsibility for ensuring compliance for volunteers who teach students or supervise examinations, within the context of their overall duty to protect children and vulnerable adults. This means trainers and examination invigilators.
- 2.3 The CRB Checks Guidance for Volunteering published in 2008 states that the decision as to whether to make a CRB check is a matter for the employer. Our legal advice is that “Employer” in this context means the RSGB for Registered Assessors, and clubs and independent providers for trainers and examination invigilators. It goes on to state that the decision should be part of an overall risk management process. The decision should, it states, be made “carefully” and “because there is a strong and demonstrable reason for doing so and not just in case”.
- 2.4 The “test” for assessing whether a person is recommended and eligible for a CRB check is if
- a) they engage in a “regulated activity” (in this case, any form of teaching, training or instruction of children and/or vulnerable adults) **AND**
 - b) they carry out this activity **EITHER** frequently (once a week or more) **OR** on more than 3 days in any 30 day period.
- 2.5 After careful consideration of the advice it is clear that
- Some trainers may fall within the definition in 2.4, depending on who they teach and how their teaching time is structured.
 - The role and scope of registered assessors do not fall within the definition in 2.4 and RSGB-sponsored CRB checks will cease. RSGB HQ will continue to take up references before registering assessors. Some registered assessors are also trainers, however, and may qualify for a CRB check depending on 2.4 above.
 - The role and scope of examination invigilators do not fall within the definition of a regulated activity. Some examination invigilators are also trainers, however, and may qualify for a CRB check depending on 2.4 above.
- 2.6 Notwithstanding the above, it may be that some trainers already have CRB clearance due to their activities outside of the club.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 All RSGB Affiliated Clubs should formally adopt and implement the RSGB Child Protection Guidelines whether they teach students or not, and this should be made widely available. The RSGB Guidelines are available on the website using the following link
<http://www.rsgb.org/tutors/general/pdf/childprotection.pdf>
- 3.2 All independent clubs and independent training providers should develop a Child Protection Policy whether they teach students or not, and this should be made widely available. Guidance is available on the RSGB website using the following link
<http://www.rsgb.org/tutors/general/pdf/childprotection.pdf>
- 3.3 All clubs should review their teaching schedules. If a trainer’s teaching commitment falls within

the definitions described in 2.4 above then a risk assessment must be undertaken by the club or independent provider to determine whether a CRB check is warranted. There should be consideration of how well the risk is mitigated by the attendance of parents or other responsible adults.

- 3.4 If the risk assessment causes the club or independent provider to decide that a CRB check is warranted then it is their responsibility to initiate the check. The General Manager is available for advice in such cases. Please send a copy of your risk assessment to gm.dept@rsgb.org.uk in the first instance.

Please note that if the trainer is an RSGB member, RSGB HQ will organise and fund an agreed check on their behalf. Non-members will need to make their own arrangements.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The RSGB is committed to protecting children and vulnerable people from abuse, and supporting affiliated clubs in their endeavours in this respect, as a result of their amateur radio activity. The guidance above, and the RSGB Guidelines referred to, provide a proportionate framework within which we can work.

Graham Coomber

General Manager

14th September 2012