

Committee meeting at 18.30 on 11th July VIA SKYPE

Present on Skype:

David G7URP (chair)
Roger G3LDI
Kevin M0UJD
Mark G0LGJ
Malcolm G3PDH
Andy M0NKR
Laura M0LJG
Steve G0KYA
Sonny 2E0SYR
Tom M0TFX

Apologies:

James M0UKS
Chris G0DWV
Phill G4NZQ

Minute notes of Skype meeting taken by David G7URP as secretary unavailable

Agenda

- 1) Electric winch tower - Andy M0NKR
- 2) Weeting update - Andy M0NKR
- 3) Storage of tower at Andys home - Roger G3LDI
- 4) Affiliation to FISTS - Roger G3LDI
- 5) Format for informal meetings - Phill G4NZQ
- 6) Tower tyres, winch, service etc, Mark G0LGJ
- 7) AOB

Minutes

1) Andy asked if a second electric winch could be purchased for the club tower at a cost of £175. This one would be used to luff the tower and would make the job considerably easier as doing it manually requires a lot of strength. Also it would make using tower safer as it can be done remotely while not directly underneath and also can keep an eye on surroundings, trees, cables etc. Concern was raised that tower is only used a couple of times a year, but members were persuaded by the improved safety and so proposal was carried.

2) Andy appraised the committee on the club display at Weeting 15-17th July. Only 5 passes were made available this year which would limit club attendees but a team of Andy, Laura, Sonny, Paul and Bob had already volunteered and a slightly smaller display would be put on this year. David to publicise at club and via newsletter.

3) Roger said that while he would be happy to still store the clubs tower that Andy M0NKR had expressed an interest in storing and using it and that it would be better to be used than in storage most of the time. Concern was expressed over responsibility of it when not being used for club activities, both insurance, safety and maintenance. Also concern that Andys location is much less central than Rogers and since only 3 people have vehicle and license to tow it this may lead to it being used even less.

Andy said that he is currently in the process of getting the necessary license which would allow him to tow it and that he would then be prepared to take it to club events where required in return for having the use of it at other times. If he was granted permission Andy also agreed to fully insure and take responsibility for its care and maintenance while it was in his care and Laura said she would make the necessary canvas covers (from old NARC tents) to protect the wheels and winches etc from the elements. With these assurances the committee agreed Andy could look after the tower, although Mark stressed the need for it to have the service and check this summer which he has already arranged with a company in Norwich once the tower can be transported to the company.

4) Roger explained that FISTS was an international society of amateurs keen to promote and preserve morse code and that although there are several members of NARC who are members of FISTS that the club was not and he asked that NARC apply to be an affiliated member of FISTS. He advised there was no cost involved or other commitments and so the committee agreed.

5) Phill had already circulated notes to the committee about his concerns regarding new members attending initial meetings at NARC and not feeling very welcome or 'fitting in' (see copy below). Committee agreed that having the shop open with items to buy on informal evenings a good thing along with promoting the opportunity for members to hold impromptu Bring and Buy type sales - chair to publicise. Also suggested that new members be introduced to the membership by the chair - not just name and call sign but a little background and what aspects of radio are they interested in. The round table informal discussion should also be tried again to make newcomers feel more involved and some of the committee agreed to help run some of these on various informal subjects.

In his email Phill also raised disappointing sales on the RSGB book stall at Barford and did the committee know why sales were around half the previous years. Various theories were discussed including the lack of any real new books and the increasing popularity of online information, though many agreed that reference books were generally best for learning about complete subjects rather than looking up specific points. But it was felt that lack of publications covering new subjects such as SDR radios was possibly the main factor for lower sales. No new members were signed up at the event although there was an attractive offer of a free 2m radio for new memberships. It was also noted that the RSGB bookstall was included in promotions for the event and was seen as a valuable attraction.

6) Mark had raised the need for protection of the Tower tyres, winch etc and to have a service and these was largely covered in agenda item 3 and emphasised that that the service needs to be done soon.

AOB

Mark skyped over the latest accounts for review. It was asked if we knew how well we had done at Barford yet but he stated that the account for the hall was still to be received but that it should be a good result with a surplus in excess of £1000 over the event.

The Skype meeting was deemed to be a success by those present and there will be other meetings skyped in the future

Meeting closed approximately 19.40