

NARC AGM 2021

14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## **Norfolk Amateur Radio Club**

### **Condensed Annual General Meeting 14.04.2021**

*Members only please - details on how to join were sent on Friday 9th April*

#### **AGM Welcome**

NARC President Malcolm G3PDH

Malcolm G3PDH as President addressed the meeting

Welcome to everyone on here and to those watching on BATC, and hope that everyone is well.

Who would have thought that one year ago we would still not be able to hold club meetings but I hope that we will be able to resume before too long.

Despite this extended period the club has remained intact through the Internet, Nets and other on-air activities.

Also, throughout this time NARC has gained substantial recognition within the Amateur Radio community as well as at national level with the RSGB.

I therefore wish to register our sincere thanks to David and Tammy for their unstinting efforts in providing NARC Live each week which has been appreciated by us all.

I know that David would consider this to be the norm for any club but we all know that this has been way beyond the normal call of duty for which we express our thanks to them both.

Before causing any further embarrassment to them I therefore pass it back to the Chairman to commence the AGM.

David G7URP responded thanked everyone for their support and help with content etc... They have enjoyed doing it. He suggested that due to the circumstances here would be no election or awards this year.

#### **Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes**

Proposed by Roy G8IXM

Seconded by Mike G8EEY

Show of hands from those on GoTo meetings agreed.

#### **Reinstatement of Officers, Committee, Auditors, EMC advisors**

All existing Officers Committee EMC Auditors etc, all agreed to stand again.

David talked about the last year and how difficult it was for everyone and hoped that it would all settle down and allow the club to meet in the near future.

He said that the current committee had all agreed to stand again and then talked us through the slides from the online questionnaire.

## **Chairmans report 2021**

This will be a strange Chairmans Annual general meeting report in several ways, not least because it will actually cover 2 years and not one!

The original lockdown started in late March 2020 and was just before we would have had the 2020 AGM, but we postponed it, not in those early days ever dreaming that we would not actually be meeting again that year!

So my report starts by looking back at the fairly normal year before last, from just after our traditional AGM on 10th April 2019...

We had a great variety of talks in 2019 from UK speakers on subjects like Military radios, Secret Listeners, Repeater Linking, Amateur Satellites and a Life with valves. And of course long before we all got used to this world of Zooming and FaceTiming to keep in touch with family and friends, NARC had already been using Skype to enable us to enjoy talks from speakers from around the world at our physical meetings with talks from many countries including the United States, New Zealand and South Africa.

In addition to the talks we also had Table top sales, three Direction Finding foxhunt competitions and lots of social informals where we just met with like minded friends - old and new...

As well as Wednesday evening activities in 2019, we also organised regular events like International Marconi day in April, National Field Day with Radio-Active in June, Barford Rally in July, Radio by the seaside and Happisburgh Lighthouse in August and our coach trip to the National Hamfest in October. Thanks to all of the committee and members who supported these events.

Contest activities continued in 2019 with NARC entering most of the club based HF RSGB contests. With some 33 members generally taking part across the range of contests NARC achieved good positions within the top ten national clubs in all of the contests entered. Of particular note however was another 1st place win in the Club Championships, adding to our string of wins over recent years, as well as achieving a 2nd place in the Autumn Series.

CW NFD was again combined with RadioActive where we entered with 2 stations as well as also participating simultaneously in the 6m Group Contest over the same weekend. As a special note this was the first event at which we were able to use the 'Super ATU' system specially constructed by Paul G3SEM and which made a great contribution to the operation of the station.

Looking back my NARC newsletter of (Rather ominously) Friday 13th March 2020, was basically reporting the discussion between our president Malcolm G3PDH and myself about whether we should carry on meeting - and at that particular moment we decided we could....

That weekend we had long agreed to help put on a Radio and Technology display for CNS School as part of Science and Engineering week and although I had expected it to be cancelled remarkably it went ahead, although I was talking to teacher friends at the school and it was clear they expected something to happen imminently (you can see some pictures here).

That was to be the last day we met as a club, because 2 days later the Prime Minister changed ours and every UK citizen's lives, when he said that from that moment most of us had to stay at home....

So we had an online committee meeting and then I wrote a NARC News Special & if you don't mind I will read it here to reflect, as its quite poignant...

**[NARC and the Coronavirus.... Newsletter Update 16th March 2020](#)**

*With the updated government advice of March 16th you will probably not be surprised to know that the committee and officers of this club have suspended all physical meetings and events for the foreseeable future, with immediate effect. So there will not be a meeting at the school this Wednesday 18th March but instead we will be bringing our guest speakers, the founders of SDRplay, to you via a streaming service where we also hope to be able to take questions for them. Technical rehearsals will take place on Tuesday evening and then details of where you can view this will be published on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning and will be on the front page of our website. We very much hope you will join us!*

*The Club AGM and awards evening originally scheduled for Wednesday April 1st will also not now take place, but at the committee meeting on 16th March all club officers and committee have agreed to stay on to run the club for as long as it takes until we can safely reschedule meetings and an AGM later in the year. As you will appreciate it is impossible for us or anyone to anticipate how long this social distancing and isolation will go on, so we just cannot tell if some of our major events like NFD/Radio Active and Barford will go on, but it feels unlikely at the moment. The Marconi Day event at Caister event has already been cancelled.*

*As I said previously we will strive to keep the function of the club going with a stream or radio net on Wednesdays, plus other on air/online events we will bring to you. After all, communication is at the heart of our hobby, so I feel we should try and put this technology and skill to good use and continue to bring companionship to everyone in our hobby, especially to those who are vulnerable or on their own. And if there is something you feel the club can do to help someone specific, please let one of the committee know and we will do our best.*

*Please continue to keep an eye on the front page of our website for the latest club news.*

*Take Care and stay safe.*

*73, David G7URP*

*For and on behalf of Norfolk Amateur Radio Club*

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I wrote and sent that out on the Monday night and we had committed to bringing you the talk about the SDR play in just 48 hours time, so I remember that Tammy and I didn't do much work the next day (which was a challenge at that moment as I had to ask my work colleagues to work from home!).

I came up with the name NARC Live! for our Wednesday nights as it seemed to sum up what we were trying to do - keep the club going by being live so that members and friends really were in touch. Then Tammy and I started to work out what we needed to do. At this point I should probably come clean and say that I had quite a lot of broadcast experience with the BBC, but that was 20 years ago when I lived in Cambridge and most of my technical knowledge of production was in radio as you don't tend to self-op in TV... but luckily my favourite part of amateur radio is Television...

We brought all of my TV equipment we used for Skype (plus almost every other piece of amateur TV equipment I had!) to our work premises and made up a temporary area in the corner of our conference room - after all it looked like we were not going to be doing any business meetings there for a while!!

Wednesday 16th March came, our SDR Play presenters were on the end of a Skype line (we literally had never heard of Zoom then!) and we started streaming to BATC and Facebook Live...

But - Best laid plans.

Kevin and Sonny messaging to say it wasn't a solid stable stream

Our Internet was intermittent! (Doesn't show up browsing the web)

We were gutted!

I had to say goodbye to our viewers and guests but promised to do it properly the following Wednesday.

Tammy and I walked home and to be honest I felt very depressed.

Net -The one thing out of our control - Could I get ISP to fix it by next week?

Our ISP acknowledged there was an underground cable fault and fixed it so we had reliable internet and optimism returned. And so our first proper NARC Live went on air on **23rd March 2020** live streamed to Facebook Live and BATC and you, our members, watched and were very supportive then and have been ever since.

While a few people suggested that we should maybe only do it every two weeks or once a month I felt it was important to try and keep NARC Live there every week so that we had a routine where everyone knew their club still met every Wednesday night as we do in normal times.

Since then there have been well over 50 NARC Live programmes and where possible we employed all of the guest speakers that our programme secretary Roger G3LDI had already booked for formal meetings approximately every other week, and Tammy and I started to think how we could fill alternative weeks.

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This whole AGM is rather unconventional so I hope you dont mind if I break with another convention now and work with my XYL and co presenter Tammy M0TC to remember some of the NARC Lives over the past year in our own words! <wide shot>

< *Tammy and David talk informally over a set of stills from past NARC Live's*>

SDR play (because it was the first)

Club speakers

Getting to know

Guest speakers UK

Guest speakers overseas

Wildlife special

Retro

Tonys repair shop

Interactives

Hobby & Collections

Awards

Xmas Party

Whos shack and little people

Our studio- our view of you! < short vt pan of studio from RSGB convention >

**Thanks to all of you at home & thank you Tammy!** < Single shot >

So that was our year of NARC Live TV shows. But thats not all a club can do!

Although we could not get together in groups for events like National Field Day, Contesting was something else which people could safely do at home and yet still be part of a team with their friends and colleagues.

With NARC having won the Club Championship Contest for several years, and sometimes with substantial margins, it was decided for 2020 to enter that series with 2 teams, namely NARC NELSON and NARC BOUDICA. This was to establish a more level playing-field and at the same time create some inter NARC club competition. Surprisingly, NARC still came in 2nd and 3rd having split into two teams!

2020 started off well with the Affiliated Societies contests in January in which we achieved excellent positions but then the pandemic struck and all of the portable field events were cancelled.

The club went on to compete in most of the remaining contests throughout the year and achieved better than 5th place in every contest.

Again with the participation of up to 30 club members an excellent result was achieved thanks to the skill and dedication of our contesting members, all of which adds to the already high level profile engendered by NARC in 2020.

In addition to the HF contest activities NARC has also entered the RSGB VHF and UHF events, mainly through the efforts of just a few members.

This has been mainly led by Phil G4LPP & it would be nice to see more members taking part in these high frequency events in future.

**Congratulations** to all of you in our contest team who have kept the NARC flag flying high in the contest ladders, even though we deliberately tried to make it more of a challenge for ourselves and split into two teams to give others a chance! **Outstanding work!**

There isn't really time to make conversation in a contest, but that's what nets are for and surely there have never been more to take part in. From the RSGB GB2RS news net on Sundays, to the Monday night net on NB and so many other nets. As far as I can see there is a net in Norfolk on pretty much every band on most modes on most days of the week! **Well done everyone!**

And there surely has never been a better time to learn Morse?! With various training nets on most days of the week at every level, as well as online learning with Lockdown Morse in 28 videos and with nearly 2000 subscribers - also the brainchild by one of NARC's members. **Thank You**

Whilst most of us can manage our shack on our own we often need to get extra help repairing or installing antenna and cable outside. And so when restrictions eased so that we could meet with others outside, many members were there to help others who had failed antenna or just needed help with installations. I know that lots of you rallied to the call to help others and although I cannot mention everyone by name I think many of you will agree that Sonny M0SYW deserves a special mention here as being at least one of the main ring leaders of what has rather worryingly been called the 'Demolition gang' who have helped many and I am sure this summer will go on to help many more. **Well done and thank you to all of you**

As I conclude my report, I would like to think that although I am sure we have all missed many things from our lives over the past 12 months, that this hobby and club has enabled us all to stay in touch and brought an invaluable sense of normality in this abnormal Covid world.

I have never been more proud to be the chairman of this club, so thank you for whatever you have done for others and for yourself and continue to stay safe and get on the air to care.

**Treasurers report**

# NORFOLK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY HON.TREASURER Mark Taylor G0LGJ

Correct as

07/05/22 18:00

YEAR ENDING 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

YEAR ENDING 16th Jan 2021

## INCOME

Membership 2020	£1,235.00
School Hire	£173.77
ALZHEIMERS	£300.00
DX	£80.00
Connectors / Shop	£17.20
Tuck	£302.64
Donations	£213.20
Equipment	£19.00
Membership 2021	£750.01

## EXPENDITURE

School Hire	£422.02
ALZHEIMERS	£300.00
Connectors / Shop	£1.58
Tuck	£100.98
Admin	£649.69
Badges	£5.26
Equipment	£38.00
Talks	£40.00
Xmas 2020	£100.00

TOTAL **£3,090.82**

TOTAL **£1,657.53**

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE **£1,433.29**

# NORFOLK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

<u>2019/20</u>	<u>YEAR ENDING 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
£8,150.00	FIXED ASSETS COVERED BY INSURANCE	£8,150.00
<u>£8,150.00</u>	<u>SUB TOTAL</u>	
	<u>BANK ACCOUNTS/PETTY CASH</u>	
£2,006.46	Treasurer's (Cheque) account	£1,201.52
£12,002.33	Instant access account	£14,000.36
	Pay Pal	£119.47
<u>£14,008.79</u>	<u>SUB TOTAL</u>	<u>£15,321.35</u>
<u>£14,008.79</u>	<u>NET WORTH</u>	<u>£15,321.35</u>

## NARC Officers

Hon Treasurer Mark Taylor G0LGJ.....

Hon Chairman D.Palmer G7URP.....

## **Accounts Audited & Verified By**

Auditor No1 K Belton G4NRL .....

Auditor No2 S Hall 2E1GTE.....

## **Nominated Charity vote result**

Thank Sonny for setting up page

55 people voted online

20 Guide Dogs for the Blind

35 EACH East Anglian Children's Hospice

Vote Cast For EACH

## **Any other business**

Rod G0CBO thanked committee

Ken M0KJW thanked DP and TC Committee, he suggested to start up DX squares by lodging an amount to be used on a weekly basis. Mark advise it was more for the Christmas Party rather than Charities.

Use you call sign as the marker for the Squares, with money for charity.

Malcolm G3PDH asked about 2021 events ie Barford, NFD, Radio By Seaside, Fox Hunt Hamfest

**NFD** No - 6 Not sure - 3 Yes - 4

**Barford Meet** No - 4 Not sure - 2 Yes – 7 Outside event with car-boot only, NARC would cover cost of hiring venue. No charge to go in but bucket for Charitable donations only. One table only no real traders.

Who on screen would vote to go 15 voted yes.

Comments from the floor.

Les, G0DFC offered that if within guideline and safety recommendations he had no problem, commenting some may not but it got his vote.

Andy, M0NKR suggested that the Table top Equipment sale similar to that held within the school

Robert, G4TUK, worried about the Car boot and social distancing/ handling of Equipment. Would vote for a social meet only.

Zenna, M6ZLA suggested planning for events and following guide lines at the time. Being Prepared if at all possible.

M0TDC & G0CBO worth the effort as long as socially distanced

**Radio by seaside** No - 1 Not sure - 1 Yes - 11 (several said only late summer after schools go back)

Online vote of people on GoTo

Ken & Shirli would attend.

Tony M0TDC yes

Mark G0LGJ suggested to check RSGB Rally website for clashes.

Mike G4DYC agreed with the idea and principle of Radio By The Sea

Steve G0KYA checked and suggested that the event would clash with two local rallies. Caister on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sonny suggested that it would be possible to combine the two on the same day.

Who would go to seaside Half of attendees.

Robert G4TUK, wondered if any dialogue & arrangements for the room rental going forward, and the option to secure it for the future. CNS.

David explained the room is ours until we give it up. He has visited and cleared out consumables and expensive radios. Our options are open with them. But he didn't know when we would be able to have a meeting of over 30 people



Andy MONKR. Events advises Weeting is on and he has contacted them, Friday 16-18 July. However nothing firm is know. There are two current volunteers. Contact him.

David and Tammy have offered to continue NARC live until normal meetings can be resumed.

Meeting closed at 21.33