

# NORFOLK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

We meet every Wednesday either online or at Eaton CNS School, Eaton Road, Norwich, NR4 6PP from 7-9.30pm, usually in the 6th form centre at the front of the school.  
For more information visit <http://www.norfolkamateurradio.org>

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5th April 2023

# Minutes

### 1. Opening of meeting – Malcolm G3PDH

Malcolm G3PDH started and welcomed everyone to the AGM. He said that it was nice to see so many members in person. Throughout the Covid pandemic it had been very difficult and Malcolm said some clubs have struggled, but NARC survived and now has more than 200 members. He also thanked David and Tammy for their efforts with the NARC live video meetings and other members.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Mike G8EEY, Chris G0DWV, Nigel 2E0NLK, John G8VPE, John G0MXN, Peter M0VRA, Stephen M6KYF, Mark G0LGJ

### 3. Approval of 2022 AGM minutes

Proposed: Tony M0MQG    Seconded: Simon M0SIH

### 4. Matters Arising from the 2022 AGM

Sarah's call is actually 2E0GTE not 2E1GTE

### 5. Chairman's Report

#### NARC Chairman's report on 2022-23 on 5th April 2023

When I presented the 2021 Chairman's report around this time last year, the club had just started cautiously meeting again and society, in general, was gradually returning to some kind of post-Covid normality.

A year on and the club has continued to meet on alternate Wednesdays and most of our talks continue to be presented online through NARC Live, as was the majority of members' wishes.

We have again enjoyed a very wide variety of talks on subjects such as ferrites and baluns, Geochron and Nano VNA to radiosport, battery technology and software defined radio

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without the maths, antennas, space weather and how to get your "Worked all States" award to Jodrell Bank, the MARS military affiliate radio system and the Transatlantic Tests.

We also welcomed well-known faces from the amateur radio business world to talk about their companies, their passions and their products including Eric Schwartz the joint founder and CEO of Elecraft, and Hans Summers, boss of QRP Labs.

In all we have enjoyed 26 talks from speakers based all over the world, who all joined us live and were happy to take questions from NARC members - later on we will reveal which one you voted as your favourite talk.

Although Tammy and I host and stream NARC Live!, the speakers have been booked by our programme secretary Roger G3LDI, and once again I wish to pay tribute and thank him on your behalf for an incredible variety of presentations.

If I may I would also like to thank my other half Tammy M0TC, who as well as being a wonderfully supportive wife continues to show such dedication and skill in producing NARC Live!

Contesting has long been a strong and popular part of our club and I congratulate all of you for your dedication and determination in keeping NARC at the very top of the radiosport league.

Whilst it is most certainly a team effort, I would like to pay particular tribute to Malcolm G3PDH for inspiring and leading the team so strongly and consistently over many years.

This year sees National Field Day back in our calendar in early June and I am pleased to say that we will also be making this a family affair as we welcome back RadioActive alongside NFD with the traditional workshops, social get-togethers and talks and yes, Tammy and I will be pleased to treat you all to bacon butties and Sunday roast lunch! If you have a project, workshop or activity you would like to bring to RadioActive please do let me know.

Traditionally NARC has focussed mainly on HF contesting, but now it is about to embark on a serious attempt to make its mark on the VHF contest calendar too with Phil G4LPP leading a new team to enter the VHF contest in May - please get in touch if you would like to be part of this new VHF team.

And contesting isn't the only way of experiencing the challenge and excitement of setting up portable stations, because we will again be setting up a special event station for International Marconi Day at Caister Lifeboat Station in a few week's time organised by Steve G0KYA, as well as a station for International Lighthouse and Lightships in Happisburgh later in the year, so please do get involved.

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Our club has been strong on training for all three levels of license and I am pleased to say that we still have our dedicated and strong training team. But I believe many of them might agree with me that we have some new challenges to meet in adapting not only to the significant changes at all three levels of the syllabus (with more to come from today's news from Ofcom!), but also to the needs of our candidates.

Covid inspired the RSGB to make it possible to take all three levels of exam available entirely online in candidates' homes, and whilst this was a very commendable initiative which brought continuity and growth to amateur radio over a time when so many other hobbies and pastimes suffered terribly, it has meant that clubs have less of an essential role to play in the licensing of amateurs.

However, I feel it is still really important for people to learn about the practical aspects of amateur radio, from how to make a QSO correctly to soldering on a PL259 plug or making a simple antenna, and it is for these skills I believe we should be there to show the way to really make the most of the hobby, as well as running occasional courses for those unwilling or unable to take advantage of the significant resources now online.

I feel that the new RSGB Brickworks initiative will be a good way to help especially those who have gained their foundation license online but want to find out what to do next. But we need one or more people to head up Brickworks scheme in NARC and so I appeal to you that whether you are already on the training team or not, if you feel like you would like to put something back into the hobby then this is a great opportunity and I pledge you my full support as well as the significant resources and reward scheme which the RSGB has organised - please talk to me if you think you could help us take this forward.

Finally, I would like to reflect on what we do here at CNS School. Whilst NARC Live seems a popular way to bring you talks by speakers from all over the world, I feel it really is important we have healthy in-person meetings - like this evening. Not only is it a great way to catch up with old friends but also to make new ones, as well as giving us opportunities to learn some new practical skills we cannot do easily online, like the Raspberry Pi Jam run by Jeff G7PLF and loop amplifier construction project led by Mark G0TMT - my thanks to them for taking up the challenge.

And there are also opportunities for other less formal round table workshops, such as the one which Tony M0TDK has offered to do on the Nano-VNA in a couple of weeks - and by the way there is also going to be a Spring Table Top Sale at the end of this month! So please come and contribute to these evenings at CNS as well as carry on enjoying and participating in NARC Live!, which Tammy and I will be happy to bring you as long as you would like us to.

As always though, I close by thanking all of you for your continued membership of The Norfolk Amateur Radio Club which now has well over 200 paid-up members, an incredible tribute to the wide variety of activities and services we offer and to the team who

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run your club.

My thanks to them and to all of you for your continued support.  
Thank you

## 6. Treasurer's Report - Mark G0LGJ

Firstly please accept my apologies for missing the AGM, my good lady (aka Judith Chalmers) books the holidays!

I would like to thank the two auditors Keith G4NRL and Sarah 2E0GTE for auditing the accounts.

### Expenditure

Our main admin. costs which include insurance, web hosting, RSGB, Zoom and other internet costs total £810.43.

We have also endured bank charges consisting of a monthly fee of £5 and the remaining total being charges for paying cash and cheques into the account. Every cheque we pay in we are charged 40p so online payments are preferred.

David G7URP has secured a good rate with the school for the hire of the rooms which we will see rise as we return to using the school.

### Charity

Our charity donations included Alzheimer's Society £1,514.29 and Cancer Research UK £175.00. NARC also partly funded the Xmas Meal at Little Melton.

### Income

Barford is one of our main sources of income, with our normal costs of field, hall and catering costs it was in excess of £1,100.

Some of our membership is counted in the previous years accounts as we start taking membership in November of each year. This year we saw the rate stay the same at £5.00 and received in 2022 £521 and for 2023 where the membership was raised to £10 we received £1,660.

PayPal again is becoming more popular with an income for both years of £114.74 and £176.76 although paying £15.47 in fees.

Friends and Family being the preferred method if using PayPal.

On a note please if you pay via Bank Transfer / PayPal and are unable to enter a callsign as

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a reference please drop me an email. Sometimes it is difficult to trace people if it comes from a different email or partner's / wife's bank account / PayPal account with a different name.

## Membership

With my other hat on for 2022 we had 234 members. Thanks again for supporting NARC.

A query over fuel costs for SSB field day was explained as they included the cost of fuel for a vehicle to tow the trailer tower from one end of the county to the other.

Mark Taylor G0LGJ

## 7. Election of Officers for 2023 – 2024

David G7URP the club chairman then stood down and the Club President Malcolm G3PDH took over to cover the nominations for the role of Chairman

There was only one nomination of David Palmer G7URP who was elected unanimously.

Chairman – David, G7URP

Vice Chairman – Kevin, M0UJD

Treasurer - Mark, G0LGJ

Secretary - Chris, G0DWV

These positions were voted for in an online form, all were voted in again unopposed.

## 8. Election of the committee for 2023 – 2024

The existing committee were also re-elected en-mass. They were:

Jim G3YLA

James M0UKS

Roger G3LDI

Andy M0NKR

Laura M0LJD

Steve G0KYA

Sonny M0SYW

Tony G0MQG

## 9. Election of two Honorary Auditors

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David thanked Keith and Sarah for their sterling work. They will be continuing in the role for another year.

Sarah 2E0GTE and Keith G4NRL were both happy to stand again

Proposed: Bob G7JTZ      Seconded: Jim G3YLA

## 10. Election of EMC Advisors

Both Mike G8EEY and Tony G0MQG were both willing to stand again.

Proposed: Mike G4DYC      Seconded: John 2E0TWQ

## 11. NARC Charitable cause(s) 2023/2024

There were four nominated charities.

These were:

- **PHAB** - Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied people. Steve G3EVA, one of the organisation's performing musicians, gave a quick talk outlining the organisation and its aims.
- **Mencraft** - David M6DPZ is a Norfolk-based charity based at the Maddermarket Theatre. It looks after the mental health and well-being of Norfolk's men with a wide range of activities.
- **Bone Cancer Research Trust** - Roger G3LDI spoke about the trust and said he was inspired by Dr Darrell Green from the UEA, who has been investigating bone cancer. There are 52,000 new cases of bone cancer worldwide each year.
- **Diabetes UK** - Tony G0MQG said diabetes has been an affliction in his family for many years. Sarah 2E0GTE is a type one diabetes sufferer.

After a show of hands by members, PHAB and Diabetes UK received an equal number of votes and so it was decided to support both charities nominated as NARC's joint charities of the year 2023/2024.

## 13. Presentation of Awards 2021

- **DX Ladder** – Robert G4TUK won the DX ladder having worked 259 DXCC entities in 2022.
- **Direction Finding (Foxhunt) Winners Trophy** – Andy M0NKR, Laura M0LJD, Kim G4WUG and Chris G0DWV
- **Construction Competition Cup** – Colin G4EYT for his Juma TRX2 SMD radio transceiver construction

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- **Speaker of the year** – Ian G0DMU for his talk on Jodrell Bank
- **NARC Committee Cup** – Phil G4LPP for his help and support across the hobby
- **Presidents Cup** – Roger G3LDI for his continued work in arranging the club's programme.

## 14. Any other Business

NARC Live next week features Adrian KO8SCA to talk about DXpeditions to Market Reef and Bouvet Island where he was one of the operators

The DX Squares competition was won by M0EVK.

Donard de Coogan M0KRK talked about the release of his new book "They Talk Along The Deep", which looks at the history of the Valentia Island cable station in Ireland. It was the site of the very first transatlantic telegraph cable over 150 years ago, which was laid between the island and Newfoundland in Canada.

The meeting closed at 21.05 hrs

Members in attendance **55**