



# 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](http://www.adarc.co.uk)

## CLUB'S OFFICERS

President	John Jeffers	G0UNB	
Chairman	Terry Adams	G4CHD	
Vice Chairman	Dave Lawrence	G0PGK	
Secretary	Brian Jewell	M0BRB	01237 473251 Email: <a href="mailto:brian.jewell@ic24.net">brian.jewell@ic24.net</a>
Treasurer	Laurence Soutter	G4XHK	
Committee	Dave Brierley	G3YGJ	
	Mike Hammond	G3PGA	
	John Lovell	M0JKL	
Co opted	Graham Bailey	G1ZTJ	
QSL Manager	John Lovell	M0JKL	
Web Master	John Lovell	M0JKL	
Editor	Terry Adams	G4CHD	

March, 2013

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the last 5&9 Newsletter of this current Club year.

**This month's Meeting is of course the Club AGM and will be followed on the night by an EGM to discuss and possible amend our Constitution. Since the Constitution demands the quorum be over half the membership to attend for an EGM then PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND.**

The order of events for the AGM is given at the end of this Newsletter as are also the proposed amendments to the Constitution to be discussed in the EGM together with a copy for your reference of the present Constitution.

However, the main purpose of the AGM is the **election of Club Officers and Committee members**. Any members wishing to stand for any of these positions should notify the Committee in advance of the AGM. Those members of the present Committee who are willing to stand for re election are as follows :-

Chairman	Terry (G4CHD)	willing to stand
Vice Chairman	Dave (G0PGK)	willing to stand
Secretary	Brian (M0BRB)	<b>standing down completely</b>
Treasurer	Laurence (G4XHK)	willing to stand
Committee :	Dave (Dave)	<b>standing down</b>
	Mike (G3PGA)	willing to stand
	John (M0JKL)	willing to stand

In the event of there being several members willing to stand for any position, a vote will be taken.

As reported last month, John (M0JKL) has indicated that he



is willing to continue to take on the roles of both QSL Manager and Web Master unless any other member fancies having a go, and I am willing to continue as Editor but would be more than happy to let anyone else to take it over. These Club Roles are of course non voted positions.

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, a **Zepp Net on the GB3ND 70cm repeater at 11 - 12 am on a Sunday morning (with Echolink activated) has been started** for which the Club is extremely grateful to Jeff (G4SOF). It is hoped that this Net will prove popular- particularly with any more distant (even world wide) members or friends. Details of the Repeater's node number etc are given in the Local Repeater Section of this Newsletter.

Hope to see many of you at the AGM/EGM

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.

Mch 18th	AGM
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)

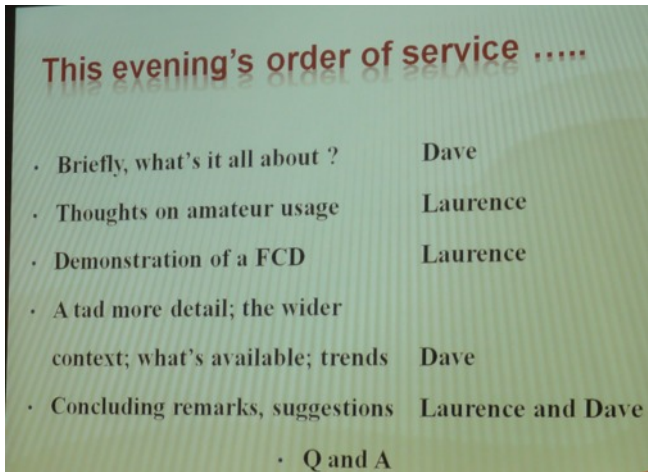
For further information, contact Brian (M0BRB)

**REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

**INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO (SDR)**

**by Laurence (G4XHK) & Dave (M0JAP)**

The title of this talk - Software Defined Radio - obviously intrigued many of our members resulting in a very good attendance for this talk. The fact that the talk was being given jointly by Laurence and Dave, two extremely knowledgeable members of our Club, added further appeal to the evening.



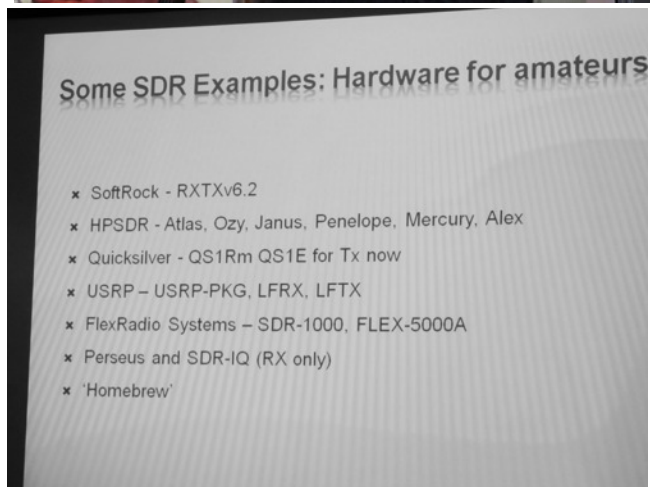
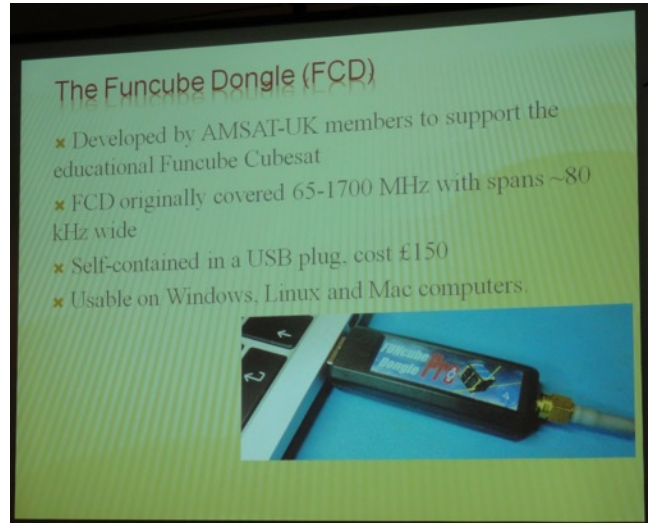
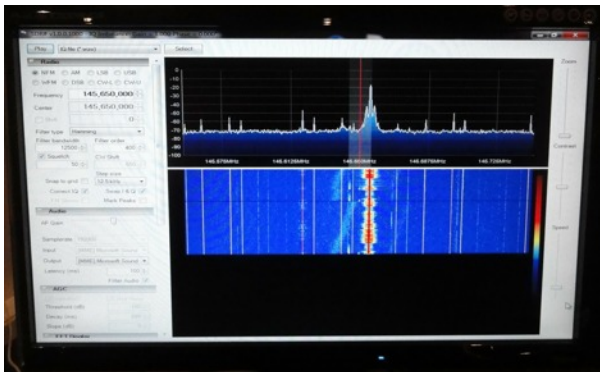
As can be seen from the image above, Dave introduced the evening's talk followed by a practical demonstration based upon the FunCube dongle SDR by Laurence.



was on how such a device can be integrated into an amateur station perhaps as a pan adapter to check on the overall band occupancy.

An example of the use of the dongle (see photo top right) working into free downloaded software, was shown using a sound file taken of the Club's 40m Net on a Friday - shown below.

Dave then took over and using a very professional set of slides, explained the various merits of various examples of SDR available.



As with any separate receiver in an operational station, great care must be taken to ensure that whilst transmitting, signal levels entering the SDR front end must be minimised to avoid damage to the SDR.

The evening finished with a very lively questions and answers session which demonstrated that Laurence and Dave had well and truly set members thinking of the possibilities for an SDR in their own station.

A wonderful talk, full of interest and information, and many thanks to Laurence and Dave for all their hard work in the preparation of this talk.

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.

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

- In electronics, a device whose output is restricted to a certain range of values, irrespective of the size of the input (7)
- You are on this when you transmit (3)
- Delta Lima land (7)
- In darts, the line behind which the players stand when throwing (4)
- A pulsation due to the combination of two sounds or electric currents of similar but not equivalent frequencies (4)
- Echo 3 land (7)
- Transmission ends : 'over and ?' (3)
- Charlie 3 land (7)

### Clues Down

- Useful record for the radio amateur (3)
- A month for mad hares? (5)
- Loading inductor in an aerial (4)
- A narrow beam of light, often from a distant source (3)
- In terms of frequency, some older radios may do this when warming up (5)
- UK communications regulatory body (5)
- A mistake (5)
- A small immature herring (4)
- Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
- ? Khan, the spiritual leader of the Nizari sect of Ismaili Muslims (3)

1		2		3		4		5
						6		
7								
8					9	10		
				11				
		12						13
14								
		15						

Last month's answers :-

**Across** 3) beam 5) jaguar 6) axle 7) Romanians 10) Mali  
11) Alaska 12) mean

**Down** 1) ajar(r) 2) Hungarian 3) Brazilian 4) Alien  
8) ovate 9) sonar

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/>

## 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

## THANKS FROM MEMBERS

The Club received the following message from Kevin (M6KBD) which I would like to publish for members to read :-

**" I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Appledore and District Amateur Radio Club for all their help and kindness in welcoming me into the hobby at a time when it was most assuredly needed. Despite the difficulties my illness presented not once did I have any problems in gaining help, both practical and otherwise from the members. Those people know who they are and are aware of my gratitude but I felt it important that other readers should be aware of my experience as a newcomer to amateur radio."**

**Kevin. M6KBD**

The Club also received the following information from Mike (G3PGA) which again I think members would like to read :-

Members will not necessarily be aware that club member Reg G4FRV has been very ill and is slowly recovering from heart surgery. Just prior to being taken ill Reg bought a Hex Beam. He was unable to continue its erection and club members were asked for help. Reg sent the following to the Club :-

**"I would like to say a special "Thank You" to John (M0JKL) who spent considerable time putting the aerial together. Also a "Thank you" to Steve (M3KWS) for able assistance and of course to yours truly (Mike G3PGA) for being the "Gopher" and works foreman".**

I am pleased to report that Reg's Hex Beam is now up and running with new guy ropes.

All in all an excellent job done by Club members.

To that end a donation has been given to the club for the help and assistance.

We all wish Reg well and to make a speedy full recovery.

Mike G3PGA

---

## CONGRATULATIONS TO A NEW FOUNDATION LICENSEE

Mike Kerr has passed the Foundation Exam with 96% pass mark. Well done Mike and welcome to amateur radio.

---

## TECHNICAL TEASER FROM DAVE (M0JAP)

This teaser involves the Characteristic impedance levels for coaxial cables :-

"Why is it that it's commonly arranged to use a 50  $\Omega$  impedance level with transmitter outputs but often a 75  $\Omega$  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".

Answer: next month !

(Clue: the most basic of differential calculus will help, if you don't already know the answer)

Dave (M0JAP)

## MY FIRST SHIP (Part 16) - by Brian (M0BRB)

Ship now clear of OZ and now heading for the UK via Aden and the Canal one week out into the Indian Ocean now on homeward bound revolutions. The Chief still muttering about the engine, but none of us wanted to stop and delay our home run.

About this time, I noted that the Cook was looking at the back of the Bridge and filling in a small notebook. When I ask him what he was doing, he said that "watching which crew members were visiting the Chief Stewards cabin". I said "why"? - so he tells me about the VD stakes and running bets with the 2nd Cook. The time from leaving Japan was about right so he was putting names in his little book. Well he noted down about six members going in for the needle, but in the end and after the Captain had consulted via the radio room by CW with a medcare message to a Doctor in OZ, it turned out to be a false alarm.

The Doctor said it was a common complaint of seaman at Fremantle because of drinking ice cold Swan Lager.

Ship now steering North by West towards Aden and now it was Christmas so all the crew in party mood.

The Captain, in his wisdom, told the Chief Officer that over Christmas Eve day and Christmas day, that apart from Christmas Lunch, that he would retire to his cabin, so within reason the crew could do as they liked providing that they turn out at the start of the next full working day.

Christmas Eve night, going on watch at 2000, just as I was inside the ER door the 5th Engineer gave me a full glass of Benedictine, which I drank down before going down the first ladder. By the time I arrived at the middle platform I knew I was drunk (in all my time at sea on watch) that was the only time I was drunk. As I continued on down to the control platform I knew that I had overdone it. I remember getting very close to the Boiler Gauge Water Column and putting my face against the protection grill to see the water level and that my Arab Greaser "tutt tutting", and shaking his head in disgust. After four hours at the end of the watch, I don't how ? that I had completed all my routine duties and all was in order. I could not remember if my 6th Engineer was with me, tho' I suspect that my Greaser helped a lot. I know I was glad to get to my bunk just after Midnight, and I never touched that green drink again.

Christmas Day - I enjoyed my Breakfast before going down on watch and much to my surprise, the 2nd Engineer was as sober as he could be, I think that worried me even more than normal. It turned out that because he was born on the 25th of December it was not the right thing for him to get drunk, but he made up for it in the proceeding days.

Christmas Day at sea - my second one in the Orient City, good morning watch every one happy except the 5th Engineer - he found something to moan about, even tho' he had got me drunk the night before. Again I was making plans to get revenge. Nice Christmas Dinner, the Galley excelled itself for a change, unlike the last one in Santos.

The 5th Engineer went missing in the afternoon and early evening, I found him back with the deck crew, very drunk and foaming at the mouth with excess beer. The crew aft had changed from the crew that had been onboard when I first joined the ship.

I think that I mentioned how hard the first lot was, this crew came from the Western Iles and Scapa Flow and most of them spoke German, because the First War German Fleet

had been sank in the Flow, so I guess that the Dads had put it about a bit. At that time, I could manage some German, I heard that they were taking – the – mick out of the engineer, so with a few hard German swear words I dragged him away.

The Arab crew had remained the same all the time, and gave no trouble at all. Anyway, I pushed the 5th into his cabin, and hoped that he would get some sleep and went below at 2000 for my watch. The 2nd still sober, went up and I thought that he might hit the bottle, then.

The 3rd Engineer came down at midnight change of watch, without the 5th Engineer and told me he was still too drunk to come on watch, and was out running around the deck.

When I went out from the ER, I found him sitting on the shipside rail, calling us all a load of B\*\*\*\*\*ds - I thought that I might give him a push over the side, then that would have delayed the ship on the homeward run, because we would have had to turn around and look for him, so I dragged him back to his cabin again and went to my bunk. Next day, the 2nd was back on the bottle, the Chief, now decided that enough was enough, and ask the Steward not to sell the 2nd any more booze from the Captain's Bond or if you like Stop his Tap.

Another week should see the ship at Aden - now the Chief decided to look at the suspected M/Engine, the 3rd asked him why now, and not in Port in OZ. Chief said, "stopping at sea would be cooler than in port", so at 0900 one morning, we shut down the Main Engine to open up the LP Cylinder. We had to tie wet sacking around our boots and lower legs to work on top off the engine, all the engineers on the job in ten minutes spells, 50 inch nuts to undo to lift the cover up, six feet of copper wire to drag out of 10 large allen screw bolts, to undo to lift the Junk Ring Plate, and lift out the LP Piston Ring, (this ring was the Chief's suspect to be broken) It wasn't. So after inspection and cleaning the ring and top of the piston, we boxed it all up again. Just another delay to stop me seeing my family again. Meanwhile, the deck crew had been fishing, and caught two large Sharks and nothing else, another bloody waist of time.

Without the engineers knowing, the Captain and the Chief had put two cases of beer in the fridge for us. After we got under way again, and the 2nd was allowed to have some, we worked up to full speed for Aden.

The old 2nd was still getting drunk while he was doing his watch, the Chief and the Engineers Steward had a look around the 2nds cabin, but found no drink, tho' somehow the 2nd was still getting drunk.

The 3rd Engineer having a shower one morning after coming off watch and looking out of the bathroom P port saw the 2nd come out of the ER from the deck entrance and digging down into the grain cargo where a corner Hatch Board had been left off to let the cargo vent. He lifted out a bottle from his little stash of booze and had a crafty swig before going down below again, someone must have been obtaining the booze for him and I suspected the 5th Engineer, he was daft enough to do so. Remembering back to that time, I cannot remember the old 2nd not being drunk, apart from Christmas Day.

Ship at anchor near Steamer Point in Aden, very hot and taking on Bunkers, no Arabs allowed on board, except the company's Arab Watchman who was, I was told, a Saudi Arab from the Desert. About 6ft 4ins in his Arab Sandals

dressed all in black with a rifle over his shoulder and large stave. Any Arab coming up over the shipside would have had a nasty thump on the head. All the doors were kept locked and portholes kept shut, anything that could be lifted from the deck, was put into store and before the ship arrived. The carpenter had removed all the brass tops on the Tank Sounding Pipes and all brass fittings from the boat deck. The Captain, had ordered all Bum Boats to stay clear of the ship's sides. The Donkey Man was going ashore with permission from the Captain with instructions to rejoin no later than 2000. His rig long Arab coat and towel headgear with his double breasted blue serge jacket with his OBE ribbon and the Medal, and I might add, that all the Arabs nearby showed him much respect, even the Bedu Arab watchman.

Now was time for Brian to go aboard the Oil Tanker Barge to check the tanks with the Dip, so the Bedu Arab came with me with the rifle and club to ensure my safety.

Donkey Man arrived back with about 20 relatives, who were not allowed to come onboard with him. My watch was spent getting the M/Engine warmed through - departure at Midnight. I was called for my 7 bell breakfast, as soon as I looked around, I saw that the ship had changed course and now steaming South - yet another change of orders - found out while eating my breakfast from the Engineer's Steward that we were heading for the Cape of Good Hope, which was the long way around to get to the UK. Later in the morning I phoned the Bridge and found that the Canal had been closed because the French and the British had invaded into Port Said, so now we were to take on more fuel at Cape Town.

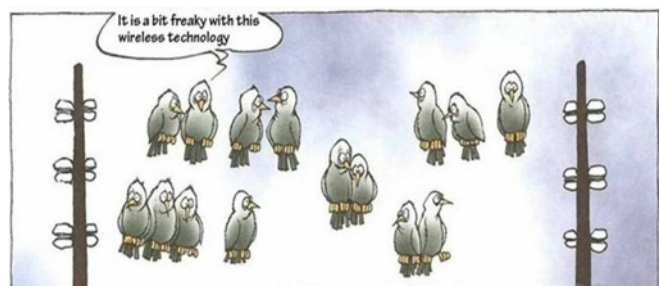
When I questioned the old Navigation Officer he told me that it would put another 8 days on the run home. So five days run to Cape Town, while on the run, we had news of one of the company ships crossing the Indian Ocean away to the East of us was in very bad weather had the wheelhouse windows stoved in by a big wave, blinding the Ch/Officer that was on watch at the time. The Orient now alongside the Bunker Wharf to take on more Boiler Oil, because of the very large swell coming from the Southern Ocean and right into the outer harbour, we had to have a very large Tug pushing the Orient against the wall, The Tug was nearly as big as us. We were only there for five hours, then under way for home.

Brian (M0BRB)

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)



### AGM - 2013

1. **Apologies for Absence :**
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM** by Brian (M0BRB)
3. **Chairman's Report** by Terry (G4CHD)
4. **Hon Secretary's Report** by Brian (M0BRB)
5. **Treasurer's Report** by Laurence (G4XHK)
6. **Committee will now stand down - John (G0UNB)** our President will now **take over**
7. **Election of Chairman -**  
New Chairman resumes chair
8. **Election of Vice Chairman -**
9. **Election of Secretary -**
10. **Election of Treasurer -**
11. **Election of 3 Committee members -**
12. **Election of Auditor -**
13. The following posts are not elected -  
QSL Manager  
Web Master  
Editor
14. **AOB**  
Presentation of the **Jim McFee Cup** by **John (G0UNB) (Club President)**  
Any other Business

### EGM 2013

The following changes to the Club Constitution are proposed for discussion -

1. Section 6 (f) - 'Not more than two co-opted members who have full voting rights, and not more than two who are not permitted to vote' to be deleted and replaced by '**Not more than two co opted members who have full voting rights**'.
2. Section 6 (g) - 'The Committee shall nominate a Publicity Member' to be deleted and replaced by -  
'**The Committee shall have the right to appoint Members to various Club Roles as and when the need arises. Such appointments shall automatically offer being co opted in a non voting capacity onto the Committee**'.
3. Further to the Club's responsibilities to minors etc -  
It is proposed that the following be added at the end of Section 3 -  
'**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**'.

**APPLEDORE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CONSTITUTION**

**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.

**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, and not more than two who are not permitted to vote.
- (g) The Committee shall nominate a Publicity Member.

## **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](mailto: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

14<sup>th</sup> September 2012