

BOP what has he been up to?

So soon March is here again & the AGM and thoughts of re electing or having a new committee. Only the AGM will decide that. Since my last report I have been getting around the Midlands & making use of public transport, bus, tram & rail making full use of my bus pass. Its interesting seeing some of the changes taking place. I have even found time to do spring cleaning & make preparations for having the house rewired. I have even dismantled the aerial, so I can install the long over due motorised beam that will be controllable from inside the house.

I visted D-Com in Brettel Lane to obtain a mast section to carry the beam & motor, so every thing is all go. It's in between trying to sort out the ongoing problem with the joystick on the other computer. It seems to be taking up so much time like downloading files and contacting the sound card manufactures & still at the time of writing I have not got anywhere, yet I think the solution is easy to some one in the know. Before leaving the computer subject on Thursday 23th Feb I had a most interesting time at the computer exhibition at the NEC although trade I was able to talk to reps from Microsoft & Creative about the joystick problems as well as seeing some advanced computers & components.

There was a opening on 2m that week, a fellow in Kidderminster was in QSO direct with someone in Torquay. I also had a visit in early Feb from a former work colleague from my first place of employment, Derek G8DKF. Like myself he is a organ enthusiast & later that week with our xyl's we were at West Bromwich Town Hall to listen to Nigel Ogden playing the organ which has been in the town hall for over 100 years. I have known Derek & his xyl for 50yrs. I don't see him all that much now a days. He is more active on amateur radio than I am, he has not got the irons in the fire like I have. Feburary seems to have been a month for organ concerts on Tuesday 27th Glenys & myself were at Dud-

ley Town Hall to listen to the Shropshire Theatre Organ Trust president Phil Kelsall. He is resident organist at Blackpool Tower, but amateur radio was not to far away also at the concert was Malcolm G4OXV & Roy G0LQF.

I must congratulate Robert (G3ORI) on winning the constructor's contest I never really thought that my entree would get any were its not strictly radio. I only entered it in case there was not too many entrants, it is good to know that construction still takes place, which in my early days of radio I found more interest in constructing than in operating. Perhaps one day I will start constructing my own equipment again.

Well that's all for now, I will go & find some more material for the April Starlite one item will be the Wythall rally.

73s Roving Reporter Malcolm G8BOP



Tony on the air,
Pic from Malcolm G8BOP

Please Bring your STARLITE to the AGM

2000 AGM minutes

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 20TH. MARCH 2000

HELD AT OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL, HEATH LANE, STOURBRIDGE

ITEM. 1. OPEN MEETING

HON. PRESIDENT OPENED THE MEETING AT 8.00PM

ITEM. 2. THOSE PRESENT. Tony M1CZH, Dennis G0HTJ, Don G0ESR, Bill G3HMD, John M1EJG, Frank G0VBP, George M0CBJ, Tom 2E1HLT, James G7HEZ (Editor), Alan G7AXW, Eric G3IVQ (Trustee), Arthur G2DVI, Malcolm G8BOP, Robert G3ORI, Eric G7JWJ (Hon. Pres.), Brian M1BKX, John G8UAE (Hon. Treas.), Jim G4WAO, Bob G4VPE, Richard G0EWH, Richard M1DBC, Andrew G7TLA, Mark G7TDP, Gordon G0TZV (Hon. Sec.), Doug G4FYQ (Trustee), Wayne G7LLT.

ITEM. 3. APOLOGIES. Alec G8GF, Stuart G7KKC, John G3SNY.

ITEM. 4. The Minutes of the 1999 AGM held on 15th. March and the EGM on 20th. Sept.1999 were confirmed: Prop. Alan G7AXW Seconded. Richard G0EWH

ITEM. 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

John, hon. Treasurer, reported that he still had not received a list of equipment held by the Society to assess the assets for insurance purposes.

In reply to a query from Richard G7EWH, Hon, Sec. Said that all Equipment had been recovered from the Robin Woods Centre.

There were no other matters arising

ITEM. 6. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(i) PRESIDENT (Eric G7JWJ)

The end of the Twentieth century has passed without the end of the world, as we know it, and we are at the start of a new millennium. But what of last year?

StARS has enjoyed a good end of century. The Society now meets every Monday with the main thrust. being the first and third Mondays in the month. We have had some excellent talks over the year with possibly the one having the most impact being the one on SSTV. After this, there was a rush to build modems and a construction group was set up. (Some of them work, some are in the process of starting to work and others are still on the bench in the shack).

On the training front we had great success at the start of the year with three students passing the novice RAE and one going on to pass the full RAE. However, after this first flush of success the remainder of the year was a bit of a let down. The NRAE course starting in September did not go so well. With students turning up sometimes and not others, this did not show commitment and so we (the instructors) stopped the course. We shall try again this year. The barbecue and the Club Dinners were a success and we hope to have more this year

I would like to thank all the committee members for their help over the past year. Without their efforts there would be no events. The future. We don't know what the future holds, but this I do know, we must get more young members into the Society if we are to last another sixty years. Times are changing and new technology is moving at a very fast pace, so must we.

If you have any ideas, let us have them. Its your Society and, as the old adage goes, "If you don't use it you will lose it "

StARS must of the best society in the area, subscriptions are low and the premises are good so I say to members, if you speak to anyone on the air, extend an invitation to them to come along and meet us. Let us make this start to the millennium one that will stand the Society in good stead for the next sixty years

(iii) SECRETARY (Gordon G0TZV)

Hon sec. thanked the members and committee for their support over the year. He mentioned the Thinking Day on The Air event, which had improved immeasurably since the first attempt in 1999. Also the interest in SSTV. He added that this was the end of his fifth year as secretary and that he did not wish to stand for re-election. He said that, whilst doing the job, he had felt obliged to attend every meeting and event organised by the Society. Also that the past two years had been particularly busy with the change of venue and arranging for the use of the various rooms at OSH. He offered to give full support to his successor and to continue to help with the production and distribution of the newsletter, administration of the NRAE and allied responsibilities with G&G for the examinations and to liaise with OSH.

(2) TREASURER (John G8UAE)

copies of the balance sheet for the year ending 29th. February 2000 were distributed and Hon. Treasurer John G8UAE explained in detail the various items there-in. Cash in hand is now £607.79 as against £684.18 for the previous year. The balance sheet and report were accepted. Proposed: Richard G0EWH, Seconded: Tony M1CZH.

ITEM. 7. ANNUAL AWARDS

These were presented as follows:

Senior trophy to	Eric G3IVQ
Junior Trophy to	Tom 2E1HLT
National Field Day Trophy to	Tony M1CZH
Bristol Trophy to	Wayne G7LLT.

PRESENTATION OF THE **G8GF** ROSEBOWL WAS HELD OVER TO A FUTURE MEETING.

ITEM. 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE. (PRESIDENT TO VACATE CHAIR)

Doug G4FYQ took the Chair

PRESIDENT	Eric G7JWJ	Prop: Richard EWH	Sec: Tony CZH - unopposed
VICE PRESIDENT	Wayne G7LLT	Prop: Tony CZH	Sec: Eric IVQ – unopposed.
TREASURER	JOHN G8UAE	Prop: Doug FYQ	Sec: Arthur DVI unopposed
SECRETARY	TOM 2E1HLT	Prop: Gordon TZV	Sec: Tony CZH unopposed

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

With the exception of Bob G4VPE and Bob G4XOM the existing committee members were re-elected en-bloc and one additional nomination was accepted.

EDITOR James French G7HEZ	Prop: Bob VPE	Sec: Robert ORI
Brian Hinton M1BKX	Prop: Bob VPE	Sec: Robert ORI
Richard Carol M1DBC	Prop: Bob VPE	Sec: Robert ORI
Tony Price M1CZH	Prop: Bob VPE	Sec: Robert ORI
John Clarke M1EJG	Prop: Wayne LLT	Sec: James HEZ

There were no other nominations for any of the above.

ITEM. 9 APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES CONFIRMATION

Doug Robins G4FYQ and Eric G3IVQ agreed to remain as Trustees of the Society.

ITEM.10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Hon. President asked for any archive material to be passed on to Tony

It was agreed that more strenuous efforts be made to get the 3 element tri-bander re-installed, albeit it at a lower elevation.

It was agreed to investigate the whereabouts of the Geo-Stationary Weather Satellite equipment and get it installed.

Hon President extended a warm welcome to new members Andrew G7TLA and Mark G7TDP.

Eric IVQ thanked members for the greeting card from the Society, which he had received on the occasion of his 80th. Birthday.

Wayne LLT proposed that a vote of thanks be minuted to the retiring secretary for his efforts during his term of office, seconded by Eric JWJ. – agreed.

It was agreed that signs were needed in the carpark to direct members to the rooms where meetings are being used for any particular meeting

ITEM. 11. CLOSE MEETING.

There being no other business, Hon. President closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Gordon G0TZV

Critics slam BBC's plan to segregate readers

The BBC's plan to block UK access to its international news site has been greeted with a mixture of criticism and derision from experts.

The corporation plans to launch an international news site -- BBCNews.com -- later this year which it claims is a response to government pressure to extend its World Service onto the Internet.

The BBC proposes to make the new international site accessible only to users outside the UK. This, it says, will maintain a distance between its publicly-funded and commercial services.

Both the existing and proposed sites will carry the same news content, with the latter funded by and carrying advertisements for its international-only audience.

At least that's the plan.

Technical experts dismiss the proposals as impossible, arguing it is not feasible to control access by geography. Ben Laurie, director of the Apache Foundation and one of the expert witnesses during the Yahoo! French Nazi auction trial says "it is not possible" to block users geographically. "They [the BBC] may hope they can but then management often think very stupid things," he says.

Laurie also thinks there are wider problems with the plan. "I am opposed to the concept that people should be restricted in what they can view. Knowledge should be universally available," he says. "Presumably the reason the BBC is doing this is not to stop UK users from looking at a site with adverts but to prevent Americans looking at an ad-free site."

Commercial broadcasters have long claimed there is an increased blurring between the BBC's public services and its commercial ones. The plan to launch BBCNews.com has been criticised by sparring partner ITN. "If it is a BBC Worldwide service then the BBC has to prove that it is paying a market rate for any content it takes from a publicly-funded site," says an ITN spokesman. "If it can't then

the BBC has a major problem on its hands." The BBC denies the proposed international site will be paid for with licence payers' money. "UK users won't be able to log on to the international site and vice versa," says a BBC spokesman, claiming that the technology to make this possible is "still being explored".

StARS trip to Station X at Bletchley Park

Saturday 12th May from
Old Swinford.

Home of the Egnima
machine and worlds first
computer

plus lots more!

Cost (approx) £6 for the
coach and £5 entrance
per person.

Further information and
booking from

Wayne G7 (M5)LLT

Open to all!

Correction

Correction to Millennium article in February Starlite.
Alec would like to point out that he did not
have heart surgery, that part still seems to
function well.

2001 Agenda

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT THE LIBRARY, OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL, HEATH LANE, STOURBRIDGE ON MONDAY 19TH. MARCH 2000 COMMENCING AT 8.00.PM. PROMPT

AGENDA

- ITEM. 1. OPEN MEETING
- ITEM. 2. THOSE PRESENT.
- ITEM. 3. APOLOGIES.
- ITEM. 4. MINUTES OF THE 2000 MEETING.
- ITEM. 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.
- ITEM. 6. OFFICERS' REPORTS.
 - (i) TREASURER.
 - (ii) SECRETARY.
 - (iii) PRESIDENT
- ITEM. 8. ANNUAL AWARDS
- ITEM. 9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE. (PRESIDENT TO VACATE CHAIR)
- ITEM. 10. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES
- ITEM. 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.
- ITEM. 12. CLOSE MEETING.

WANTED

Committee members and Secretary
for Stars.

Please apply at the AGM.

Have your say in your society.

