

Mid Cornwall Beacon and Repeater Group

Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 26th October 2025 at 2pm

At Lanivet “All for One” Hall, Lanivet, Bodmin, PL30 5HG

Members present:

Maurice Richards **G3WKF**, Paul Andrews **G6MNJ**, Gerry Somers **G7VVF**, Jean Camp **2E1FOX**, Mike Bundy **G4WVD**, Nick Camp **G7KFQ**, Andrew Green **M1AEG**, Rich Willis **M8TGK**, Peter Taylor **G8BCG**, Kevin Franks **M0BFB**, Lisa Willis **M8PXi**, Keith Holland **G3MCD**, John Birkbeck **G3IGV**, Ian Wilson **G1JXP**, Andrew Ellis **M1DNS**, Ian Hunt **G5GYR**, Martin Perrett **G8LCE**, David Newman **G4GLT**, John Newman **G0VDU**, Brad Cortes **2E0YBD**.

Non-members present:

Rachel Andrews **G6MNI** (XYL of G6MNJ), Susan Franks (XYL of M0BFB), Karen Perret (XYL of G8LCE) and Greta Birkbeck (XYL of G3IGV).

The Chairman, Paul Andrews **G6MNJ** opened the meeting at 2pm by welcoming all present. The agenda for the meeting would be fixed as detailed in item 10 of the Constitution.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Bagley G3XPY.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM.

The minutes of the previous year's AGM, (15th October 2024) together with copies of the Constitution had been circulated and displayed on the group's web site.

The room voted their approval of last year's AGM.

3. Chair's Report

It is already a year since my election and what a year it has been!

The new MCBARG committee have excelled themselves as you are about to hear in greater detail from each of them shortly. My main concern once we have formed our new committee was mast safety, so much so I banned climbing it until we had better safety equipment and had received some much-needed guidance on climbing.

My first of many votes of thanks goes to Brad Cortes 2E0YBD who organised a very generous supply of free climbing kit. We did order some more items to complete the group's needs but given what we have now and how little it costed we are so grateful.

He and Ian Wilson G1JXP stepped forward and offered to climb alongside Kevin Francks M0BFB so we now have a climbing group and ground safety members to support them. Work on the mast is well under way, and it is safe once more. There are still jobs to do but that is to be expected as that is an ongoing responsibility of having a mast such as ours.

Alan Bagley G3XPY and Kevin M0BFB have attended most Sundays this year to develop and improve GB3NQ alongside other site requirements as needed. Thank you both.

Gerry Somers G7VFV and Alan Bagley G3XPY have worked very hard to repair the roof of the beacon room saving the group a very large sum of money had we employed a builder to fix it for us. Again, many thanks to these guys.

Another big vote of thanks goes to Jean Camp 2E1FOX who negotiated our 1-year lease to a 3-year lease. This gives the group the reassurance to invest in our site. Thank you, Jean.

Upgrades on Beacons, Echo Link, site maintenance and so much more have also been worked on by a fantastic group of people I am proud to work with. A huge thank you to all of you.

I hope the coming year we can all continue the good work we have undertaken.

Remember without these willing people we would not have any radio facilities here in Cornwall.

Finally, all this costs money and I do ask you and others who enjoy these facilities please join the group and pay their annual £20 subscription. We also accept donations however big or small.

4. Secretary's Report

It is customary at the AGM to thank those who continue to support our group with your £20 subscription to ensure our services remain and can be relied upon. This is vitally important for the future of GB3NC and all the maintenance it needs to keep operating. There are so many people that provide these services from keeping the site clear of weeds, reading the news, climbing the mast, keeping beacons and repeaters functioning keeping the building in good repair and watertight and of course keeping a close eye on our finances. You all know who you are, and we all thank you for everything you do for the group.

As mentioned there has been some essential work done on the mast, re-siting antennas, roof repairs, and feeder cable routing into the beacon room repaired and made water and wind tight with a new frame and back boards. The roof sag has been addressed and is somewhat more level and two new rafters have been installed as the two we removed, or should I say vacuumed out as dry rot had taken its toll and it was just dust. Some of the antenna U bolts have been replaced and they will all be replaced as and when time and weather allow. There are some other works to be done on the mast but as our weather is now going to be more unpredictable this may have to wait for fair weather to complete. Many thanks once again to Kevin, Ian and of course Brad without whom a lot of work on our tower would not have been possible without his valuable insight and suggestions. With our new safety gear for the mast and a safety plan in place we are now compliant with Health and Safety rules.

MCBARG attended the CRAC Rally in Truro in July where we managed to sell some donated equipment which is getting harder to do so.

Several big improvements to the site have been seen over the past year or so including the continuing upgrade of the beacons led by Nik G7KFQ and Peter G8BCG. We also have a digital DMR voice repeater GB7DT on site on 70cms.

Solar System - GB3MCB Sustainable Beacon Project – this continues to run 24/7 helping the group keep the electric overheads under control but once again the subscription to the Beacon and Repeater Group is what keeps us in the black and the repeaters keep working. Once that money runs out the whole thing goes kaput. GB3NC is for everyone's benefit.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The figures in this report cover ONLY a small extrapolation from the accounts. A further report, which has been externally examined by an appropriate independent professional, will cover the Mid Cornwall Beacon and Repeater Group for the financial year ending September 2025. See last page.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subs and Donations	1201.86	Beacon Maintenance	120.54
ROC Donation	168.00	Electricity	1284.25
Other fundraising	472.35	Safety Equipment	1346.22

It is my belief that those involved in raising money will be thanked in person during the AGM, but I must report that the income would be very much lower were it not for the hard work that went into the fundraising at the July rally and eBay sales.

You will note that a relatively small amount was spent on equipment build, but what accounts cannot show is the time and expertise spent in the building of such equipment. The same can be said for repairs to the site roof, the tower, and the installation of solar panels. These are all very valuable assets on which a quantifiable amount cannot be reported. Thank you to all those involved. It is usual for the annual cost of electricity to be the greatest expenditure, however in this year that was not the case. The purchase of safety equipment for both climbers and ground crew has proved to be so, but it is a necessary expenditure which was not taken lightly by the committee and did so only with the guidance of a suitably qualified safety expert.

I wish to thank all those who have supported me through my term of office, not least of whom is Mike Bundy G4WVD, without whom I would not have had the information required to carry out the role.

There have been some nominations for new Committee members and changes of role, and they are as follows: -

Brad Cortes, Ian Wilson, Peter Taylor, Mike Bundy

I wish my successor every good wish for a successful year ahead.

6. Repeater Keeper's Report

GB3NC and GB3HB - Mike G4WVD

It has been a quiet year. GB3NC and GB3HB have run reasonably well. GB3HB has needed to be reset for some reason or another, four or five times, and I have a young lad out of Roche G0PSB, and he sends me a text and reminds me so I can do a remote reset.

GB3NC has this year been available for all GB2RS news broadcasts. Both repeaters are running standard logic. I have not solved that problem with the previous logic system. It just does not run up there for some reason. I think it is just too much RF up there. GB3HB has had an NOV review. That is now valid until 2028.

GB3NC's NOV review is in early December. So that will go until 2028 too. And I have a feeling that after 2028, somebody else will have to take the NOVs on because I will be old, I may not be here!

GB7DT Digital DMR REPEATER - M1AEG

This is not really a report because there is not a lot to report. Just a bit of background history and a bit of news on it. GB7DT, where does it start? I originally ran DT from my home QTH and realised it would not do well.

I am 235 metres above sea level, but I am blocked by the giant tip, sort of north-east to south-west for 180 degrees, so it was not really going to work. Nick expressed an interest in the group running DT, and here we are today. DT is a commercial DR3000 DMR repeater, but it connects back to specially written software that allows it to connect to the south -west cluster. The GB7DT DMR repeater does rely on internet connection to connect to the Southwest Cluster on time slot two, because there is two slots. The 4G connection that the group provides has been very stable.

But for digital, it has been fine. DT has only had to be restarted about four times over the past 12 months. If you ever listen to DT on slot two, you will suddenly realize its potential. It is part of a network of 29 other repeaters, and still counting, spanning from Poldhu to Thornbury, all permanently connected on slot two. DT slot one is local. It is not connected to any other repeater or talk group unless requested to do so.

Even then, the connection is limited to 15 minutes unless local traffic is heard. So go on, give it a go. It is like a digital version of GB3NC. The South Cluster on slot two does use the backbone of FreeDMR. South Cluster do run their own server, but it does use FreeDMR software, and that allows access to all the other FreeDMR talk groups.

FreeDMR also has crosslinks to a few of the Phoenix DMR talk groups, which was the original DMR system. So, there are some cross-links there. I understand to some of you DMR appears very confusing and difficult to use. I completely agree. The only way to understand it is to use it and talk to others. Believe me, it does suddenly become clear.

After all, two separate QSOs on the same frequency and a selection of 15 colour codes, what could be simpler? In all seriousness, DT is a great asset to both Cornwall and Southwest Cluster, and I thank the group for allowing it at their site.

GB3NQ TELEVISION REPEATER - M0BFB

Since the last report, there has been some real progress in improving the output quality and reliability of GB3NQ. Equipment and control logic has been upgraded through regular weekly visits, and most adjustments can now be made remotely through the on-site 4G data link.

Since last year we have removed the 70cm receive aerial from its temporary location and fitted a new aerial in a better position on the tower. This has improved DATV reception on the 70 cm band to the point that Mike G8LES from Four Marks in Hampshire got into the repeater during a lift. Unfortunately, nobody was around to see him but the streamer service at the BATC had confirmed his contact.

The groundbreaking experiment we conducted on combining a low-definition signal with a high-definition signal in the same reduced bandwidth is now stable and has become a permanent feature of the GB3NQ RF output.

The result is now a reliable repeater, providing excellent high-definition video and sound. This was achieved by a group of members who collaborated with donated equipment to create something truly remarkable.

The new 4-way split screen now works, allowing all four inputs to be shown simultaneously. It is still in the experimental stage but working well.

We had a major setback during the summer when following reports of low RF output, we discovered that our faithful 23cm Linear power amplifier had failed. The internal PCB had burnt through to the chassis. We managed to run for a while using low power from the driver amplifier, and we later had use of borrowed 23cm PA. Paul, G6MNJ undertook the repair with a new circuit board, and new power transistors all is running very well.

Our regular Tuesday night “activity night” has six regular members, and we are frequently joined by amateurs from Southern Ireland and Southeast England.

Work has started on developing a new and improved media player for GB3NQ. The object is to replace the current 30 minutes of repetitive video with more topical and up to date

information to be transmitted while the repeater is not in use. To support this, we are currently exploring options to increase the site's broadband capacity.

Last week we commissioned a new input to the repeater from the Quatar Oscar 100 satellite. Collaboration is ongoing, with ideas for additional input and output bands, still at the discussion stage but included in the development roadmap."

7. Beacon Keeper's Report - G7KFQ

Our beacons are working okay, except for the 3cms beacon, which is off air for the near future because Chris unfortunately, has moved up country and his workshops are in storage. So once that is all in place, he will endeavour to get the 3cms beacon back up with the help of DINA so we can get frequency stabilisation on it and the RSGB and Ofcom are desperate for it.

The other thing that is worth noting is that we have had reasonable spots that they sort of mirror the spots that we have had in previous years. Mostly across Europe, I believe in 2008, 2014, 2016. in North America, I think South America as well. So, they are working very well.

We need to look at upgrading the other radios or beacons. to bring them in line with more modern technology and to reduce the power consumption. It is quite noticeable our electricity bill, even with the solar, is creeping up. So that is something where you have the knock-on effect of the cost of doing this against what you are going to save on electricity. So, it may take some time. I would also like to echo my thanks to Gerry and Alan for fixing the roof on the beacon room and the portal, that was an excellent job done there.

Also to echo my thanks for all the work that has been done on the mast, because if we did not have that done, the mast, our site would not work. So, I most appreciate it.

Chairman Spoke to the Room

Before we break, I would like to just mention this year we lost two of our committee members, Keith Bonney G0KTD and Lee Paston M7LRP. Both provided a lot of help in their time over the years, and I think just be respectful to just pay them a moment of silence in their honour. Those of us who knew them both well, left a big hole in our lives.

Certainly, Keith was a very good friend of mine. The meeting adjourned for a break

8. Election of new Committee for 2025/2026

At this point the Current Chairman, G6MNJ dissolved the committee and stepped down to allow for a new committee to be elected, Andrew M1DNS was asked to step up and take the chair.

Andrew addressed the room. "Is there anyone present who wishes to step forward as a chair application?

Nobody else stepped up and so Paul G6MNJ was nominated by Nick G7KFQ and seconded by Peter G8BCG – the room voted unanimously in favour of Paul's appointment.

Paul addressed the room. “I'm looking forward to next year, actually, because we've done so much and there's still so much more to do.”

Below are the results of each of the other posts as voted for on the day.

Post	Nominated by	Seconded	Vote
President G3WKF			
Secretary & GDPR G3XPY	G6MNJ	G7KFQ	Unanimous
Treasurer G4WVD	M8TGK	G6MNJ	Unanimous
Deputy Treasurer 2E1FOX	G4WVD	M8PXi	Majority
Vice Chairman G7VFV	G6MNJ	M8TGK	Unanimous
GB3NC/HB NOV G4WVD	G6MNJ	G7KFQ	Unanimous
GB3NQ NOV M0BFB	G4WVD	G7KFQ	Unanimous
GB3MCB NOV G7KFQ	M8TGK	G6MNJ	Majority
GB7DT NOV M1AEG	G4WVD	M1DNS	Unanimous
Member & Webmaster G8BCG	G6MNJ	G7KFQ	Unanimous
Member G1JXP	G6MNJ	M8TGK	Unanimous
Member 2E0YBD	G6MNJ	G8BCG	Unanimous

G6MNJ is nominated as PR officer and seconded by Richard 2E0TGK Club reps were thanked for their continued support and help with MCBARG.

9. Election of Auditors

Rachel G6MNI was unanimously voted for and appointed as the group's external financial examiner and discussion led to a vote on change of wording from Auditor to External Financial Examiner in our Constitution.

10. Membership subscription level for following year.

The membership subscription level will remain the same which is £20 for those who don't know it and if you know people who use the repeater and aren't members of the group, please impress upon them that we really would be grateful for them to join. Lisa 2E0TGK asked if there was a family membership. This was discussed in detail, and it was agreed that currently the first member pays £20, any subsequent members in that family only pay £15.

This change would also require an alteration in our constitution that read the family membership will be reduced by 25% for each additional family member. It was voted for and a majority of the room agreed.

11. Trustee approval

The Trustees remain as last year

Mike G4WVD

Gerry G7VFV

Paul G6MNJ

12. Shut down list

The shutdown list of repeaters and beacons is up to date.

13. Other business

There was no other business and so the meeting was formally closed.

Statement of Accounts

Mid Cornwall Beacon and Repeater Group

Accounts for the year ending 30/09/2025

Account balances brought forward	£
Lloyds Bank Balance as at 01/10/2024	£5,518.20
Paypal Balance on 01/10/2024	£203.33
Total b/f	£5,721.53

<u>Income for the financial year</u>	<u>Expenditure this financial year</u>
Cash Income in petty cash	£128.00
Subs & donations paid into Lloyds	£334.40
Subs & donations paid via Paypal	£867.46
Radio Operators Cornwall donation	£168.00
Ebay sales of donated equipment	£140.37
Raffle at AGM	£54.92
Refreshments at AGM	£18.00
Refund of OFCOM licenses by RSGB	£50.00
Other Fund Raising & Refunds	£472.35
Total Income In this financial year	£2,233.50
Income less Expenditure deficit	-£1,059.01
Add back Bank and Paypal balances b/f 01/10/2024	£5,721.53
	£4,662.52

this agrees with the balance held at Lloyds Bank
plus the balance held in our Paypal account on 30/09/2025

Closing Balance Lloyds Bank	£4,365.03
Closing Balance Paypal Account	£169.49
Petty Cash	£128.00
	£4,662.52

1st October 2025

Jean Camp
2E1FOX || Treasurer

External Examiners Statement

I have examined the above accounts and confirmed that the figures are in accordance with the books and records maintained by the treasurer ||

Signed

Date

05/10/25

Rachel Andrews FCMA CGMA