

**NORTH WALES RADIO SOCIETY**  
**Falklands Room**  
**Blind Veterans U.K.**  
**Queens Road**  
**Llandudno**

**Date: 30th March 2017**  
**Time 7.30 pm > 9 pm**

**2017 AGM – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – By Goronwy Edwards MW0HTG**

**Introduction:**

Good evening, welcome to this truly magnificent building, owned by our hosts, Blind Vets U.K., and what is in effect a novel collaboration, or cooperation between two amateur radio clubs.

**Acknowledgements:**

Before I proceed, my heartfelt thanks to the management of Blind Vets, in particular the **Facilities Manager Paul Wyn Williams** who has facilitated our rent free arrangement. Also, my thanks to **Ray and Clare Peart**, BVUK Amateur Radio Club, with whom we now share this facility.

Not only would I like to thank everyone on the committee, **Liz, John & George for their support** during 2016/17, but also **the rest of you, the club members** that continue to support the club in whatever way possible. Much appreciated.

Again, whilst not compulsory, the aim of the report is to provide a rough guide post of where we have been, and where we want to go?, and will be available on our website in due course.

*Undoubtedly, the moving of the club house from Colwyn Bay to Blind Vets stands out as the key event of the year.*

At the end of last year, the following committee members were voted in:

1. President – John Roberts
2. Chairman – Goronwy Edwards
3. Secretary - Liz Cabban
4. Treasurer – George Hobson

## Introduction

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At the end of last year, I said that I didn't have any quick fixes or a miraculous strategy for the future of the club, and stated the following:

- *Continuing to work with the Town Council towards **securing a radio room & technical area within the current building, equal's greater activities. This will improve membership satisfaction & retention.***
- *Work to **retain membership** & attempt to informally follow up on why members fall by the wayside. Why haven't they attended for an extended time, are they unwell, dissatisfied with radio or the club? Possibly contact licensed amateurs in catchment area with a view to membership of club.*
- *Do more on external publicity, **once we have more to offer in terms of a radio environment and spin off activities, i.e. Special Event station/Emergency planning association. At the moment we really do not have much to offer.***
- ***Streamline training.** Incoming President to be actively involved in training and development of members, together with an appointed training officer.*
- *Incoming Secretary to work on feasibility of a **community or field event**, and monthly speakers. Current RSGB rally calendar is saturated/Reduced trader interest.*
- ***Avoid inter club power trips/ divisive strategies/personality clashes or issues.** Work together for the benefit of its' members, and amateur radio as a whole. Service over self, not self over service.*
- ***Continued feedback using social media** by club members about desired activities & better integration of website.*

What happened in 2017, did we achieve any of the plan objectives?:

a) **The Town Council/Securing a radio room:** Despite a comprehensive report and risk assessment, the town councillors failed to initially vote in our favour for a dedicated radio and tech room. In essence, whilst content to receive £500 p.a. in rent, there seemed very little appetite for us as a radio club. Lets' move on.

Action: **Shelved Council Chambers/ Looked at paid alternatives including local community centre, but top of the list was BVUK Llandudno/No rent & significant financial saving/moved to Llandudno.**

b) **Work to retain membership:** Informally chasing absent members is difficult given geographic spread of that membership. I have tried a follow up on one member in particular, but found the strategy difficult to implement. I have to accept that many members drop off the scene for a variety of reasons, not necessarily radio related.

Action: **Did not work/Will not pursue**

**c) External publicity/once we have more to offer in terms of radio environment and spin off activities**

Apart from Radcom, we have not invested in any advertising or pursued spin off activities. George made a very good attempt at organising a field event at Traeth Melyn, Deganwy. Unfortunately, the weather gods were against us as the forecast was not looking 100%. The event was cancelled.

The radio environment within our new meeting room is work in progress though. We have recently purchased another antenna which is partly erected, and awaiting completion. Once this is finished the respective radios can be brought out of storage and be used more extensively for HF etc. We have been given a blank canvass by BVUK management to experiment.

Action: **Work in progress**

**d) Streamline training:** Following the resignation of Gordon MW0GBR as Training Officer, our ability and even appetite for '**full on courses**' was questioned? and put on hold. Whilst valuing any training initiative by the club or members, we have to recognise or be realistic in our ability, or inability to deliver material to new members. Yes, we can help with certain aspects, but it's not easy to stand there and make yourself understood. With that being said, the spirit of the RSGB exam system has evolved into a self learning concept, and within the reach of most candidates. There are many online resources that can be used, including a free correspondence course.

Thanks to Tony Chalk, as exam supervision continued in the "in house bespoke training room" with 2 foundation holders passing their exams – Radek & Terry. Congratulations guys.

Action: **Training shelved/Exam supervision continues.**

**e) Facebook/Website:** Facebook & website continues to be utilised. David Budgeon assisted with the website masking, as does Mark Brady behind the scenes. Thanks for your contribution gents.

Action: **Good use of media/Continue with inputs.**

**[Additional areas not mentioned in conclusion of last years report:](#)**

**f) Golf Oscar 2016 changeover to Fusion and new keeper:** With the onset of technical problems, and associated cost of repair with the old Golf Oscar repeater, 2016 saw a membership initiative with the purchase of new Yaesu Fusion repeater. Thanks to Tom MW0TMH for initiating, and all contributors to the overall funding of nearly £500.

Again, on site technical contribution by members is of immense value to the club, ensuring equipment performs to the required standard. Is also appreciated by the wider 2 meter community, to keep these repeaters serviceable and up to date. The transmission envelope is very good, even reaching the likes of Ruthin which has a very marginal footprint. Thanks to those concerned.

With this change of equipment, there also came a change of registered keeper. Robert Sweet GW6STK handed over the reins to Tom Mitchell. I am sure the membership will join me in thanking Rob for his many years of service as registered keeper.

It is generally accepted that 2 meters isn't what it used to be, and doesn't attract the volume of traffic it once did. Locally, there is more interest than in many areas, and that is down to the dedication of a core group.

Even with the onset of new technology, i.e. EchoLink, PMR, Wires X, Fusion, overall traffic has not increased in line with these initiatives.

g) **Contest nights/2 meter activity:** Unlike previous years, our attendance in Bryn y Maen has dropped off the cliff. Unfortunately, this reflects the wider appetite for 2 meter activity?

Maybe this is something we can re visit depending on transport availability, and willing participants? Instead of just giving points away, maybe we should actually try to compete in the competition(s)?

h) **Inventory not in use/Lack of storage:** Both George (Treasurer) and myself have inherited a diverse range of old stock, most of which is sitting in respective garages. I have not even asked BVUK management for storage facilities, as they themselves are struggling for that very same precious space. Their only option is to hire a skip and dispose. Apart from the radios, our remaining stock holds very little intrinsic value, or even use, leading us to consider a similar disposal strategy

Action: **Table top sale/get rid of majority**

i) **Pirate activity on 2 meters:** After a period of pirate activity on Golf Oscar, the matter was reported to the police in about June 2015. A statement of complaint was subsequently recorded and the matter was being referred to the Crown Prosecution Service for a decision. I have since sent 3 emails to the reporting officer Constable Stephen Jukes requesting an update. Unfortunately, I have not received any response.

Action: **N.F.A (No further action)**

j) **Additional activity:** Outreach activity/Charity bike ride. As representatives of the club, both Gerry Lane MW3YNK and myself intend to cycle from Brighton to Llandudno to raise charity awareness, and some funds for our hosts, BVUK. I think it's the least we can do.

What started as a two man adventure, has exploded into quite something else. The group has also grown somewhat, to include blind members on tandems from Brighton and Llandudno centres, and some local cyclists and friends. I will also be calling on the support of cycling clubs en route to maybe join us on parts of the journey. Nothing too complex of course!

We will be leaving by road on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017, down to Brighton. Cycling on the Tuesday morning heading North towards Camberley in Surrey, and the second day to R.A.F. Brize Norton. Thereafter, towards the Worcester area and eventually Wrexham. Staying at Hightown barracks leaves the relatively short hop of 50+ miles to Llandudno.

The Llandudno centre will be holding a barbecue and summer fare as we get back on the

Sunday afternoon , 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Will let you know the exact details, but would be good to have the support of some club members when we arrive.

I will open up a '**Just Giving Page**', and welcome any donations as and when.

Without further ado, let's quickly move on to tonight's meeting, that is to say:

- *Secretary's report – Liz Cabban*
- *Treasurer's report – George Hobson*
- *Election of Officers &*
- *Any other business*

Thank you

Gron Edwards MW0HTG  
Chairman, NWRS 2016/2017.