



Youth Committee Meeting Saturday, March 14th 2015

Present: Michael Jones – Chair, Mark Dumpleton – Deputy, Milo Noblet – Secretary, Adam Hutchison – Financial Advisor, Steve Hartley – Board Liaison *ex-officio*, James Monahan, James Thornhill, Rebecca Hughes, Rachel Landragin, Oscar Hall, William Davies

Apologies: Alex White

All members will be referred to by initials (e.g. Michael Jones = MJ), and text in italics shall indicate an action note.

Introduction

- MJ opened the meeting at 11:00 and welcomed all members
- There were no objections to the current officer appointments:

Deputy Chairman: Mark Dumpleton

Secretary: Milo Noblet

Financial Advisor: Adam Hutchison

Chairman's report

In his report, MJ thanked all members for their hard work.

Financial report

- AH stated that the Committee was doing well financially
- Commented that asking for £100 contribution to YOTA Italy was a good idea, but also said this is something which could be reviewed as need to keep in mind that younger applicants may not have this kind of money available and/or parents may not be willing to assist with funding
 - This was followed up under YOTA Italy
- The YOTA UK event was cancelled, but there has been a £70 charge for expenses that cannot be recovered. This however will not put much of a financial constraint on the committee.
- For Wales DX15 the Committee has secured £3900 from the RSGB and the RCF

Board report

- Board's view is that the RSGB has money and that this money is being well spent if it furthers the hobby and brings more youngsters into the hobby – the Committee should not be shy of requesting funding where funds are required.

- SH commented that the progression of the average age of RSGB members has halted, but this is due to people in the 40's joining rather than younger people joining
 - RSGB has 21,000 members and this is holding steady after a peak due to the £1 centenary offer
- John Gould, President, has appealed for help for the Investment Working Group. MJ & AH are members of the group and will represent the Youth Committee on any matters.
- MJ will be at the AGM to give a 30 min presentation on the work of the Committee
- Club Relay planned for 2016, similar idea to G100RSGB of a callsign moving around the country to different clubs.
- IOTA is being refreshed
- The Board are seeking to re-launch GB4FUN, this is currently a Training & Education Committee project however the Youth Committee may be consulted.
- The Leadership Team will be consulted on possible updates to the societies journal, RadCom, at the Leadership Team meeting next week. MJ will be present to pass on any Youth Committee views.
- MD asked whether the Board will monitor the Committee's progress in terms of attracting more young people to the hobby
 - SH said they would be and are looking to see an increase in the number of youth members and increase in retention of youth members.
 - SH commented that members may be passing the 26 threshold and ceasing to be "youth" members, but that the numbers had remained the same suggests that more youth members are being attracted to fill the gap.
- JM commented that while activities such as DX15 are great, the requirement to have a licence may result in prospective amateurs losing interest as they are unable to go
 - SH said that giving young members something to do and attracting new members are both aims of the Committee.

Examination fees

- WD stated that six cadets from his local Air Training Corps squadron had taken the Foundation exam but only one had passed. Those who had failed said that they would not resit due to the £27.50 exam fee as they thought it was a lot of money.
- SH exam system must fund itself – no RSGB money goes towards it and exam fees must fund one person's salary, IT systems and postage
 - Ofcom have ruled that all candidates must be charged the same fee and that there can be no discounts for anyone

- SH pointed out that if the Foundation exam were made cheaper, the costs for other exams would have to be increased to compensate.
- SH raised the possibility of using legacy funds to pay for one resit of young members
- SH also suggested use of a hardship fund: anyone unable to afford the exam fee could apply for assistance, though the use of members' money to pay for non-members could be difficult to justify.
- JM stated that the policy at his college is that exams are funded the first time, but if failed half the cost must be paid
 - It was noted that funding resits rather than initial exams would be less costly
 - JM suggested a small amount from each exam fee could go into a central fund – SH commented that this is similar to the hardship fund & made clear his preference for funding resits rather than initial exams.
 - *MJ will contact Carol @ RSGB HQ to ascertain data on failure rates of the Foundation for young people*
- MD questioned whether exam/resit funding would be limited to the foundation exam, or to other levels also.
- MN pointed out that Air Cadets can obtain a Foundation licence without cost via the ACO Foundation Course – SH mentioned that more practical work is needed for the Foundation licence via the Air Training Corps and so many squadrons prefer to pay for RCF exams
 - 2 or 3 squadrons have made their preference for the RCF exam clear.
- *WD will lead on creating a proposal at the next meeting to address how financial assistance with exam fees might be provided*
- JM indicated that the Scouting movement has funds available from Lord Baden Powell's bequest. *JM will explore funding from Scouting for amateur radio.*

Advertisement of free membership of the RSGB to young amateurs

- AH thought that the current process is prohibitive. This was seconded by MJ who said it would be much easier if it was possible to register online & this needs to be explored.
- MD suggested automatically signing up new Foundation licensees who were eligible for a year's membership. MJ mentioned there may be a possible unfair commercial interest as the RSGB and RCF are separate organisations.
- SH pointed out that there is no longer a requirement to provide evidence of date of birth if an exam has been passed (which must have been done to be eligible for free membership anyway)

- JT raised the issue of obtaining parental permission through an online sign-up process – MJ stated that online declarations are acceptable, JM suggested a confirmation link being emailed to a parental email address and MD suggested simply CC'ing the confirmation email to a parental email address.
- JM suggested a youth version of Radcom
 - SH stated “Newcomers’ Newsletter” already exists and will be rebranded as Radcom Basic later this year
 - JM suggested new members could have this basic edition and opt in if they wanted more
 - SH said that an electronic edition of Radcom would not save much money as the printing costs are not as great as thought.
- MJ suggested a tick-box indicating desire to join could be placed on the exam form – SH said would not be possible as RSGB and RCF cannot be mixed
 - SH pointed out that an RSGB information pack is already included with pass certificates from the RCF.
- MN suggested including the youth registration form with the pass certificate
 - SH recommended an A5 flyer which would inform members of the free membership
- SH said three RSGB leaflets are currently available, MJ said one is needed aimed at young people specifically.
- MJ stated that social media is an important outlet for advertisement.
 - AH was of the opinion that the RSGB main Facebook page has improved greatly, but said he had received comments that the RSGB Twitter account does not engage much with the community. However he said the Youth Committee Twitter is a good example to lead and well received by members.
 - MJ commented that the RSGB Twitter feed is very link-heavy and this format is not the best way to engage on Twitter
- MD was in favour of an rsgb.org/youth page to attract outsiders; MJ seconded.
 - AH noted that it must be ensured the Committee remains clearly part of the RSGB. AH suggested a link to a more detailed page with photos & videos etc
- AH noted ARRL have a “media” tab targeted at non-amateurs and it would be helpful for the RSGB to have something similar.

- *MJ will request rsgb.org/youth – a page to tell young people what the hobby is, on which the free membership offer would be made clear. MN and JM will take on design of the page.*
- AH suggested the placement of a “Youth” tab on the main RSGB homepage; MJ suggested this could be placed in the portal.
- JT noted that the current website seems rather disjointed and it would be helpful for this to be corrected.
- *JT & JM to come up with a proposal at the next committee meeting with how we can advertise more youth membership. This proposal will then go to Mark Allgar, commercial manager.*

Support for new young amateurs

- MJ noted that one of the Committee’s aims is to support young amateurs
- JT suggested the negotiation of a discount for new young members with ham radio retailers
 - It was pointed out that the RSGB cannot favour a particular business and so all retailers would need to be given equal opportunity.
- MJ asked whether the legacy fund could provide reduced-cost handheld radios for new youth members – *Proposal to be drafted regarding procurement and distribution of cheap equipment.*

Youth newsletter

- JM suggested a submission page should be available so that people may contribute news for inclusion in the newsletter
 - *MJ will request a template from Heather to ensure the next edition of the newsletter conforms to the RSGB corporate identity.*
- AH raised the need for a link to the newsletter on the Committee webpage
- A deadline needs to be set for submissions – *MJ will ask for Radcom’s deadlines to ensure that material is sent to the HQ at appropriate times*

The Big Camp 2015

- MJ explained that over 5000 Scouts will be attending and this is an ideal opportunity to promote amateur radio.
- The RSGB will be at the event to promote the hobby.

Links with other youth organisations

- MJ stated Committee is working towards links with youth radio clubs etc & once established fully shall push for bigger links such as with Scouting and the Cadet Forces.
 - JM thought the Committee needed to take linking opportunities as they arrive & commented that Radio Scouting is excited to see what will happen in amateur radio thanks to the formation of the RSGB's new youth arm.
- JT questioned if the Committee is doing anything with universities
 - MD had found just four universities with amateur radio societies
 - MJ asked if there was an incentive the Committee could offer – perhaps a £1 membership offer similar to Centenary.
- JM recalled that his school were unexpectedly supportive when he set up an amateur radio club there
 - MD commented that staff workload at schools is currently very high and so it may be difficult to persuade more schools to create radio societies
- SH mentioned that there had been an involvement of amateur radio with a youth hostel. *OH will explore this and find out more*

RadCom articles

- MJ asked whether all members had seen the YOTA article in April's Radcom – all stated they had.
- MJ mentioned that we will be doing a RadCom article on Italy YOTA and Project DX15.

YOTA Italy

- MJ stated that the team has been announced and this will also be published in RadCom
- The team leader has had to drop out due to unavoidable family commitments. MJ formally thanked the leader for offering in the first place; MJ asked the Committee to ask anyone they knew who was over 18 and would be interested in taking the place
- Only a small number of applications had been received, less than YOTA Finland. MJ questioned if the £100 fee will have discouraged people from applying, but said this was very reasonable
 - MD thought it was likely due to just bad luck this year & suggested that in future a notice might be placed in Radcom earlier, though this was not possible this year.

- MD also suggested that if the notice had given details about duty of care arrangements this would have assuaged parents' concerns – JT also said the lack of detailed information will have been an issue at Silcoates School.
- SH noted that this was not possible this year as plans were not put in place early enough.
- *MJ will conduct a survey to ask members what had stopped them applying this year & compile a report to the Board on the matter.*

YOTA UK

- RL commented that it was a shame YOTA UK did not go ahead this year and asked SH for details of the survey from YOTA UK '14 to see what those who attended had thought. MJ & SH comments were positive and many made clear their desire to go again.
- *As per the YOTA UK sub-committee meeting of 9 March, a survey will be conducted to ask members what discouraged them from attending this year.*
- MJ thanked JT for his work in having the cancellation fee of YOTA UK at Silcoates waived.

Project DX15

- The team for DX15 has been finalised. MD mentioned a USA team member and suggested this is very good promotion for the Committee
- MD will contact Mark Allgar with a request for equipment and has requested six stations' worth.
 - If none available, MJ indicated that Wales RAYNET have offered a loan of equipment, and some of the Camb-Hams will be supporting the event with the Camb-Hams van 'Flossie'
- MD noted that transport contributions from participants are still awaited but this is not urgent at this time
- MJ and SH are travelling to the location 18 March to perform a risk assessment and check operation.
- *MD will be sending an email to participants asking what they would like to see in terms of activities.*
- *AH & MJ will liaise regarding financial aspects of DX15 and budget management.*

YOTA Month

- December 2015
- MJ is hoping for G15YOTA to tour the UK with different clubs hosting the callsign

- MJ cannot coordinate this year and asked for volunteers. AH volunteered to be YOTA Month co-ordinator and this was agreed unanimously.

Youth Net

- MD hopes to set up a regular 'sked', preferably on 80m for propagation purposes, but noted this will limit the number of people able to take part. First net is likely to be 3.7MHz LSB \pm 5kHz at 19:00 24 March. After this, it is likely that 40m will be used.
- MD indicated his desire for an EU youth net – AH pointed out "Youth Ham Club" already exists on 20m and 40m and gets 7-8 check-ins. MD suggested combining these nets.
- JM suggested Echolink. It was pointed out that many do not have a HF station and so Echolink would be advantageous. Echolink could be run alongside a HF net.
 - AH asked if possible to set up an Echolink conference; JM said that Echolink will not allow the creation of new conferences
 - MN suggested IRLP as an alternative – MJ noted IRLP would be beneficial as radio must be used and would thus encourage more people to get on the air.
- JM made the clear the need to promote the sked as much as possible in advance so that amateurs can set up relevant antennae etc.

Linking with ARRL

- MJ informed the Committee that he had received no reply to his email to the ARRL about linking up for "Kids' Day"

Linking with CHICKS

- MJ has contacted CHICKS several times offering support despite being told they will get back to them, they haven't as yet. It was noted the committee are keen to support.
- *MJ to make contact with CHICKS once more and if no reply is received to seek another charity to support.*

RSGB Youth Club

- MD is chair, MJ president and AH treasurer
- Primary focus is for a club call to increase the ability of the Committee to promote amateur radio.
- Also plan for a contest call.
- MJ stated that membership will be £5/year, which will be good for those who are just getting into the hobby, and that members would be able to use club-owned equipment.

- MD said the club will be asking if people would like to donate equipment, and will also look at loaning equipment out.
- MD wished to make clear that while the club is run by the Youth Committee, membership is open to all young amateurs
 - There will be three classes of member: student, full and senior, as well as associate members.

Age requirement for RSGB assessors and invigilators

- Currently there is a requirement of 18 years of age to be an invigilator or assessor – this was to ensure Ofqual accreditation
- Committee questioned if this could be lowered to 16 – JM suggested keeping the requirement for the first named invigilator but relaxing it for the second.
- In response to a question from MJ, SH informed the Committee that there is no restriction on who assesses each practical task, but a Registered Assessor must sign the form.
- MD questioned whether there was an actual need for a change in the rules, this was seconded by JT.
- MJ & SH made it clear that there is no age requirement to train, or to attend the “Train the Trainers” course.

Youth Podcast

- Idea of a monthly or bi-monthly podcast informing young people of the Youth Committee’s work
 - JM suggested recording a Skype call for the podcast
 - MD suggested recording different parts individually and collating these later
- AH gave the example of the USA’s “Youth In Amateur Radio Podcast”, but noted that it ended shortly after starting – JM said it would be good to learn from their mistakes.
- *MJ will ask TxFactor production team about a podcast*

Any other business

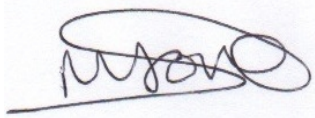
- MD: Creation of an AGM Youth Trophy
 - SH made clear the need for criteria to be set out
 - JM questioned the necessity as many clubs already have “newcomers” trophies
 - MD noted that the G5RP trophy works on a nomination system

- MJ indicated that a Youth Trophy would not necessarily need to be an AGM award, but could be run by the Committee
- *The Committee unanimously voted in favour of the creation of a Youth Trophy. This will be discussed at a future meeting, led by MD.*
- MD: RSGB-coordinated amateur radio day
 - MN mentioned World Amateur Radio Day on 18 April
 - *MJ will look into how the Committee can support WARD*
 - MD explained how the day could have different regions on air and points be awarded for contacts with these regions etc
 - *MJ will contact the Board regarding this proposal*
 - AH suggested holding the RSGB day on the RSGB's anniversary date in July.

Minutes by: Milo Noblet – RSGB Youth Committee Secretary

Signed:

Mike Jones, 2E0MLJ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Jones', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**RSGB Youth Coordinator
Leadership Team**