

Emergency Communications Committee Meeting – 27 September 2013

Meeting commenced at 1400.

Present: Charlie Morrison, GI4FUE, Chair; Max White, M0VNG; Mike Granatt, M0RYK;
Alan Clark, G8EVI; Peter Thomson, GM1XEA.

In attendance: Len Paget GM0ONX - ECC portfolio holder on RSGB board.

- 1 GM0ONX gave an overview of the situation regarding the formation of this committee. The Board realised the current RSGB RAYNET offering to the members and the public was not fit for purpose. The committee was now set up to make RSGB RAYNET fit for purpose and Charlie has the mandate from the Board to do this. It was also felt that RSGB RAYNET has to look at a management structure as per how Network is run, and also repair the links from the Board - and HQ - to the member on the ground. GM0ONX also reiterated that the Board consisted of a broad church of members with diverse interests, and they want this committee and review to work. GM0ONX left the meeting at 1425.
- 2 The Terms of Reference which had previously been circulated were unanimously agreed.
- 3 GI4FUE said a prime objective was to get the Raynet database at HQ up to date. Committee members have their own groups to oversee allocated on a Regional basis. These are to be contracted to obtain names, addresses, callsigns of members, not known to Bedford, and any other groups we believed to be RSGB affiliated. There may also be who believe they are affiliated, but not paid up. If group members are not on the database, they are not insured. [ACTION: All].
- 4 How to we raise the profile of Raynet, especially with User Services? This is a complex question, as different groups had mixed links of activity with EPOs around the country. It also did not help that some groups overlapped in areas representing RSGB and Network. It was a common policy that a new group would not be allowed to form where a group already existed. We need to up the skill set, and have no fear in rejecting people, or culling people from membership lists, if they do not come up to standard.
- 5 RSGB Website Emergency Communications pages: This had to be open to all, massively expanded, and this would be taken forward. [ACTION: GI4FUE].
- 6 Appointment of Vice Chair: GI4FUE started that meetings would take place 6 monthly, at Norbreck and Newark Rallies, and via Skype. Should he be unavailable, a Vice Chair would step in. M0VNG suggested this be a rotating post. GI4FUE nominated M0VNG for the next 6 months, and GM1XEA for the following 6 months - all agreed.
- 7 Current problems within RSGB Raynet:
 - 7a The Committee concurred that we are invisible to the members and to the public at large. GI4FUE felt we also have to ask constituent groups what problems they had and what they believed we had. M0VNG pointed out his discussions with HQ on the differential of insurance cover now provided for Network and RSGB members - when

certain local authority groups started requiring £10m public liability cover, Network board of management immediately upgraded this at no cost to members. GI4FUE said he would take this up through the Board and get the cover raised to that of Network - [ACTION: GI4FUE]

- 7b It also did not help that submitted Raynet news items were incorporated within the general 'around the regions' and not into a specific page in Radcom, to flag up some 'exclusivity'. GI4FUE would discuss this with Elaine Richards. [ACTION GI4FUE].
- 8 Strategy with closer links with Network:
- 8a MORYK believed one immediate item had to be a commonality of a unified ID card, for User Services benefit. GI4FUE reflected on the ID card position and agreed to have further discussions.
- 8b MORYK also commented that Network have good contacts at Governmental level on the Cabinet Office side, RSGB do not, only with licencing issues in dealing with Ofcom. RSGB groups only have links with their EPOs, in certain cases, not even that. There has to be a common front to user services on a concept of operation for the UK as a whole. GM1XEA commented on the Scottish approach of inviting all group controllers to a meeting every 6 months alongside such agencies, and this had worked very well on co-operation.
- 8C MORYK raised the item of Talk Through Permits - why did they need to be done, when RSGB had dropped them, and it was incorrect in law anyway? They were not needed, Ofcom had insisted in the past but not now. Should Groups keep records? GI4FUE would discuss this with the relevant agencies. [ACTION: GI4FUE]
- 9 GI4FUE said committee members would be emailed expenses forms, to be returned to Marilyn Slade at Bedford. In discussing items, Max requested that committee be issued with their own RSGB email accounts, to keep items separate from personal and other Raynet accounts. GI4FUE would look at this.
- 10 MOVNG also asked, as he would be attending a South West regional meeting for both Network and RSGB groups in November, could a briefing be made to those present with a synopsis of the committee, and thoughts from today's meeting - GI4FUE was happy with this.

The meeting closed at 1500. Next meeting to be held at the Norbreck Rally, Blackpool, on Sunday April 6 2014, with Skype discussions between.