

10 Oct 15

## MINUTES OF YOUTH COMMITTEE PHYSICAL MEETING 10 Oct 15

### KENTS HILL PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE, MILTON KEYNES

#### Present

Mike Jones (Chairman); Mark Dumpleton; Adam Hutchison (Assistant Chair); Milo Noblet (Deputy Chairman); James Monahan (Secretary); James Thornhill; William Davies; Jamie Williams; Rebecca Hughes; Oscar Hall; Josh Morrison; Oliver Wilson

#### In Attendance for parts of the meeting

Steve Hartley (Board Liaison); Steve Thomas (Regional Manager R12), Heather Parsons (Communications Manager), Graham Murchie (Board Chairman), Graham Coomber (General Manager), Dan Trudgian (IT advisor)

#### Apologies

James Blackwell; Danny Morrison

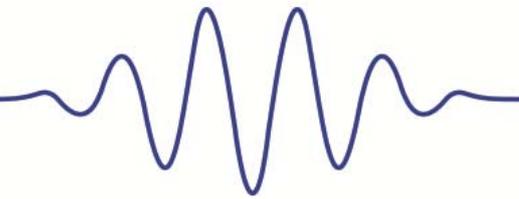
**Bold text indicates a vote; *bold & Italic, an action note.***

#### Chairman's Report

- MJ thanked MD for his work on Project DX15
- 2016 is the year in which the Committee must really shine and start achieving strategic objectives. Commitment is needed from all members.
- The Committee has a busy and exciting year ahead.
- MJ reminded the Committee to liaise with their respective Regional Managers to ensure that they are involved at a local level.
- Quarterly progress reports were announced, which will be sent to the Chair every three months detailing what the Committee member has done.
- ***All YC Members to email respective regional managers offering their assistance at rallies and club visits***
- ***MJ to send out quarterly report form to all YC members with a deadline of January 1<sup>st</sup> for returns from members***

#### Board Report (Steve Hartley)

- RSGB Board Chairman, Graham Murchie, awarded Jamie Williams, Committee member, the prestigious G5RP trophy, and said his success in amateur radio was a 'great' example. Jamie has worked 89 DXCC entities with 86 confirmed, and at Project DX15 was responsible for 1007 of the ~5000 QSOs made.
- The Board Chair also thanked the Committee for their work, and for their input on the new youth video, which had been received with applause at the opening of the RSGB Convention earlier that morning.



- SH made his report of board proceedings – he highlighted that much of the Board meeting had been devoted to the IOTA programme. He noted that the award scheme was at something of a watershed and that there is a potential for more youth input.
- In 2016 the Youth Committee needs to ensure it is delivering on time. It is good to have ideas but these do need to be realistic and fit the operational plan. As a Committee we need to be able to point to what we have achieved, over and above sending 3 young amateurs on YOTA and organising the first Youth Dxpedition.
- SH mentioned that MJ had made it known to the Board Chair that it is difficult to get promotional material for external events. He said that he had raised this at the Board meeting and a catalogue of promotional materials will be made available ASAP. When requesting promotional material committee members should make a good case for it, and ask well in advance; a year's plan with what materials are needed, how they will be used and what they are intended to achieve.
- The board is pleased that we have had a lot of engagement from clubs with YOTA month 2015.
- His parting message was that the Committee had come a long way in a short time but it will need to build on the successes of 2015 to sustain the growth in RSGB Youth.

### Financial Report (Adam Hutchison)

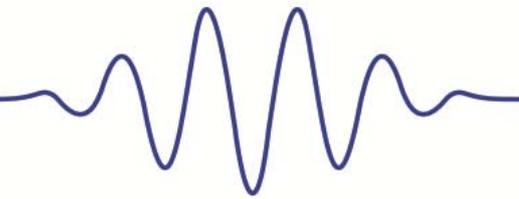
- AH went through the pre-circulated financial data for financial year 2015. The Committee had a comfortable underspend, with no issues on the financial side.
- Financial year 2016 will see the Committee ask for and receive its own budget, but this is still in progress. Having more financial responsibility will mean that the Committee will have to carefully plan and manage its expenditure.
  - RSGB HQ have not yet granted the provisional YC budget for FY16.
  - It was confirmed that the attendance of Youth Representatives at all events, including regional events, will come from the Committee's budget.
- **A paper will be presented to the Board in November detailing our events for 2015/16 and what we will need in terms of funds and promotional material.**
- MD thanked AH for his work as Financial Advisor.

### Project DX15 Review (Mark Dumbleton)

- 9 young people + 3 leaders attended, with support from Dom M0BLF and Rob M0VFC of the *Camb-Hams*. It was a successful event which presented the attendees with a good view of the various aspects of amateur radio.
- MD expressed his thanks to the Camb-Hams, SOTA, Kenwood, RSGB HQ, the RSGB Legacy Fund and the RCF for their assistance, without which the event would not have been possible.
- IOTA was the first contesting experience for many, and it was good to gain experience operating a large station. MC0RYC came 16<sup>th</sup> in its category, 32<sup>nd</sup> overall, and of 927 QSOs, only 30 were lost through the first round of adjudication.

### YOTA DX Italy (Adam Hutchison)

- AH gave the Committee some background on the YOTA programme and briefly showed the presentation he had prepared for the RSGB Convention.
- Most of the amateurs at YOTA Italy were attending a YOTA event for the first time, which was good to see.



- There was some discussion as to why a small amount applications had been received – MD pointed out that the timing of the event had not been optimal, clashing with the last week of the summer term, and this may have likely led to some not applying.
  - It was also mentioned that having a Team Leader appointed earlier might help to assuage parental concerns, and this will be a goal for YOTA DX '16.
- AH was pleased with the opportunity to meet with the YOTA coordinators, and had discussed with them the Youth Contesting Programme, which so far has seen MOWUT go to Montenegro.
- AH attended the IARU Youth meeting at Friedrichshafen, where it was noted that the UK is one of the best countries in Europe for young people and amateur radio.
  - Many foreign regulators have a minimum age requirement of 18, and do not have the same flexibility to allow prospective amateurs to send greetings messages as in the UK.

### Deputy Chairman re-election

- The Deputy Chair had indicated his intention to stand down as he was fast approaching the 26 age limit for IARU's Youth definition.
- The Chairman thanked MD for his work as Deputy Chair.
- Nominations were taken for his replacement and a vote was taken. **The Committee voted for Milo Noblet to be the new Deputy Chair. MJ Appointed MN as Deputy Chairman**

### Appointment of new Secretary

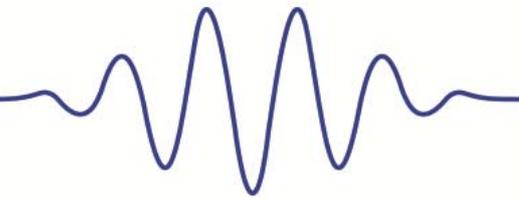
- Following MN's election as Deputy Chair **a new Secretary was required – James Monahan kindly volunteered for this role and was appointed.**

### Committee Roles

- As part of the Youth Committee 2016 Vision, Committee members are expected to undertake more specific roles These are:
  - **Education Lead: James Thornhill**
  - **Promotional Lead: Rebecca Hughes**
  - **ARISS Team: Mike Jones (Managing), Mark Dumbleton, Adam Hutchison**
  - **Youth Newsletter Editor: Mark Dumbleton**
  - **External Communications & Events Lead: Jamie Williams**
  - **JOTA Lead: James Monahan for mainland GB & Josh Morrison for NI;**
  - **Youth Groups Lead: William Davies & Oscar Hall**
  - **STEM Strategy Lead: Oliver Wilson**

### Youth Membership Statistics

- MN expressed his appreciation of the General Manager's quick turnaround on the request for these statistics.
- As of 7 Oct 15:
  - 226 'youth' members (<26), making up 1.1% of total RSGB membership.
- In the past 12 months
  - 88 new youth members joined
  - 11 previous youth members re-joined



- 102 members lapsed (ie did not renew their membership)
- Data suggests 21 members are no longer classed as 'youth' due to age.
- The Committee was concerned at the number of members who had not renewed their membership. Some wondered whether this is because they did not see value in their membership, or whether it was simply an issue of not filling in the requisite paperwork to renew.
  - **MN suggested that the Committee reaches out to some of the lapsed members and asks why it is they chose not to renew. MN to liaise with HQ on a way to contact the elapsed members.**
  - It was suggested that an online renewal rather than having to fill in and post a form might be easier.

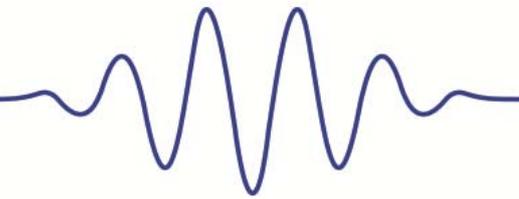
### YOTA Month 2015

- 14 clubs are running stations this year, including three schools.
- UK YOTA callsigns are booked to be active on 22/31 days in December, an increase from 18/31 in 2014.
- Isle of Man station which had previously taken part is not doing so this year – **AH will reach out and ascertain why this is.**
- JW highlighted the issue of clubs not having enough youngsters to run a station. AH has registered the UK YOTA callsigns with YOTA EU, the UK being one of the first groups to register.
- It was noted that YOTA month is to encourage young people into the hobby and not run DX pileup stations. It was noted that a good strategy is to have one station working pileups and the other going in to more depth chat with new young people.
- A press release announcing the participating clubs and the dates on which they will be operating will be released on or around 19 October.
- AH is preparing an electronic pack to be sent out. Leaflets will also be available, but clubs will need to contact AH directly on [yota@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:yota@rsgb.org.uk) to request these.
- **Not much feedback was received from YOTA Month 2014 – AH is liaising with Heather Parsons, RSGB Communications Manager, to organise an e-survey to be sent out.**
- AH would like to refer amateurs to <http://www.ham-yota.com/december-yota-month/>
- It was highlighted that Ofcom require two months' notice of where the YOTA callsign will be operating from. This means that the last week of December, which has not yet been filled, remains available until the end of October.

### Youth Newsletter

- AH proposed that the Youth Newsletter be distributed monthly by email. Reports of Club visits and/or external events attended would be good, especially with photos.
- **MD asked for Committee members to submit content for the newsletter once every two months. Committee members to submit articles to MD once every two months.**
- That clubs and individuals are welcome to submit newsletter content will be publicised more in future. Submissions will be gratefully received to [youth@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:youth@rsgb.org.uk)

### 2015/16 events



- **Committee members put forward events at which they think the Committee should have a presence. Events Manager will collate and confirm this list provisionally by November's Board meeting.**

### Input from Steve Thomas – Regional Council

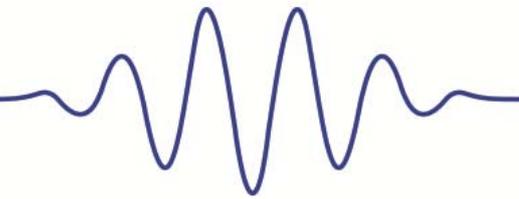
- ST spoke to the Committee about the work of regional teams, and mentioned that he was not aware that there is a general [youth@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:youth@rsgb.org.uk) address.
  - **MN to ensure all regions aware of how to contact the Committee/their local Youth Representatives.**
- It was highlighted that it would be helpful for regional teams to involve their local Youth Representatives more – RM's will be asked to copy their YC reps in on everything sent to DRMs.

### Youth Promotional Material

- SH noted that the Society currently sends out membership interest packs, as well as a magazine-style pamphlet entitled 'Radio Today' newly-licensed amateurs.
  - MN suggested that a custom example copy of Radcom might be created, showcasing the best bits of the hobby for young people (eg YOTA DX, YOTA UK, construction, radio sport etc)
  - MD recommended that a physical example copy of the Youth Newsletter be included as well.
  - **JW to coordinate a proposal on a customised Youth Pack.**
- Several members of the Committee said that it would be very helpful to have RSGB branded merchandise, including the new [rsgb.org/youth](http://rsgb.org/youth) web address, to hand out at schools, STEM events, youth group visits etc.
  - Suggestions included, in particular, wristbands, lanyards, posters (for display in schools), stickers and business-card size 'mini QSL cards', perhaps featuring QR codes linking to the new youth video.
  - MJ noted that he has asked multiple times about business cards for handing out at meetings, and will follow this up.
  - MN noted that stickers featuring the new URL and/or social media links would be particularly useful, as it is very common for the laptops of those who attend hackathons and Maker Faires to be adorned with a variety of stickers – we would then get additional publicity as these people go to other events.
  - It was noted that any request for promotional items needs to be accompanied by details of when, how and where they will be used.

### Youth Website

- Dan, M0TGN, kindly spoke to the Committee about web design and gave us guidance on which direction to take.
- Key points were that as 90% of young people do the majority of their browsing on mobile devices, the website must be a 'responsive' design that will look good on a smartphone or tablet. This is essential if we are linking to it from QR codes.
- MN noted that we must be careful in the language used on the Youth website – short, simple sentences would be best to ensure the reader remains engaged.
- DT suggested using a project tracking tool "Trello" form tracking project progress
- DT showed how the site must appeal to 4 core audiences in both language & design



- DT demonstrated a quick wireframe mock up of a site and how key areas are to be addressed
- DT also brainstormed ideas with the committee on how content would attract and maintain user visits.
- DT recommended a project timeline of 6 sprints that can be tracked, maintained and reported on with visible results & conclusions.
- **MN and JM will undertake the planning of this project.**
  - **Project plan due by the end of October**
  - **Content due for December's meeting.**

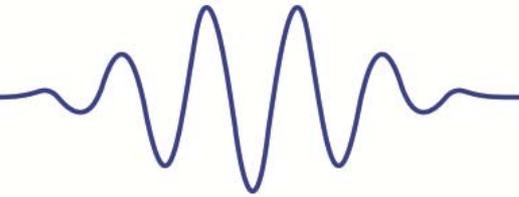
### YOTA UK 2016

- Project DX15's successor has been renamed to YOTA UK 2016 [can I make a suggestion? Using YOTA risks confusing it with IARU event, unless they are running at the same time, in which case YOTA UK is entirely appropriate. If not, how about YDX16? Youth Dxpedition?
- **MN will work with MD to create this year's project plan by mid-November.**
- **A full proposal will be due by December's meeting.**
- On the issue of sponsorship, MD said it was doubtful that the RCF or RSGB Legacy Fund would be willing to sponsor again.
  - All sponsorship proposals and coordination will go to Mark Allgar, Commercial Manager. Committee members must NOT approach commercial sponsors without HQ agreement.

### YOTA DX 2016 (IARU YOTA)

- AH – no location has been set or announced as of yet. Proposed that a tentative proposal be drafted based on a 'mid-Europe' location.
- There was discussion regarding the fee for participants. The Committee voted unanimously to keep the £100 nominal fee.
- Early appointment of a Team Leader would be helpful to reassure parents who have doubts about their children applying.
- **Once YOTA DX 2016's location has been announced, we will advertise for a Team Leader.** Applications for participants will open following the appointment of a Team Leader
  - Call for applicants to be circulated in Radcom, by email, and via our social media channels.
- There was discussion about the application medium for 2016 – it was suggested that an online application form, rather than an email application, would elicit more responses. This could be linked to from the YOTA 2016 UK page on the new Youth website.
- It was noted that all participants must be members of the Society.
- MJ as Youth Coordinator will select applicants based on agreed criteria and coordinate the UK's YOTA DX 2016 entry.
- **A proposal is needed for submission to the board on 11 December**
- **MD to create some standard press announcements and draft email for speculative applications by 10<sup>th</sup> November**

### YOTA 2017 bid



- The Team Leader from YOTA 2014 has volunteered as an adult advisor, and will be the deputy chair of the working group. MJ will oversee and chair the group.
- **MJ asked for volunteers for the working group:**
  - **James Monahan; James Thornhill; Oscar Hall; Oliver Wilson, as well as Adam Hutchison in an advisory capacity only.**

### AOB

- Youth Award
  - MJ submitted a draft proposal to SH but was informed that more detail is required. **MJ and JT to re-draft proposal.**
- Youth Membership Proposal
  - **Reponses from the Committee to Graham Coomber's feedback are required by Monday 19 October. JT to coordinate.**
- Youth Net
  - MD will run another Youth Net on 80m, on Wednesday 21 October from 8pm to 9pm. If conditions are poor the net will run on 40m.
  - **MD to ensure details of the net are tweeted and circulated via the RSGB Facebook page.**

**Mito Noblet, 2E0ILO**  
Deputy Chairman  
Youth Committee  
Radio Society of Great Britain

**Michael Jones, 2E0MLJ**  
Chairman  
Youth Committee  
Leadership Team Member  
Radio Society of Great Britain