



# RAY ~ Link

Issue Forty Five  
January 2003

The Regular Newsletter of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network

RAY-Link is published for the benefit of all Network members and the preferred method of distribution is by e-mail. Those who receive their copy by e-mail will receive their AGM calling notice by snail mail this year. A change which will allow e-mail distribution of the AGM calling notice will be proposed at the AGM and will hopefully come into effect next year.

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## Report on the National AGM 2002

The Annual General Meeting of the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network was held at the National Space Centre, Leicester on Saturday 2nd. November 2002.

The venue was an excellent choice, and those attending received free admission to the exhibition area throughout the day, including the Satellite Amateur Radio demonstration area, and they also benefited from a special low rate for a Space Theatre presentation in the afternoon.

During the AGM session, the Chairman's and the Treasurer's reports were accepted by those present, and the special resolution, proposed by the Committee of Management to change Article 73 of the Articles of Association was also passed. Members were also asked to agree to receive their RAY~Link by electronic means, although it was stated that groups would receive a copy by post if no e-mail facilities were available. The roles and actions which the Committee of Management had taken during the past year were welcomed by those present, and the Committee was given a remit to continue with its policies.

David Hicks, G6IFA, was warmly congratulated on his forthcoming membership of the RSGB Board. David has been the Zonal Co-ordinator for Zone 10 and the Network's Director of Publicity for a number of years, and his membership of the Board was welcomed by all present. Jim Andrews, G1HUL was congratulated for his work on our excellent web site, [www.raynet-uk.net](http://www.raynet-uk.net), which this year received a Golden Web Award. The site now contains a member's only section, and members also receive complimentary "raynet-uk.net" e-mail addresses as a benefit of membership.

The Chairman, Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, presented the RAYNET Trophy to Brian Tindill, G4HVA, in recognition of the work which Brian does at Hunters Moon on a daily basis. A special Group Award was made to the South East Hampshire Group to recognise the outstanding contribution which the group has made to RAYNET in Hampshire. The roles played by three members, Steve Collings, G4SAC, Dave Walker, G3ULL and Clive McCloud, G4EFB were particularly mentioned.

Following the AGM there was a lively question and answer session with members from many groups contributing to the debate. Subjects raised included Committee of Management business, the history of RAYNET, long service awards, Gift Aid, and working with the User Services.

RAYNET Supplies were available at the AGM. The range of items has been revised this year, with the emphasis being placed on a corporate image on quality garments. Most prices have remained constant and members present took advantage of the post and delivery charge-free prices.

The Chairman thanked Geoff Griffiths, G3STG for obtaining the AGM venue, and organising the day's programme, including the post AGM dinner in Leicester last night. Thanks were also given to members of the Leicester and Melton groups for providing talk-in and stewarding the event.

**Membership Fee 45p. per month.  
PAI £1.32 per year or part year  
(1st May - 30 April).**

*All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-*  
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## Chairman's Report 2001-2002

The Committee of Management has met four times this year, in January, April, June and September, with the majority of zones being represented at each meeting.

Roger Beever, G6CKR, who visited the COM last September, has now taken over as ZC3 from Geoff Griffiths, G3STG. Geoff still does an enormous amount of work for the Network, and was the driving force, and organiser, for today's impressive AGM venue. Phil Williams, G6AQP has taken up the post of Zone 5, representing London on the Committee of Management.

David Green, G8HPV has now taken over from Madeley Smith as ZC9.

Ian Jackson, G8RWH, continues as our Secretary, and "Talk Through Permit" man and Cathy Clark G1GQJ, is the minute secretary as well as being deputy Chairman and the Emergency Planning team leader.

Jack Goodman G4PIJ took over as treasurer on 1st. January 2001, and this will be the first of his own Treasurer's reports, as last year he presented the report prepared by Ray, G3EKL, his predecessor. Jack has intimated that he will be standing down next year, and the Committee of Management is already looking for a successor. One name has cropped up a few times and we are hopeful that an announcement will be made soon.

The Web site has been redesigned Jim Andrews, G1HUL, and now has a members' only area which is proving a popular addition. The site won a Golden Web Award this year, reflecting the work and skill inputted by Jim. It is a pity that this is not matched by our Service Provider who has given Jim several problems to deal with this year. Members now receive their raynet-net.uk address and forwarding service free of charge, as a benefit of membership.

This year we again ran a "Free Membership" scheme to encourage new members. Geoff Griffiths, G3STG, took responsibility for the day to day running of the scheme, and I am delighted to say that it worked. The Committee of Management has not yet decided if we will repeat the scheme next year, or look at some other way of encouraging new members. I am pleased to be able to report that several groups who had left us have now rejoined, and the membership figures are looking more hopeful.

RAY~Link continues to be a drain on our resources as not as many members as hoped have taken up the option to have e-mail delivery. Consequently the Committee of Management has decided that distribution will now be by e-mail although Zonal Co-ordinators will work with County and Group controllers to ensure that members who do not have email facilities will still see a printed copy. Contributions are welcomed from all members and should be sent to raylink@raynet-uk.net

Brian and Moira Shearer have stood down from RAYNET Supplies, and Katie, G6OUIG has now taken over. The year started well, but computer problems at the main suppliers has recently caused untold extra work and delays to orders. It is hoped that these programming problems have now been solved, and that normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. Jackets and waistcoats are now supplied with ID pockets as standard and the clothing range has been extended,

and the quality of garments improved.

In January we were approached by Gordon Adams, G3LEQ and asked to contribute to a report on RAYNET which he was preparing for the RSGB Board. At the same time we received an e-mail from Tom Reilly G0NSY saying that both he and Simon had been relieved of their RSGB ERLO duties.

I responded immediately to Gordon Adams, asking for a meeting, and this was acknowledged by the RSGB HQ on 8th. February. Gordon did not contact me until 24th. March, when he said that he was very busy and could not meet me or any of the Committee of Management until after he had completed his report. We did, however submit our report (as did some of our members) but so far we do not know if these reports were of use to the RSGB. We have invited the RSGB president, Bob Whelan, G3PJT to our April, June and September meetings, but he has been unable to attend.

We were shocked at the proposal to stop using the word RAYNET, and the Committee of Management issued a statement saying that there was no way we would be changing.

Following a news item on GB2RS, the Secretary was instructed to write to Paul Gaskell, G4MWO the RSGB's recently appointed Radio Communications Voluntary Services National Co-ordinator pointing out that he was not part of our organisation and could not speak, or issue statements on our behalf. Paul was a Network member for many years but chose not to renew his membership in April 2001.

The Committee of Management is very disappointed that the RSGB has spent this year trying to make changes where they are not necessary, and regrets the loss of Tom and Simon as the RSGB ERLOs. As an affiliated society, we would have expected, and hoped for, better communication. We are, however, delighted that the proposal made at the September Committee of Management meeting has materialised, and that our ZC10, David Hicks, G6IFA, was successful in obtaining a place on the RSGB Board. "Well Done" David!

I will be standing down as Chairman at the end of next year, and hope that I have been able to steer the Network on a good course during my time in office. I have many projects and interests which have been put on hold, and Katie and I are already planning the things we will be able to do with the spare time. I have agreed to help Katie with RAYNET Supplies, and will be easing in to this arrangement during the forthcoming year.

Brian Tindill, G4HVA continues as our mailbox at our magical sounding "Hunters Moon" address. Brian was previously the Company Secretary, and on receiving a presentation, eased himself into just as much work receiving, logging and re-distributing our mail, receiving membership applications and renewals, dealing with finance as it arrives in the post, and being our contact with our registered address in Bedale. All this work requires a lot of dedication, and the Committee of Management has decided that in recognition, Brian should receive the RAYNET Trophy.

Ron Cowan then presented the RAYNET Trophy to Brian Tindill and also presented a special Group Award to members of South East Hampshire RAYNET for their outstanding group activity over a number of years.

## ***RAYNET at Hogmanay***

Greater Glasgow RAYNET Group, assisted by Clyde Coast, Cowal and East Dunbartonshire, was active during the Hogmanay / New Year period, working for the City Emergencies Planning Officer of Glasgow City Council. Although the group provides "routine" RAYNET service for Council events throughout the year, this duty was different in that RAYNET was tasked with providing Control facilities in the Joint Agencies Control Centre, located within the City Chambers Building, and at three Forward Control Points, in the George Square, Merchant City and Trongate areas of the City.

Owing to the high volume of Cellular voice and text traffic expected in the lead up to, and over, "The Bells", arrangements had to be made to cover the event without any reliance on Cellular radio. As the controls were communicating with people who were not radio amateurs, the RAYNET operators used Private Business Radio equipment, installed by a commercial firm, to communicate on the eleven event frequencies, but they also used 2m and 70cm. amateur frequencies as a backup, and for operational traffic between the four control rooms. The duty cycle started at 18:30 hrs. on Tuesday 31st. December and was completed at 02:00 hrs. on Wednesday 1st. January. 70,000 people attended the celebrations and consequently the nets were busy throughout the event.



## ***Dundee Bunker***

**D**avid Duff, GM4UGF, ZC22 The various Tayside Region RAYNET Groups in collaboration with the Civil Defence & Emergency

Service Preservation Trust now have access to the previous Civil Defence Sector Control Bunker at Craigeibarn, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. This bunker is sadly not as well preserved as some other bunkers, however it has great promise as a new focus for the local RAYNET Groups' base activity. During Tayside Regional Council's existence (desegregated March 1996) the Groups had fine support, storage and a room in nearby Craigeibarn House (an ex jute baron's mansion, Civil Defence then the EPO HQ, now flats) which was co-sited with the bunker. Sadly the communication masts went with the closure as did the high flat bits of roof on the house! GB3DD was sited at Craigeibarn House during this period. The local ATC Squadron (just down the road) since then have kindly provided a place for the Groups to meet with mutual benefits, but ready access and security issues were problematical despite two RAYNET members also being ATC civilian instructors. The bunker is now cabled with a collinear for 2m and 70cms operation and other COAX for future VHF/HF operations.

It will be nice to have all the Groups' kit together again. Thanks to RAYNET families who have put up with its storage in the interval.

As ever we welcome interested and active amateurs in the area who want to join RAYNET. Regular meeting evening is to be Wednesday until June when it will revert to Thursday.

## **RAYNET Supplies**

**R**AYNET Supplies are available at a discount rate to current members of the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network. A list of available items, current prices and order forms are available for download at [www.raynet-uk.net](http://www.raynet-uk.net) For a full list of items, and the discounted price structure, make sure that you enter the Supplies area from the Members' Section of the website, as the "Public" section only gives access to general items and non-members' prices.

RAYNET supplies can be e-mailed at [supplies@raynet-uk.net](mailto:supplies@raynet-uk.net), faxed on 0141-621 1000 or phoned (between 19:30 and 21:00 preferred times) on 0141-638 0732.

## **Zonal Election Results**

**I**n the run-up to the 2002 AGM, ZCs 1 (Tom Hanratty) and 12 (Tom Stewart) were returned un-opposed. There are. Consequently, no changes to the Committee of Management for this year.

Next year, the ZC's for Zones 4, 7 and 10 retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

In recent years, pressure to make an accurate log of everything that happens on an event has increased, due mainly to pressures from Health and Safety and the litigious society we now live in. This requirement covers everything from where marshals are sent, to the conversations between organisers and other event staff, to the precise content of radio and telephone messages. RAYNET is often pivotal in getting critical messages through in a timely manner, putting us in the centre of the communications system and, consequently, open to challenges about the efficiency of our message passing.

Should an incident occur, a RAYNET group could be put in a very awkward position if it cannot prove exactly how long it took for a message to be passed on and exactly what was said. Various groups have developed recording systems based on everything from long play video recorders to commercial recording equipment, all of which work effectively in their own environment and are best suited to bigger events where good power supplies are available. Recordings are also a useful training aid, as examples of good and bad operating can be highlighted and people can actually hear how good or bad they are - This can be quite revealing!

Making recordings of "in the field" events has always been a problem, as battery-operated tape recorders at best only record for 45 minutes without a tape change and generally have poor quality fixed-level VOX systems. There is, however, a new budget-priced product from the British company Roberts Radio, which is specifically designed for communications quality audit recording, will run for 3 hours between tape changes, has an adjustable VOX system, is battery powered and has stereo line inputs allowing simultaneous recording of 2 radio channels. The unit is the Roberts C9950 and is priced around £80. Further information is available on their web site at <http://www.robertsradio.com/>. Roberts Radio products are available from, amongst others, the Amateur Radio supplier Nevada in Portsmouth. If you don't routinely record your radio traffic, seriously consider doing so as it has many benefits!

A seminar and accompanying exhibition took place in Birmingham on 23rd October. It was organised by the West Midlands Regional Emergency Communications group that comprises members from some of the Local Authorities Emergency Managers, Fire and Rescue staff, representatives from the Armed Forces, and, RAYNET.

The objective of the event was to give delegates updates on communications technology and policies in relation to emergencies. There were over 100 attendees on the day of which fifteen were RAYNET members from West Midlands, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Northants and Gwent. The remaining delegates were from Local Authorities, 'blue light' services, and others involved in emergency planning from all parts of the UK.

Two of the attendees also appeared in the November issue of RadCom, the RSGB magazine. They were Tracey Fielding, 2E1GQB and Tracey Quinn, M1ZZY from the Emergency Planning Team in Bath and North East Somerset (BANES).

The programme of the day started with a keynote speech to set the scene by Les Moseley, former CEPO West Midlands, who is now Director of the Emergency Management course at Coventry University. Topics covered in the rest of the seminar were on battery management, the health effects of mobile phones, progress of the BT Airwave system, the Cabinet Office involvement and the importance of communications training. The Chairman of the day, Bill Almond of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, rounded off the seminar with a case study of a telephone exchange failure that occurred in Staffordshire and the implications that arose as a result.

During the event, Bill Mahoney, Public relations Officer for RAYNET Zone 9, gave a presentation on the history of RAYNET, the services provided and some national and local incidents and exercises in which RAYNET had taken part. This was immediately followed by a presentation from Paul Gaskell, G4MWH, the National Co-ordinator of RCVS the new Radio Communication Volunteer Service of the RSGB. He too spoke about the work of RAYNET and various other issues with which the RSGB are to be involved.

Over all, the event, which was the first of its kind in the region, was a success. Feedback from delegates also confirmed this. The Chairman, Bill Almond, said: "I was extremely pleased with the number of delegates who attended; it was a sell out from early on. The quality of the speakers was excellent, the topics relevant and interesting. Comments on the event are positive, and I have already been approached to see if we can make this an annual event."

It is anticipated that there will be a further EPCOMS event to update future delegates on this fast-moving area of change in communications technology and policy.

## AGM 2002



## **Gift Aid**

Support of the The Gift Aid Scheme is being sought from our members. This scheme benefits the Network from subscriptions and donations which are made by those paying income tax and who have confirmed their support by completing and returning Registration Form GAD - 01 which can be found in the Group Support section of the Members' area of [www.raynet-uk.net](http://www.raynet-uk.net) When renewing membership, ideally members' subscriptions should be sent as personal cheques to Hunters Moon, but group cheques covering the payment from all members of a group are welcome providing that it can be shown that the monies passed on to Hunters Moon are to cover the subscriptions due to the Network and on whose behalf the Group has collected the subscriptions and is passing them on, and not, for example, from a donation received from a User Service which pays all the members' subscriptions.

## **Assorted Callsigns!**

Members are asked to register the callsign which they wish to use when operating at RAYNET events and, when communicating with the Network, to use the callsign which appears on their membership ID badge. Some difficulties have been encountered recently when members have communicated with us using a different callsign from the one registered on our records.

## **RAYNET Supplies**

RAYNET Supplies has completed stock-taking and orders may now be sent in. Details, order forms and the price list can be found on [www.raynet-uk.net](http://www.raynet-uk.net)

## **April COM Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee of Management will be held on Saturday 26th. April, although team meetings will, as usual, be held in the interim.

## **Voice Procedures.**

The voice procedures document is currently being reviewed and the EP team would welcome any input from members either individually or through Groups, Counties, Areas, Zones, etc. These should be sent by the end of February to Cathy Clark, G1GQJ via Hunters Moon or [ep@raynet-uk.net](mailto:ep@raynet-uk.net)

## **Meeting with the RSGB**

Those who listened to the 80m net on Sunday 19 January or read the news on e-mail, or who listened to or read the RSGB news of the same day will have noted the item concerning a meeting between the Network and the RSGB.

We were not consulted about possible dates, venues or times and unfortunately we cannot attend as the date chosen by the RSGB is unsuitable. The first we knew about the proposed meeting was when we read an item on that week's RSGB news.

The Committee Management does, however, wish to meet the RSGB, and as early as last March we invited the President to join us at our April Committee of Management meeting. This invitation was repeated for our June and September meetings.

In December the Committee of Management's Emergencies Planning team invited the RSGB's recently appointed Radio Communications Voluntary Services National Co-ordinator to attend one of their meetings to discuss items of mutual interest, and the date of the next Emergency Planning team meeting has now been put back a week to 22nd. March in the hope that the RCVSNC can attend, as he had a clash of dates on the originally planned 15th. March.

We look forward to meeting the RSGB in the hopefully not-too-distant future, but regret that the proposed February meeting was publicly announced without any reference to us.

## **Emergencies Planning Conference**

The Committee of Management was represented at a major emergencies planning conference and exercise in London on Thursday 16 January, which was attended by government, local government, and industry representatives. The full day's programme examined the events which would follow a major incident, and to look at the pre-planning issues which should be put in place to minimise the extensive after-effects.

As the meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule, further details about speakers and contributors cannot be given. "Where a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) nor any other participant, may be revealed; nor may it be mentioned that the information was received at a particular meeting."

## **Personal Details**

Members are reminded that they should ensure that their details registered with the Network are kept up to date. This is easily done through the members' area of [www.raynet-uk.net](http://www.raynet-uk.net) Please check that we can contact you in an emergency. As we don't know when it could happen, and nor do you, please do it now!

## **Confidential Lists.**

Members are reminded that telephone numbers supplied for inclusion in callout lists are often ex-directory even if not stated on the list. As these callout lists are often passed to officers of adjacent groups to ease communication if the designated contact is not available for any reason, care should be taken when producing news letters etc. not to publish details from callout lists from other groups.

If details are to be published of a member from another group a check with that person would save any embarrassment and also confirm the telephone number is correct.

<b>Phil Cottrell</b> <b>G4CLV</b>	<b>Dick Jeffries G4KAR</b> <b>Group Controller</b>
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It is with great sadness that I record the death of Phil Cottrell, G4CLV who passed away on 5 November 2002, 10 weeks after suffering a severe stroke. He was 76.

Phil has given outstanding service to RAYNET he was a founder member of the former East Sussex RAYNET Group now the Eastbourne & Wealden RAYNET Group and had been the treasurer for 23 years.

He was a very modest and unassuming gentleman, young at heart, with a wonderful sense of humour, he was held in high esteem and had a steady influence on the Group and could always be relied on for just and sound advice.

The Group was well represented at the service at the crematorium, and there was so many mourners that many of us had to stand outside in the entrance hall.

Phil was a mechanical engineer by trade and could make anything with his hands and had a keen interest in technology and science. He worked with extreme accuracy and one of his pet sayings was "a one degree error in the centre results in 1/10 of an inch error at 18 feet - not many people know that".

Before retiring he had been the senior engineer at the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux and was responsible for the mechanical maintenance of the telescopes at sites in Spain, Egypt and Australia. He was a member of the team that built, what is thought to be, the first 2 meter in-band TTU in the mid to late 1970's. Last year he was a member of the team that installed a pneumatic mast in the Group's caravan. He was always willing to assist RAYNET whenever possible.

Phil had a wide interest and was the Treasurer for the Hastings Repeater Group, Past Chairman of the Southdown Amateur Radio Society, Secretary and past Chairman to many local charities and served on the Hailsham Town Council.

Phil will be greatly missed by his XYL Dorothy and their two sons Richard and Peter.