

Vintage & Military Amateur Radio Society

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1st September 2012
The Library, The Mansion, Bletchley Park
11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of AGM 2011

A summary of the draft minutes is provided as Annex 1 to this agenda. A copy of the full version of the draft minutes may be obtained on request from the Honorary Secretary.

4. Chairman's Report

A copy of the Chairman's report is provided as Annex 2 to this agenda.

5. Secretary's Report

A copy of the Secretary's report is provided as Annex 3 to this agenda.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report, copy of the Final Accounts up to December 31st 2011 and notes to the accounts are provided as Annex 4 to this agenda.

6.1 Adoption of Accounts

6.2 Increase in Annual Subscription

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Candidate's statements, proxy appointment and postal voting forms are provided as Annex 5 to this agenda.

7.1 Chairman's Policy Statement

8. Election of Honorary Examiners

9. Archive Group Report

Update on the work of the Archive Group given by Colin Guy G4DDI, the Society Archivist.

10. RSGB Spectrum Group

Ian Underwood M0YMK, who represents the Society on the RSGB Spectrum Group, will provide an update on RSGB Spectrum matters and progress with the proposed 5 MHz allocation.

11. VMARS Publications & Handbook

Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF provides an update on our publications and will be showing some specimen chapters that will be forming part of the proposed VMARS Handbook.

12. Collins 618T Special Interest Group

John Keeley G6RAV to give a short report on this newly formed group.

13. Members Business

13.1 Amendments to the Constitution V2.21

On behalf of the Committee:

Proposed by: Ian Underwood M0YMK
Seconded by: Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF

- (i) Section 7 Membership of the Committee:

That Section 7 be corrected by the reinstatement of Clause (d)

"Committee members, with the exception of the treasurer and publications manager, are to serve for a maximum of five terms of one year, after which they shall not serve again for a minimum of two years"

This clause was inadvertently omitted from V2.21.

- (ii) Section 7 Membership of the Committee Clause (d):

That Clause 7(d) be amended by the addition of a new final sentence:

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“Where a vacancy arises as a result of the term of office coming to an end, but there is no nominee to fill that vacancy, the retiring Member is eligible for re-election on an annual basis until such a time as a suitable candidate comes forward.

Background

This year our Honorary Secretary completes his term of office and under the provisions of Clause 7(d) is barred from seeking nomination for any Committee post for a period of two years. Due notice that the Honorary Secretary had completed his term of office was given in the Society News Sheet at the time nominations for Committee were sought from the membership. No nominations for the post of Honorary Secretary were put forward. John Keeley G6RAV (the current post holder) indicated his willingness to serve for a further term of office but was prevented from doing so by Clause 7(d).

The Committee therefore considered this to be a situation where, because of exceptional circumstances, Clause 7(d) was working against the interests of the Society. The membership were given due notice that the Hon Secretary would complete his term of office at AGM 2012 and urged to give full consideration to nominations for this and other posts. This produced no response whatsoever and given this circumstance the Committee have a duty to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to maintain the proper management of the Society. Accordingly, the Committee set aside Clause 7(d) and nominated John Keeley for the post of Honorary Secretary.

To avoid similar situations occurring in the future the Committee recommends that the proposed amendment to Clause 7(d) set out above, be adopted.

14. Committee Service

Discussion topic introduced by Ian Underwood MOYMK

15. Any Other Business

Annex 1: Summary Minutes AGM 2011

AGM 2011

The Annual General Meeting of the Society for 2011 was held on Saturday 23rd July at Kineton Village Hall, Kineton, Warwickshire. Forty five (45) Members of the Society were in attendance.

1. Stuart McKinnon G0TBI (Chairman) opened the Meeting at 1030 local time and welcomed members to Kineton.
2. John Keeley G6RAV (Hon Secretary) gave apologies from twelve (12) Members.
3. **Minutes of AGM 2010:** A summary version of the minutes of the previous AGM had been included as Annex 1 to the meeting agenda. John Keeley reported that written questions to be raised as matters arising had been received from Mike Buckley M1CCF in respect of AGM 2010 as follows:

- (a) Agenda 12.1** *The Committee was to look into future AGM locations. Can we know the result of their deliberations, please, as it seems that Kineton is heavily booked on Saturdays and Sundays in June.*

Other Members have made suggestions and I have also offered to arrange for alternatives, the Royal Signals at Blandford and/or Royal Artillery in Woolwich, I suggested.

These offers are still available and have neither been accepted or rejected, nor reasons given. Under 12.2 a further alternative was offered.

Stuart McKinnon responded by saying that suggestions as to alternative AGM venues would be welcomed. During discussion a number of points were made from the floor as follows: One Member suggested that an important factor was that the venue should be readily accessible from a motorway. Another noted that, while the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford was an excellent venue, it represented a long journey for those travelling from the North and may necessitate an overnight stay. Another comment pointed out that Kineton was a conveniently situated central location with good motorway access and as such was "equally inconvenient". A Member asked how many people had actually complained about the AGM venue this year – Stuart McKinnon responded that only two or three people had actually voiced a complaint.

Stuart McKinnon drew the discussion to a close with a suggestion that a good way forward would be to undertake a survey in a forthcoming NS where a number of possible AGM venues would be listed and members would be asked to indicate against each venue whether or not they would be able to attend an AGM at that venue.

- (b) Agenda 12.4** *The Committee was to propose a change to section 10 - why has this not been proceeded with?*

John Keeley responded by saying that this question referred to the omission of a timescale for the calling of an EGM after due notice had been served. A period of

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3 months would be inserted in Section 10 and issued with the revised version of the Constitution that will be issued if Motions 12.1 & 12.2 to be discussed under Members Business later in the meeting are carried.

(c) Agenda 12.5 *Changes to the web site were proposed last year. Can this please be clarified?*

Colin Guy (Society Webmaster & Archivist) responded that the website re-design was "work in progress".

There being no further points under matters arising, Stuart McKinnon sought and received approval by a unanimous show of hands from the Meeting to sign the minutes of AGM 2010 as being correct.

- 4. Chairman's Report:** Stuart McKinnon gave his annual report to the Meeting. The full text of the report was published in NS100 and is annexed to the full minutes of AGM 2011.
- 5. Secretary's Report:** The full text of the Secretary's report had been included as Annex 3 to the meeting agenda. John Keeley therefore summarised his report to the meeting by commending the work of the Committee throughout the past year to the meeting and noting the range of skill and experience that Committee Members had brought to the governance of the Society. Noting some of the comments that appeared on the VMARS Members Email Reflector and in the News Sheet in recent months, he reminded the meeting that the Committee was "your" Committee that welcomed constructive criticism and, if anything was wrong, would always act quickly to put matters right. John Keeley considered that being "shot at" was probably the lot of any committee but suggested that the loudest voices were not always the right ones.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Brian Thomas presented his report for the year to 31st December 2010. Copies of the Treasurer's Report, Statement of Accounts and Notes to the Accounts were provided as Annex 4 to the meeting agenda.

A net surplus of £3320 was recorded for 2010 compared with £2804 in 2009. Income from Auctions/Sales again represented a significant contribution to Society funds at £2579 before expenses.

Meetings had been held with our bankers, NatWest, to consider our options if the proposed phasing out of cheques in a few years time takes place. Brian noted that a considerable number of Members paid their annual subscription by cheque and suggested that a possible alternative would be to use a direct transfer from their debit card that could be arranged at their branch. A further problem is that the Society Constitution requires that cheques drawn on Society must be signed by two of the three authorised signatories. NatWest indicated that arrangements would be made to cover this requirement if cheque facilities are indeed withdrawn. They were, however, unable to say what the replacement arrangements would be.

In discussion the question of using PayPal was raised, especially for the payment of subscriptions from overseas Members. PayPal could not unfortunately be used with the type of account held by the Society. Was there any objection to Members using their own PayPal Accounts to assist overseas Members in paying their subscriptions. While there was no objection to assisting an overseas friend, caution

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was however needed in handling third party transactions. David Smith (One of the Honorary Examiners) reminded the Meeting that audit trails were needed to support transactions involving the Society Accounts.

A written question had been received from Mike Buckley in respect of the Society accounts:

"I have previously been concerned about Committee expenses and, in particular, two Members of the Committee who seem to claim considerably more than the remainder. An explanation has been offered that these expenses include costs associated with auction sales - If this is the case then these costs should be shown alongside the auction and net, not gross, proceeds shown. Is the figure given of £2,578.55 in reality not the actual income to the Society?."

Can an explanation be given of what constitutes MEMBERSHIP SERVICES as opposed to ADMINISTRATION and GENERAL EXPENSES?

With our reserves increasing each year, should we not be looking to get something back by way of investment income?"

Brian reported that he had provided answers directly to Mike Buckley and for the benefit of the Meeting explained that the apparent high level of expenses paid to certain Committee Members resulted from the fact that, because of the volume of SK items that had either been donated to the Society or were being sold on behalf of the families concerned, it had been necessary to hire vehicles to collect and transport the equipment concerned to storage and to subsequently transport it to the auction venue. The hire costs had been reimbursed in the normal way and, therefore, showed as expenses. Where donated items were concerned, vehicle hire costs were covered by the Society but, for sales managed on a commission plus expenses basis, vehicle hire costs were deducted as expenses from the auction proceeds remitted to the family concerned.

6.1 Adoption of Accounts: A motion to adopt the accounts was proposed by Colin Tuckley and seconded by Les Thacker.

The motion was put to the vote and the accounts were adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

6.2 Increase in Annual Subscriptions: Brian Thomas stated that he had not recommended an increase in Annual Subscription for 2011 but now felt that, with the current level of inflation, it was appropriate to consider an increase in annual subscription. He, therefore, proposed that the base subscription rate be increased from £18 (the present rate) to £20 with the various subscription options being increased *pro rata*.

In discussion, the view was expressed that small increases each year were preferable to larger increments when needed. One Member, however, pointed out that an annual increase in subscription presented some difficulty for those who paid their annual subscription by standing order. The overall view of the Meeting was that the proposed increase was justified.

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Stuart McKinnon then sought agreement from the meeting to authorise the increase in the subscription base rate from the present level of £18 to a new level of £20, effective from 1st January 2012.

Agreement was signified by a unanimous show of hands.

- 7 Election of Officers & Committee Members:** Jim Cookson G4XWD was appointed by the meeting to conduct the election.

The voting for each nominee was as follows:

(a) Chairman

Nominee: Stuart McKinnon, G0TBI

Nominated by: Martin Longmore 2E0LQR

Seconded by: Dave Frederick

Vote	For	Against
Postal	24	2
Floor	37	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	66	2

Note: 2 Postal votes were withheld

Stuart McKinnon, G0TBI was therefore declared to be duly elected as Chairman

(b) Honorary Secretary

Nominee: John Keeley, G6RAV

Nominated by: Rod Hawkins, 20XWD

Seconded by: Len Thompson G4WZU

Vote	For	Against
Postal	27	0
Floor	36	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	68	0

Note: 1 Postal vote was withheld

John Keeley, G6RAV was therefore declared to be duly elected as Honorary Secretary

(c) Honorary Treasurer

Nominee: Brian Thomas, GW4KYT

Nominated by: Mervyn Terry GW8TBG

Seconded by: David Smith G8IDL

Vote	For	Against
Postal	26	1
Floor	41	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	72	0

Note: 1 Postal vote was withheld

Brian Thomas, GW4KYT was therefore declared to be duly elected as Honorary Treasurer

(d) Membership Secretary

Nominee: Pete Shepherd G7DXV

Nominated by: Len Maunder G4KRX

Seconded by: Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF

Vote	For	Against
Postal	27	0
Floor	40	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	72	0

Note: 1 Postal vote was withheld

Pete Shepherd, G7DXV was therefore declared to be duly elected as Membership Secretary

(e) Publications Manager

Nominee: Bronek Wedzicha, M0DAF

Nominated by: Dave Porter G4OYX

Seconded by: Ken Sanderson G4KCF

Vote	For	Against
Postal	27	0
Floor	39	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	71	0

Note: 1 Postal vote was withheld

Bronek Wedzicha, M0DAF was therefore declared to be duly elected as Publications Manager

(f) Committee Member #1

Nominee: Peter Jones, G8CDC

Nominated by: Mervyn Terry, GW8TBG

Seconded by: Dr. Alan Knell G0BNE

Vote	For	Against
Postal	26	1
Floor	39	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	70	0

Note: 1 Postal vote was withheld

Peter Jones, G8CDC was therefore declared to be duly elected as Committee Member #1

(g) Committee Member #2

Nominee: Ian Underwood M0YMK

Nominated by: Leslie Thacker 2E0IBN

Seconded by: Keith Yates G3XGW

Vote	For	Against
Postal	27	0
Floor	40	0
Proxy	5	0
Total	72	0

Note: 1 Postal vote was withheld

Ian Underwood, M0YMK was therefore declared to be duly elected as Committee Member #2

This completed the election of Officers & Committee and, after thanking Jim Cookson, Stuart McKinnon resumed the Chairmanship of the Meeting.

- 8 Election of Honorary Examiners:** David Smith G8IDL indicated that he was willing to continue as an Honorary Examiner if re-elected. Brian Thomas reported that Antony Wedgwood had intimated that he also was willing to continue as an Honorary Examiner if re-elected.

Stuart McKinnon then invited the meeting to signify if they wished to re-appoint David and Antony as Honorary Examiners. The meeting affirmed the re-appointments by unanimous show of hands.

9 Archive Group Report: Colin Guy G4DDI, Society Archivist, delivered a report on the work of the Archive Group during the past year.

The high speed document scanner had considerably enhanced the work of converting the paper archive into electronic format. The time now needed to scan a manual was around one hour and the capacity of the scanner was such that fold-out circuits, etc., could be scanned complete rather than having to be split into a number of overlapping scans. Having completed the scanning, the task of "cleaning" the document using specialist software could then begin – this was a time-consuming process but policy was to restore the quality of the scanned document to near-original as was possible. Colin particularly wished to thank Martin Longmore who, during the course of the year, had cleaned thousands of pages of documentation to a very high standard and was always ready to stop work in progress to respond to a particular request from a Member.

Colin reported that a number of duplicate original manuals now existed. He saw no point in retaining duplicates and stated that a decision was needed on their disposal. A considerable number of early radio magazines and journals had been donated to the Archive and additional help was needed to complete the scanning and cleaning process.

The Thorpe Camp Museum Authorities have now provided a de-humidifier for the Archive store. Although this was a new building, there had been a problem with damp during the winter and this has begun to effect the condition of the paper archive.

Material for the Archive can either be donated or loaned for scanning in which case the Archive Team (currently Colin and Martin Longmore) would endeavour to return the loaned items as soon as possible.

Colin paid particular tribute to Mike Buckley who had generously provided a large amount of documents for the archive during the course of the year.

10 RSGB Spectrum Group: Ian Underwood M0YMK, gave a presentation on the work of the RSGB Spectrum Forum.

This consists of various specialist groups within the body of the RSGB and technical and regulatory consultants, one of whom is VMARS Member Peter Chadwick G3RZP. The work of the Forum is to formulate RSGB policy in respect of radio frequency spectrum issues in so far as they effect the interests of UK radio amateurs, liaise with OFCOM, and represent RSGB policy to the IARU. In order to obtain as much grass roots feedback as possible, the RSGB has invited a number of special interest groups, including VMARS, within the RSGB to submit reports and participate in an annual Spectrum Forum meeting in support of their activities and interests.

The overall aim of the VMARS representation at the annual Spectrum Forum meeting is to raise awareness of the use of AM in general and to promote greater access and availability of frequencies useful to vintage and ex-Military equipment

operators. To give an example of this, the seven spot frequencies available to those who have been granted an NoV to use 5 MHz have a necessary bandwidth limitation of 3 kHz which is applied strictly so double sideband AM cannot, therefore, be used on a band that is widely recognised as being particularly suited to inter-G working. The 5 MHz band is currently not available to Foundation or Intermediate licence holders. The RSGB has listed greater access to 5 MHz as a priority and a specialist group is already working with the RSGB to follow this through.

In 2010 VMARS submitted a proposal to extend the 80 m band to 4 MHz. This received much support from the Spectrum Forum meeting but the RSGB indicated they had no plans to put this forward as a formal proposal to OFCOM because of more pressing matters.

The Committee would welcome suggestions and proposals regarding the use of the RF Spectrum relevant to VMARS and would like to hear from any who own radar and other radio navigation aids working on frequencies outside of the amateur bands with a view to seeking special permission to operate these equipments for demonstration or research purposes.

11 Publications Report: Noting that the 100th News Sheet and 20th issue of Signal were about to be published Bronek Wedzicha (Publications Manager) began his report by thanking all those who had contributed to the Society publications over the years and their understanding with regard to the publications process. He hoped that the Publications Team had been catalytic in bringing interesting articles and news to the Membership. The balance of what was read depended on what was submitted and the Publications team relied on the good will and generosity of those who submitted material.

Bronek announced that a major project was underway for the coming year – this being the VMARS “book”. This is to be based on material from Signal but with appropriate introductory chapters covering various vintage topics such as theory and practice with valves and components and restoration techniques followed by chapters on the various classes of equipment concluding with a section on aerials. Some example costs were given, around £6 for a 400 page book (1000 copies rate) soft sown or spiral bound. This was expected to sell for around £20. There were still a number of issues to be considered by the Committee such as copyright, whether or not royalties would be paid to authors and how the books would be distributed.

Bronek concluded his report by raising the issue of making copies of VMARS publications to non-members. He pointed out that contributors offered their material to Signal on the understanding that it was a Members-only publication so copyright may need to be considered in making the journal generally available. This also precludes making such material available on the web. The News Sheet is a strictly Members-only publication as it contains Society business and opinions that are restricted to VMARS. It is not, therefore, appropriate for the NS to be made available to non-members or someone who was not a Member at the time of the request being made. Such requests have, therefore, been declined.

Some discussion followed the report on the subject of the proposed “VMARS Book”. The initiative was generally welcomed, one Member commenting that our subject relied heavily on information and to disseminate information in the form of the proposed book was a major contribution. On the other hand there were concerns

and another Member considered that venturing into a commercial publication was not really what our Society was about. There were concerns too about the finances – would the income from the book result in the Society having to pay tax? The general view was that the Meeting would like to see a detailed and fully costed proposal from the Committee before proceeding with the book project.

11a Membership Secretary’s Report: Pete Shepherd gave a short report on the Society’s Membership.

The current membership was 410. Since AGM 2010, 73 new Members have joined the Society and, at the end of 2010, the Membership stood at 382, however 23 members did not renew their subscriptions this year.

12 Members Business: There were two motions discussed under Members Business both tabled by the Committee. A third motion was originally tabled but, after comments from the Membership, the Committee decided not to seek a vote on it and it was re-designated for discussion only. In the event it was not discussed due to time constraints.

12.1 Amendments to the Constitution V2.1

On behalf of the Committee:

Proposed by: Ian Underwood M0YMK

Seconded by: John Keeley G6RAV

That the wording of Clause 2 “Aims” be deleted and replaced with the original wording of Version V1.7 Clause 3 “Aims” sub-clauses (a – g) & i). Following comments received from the Membership, original sub-clause (h) is also amended.

Ian Underwood introduced the motion and explained that the change to the wording was felt to be necessary as concerns were raised with the Committee following the introduction of the revised Constitution at the EGM in May 2010 that the revised statement of the aims of the Society did not fully reflect the breadth of interests represented in the Society.

Peter Chadwick G3RZP reminded the meeting that the original wording of sub-clause 3 (h) of V1.7 was wrong and needed to be changed if it was to be re-used. Ian confirmed that the wording of the original sub-clause 3 (h) would be corrected with the proposed amendment.

The motion was put to the vote. The result was as follows:

Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Postal	18	5	5
Floor	41	1	2
Proxy	4	1	0
Total	63	7	7

Motion 12.1 to amend Clause 2 “Aims” of Constitution V2.1 was therefore declared to be carried by a majority of 56 Votes. There were 7 abstentions.

12.2 Amendments to the Constitution V2.1

On behalf of the Committee:

Proposed by: Ian Underwood M0YMK

Seconded by: John Keeley G6RAV

That the first paragraph of Clause 4 (a) “Members Conduct” be amended to remove the provision that no Member shall be expelled without having the right to appeal to an EGM and replace this with a new provision that a Member whose conduct is under investigation shall be given the opportunity to state their position and attend a Committee meeting that may be assembled for the purpose, by one additional Member who can make representations on their behalf. Written representations must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary.

Ian Underwood introduced the motion, explaining the background and why the Committee felt the change to the disciplinary procedure to be necessary. Before any discussion, John Keeley read out a written statement from Mike Buckley M1CCF:

“I would represent that this motion is entirely ill conceived and will not assist the democratic running of the Society as Members will be frightened to say anything that may be construed as criticism and thus bringing the "Society into Disrepute" for fear of being expelled! There does not seem to me to be any past record of anybody, who is currently a Member, making such actions. The purpose of the Members only reflector, and the letters page in the News Sheet, is to air such views as Members may have. If Members cannot air their views openly without fear of retribution from our Committee, how can we be conceived as "democratic"?

While there may have been unfortunate statements made, in the past, by Committee Members, this does not seem to me to be a good reason for bringing in such a draconian rule, and I ask Members present to vote against its adoption.”

There was considerable discussion on this motion. The main concern expressed was that the proposed change to the Constitution removed the right of appeal to the Membership. The concern from the Committee was that, under the present rules, the automatic right to call an EGM represented a significant risk to the Society in that open debate on a particular case that may well extend beyond the Membership and could expose the Society and individuals to litigation. By way of background, Stuart McKinnon advised the meeting that, prior to the EGM convened to terminate Richard Hankin’s Membership a couple of years ago, it had become necessary for the Committee to seek professional legal advice.

The change proposed follows acceptable practice advised by the RSGB in their published Model Form of Constitution for Affiliated Societies. It was also noted that expulsion was a “last resort” and would only be enacted where the individual concerned had failed to heed fair warnings as to their conduct.

One Member stated that the Committee were appointed by the Membership to manage the Society and must have the power to deal with serious misconduct or disruptive behaviour in an appropriate way that minimised risk to the Society.

The motion was put to the vote. The result was as follows:

Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Postal	16	9	3
Floor	39	5	2
Proxy	5	0	0
Total	60	14	5

Motion 12.2 to amend Clause 4 (a) “Members Conduct” of Constitution V2.1 was therefore declared to be carried by a majority of 46 Votes. There were 5 abstentions.

13 Any Other Business

13.1 RAF Harrowbeer Event. John Keeley read a short statement concerning this event:

Members will have seen the correspondence in the July News Sheet concerning the RAF Harrowbeer Event at Yelverton in North Devon. There appears to have been what can best be described as a monumental misunderstanding of the Organisers requirements for this event. Happily, matters have now been resolved and Tony Helm G4BCX has asked that an announcement be made to the effect that, although bookings for exhibitors have now closed, it may still be possible for Members to join Tony in staging a radio exhibit. Any Member who is interested in staging an exhibit at the event is invited to contact Tony as soon as possible.

13.2 Items from Mike Buckley M1CCF

A number of items had been submitted by Mike Buckley for discussion under AOB as follows:

(a) *Please may the question of future AGM's be discussed as this year's arrangements have caused distress to those who regularly attend the War and Peace Show and may be others who had made prior arrangements, elsewhere. The constitution expects the AGM to be held by the end of June each year, thus there should be no need to hold this late in July, as this year.*

Stuart McKinnon responded on behalf of the Committee that the issues surrounding arrangements for AGMs had been discussed earlier in the Meeting.

(b) *Please may the future date and location be published by 1st December each year so Members can make suitable arrangements as they plan their years activities at shows and displays. Arranging and publishing a date, before the New Year commences, will not only help Members but will also ensure that suitable facilities are booked and planned in advance.*

Stuart Mckinnon responding on behalf of the Committee stated that the Committee would endeavour to provide as much notice as possible of the date and venue for the AGM but could bind themselves to provide such information by a specific date.

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- (b) *Has the SIG (Special Interest Group) effectively ceased to exist and with it the long time proposed 19-Set CD?*

Bronek Wedzicha responding on behalf of the Committee stated that SIGs were “alive and well” and the Committee welcomed proposals from any Member or group of Members interested in setting up a Special Interest group.

In respect of the WS19 CD, Colin Guy responded that Richard Hankins had been coordinating the original project but since he had left VMARS the project had been held in abeyance. All the material needed to compile the CD was available from the archive and all that was needed was a volunteer to complete the project.

- (c) *Publicity and Events shows a reduced expenditure this year of only £146.26. At some point we were told that Pete Shepherd was producing a new three fold leaflet, although there were existing stocks of the present threefold. At the time of this announcement I asked that the present leaflet be distributed rather than pulped. Given that we have 5 banners and five sets of A3 laminated posters, could we not make better use of these by allowing, indeed encouraging, their display at shows or other events (Note: I know this to be true as I handed these over when I relinquished the post of Publicity). If a person claims expenses in providing such displays, should this expense not be included under the heading of events?*

Pete Shepherd, responding on behalf of the Committee, stated that the design of a new three-fold publicity leaflet was in progress. There were indeed stocks of the old leaflet available but handing out obviously out of date leaflets was hardly good publicity for the Society.

- (d) *I understand that VMARS have only attended two shows, officially, this year, with Society-funded stands. One of these displays, at least, had no Society display material on show.*

Pete Shepherd again responded. VMARS banners have been displayed at a number of rallies and shows this year and these were shown in the events listing but may not have been reported in the News Sheet. In a number of cases VMARS had been offered a pitch free of charge and thus no expenses were incurred.

13.3 Vote of Thanks. Ian Greenberg G8LOY proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee; this was supported by Les Thacker 2E0IBN and Peter Elliott. The Meeting signified their approval by an unanimous show of hands.

There being no further business, Stuart Mckinnon thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 1320 local time.

Annex 2: Chairman's Report

Here we are into our 14th year and, although like any other Club or Society, VMARS has had its ups and downs, doubters and challengers; good governance and really strong input from those dedicated stalwart Members, has allowed us to go ever onwards and upwards. VMARS represents an amazing mix of interests and skills. Some Members are technically minded whereas others are here for the social side of our hobby. Whatever your interests, advice is always given willingly and authoritatively, be it through personal contact or through VMARS media (*i.e.*, the News Sheet, Signal or the Reflector).

Thus, VMARS continues to fly the flag as one of the UK's more respected specialist groups, along with BVWS and Radio Bygones. Whilst we all do different things, it is interesting to point out that many of us belong to the same groups. Our technical journal, Signal stands alongside both the BVWS Bulletin and Radio Bygones in its authoritative content and production. As you may know I do speak to other related organisations, museums and groups and I am always impressed by the respect that is accorded to our Society.

Over the last twelve months VMARS has again excelled itself with displays and talks given at various locations up and down the country. Examples of two such events are the Armed Forces Weekend at Bletchley Park, where a fantastic display of Ex-Military vehicles, spanning almost 70 years and prime examples from the amateur and commercial world, and the NARSA Annual Rally at Blackpool, with never a quiet moment at the VMARS stand. Our rally stands always attract much interest both as somewhere for Members to congregate and from visitors who always look on in amazement, and sometimes actually ask about joining!

It is fair to say that dedicated VMARS Members have made a valuable contribution to their local communities, but I hear you say we could do more. I am sure your Committee will continue to be open to all suggestions as to how we could continue to raise our profile and impress with your expertise. New or 'old' VMARS Members are encouraged to tell us their suggestions. The Committee, in turn, will apportion support upon merit. My thanks go to all those who have helped to make it happen in the past year, and I am sure you will continue to support, offer help and guidance to your new Committee.

As most of you will know, a great deal of time has been devoted to the preserving and cataloguing, auctioning and selling the radio and avionics collection of our late friend John Coggins G3TFC. This has been no mean feat, and we are still some way off completing the task. I would like to thank personally all those who have given their time and advice to this cause. Sadly, this SK occurrence will not be our last; all I would ask is that the support for your colleagues continues in the spirit of what our Society is all about.

Members should now be aware that our present Treasurer, Brian Thomas GW4KYT, will be retiring from this post which he has held for 7 years. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all that he has contributed to the work of the Society at a time when the amount of financial work had increased dramatically owing to a sharp increase in our Membership and the auctions which we have held for some 4 years. The work of a Treasurer requires immense attention to detail and Brian's annual accounts and reports have always reflected work of the highest standard, which will be a very hard 'act to follow'. We are also grateful to him for his guidance on money matters as

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they affect the Society, and the research this has involved. Brian has been a stalwart within the Committee and Society as a whole and Members will be aware that he is also very active in promoting the interests of VMARS, particularly at the Swansea Rally where the stand he co-organises with other local Members has been one of the best we have had on show! So Brian, all I can say is thank you on behalf of us all.

My period of office as Chairman finishes this year and, on a personal note, I simply would like to say a sincere thank you and to ask that you fully support your new Chairman when he takes office. You will have seen the announcement that I have been appointed to serve as Public Relations and Publicity Officer. I am delighted to take on this role, but will need your help as all of us have a part to play in promoting our Society.

Stuart J McKinnon
GOTBI

Annex 3: Secretary's Report

During the past year your Committee has held three formal round the table meetings, a number of *ad hoc* telephone conferences along with the normal round of day to day telephone and email contacts.

A significant proportion of the behind the scenes activities this year have been in connection with the disposal of the late John Coggins G3TFC collection. Four Committee Members and a small dedicated team of volunteers local to the G3TFC QTH have undertaken a huge amount of work in the sorting, cataloguing, transporting and running the auction sales. I think it is fair to say that we were all taken aback by the sheer scale of the G3TFC collection of mainly aircraft related radio equipment, avionics and documentation. The four auction sales have allowed us to distribute a large quantity of unusual and sometimes rare equipment within the Membership and a large number of us have benefitted from John's practice of retaining examples of interesting avionics equipment.

I would therefore like to specially commend to you all those who have contributed to the organisation of the G3TFC SK Sales; their work has mainly been unseen and unsung.

Another Committee activity this year has been the design of a new publicity leaflet – you will know that the old one was beginning to appear somewhat dated and a “new look” up to date leaflet is now available. Contacts have also been maintained with Radio Byegones, Practical Wireless and, of course, Radcom all with the aim of promoting our Society.

Signal continues to go from strength to strength and Bronek Wedzicha will be providing an update on our publications and progress with the proposed VMARS Handbook.

The Archive continues to grow due to the unstinting work of Colin Guy, our Archivist and I would like to pay tribute to the massive effort that Colin and his helpers put in to the scanning and processing of the paper originals into electronic format. I think it reflects great credit on our Society that the majority of the material is made freely available *via* internet download. Some material is of necessity restricted to Members only because of copyright and other reasons.

And finally.....

May I commend your Committee to you for their hard work during the course of the year and thank them for their support and for putting up with an ageing Secretary.

My term of office finishes this year and I would like to say that I have counted it a great privilege to serve our Society as Secretary and I sincerely thank you for your generous support over the years. I wish my successor all the best and simply ask that you support him as you have supported me.

73s

John
G6RAV

Annex 4 Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER, 2011

The Society has continued to maintain its strong financial position. Net surplus for 2011 was recorded at £5724, a significant increase on the 2010 level of £3320.

Again, as in 2010, the Society received significant income from various SK sales and auctions, most notably from the still ongoing auctions from the Estate of the late G3TFC. Net income from these auctions totalled £4389 compared to £2579 for 2010. There may be tax liabilities associated with the sale of non-member equipment and the Committee is actively taking advice on this. Members are reminded that auction income must be treated as a windfall, and is dependent on the small group of volunteers who facilitate these sales. Without this income we would be closer to a break-even operation.

Income from subscriptions increased to £8117 reflecting the higher Membership during 2011. Expenditure has remained almost constant at £6991 compared to £6912 in 2010. The large increase in postage costs introduced in 2012, however, will have an impact on our future operating costs and, therefore, it is recommended that the subscriptions for 2013 reflect this.

As this is the last report of my time in office I would like to thank the Membership for their support over the years. In particular I would like to thank our auditors David Smith G8IDL and Antony Wedgwood G0TJD for their advice and guidance during this period and providing me with an education in book-keeping.

It has been a privilege to work for the Society with a Committee who have been committed to furthering the aims and aspirations of VMARS.

Brian Thomas GW4KYT
VMARS Hon. Treasurer

**VINTAGE & MILITARY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
VMARS FINAL ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER, 2011**

		2011	2010
Income	Subscriptions	8116.85	7550.12
	Archive Sales	14.42	0.0
	Donations	194.93	103.25
	Auctions /Sales (Net)	<u>4388.94</u>	<u>2578.55</u>
		12715.14	10231.92
Expenditure	Archive	240.00	358.80
	Membership Services	361.94	251.42
	Administration	234.62	377.48
	General Expenses	719.21	1361.04
	Newsletter Printing & Postage	5257.75	4327.73
	Publicity & Events	127.42	146.26
	Depreciation	<u>50.00</u>	<u>89.00</u>
		6990.94	6911.73
Net Surplus / Deficit for the Year		5724.20	3320.19
Balance Brought Forward from Previous Year		10031.12	6710.93
Balance Carried Forward to Next Year		<u>15755.32</u>	<u>10031.12</u>
Assets	Property at depreciated cost	150.00	200.00
	Balance at NatWest Bank	17538.29	11032.97
	Debtors	0.00	0.00
		<u>17688.29</u>	<u>11232.97</u>
Less Liabilities	Subscriptions received in advance	247.00	134.50
	Creditors	0.00	0.00
	Unpresented Cheques	<u>1685.97</u>	<u>1067.35</u>
		1932.97	1201.85
Net Assets		<u>15755.32</u>	<u>10031.12</u>

Approved By the Committee

Stuart McKinnon
Chairman

Brian Thomas
Treasurer

To the members of the Vintage & Amateur Radio Society

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We have examined the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011 which are set out above, and have found them to be in agreement with the bank statements and other records of the Society which were made available to us

David Smith G8IDL, Chartered Engineer

Antony Wedgwood G0TJD, Chartered Accountant

Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society

Notes to the Accounts 2011

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2011 and are part of that document.

The Society is an Unincorporated Association, formed under a Constitution, adopted on the 29th May, 1999. All surplus is passed back to Members in the form of publications, supplements and the supporting of events. Sufficient asset balance is maintained in order to provide for contingencies and emergencies.

Expenses

A total of five Committee Members and three Ordinary Members received expenses during the year with a combined total of £846 which includes monies included under Publicity and Events.

General expenses at £719 relate to expenses incurred by Members of the Committee and Ordinary Members acting on behalf of VMARS at approved events including the attendance of Committee Members at Committee Meetings and the AGM. A total of £127 was claimed for special events stations requiring vehicle display by Members. Individual expenses for Committee Members are shown separately.

Archive

The Society holds archives covered by insurance which are unvalued for accounting purposes consisting of about 3500 documents at an estimated value for insurance purposes of £7000. This will be reviewed in 2012.

Printing Costs

Printing costs totalled £5258, higher than last year, but includes increased print runs for new Members.

Auction Income

A number of successful auctions were held during the year including the ongoing auction of the G3TFC collection.

A total of £25739 was generated during these sales which were operated on a commission basis. After operating costs of £1455 a net income of £4389 was realized for the benefit of VMARS. This was a substantial increase over last year's total.

There may be tax issues associated with parts of this income and the Committee is taking advice on any tax liabilities that may have been incurred.

Net Surplus

A net surplus of £5724 was generated for 2011. This was significantly higher than 2010 essentially due to increased auction income.

Expenditure

Total Society expenditure for 2011 was £6991, within budget, commensurate with the 2010 total of £6911.

Committee Expenses – Individual Claims

The following expenses were paid to individuals while serving as Committee members:-

P Shepherd	£42.50
S McKinnon	£165.26
B Thomas	£196.62
B Wedzicha	£106.43
I Underwood	£175.00

Annex 5: Election of Officers and Committee Members

(a) Candidates Statements

Ian Underwood M0YMK (Chairman)

I have a background of 15 years in radar and avionics with the RAF and with British Airways, which was followed by 5 years in technical support roles for US computer companies based in the UK. From 1984 to 1992 I was the joint owner and managing director of Blazepoint Ltd, now Steatite Blazepoint, which is a UK company in the defence industry specialising in mobile computing, equipment ruggedisation and classified "Tempest" applications for the UK military and for Government departments. I retired from full time work in the industry in 1992 and continued as Blazepoint non executive Chairman until 2000, when the company was sold.

As an Ordinary Member I have been privileged to serve on the Committee for the last two years, during which time I have learned much about the administration and the day to day running of the Society from our highly professional team of dedicated volunteer administrators. During my period on the Committee I have also represented the interests of VMARS on the RSGB Spectrum Forum.

I firmly believe that having been given a mandate by the Membership, the Committee should pursue policies that are in full accordance with the Constitution and which are of benefit to the great majority of Society Members. Also, I believe that VMARS should continue its upward development as an effective source of information and, thanks to our Members, body of considerable knowledge for those organisations and individuals who have an interest in vintage and military radio equipment. On a personal level, I would like to see VMARS develop closer ties with Bletchley Park, which is set to become a centre of excellence in our Society areas of interest. As a responsible Society, VMARS cannot ignore its legal position and it is a prime Committee responsibility to protect the Membership from litigious and financial risks which can be a very real danger if not carefully managed.

John Keeley G6RAV (Honorary Secretary)

You will have seen from my annual report that my term of office has come to an end this year. As there have been no nominations for a successor, the Committee have kindly invited me to accept a nomination to serve for a further term of office. I feel honoured by this invitation and am delighted to accept it.

If elected I will continue to support and uphold the values of the Society and the Committee. At this AGM, we elect a new Chairman and I would like to assure him of my support and assistance as he assumes office in what I believe will be another exciting and fulfilling year for our Society

Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF (Honorary Treasurer)

Understandably, Members will be surprised to see my name as a nominee for the post of Hon. Treasurer, when I am already established as Publications Manager and would hope to continue in that role (see my statement below). My reason for standing for the post of Hon. Treasurer stems from the fact that, despite an appeal for nominees from the Membership, and trawling possible candidates, no one has come forward to stand for election. The key role of the Hon. Treasurer within VMARS is such that I felt that the post had to be secured

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rather than to leave to chance at the AGM. My present workload (both professionally and for VMARS) is such that I feel I can accommodate this added responsibility. Members will be aware that I similarly took on, for a year, the post of Membership Secretary whilst working on VMARS publications in much the same way as I do now.

My qualifications for the job include 13 years as Hon. Treasurer of a subject group within the Royal Society of Chemistry, and considerable financial work when Head of a University Department also for 13 years. It is a huge advantage to be able to take on such a job when the Society's finances are buoyant and the books are in very good order, but I have no illusions about the challenges over the coming year.

Pete Shepherd G7DXV (Membership Secretary)

I have been a Member of VMARS for many years now. I have served on the old Members Panel and now am a current member of the Committee, holding the position of Membership Secretary. I am now seeking re-election to this post which I enjoy and hope that I fulfil my duties to the Membership's satisfaction. I am well known throughout the radio amateur world and VMARS, and always appearing at various rallies through the year as a focal point for Members to come to.

I am currently employed at the company Esterline Communications Systems. We like to still call ourselves Racal Acoustics, the latter day S G Brown, Amplivox, etc., headset manufacturers.

I have and will continue to bring VMARS to the Amateur Radio hobby and often get good feedback from my comments to people at work at what we do in promoting the history of all aspects of radio communications.

Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF (Publications Manager)

Members will be familiar with the standard of publications which I aim to achieve. My contribution is that of Editor, compositor of the final copy, and dealing with the printer. I also produce the paper copy mailing lists. The Editorial function involves mostly working with authors, assembling complex documents such as auction catalogues and the list of Members, but it is also my job to reflect Committee Publications Policy. In that regard, in response to Members, we have sharpened up considerably on what constitutes acceptable correspondence for the News Sheet, and I aim to uphold that policy in the coming year. A new project for the coming year is the VMARS book which has now been agreed at Committee level, which should keep me busy when I am not working on Signal, the News Sheet, auction catalogues, etc. I am also 'owner' of the VMARS-Member Reflector and enact Committee Policy for that medium.

My qualifications for the job are as a retired academic with a long record of technical publications including articles, book chapters and a (monograph) book. This means that I have the knowledge and practice of using current software which is essential in modern publishing. I find the job which I have described above most stimulating, largely as a result of the excellent material contributed by our authors, and the willingness of non-members to provide articles. Keeping a balance between the different topics within an issue of Signal is always a challenge, and I am responsive to Members' comments regarding content, as far as I can within the available material. Overall, I am delighted that Signal is seen as a journal with real technical content and is regarded as a 'flagship' publication in our field.

Stuart McKinnon G0TBI (Ordinary Member)

For those who do not know me, and newcomers to the Society in particular, I am one of three founder Members of VMARS. I have subsequently worked for VMARS in various capacities (e.g., auctions and social events, rallies, as a representative at key functions); in fact, on occasions, it has seemed like a full time job. I enjoy helping our fellow Members; after all, many of you have helped me, and that is what being a VMARS Member is all about.

I am extremely grateful for the support and camaraderie of colleagues on the Committee and, indeed, I have served as Chairman for 3 different terms since 1999, so something must be working right!

I would wish to continue to work for VMARS as a Committee Member to promote excellence in every aspect of our work, and work closely with other groups and organisations for mutual benefit.

As most will know, I have been appointed to the role of Public Relations and Publicity Officer. I hope, with your support, to maximise the benefit from my extensive contacts within the Armed Forces, museums, professional bodies, events organisers, and other 'hobby' groups of relevance to VMARS.

I look forward to a wonderful 2013, as VMARS continues and goes from strength to strength.

Peter Jones G8CDC (Ordinary Member)

In the last 12 months VMARS has moved from strength to strength, taking steps to better the benefits available to Members, increasing our public profile, preparing to publish a VMARS book and carrying out several silent key auctions. I have been pleased to make my contribution to these activities which have placed VMARS in a very strong financial position which will be reflected in Membership activity benefits. In addition a 618T SIG group has been setup and is showing a good level of activity.

I look forward to assisting the Committee in the next year of new developments.

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VMARS AGM 1st September 2012 Proxy Voting Form

Appointment of a Proxy

If you cannot attend the AGM in person, and do not want to exercise a postal vote, you may appoint anyone (including non-members) attending the AGM as your proxy, to vote on your behalf. If you wish, you may direct how your proxy votes, either by direct instruction, or by filling in the box below.

To be valid, this form must be returned to John Keeley, Hon Sec. by Saturday 28th July 2012 (Addressed to: 7, Parr Close, Warwick, CV34 6NE, or by email to honsec@vmars.org.uk)

FORMS BROUGHT BY HAND TO THE MEETING ARE NOT VALID, AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please enter the NAME of your proxy.

I,[your name]

hereby appoint.....[proxy's name] to

act as my proxy, at the AGM 1st September 2012 of the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society,

signed.....

date.....

Voting Instructions to Proxy

VMARS AGM 2012 Postal Voting Form Election of Committee Members

Postal Voting Name:.....

Members have the opportunity to vote on all matters that have been placed on the agenda for the meeting. If you cannot attend the AGM but wish to take part in the voting then please **use the forms on pages 27 & 28. Alternatively** you can appoint a proxy to attend the AGM and vote for you – see the form on page 26.

Please return this form to John Keeley, Hon. Sec. by Saturday 28th July 2012 (Addressed to: 7, Parr Close, Warwick CV34 6NE, or by email to honsec@vmars.org.uk)

Chairman

Nominee **Ian Underwood M0YMK**
Nominated by: *Ken Sanderson G4KCF*
Seconded by: *Keith Yates G3XGW*

FOR	AGAINST

Secretary

Nominee **John Keeley G6RAV**
Nominated by: *Ian Underwood M0YMK*
Seconded by: *Alan Knell G0BNE*

FOR	AGAINST

Treasurer

Nominee **Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF**
Nominated by: *Ian Underwood M0YMK*
Seconded by: *Ian Greenberg G8LOY*

FOR	AGAINST

Membership Secretary

Nominee **Pete Shepherd G7DXV**
Nominated by: *Len Maunder G4KRX*
Seconded by: *Tony Sheerstone G4AWN*

FOR	AGAINST

Publications Manager

Nominee **Bronek Wedzicha M0DAF**
Nominated by: *Dave Porter G4OYX*
Seconded by: *Les Thacker 2E0IBN*

FOR	AGAINST

Committee Member #1

Nominee **Peter Jones G8CDC**
Nominated by: *Alan Knell G0BNE*
Seconded by: *Ron Swinburne M0WSN*

FOR	AGAINST

Committee Member #2

Nominee **Stuart McKinnon G0TBI**
Nominated by: *Brian Thomas GW4KYT*
Seconded by: *Mark Elliot G8SAR*

FOR	AGAINST

VMARS AGM 2012 Postal Voting Form

Motions under Members Business

Postal Voting Name.....

Members have the opportunity to vote on all matters that have been placed on the agenda for the meeting. If you cannot attend the AGM but wish to take part in the voting then please **use the forms on pages 27 and 28. Alternatively** you can appoint a proxy to attend the AGM and vote for you – see the form on page 26.

Please return this form to John Keeley, Hon Sec. by Saturday 28th July 2012 (Addressed to: 7, Parr Close, Warwick CV34 6NE, or by email to honsec@vmars.org.uk).

Agenda 13.1

Amendments to the Constitution V2.21.

(i) That Section 7 be corrected by the reinstatement of Clause (d):

"Committee members, with the exception of the treasurer and publications manager, are to serve for a maximum of five terms of one year, after which they shall not serve again for a minimum of two years"

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN

(ii) That Clause 7(d) be amended by the addition of a new final sentence:

"Where a vacancy arises as a result of the term of office coming to an end, but there is no nominee to fill that vacancy, the retiring Member is eligible for re-election on an annual basis until such a time as a suitable candidate comes forward."

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