



READING & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# **Reading & District Amateur Radio Club**

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting, - 8 pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006, at Woodley Pavilion, Haddon Drive, Woodley.**

### **Agenda**

**Chairman opens the meeting.**

**Apologies for absence.**

**Adoption of Minutes of the AGM 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2005.**

**Chairman's Report.**

**Treasurer's Report.**

**Report on Foundation Licence Examination Scheme.**

**Contest Report.**

**Presentation of awards for 2006.**

**Election of new Committee members for 2007.**

**Open forum discussion.**

**Close of meeting followed by cheese and wine.**

All members are invited to attend the meeting, which will be followed by a social Cheese and Wine event.

Any member wishing to have a subject included on the Agenda for discussion during the meeting are requested to inform the Secretary no later than 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006. A nomination form for the Committee Election will be found below. A person wishing to stand on for election must be fully paid up, willing to stand and be proposed and seconded by two club members.

**The 2006 RADARC Committee**

Chairman: Vin Robinson, G4JTR  
Secretary: Harry Hogg, G3NGX (and Foundation Course Coordinator)  
Treasurer: Robin Caine, G4IWS

Ordinary Members: Tom Cannon, G0VQR (Contest coordinator)  
Chris Catt, M1CYE

Peter Milton, G8FRC (Publicity and Newsletter editor)

The Committee can be reached electronically using  
<callsign>@radarc.org

**Nominations for Committee members.**

**Nomination form**

<i>Position</i>	<i>- Nominee</i>	<i>- Proposed -</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
<b>Chairman</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Secretary</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Treasurer</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Ordinary(*)</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Ordinary(*)</b>	_____	_____	_____
<b>Ordinary(*)</b>	_____	_____	_____

**(\*) Under the Club Constitution, the Committee must consist of a:-  
Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one, but no more than three  
Ordinary Members.**

**Item for Inclusion in the AGM Agenda**

**Name & Callsign:**

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**Please return to Harry Hogg, Crossways, Ferry Rd, South Stoke, Oxon, RG8  
0JL, or to [G3NGX@RADARC.org](mailto:G3NGX@RADARC.org)**

**Vin Robinson G4JTR, Chairman RADARC.  
7/11/2006**



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**Annual General Meeting**

**8 pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

**Woodley Pavilion, Haddon Drive, Woodley.**

## **Agenda**

**Chairman opens the meeting**

**Apologies for absence**

**Adoption of Minutes of the 2005 AGM**

**Chairman's Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Secretary's Report**

**Contest Report**

**Foundation Licence Course Report**

**McMichael Rally Report**

**Presentation of awards**

**Election of new Committee members**

**Proposal to Change the Annual subscription.**

**Open forum discussion.**

**Close of meeting followed by cheese and wine.**

## Chairman's Report 2006

It is my pleasure to write the 2006 RADARC AGM Chairman's report after another busy and enjoyable year.

In 2005 the Club had around 50 members and we slowly growing with 60 members this year plus around 18 complimentary members most of whom have passed the Foundation Course run by the Club.

It has therefore been a great pleasure to see the efforts put in by Harry G3NGX, Simon G6ZTZ, Stewart M1XTN and others in running the **Foundation Licence Course**, (2 per year) now in its third year. This year we have achieved 16 passes from 19 entrants. At each session, an HF Station was set up allowing the candidates can operate and experience the difficulties and achievements of traditional communication by radio.

This brings me on to all the other events and activities which we as a Club have been involved in over the last year.

**Firstly the Club meetings.** Thanks to Harry, G3NGX, after his first year as Secretary, we have had a full and interesting calendar, building on the legacy of the previous secretary, Chris Catt, M1CYE. The regime of 2 junk sales per year has paid off very well as the 2 sales this year brought in **£327** to Club funds. I would like to thank Pete, G8FRC and James, G8XTN for their great assistance as auctioneers. Again, would like to express special thanks to Graham, G3XYX for the very professional sound reinforcement which he provides for each meeting, especially at the Junk Sales.

**Contests:-** This is a re-run of last year's achievements. Thanks to the organisation of Tom, G0VQR, RADARC has been thrust into the spot light yet again, by winning the QRP Section of HF Field Day last June for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running. Tom personally collected the trophy at the HF Convention at Gatwick in October. Several others were involved in the effort and in particular thanks to, G4ELY, G0LHZ, G3XTT and M0DHO for supporting the CW contests. As usual Tom has been the drive behind Club entries in several other contests and this keeps RADARC in the contest listings in RadCom.

**The McMichael Rally:-** This continues to be a success story and I should emphasise how important this event is for the Club, both financially and as a banner, advertising what a successful and well organised Club we are. The rally has a good reputation and we have a very good venue. I can only repeat the thanks due to the many Club members who helped make this a most enjoyable and profitable event. I will again, however, heap praise on to the Club Members who are on the Rally Committee and particularly Min, G0JMS who is the McMichael Rally Committee Chairman. We all continue to owe a great deal to Min for this commitment. Also to Andy, M5ALG as bookings secretary and Denis, G4KWT for organising talk-in and sign posting, Graham G3XYX for a very

professional PA system and Tom, G0VQR for organising and transporting lots of tables for the event and organising the Club table which brought in **£288** for this Club. (excluding £151 for gear from the estate of G5YM, see below) This is in addition to the **£350** we earned as our share of the Rally income. In other words, the event netted the Club **£638**. RADARC is a major player in this enjoyable event and these members need all the support we can give. It looks like the 2007 event is already well supported by the same team and we are most grateful for this.

**Club Visits:-** We had an evening visit to Martin Lynch & Sons on 27<sup>th</sup> April and this was very successful. The staff there were very sociable and helpful and we certainly spent some money. This is now a regular event and a visit is planned for 2007.

**Sale Of Equipment for third parties:-** Whilst 2005 was an exceptional year with sales from 5 sources, 2006 has been quite busy with Sale of equipment from 3 radio amateurs. First, in the week before the McMichael Rally, I was asked by a Club member, Mike Humphries, G3LRQ, if we could help with the gear from the late G5YM Capt H J Edwards. Several people will confirm that there was almost a house full of gear, plus garage, workshops etc all with equipment. We did a "Sell or skip" analysis and priced some of the saleable stuff. Several Club members benefited from this and I took some to the Club Table at the Rally and we made £151 for Mrs Edwards and the Club received a letter of thanks from her daughter.

Later, the Roy Chapman, G3XPC, was able to use the Club web site to advertise gear for a Radio Amateur who had moved into a care home. Several items were brought to the Club and sold to members.

Recently, we got involved in the sale of gear for the late Robert Pinnell, G4KNJ of Wokingham. This included around 12000 QSL cards from which I filtered about 6000 DX cards which were sent to a collector in Leeds resulting in a generous donation to the Club. Through word of mouth and the junk sale, we have raised over £370 for Club funds, thanks to the great generosity of Mrs Pinnell, G4MAE. We also have a faulty FT757GX HF TRX, which is in the hands of a very competent Club member who may be able to repair it. If so, we will keep it for loan to members.

All the above benefited from **the RADARC Web Site** where it was some items were advertised. Without this we would not have been able to dispose of so much so rapidly and efficiently. To this end we have yet again to thank Min, G0JMS who is the Web site keeper and editor. This year the Club has had considerable financial benefit from all these sales and more details appear in the Treasurer's report. The Web Site is one of the Clubs greatest assets and it gets better each year. It is free to members to advertise items for sale, and to place articles, discussions etc.

**Other events:-** Although the **3 Towers Scout Hike** in the Berkshire Downs did not take place this year, we helped, as usual, with the **South Oxfordshire Christian Aid Walk** in early May and provided Communications on 2M and 4M. at the base station in Henley and at several checkpoints.

Many other activities and interests could be mentioned. I think the Construction Contest demonstrates some of these and thanks to all those who made this such a good Club meeting. I never cease to be amazed at the enthusiasm and standard of construction at this event. The recent “discovery” of the original “Millennium” constructors Cup which is now assigned to the runner up award for the construction contest, means that this contest has 2 magnificent awards thanks to the generosity of our Honorary Member, Peter Smith G4JNU.

This brings me on to Club awards.

**RADARC Awards:-** This last year, the Committee has worked hard to list and clarify all the Cups and Shields which we can award to members for achievement or services to RADARC. These have all been digitally imaged and the current list is summarised following this report.

**Finally -----**

2007 will be RADARC's 73<sup>nd</sup> year and the Club is in good shape. The Club has a wide spread of membership age, and this is reflected in a wide range of member interests and has resulted in a well balanced Club. It is involved in a wide range of activities and events. There is no pressure on members to do more than they wish, which may be simply attend the meetings and drink beer and enjoy a chat with like minded people. We are all busy with many other commitments but in fact, the result is that many members support various Club activities because they want to do this. This is greatly appreciated.

I am particularly proud of the article on RADARC which appeared in September RADCOM “Club of the Month” Section. This was a committee effort which has headlined the Club yet again in the press.

I wish also to comment on the Club's financial situation. As you will see from the accounts, which are the result of a lot of hard work and diligence by Robin, the Club is very good at earning money. As a result we are in a very satisfactory financial condition and because of this there will be a proposal put to the membership at the AGM to lower the annual subscription.

I will conclude by offering my thanks to the 2006 RADARC Committee members, Robin, Chris, Harry, Pete, Min and Tom, who have all worked very professionally as a team to run the Club. I am very confident that 2007 will see RADARC involved in many more enjoyable events and activities. Let us not, however, become complacent. If we need to embrace new ideas, the committee wants to hear about them. Thanks to you all.

Vin Robinson, G4JTR

## Reading and District Amateur Radio Club Awards and trophies

The Reading and District Amateur Radio Club has a number of awards, in the form of cups and trophies, awarded to various members for achievements in the previous year. These are listed below, with their citations and rules for making the award.

- |   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| 1. <b>G5KV Award</b><br>(commemorates Bill Leonard G5KV)                    | Morse Key | For services to RADARC  |
| 2. <b>A1 Award</b><br>Presented by J. Linford G3WGV 1993                    | Shield    | To any member for commitment to the club or an achievement, eg winning a contest, gaining full licence. |
| 3. <b>A1 Novice Award</b><br>Presented by J. Linford G3WGV 1993             | Shield    | To a young or novice member for achievement.  |
| 4. <b>Constructors Cup</b><br>Presented by Peter Smith G4JNU 2006 (Larger)  | Cup       | To the winner of the construction contest. Awarded by adjudication at the Construction contest.         |
| 5. <b>Constructors Cup</b><br>Presented by Peter Smith G4JNU 2000 (Smaller) | Cup       | To the runner-up of the construction contest . Awarded by adjudication at the Construction contest .    |
| 6. <b>Fox Hunt Cup*</b>   | Cup       | 2m DF. Not currently awarded.   |
| 7. <b>G2FZI Cup, 1964*</b>  | Cup       | Not in use.   |
| 8. <b>Bingham Shield, 1964*</b>   | Shield    | Not in use.   |

\*Stored by G4JTR

### Honorary Life Membership:

The Committee may also award at the AGM, Honorary Life Membership to a member for long-term commitment to and sustained effort for the club or exceptional achievement in the name of the Club. This will not necessarily be awarded every year, is not limited to one per year but in fact, there have been very few awarded, about 4-6 Honorary Life memberships since 1970. This is an exceptional award and should not be devalued by frequent nomination.

## Holders of awards:

	First Aw	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
G5KV		M0DHO				
A1	1993	G0VQR				
A1 Novice	1993	M3NDP				
Constructors 1st	2006	G0LHZ				
Constructors 2nd	2006	G0JTN				
Foxhunt		-	-			
G2FZI	1964	Stored				
Bingham	1964	Stored				

Honorary Life Members: G3PGM 1998, G0JNU 2004.

## Treasurers Report 2006

This year the club has at last managed to spend some of its growing income on two items. A new, safer, diesel generator has helped us win contests, it being safe to refuel it without shutting down, and diesel is clearly safer than petrol to carry about and pour. The second item is an MFJ antenna analyser, a very useful piece of kit when you're setting up aerials, but expensive for an individual and ideal for a club to own. It covers top band to 70 cms, is available for members to borrow (on completion of a simple form, in order to keep track of it), and comes with instructions etc.

The accounts show just how important a strong membership is. We had about 30 members when I started this job and we have 60 now, adding around £300 pounds to the budget. Insurance doesn't seem to go up in proportion, and of course the meeting room costs the same, as does affiliation, licenses and so on.

Our other sources of income, the McMichael Rally and Junk sales raised the usual sums and we have to thank all those who put in so much effort, often tens of man-hours each, to make these things a success.

Discussions on buying a computer projector and laptop still lead to the conclusion that we are better organised as we are, but at least we could buy them immediately if that became necessary. Indeed I have transferred £2000 to deposit last month, to gain some interest, roughly doubling our deposit account, which paid about £70 pounds interest over the last 18 months. The Foundation courses tend to have a small deficit, requiring subsidy of about £20, well worth it in terms of publicity alone and worth every penny in its support and benefit to amateur radio.

We have also made donations to GB4FUN and the Thames Valley Repeater Group, and to the Collingwood radio museum, which we visited last November.

After the books were closed, we received £281.69 at the junk sale last month, plus £4 from non-members, leaving a balance around £1300. Assuming everyone re-joins, we should soon receive the membership cash.

Balance Brought Forward	<b>£5401.82</b>
Cash	£49.52
Bank	£3259.10
Deposit	£2093.20

Balance Carried Forward	<b>£5180.80</b>
Cash	£5.77
Bank	£1014.60
Deposit	£4160.43

Reduction in funds	<b>£221.02</b>
Increase in capital assets (diesel generator, antenna analyser)	<b>£532.89</b>

**Income:**

Membership fees	£570
Sales	
At meetings	£ 25.50
Junk sales	£327.40
McMichael table	£287.88
McMichael Rally	£350
Donation	£ 2.89

**Bank Interest**

**£ 2.52**

Building Society Interest	£ 67.23
	<u>£1633.42</u>

**Outgoing:**

Meetings, including room hire	£451.72
ARIS insurance	£254.16
Affiliation and licences	£ 74
Club equipment (inc fuel)	£605.30
Donations TVRG	£100
GB4FUN	£ 56
Collingwood museum	£ 50
Committee room	£ 91.58
Miscellaneous, Stationery etc	£ 26.07
Hospitality, inc AGM	£120.44
Foundation courses	<u>£ 25.17</u>
	<u>£1854.44 - £1633.42 = £221.02</u>

Robin Caine, G4IWS Treasurer

## Secretary's Report

2006 has been a busy year for the Committee, especially the Chairman, Treasurer, Publicity and Contest Organiser. Your Secretary has concentrated on getting the Programme filled, trying to use all the offers of talks by members and to nobble some unusual speakers from a distance.

While the members were trying their hand at Contesting on the 23rd March, a Foundation Examination was under way in the Committee Room, upstairs. On the 13th April, Don Field G3XTT introduced the subject of Amateur Radio Software, drawing on the research done for his recent book, while on 27th April, several cars drew off to Chertsey for an evening shopping spree at Martin's Emporium. Rumour has it that Martin may invite RADARC annually in future. For the May meeting, a twin bill was tried with Robin G4IWS presenting his Antarctica trip and Graham G3XYX describing the audio service for blind amateurs of the main articles from Radcom and Practical Wireless. The 8th June saw Paul Bigwood G3WYW giving a presentation on the new Yaesu 9000, to a packed audience; we all wanted a free sample!

On 13th July Radarc was up before the Magistrate, in the person of MIXTN, JP. Stuart was very entertaining and explained the niceties of the Law, especially insofar as it applies to radio pirates. The Club is a big supporter of the McMichael Radio Rally, held at the Rugby Club on the 16th; it was well supported by traders and visitors from a wide area. Tom G0VQR kept the flag flying in August with a Night on the Air and Ragchew, while the September meetings were blasted off by Nigel G3TXF's presentation on Mini-DXpeditions during a major Contest and by Jim G0LHZ's talk and demo of Hydrogen Fuel Cells, (which work).

In October, Newbury Club Secretary, Richard G3ZGC was persuaded to show his slides of his life as a Marine Radio Officer, using an amazing selection of high-power gear in exotic locations. The excellent Construction Contest was won by Jim Carter's aerial management system in a vote of members against strong competition. November brought us to an amazing historical re-enactment by Peter G4JNU and company, of John Logie Baird's Transatlantic Television transmission in the 1928 with Ben Clapp 2KZ. Peter's revival took place at the Chalk Pits Museum in Sussex on the 8th February, 2003 the 75th Anniversary.

RADARC now holds two Junk Sales a year, in Spring and Autumn; these sales are a tussle between the auctioneers, one wants the best price, while the other wants a ripping pace with plenty of bargains. The Hon Treasurer always seems pleased with the proceeds of the evening's fun. Now it's time for the Committee to render account for the year. None of us seems to want to retire, as it's quite good fun running the club. But we must keep new ideas flowing in order to inspire the interest of Amateurs in the Reading area. If you want to have a go, get your name proposed for the election at the 2006 Annual General Meeting on 14th December. When that's over, on Saturday 16th December, it will be the RADARC Annual Dinner at the Spice Oven in

Caversham, Ladies Welcome.

Reservations to [g4jtr@radarc.com](mailto:g4jtr@radarc.com)

See you all again in 2007, when G8ROG kicks off the season with Commercial PMR Networks. Alison is the newly elected RSGB Regional Manager for this area.

Harry Hogg G3NGX

## 2006 Contesting Report

### QRP Winners in HFNFD for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year!

**This year has been one of the best years for contesting at the Reading club.**

The year started with the **AFS Contests**.

We had a good team for the **CW leg**. We were placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 91 teams. In the Reading team were G3XTT, G0OPB, G0LHZ, G4ELY, M5ALG and G0VQR.

Next was the **SSB leg**. Not such a good result this time, only achieving 18<sup>th</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> placing out of 91 teams. Our team consisted of G3ULT/P, G3XTT, G0LHZ, G4ELY and G0LGG. Special mention must go to Dan, M3NDP. Dan operated the G3ULT/P club station under supervision making 116 contacts!

**HFNFD** is the big event of the year for the Reading club. This year we managed to put on four QRP stations. 1<sup>st</sup> for the second year running was G3ULT/P, 2<sup>nd</sup> was M0DHO/P (just pipped at the post), G0LHZ/P was 7<sup>th</sup> and M0EEE/P was 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the helpers for assisting with setting up and dismantling the stations. Without their help field day could not happen. Also thanks to Jim, G0LHZ, who spent many days making up two auto antenna switching units and leads, to plug into the multi band dipoles we use during the contest. Without this we would not have won HFNFD. Well done Jim.

**SSB Field Day** was much better supported than last year. We put on two stations, G3ULT/P and M0EEE/P, a serious station and a learning station for the less experienced operators.

Jim-G0LHZ, David-M0DHO, and myself G0VQR operated G3ULT/P for the full 24 hours this year. The extra effort made a big improvement on last years score. Last year

we were placed 6<sup>th</sup> from 24 stations in the restricted section. This years results have not been released yet so we look forward to these.

In the IOTA contest I used the club call M0EEE/P. We were placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 39 in the 12 hour 100 watt section. Ed, G3VMY was close behind in 10<sup>th</sup> position.

During February to July the **RSGB** hold a series of short one and a half hour contests called the **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**.

We had a large number of members taking part this year and achieved our best result since the contests started last year. The club was placed 16<sup>th</sup> out of 74 clubs, closely followed by club rivals Bracknell in 20<sup>th</sup> position.

In November the club put on a station in the **CLUB CALL CONTEST** on top band. We were using the call GX3ULT/P from my QTH.

The team consisted of Steve G1PPA, Dan M3NDP (awaiting his new **2E0** call) and myself G0VQR. Jim also took part from his QTH with G0LHZ.

Finally I used the club contest call **M4T** in **CQWW CW** at the end of November. I contacted 1048 stations on the 20-metre band from 74 countries and 22 different CQ Zones from around the world.

I managed to score 159,360 points - an improvement of 46,528 on my previous best score for this contest.

Two dates to remember are for the AFS contests in January 2007.

Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name.	Dates - Mode - Frequency - Exchange
Jan 14	1400-1800.	<a href="#">Affiliated Societies Team Contest</a>	3510-3590kHz, RST+Serial (CW)
Jan 20	1400-1800.	<a href="#">Affiliated Societies Team Contest</a>	3600-3750kHz, RS+Serial. (SSB)

Send your logs to me after the contest, I will send in the club entry.

The contest logger SD by Paul O'Kain EI5DI is freeware and can be downloaded from <http://www.ei5di.com>

Look forward to working you in a contest soon.

Tom, G0VQR

## Club Calls Contest 2006



## Foundation Licence Courses Report 2006

We have held two courses this year, in April and October on the pattern of Friday/Saturday, Friday/Saturday with 13 and 6 candidates, respectively. There are a number of interested people, for whom the dates did not fit their commitments. Several of our candidates came quite a distance to join their course.

Being an entry-level course, it has been difficult to teach the widely differing abilities of the candidates, some with no experience of electricity, while at the same time having some candidates with technical degrees. Some of our candidates have achieved 100% marks, while others have scraped a pass at 72%. Some brave souls have re-taken and achieved a pass, with creditable perseverance: it is for such candidates that I would like to offer a slower course. We did have one candidate, an engineer, who managed a pass with just one evening's tuition on Licence Conditions, Propagation and EMC.

We have had several courses at Caversham Scout Hut, but have recently moved to the Woodley Pavillion, which is quieter and warmer and more expensive. Your Committee

felt it was important to invest some money in this work, so the cost has been subsidised. We continue to use the Chelmsford Power-point presentation in conjunction with “Foundation Licence Now” and a collection of test questions to focus the mind on the exam. Candidates seem to love the practical QSO sessions on VHF and HF, which force them to overcome mike-shyness. On HF we have been grateful to Tom Cannon, Steve Christie and Mike Spooner who have set up QSOs and given the candidates experience of tuning in a SSB signal.

I am grateful to Simon French and Stuart Morris who are qualified RSGB Instructors, but also to Vin Robinson, Robin Caine, Chris Catt and Pete Milton, who have taught sessions and invigilated exams. It would be good for the Club to be aware of the considerable time put in by course tutors in running the course and examination. However, the success of the candidates, brings great rewards.

There is now a demand for an Intermediate Course in Reading, although we do have candidates on the Newbury Course and NADARS have candidates on the Reading Advanced Course run by our Regional Manager, Alison Johnson, G8ROG. The RSGB is hoping that we will rise to meet this challenge. I will offer a word of encouragement to M3s; The Intermediate Exam is said to be only a little harder than the Foundation..... and that will give you fifty watts, guys.

Alison’s Course concluded with the Exam on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Members are now awaiting their results in the New Year, as papers are marked at HQ.

There remains the need to encourage all successful candidates to actually buy a rig and get on the air. This means that each one needs a “Buddy” or “Elmer” to help with equipment choices, putting up antennas, being there on the band, for a chat when the others are QRT, etc. Some encouragement can be given by means of an M3 net on 2 metres on RD, but I would like to hear from an Elmer, who lives nearby each successful candidate. Offers please to [g3ngx@radarc.org](mailto:g3ngx@radarc.org)

Harry Hogg G3NGX

## **2006 McMichael Rally Report.**

With several Amateur Radio Rallies and Boot Sales closing over the last few years the McMichael Rally (MMR) continues to go from strength to strength and the 2006 rally was as successful as ever.

The weather was good for us again and the 3 clubs that make up the MMR group, put on stands to sell and clear any item that they hope never darken their doorsteps again. The MMR committee spent many an evening looking for any changes that could entertain and or increase the numbers attending. This has always been a difficult task to try and keep it in a Ham Radio theme and we have a possible interesting demo for 2007!

Preparation for the rally started early in the year with the 3 clubs meeting at regular intervals and built up to the last minute with the positioning of paying traders. We even having to cut the grass on parts of the field the night before and cut back the overgrown trees at the exit.

Larger and additional signs were made for this year and it starts in the early morning getting them out and then removing them afternoon is always a task that has to be done before the local council puts in any objections.

Our planning even goes to informing the local authority, police, trading standards and we always have medical support such as Red Cross which has to be paid for. I have had to turn away several offers from mobile food vans and coffee vendors who want to attend.

In the McMichael theme, Harry G3NGX and Peter G4JNU put on a bigger display of McMichael Radios and received many interested visitors to their table, luckily the gazebo stayed in place this year. It was very supportive of them both to put something on from memory lane.

Denis G4KWT did his excellent job of putting on the special event talk-in station without breaking into a sweat having put together his team of operators for the day. He commented that fewer callers wanted directions as they knew where to find the site now but most callers now used the station to confirm the rally was going on or any traffic information. I will not mention the number of times we changed the handouts and this year we introduced a saving on the door if people brought their advertising handout along, this was used 90 times nearly 10% of attendance.

One person who was not cooking this year was Tom G0VQR (Joke) and even he found time to put on a radio station from the RADARC Club stand, amazing how he does it all. Thanks for arranging the transport of the tables and clearing it all away. Thanks also go to Pete G8FRC for organising the loan of the tables from Woodley Horticultural Society. Unfortunately he was unable to attend/help due to the XYL whisking him away to St Lucia!

Andy M5ALG chased and took the bookings which is a thankless task but produced the goods on the day with his usual flare even when some traders changed what was planned and we started to run out of space in the hall as it was full.

Nick 2E1LOK wanted to put on the HF station again this year after last years first success but I'm pleased to announce that he is in full employment now in SE England after having a drawn out start in the job.

I would like to thanks the club members who helped relentlessly on the committee again this year for their support and the members that had a great day helping and bringing funds in that keep each of the clubs and local interest groups operational. The other clubs involved are the Burnham Beeches and Maidenhead radio groups, these have an identical share of the profits and we also share out to repeater groups and local special interest groups to support their organisations which support the local hams.

We have been asked back for 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and we have since worked with the rugby club to install an external sound system which we can use next year. So with a very big thank you for your support in 2006 the rally will continue and put the radio back into rallies.

Min Standen  
G0JMS - MMR Chairman

As we have a little space left on the last page, may I on behalf of the Committee wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Pete G8FRC, publicity.

## Treasurers Report December 2006

This year the club has at last managed to spend some of its growing income on two items. A new, safer, diesel generator has helped us win contests, it being safe to refuel it without shutting down, and diesel is clearly safer than petrol to carry about and pour. The second item is an MFJ antenna analyser, a very useful piece of kit when you're setting up aerials, but expensive for an individual and ideal for a club to own. It covers top band to 70 cms, is available for members to borrow (on completion of a simple form, in order to keep track of it), and comes with instructions etc.

The accounts show just how important a strong membership is. We had about 30 members when I started this job and we have 60 now, adding around £300 pounds to the budget. Insurance doesn't seem to go up in proportion, and of course the meeting room costs the same, as does affiliation, licences and so on.

Our other sources of income, the McMichael Rally and Junk sales raised the usual sums and we have to thank all those who put in so much effort, often tens of man-hours each, to make these things a success.

Discussions on buying a computer projector and laptop still lead to the conclusion that we are better organised as we are, but at least we could buy them immediately if that became necessary. Indeed I have transferred £2000 to deposit last month, to gain some interest, roughly doubling our deposit account, which paid about £70 pounds interest over the last 18 months. The Foundation courses tend to have a small deficit, requiring subsidy of about £20, well worth it in terms of publicity alone and of worth every penny in its support and benefit to amateur radio.

We have also made donations to GB4FUN and the Thames Valley Repeater Group, and to the Collingwood radio museum, which we visited last November.

After the books were closed, we received £281.69 at the junk sale last month, plus £4 from non-members, leaving a balance around £1300. Assuming everyone re-joins, we should soon receive the membership cash.

Regrettably the antenna analyser was damaged within the first two or three lendings, due to sheer clumsiness. For accuracy on 70 cms it is fitted with a Series N socket, as preferred for those frequencies. Most of the time though it will be used for HF and VHF with PL259 connectors and it comes with the correct adapter to fit to the series N to convert it to PL259. A PL259 had been inserted into the Series N socket, wrecking it, and even under guarantee this cost us £6 in postage. In future we will have to pay the bill. Please. Please, PLEASE read the instructions and TREAT IT GENTLY! Some considerably force must have been required to get the wrong plug in.

Balance Brought Forward	<b>£5401.82</b>
Cash	£49.52
Bank	£3259.10
Deposit	£2093.20

Balance Carried Forward	<b>£5180.80</b>
Cash	£5.77
Bank	£1014.60
Deposit	£4160.43

Reduction in funds	<b>£221.02</b>
Increase in capital assets (diesel generator, antenna analyser)	<b>£532.89</b>

**Income:**

Membership fees	£570
Sales	
At meetings	£ 25.50
Junk sales	£327.40
McMichael table	£287.88
McMichael Rally	£350
Donation	£ 2.89
Bank Interest	£ 2.52
Building Society Interest	£ 67.23
	<u>£1633.42</u>

**Outgoing:**

Meetings, including room hire	£451.72
ARIS insurance	£254.16
Affiliation and licences	£ 74
Club equipment (inc fuel)	£605.30
Donations TVRG	£100
GB4FUN	£ 56
Collingwood museum	£ 50
Committee room	£ 91.58
Miscellaneous, Stationery etc	£ 26.07
Hospitality, inc AGM	£120.44
Foundation courses	<u>£ 25.17</u>
	<u>£1854.44 - £1633.42 = £221.02</u>

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**Need Correcting!**

**READING and DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting December 14<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**2006AGM 1** The chairman G4JTR opened the meeting at 2015 hrs with 24 voting members and some visitors. Present and made the chairman's opening remarks.

**2006AGM 2** Apologies for absence were received from G0JMS, G8FRC and M3PQS

**2006AGM 3** The minutes of the 2005 AGM were accepted

**2006AGM 4 Reports**

2006AGM 4.1 Chairman's report: See agenda. Summarized by G4JTR

2006AGM 4.2 Treasurers report: See agenda, but note minor error in total for increase in capital assets – should read £535.89. Summarized by G4IWS.  
The accounts were accepted y majority vote, proposed by G3NGX and seconded by G0JTN.

2006AGM 4.3 Contest Report: See agenda. Summarized by G0VQR

2006AGM 4.4 Secretary's Report: See agenda. Summarized by G3NGX

2006AGM 4.5 Foundation Course report: See agenda. Summarized by G3NGX

2006AGM 4.6 McMichael Rally report: See agenda. No summary due to absence of G0JMS  
There was a vote of thanks to G0JMS for the rally work.

**2006AGM 4.7 Awards:**

The awards were presented after an informal report by G4JTR concerning the general status of club awards, recently tidied up and listed in a new club document, now on the web site.

G5KV Morse Key: to G0JMS for continued commitment to club operation and success.

A1 Award to G3XYX for his dedication to providing PA facilities to the club and McMichael rally over many years.

A2 Novice award to Joe Catt M3YJC for passing the Foundation Exam.

G2FZI Cup award to Dan Philips for passing the Intermediate exam.

Construction Cup: to G0LHZ (awarded at the construction contest)

Construction Cup (2nd prize): to J0JTN (replacing cup at construction contest)

Life membership was awarded to G4PZK for his continued commitment to the club while living away by providing the free web facilities which add so much to club identity and functioning.

**2006AGM 5** Election. G0LHZ took the chair for the election.

Chairman: G4JTR nominated by G4IWS and seconded by G4JNU No other nomination, so G4JTR is elected

Treasurer: G4IWS nominated by G0JTN and seconded by G3NGX No other nomination, so G4IWS is elected

Social Secretary: G3NGX nominated by M1CYE and seconded by G4ELY No other nomination, so G3NGX is elected.

Contest manager: G0VQR nominated by \*\*\*\*\* and seconded by G0LGG No other nomination, so G0VQR is elected

Ordinary members: A nomination for M0DHO was left aside as there was no written acceptance from him.

G0JMS nominated by G3NGX and seconded by G4KWT  
G0FRC nominated by G0LHZ and seconded by G4KWT  
M1CYE nominated by G0LHZ and seconded by G0VQR

All elected, G0JMS with special responsibility for the McMichael Rally  
G0FRC with special responsibility for publicity and newsletter.  
M1CYE with special responsibility for \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*Chris's notes are a bit ambiguous here. The committee must correct these minutes at the next meeting.\*\*\*\*\*

**2006AGM 6** The new committee took over the meeting.

2006AGM 6.1 G4IWS proposed a reduction in membership fees from £12 to £10 (scaled fro reduced fees) on the basis that membership has risen to double the size of 2001, giving a much larger subscription income. The re was a lively debate, and the motion was defeated 13 against, 10 for and one abstention.

2006AGM 6.2 G4IWS also proposed a gift of £100 to charity as a social gesture, specifically the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, since this is close to home and has some affinity to the radio world without being too close (the club usually donates to GB4FUN and the TVRG anyway). Carried unanimously.

**2006AGM 7** The formalities closed at approx 2130hrs and members enjoyed cheese and biscuits, mince pies and coffee and tea provided as usual by G0VQR.

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It was noted that these minutes must be available to the next AGM in Dec 2007. I suggest we print them in the AGM book – they are essential to correct procedure at an AGM and must be available to everyone present. Also noted that nominations must be in writing for the interim chair, with written acceptance of nomination from candidates not present.