

7 October 2012

MINUTES OF THE BATC BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE  
EVEREST COMMUNITY ACADEMY BASINGSTOKE ON 7 OCTOBER 2012

Present:

Committee:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Position</b>
Trevor Brown	G8CJS	Chairman
Chris Smith	G1FEF	CQ-TV Editor
David Crump	G8GKQ	Contest Manager
Peter Blakeborough	G3PYB	President
Brian Summers	G8GQS	Treasurer and Secretary
Pat Hellen		Membership Secretary

Twenty-six ordinary members were also present.

Item 1. Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Graham Shirville G3VZV and John Lawrence GW3JGA.

Item 2. Minutes of the 2010 BGM

2. The minutes of the 2010 BGM were unanimously accepted as a true record.

Item 3. Chairman's Report

3. The Chairman's report was read.

a. The Chairman reported on the deaths of Bob Robson and John Bales since the last BGM. Both had made very significant contributions to the advancement of ATV and the Club over the years.

b. The on-line shop had been very successful as a way of bringing in new members to the Club. It had also enabled the Digilite Project to be reproduced by a large number of members.

c. The Streamer had been very successful both in promoting ATV and in revitalizing the Club membership. It did need continued investment, with possible purchases including a new server, a second modern camera and 2 tripods.

d. Although electronic distribution of CQ-TV had proved to be successful (with over half of the membership now not taking the paper version), there was a continued need to produce paper CQ-TV. Members were encouraged to provide more copy for CQ-TV to enable 4 magazines to be filled each year. Lack of copy was the reason that only 3 magazines were produced in 2011.

#### Item 4. Treasurer's Report

4. The Treasurer reported that:

a. The Club had significant financial reserves which had increased during the year to 31 December 2011 due to the success of the on-line shop and the sale of DVDs.

b. A decision had been made to write off all the old "Members' Services" stock and past copies of CQ-TV.

c. The facility to take payment through telephone and postal use of credit cards had been discontinued as this cost £20 per month and was rarely used. Paypal transactions cost the club 20p plus 3.4% per transactions were far more cost effective. The Treasurer continued to accept payment by cheque and cash.

d. In an effort to simplify the Club's financial affairs, the Nationwide Building Society and Halifax Building Society accounts had been closed and the Bank of Scotland and Santander accounts would be closed in the near future. The Club's main operating account was now with HSBC and the interest-earning account was with Teachers Building Society.

5. A member asked if it was possible that the Club could enable the Paypal option to make recurring payments for annual subscriptions. The Treasurer replied that this might cause difficulties if the Club lost touch with members whilst still receiving payment; it was observed that the facility appeared to allow amendment of the fee to be collected by the Club (in a similar way to a Direct Debit). In a show of hands approximately 40% of members expressed an interest in using this facility; the Treasurer agreed to investigate it further.

6. The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012 were accepted by the meeting unanimously.

Item 5. Membership Secretary's Report

7. Brian Kelly reported on behalf of Pat Hellen, the Membership Secretary, who had lost her voice. He reported there were currently 814 members of which 311 took printed copies of CQ-TV. There were 170 members who had the facility for Video Streaming enabled.

8. The most common enquiry from members was to find out what their Membership Number was; this was now printed inside the back cover of their copy of CQ-TV (whether paper or electronic).

Item 6. Editor's Report

9. The CQ-TV editor reported that his biggest problem was finding sufficient copy to fill 4 magazines each year. He requested that all members consider whether they had a project or activity that would be worthwhile sharing with other Club members, and then write a few paragraphs about it. Help would be available to tidy up submissions for publication – the main problem was in finding the original material.

10. With his work on the Club streamer and the web and forum hosting, Chris Smith desired to hand over the editor position to someone else and continued to try to share the burden of producing the magazine. He requested that each Club member think whether he could take over some of the work.

Item 7. Election and Re-election of Committee Members

11. The Chairman summarized the Committee situation:

a. Members seeking election to the committee:

Brian Kelly GW6BWX  
David Mann G8ADM  
Noel Matthews G8GTZ  
William Shambrook G8SUJ  
Darren Storer G7LWT

b. Members seeking to stand-down from the committee:

Ian Pawson G8IQU  
Paul Marshall G8MJW  
Mike Cox G8HUA

c. Members seeking re-election to the committee:

Chris Smith G1FEF  
Giles Read G1MFG

d. Members remaining on the committee:

Trevor Brown G8CJS  
David Crump G8GKQ  
Pat Hellen  
Graham Shirville G3VZV  
Brian Summers G8GQS

The proposed constitution (see Item 8) was amended to allow 12 members of the Committee, and so all those seeking election to the Committee could have seats. The meeting passed the make-up of the new Committee (as at a, c and d above) by an unopposed vote. Tasks within the Committee would be allocated at a subsequent Committee meeting.

12. A member asked why members outside the Committee were not given tasks. The Chairman replied that coordination of tasks outside the Committee was difficult and had not proved to be very successful in the past.

Item 8. Changes to the Constitution

13. A proposal for a new constitution (based on that used by the UK Microwave Group) had been circulated to members and was discussed at length.

a. Following a question, it was clarified that the definition of a Committee meeting (para 4.2) could include a teleconference.

b. A member asked what checks and balances were in place to prevent improper use of the Club's funds. The Treasurer replied that he was currently the only Committee member with access to a Debit Card on behalf of the Club.

c. Norman Bambridge G8PLL proposed that the size of the Committee (Para 4.1) be increased to 12. This was seconded by Paul Bicknal G8KFW and carried in an unopposed vote.

d. Paul Bicknal G8KFW proposed that the quorum for the BGM (para 6.6) be amended to 30. This was seconded by Graham Hankins G8EMX and carried in an unopposed vote.

12. Mike Cox proposed that the new Constitution, as amended above, be adopted. This was seconded by Graham Hankins G8EMX and carried in a vote with 16 votes for and none against.

Item 9. Awards

13. The Grant Dixon Award was awarded to the Digilite team for their work in advancing amateur use of digital TV. The 4 recipients were:

Brian Jordan G4EWJ  
Robert Swinbank M0DTS  
Malcolm Johnson G0UHY  
David Kenward G8AJN

14. The meeting closed at 1315.

David Crump  
G8GKQ  
Scribe for the day