



Minutes of the BATC General Meeting

Conference Room, RAF Museum, Cosford.
Sunday 25 September 2016. 13:30 hrs.

1 Apologies for absence.

Ian Parker - BATC Committee, Steve Marshall M0SKM, Arthur Turner G4CPE, Colin Watts G4KLB, Terry Baily G6CRF and Charles Brain G4GUO.

40 members attended including the committee.

2 Minutes of the 2014 General Meeting and matters arising.

These minutes were accepted by a majority show of hands.

3 Report by the Chairman on behalf of the committee.

Membership

End of August 2016 – 934 members

74% Cyber, 26% Paper. 20% of members are overseas.

Fairly constant over the last two years.

2013 = 850, 2014 = 940, 2015 = 956

Noel reported that there was no real potential to increase this in the UK.

There is potential abroad but at significant cost.

The aim of the BATC is to further the hobby of Amateur Television.

The BATC is not a business. It is accountable to its members to meet its aims.

The committee believes that the minimum financial reserves should be about £25,000

We are currently around £40,000 so the club is financially stable.

The BATC shop exists to supply the members with specialist items.

The shop should break even. Sales of main items:

DTX1 = 110+ DATVExpress = 15

Digithin = 50 Minituner parts = 200+

Digilight parts no longer stocked.

Stock valuation at the end of 2015 = £4,947

CQ-TV has been better than ever. Many thanks to Frank, our editor. Also thanks to all those who have produced articles for the magazine.

Printing and postage costs are still a major concern, this is being carefully monitored.

We do not regard CQ-DATV as competition but as a "sister" publication.

CQ-TV would appreciate first refusal on any articles for BATC supported activities.

Contests

To encourage more members to transmit television, use it or lose it, we hold a number of contests and activity weekends which often coincide with the events in The Netherlands. This is managed by committee member Dave Crump.

Publicity and Social Media

Committee member Ian Parker has done a great job, Facebook = 142 members, Twitter = 176 followers.

The BATC YouTube channel is getting busy; we need more members to join before we can have a BATC YouTube name. All the CAT 16 videos will be in here and eventually the entire BATC Video Archive collection.

It is important that we continue to develop the social media to promote the BATC.

On Line Presence

BATC.tv is a unique and very useful facility for the worldwide community. It allows everyone to watch the streaming videos and is a great publicity feature.

BATC website. The home of the BATC, good for newcomers, members may join and renew their membership here. On line shop. Members CQ-TV download area.

BATC forum, the best way for bulk communication with members, better than email.

BATC Wiki, our reference library, point newcomers here. We need more content.

Dxspot.tv, interactive spot map, great for contests, includes text chat.

On Line, the future, we know that some of our web sites are starting to look tired. The next generation is under development, we will also be moving away from using our own hardware; more details to follow during the year. This will inevitably take time.

The Future

Migration to digital transmission is important but as there is still a large interest in analogue systems we still need to promote analogue. The move to digital will conserve bandwidth and promote long distance working using reduced bandwidth systems. It's still too early to promote a digital only philosophy.

Promoting ATV to the wider community. We take part in: RSGB Convention, local rallies, RADCOM articles, receiving ATV from the ISS. Material is available for those who wish to represent us at local rally's etc.

Support ATV users and groups, support anything that uses video, work internationally to protect the spectrum, work closer with all overseas ATV'ers, encourage migration to digital, develop our new version 2 on line presence.

4 Report from Brian Summers, Hon. Treasurer BATC. and presentation of the accounts, 2014 and 2015

Financial strategy

At the club's 2014 general meeting, it was agreed by the membership that our capital reserves were too high and that the club should use those funds for the good of ATV and we are continuing with that policy. Last year's subscription increase is starting to have some effect on the clubs income. We will work towards balancing our income and expenditure account.

The Balance Sheet

It has been the practice, for many years, to publish a simple condensed set of figures derived from a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure. This has always been satisfactory and full details are available to any member who would like to see them.

BATC Bank Accounts

The club banks with the HSBC and our reserves are held by the teachers Building Society. We also have a PayPal account. The Clubs reserves stand at £44,400 on 1st Jan 2016.

Turnover

Our total expenditure for 2015 was £36,910 including purchase of stock for the shop. The total income for 2015 was £30,638 including shop sales (before PayPal fees). These gross figures take no account of the stock levels and are included for information only. The PayPal fees of £918 were deducted at source.

General outlook

One line in the accounts that is worth a mention is the "subscriptions in advance" figure of some £6250. This is seen as a mark of the confidence that our members have in the club.

Principle expenditure

We have used our funds to support Amateur Television in a number of areas:-
A number of awards and prizes have been given to encourage ATV activity.

New publicity material was purchased for use at exhibitions.
The clubs streaming equipment has been upgraded to allow 16:9 and improved picture quality.
The BATC had a very successful presence at the Ham Radio (EU) event and ATV presentations were given.
Much work has been done improving our web presence.
Our equipment was used as part of the video link from the space station to schools and for streaming the output.

Plant & Assets

We have made a significant investment in new equipment for the club of some £1558 during 2014-5 and there has been more upgrading of equipment this year.

5 Presentation of BATC awards.

Grant Dixon award. This is an Inscribed plaque presented for the MiniTiouner project, an outstanding contribution to the development of DATV and RB-TV.

To Jean-Pierre Courjaud F6DZP, Brian Jordan G4EWJ, Colin Watts G4KLB.

Contest and Activity Weekend award Certificates.

This for the December 2015 Activity Weekend.

Best RB-TV DX to Noel G8GTZ/P with Arthur G4CPE – 95 Km.

December 2015 Activity Weekend.

Best DX to Rob M0DTS/P with Brian (G4EWJ) G3NWR/P – 114 Km

2016 IARU Contest

Best UK Digital DX contact to Noel G8GTZ/P with Rolf F9ZG – 231 Km

6 Election of Committee members.

President

Following the death in January of our former President, Peter Blakeborough, a short video showing some activities of Peter from the 1970's to 2015 was shown by Noel. There then followed a period of silence in respect for Peter and previous BATC committee members who are no longer with us.

The committee has appointed Graham Shirville, G3VZV, to the post of President and he has agreed to take the position on for 2 years. Previously he was on the committee responsible for club liaison.

Re-Election of Committee Members

No nominations have been received in advance of the GM and the following committee members are stood for re-election:

Chairman:	Noel Matthews,	G8GTZ	
Secretary:	David Mann,	G8ADM	
Publicity:	Ian Parker,	G8XZD	(Recently co-opted)
Membership:	Robert Burn,	G8NXG	(Recently co-opted)

It was suggested that the meeting should vote on block for all four members to be re-appointed. This was carried unanimously by a show of hands. This and the re-election of the members was proposed by Henry Neal and seconded by Paul Bicknell. This was carried unanimously by a show of hands. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

7 Meeting closed.

From David Mann, Secretary of the BATC.

The meeting may be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Dg6_sSPglU