

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP

## March 2005

Edited by Stewart Wilkinson GOLGS

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### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Another year and another AGM! It doesn't seem like twelve months have come and gone. They say that as one gets older, time passes more quickly. I have to concur!

During this last year the Committee have been working on a number of projects - not least trying to find ways around the MoD embargo on further unattended transmitters in the 70cm band. Careful planning and clever engineering have been the order of the day, along with 'trading' transmitters on a one-for-one basis resulting in a net reduction in noise floor which seems to satisfy the MoD requirement.

An application for a new wide split 70cm voice repeater (GB3UK) seems to now be progressing, and a minor relocation of the existing repeaters is on the cards. And although these two actions may appear to be 'easy', both have involved nearly twelve months negotiations and planning with various authorities.

Major changes to the packet network locally are planned with some of the work already under way. This is being driven by several factors including the reduction of local packet traffic and the need to redirect certain resources thus producing a better return for members' subscriptions.

As always I urge you to attend the AGM. This is your opportunity to question the way we have run the group over the last year and to let us know what you want in the next twelve months. It is also your opportunity to join the Committee and to help shape the future success of the group.

Gloucestershire Repeater Group needs you!

**Nick Negus G6AWT.**  
Chairman

### AGM

Please make a note in your diary that the AGM will be held at 20.00 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Civil Service Club, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

The Agenda will be:

1. Welcome
2. Present
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of last meeting (held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004)
5. Chairman's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Technical Manager's Report
9. Determination of Subscriptions
10. Election of the New Committee
11. Election of the Accounts Examiner
12. Appointment of Managers
13. Other Business

Whilst most of the current Committee have expressed their willingness to continue in post we still need support from you the members, even if that is just you turning up at the AGM to tell us what you think about the work that has been done and what you would like to see happen over the next 12 months.

### GB3GH VOICE REPEATER

Some progress has been made on the last stages of the manufacture of the planned additional cavities, but some further work on tuning them is still required before they will be ready for fitting.

### GB3CG VOICE REPEATER

Since the changes reported in the last newsletter a small number of well-sited stations, located well north of our normal coverage area have been heard through GB3CG (whilst apparently working the GB3VT repeater in Stoke-on-Trent).

Stewart GOLGS has made one visit to the site since the last newsletter to make a small adjustment to the receiver, since that visit the 'noise' that had previously been a problem has not been heard, only time will tell if we have completely eliminated the problem.

G4FPV and G3LVP are due to visit the site over the next few months to carry out checks on and make any necessary adjustment to the cavities. The cavities have had only minor work carried out on them since the original installation in January 1998 (the replacement of one corroded RF connector a couple of months ago).

## **GB3CCX 10GHZ BEACON**

No new DX reports have been received for GB3CCX, however we are advised by our 10 GHz contacts that it continues to work well.

## **GB7RR**

The Packet Repeater GB7RR has been modified to reduce the data rate from 19200 to 9600 baud. Steve G4FPV modified the Radio, whilst Stewart G0LGS dealt with the changes to the TNC. Steve and Stewart also carried out some re-tuning of the duplex filters, whilst on site using only the minimal items of test equipment available on the day (they hadn't expected to need to do this and so had not taken more advanced test equipment that would normally be used).

## **CLEEVE HILL SITE**

Nick G6AWT, Steve G4FPV, Stewart G0LGS and Matthew (SWL) spent several hours at the Cleeve Hill site in February, as well as carrying out the changes to GB7RR, they also started work on preparing the groups cabin (which is located on the local council site) for the future move of the GB3CCX, GB7RR and MB7UC equipment. Further work is still required before any move of the equipment can take place.

## **GB7FD NODE**

Following discussions with other groups and interested persons, the committee has decided that GB7FD site will be closed. No date for closure has been set, as it will depend on completing work at other sites so that packet network connectivity can be maintained to all those sites, which are to remain active.

## **GB7MAD BBS / G7BTI NODE**

We have been advised that the GB7MAD BBS and G7BTI node are likely to be closed down, no details regarding timing of the closure have been made available, but as this newsletter was being finalised (23<sup>rd</sup> March) GB7FD statistics showed that G7BTI and GB7MAD were last heard on 17<sup>th</sup> March, so perhaps they have already been turned off.

## **GB7GH NODE**

The planned move of the 2m-user access port from 144.9375MHz to 144.875 MHz has been completed.

Work on the 70cm equipment for the GB7RR link (to reduce the speed to 9600 baud) will be carried out in due course.

## **GB7RC NODE**

Stewart G0LGS and Nick G6AWT made a quick (extended lunch time) visit to the GB7RC site in January to restore the system to normal operation, in the time available they were unable to test the link to GB7WO, but GB7WO has been heard since the visit.

Steve G4FPV and Nick G6AWT visited the GB7RC site on 21<sup>st</sup> March with the intention of carrying out work to reduce the speed of the 70cm (GB7RR) link from 19200 Baud to 9600 Baud, however the link transceiver (Philips 496) had drifted off frequency and they were unable to make the necessary adjustments on site, so the transceiver unit was taken away for modification and repair. They also replaced a faulty PA unit in the 70cm Pye 414 Transmitter for the link to GB7WO and after discussions with the Wenvoe sysops found that the GB7WO receiver had also gone faulty.

## **MB7US APRS**

MB7US has been reconfigured to use a KAM 9612Plus TNC instead of relying on the GB7RC computer system. If anyone wants details of how to configure a similar system details are available from Stewart G0LGS and should shortly be available on the website.

## **GB7GLO / MLVN NODE**

As reported in the April Radcom (p75), Steve is considering turning off the 4m-user port, which has not been used for many months.

## **70CM TALKS**

The GB2RS News on 6<sup>th</sup> March reported that talks have taken place between the RSGB, MoD and OFCOM regarding the issues on the 70cm Band. It is understood that some form of 'general agreement' has been reached, but that further discussions are still required.

The group hope that this means our application to operate a new wide-split 70cm voice repeater from the Cleeve Hill site, which was submitted to the Repeater Management Committee in August 2004 will see some progress towards obtaining the necessary clearance. It does however appear that the callsign we originally requested for this project as already been issued to another group, so the alternative of GB3UK has now been requested.

**Editors Note:** The Callsign GB3UK has previously been used for a 6m repeater in Bolton, Lancashire, but as that system has been closed down the committee are hoping this callsign can now be re-assigned.

## **UK PACKET CONFERENCE**

The 4<sup>th</sup> UK Packet Radio Conference is being hosted by FourPack at the Poachers Pocket, Warden, Worcester on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The event will be free of charge, and open to anyone with an Interest in packet radio. There will be demonstrations and presentations, plus ample time for informal discussions and socialising. Further details on the Website at <http://pzt.org.uk/pk2005> or contact Paula Dowie G8PZT e-mail: [g8pzt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:g8pzt@blueyonder.co.uk).